

Procedures for Coaches/Players/Draft Process

A. Coaches

- a. Individuals interested in managing or coaching a team must notify the League President of their interest no later than January 30th of the season in question. The names of each interested coach shall be submitted to the Executive Board by the League President.
- b. Interested coaches must attend the mandatory coaches meeting before the draft. If you do not attend, you will not be able to coach for that season. Valid clearances must be brought to the mandatory coaches meeting or already be on file.
 - i. If more than one person wants to coach the same team, they will be given the opportunity to speak on their behalf. The Executive Board will then vote via ballot vote on the coach appointment with the President being the deciding vote if the vote ends in a tie. Coaches shall be assessed and appointed every season.
- c. The appointments of Coaches shall be based on an evaluation of the following:
 - i. Demonstrated commitment to Greenville Girls Fast Pitch Softball
 - ii. Attendance at regular and special meetings of the Board
 - iii. Support of and participation in League activities
 - iv. Prior year of coach experience
 - v. Reputation in the league as it relates to skill and teaching/coaching abilities
 - vi. Reputation in the league as it relates to upholding the mission of GGFPS
 - vii. Reputation in the league as it relates to adherence to By-Laws (Both GGFPS and Mercer County), Constitution, Code of Conduct (both GGFPS and Mercer County)
 - viii. Reputation in the league as it relates to organizational and communication skills
 - ix. Likelihood of the candidate to represent GGFPS and the community of Greenville in a positive manner
 - x. Whether the candidate is likely to be absent of disingenuous agenda
- d. GGFPS allows for coaches to pick their assistant coaches prior to player evaluations. Coaches must notify the league President of their intent to coach together at least one hour prior to the start of the player evaluations. **IMPORTANT: No pairing of coaches will be permitted after the start of evaluations.** This rule is in place to help avoid “stacking teams”. Coaches may add additional volunteers to their team after the draft;

however, no more than 3 additional volunteers will be recognized as part of that team.

- i. Per Mercer County rules, you can have one (1) head coach, one (1) assistant, two (2) volunteers, and one (1) alternate volunteer. The alternate should only be used if one of the other four are not at a game.
- e. **Exception:** Should there not be enough coaches for the number of teams existing, the Executive Board may exercise the option to appoint a coach to each team. Should this decision be made, the decision will be binding and they will have to attempt to get an assistant coach by virtue of selecting their daughter(s) in the draft or looking for outside volunteers. Should nobody volunteer to fill the needed Head Coach position, the Executive Board will draft a team pursuant to established draft rules during the scheduled draft for that division. Should a parent or other volunteer not fill the head coach position for that team prior to the first game of the season, 25% of the registration fee will be refunded to each player and that team's season with Greenville Girls Fast Pitch Softball will be over. Only a 25% refund is offered because each parent/family has equal opportunity to volunteer to coach the team. It takes many volunteers for a league to function!
- f. If you are selected as the head coach of a team, your responsibilities are as follows:
 - i. General
 1. Coach's actions should reflect the league's mission statement and display good sportsmanship towards your team, parents, opposing teams, umpires, and fans.
 2. Teach good sportsmanship with the team that encourages the athletes to play fair, be respectful towards opposing teams, umpires, and fans.
 3. Promote positive relationships between teammates that encourage teamwork and good sportsmanship.
 4. Provide a positive environment that encourages hard work, dedication, competitiveness, and emphasizes having fun.
 5. Head coach should have strong communication, motivational, and organizational skills. They should also be able to work well in a collaborative environment.
 6. No coach may be under the influence of alcohol at league events. This includes practices, games, meetings, and any other official league/county activities.
 7. The use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited at all league events home or away. This includes practices, games, meetings, and any other official league/county activities.

8. The use of tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco, is not permitted at league events. This includes practices, games, meetings, and any other official league/county activities.

ii. Safety

1. The head coach and assistant coach must provide current clearances (criminal history and child abuse) to the league.
2. The head coach is responsible for making sure anyone else helping at practices/games has their clearances turned in to the board. No one is allowed to help with any type of activity unless they have both of their clearances turned in.
3. All head and assistant coaches are to be CPR, First-Aid, and AED trained. If a coach has a current certification for the aforementioned trainings, they can provide a copy of the card to the league. Any head coach and/or assistant coach that needs to be trained in CPR, First-Aid, and AED usage can notify the league and the league will provide training at no cost to the head coach and assistant coach. This is for one head coach and one assistant coach per team.
4. Have league provided First-Aid kit at all league activities (includes practices, games, meetings, and any other official league/county activities) and be prepared to respond to injuries or emergency situations.
5. If an emergency incident occurs, immediately report the incident to a league board member once the situation is under control and it is safe to break away from the incident.
6. Be aware of the skill level of the athletes and plan according to their abilities.

iii. Administrative

1. Head coach will act as main point of contact for communicating all league and team related information to the league, assistant coach, parents/guardians, and players.
2. Head coach is responsible for addressing and resolving team conflict. If the coach is not able to resolve any conflict, he/she will bring the matter to the league board who will handle the resolution.
3. Head coach is responsible for communicating and enforcing county and league rules with the team and parents/guardians. If the coach finds that he/she needs assistance with communicating or enforcing the county and league rules, he/she should immediately notify a league board member for assistance.
4. Maintain equipment provided by the league. Notify the league immediately if any equipment needs attention or becomes unsafe to use and the league will address accordingly.

5. Ensure proper use of equipment by the team and individual players.
6. Head coach will sign-out and sign-in league provided equipment and are responsible for lost, stolen, or equipment damaged from misuse.
7. Maintain team roster and notify the league of any changes.
8. Attend all coaches County meetings including the County scheduling meeting and schedule all games for the season and then notify the field coordinator and the league of the schedule.
9. Request/schedule all field usage with the field coordinator.

iv. Coaching and Games

1. Plan and implement structured practices that focus on developing and improving fundamental skills related to hitting, fielding, pitching, and base running.
2. Offer positive feedback and constructive criticism to assist in player development.
3. Develop game day line up and batting order. Ensure all players have a chance to play.
4. Cancel home games by 3:00pm to avoid umpire fees. Cancellation should be through text with opposing coach, County Secretary, and County Umpire Scheduler.
5. Reschedule any canceled home games within 7 calendar days with the opposing team and the field coordinator. The game doesn't have to be played within 7 days just rescheduled.
6. Maintain scorebook for each game.
7. Update the county website with scores for every game won (10U, 12U, and 14U only). Must be completed after the game on the same day.

B. Players

- A. Players must be born a female in order to play for Greenville Girls Fast Pitch Softball.
- B. Rosters for Greenville Girls Fast Pitch Softball shall be established in accordance with regulation of our league.
- C. There shall be at least 10 players to a team (with the exception to 8u as they can play with less).
- D. Players younger or older than the ages identified in the above divisions wishing to participate in the program must gain approval of the Executive Board as

established by a majority vote of those present in person at any scheduled meeting of the Executive Board. In the event of a tie, the decision rendered will be determined by the vote of the President. In order for the Executive Board to **consider** a “play up” request, the following requirements must be met:

- a. A minimum of one season with our league is **required** for a player to play up
 - b. For all divisions, provided the aforementioned divisional age requirements have been met, the Executive Board shall consider all request to play up by examining the follow factors, individually or in combination:
 1. Numbers! Upon receiving the registered number of players for each division, would the movement of the player up eliminate the possibility for completing a full team roster (10-player minimum) within their actual age division or would be movement of the player up expand an already inflated roster size? **Note:** *Greenville Girls Fast Pitch Softball believes that roster sizes less than 10, or greater than 13, impose limitations that are detrimental to the team as a whole and are therefore strongly discouraged.*
 2. Safety! Would the assessed ability of the player in question pose a safety risk to her? Could the player in question safely play the majority of positions on the field? Would the assessed abilities of the player in question pose a potential safety risk to other players on the field?
 3. Success! Would the abilities of the player in question significantly limit their ability for sustained success or hinder the likelihood of significant progress/skill-development in the proposed division?
 4. Experience! Would the abilities of the player in question be likely to significantly limit playing-time compared to what they could experience in their appropriate age division?
 5. Morale! Would allowing the player in question to play up have a significant unfair impact on the playing time of other players who are of proper league age for the division?
 - c. After evaluations, if needed, to move up players, the new coach has the decision on who to move up and what order based on evaluations and discussions with the evaluators and previous coaches.
 - d. Once the head coach selects the ones they want to move, parents are then given the option to have their child play up or stay at their age division.
 1. If no one elects to move up to the age division that is short players, the Executive Board will give so many girls the option to dual roster with the girl prioritizing the age division with the lowest numbers.
- E. All players participating in GGFPS must participate in an annual pre-draft player evaluation. The evaluation shall provide opportunity for Executive Board, Coaches to assess each player’s ability in batting, fielding (ground balls/fly balls), throwing, and running.

- a. Evaluations are closed to the public. Only the people running the stations, judges, head coaches, Executive Board members, and up to 2 guardians are allowed in evaluations.
- F. All players, determined by the Mercer County Rules and Regulations and the local Executive Board, shall be eligible for the draft in their identified division.
- G. For siblings, they will be given the opportunity to play up as long as they are evaluated to do so but they are not guaranteed playing time. Siblings are only allowed to move up one age division.
- H. Any player that played up in the previous season are able to play in the same division again, play with their age division, or double roster. Example: a girl played 14u in the spring, the next season she is able to play 14u again, play 12u, or roster for both.
- I. All players must be born a female in order to play for GGFPS.
- J. Draft
 - a. The draft in each division shall begin by a virtue of drawing numbers to determine draft order.
 - b. Greenville Girls Fast Pitch Softball has adopted Draft System Plan A (Serpentine Draft Order).
 - c. Picks go in an “s” pattern. Head coach and assistant coach girls start in round 3.
 - d. Siblings in the same age group will be kept together and will count as multiple picks depending on number of siblings.

Note: At no time is a coach permitted to waive a draft choice so long as eligible players are still left on the ballot.