



**“Simply Softball, Simply Fun”  
RANGER SOFTBALL League & Tournament Guidelines**



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**Ver. 1.7 (02/11/2020)**

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## The League (1.0)

**1.1** The League shall be the smallest unit of organization and shall be governed by those active in the local program which makes up the managing personnel, such as officers, executive committee, team managers, volunteer umpires, sponsors and player agent, serving as the volunteer operating personnel. The community aspect of the program should be the goal and be maintained.

**1.2** Each league or group of leagues shall operate within a single boundary, shall adopt a set of local rules and regulations for the operation of the league or leagues, and elect officers to manage the operations of the league(s). Local leagues may not adopt administrative rules and regulations which are in conflict with RANGER SOFTBALL Official Rules and Regulations.

**NOTE:** RANGER SOFTBALL® recognizes that in communities where there are two or more franchised leagues, it may be advisable to have a common set of officers and adopt a single set of local rules and regulations. This is optional and shall be determined by the various leagues. RANGER SOFTBALL, recommends that league officials who have financial responsibility within the league be bonded.

**1.3** Leagues are assigned to districts within a state and are under the direction of a district director. All district directors and the regional director are under the direction of the state director.

**1.4** No district, state or state director shall have the authority to add, change, or waive any current rule or regulation, or to permit the violation of any rule or regulation regarding league operations or policies.

**1.5** Each franchised league shall be composed of a minimum of three (3) teams and not more than seven (7) teams in the (18U, 15U, 12U and 10U divisions); not more than nine (9) teams in the 8U division and not more than eleven (11) teams in the 6U division.

**1.6** Each league may be divided into as many as four (6) playing divisions: 18U, 15U, 12U, 10U, 8U, and 6U for local league play. If any divisions has more than the maximum teams allowed in one league and is operating under a single franchise, the divisions with excess teams will be required to form another league with an equal (or almost equal) number of teams in each division in each league. An additional franchise number will be assigned to the additional league for the excess teams by the National Office.

**EXCEPTION**—The state director may approve a two-team major league on a year-to-year basis.

**1.7** A franchised league shall be one which meets all qualifications of RANGER SOFTBALL and which is granted a certificate of franchise by the National Office of RANGER SOFTBALL.

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**1.8** All leagues shall be required to register all teams in each division with RANGER SOFTBALL®. Exception: With the approval of the State Director, RANGER SOFTBALL® will accept a new league or leagues having only 10U, 8U and/or 6U division teams.

**1.9** The annual franchise registration fee shall be \$10.00 per team per year for the 18U, 15U, 12U, 10U division teams and \$5.00 per team per year for the 8U and 6U division teams. All leagues shall pay the same franchise registration fee, as stated herein, and no exceptions shall be granted.

**1.10** State registration fees, if any, shall be established by the state organization and shall be paid with the national franchise fees. The maximum state registration fee per league shall be \$40.00.

**1.11** A league's annual franchise renewal form and all franchise fees must be sent to the National Office on or before April 1 of the current year. Franchise renewals postmarked after April 1 will result in a \$50.00 late penalty assessment which must be paid prior to the District Credentials meeting in order to participate in RANGER SOFTBALL sanctioned tournaments.

**1.12** 18U, 15U, 12U, 10U, 8U, and 6U divisions are operated under the direction of a franchised league. Divisions are hereby construed to mean all activity in the following age divisions:

18U -- League age Eighteen and under

15U — League age Fifteen and under

12U — League age Twelve and under

10U — League age Ten and under

8U — League age Eight and under

6U — League age Six and under

**Note:** Exceptions to these age divisions may be made by league officials as they see fit during regular season play.

**1.13** All matters relating to both local league play shall be under the exclusive supervision of the District Director unless otherwise provided for by the state organization.

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## League Boundaries (2.0)

**2.1** Each league shall determine the actual boundary from within which it will select its players. This boundary shall be marked on a map showing total population within the boundary and up-to-date copies of this map shall be on file with the State Director and District Director. New leagues establishing boundaries and old leagues altering their boundaries shall have the approval of the State Director and the District Director prior to such establishing of a new league's boundary or a change in the old league's boundary.

**2.2** When two or more leagues operate within the same defined boundary, they shall be entitled to select players from the combined area IF THEY HAVE A COMMON SET OF LEAGUE OFFICERS AND FOLLOW THE SUPERVISION OF ONE PLAYER AGENT IN PLAYER SELECTION. All managers MUST have equal opportunity in the selection of players and the player selection system must create an equal distribution of players of each LEAGUE AGE in each league. A multi-league organization, sharing a common boundary, with the written approval of the State Director can redraft the entire program annually for the specific purpose of balancing numbers and/or talent between the leagues within the common boundary. The State Director may require the District Director or other designated RANGER SOFTBALL official to monitor the redraft which must be conducted by only one player agent and strictly follow the provisions of the Regulations provided herein. In a multi-league boundary, players may be redrafted into other leagues within the boundary at this time or at such time as a redraft of the league occurs to place players advancing to a new age division on teams.

**2.3** Populations shall be determined by the latest census.

**2.4** Two or more leagues operating under separate boards may operate within the same boundary or an overlapping boundary area shown on their boundary maps by written agreement of the leagues concerned and approved by the State Director.

**2.5** Small Towns or Communities - Small nearby towns or communities unable to field a league within their own area shall be permitted to form three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6) or seven (7) teams with each town or community forming teams without a common draft with the other small towns or communities in the league.

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**2.6** No new league shall be franchised in the territory of an existing league or leagues without the written approval of the existing league or leagues. Organizations franchised with RANGER SOFTBALL® the previous year shall always have first refusal of franchising in succeeding years.

**EXCEPTION:** Under certain circumstances, the renewal of a franchise may be denied if it is the opinion of a two-thirds majority of (1) the State Director, (2) all members of the Board of Directors of RANGER SOFTBALL from the state, and (3) the District Director of the district in which the league plays, that it is for the best interest of RANGER SOFTBALL, Inc., within the particular state that the existing organization not be franchised for the current year and they each sign a statement to this effect setting out the reasons therefore and provided that team membership shall not form a basis for not franchising. In case the State Director of RANGER SOFTBALL, does not approve the disfranchisement of the league, the National Board of RANGER SOFTBALL® shall appoint a committee to investigate the matter and make a final decision. **EXCEPTION:** In the case of a request for a new league which is located in an area already claimed by a franchised league but the existing league has made no effort to provide a program for the new group, the State director with the approval of the District Director, may allow the new league to be franchised. (Note: This will only apply in cases where an existing league is obviously preventing a new league from entering RANGER SOFTBALL.)

**2.7** League boundary maps showing total population figures shall be on file with the State Director and District Director prior to the playing of the first game on the schedule. An updated copy of this map with new population figures is to be provided to each of these officials with franchise renewal forms each tenth year beginning in 2002 or at any time the boundaries may be changed. Boundaries for any new league or alterations to existing boundaries must be approved by the District Director and the State director.

**2.8** The Board of Directors of RANGER SOFTBALL allows each league and players accepted by a league to continue playing in the league, any player:

**2.8.1** whose residence changes after he becomes a member of the league, and/or;

**2.8.2** who lives outside of the league's boundaries because of a revision of such boundaries, even though now residing in the territorial boundaries of another league.

**NOTE:** A player must elect to remain in league or join the new league in which boundary he now lives in the year of change. Once an election is made, the player must remain in the chosen league until they reach league age 18.

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**2.9** Players who are members of a league or leagues within a defined boundary, including players acquired under herein shall remain the property of the league unless they move to a new permanent address within the boundary of another RANGER SOFTBALL league or leagues; or, unless otherwise provided for in these rules.

**2.10** Players who are members of a particular league within a multi-league organization, whose leagues share a common boundary, must remain only in this league until such time as ALL PLAYERS of his league age are redrafted pursuant to Regulations provided herein.

**PENALTY:** Player(s) who violate this rule will be ineligible for tournament play.

### **2.11 INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

**2.11.1** is a player who is ineligible to be a member of a tournament team for a league because he does not live within the approved boundary of the league, a player who did not meet the participation requirements of Ranger Softball, or a player who is older than the maximum league age allowed for the respective age division of play. Example: A league age 12 player shall not play on a league age 10 and under division tournament team.

**2.11.2** Any player that registers and plays in any RANGER SOFTBALL league shall be ineligible to participate as a member of the league's tournament team if he does not reside within the league's approved boundary under any circumstance except as provided in the Regulations provided herein. Any such player shall be designated as an "ineligible player" for tournament eligibility purposes. No waivers or releases are allowed for any reason other than as provided in herein. The parent or guardian of the player shall be responsible for determining if his/her child is eligible to participate on any of the league tournament teams under RANGER SOFTBALL Rules and Regulations.

**2.11.3** Any league that registers and allows a player who does not reside within its approved boundary or does not meet the requirements to participate in its league shall not allow such player to participate as a member of the league's tournament team under any circumstance except as provided in by the Regulations herein. Any such player shall be designated as an "ineligible player" for tournament eligibility purposes. No waivers or releases are allowed for any reason other than as provided in by the Regulations herein, All league officials including coaches and volunteers in a league shall be responsible for determining if a player is eligible to participate on any of the league tournament teams under RANGER SOFTBALL Rules and Regulations.

**PENALTY:** The player shall be ineligible to participate on any of the league's tournament teams. If the league places an ineligible player on a league tournament team roster, the player shall be subject to disqualification and removal from the team upon protest, prior to or during tournament play.



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**2.12** The state Board of Directors has exclusive authority to determine the proper boundary for eligibility purposes for any player whose parents claim to own or rent dual residences located in more than one league boundary.

### **Teams (3.0)**

**3.1** Each team may consist of a maximum of 15 uniformed players whose names shall be registered with the League President not later than five days prior to the first regularly scheduled game of the league season. Team membership shall be within the sole discretion of each league, provided such membership shall not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations of RANGER SOFTBALL®.

**3.2 League age is that age attained by a player prior to January 1 of the current softball season.**

**3.3** Local league officials shall adopt their own rules in regard to the replacement of players on team rosters.

**NOTE:** League officials shall not allow managers to drop players from their rosters without cause regardless of the playing ability of the player. Reasons for the replacement of players shall include moving out of a community, sickness or injury, disciplinary measures, failure of the player to attend practice or games, and safety precautions. The reason for replacement of players shall be included in a written statement by the team manager filed with league officials.

### **Selection of Players (4.0)**

**4.1** Each league shall determine its own method for the selection of players for team rosters. However, any player selection system used shall be in the form of a draft system, a talent distribution system, or an auction system and shall be under the direction of a player agent who shall see that all teams have an equal opportunity in the selection of all players. RANGER SOFTBALL® recommends that much care be taken in the selection of the individual to fill the position of player agent. Leagues should also be encouraged to charge an assigned draft pick when children of managers or assistant coaches do not go through a player selection system.

**4.2** The director of RANGER SOFTBALL, shall furnish suggested player selection systems upon request by the leagues.

**4.3** Players who do not register in time to participate in the player selection system shall be ineligible, with these exceptions:

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**4.3.1** any who were sick or injured during registration period and confirmed by a physician's written statement; or

**4.3.2** any who became new permanent residents of the community after the registration period. A new resident arriving after the selection may be assigned to a team provided all managers of teams participating in the player pool and the league president approve the assignment in writing.

**Local League Option:** A player may be signed up after the local league drafts are completed prior to or on the first game day of a league's regular season provided the regular season team(s) with the least number of players on its roster(s) will be eligible to draw for the right to select the player.

**4.4** Player Releases are generally not granted. In the rare case where a Player Release is justified, the State Director with just cause may grant a Player Release with the approval of the District Director governing the league.

**4.5** Managers shall not drop a player from their rosters in order to sign a new player.

**PENALTY:** The penalty for violation of this regulation shall be loss of tournament eligibility for the player illegally picked up and grounds for protest in the local league.

**4.6** Any player to whom the courts have appointed a custodial parent or guardian may play local league and be eligible for tournament play for a league in either the boundary of the custodial parent or the boundary of the non-custodial parent without a release.

**4.7** Any player may play local league and be eligible for tournament play for a league in either the boundary where he resides or the boundary of the league where he attends public or private school (excluding home schools) with the exception that he/she can only transfer from school to school one (1) time and cannot go back and forth.

**4.8** Two or more leagues operating within the same defined boundaries which select players using a single player agent must put all returning players from all teams in any dropped league into a common draft where all managers in the remaining league(s) have an equal opportunity in the selection of players.

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## **Player/Coach Eligibility and Registration (5.0)**

**5.1** All leagues shall file a roster of players, managers and coaches of each team in the league with the State and District Director on or before May 1.

**5.2** The roster form shall include the full name of the player, his date of birth and his residence in detail. NOTE: Should there be changes to these rosters the District and State directors must be notified in writing of the change.

**5.3** A maximum of three managers/coaches may be registered on each 18U, 15U, 12U, 10U team. A maximum of four managers/coaches may be registered on each 8U or 6U division team. Only those managers/coaches so registered shall be eligible to coach tournament teams.

**5.4** An eligible player shall become subject to Ranger Softball Rules and Regulations when he/she registers with the league for the current year.

**5.5** Each league shall determine its own method for selection of managers and coaches. All managers and coaches shall be adults of at least 18 years of age. Local leagues have the authority to establish league rules to suspend managers and coaches for unsportsmanlike acts or willful violation of local rules and regulations as well as rules and regulations established by RANGER SOFTBALL.

## **Player Age Limit and Birth Certificate (6.0)**

**6.1** Anyone whose Eighteenth birthday falls on or after January 1 of the current calendar year shall be eligible to compete in regular season and tournament play during the current RANGER SOFTBALL® season.

**6.2** Dates of birth of players shall be certified by birth or baptismal certificate, U.S. passport or other legally accepted proof of age to a designated league official prior to the league's first scheduled game. Each league president is responsible to ensure that no player is over league age and that records of proof of age are available upon request. One of the following documents shall be used to verify age:

**6.2.1** Birth certificate issued by a government agency which has a raised or affixed seal and is accepted as legal proof of age.

**6.2.2** Hospital certificate issued at birth.

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**6.2.3** Baptismal certificate issued within first six years after birth which shows actual date of birth. **NOTE:** A photo static copy of one of the above certificates, which has a statement on the document stating that it is an exact and true copy of the original, signed by the parent or legal guardian shall be accepted.

**6.2.4** Unexpired passport issued by the U.S. Government.

**6.3** The local league shall have the authority to determine the age limits within the league's divisions during regular season play. Any player of league age ten and under who was registered on a 12U team during the regular season shall be eligible to participate in the appropriate 10U, 8U, or 6U division (age ten and under) tournaments. A player can participate on only one tournament team.

## **Team Schedules (7.0)**

**7.1** All Franchised teams shall play a regular schedule of not less than TEN (10) games nor more than twenty-five (25) games, exclusive of championship games.

**Note:** 18U High School teams please refer to guidelines available from your District Director for game exceptions.

**7.2** Two or more leagues shall be permitted to play an interlocking schedule of games, but all such games shall count in the won and lost column of each league.

**7.3** Exhibition games shall be permitted but all pitching rules shall be followed. Permission for exhibition games must be secured from the league president or his delegated authority.

**7.4** It is recommended that each team play a schedule of two games per week.

**7.5** Any game played before the league's franchise is renewed shall not be considered as an official game and cannot be counted in the minimum number of games required to qualify for tournament participation.

**7.6** CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES are playoff games played by two or more teams tied at the end of regular season play with identical won/loss records to determine a league champion; or when applicable, first or second half winners to determine a league champion or playoff games between tied teams to determine first or second half winner. These are not scheduled regular season games but additional games required to determine a league champion or first or second half winner. They are not to be considered as tournament games and are to be played according to the regular season rules.

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## Team Sponsors (8.0)

**8.1** No firm or company who's advertising primarily reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) shall be permitted as a sponsor of the RANGER SOFTBALL program, either locally or nationally, and shall not be permitted to display any form of such advertising in connection with the program.

## Admission to Games (9.0)

**9.1** Admission may be charged for regular season games.

**9.2** Admission shall be charged at all levels of tournament play through the Ranger Softball Tournament Series. Proceeds shall be used to defray expenses of the tournament.

## Other Youth League Participation (10.0)

**10.1** League's franchised with RANGER SOFTBALL® Inc., may franchise its teams with any other youth softball program. RANGER SOFTBALL requires all tournament/allstar teams to participate in RANGER SOFTBALL tournaments in the event of a conflict. **PENALTY:** The penalty for violation of this rule will be revocation of the league's RANGER SOFTBALL franchise.

**10.2** WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL LEAGUE, players, managers and coaches may participate in other youth softball programs during the RANGER SOFTBALL regular season provided such participation does not disrupt RANGER SOFTBALL regular season play. **NOTE:** Leagues may remove any player, manager or coach from a team for the current season for repeatedly missing regular season games and/or practices.

## Child Abuse/Molestation Risk Management Program (11.0)

**11.1** Child abuse/molestation has become a growing concern within recent years and can take many forms including verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. Any form of child abuse/molestation is despicable and goes against everything that RANGER SOFTBALL stands for.

**11.2** RANGER SOFTBALL is committed to addressing concerns over child abuse/molestation by informing and educating its affiliated leagues on this risk by providing guidelines for establishing a risk management plan that may significantly lessen but not totally eliminate the chance of an occurrence. Failure to implement a child abuse/molestation risk management program may expose

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leagues and its officials, volunteers and other representatives to significant legal liability.

**11.3** RANGER SOFTBALL strongly recommends that all franchised leagues adopt and implement a child abuse/molestation risk management program. A sample league abuse/molestation risk management program is available on the RANGER SOFTBALL website at Rangersoftball.com which a league can customize, or the league may choose to develop a similar comprehensive program.

**11.4** RANGER SOFTBALL has no operational control over league security, including the selection of volunteers associated with independent leagues which affiliate with its program. Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the independent leagues to take action by adopting and implementing a child abuse/molestation risk management program.

**11.5** Due to the fact RANGER SOFTBALL has no operational control over league security including the selection of local league volunteers, each franchised league shall be required to indemnify and hold harmless RANGER SOFTBALL against all legal actions based on child abuse/molestation allegations arising from any team, league, tournament or other activities of such league.

**11.6** Various youth sports/leagues have adopted criminal background checks for coaches/volunteers as the sole means for protecting against this risk. While criminal background checks are an important aspect that should not be overlooked, they are just part of a comprehensive risk management program.

**11.7** Elements of any Abuse/Molestation Risk Management Program are highlighted below:

**11.7.1** Screen all volunteers who have repeated access to youth by requiring completion of a Volunteer Application and by running a criminal background check. All criminal background checks indicating a conviction involving crimes against a minor must result in disqualification of the volunteer. In addition, other charges and convictions may be an indication of an unfit volunteer and may result in disqualification.

**11.7.2** Distribute materials to educate administrators, volunteers, and parents on the warning signs of child abuse/molestation and how to respond to an allegation.

**11.7.3** Appoint a Conduct Official to administer the program and to be the primary contact for allegations of child abuse/molestation.

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**11.7.4** Encourage the use of a “buddy system” where a non-related adult is never alone with a single child.

**11.7.5** Encourage the use of take home/pickup policies to ensure that a single child is not being transported by a volunteer as a result of a parent failing to pick up a child in a timely fashion.

**11.7.6** Prohibition of any overnight sleepover event at any official’s house.

**11.7.7** Limiting the distribution of directories/rosters with names, phone numbers, addresses, and pictures to persons on a “need to know” basis.

## **Conduct and Sportsmanship (12.0)**

**12.1** The use of any alcoholic beverage or tobacco product within the confines of the playing field, dugout or bench by any manager, coach, player, umpire or league official is prohibited. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty manager, coach, player, umpire or official from the game and from the dugout.

**12.2** Members of one team including spectators, shall not ride, kid, heckle, poke fun at, or in any other manner do anything that in the opinion of the umpire distracts the opposing team. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty player, players, and/or coach or manager from the game and from the dugout.

**12.3** Local leagues have the authority, as permitted by local and state law, to remove or ban from the league’s playing facilities any spectator who is flagrantly displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, or who threatens physical harm to umpires, players, managers, coaches or league officials. This authority extends to all scheduled regular season games or tournament games played at its playing facilities. In cases of crowd control and disorderly conduct of individuals at the tournaments, it is the responsibility of the local league host officials to support and work with the Ranger Softball Tournament Officials.

**12.4** Coaches who are ejected from a tournament game may return the next game or may receive a one game or tournament suspension. Coaches may also be subject to a one-year probation or suspension from coaching Ranger Softball tournament teams.

**12.5** Any Ranger Softball Director has the authority to eject a coach from a tournament game.

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**12.6** Local leagues and Tournament directors, at their discretion, may allow the use of noisemakers. However, spectators may not use noisemakers in an attempt to distract the pitcher's delivery of the pitch to the batter. Any such action will be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct and will not be permitted by the umpire.

**12.7** When a batter wiggles the bat in an EXTREME MANNER in which, in the umpire's opinion, the batter is intentionally attempting to distract the pitcher's delivery of the pitch to the batter, this action shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct and not permitted. The umpire shall call a no pitch and meet with the batter and manager to give a warning upon its first occurrence. Upon a second occurrence by the same batter, the batter is out.

**12.8 (APPLIES TO 10U ONLY):** The fake bunt/hit away tactic will not be allowed. Aggressive defensive play brings the players too close to the batter in an attempt to take the bunt away from the batter completely, which becomes a safety concern. The umpire shall call no pitch and meet with the team and team manager to give a team warning upon the first occurrence. A second occurrence will result in the player being called out. Once a batter squares to bunt, he may:

**12.8.1** Pull the bat back and take the pitch, or

**12.8.2** Attempt to bunt the ball.



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# Tournament Play Guidelines

**No Director or any appointed assistant directors shall be permitted to waive any RANGER SOFTBALL tournament rule.**

**All Protest in District and State/Regional Tournament Play shall be solely under the jurisdiction of the National Rules and Protest Committee.**

## **Tournament Play (13.0)**

**13.1** A SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT is any level of tournament play approved by RANGER SOFTBALL, Inc., (including a two- out-of- three series) which allows each franchised league to enter TWO teams in the 18U/Highschool , 15U, 12U, 10U, 8U, and 6U divisions at the first level of tournament play to compete for the right to advance to subsequent levels of sanctioned play.

**NOTE:** Any non-sanctioned tournaments supervised by RANGER SOFTBALL officials must be approved by the respective RANGER SOFTBALL state organization.

**13.2** Two league teams, either the league champion and/or selected “All Star” groups, may represent each 18U, 15U, 12U, 10U, 8U, and 6U division in sanctioned RANGER SOFTBALL tournament competition starting at the Sub-District or District level. Each league is entitled to enter, and no play-off to enter may be required.

**13.3** (1) Each state organization may use only double elimination tournament brackets approved by the director to advance teams to the next level of tournament play. States may advance more than one team to the next level of play.

**13.4** “Double elimination” is defined as when a team loses two games in a single tournament using double-elimination brackets at any level, area, sub-district, district, state, and is eliminated from further participation in that tournament.

**13.5** Each state organization may advance more than one team from all levels of tournament play to the state tournament. and distribute these procedures in writing to all leagues and RANGER SOFTBALL officials within the state.

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**13.6** The tie-breaker rules listed below will be used in all round-robin tournaments to advance a runner-up team or teams in addition to the champion to the next level of tournament play.

#### TIE-BREAKER RULES

1. Head-to-Head Record Between Tied Teams Rule
2. Least Runs Allowed Between Tied Teams Rule
3. Least Runs Allowed for All Games
4. Most Runs Scored for All Games Rule
5. Coin Flip

**13.7** The state organization may authorize a one game playoff between two teams advancing from separate double-elimination brackets or, the state organization may use a two-out-of-three Series format.

**13.8** In double elimination tournaments, two-out-of-three, three-out-of-five or one game playoffs with teams advancing from double elimination or pool play round robin play shall be considered a new level of play for pitching restrictions but all rest requirements for all pitchers shall remain in effect.

**13.9** All official playing rules and regulations used during regular season play shall be in effect during sanctioned tournament play unless otherwise stated in the tournament rules below.

**13.10** 6U Division (T-Ball) tournaments shall be under the exclusive direction of the District Director or his designated representative at the district level.

**13.11** Appeals are only accepted through RANGER SOFTBALL channels for the sanctioned tournaments. Appeals in non-sanctioned tournaments must be handled through the organization sponsoring the tournament.

**13.12** Each community or league sponsoring a state tournament shall be granted a host team.

**NOTE:** A host team shall be allowed only in the event there is a tournament, not a series between two teams.

**13.13** A host city having two or more leagues shall be entitled to hold a playoff to determine the host team, and the other leagues shall be entitled to enter district eliminations.

**13.14** All tournament hosts shall be determined using guidelines established by the state organization.

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**13.15** Host teams shall not participate in any tournament in any level of tournament play below that in which they act as host. As a matter of interpretation, however, a host is not a host until selected. The penalty for violation of this rule is loss of eligibility for tournament play.

**13.16** Any tournament team wishing to compete only through the district or state tournament shall be permitted to do so provided the State director is notified prior to July 1. In the event, such a team wins the district or state tournament, the runner- up team shall be declared the representative to the next tournament level.

**13.17** All state and sectional tournament sites shall be selected via a bid process or in the absence of any bidding leagues, via appointment by the State Director on or before May 1 of the current year.

### **Tournament Dates (14.0)**

14.1 The earliest date a sanctioned RANGER SOFTBALL tournament may be scheduled to begin shall be determined by each state organization.

### **Financial Responsibility (15.0)**

**15.1** All teams entering tournament play must be financially able to defray all their travel expenses.

**15.2** The host city shall file a financial statement of any RANGER SOFTBALL State Tournament with the director following the completion of the event.

**15.3** Tournament Host Insurance and Team Insurance for Sanctioned Tournaments

Tournament hosts must present required insurance coverage to the District Director, State director, as applicable. Tournament teams must present required insurance coverage to the tournament credentials committee(s). Hosts and all teams participating in sanctioned and other approved RANGER SOFTBALL tournament play must provide evidence of insurance coverage which meets the following requirements:

**15.3.1** Excess Accident – The Tournament Host and each tournament team must be covered by an Excess Accident policy under their respective organizations' names with a medical limit of at least \$50,000. For teams, it is not acceptable for each parent to provide individual evidence of health insurance for his or her child. For the tournament host, coverage must be provided for all umpires, scorekeepers, employees and volunteers; and,

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**15.3.2** General Liability – The Tournament Host and each tournament team must be covered by a General Liability policy under their respective organizations' names with an "each occurrence" limit of at least \$1,000,000 combined single limits for "bodily injury" and "property damage". Such policy may not provide "claims made" coverage and may not have exclusion for lawsuits arising out of injuries to athletic participants. If the tournament host or team does not purchase its General Liability insurance through the approved RANGER SOFTBALL insurance program, it is required that the General Liability policy name RANGER SOFTBALL as an "additional insured".

## **Team Eligibility Requirements (16.0)**

**16.1** Each league shall be entitled to enter either its local league champion or a team chosen from the entire league as its tournament team in each age division.

**16.2** Tournament team affidavits must consist of ten to twelve (10-12) players, a team manager and two coaches and each tournament team must begin each level of tournament play with a full roster of players and coaches. Alternates are not recognized as part of a tournament team and their participation in any tournament team activity is not authorized by RANGER SOFTBALL, Inc.

**NOTE:** Non-sanctioned tournaments not supervised by RANGER SOFTBALL District or State officials cannot use the RANGER SOFTBALL Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit to qualify teams.

**16.3** Each tournament team is required to have ten to twelve (10-12) players and three (3) manager/coaches (4 for 6U and 8U) present at each tournament game except that any unfilled player vacancy or a player's absence may be approved by the tournament director for justifiable reasons except for participation in other tournaments or family vacations which are covered under Tournament Rule IV(C). The tournament director may suspend a team manager from participating in any game where a player vacancy or absence cannot be justified. The tournament director may require a team to replace a player whose continued participation on the team is in doubt.

**16.4** Participating teams shall completely and accurately complete by the deadline all forms furnished them. Teams failing to comply with this rule may not be eligible for tournament participation and may lose their next opportunity to host a tournament.

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## Tournament Player/Coach Eligibility Requirements (17.0)

17.1 In 6U, 8U, 10U, and 12U only players who have played in a minimum of ten (10) of their local league games shall be eligible for tournament competition, with the exception that the state director shall be empowered to rule a player eligible, for good reason, even though the player has not played in ten (10) games. RANGER SOFTBALL urges the state director to grant this exception only for good and substantial reasons, such as injury or sickness by the player substantiated by a physician's notarized statement, weather conditions causing postponement of games, and instances in which leagues were late in starting its seasons and therefore unable to complete a majority of its games prior to the start of tournament play. There may be other reasons for granting an exception, and the state director shall exercise discretion. **The Ranger Softball Rules and Protest Committee reserve the right to overturn any decision made by a state director, with just cause.**

**Exception:** The 15U and 18U divisions shall recognize official high school games, as official games, provided the players have completed all other requirements of participation and are otherwise eligible under the Ranger Softball rules. This includes but not limited to;

1. Completion of all league paperwork and payment of all registration during normal league sign ups.
2. Inclusion in all drafts of teams, practices, and games (that do not conflict with High School Scheduled games or practices)
3. Inclusion on Regular Season Rosters.

**Note: Failure to comply with ALL the above requirements will result in a player being ineligible.**

**17.2** All players on a 18U tournament team may be 18 years of age, if desired. The maximum age for players on league tournament teams shall be league age fifteen (15) for 15U division , league age twelve (12) for 12U division , league age ten (10) for 10U division, eight (8) for 8U division and six (6) for 6U division. Any player of league age ten (10) and under who was registered on a 12U league team during the regular season shall be eligible to participate on the 10U (9-10) tournament team. **LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION:** A league may require that any player of league age ten (10) and under must be registered on a 10U league team during the regular season to be eligible to participate on a 10U tournament team.

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**17.3** A player, a coach or a team may participate or play in another tournament between scheduled RANGER SOFTBALL tournaments. However, a player, or replacement player, coach or a team shall not participate in any other tournament during a sanctioned RANGER SOFTBALL tournament including any days their team is not scheduled to play during the RANGER SOFTBALL tournament. PENALTY: Any player, or replacement player, manager or coach who violates this rule shall be removed from their RANGER SOFTBALL tournament team roster immediately. Any team who violates this rule shall be disqualified from tournament play immediately.

**17.4** A player, replacement player, manager or coach shall not miss the first game of each level of RANGER SOFTBALL tournament play due to travel delays from participation in another tournament or travel delays from a family vacation. PENALTY: Any player, or replacement player, manager or coach who violates this rule shall be suspended for the second game of the tournament and the player shall be ineligible to pitch in this level of play but may pitch in the next level of play if his team advances.

**17.5** A team shall not miss the first game of each level of RANGER SOFTBALL tournament play due to participation in another tournament for any reason. PENALTY: Any team who violates this rule shall be disqualified from tournament play immediately.

**17.6** No manager or coach shall participate on more than one RANGER SOFTBALL sanctioned tournament team at the same time.

**17.7** No player shall participate on more than one of a League's RANGER SOFTBALL sanctioned tournament teams at the same time.

**17.8** Under no circumstances can a player be listed on the original tournament roster affidavit of more than one of a league's RANGER SOFTBALL tournament teams during the same year. Exception: Players who are rostered under a specific league franchise number who participate on non-sanctioned rosters or the rosters of second sanctioned teams within a playing division may be used as replacement players with the approval of the state director if their original tournament team has been eliminated from competition.

**17.9** Only managers, assistant managers or coaches during the regular league season shall be eligible to manage or coach a tournament team, and they shall be registered on their regular season team player rosters as filed with the district and state directors. The state director shall be empowered to grant exceptions to this rule.

**17.10** ALL RANGER SOFTBALL officials, elected or appointed, shall not be eligible to manage or coach a tournament team under any circumstances.

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**17.11** Upon the recommendation of the Tournament Director, the State Director shall have the authority to suspend from tournament play any player, manager or coach for a flagrant display of unsportsmanlike conduct or for a willful violation of RANGER SOFTBALL Rules and Regulations. A player, manager or coach who is suspended shall not be allowed to participate in further tournament play in any way to include opening or closing ceremonies and trophy presentations. The suspension may be for one or more games or for the remainder of tournament play during the current season. The director of RANGER SOFTBALL shall have this authority during the RANGER SOFTBALL State Tournaments.

**17.12** After an investigation conducted by the director's Office, the Board of Directors of RANGER SOFTBALL Inc., by a majority vote shall have the authority to suspend a player, manager or coach for the next season or impose a lifetime ban to the individual from participation in RANGER SOFTBALL tournaments.

**17.13** The State Board of Directors may adopt policies and guidelines to ban managers or coaches from tournament play for one or more years. This decision may be appealed to the director's Office.

## **Tournament Player Affidavit (18.0)**

**18.1** RANGER SOFTBALL shall mail or deliver electronically tournament affidavit forms to each league. These affidavit forms shall be completed for each tournament team and delivered to the District Director at the District Credentials Meeting prior to the first tournament game. Each tournament team manager shall have the original of this tournament affidavit, properly completed, at all tournament games.

**18.2** The president of each league shall check all birth records of players whose names appear on the tournament affidavit. The name of the players on the affidavit shall be exactly the same as the name on the birth record.

**18.3** Credentials Committee— In addition to the tournament affidavit each team manager shall have a birth record and medical release form for each player whose name appears on the affidavit. The affidavit, medical release form and the birth records shall be publicly inspected and approved by a credentials committee composed of three members, one of whom may be the tournament director, and this public inspection shall be at least one week (seven days) prior to the first sub district or district game. All teams shall be notified of the credentials meeting by the district director or the tournament director at least one week prior to the inspection. This requirement shall be for sub-district and district play only.

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**18.4** Teams failing to be present at the district credentials meeting with the player affidavit, birth records and medical release form shall forfeit their right to compete in tournament play. Teams shall have a birth record and medical release form at this meeting for each player listed on the player affidavit. In the event a team does not have a birth record for a player at this meeting, the player for whom there is no birth record shall be ineligible to play in the sub-district or district tournament.

**18.5** The state or district director shall be empowered, however, to make exceptions to the seven-day inspection rule for hardship cases. A player whose birth record is not accepted by the credentials committee at the inspection meeting shall have the opportunity of submitting another birth record to the committee on the evening prior to the first tournament game at a time and place set by the tournament director. Player affidavit may be corrected for spelling, typographical errors, nicknames and so on at either of the two meetings of the credentials committee. Players whose birth records are not accepted by the credentials committee at either of the two meetings shall be ineligible for all games in the sub-district and district tournaments. There shall be no appeal. A team using a player not approved by the credentials committee shall be disqualified from the tournament.

**18.6** A copy of the tournament team affidavit shall be mailed to the director's office immediately following approval by the credentials committee. This copy must be received by the RANGER SOFTBALL director before the first tournament game may begin.

**18.7** Where separate district credentials meetings are held for each division's sub-district tournament, the credentials committee shall inspect the player affidavits and birth records of all the tournament teams in the respective division at the same time. There shall be a credentials meeting for each division in the district. All credentials meetings within a district may be held at the same time.

**18.8** The state director or tournament director shall set the date and time for the inspection of the tournament team affidavits and birth records for teams competing in state tournaments, and this time shall be at least three hours prior to the first game of the tournament. Teams not complying with this rule shall be subject to disqualification from tournament play.

**18.9** Adopted children going by a name other than that which appears on the birth record shall furnish an affidavit of the adoption or name change and a copy of the affidavit shall be attached to the birth record. Players not legally adopted but using a name other than that which appears on the birth record shall be eligible provided a notarized statement of this fact is made before a probate judge or clerk of court or their equivalent and the statement is attached to the birth record with the signature and seal of the probate or clerk of court.



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**18.10** A Protest of eligibility based on age may be presented to the tournament director at any time during tournament play. No protest of an age violation shall be allowed after the inspection by the credentials committee without absolute proof. The burden of proof shall be upon the protesting party.

**18.11** Players who are unable to furnish an approved birth record shall be entitled to mail other documents of proof of age to the director, who shall be empowered to issue a certificate in lieu of an actual birth record.

## **Replacing Players (19.0)**

**19.1** A team may replace tournament players after their selection to the team following investigation and approval by the District Director at District level, State director. The new player must present proper proof of age and be otherwise eligible according to rules and regulations of this program including the restrictions in Regulation IV(C). The player who is replaced shall not be entitled to return to the team unless he was a replaced injured player and he replaces another injured player. A replacement certificate shall be available from the District or State director. Requests for replacements shall be made in writing by the local league President to the District Director at district tournaments, State Director at the state tournament.

## **Tournament Games (20.0)**

**20.1** All tournament games shall be played to a conclusion regardless of the score or the inning unless the team behind wishes to concede. A 1 hour 45 minutes limit for all games in tournament play shall be in effect except for the championship and if necessary game(s) .

(NOTE) When a suspended game is resumed, play shall begin from the actual point of termination. This shall be considered the same game and the same pitchers shall be eligible to pitch just as if the game had been completed on the original day.

Example A: The game is called on account of rain in the top half of the third inning with the count of three balls and two strikes on the batter and two outs in the inning. The game shall be resumed at the earliest possible time and play shall resume in the top half of the third inning with the count of three balls and two strikes on the batter and two outs in the inning.

Example B: The game is called in the top of the fifth inning for any reason. The game shall be resumed at the earliest possible time from the exact point of termination. The pitchers shall be eligible to complete the game as this is part of the same game and the rest rule is not applicable as far as completing the game is concerned.

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**20.2** No team shall be required to play more than three (3) games on the same day during the same tournament and no team shall be required to play as many as three (3) games on the same day more than twice during the same tournament, except to play an “if necessary” game to determine the tournament champion. A team playing three (3) games on the same day shall have up to two (2) hours rest between games. In the case of an “if necessary” game to determine a tournament champion there shall be at least one (1) hour rest between games.

**20.3** The director shall be empowered to waive any tournament rule deemed necessary to ensure the completion of any tournament where there have been delays caused by inclement weather or other reasons.

**20.4** If games are played under floodlights at any level of tournament play, the approval of the RANGER SOFTBALL official in charge of that tournament must be received before the start of the tournament.

**20.5** All rained-out or postponed games shall be rescheduled by the tournament director in the order of postponement. For example: Game 3 is postponed due to rain, wet grounds or for any other reason, but the ground crew gets the field in condition to play again several hours later. Game 3 shall be played before any other game on the schedule.

**20.6** Teams forfeiting games in tournament competition may not be granted tournament privileges the following year.

## **Tournament Player Participation Requirement (21.0)**

**21.1** Every available player on a team’s tournament roster must meet the offensive and defensive requirements below which provides that:

**21.1.1** each player must complete one time at bat in every tournament or series game played by his team; **PENALTY** - The penalty for violation shall be the disqualification of the team manager for the remainder of the game and the remainder of the next game played by his team in the tournament or series, and

**21.1.2** each player must play defensively 3 outs in 2 defensive half innings played by his team (6 Total Outs). **PENALTY** - The penalty for violation shall be the disqualification of the team manager for the remainder of the game and the next game played by his team in the tournament or series.

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**Exception:** If the manager refuses to insert players into the defensive lineup during a game after being notified by the official scorer or a RANGER SOFTBALL official that a player or players on the team has not met the participation requirement, these players shall be inserted in the game by the tournament director and the team manager shall be removed from the team immediately and disqualified for the remainder of the current tournament season. **NOTE:** These penalties shall apply to both teams, even if the last half of last inning is not required. The only exceptions shall be when a game is called due to run rules.

**21.2** Offensive Participation Requirements – The tournament director shall notify each manager that the tournament offensive participation requirement will use a continuous batting order.

### **Continuous Batting Order (22.0)**

**22.1** At the start of the game, all available players on each tournament team roster will be listed in the starting offensive batting lineup and bat in this order continuously throughout the game.

**22.2** If a player arrives after the continuous batting order has been submitted to the scorer, the player must be added to the end of the continuous batting order. Players who arrive late shall be substituted for the next batter in the lineup when they enter a game late and have them bat immediately only if the late player cannot mathematically have a plate appearance. If this is the case, then the substituted player will skip his at-bat once and the substitute player will go to the last position in the batting order for the remainder of the game. If a player arrives after the fifth inning has begun, he SHALL NOT participate in the game.

**22.3** If a player listed in any batting position in a continuous batting lineup leaves the game because of an injury, illness or disqualification, this position in the batting lineup will be skipped for the remainder of the game without penalty. No player will be called “out” who is skipped by rule in the batting lineup.

**22.4** If the player is injured while at bat, the next batter will assume her count. **EXCEPTION:** If the player is a base runner, the player in the batting lineup who was last putout will become a substitute runner for the player who has left the game due to an injury and the substitute runner shall not change his position in the batting line-up.

**22.5** A player removed because of injury or illness may return to the game, if otherwise eligible.

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## **Tournament Defensive Participation Requirement (23.0)**

**23.1** At the start of the game, all available players on each tournament team roster will be listed in the starting offensive batting lineup and the defensive starters shall be designated on the team lineup card. Any defensive player, including the pitcher, may be listed in any order on the starting offensive batting lineup.

**23.2** Each scorer shall indicate in the official scorebook in which inning (or innings) a player met the defensive participation requirement.

**23.3** The scorer shall notify the team manager and umpire of any player who has not met this requirement at the completion of the fourth inning of play. The tournament director shall notify the umpire to direct such manager to insert in the team's defensive fifth inning any such player(s) who have not met the defensive participation requirement.

## **FREE SUBSTITUTION ON DEFENSE (24.0)**

**24.1** Including the Pitcher, any player may enter the game on defense in any defensive position as many times as deemed necessary by the team manager.

**24.2** Players may enter the game on defense only at the beginning of each team's defensive inning unless the defensive player enters the game to replace an injured, ill or ejected player or enters the game during a pitching change.

**24.3** The public-address announcer shall maintain a scorecard for defensive changes. It is recommended that all changes be announced over the public-address system.

## **Tournament Uniforms (25.0)**

**25.1** All players in tournament play shall wear regular softball uniforms. No plain, unnumbered, undershirt style T-shirts shall be permitted for uniform jerseys. Uniform type T-shirts in team colors with numbers shall be considered legal regular softball uniforms. Coaches may wear the same softball uniform of the team or matching shirts with collars. The penalty for violation of this rule is possible disqualification of the team by the tournament director from further play. The District Director, State director shall establish an appropriate dress code for each level of tournament play so as to portray the proper image for RANGER SOFTBALL.

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**25.2** All players participating shall have numbers not less than four inches on the back of their uniform shirt. Any players wearing a batting vest shall also have numbers not less than two inches on their sleeve, (preferably the right sleeve). No duplicate numbers shall be allowed. **PENALTY:** The penalty for violation of this rule shall be that players wearing duplicate numbers shall not be allowed on the field.

**25.3** All players and managers must present a neat and clean appearance. Hair styles must be such as to assure that it will not extend over the eyes and interfere with vision.

## **Protests (26.0)**

**(THESE RULES COMPLETELY REPLACE THE REGULAR SEASON PROTEST RULES.)**

**26.1** Only the team manager or the acting team manager shall be entitled to file a protest relating to any rule or regulation during any tournament game or between games if permitted by rule. Protests shall be made only on a misinterpretation of a rule published in the current edition of the “Official Rules & Regulations of RANGER SOFTBALL”, including but not limited to, provisions for the ineligibility of a player or players, an illegal substitution, an illegal pitcher or failure to comply with the participation requirement. —A protest which clearly requires an umpire’s judgment shall not be accepted by the tournament director.

**26.2** All protests of rule violations, except protests of an ineligible player, an illegal pitcher or failure to comply with the participation requirement, must be made to the umpire-in-chief immediately after the occurrence of the violation and before another pitched ball is thrown to a batter. The umpire-in-chief shall discuss any disputed ruling with any umpire involved in the play and/ or may consult with umpires not involved in the play to determine if the ruling, in their opinion, was in accordance with RANGER SOFTBALL Inc. Rules and Regulations.

**26.3** The umpire-in-chief shall explain the disputed rule to each team manager and specify whether the ruling decision will stand or be reversed. If either team manager does not agree with the umpire’s explanation of the ruling, the umpire-in- chief shall refer the protest to the tournament director. **NOTE:** Either manager has the right to put his team in the dugout and refuse to continue play if the umpire-in- chief does not refer any protest to the tournament director.

**26.4** AFTER THE COMPLETION OF A GAME THERE SHALL BE NO PROTEST REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A PROTEST ON ELIGIBILITY OR THE FAILURE OF A TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL TO FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING PROTEST APPEALS.

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**NOTE:** A game shall not be considered as complete until opposing managers have an opportunity to make a protest on a game ending play or failure to comply with the participation requirement. Fifteen minutes shall be considered sufficient time for the fulfillment of this rule.

**26.5** When the official scorer or other officials have knowledge of a potential illegal substitution of a player or use of an illegal pitcher, they should advise the manager of the violating team. However, after the violation occurs, no one shall call attention to the violation except the opposing manager.

**26.6** **ILLEGAL PITCHER**—If an illegal pitcher enters the game, or becomes illegal after entering the game, this is a continuing violation and may be protested at any time during its continuation prior to the completion of the game. **PENALTY:** If protested during the game, the illegal pitcher shall be removed from the mound and the offended team shall have the choice of replaying the game from the point where the illegal pitcher entered the game to pitch or became illegal after entering the game or continue from the point where the illegal pitcher is removed from the game. If, in the opinion of the tournament director, the violation was intentional, the tournament team manager shall be disqualified from further tournament play.

**26.7** An **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** is a player who is ineligible to be a member of a tournament team for a league because she does not live within the approved boundary of the league, a player who did not meet the participation requirements in his/her league, a player who violates Tournament Rule IV(C) or, a player who is older than the maximum league age allowed for the respective age division of play.

**26.8** All protests based on the ineligibility of a player shall be filed with the tournament director prior to the beginning of any game in tournament play. No protest shall be accepted during a game except protest based on age eligibility. **PENALTY:** The penalty shall be the immediate removal of the player from his/her **RANGER SOFTBALL** tournament team roster and disqualification from tournament play.

**26.9** A protest of eligibility based on age may be presented to the tournament director at any time during tournament play. **PENALTY:** If, in the opinion of the tournament director, there is sufficient evidence of an age violation but there is no **WILLFUL VIOLATION** of the age eligibility rules, the tournament director shall disqualify the player from further tournament play. If in the opinion of the tournament director, there is sufficient evidence of a **WILLFUL VIOLATION** of age eligibility rules, the tournament director shall forfeit the last game played by the team and the team shall be disqualified from tournament play.

**26.10** **INELIGIBLE MANAGER/COACH** – Any tournament team manager or coach who violates Tournament Rule IV(C) will be removed from his **RANGER SOFTBALL** tournament team immediately.

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## **TOURNAMENT PROTEST APPEALS (27.0)**

**27.1** Appeals of protest decisions in tournament games may be carried to the Tournament Director. The Umpire-In Chief shall refer any protest appeal to the Tournament Director.

**27.2** During tournament play either manager can request an appeal on a protest to the Ranger Softball Rules and Protest Committee..

**27.3** The Tournament Director ONLY shall be permitted to call the Ranger Softball Rules and Protest Committee.

**27.4** After a ruling by the Ranger Softball Rules and Protest Committee of RANGER SOFTBALL, no further appeals can be made.

**27.5** No appeal shall be accepted by any Tournament Director or the Ranger Softball Rules and Protest Committee in tournament competition on the grounds of a violation of local league rules during regular season play and this shall include population or boundary violations.

**27.7** Appeals will be allowed only if presented exactly according to the above procedures. Team managers may only request an appeal. Managers cannot present appeals directly to these officials. All officials will be available to receive protest appeals during the tournament season.

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## Umpires (28.0)

**28.1** The state director shall approve the umpires for the RANGER SOFTBALL State Tournaments, and the district director shall approve umpires for district tournaments or below.

**28.2** Whenever possible, it is recommended that umpires be selected who have not officiated in games of the participating leagues. An umpire shall not officiate as umpire-in-chief in more than two games in the same calendar day, without approval from the tournament director.

**28.3** All umpires shall report IN WRITING to the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR before leaving the ball park ANY violations leading to the disqualification of any manager, coach, player or RANGER SOFTBALL official and the reasons therefore.

**28.4** With respect to any manager, coach, player, spectator or RANGER SOFTBALL official disqualified for a flagrant offense such as the use of obscene or indecent language, boisterous behavior or an assault on an umpire, manager, coach, player or RANGER SOFTBALL official, the umpire shall forward full details to the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR before leaving the ball park the night of the infraction.

**28.5** This report shall be filed with the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR and, at the State Tournaments only, with the State Tournament Umpire Committee to be reviewed for accuracy and clarity. These reports shall be distributed within 12 hours of the conclusion of the game in question or prior to play resuming the following day.

**28.6** All umpires who are working local league or tournament games shall be registered as a Ranger Softball Umpire. Umpires who have attended a Ranger Umpire Clinic within the past 3 years shall be assigned first.

**28.7** Umpires for Ranger Softball Tournaments at all levels must be 18 years of age. Exceptions must be approved by the State director.

**28.8** Umpires who attend a clinic shall be issued a Ranger Softball Umpire Card that will include an expiration date.

**28.9** Definition of Local League Umpire – an umpire who has worked three or more times for a local league during local league play.

**28.10** Regional and State Tournament Umpire game rates shall be a minimum of \$35 per game for 6U and 8U and a minimum of \$45 per game for all other age groups.



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**28.11.** The State or Regional tournament host shall provide a list of local umpires by June 15.

**28.12** If necessary, exceptions to these requirements may be approved by the State director.

### **Awards (29.0)**

**29.1** Team awards shall be presented to the championship and runner(s)-up teams at the RANGER SOFTBALL State Tournament. Individual awards shall be presented to each player, manager and coach of the championship and runner(s)-up teams.

### **District Tournament Regulations (30.0)**

**30.1** District and Sub-district tournaments must be offered to all eligible leagues on a rotating basis provided the league facilities meet the Ranger Softball Tournament specifications. The District Director has the authority to approve playing facilities.

**30.2** The District Director shall meet with representatives of each league within each district to determine requirements for Sub-district and District Tournaments.

**30.3** It is the responsibility of each District Director to notify the State director of the dates and sites of each level of tournament play within the district.

**30.4** Teams will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the District and State Tournaments.

**30.5** A franchised league may select more than one tournament team in all age divisions.

**30.6** The district director may allow a team that cannot find the required 10-12 players to play with less players in the sub-district or district tournament. A team who is given this exception shall not be allowed to add players during the tournament and shall not be allowed to advance to the next level of tournament play.

**30.7** District tournament play should not be scheduled on Sundays any earlier than 1:00 PM. In order to reduce team expenses, it will be necessary to play on Sunday in Regional and State Tournaments.

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**30.9** Limits on runs in Tournament Games

**30.9.1** 6U and 8U games will be played with a seven (7) run limit per inning in District Tournament games.

**30.9.2** 6U shall have a seven (7) run limit per inning in all state tournament games.

**30.9.3** 8U shall have NO run limit per inning in all state tournament games.

**NOTE:** In all games with limits to runs per inning, the last regulation inning is an open inning with no limit in the number of runs that can be scored. If the visiting team is leading by 8 runs or more in extra innings, the game is over and the home team does not bat.

**30.10** Tournament games 8U-18U shall play with a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit, **NO NEW INNING SHALL START AFTER TIME EXPIRES.**

**Exception:** The championship game and the If Necessary game will not be played with a time limit.

**30.11** Two teams from a multi-league shall not play each other in the first round of any tournament.

**30.12** A maximum of \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12 yr. old will be the standard gate charges at all sub-district and district tournaments. Tournament Host's are authorized to collect 1 additional dollar per entry on the first day of tournament play to recover scholarship contributions. Gate charges at Regional and/or State Tournaments shall be established by the State director. Where there are double headers and the shorter brackets are played, the gate charge shall be adjusted to accommodate "Day Passes". In some cases, there will be a gate fee collected each time the ballpark is entered for a game. These fees must be approved by the state director.

**30.13** No food, drinks or coolers can be taken into a ballpark at a Ranger Softball Tournament that is using their concession for fundraising. Anyone observed bringing these items into the ballpark, may be asked to leave. Upon refusal to leave, the local police may be called.

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## **District Tournament Host Requirements (31.0)**

**31.1** The host league will pay to the District Director a maximum of \$300 tournament fee. Ranger softball recommends 30.00 per team for district fees.

**31.2** Each district shall determine the method to raise funds for the Ranger Softball Scholarship Fund at district tournaments. Ranger softball recommends 30.00 per team for Scholarship contributions.

**31.3** The host shall furnish Softballs from approved ball manufacturers, scorekeeper, umpires and trophies.

**31.4** It is recommended that the district specify the size and type of trophies for district tournaments. The district director may collect the cost of the trophies from the tournament host and buy trophies for all the district tournaments.

**31.5** The host shall provide two umpires for each tournament game. The umpires must be registered Ranger Softball umpires who have passed the Umpire Certification Test for the current year.

## **State Tournament Host Requirements (32.0)**

**32.1** State tournaments are awarded per the highest monetary bid.

**32.2** Host Leagues shall be required to a 500.00 deposit when awarded a tournament. The deposit will be returned after the completion of the tournament assuming all requirements have been met.

**32.3** Host Leagues shall be required to follow strict guidelines concerning the operation of the tournament.

## **General Tournament Requirements (33.0)**

**33.1** Players absent at a tournament game must be reported to the Tournament Director and Official Scorekeeper prior to beginning of the game. A player may be excused for one day for religious reasons if he/she is declared at the credentials meeting prior to the first game of the tournament. Weddings and church camp are not excused absences. Failure to notify the tournament director or scorekeeper of a player who is absent may require the manager to sit out that game.

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**33.2** If a player is not excused and misses a game, the manager will be required to sit out that game. It is the responsibility of the manager to show proof of player sickness or emergencies that prevents a player from being available to participate in a tournament game. A player shall not be excused from a team for vacation or to play select softball. In case of a player leaving a team and not replaced prior to his or her team being eliminated for either of these reasons, the manager of the team shall not be allowed to participate (coach) with the team for the remainder of the tournament. A player must be used to coach one of the bases.

**33.3** Any player absent at the beginning of a game may be entered at the end of the batting line up and the manager sitting out will be allowed into the game. The player must fulfill all participation requirements per the Ranger Softball Rule Book.

**33.4** Coaches must attend the coaches meeting at the District, Regional and State Tournaments. If a team does not send at least one coach to the coaches meeting, the Manager of the team may be suspended by the District Director and not allowed to coach in the first game. Teams failing to be present at the district credentials meetings (including Regional and State Host Tournament teams) with the player affidavit, birth records and medical release forms shall forfeit their right to compete in tournament play.

**33.5** A coach who leaves a tournament team and not replaced prior to his or her team being eliminated shall be disqualified to coach any future Ranger Softball tournament teams.

**33.6** At district level, in cases of emergency, job requirements, sickness or injury a substitute coach may be used for one day only. The substitute coach must be the dugout coach and must stay inside the dugout at all times. If the original coach misses more than one day, he or she must be replaced or a player with a batting helmet be used as a base coach.

**33.7** Tournament Teams shall not be allowed to wear "Select Team Uniforms" or uniforms with "Select Team" names. Exception: A tournament team may use the mascot name of the local schools.

**33.8** District, Regional and State Tournament managers and coaches shall wear:

**33.8.1** Coaches may wear uniforms identical to the players on the team.

**33.8.2** Coaches may wear shirts identical to the players.

**33.8.3** Coaches may wear polo shirts, golf shirts, sport shirt, etc. All coaches' shirts must be identical in style and the same color.

**33.8.4** Coaches may wear only black, gray or khaki color long pants ("Dockers" style plain or pleated). Cargo pants, coaching pants or Jeans / denims of any color shall not be worn.

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**33.8.5** Coaches may wear only black, gray or khaki color shorts (“Dockers” style plain or pleated}. Cargo shorts, coaching shorts, golf short or jean / denim shorts of a color shall not be worn.

**33.8.6** All coaches must be dressed identically. Example: If one coach wears a uniform, all coaches must wear a uniform. If one coach wears long pants, all must wear them. If one coach wears shorts, all must wear them.

**33.8.7** Shoes shall be a coaches’ style shoe, tennis shoe, athletic shoe, leather closed toed shoe, etc. Coaches shall not wear boots, sandals, flip flop or shoes, which in the opinion of the Ranger Softball tournament director, is not appropriate.

**Penalty:** Coaches not dressed in the manner outlined in this dress code will not be allowed on the playing field or in the team dugout before, during or after the game.

## **TOURNAMENT POLICIES (34.0)**

**34.1** Team affidavits must have at least 10 players but no more than 12 players. A player can be replaced, but additional players cannot be added.

**34.2** A player cannot play on any other organized team (Select or Travel Team) starting with the first day of the district tournament.

**34.3** If a player or coach leaves the team and the team replaces them, a replacement form must be completed and approved by the district director or delegate. Birth record must be approved along with the signed medical release. Get a player or coach replacement form from the district director.

**34.4** Tournament Affidavit **MUST** be taken to each game. This is your ticket to play.

**34.5** If a player does not show up at a game and is not excused by the tournament district director, the Manager will be required to sit out of the game. A player may be excused by the district director for a verified sickness or emergency. A player who does not play on Sunday for religious reasons will be excused if it is brought to the attention of the tournament coordinator prior to the start of the tournament. Weddings are not excusable.

**34.6** Make sure that coaches and players are committed to starting and finishing a tournament. Any player that leaves the tournament for vacation or to play select softball and is not replaced prior to the team being eliminated, the team manager shall not be allowed to participate with the team for the remainder of the tournament.

**34.7** A coach who leaves the tournament for vacation or select softball shall be disqualified to coach any future Ranger Softball tournament teams.

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**34.8** At district level a parent coach or substitute may be used for any coach for one game without having to be replaced on the tournament roster. This is for District only.

## **TOURNAMENT EQUIPMENT (35.0)**

**35.1** All equipment will be checked before each game. All equipment must be Ranger Softball approved. Batting helmets must have the NOCSAE stamp. Face guards and chin straps are required for teams whose local league has adopted a policy that requires them.

**35.2** The catchers' masks **MUST HAVE AN ATTACHED THROAT PROTECTOR**. Exception: Hockey style catchers' face masks are not required to have a throat protector.

**35.3** Catchers are not required to wear masks during infield warm up. Players **ONLY** may warm up a pitcher.

**35.4** Defensive players only may wear sunglasses. Sunglasses shall not be worn on top of the players cap. The pitcher and offensive players shall not wear sunglasses.

**35.5** The 6U, 8U & 10U player pitcher must wear a face mask.

**35.6** Players shall not wear jewelry of any kind. No watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings or hat pins. If a player has a religious request for jewelry, that request must be made to and approved by the tournament director before the start of the game.

**35.7** Offensive Participation Requirements for ALL AGE Divisions The continuous batting order shall be used. There are no outs recorded for a sick player or player missing in the line-up.