

Carlsbad Softball Association Parent/Player Handbook



Carlsbad Softball Association
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carlsbadsoftball.org

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Introduction

Welcome to the Carlsbad Softball Association! We are delighted to have you and your daughter as part of the exciting and rewarding sport of girl's fast-pitch softball. This handbook has been created as a resource for both parents and players. Please take a moment to read through the information as it is a valuable resource for both new and returning players.

Please also check the CSA website www.carlsbadsoftball.org often for updates and new information. The information in the handbook and the site are intended to keep you informed regarding CSA events and guidelines.

About Carlsbad Softball Association

CSA Mission Statement

CSA provides an opportunity for all girls in our community to play fast-pitch softball. We strive to create an atmosphere for informed instruction, to demonstrate sportsmanship and develop strong character. Another equally important goal is to provide an enriching experience of competition through the respectful interaction of players, parents, coaches and youth athletes that participate in our program.

Code of Conduct

The CSA Code of Conduct applies to **all persons** who are involved in the league including, but not exclusive to, players, managers, coaches, parents and spectators.

As a member of the league, you agree to the following:

- Be courteous and respectful at all times to all persons.
- Exercise self control in my interactions with others, both on and off the field.
- Respect the integrity and accept the judgment of all officials.
- Not engage in excessive criticism, or negative comments, or yelling directed toward players, coaches, or officials.
- Not coach from the bleachers.
- Remain in the dugout as a coach and manager, as appropriate.
- Refrain from the use of foul and abusive language.
- Provide a positive and safe environment for all players.
- Maintain reasonable and appropriate relationships with players, coaches, and parents always, both on and off the field.

Depending on the nature of the offending activity or multiple activities, persons who do not abide by the CSA Code of Conduct may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- A warning depending on the nature of the infraction (at the discretion of the CSA Board).
- Ejection from the game, field or league depending upon the nature of the infraction.
- Suspension from attending or coaching one or multiple games or practices, as determined by the CSA board.
- Any other disciplinary action felt to be reasonable as determined by the CSA board.

Given the primary consideration of the code is to provide for a great experience for the girls, we take the code of conduct very seriously and uphold the standards as consistently as possible to ensure the best possible playing environment.

Player Participation

Player participation rules by division have been implemented to enrich player experience and will be enforced by the CSA Board of Directors. Failure to adhere to player participation rules may result in disciplinary consequences as noted in the Code of Conduct. All decisions are at the Board’s sole discretion.

Grievance Policy

The Carlsbad Softball Association has adopted a formal grievance policy for players or parents wanting resolution to specific issues when they are unable to work out conflicts on their own.

As a matter of policy, all grievances to be reviewed by the board must be in writing. They may be emailed or submitted to an Executive Board member in accordance with the following guidelines based on the type of grievance:

<i>Grievance with a league policy:</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare a written grievance addressed to the CSA Board 2. Submit grievance to any board member for review at next executive board session
<i>Grievance with/or regarding an individual CSA Board member, manager, coach, team parent, or league parent:</i>	Discuss your issue directly with that Board member. It is preferable to work out all issues between the parties involved. If desired, you may request a third party, preferably another Board member of your choosing to be present when discussing the above issue.

If further resolution is necessary:

- Upon receipt of your written grievance by a Board member, the issue will be added to the Executive Board member agenda by the Secretary and/or Player Agent. Once submitted in writing, the persons named in the grievance are not to contact the letter writer directly for any reason. Violation of this will be considered a Code of Conduct violation. The person named in the grievance can, however, ask a 3rd party Board member to contact the letter writer to see if face-to-face resolution is still possible.
- Grievances are discussed at the next Board meeting in which agenda time is available, provided the letter is received at least 5 days in advance of the meeting and distributed to Directors at least 3 days prior to the Board meeting. If not received and distributed with due advance notice, the letter will be addressed at the following scheduled Board meeting.
- The submitting party is welcome to attend the next scheduled Board meeting, provided adequate advance notice is given and the secretary indicates that there is room on the agenda. This person will receive up to 5 minutes to address the Board. Additional time, if requested, may then be granted by the presiding officer.
- A formal, written response will be returned to the submitting party within 30 days following the above-mentioned Board meeting.
- The above written response will include:
 - a. Major points discussed.
 - b. Results of any votes, if applicable
 - c. Action steps to be taken, if any

Board of Directors

Board Members and Lead Volunteers are community volunteers who contribute and guide the direction of the Carlsbad Softball Association. New members and volunteers are always welcome. We hold open elections for board positions in March of each year.

Executive Board

Lance Bodnar – President
Elisa Romero – Vice President/Sponsorship Coordinator
Melissa Alexander – Secretary
Gabby Estrada – Treasurer
Mark Weiland – Players Agent

Board Members

Christina Headlee – League Scheduler/Fall Ball Coordinator
Kylene Murphy – Purchasing Coordinator
Alex Sosa – Purchasing Coordinator
Kevin Egan – Field Maintenance Coordinator
Daniel LaRosa – Manager/All-Star Coordinator
Dana Tsui – Registrar
Jordan Padilla – Equipment Manager
(OPEN) – Sponsorship Coordinator
Sarah Reed – Concessions Coordinator
Amber Romero – Concessions Coordinator
Helen Darlington – Jr. Umpire Coordinator (UIC)
Rica Manalastas – Public Relations
Kami Baker – Volunteer Coordinator
Mike Bolanos – Webmaster

COVID Policy

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, CSA appreciates your understanding and patience as we adapt to guidelines and ensure the safest youth sports experience possible. CSA will continue to follow local and state regulations. In the event of an exposure or confirmed COVID infection of a player, CSA follows the same guidelines currently in use by Carlsbad Unified School District.

Parent Volunteer Shifts

Parents are required to fulfill two (2) volunteer shifts per family registered in the league. Each shift is two (2) hours in length. The shifts can be completed in the snack bar, at the grill, selling spirit wear or doing field prep. You must attend the field prep clinic in order to do field prep shifts. An online schedule with sign-ups will be posted prior to the start of the season to allow parents the opportunity to sign-up for shifts. Please sign-up for only two (2) shifts to allow other parents to fulfill their volunteer commitments.

A volunteer deposit check of \$300 will be collected by your manager or team parent. If your two shifts are not completed, your deposit check will be cashed. After volunteer shifts are completed, your check will be shredded or returned per your request.

It is permissible to have an adult relative, friend or responsible high school student fulfill the volunteer shift on behalf of your player.

Team Managers and Board Members are exempt from volunteer requirements. All other coaches, team parents, scorekeepers, etc. are required to fulfill the volunteer shift requirement.

If you are unable to work the shift you selected and cannot find a substitute, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@carlsbadsoftball.org **PRIOR** to your scheduled shift.

When reporting for your shift, please check-in with the Board Member on Duty and sign in on the volunteer sheet. Please also check-out with the Board Member on Duty when your shift is complete.

Snack Bar: No children under the age of 12 will be allowed in the snack bar at any time; please arrange for childcare prior to your shift. Responsible high school-aged siblings may fulfill a Snack Bar shift on behalf of a player/parent.

Grill Shift: No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to operate the grill.

Field Prep Shifts:

- A clinic for field preparation will be held prior to the start of each season and is **required** for those who choose to volunteer for field prep.
- The field preparation shift is two (2) hours and may include filling in at the snack bar/grill, or other areas as needed.
- Please sign in at the beginning of your shift and sign out at the end of your shift.
- Field preparation includes raking, dragging, chalking/lining the fields, cleaning out the dugouts, sweeping surrounding spectator areas of trash and debris, clearing out trash cans and general cleaning.
- Field preparation shifts include physical labor involving lifting of items up to and above 25 lbs. Please do not sign up for a field prep shift if you will be unable to complete the physical requirements previously listed or you have not been through a field prep training.

Player Injuries

Out of concern for the safety of all our players, any player sustaining an injury that requires attention by a medical professional will be required to submit a doctor's release to the CSA Executive Board and obtain permission prior to returning to play even if the injury was sustained outside of the playing field. Medical releases should be mailed to: CSA, PO Box 2726, Carlsbad, CA 92018, Attention: CSA Secretary. Or, emailed to secretary@carlsbadsoftball.org

At any time in which a player reports an injury to a manager, coach, or team parent, a CSA Injury Form must be completed that outlines the extent of and circumstances surrounding the injury. This form should be completed by the staff member who receives the report and retained by the team parent throughout the season. All completed forms will be turned over to the CSA Board of Directors at the completion of the season. An injury is defined as any event that requires the player to miss any practice or game time due to pain or discomfort. The CSA Injury Form will be available on the CSA website and team parents should keep copies with them at all practices and games.

Insurance Benefits

Carlsbad Softball Association provides basic insurance coverage for all registered players in our league. Please note that this insurance is SUPPLEMENTAL coverage, and claims will be considered only after your own personal insurance has been paid. Depending on your personal coverage, this supplemental insurance may not cover all medical costs and has a \$500.00 deductible. Carlsbad Softball Association recommends that all parents or guardians provide primary insurance coverage.

League Divisions

6 and under (T-Ball)

This division introduces softball to very young girls who have likely never played softball and whose skill and coordination are just developing. A ball is hit off a tee for the majority of the season, and possibly, all of the season. Players are taught the very basics of how to throw the ball, field a grounder, swing a bat, and which way to run the bases. No scores are kept, and everyone bats every inning and plays the field. T-Ball games are on Saturday mornings and start with a 30-minute workout (mini practice) followed by a game with the other team sharing the field with them. Time permitting; games should be at least 2 innings in length.

8 and under

The focus in this division is to explain and demonstrate the sport of softball to its players by introducing a greater elaboration of game rules. Players begin to pitch to opposing batters (live pitching) and are also assisted with the help of a coach's pitch if necessary. Emphasis is on good fundamental throwing, fielding, and hitting skills and all players are encouraged to develop something of a sound pitching motion. Advanced skills are generally not taught in 8U but coaches are encouraged to introduce other skills such as bunting, sliding, and stealing. Positions are rotated and everyone bats while run limits and other special rules are imposed. The season is normally 12-16 games in which scores and standings are not kept during the regular season. The regular season is followed by a tournament to determine the division champion. Seeding will be determined by a blind draw. Games are normally 3-4 innings in length.

10 and under

Fundamentals are still emphasized in 10U, but some competitive spirit begins to show among the players in this division. More advanced rules are introduced and pitching development is a big priority. Some finer points of hitting are developed, and bunting becomes part of the game. Base running skills and team defensive play are introduced, while basic throwing, fielding, and hitting skills are reinforced. Positions are rotated and everyone bats while run limits and a few other special rules are imposed. The season length is normally 14-20 games in which scores and standings are not kept for the regular season. The regular season is followed by a tournament to determine the division champion. Seeding will be determined by a blind draw. Games are normally 4-5 innings in length.

12 and under

While advanced skill development, team play, and fun are still the emphasis, the girls become noticeably competitive in 12U. Pitching development, including developing more than one pitch with pitchers, is encouraged. Advanced hitting, bunting, and base running techniques are taught. Team play is emphasized on defense with a goal of consistent demonstration of fielding

fundamentals. The full complement of USA Softball rules are in effect. The season length is normally 14-20 games in which scores and standings are not kept for the regular season. The regular season is followed by a tournament to determine the division champion. Seeding will be determined by a blind draw. Games are normally 5-6 innings in length.

14 and under

This competitively oriented division is comprised of players who may be advancing to high school play or playing for competitive travel teams. The goal is to get these players ready for a competitive level of play. Pitching strategy and throwing more than one type of pitch is emphasized for pitchers. Advanced team play and offensive and defensive game strategies are taught and executed. The season is normally 16 games with most games played against teams from other leagues (interleague play). 14U teams are expected to “travel” to other fields for some of the interleague play. Scores and team standing are not kept.

Uniforms & Equipment

Each player is issued a team jersey and socks. The uniforms may not be altered in any way during the season. Parents will be responsible for replacing any uniform items if lost. The uniform will become the property of the player after completion of the season. All players must be in uniform to play in a game. If a player is wearing shorts, she **MUST** also wear sliding shorts or compression shorts underneath. While on the field, all jerseys must be tucked in and **any/all jewelry is prohibited**. Though not required it is suggested that the player wear a fielding facemask.

Due to safety concerns, USA Softball has set mandatory equipment requirements for each player. All girls must have their own batting helmet with face protector (i.e., mask). Players will not be permitted to bat or run the bases in practices or games without these protective items.

All bats shall be marked “Official Softball” or “T-Ball” and approved by USA Softball.

Catchers must wear full equipment including shin guards, chest protector, helmet and mask. Any catchers wanting more protection may provide it at their own expense. During practices and games, any player catching for a pitcher must wear full catcher’s gear.

Umpires

Umpire Interaction

- Only managers can approach the Umpire regarding plays or calls.
- Approaching umpires, regarding game play, shall only be permitted for clarification of a rule or an appeal. There will be no arguing judgment calls such as balls, strikes, out/safe call on bases, etc.
- Excessive approaches to the Umpire regarding game play are not permitted.
- Managers shall be responsible for adherence to game rules.
- Under no circumstances shall any manager, coach, parent or other adult associated with CSA yell at or denigrate any umpire.

Umpires for 12U+

Sanctioned USA Softball umpires are contracted to officiate 12 and under and 14 and under league games. CSA believes the umpire has complete authority once a game begins. At no time will CSA representatives or league officials intervene at the request of a player, manager, or parent to approach an umpire about an on-field ruling. Managers are required to educate their parents, players, and team supporters that the umpire must be always treated with respect and courtesy. The manager is the only individual that may approach the umpire for clarification of a ruling. Please ensure you understand the rules in advance of season play. We advise you to keep a copy of the rules with you during games.

CSA Junior Umpire Program

CSA uses junior umpires for 8U and 10U games. Girls that would like to umpire must be 12 years old by January 1 of the current season and be a second year 12U player. Players whose birthdays are in January or February may be evaluated to participate on a case-by-case basis. Approximately 20-25 junior umpires will be utilized with priority going to current and past CSA players. Junior umpires are required to complete 3 training clinics. 1 rules clinic and 2 mechanics clinics. The USA Softball rules clinic is held at Palomar Community College. There are three mechanics clinics that are held at Calavera Community Park. Junior umpires are required to attend 2 of these clinics. More information can be obtained by contacting the Jr. Umpire coordinator, uic@carlsbadsoftball.org

Junior umpires are paid for both umpiring behind the plate and in the field. Pay varies based on age division being umpired and positional consideration. Additionally, junior umpires are partially sponsored by CSA and will be responsible for fees per current USA Softball registration fees requirements. Registration fees are payable to CSA.

Due to the age and maturity of our junior umpires, we ask that managers take the lead in being proactive in preventing any player, parent, or fan from berating, openly criticizing, or otherwise harassing any of our junior umpires. It is important to remember that managers are ultimately responsible for their own conduct, as well as the conduct of other coaches, players, and parents.

CSA Code of Conduct applies to inappropriate behavior associated with our junior umpires and managers, coaches, parents, and players are reminded that CSA has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy with respect to unsportsmanlike acts and/or misconduct. Junior Umpires have the authority to eject managers, coaches, players and/or spectators from games for unsportsmanlike acts and/or misconduct in accordance with the Code.

We ask and appreciate your feedback, both positive and negative, about the job our umpires do. Please take the time to fill out a feedback card at the snack bar or contact the umpire coordinator at uic@carlsbadsoftball.org

Player Clinics

Skills Clinics

Player clinics are available for girls wishing to improve their fundamental skills, rule comprehension and knowledge of various defensive positions. These clinics are highly

recommended for 8 and under players and those new to girl's fast pitch softball. Please refer to the CSA website for details as clinics are announced.

Pitching/Catching Clinics

For players interested in developing or improving pitching and catching techniques, CSA provides both pitching and catching clinics that are available to all interested players. A CSA pitching coach and catching coach will conduct these clinics one specified evening per week during the regular season. Please refer to the CSA website for details as clinics are announced.

CSA Rules of the Game

Player skill and understanding develops with experience and age. For this reason, rules change as the girls develop their skills and move from division to division. Below are the rules of play, which are different in each group.

6 and Under / T-Ball Rules

- 1)General
 - a) Game time is 1 hour.
 - b) No scorekeeping.
 - c) The official game ball is a yellow 10-inch reduced impact safety ball.
 - d) Jewelry of any kind is not allowed – this includes, but is not limited to, necklaces, earrings, barrettes, or hard headbands.
 - e) Shirts must be tucked in, and any jackets or sweatshirts must be zipped if worn.

- 2)Offense
 - a) All players bat each inning; inning ends after last batter; coaches must announce last batter.
 - b) Players must bat in their assigned order.
 - i. If a player arrives late and misses her turn at bat, she must be placed at the end of the order.
 - ii. If a player misses an at bat during the game, she will be returned to her assigned batting position in any subsequent inning.
 - c) Each batter will be given 3 pitches to hit coach pitches; if the ball is not put into play after 3 coach pitches, the batter will hit off a tee place at home plate.
 - d) The coach shall pitch from the pitching circle.
 - e) A batted ball must travel past the 15-foot arc in front of home plate and in fair territory to be considered in play.
 - f) Bunting is not allowed; batters must take a full swing.
 - g) Runners may not advance on an overthrow to a base in an attempt for a putout.
 - h) Runners may not advance once an attempt is made to return the ball to the pitcher and the ball has crossed the plane of the pitching circle.
 - i) No stealing bases.
 - j) A runner may lead off once the pitcher releases the ball; a lead off is not allowed during batting attempts on a ball that is on the tee.
 - k) Defensive outs are not tracked.
 - l) A batter-runner that is put out must return to the dugout.
 - m) A coach from the offensive team shall be positioned near home plate and have the responsibility of removing the tee from home plate once a batter has put the ball in play.
 - n) Approved helmets with facemasks and chinstraps must be worn by players swinging, at bat, and by base runners.

SAFETY NOTE: Coaches teach dropping the bat after a ball is batted to avoid injury due to a thrown bat.

- 3)Defense
- a) All players take the field on defense.
 - i. Five defensive positions in the infield, no catcher
 - ii. The pitcher stands to one side of the coach pitcher with at least one foot inside the pitcher's circle.
 - iii. Outfielders shall be positioned at the edge of the grass and may move onto the infield once the ball is hit.
 - b) Up to three defensive coaches may be on the field for instructional purposes; coaches are not to be defensive players.

8 and Under Rules

All rules contained in the current USA Softball official rulebook relative to the administration and playing rules for 10U, except where modified herein, shall apply.

- 1)General
- a) Game duration: No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes.
 - b) Four run limit per inning.
 - c) The official game ball is a yellow 10-inch reduced impact safety ball.
 - d) Jewelry of any kind is not allowed – this includes, but is not limited to, necklaces, earrings, barrettes, or hard headbands.
 - e) Shirts must be tucked in, and any jackets or sweatshirts must be zipped if worn.
 - f) Players warming up pitchers must wear full catcher's gear including a catcher's helmet. Batting helmets may not be used at any time as a catcher's helmet.
 - g) A regulation game is 5 innings.
- 2)Participation
- a) No player shall sit two innings in a row.
 - b) No player shall sit two defensive innings prior to all other players sitting one defensive inning.
 - c) Each player shall play at least one defensive inning in the infield within the first three innings of the game
- 3)Offense
- a) All players must bat at least once during the game for the game to be considered complete.
 - b) Coach Pitching
 - i. A batter will be pitched to by a coach when the count has reached 4 balls with remaining strikes.
 - ii. The coach-pitcher shall pitch from inside the pitcher's circle.
 - iii. The strike count is assumed.
 - iv. Umpires will continue to call balls and strikes while coach pitching is in effect. However, stolen bases are prohibited, and walks will not be allowed.
 - v. Bunting is not allowed.
 - vi. A batted ball that hits a coach-pitcher will be considered a no pitch.
 - vii. A batter that is hit by a pitch will be encouraged to continue their at bat if possible. That at bat will immediately follow coach pitch rules as though the batter had received 4 balls.
 - c) Runners may steal one base per pitch except for home plate or during coach pitch.

SAFETY NOTE: Coaches teach dropping the bat after a ball is batted to avoid injury due to a thrown bat.

- 4)Defense
- a) Pitching distance is 30 feet.

- i. A modified pitching distance of 27 feet may be used for pitchers unable to get the ball across the plate at 30 feet during regular season games.
- b) A pitcher is limited to 3 innings per game; an illegal or legal pitch made in an inning constitutes one inning of pitching.
- c) Illegal pitches will not be enforced during regular season games; however, illegal pitches will be enforced during playoffs (Coaches are encouraged to teach pitchers proper technique during the season)
- d) The pitcher must be positioned to have at least one foot in the pitcher's circle during coach pitching.
- e) Ten defensive players are allowed with a maximum of 6 infielders.
- f) Outfielders must be positioned no closer than 15 feet from the base paths until the ball is batted; the edge of the grass is the limit for fields 1 and 2 at Calavera Park

10 and Under Rules

All rules contained in the current USA Softball official rulebook relative to the administration and playing rules for 10U, except where modified herein, shall apply.

- 1)General
 - a) Game duration: No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes
 - b) Five run limit per inning
 - c) The official game ball is a yellow 11-inch reduced injury factor ball.
 - d) Jewelry of any kind is not allowed – this includes, but is not limited to, necklaces, earrings, barrettes, or hard headbands.
 - e) Shirts must be tucked in, and any jackets or sweatshirts must be zipped if worn
 - f) Players warming up pitchers must wear full catcher's gear including a catcher's helmet. Batting helmets may not be used at any time as a catcher's helmet.
- 2)Pitching

Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 9 outs per game. If two pitchers pitch to the same batter and that batter is put out, both pitchers are charged with the out.
- 3)Participation
 - a) No player shall sit two defensive innings in a row.
 - b) No player shall sit a second defensive inning prior to all other players sitting one defensive inning.
 - c) Each player shall play at least one defensive inning in the infield within the first four innings of the game

12 and Under Rules

All rules contained in the current USA Softball official rulebook relative to the administration and playing rules for 12U, except where modified herein, shall apply.

- 1)General
 - a) Game duration: No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes
 - b) Five run limit per inning
 - c) The official game ball is a 12-inch optic yellow Worth Dream Seam softball.
 - d) Jewelry of any kind is not allowed – this includes, but is not limited to, necklaces, earrings, barrettes, or hard headbands.
 - e) Shirts must be tucked in, and any jackets or sweatshirts must be zipped if worn.
 - f) Players warming up pitchers must wear full catcher's gear including a catcher's helmet. Batting helmets may not be used at any time as a catcher's helmet.
 - g) A regulation game is 6 innings.
- 2)Pitching

Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 12 outs per game. If two pitchers pitch to the same batter and that batter is put out, both pitchers are charged with the out.

- 3)Participation
- d) No player shall sit two defensive innings in a row.
 - e) No player shall sit a second defensive innings prior to all other players sitting one defensive inning.
 - f) Each player shall play at least one defensive inning in the infield within the first four innings of the game.

14 and Under Rules

All rules contained in the current USA Softball official rulebook relative to the administration and playing rules for 14U, except where modified herein, shall apply.

- 1)General
- a) Game duration: No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes
 - b) Six run limit per inning
 - c) The official game ball is an optic yellow 12-inch Worth Dream Seam softball.
 - d) Jewelry of any kind is not allowed – this includes, but is not limited to, necklaces, earrings, barrettes, or hard headbands.
 - e) Shirts must be tucked in, and any jackets or sweatshirts must be zipped if worn.
 - f) Players warming up pitchers must wear a catcher's helmet; batting helmets may not be used at any time as a catcher's helmet.
 - g) A regulation game is 7 innings.
- 2)Participation
- a) No player shall sit two defensive innings in a row.
 - b) No player shall sit a second defensive innings prior to all other players sitting one defensive inning

Dropped 3rd Strike (10U+)

In CSA, the dropped 3rd strike applies to Divisions 10U, 12U and 14U. A batter can reach first base if a pitched ball resulting in a 3rd strike touches the ground before reaching the catcher or is "dropped" by the catcher. Once this occurs, the catcher must either tag or throw out the batter. Should the runner reach first base without being tagged or thrown out, the runner is considered safe and no out is recorded. Here are some things to remember about the rule.

- If there are less than 2 outs, 1st base must be unoccupied for the batter to proceed.
- If there are less than 2 outs, and 1st base is occupied, the batter is called out on strikes.
- If there are 2 outs, the batter may proceed in any case.
- If there are 2 outs, and 1st base (or more) is occupied a force play is in effect.

Coaches should continually remind their catchers of this rule during game situations where the count is at 2 strikes and 1st base is unoccupied or there are 2 outs.

Look Back Rule / Ball in the Pitcher's Circle (10U+)

Any base runner can advance to any base they wish to, however, they cannot stop after rounding a base and then give any indication that they will again advance, while the ball is in the control of the pitcher within the pitcher's circle without being declared as out. Here are some details to remember:

- The pitcher must have control of the ball within the pitcher's circle.
- The runner must be off the base.
- If the runner stops after rounding, they must immediately return to the base they came from.
- Any fake, feint, or attempt to proceed will be called out.

- Hesitation on the part of the runner is sufficient to be called out.
- If the pitcher makes a play the runner is free to go. A play is defined as any movement of the hand or arm towards the runner or fielder. It is a judgment call by the umpire.

League Standings/Championship Play

Win-loss records will not be kept during the regular spring season.

Seeding for championship bracket play is determined by blind draw. For divisions with more than 4 teams, bracket play is either single or double elimination with regular season rules observed: if four or less, single elimination. For Championship play, the home team is determined by coin toss.

- a. The championship game for 8U and 10U is 6 innings, maximum five runs per inning.
- b. The championship game for 12U and 14U is 7 innings, maximum six runs per inning.
- c. If the championship games are still tied after the final inning, proceed to international tiebreaker (ITB)
- d. If double elimination, championship game is “winner take all” regardless of win/loss record in tournament. There is no IF game.

Post Season Play

All-Star Teams

All Carlsbad Softball Association players are eligible to tryout for All-Star teams for post-season play. Following the Spring season, interested players may participate in an All-Star evaluation process. This process includes offensive and defensive skills and is judged by Spring Managers. Depending on the number of interested players and managerial applicants, CSA may create multiple teams to represent them. These teams will be categorized as Gold, Silver, or Bronze teams depending on the makeup of the team and will play in tournaments against similar teams. At the end of the tournament season, the teams will play in Championship play at the District level. Those who achieve success at Districts will be invited to States and possibly on to National play. Gold teams will participate in the USA Softball “B” District Tournament. Manager and player selection rules will be determined by the Board.

A player who practices or plays with a travel team after April 15th is ineligible to participate in All-Stars. Additional rules regarding eligibility and/or qualification are listed in the USA Rules & Regulations (Yellow Book) on the CSA website.

Fall Competitive League

Carlsbad Softball Association fields Carlsbad competitive teams with the North County Winterball Association or other Board approved leagues. The CSA Board of Directors selects the Team Managers. These teams are made up of players selected by the managers. Practice times and frequency are allocated by the Field Coordinator subject to the number of teams and field availability. The teams play games primarily on Sundays and are usually doubleheaders. Games are played at Calavera Park and at other team’s fields around the greater San Diego area. Games are usually scheduled in September and October with a season ending tournament in late October or early November. The 8U and 10U tournament is hosted by CSA while the 12U and 14U tournaments are scheduled with other leagues.

Fall Instructional League

The fall season is an ideal opportunity for players to continue to develop their skills. Fall instructional league will travel to play surrounding leagues. In addition, it is also a great way for parents who may be interested in coaching to get started. Teams for this league are formed based on player skill level and coach availability.

Select Program

Carlsbad Softball Association also fields competitive Select teams in the 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions late Fall to March 31st. The CSA Board of Directors chooses the Select Team Managers and hosts tryouts for the most advanced players in each division. Not every player that tries out makes the team. There are participation requirements and restrictions for players to be eligible. Go to www.carlsbadsoftball.org/select for additional information.

Team Parent Guidelines

- The team parent plays a critical role in supporting the team experience through communication. There will be a meeting for all team parents before the start of the season. We suggest that each team have a primary team parent and another parent who can assist so that responsibility can be shared. The team parent is generally responsible for the following:
 - Ensuring that a female over the age of 18 is present at all functions.
 - Communicating with parents about all upcoming events/schedule
 - Collecting forms, money, or orders for the team for league activities (Padres games, spirit wear, etc.)
 - Assist in dugout, to keep order, assist with the lineup and equipment; make sure girls remain in the dugout during the game and not off visiting family or friends between innings; make sure girls have water for hydration.
 - Making sure that girls going to the restroom are accounted for and/or supervised.
 - Ordering trophies and thank you plaques for manager and coaching staff or other items your team agrees upon
 - Organizing end of the season party
 - Creating (or assisting girls in creating) a team banner for opening day contest
 - Coordination of costumes for opening day parade
 - Creating a schedule for snacks after games

Besides email, SportsEngine (provided by CSA), TeamSnap or Shutterfly Share sites are helpful for communicating to all parents at once.

Background Checks & SafeSport

Any volunteers working directly with CSA players are required to undergo a background check through USA Softball and complete SafeSport training. This typically includes Managers, Assistant Coaches, and Team Parents. Safesport is a free training addressing youth abuse reporting laws and training for youth sports organizations. The training becomes tied to USA Softball membership and must be completed for coaching eligibility.

For further details contact the Registrar at registrar@carlsbadsoftball.org

CSA Fundraising

Low Registration Fees

We strive to offer a high-quality program, while keeping registration fees affordable. Our registration fees are still among the lowest in the San Diego area. Most of the registration fee is used to cover the cost of uniforms, equipment, insurance, and umpires' fees.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers play an important part in the financial health of the Carlsbad Softball Association. They allow the league to defray expenses to keep our registration fees as low as possible. Also, they provide the funding for several related league activities. We appreciate your support and participation in dine-outs, the Cow Drop, and other fundraising activities.

- **Annual Home Run Raffle (formerly Cow Drop)**
We will hold the Home Run Raffle during our Opening Day ceremony. Players sell raffle tickets for a drawing. Players may earn prizes based upon the number of tickets they sell. Raffle winners will be drawn randomly for several prizes as well as a Grand Prize.
- **CSA Cup (formerly Pay-to-Play)**
CSA traditionally hosts an adult softball tournament midway through Spring season. Parents, friends and adult family members form teams. CSA Cup rules and registration will be available on CSA website.

League Sponsors

Carlsbad Softball Association is a Not-for-Profit organization, and we rely on donations from companies and individuals to fund our programs. Each team is expected to procure a Team Sponsor for Spring season. Sponsors are prominently advertised on CSA's website, league emails, league uniforms, and banners around the park. Any tax-deductible donation is greatly appreciated. Carlsbad Softball is a certified 501C Non-Profit Organization.

<u>Sponsorship Level</u>	<u>Donation Amount</u>
Single <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Company or name placement on 1 team's jerseys for Spring season. ● "Thank you" plaque with team photo. ● Company logo or name advertisement on the CSA website with a link to the sponsor's website. ● Company or name placement on the league sponsors banner which hangs at the field throughout the year. 	\$250.00
Double <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Company or name placement on 1 team's jerseys for Spring season ● "Thank you" plaque with team photo. ● Company logo or name advertisement on the CSA website with a link to the sponsor's website 	\$500.00

- Company or name placement on the league sponsors banner which hangs at the field throughout the year.
- Recognition at Opening Day/Closing Day
- Booth option at Opening Day/Closing Day
- Inclusion of company logo on email blasts to league
- Option for 1 email blast to CSA mailing list (administered by CSA)
- Option for 1 Social Media Post (done by CSA)

Triple

\$1,000.00

- Company or name placement on 2 team’s jerseys for Spring season
- “Thank you” plaque with team photo.
- Company logo or name advertisement on the CSA website with a link to the sponsor’s website
- Individual banner, which hangs at the field throughout the year.
- Recognition at Opening Day/Closing Day
- Booth option at Opening Day/Closing Day
- Inclusion of company logo on email blasts to league
- Option for 2 email blasts to CSA mailing list (administered by CSA)
- Option for 2 social media posts (done by CSA)

Grand Slam

\$2,500.00

- Company or name placement on 2 team’s jerseys for Spring season
- “Thank you” plaque with team photo.
- Company logo or name advertisement on the CSA website with a link to the sponsor’s website
- Individual banner, which hangs at the field throughout the year.
- Recognition at Opening Day/Closing Day
- Booth option at Opening Day/Closing Day
- Inclusion of company logo on email blasts to league
- Option for 5 email blasts to CSA mailing list (administered by CSA)
- Option for 5 social media posts (done by CSA)

Sponsorship forms can be accessed at www.carlsbadsoftball.org/sponsorships or by emailing the sponsorship coordinator at sponsorship@carlsbadsoftball.org