

# 2010 LARA Softball

## Policies and Procedures

### Program Purpose:

- 1. U8-U10:** The purpose is to provide an instructional introductory program, coached by Volunteers, that teach fundamentals, sportsmanship, teamwork, mutual respect, & how to win and lose with dignity. The “introductory” division is primarily focused on learning the game, balanced playing time, having fun, and less about competition. Coaches are expected to provide structured coaching techniques, communication with parents, and fair practice and playing time for all participants. Parents are expected to allow the volunteer coaches and league to administer their programs. All participants (players, parents, coaches, spectators/fans, officials and staff are expected to demonstrate sportsmanship and mutual respect per KSHSAA guidelines.
- 2. U12-U16:** The purpose is to provide a intermediate level and focused level development program, coached by “qualified coaches” that enhance the participants skills, continue teaching sportsmanship, teamwork, mutual respect, winning and losing with dignity. The “Intermediate and Focused” division is primary focused on developing the necessary skills to go to the next level. Coaches are expected to participate in coaching clinics, seminars, workshops to develop their coaching skills. Coaches are expected to provide formal coaching techniques, communication with parents, and playing time for all participants. It is not guaranteed playing times are balanced. Based on the circumstances (enrollments, opponents to play, facilities, etc.), the program may allow freezing/protecting players, tryout/selection, or rostering teams. Parents are expected to allow the qualified coaches and league to administer their programs. All participants (players, parents, coaches, spectators/fans, officials and staff) are expected to demonstrate sportsmanship and mutual respect per KSHSAA guidelines.

### Commissioners:

U-8  
U-10  
U-12 David Boles  
U-14

### Enrollments:

- 1. 2009 Enrollment deadline is **March 27th, 2010**.** Late enrollments will only be accepted until the league scheduling meeting and will be assessed a \$20 additional fee.
- 2. Age/league eligibility is based on the players age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.** For example, if a player is still 8 years old on January 1<sup>st</sup> then they can play in the U-8 (8 and Under) League, regardless of what age they will be during the actual season.
- 3. AGE FREEZE RULE:**

As Stated: Child must play in appropriate age group as determined by “Age Requirement” section of ASA Rules. This is for the child’s safety and development. Rule is universal to all age groups with the following Exceptions:

1. In case of siblings remaining together.
  - a. If one of the siblings is below required age limit, then, Tri-Co. and ASA rules apply for playing time requirements.

2. After a LARA tryout conducted by current LARA softball V.P. and 1 current LARA Softball Coach. Tryout is to verify proper skill sets for age level advancement. The Agenda for said tryout is as follows:
  - a. 8U moving to 10U: Field at 2<sup>nd</sup> base position and make the throw distance. Must complete 3 of 5 attempts. Hit pitched ball from 35 ft. 1 of 5 times fair. 5 swings and the player must not “bail” or otherwise show trepidation or fear of a pitched ball.
  - b. 10U moving to 12U: Field at S.S. position and make the throw distance 3 of 5 times. Hit pitched ball from 40 ft 1 of 5 times fair. 5 Swings. Catch 2 of 5 pop flies.
  - c. 12U moving to 14U: Field @ 3<sup>rd</sup> base position and make the throw distance 3 of 5 attempts. Catch pop flies 3 of 5 attempts. Hit pitched ball from 40 ft. fair 2 of 5 times. 5 Swings. Bunt fair 2 of 5 attempts.

**Coaches:**

1. The LARA Board must approve all coaches and background checks will be required on anyone that has not coached for LARA in the past.
2. The LARA Board and LARA softball steering committee may appoint a coach to a team with one coach if an individual indicates on the signup form his/her willingness to coach and he/she meets the coaching staff criteria.
3. **There must be a minimum of one coach with LARA approved background check present at all times during practices, games or any other softball associated activity.**
4. **The Head Coach is responsible for the actions of his/her assistant coaches.**
5. There are to be 3 coaches for each LARA/ASA team.
6. As per rule changes in 2009, Coaches will be issued a matching shirt for their team. Please Specify shirt size on uniform order form.

**Draft U-8 to U12:**

1. The draft will be held no later than the first weekend in April (tentatively set for April 3<sup>rd</sup>).
2. Head Coaches will be allowed to “Retain” players they coached the previous year (numbers indicated below include the coach and assistant coaches children).
  - U-8 4 Players
  - U-10 5 Players
  - U-12 6 Players
3. Coaches will declare their “Retained” players the day of the draft and are required to bring those names in writing to the draft and submit it to their commissioner or the person running their age groups draft, immediately prior to the start of the draft.
4. Coaches will draw numbers for the draft order. The draft order reverses each round.
5. Coaches that are not eligible or choose not to “Retain” their maximum number of players for their age group will be given an equalization pick, up to their age group limit, during the first round of the draft.
6. Remaining players will be placed on teams based on a serpentine draft process.
7. Siblings playing in the same league shall be placed on the same team unless requested otherwise by the parents. A “sibling pick” protests the subsequent sibling(s) after the first sibling has been selected. The coach must use their next picks to select the other siblings.
8. If a parent formally expresses a concern with a particular coach, every effort will be made to ensure that player is drafted onto another team. Parents must do so, prior to the draft and in writing either on their enrollment form or another written means submitted directly to the commissioner for that age group or an LARA board member.
9. Teams will consist of 10 to 14 girls.

10. Once the draft is complete, any request to move players to another roster/coach will be denied. If a parent has irreconcilable issues they may choose to withdraw from the program for that season.

#### **Roster U-14 and Above:**

1. Starting at U-14 teams will be formed by Rostering. Coaches will be allowed to select their entire team.
2. Coaches will be required to submit a Roster with players names and parents signatures indicating their commitment and desire for their child to be rostered on a particular team.
3. Individual enrollments will be accepted and LARA will try to accommodate those individuals by placing them on a roster team, up to 12 players per team maximum.
4. Once enrollments are closed, any individual that cannot be placed on a team will have 100% of their enrollment fees refunded.

#### **Rostering Rules U-14 and Above:**

1. Once a parent has committed their daughter to a coach by signing the coaches roster sheet, the player is expected to be committed solely to that team/coach for the entire 2009 Summer Season. While "seasons" may vary slightly by coach, the typical Summer Season is approximately mid-March to late-July.
2. If a player decides to forgo her commitment to a particular team during the season, the player will not be allowed to roster with any other LARA sponsored team until the following season, nor will the player be eligible for any monetary refund from LARA.
3. A coach, with the agreement of his/her players and parents, may extend the season and play additional non-LARA sponsored tournaments. Tournament costs will be the sole responsibility of that team. The Commissioner for that particular age group must approve the use of LARA issued uniforms and equipment beyond the end of the regular season.
4. If during the season a team falls permanently below nine players, additional eligible players can be added to that Roster. Those players will be required to sign up through LARA and their fees may be prorated, as determined by the LARA Board.

#### **Uniforms:**

1. Uniforms will be provided by LARA.
  - U-8 and U-10 players are given T-Shirts and Visors(items are not returned).
  - U12 and U14 **players** are issued full uniforms, including tops, shorts and visors (visors are for the player to keep while all other items must be returned). Coaches will be responsible for ensuring that all uniforms are accounted for and returned to LARA at the conclusion of their season.
  - If a coach chooses to provide their team with uniforms other than the LARA issued uniforms, that is handled outside of LARA and no enrollment fee concession or subsidization will be provided to that coach or those players.
  - If a uniform is not returned or is found to have excessive wear, a \$90 fee will be due from that player.

#### **League Games and Tournament:**

1. Teams will play within the Tri-County South League. This league consists of LaCygne, Osawatomie, Paola, Parker, Princeton, Richmond, Louisburg, and Wea
2. Teams will average 8-15 regular season games and a League Tournament.
3. League games will be a mix of home (L&Y Park) and away.
4. League games are scheduled by each individual coach at a scheduling meeting held the first Sunday in May. In addition, the League Tournament location and date is determined by a majority coach's vote at the scheduling meeting. Coaches will provide schedules to their players parents, as soon as possible, after that meeting.
5. Individual medals are provided for season standings to the top three teams in each age division, except any age division with more than eight teams will receive medals for the top

four teams. A team trophy and medals are also awarded at the League Tournament.

**League Rules:**

1. The Tri-County League adheres to ASA Rules, with some age appropriate modifications for U-8 and U-10.
2. Complete League Rules will be provided to each coach at the scheduling meeting in May.

**Additional Tournaments:**

1. Participation in tournaments that are in addition to the League Tournament is at the discretion of the LARA Board, the LARA Softball Steering Committee and coaches. If it is determined that a team will participate in a particular tournament, the tournament fees will be provided by LARA. All additional expenses (hotel, gas, meals, etc.), will be the responsibility of that team or coach.

- Paola Spring Classic- Paola Ks (Date TBD, typically first weekend in June)  
--U-10 to U-14- Each coach will be given the opportunity to take His or her own team, if they so desire.

- Sub-State

- U-10 and U12-If an LARA coach has a desire to take a team Within their perspective age group to the ASA Sub-State Tournament , they must make a request to the Commissioner for that Age group by June 1<sup>st</sup> of that year.

- ◇ The Commissioner, along with the LARA Steering Committee and the LARA Board, will immediately review the request.

- ◇ If multiple coaches make a request for the same age Division, the most senior coach will be given first consideration.

- Def: "Senior Coach" is defined as the individual That has coached LARA Softball(head or assist) The most number of years, regardless of the age Group. If there were a tie, the individual that has Coached that particular age group the longest Would be considered "senior". Years coached do Not have to be consecutive.

- ◇ Since the teams are typically combination of players From within same age group, State Tournaments within LARA season (mid June), close consideration must be Given to the impact and possible disruption to the Players regular teams.

- ◇ All requests will be considered, but not all will be Approved.

- ◇ If approved, team/player selection will be at the discretion of that year's Sub-State coach. Players must be Selected from existing LARA teams and only from Within that particular age group.

- ◇ Once team selection is complete, final approval by the LARA Board and/or LARA Softball Steering Committee Is required. Approval is not to impact individual player Selection, but to insure above guidelines were followed

- U-14: Upon the coaches request, each team will be considered for participation in the ASA Sub-State Tournament. Final approval by the LARA Board and/or LARA Softball Steering Committee is required.

2. State:

- U-14: Upon the coaches request, each team will be considered for Participation in the ASA State Tournament. Final approval by the LARA Board and/or LARA Softball Steering Committee is required.

**Insurance:**

1. All players and coaches must be registered for KS ASA Insurance.
2. Coaches are required to register their team prior to the Tri-County scheduling Meeting and provide proof of coverage at that meeting.

**Practices:**

1. U-8: Regular practices will be held at LES and will be (1) hour in length, (2) days per week, up to the start of league games. Generally, practices will cease once Games start due to lack of fields.
2. U-10 & U-12: Regular practices will be held at L&Y and will be (1 to 1.5) hours in Length, (2) days per week. Generally, practices will cease once games start due To a lack of fields.
3. U-14: Regular practices will be held at L&Y and will be (1 to 1.5) hours in length, (2) days per week. While the schedule may be modified due to limited field Availability, practices should continue throughout the season.
4. Coaches can schedule additional practices if fields are available and/or they Choose to utilize available green space.
5. Sunday's are open on a first come first serve basis and due to the guidelines of the City; practices cannot be formally "scheduled" through LARA for those days.

**Umpires:**

1. L&Y Games
  - **Bob Trumbly will be the 2010 Coordinator**
  - The Coordinator will select the umpire staff.
  - Selected umpires will attend training.
  - U-8: 1 ASA umpire will be present @ all league games and 2 for Tournaments.
  - U-10 & U-14: Games will have an umpire behind the plate and in the Field.

**Scorekeepers:**

1. Each team is responsible for providing a scorekeeper. Typically, the "Home Team" Scorekeeper is the "Official Scorekeeper".
2. A Scorebook will be provided to each coach at the Draft.

**Equipment:**

1. All equipment must be ASA Certified.
2. The following is provided by LARA:
  1. Catchers Equipment 1 set.
  2. Practice Balls
  3. Game Balls (used for home games).
  4. Helmet with face guards (5).
  5. Bats
  6. Scorebook and Med kit

**Fields:**

1. Home games and most practices are held at L&Y.
2. The Louisburg City Council and the Parks Board are in the process of adopting Several "Field Use Rules" for L&Y, once they become available a complete list of These rules will be posted on the LARA website. Currently we are aware of the Following:
  - A \$10/hour "use fee" for all practices and games held at L&Y to paid in Full prior to the start of the season, requiring strict accordance to the Prepared practice schedule.
  - Lights must be turned off by 10:00 p.m.
3. The Chity of Louisburg provides maintenance to the fields, including game Preparation: This includes Grading, Marking and Setting Bases.

**Rain Outs:**

- 1. Notification Procedure:**
  - Rain out line is 837- LARA
  - Coaches must contact teams traveling to L&Y at least one-hour prior To game time to notify them of a rain-out.
  - Make-up games will be based on field availability and will be scheduled On a mutually agreeable date.

**Balanced Playing Time:**

- 1. U-8 & U-10:** Balanced playing time in the field is expected. Teams will bat their Full roster.
- 2. U-12:** Balanced playing time is encouraged.
- 3. U-14:** Not Applicable.
- 4. If a complaint is received by LARA regarding playing time, the commissioner for That age group will address the situation with both the coach and the parent.**

**J.B., S.H., D.B., D.S., G.W., D.S., & J.H.. Est. and Approved Feb., 2008.**