**2022**

CARROLL COUNTY GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ORGANIZATION

This league shall be called the Carroll County Girls Softball League. The object of this league shall be to promote and perpetuate the game of softball as a recreational activity under the principle of developing citizenship and sportsmanship values for players and spectators.

MEMBERSHIP

1. The members of this league shall be Forreston, Pearl City, Polo, River Ridge, and any Carroll County town who desires to join the league. They shall comply with the rules and regulations of the NFHS/IHSA with the following By-Laws being the exceptions to the rules at all levels. (2014)These members shall remain a member until they drop out or:
	1. Shall have been dropped for failure to post money for membership requirements, or fines for not reporting scores.
	2. Shall have been expelled from the league by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Board of Directors.

1. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to suspend any manager, official or team for just cause.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Any girl is eligible to play in this league who has a Bonafide contract and who observes this Constitution and By-Laws of the league
2. There will not be a limit of the number of players in league play.
3. The town in which she lives forms the boundaries. (CONSOLIDATED DISTRICTS BACK TO ORIGINAL SCHOOL DISTRICS).
4. Players will be permitted to play on other organized softball teams not in our league during the summer playing season.

GOVERNMENT

1. The league shall be governed by a Board of Directors, one from each town, or a proxy of the same town, who shall elect President, Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The officers shall serve a term of one (1) year. Their duties shall be specified by this Constitution and By-Laws.
	1. The President and Secretary-Treasurer are to attend all meetings.
	2. The Secretary-Treasurer is to keep complete current roster listings of each team.
	3. The Secretary-Treasurer is to keep current records of each league’s standings.

QUORUM

1. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors.

MEETINGS

1. The President shall call meetings.
2. A quorum shall be present for business to be legally conducted.
3. Any two (2) directors in writing to the President may request a special meeting, and the meeting shall be held within seven (7) days. Each director shall be notified of said special meeting at least three (3) days prior to the special meeting and be provided with an agenda for the special meeting.
4. Each town has one (1) vote.

COMMITTEES

1. Committees may be appointed by the President when or if he/she deems necessary.

CHANGES

1. During the season this Constitution and By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS, FANS, & COACHES

1. Any player, fan or coach who says the f--- y-- word will be asked to leave the game. The game will not continue until that person leaves. (There will be no warnings.)
2. Any player, fan or coach who swears will get one warning. After first (1st) warning they will be asked to leave the game. The game will not continue until that person leaves.
3. There shall be NO SMOKING during any games by coaches, assistant coaches or helpers. This will include VAPING also. (2022)
4. There shall be no taunting the other team or an individual on the other team. Every team needs to stick to cheering on their team and teammates. You will be allowed to do team chants however if the chant is used as a distraction for the other team, it will not be allowed. You cannot yell or distract the other team or individuals on the team. If the team chant is aimed at distracting other teams’ pitcher or batter it will also not be allowed. (2022)
5. While attending a game as a coach, player or spectator it is expected to be on our best behavior. If there is harassment to umps, players, or coaches it will not be tolerated. If there is an issue with a spectator during a game the ump will call a game time out. During this time out, both coaches will be brought in and the spectator in question will be pointed out to the coaches. The coach/or coaches will then go speak to the spectator causing the issue. The spectator will be warned. If the harassment continues the game will be stopped by the ump and the spectator will be asked to leave. The game will ONLY resume after the spectator has left the park/field. If they refuse, the authorities will be called, or the game will be called. This rule is also for coaches, assistant coaches, and players. (2022)
6. All parents shall sign a Code of Conduct at time of registration. (2014)
7. Your first point of contact is your team coach, then the director of your town if you have any questions or concerns. (2022) Any other questions contact Jake Perry 815-291-927

GENERAL PLAYING RULES

1. The rules for girls softball shall be those of the National or State High School Athletic Association. All exceptions shall be listed in the Constitution or the By-Laws.
2. Any matter not covered by the Constitution or By-Laws shall be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors.
3. Each manager shall secure a copy of this Constitution and By-Laws and inform his or her players of the content. IGNORANCE SHALL NOT BE EXCUSED FOR VIOLATION.
4. When a player throws a bat, the team will be issued a warning. Upon a second occurrence, the batter will be out. Each team receives only one warning per game.
5. When a girl changes positions, she must be kept in the same batting order.
6. All girls have played, any player may re-enter for an injured player in the injured player’s batting position regardless of previous batting position.
7. The bases shall be sixty feet (60) apart.
8. Each Individual team may bat all players present, but not mandatory. (2013)
9. Time limit applies to all games except for Championship Games. (2014)
10. An International Tie Breaker will be implemented for any League or Tournament Game ending in a tie at the end of time limit or regulation play. International Tie Breaker rules are as follows: At the beginning of each team’s at-bat the last batter from the previous inning is placed on 2nd base with zero outs, zero strikes, zero balls. (2022) It is not a sudden death. Each team has an opportunity to bat each inning. The game ends when one team is ahead at the end of an inning. (2013/2014)
11. There is a five (5) pitch warm-up limit per inning. (2018)
12. Anytime a cloud-to-ground strike of lightning can be seen, or thunder heard, risk is present, and a contest should be suspended. At that point, the 30-minute rule for resumption should go into effect. (2018)

TEAM ROSTER

1. Before the first spring meeting all rosters (names, addresses & birth dates) should be turned in. The rosters have to be divided if more than one team. A player should be listed on one roster only, except in the instance where a player younger than the league requirements is needed for fill a position in the event of injury or lack of players. The younger player should not be used if the correct age player is available.
2. A player cannot play on another league team without a roster change being submitted. A roster change must be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the starting time of the first game she is to play on a different league team. (THE RULE IS FOR PLAYERS MOVING INTO THE COMMUNITY.)
3. Any team which plays a player whose name is not on the current roster will forfeit the said ball game.
4. When a younger player is on the roster for any age group, she can be moved up without calling the league secretary, BUT IS NOT ALLOWED TO PITCH.
5. When a town has two or more teams the coaches shall draft the girls alternating picks equally by ability and by age. Town directors will check roster for age before submitting to county.
6. If a younger player is on the upper team roster permanently, she cannot play on any lower team ever. If she is on the upper team but is not old enough she can still pitch at upper team level. (Only can be on one roster.)
7. Sign up must be done by the third (3rd) Saturday of March. Any late sign up has to be done by the second (2nd) Spring Meeting. The only way late sign up will be accepted after this date is if you don’t have enough players to cover the positions on the field.
8. Coaches will notify directors of any players that quit no later than the second (2nd) week of June. Director is to call Secretory-Treasurer to let him know either way if any changes.

TEAM DIVISIONS Age Cut-Off August 1

Tiny Miss Ages 7-8 Wednesdays and Fridays

Little Miss Ages 9-10 Mondays and Thursdays

Junior Miss Ages 11-12 Tuesdays and Fridays

Senior Miss Ages 13-15 Mondays

LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

1. All league games will be played on the home field or may be played on another field with the consent of both managers involved, per schedule, with the exception of rained out or postponed games.
2. Each Team shall play a season’s schedule of games. Games which are rained out or postponed for any reason must be rescheduled by the home team within two weeks. If two teams cannot come together and reschedule the game within a two week period, it must be brought before the President for a final decision.
3. If opposing managers agree either Sunday afternoon or night games may be played.
4. The home team shall furnish balls that are acceptable to the opposing manager.
5. The ground rules regarding home fields shall be respected. Managers and officials for the game shall meet before the game and all ground rules shall be clearly and carefully explained.
6. In a regular season 6pm start time game with no games scheduled afterwards, teams shall start no inning after two (2) hours of play and will not end in a tie. International Tie Breaker goes into effect. All other games will start no inning after one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes of play and will not end in a tie. (2018) International Tie Breaker goes into effect.
7. Any game called before it is completed will be a suspended game unless it has reached four(4) complete innings for Tiny, Little, Junior, and Senior Miss. When continued from the point of interruption, line up and batting order will be the same. If there is a player not present from when the game was suspended and all substitutes have been used the missing player shall be treated as an injured player. (2013)
8. A tied record for first or second place is determined by head to head play. If the two teams did not play each other in regular season a one game playoff needs to be scheduled by the teams before tournament.

REPORTING SCORES

1. n/a
2. The winning coach is responsible for notifying the Association Secretary of the final score by email or Facebook. (2018)
3. All scores shall be to the Secretary by Saturday of that week. Promptness is important.

FINANCES

1. Each team shall post a set amount with the Secretary-Treasurer of the league to be used for carrying on the business of the league. The amount will be determined by membership at the beginning of the season. Upon termination of the league, any balance shall be divided among the teams completing the schedule.

PROTESTS

1. There shall be no protest. Misinterpretations of the rules shall be settled between contest managers and the officials.

UMPIRES

1. Each home team shall provide umpires. Make arrangements for umpires prior to each scheduled games.
2. MUST have at least two (2) umpires. A single umpire may be used for calling strikes and the bases if positioned behind the pitcher. If the home team does not provide an umpire for bases the opposing team may provide one. There must be 2 umpires per playing field.
3. A coach or assistant coach may not umpire a game their teams playing in.
4. UMPIRES BEHIND THE PLATE SHALL BE:
5. FIFTEEEN (15) YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR TINY MISS AND LITTLE MISS
6. SIXTEEN (16) YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR JR. MISS.
7. EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR SR. MISS.
8. ALL BASE UMPIRES MUST BE FIFTEEN (15) YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. (2015)

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. Tiny, Little, and Junior Miss teams shall play with ten (10) players but can play with as few as eight (8). Senior Miss teams shall play with nine (9) players but can play with eight (8). (2018)
2. A team unable to field the required ten (10) players may be allowed to use only eight (8). Eight will not require an automatic out. If a team has less than eight (8) players the game must be forfeited.

EQUIPMENT

1. Catchers must wear a hard helmet, throat guard, chest protector, and shin guards.
2. All uniforms must have a number on the shirt.
3. Batters must wear a helmet with metal face mask and chin strap in the on deck circle, while batting and while on base.
4. All bats will be thirty-four (34) inches in length or less and a diameter not to exceed two and one fourth (2 ¼) inches at its thickest part.
5. **No steal cleats for Tiny, Little, and Junior Miss Divisions. Steal cleats are allowed for Senior Miss Division. (2019)**
6. All infield players must wear a face mask. ALL LEVELS. (2016)

TOURNAMENT ONLY

1. Tournament pairings will be determined two weeks prior to tournament.
2. If an official scorekeeper is not supplied, the home team’s scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper.
3. Any game called before its completion (weather, darkness, mechanical failure, etc.) will be a suspended game regardless of the inning. When continued from the point of interruption, lineup and batting order will be the same. If there is a player not present from when the game was suspended and all substitutes have been used the missing player shall be treated as an injured player.
4. Higher seed will be home team throughout tournament.
5. Each team is to supply a new game ball for each game they play in.
6. Jr. Miss Only: Ten (10) run rule after five (5) innings is in effect.
7. All run rules are still in affect. (2011)
8. Time limit applies to all games except for Championship Games. (2011)
9. Tournament games at all levels will start no earlier than the designated Monday night, and are to be completed by Friday night; otherwise they will start again the following Monday night. There will be no doubleheaders. (2014)

The towns hosting the tournaments are responsible for the tournaments in their communities. If there are any changes in the schedule due to the weather or other conditions those are the people to contact.

TINY MISS BY-LAWS

1. Eleven (11) inch softball. Not low injury ball.
2. **Adult pitcher** pitches from the thirty-five (35) feet. Can pitch inside edge of circle and end up one step outside circle upon delivering.
3. No stealing or bunting.
4. All games will be six (6) innings unless tied. (There will be no tie games.) Extra inning will be needed.
5. No ten run rule.
6. All four (4) outfielders must be behind the baseline.
7. Can slide but not mandatory.
8. No infield fly rule. (2008)
9. Only score six (6) runs per inning. (2014)
10. In the last full inning of the game, whether it be due to time limit or regulation, there will be no limit on runs scored. (2018)
11. **No more than two (2) coaches allowed in the field behind the outfielders. (2019)**

DIAMOND AND PLAYING

* 1. In a six (6) inning game all girls must play at least two (2) innings or forfeit.
	2. There shall be hash marks halfway between each base.
	3. A team will bat the total number of girls on the team roster at one time but can only play ten (10) girls on defense at one time.
	4. Except for injury time outs may not be called until the ball has been returned to the pitching circle.
	5. Tiny Miss has sixteen (16 ft) diameter circle.
	6. Play is dead when the ball is hit to the outfield, comes in possession of an infielder within the bases if no further play is continued. A play could still be made on runners running at their own risk at infielder’s discretion. Hash marks still in play, if runners are past when play is stopped, they continue to next base. The play is not dead if it is not hit past the bases. The ball is still in regular play. (2022)

STEALING AND RUNNING

1. There is to be no stealing.
2. **A runner can leave the base only on a batted ball. One warning will be issued and then the runner will be called out. (2019)**
3. Neither runners nor the batter may advance on a dropped third strike.

BATTING

1. Three strikes and the batter is out. There is no walking.
2. Ten-Pitch Count per player: If the 10th pitch is fouled off, the batter can stay until the ball is hit fair, or the next passed ball is not fouled off. (2015)
3. When a girl changes position she must be kept in the same batting order.
4. No bunting.

PITCHING

1. It is strongly suggested that an adult other than a coach pitch if possible. The pitcher must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
2. The adult pitcher must stand within the circle and pitch any distance between the pitcher’s plate and the front of the circle. The adult pitcher may finish outside the circle in his or her delivery.
3. When the ball is thrown back to the pitcher the child playing pitcher has to catch the ball only on a live ball. However, the adult pitcher shall not interfere with a live ball. **If the adult pitcher touches a batted ball other than in self-defense, the batter shall be called out & all other runners will return to the base which they occupied prior to the batted ball. Umpires will call a time-out at their discretion. (2019)**
4. Omit the infield fly rule.
5. All fielders must be at least thirty (30) feet from home plate until the pitcher releases the ball.
6. The pitcher’s helper must have both feet in the circle prior to the pitch being made. She may leave the circle after the ball has left the pitcher’s hand.
7. The defense cannot stop runners from advancing by calling time out.

LITTLE MISS BY-LAWS

1. Eleven (11) inch softball. Not a low injury ball.
2. **Girls** pitch from thirty-five (35) feet.
3. No stealing or bunting, or slap bunting. (2022)
4. All games will be six (6) innings unless tied. (There will be no tie ball games.)
5. Only score six (6) runs per inning.
6. All four (4) outfielders must be behind the baseline.
7. The ball is live until the ball is in the circle and the umpire has called a time out.
8. Can slide but not mandatory.
9. Thirteen (13) run rule after fourth (4th) inning. (Bottom of fourth inning.)
10. No new inning after one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes.
11. Base runners cannot leave the base until the batter puts the ball in play. (2022)
12. No infield fly rule. (2008)
13. In the last full inning of the game, whether it be due to time limit or regulation, there will be no limit on runs scored. (2018)

DIAMOND AND PLAYING

1. In a six (6) inning game all girls must play at least two (2) innings or forfeit.
2. There shall be NO hash marks halfway between each base.
3. A team will bat the continuous roster of girls for the entire game but can only play ten (10) girls on defense at one time. For example, if there are 15 girls on the team, all 15 will bat before the lead-off batter will be allowed to bat again. (2022)

JUNIOR MISS BY-LAWS

1. Twelve (12) inch softball. Not low injury ball.
2. Girls pitch from forty (40) feet. (2012)
3. Can bunt.
4. Eight (8) runs end the inning for the offensive team.
5. Players can steal second and third bases but not home. *See Attachment A.*
6. Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. (2012) 1st infraction per team is a warning, 2nd infraction the runner is called out. (2022)
7. Infield fly rule is in place. (2018)
8. The ball is live until the ball is in the circle and the umpire has called a time out.
9. Seven (7) inning games.
10. IHSA ten (10) run rule after a fifth inning applies.
11. In the last full inning of the game, whether it be due to time limit or regulation, there will be no limit on runs scored. (2018)

DIAMOND AND PLAYING

1. In a seven (7) inning game all girls must play at least two (2) innings or forfeit.
2. Batter cannot run on a drop third strike.

SENIOR MISS BY-LAWS

1. The same as high school rules.
2. In a five (5) inning game all girls must play at least two (2) innings or forfeit.
3. Pitchers mound is 43 feet.
4. May bat all players present but not mandatory. (2011)
5. No mandatory out taken for only eight (8) players. (2011)
6. Ten (10) run rule after four innings. (2016)

**ATTACHMENT A**

**JULY 2000**

Base runners in Junior Miss can steal second (2nd) and third (3rd) base after the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. Runners may NOT steal home plate. (August 1999)

There is no stealing home base in Junior Miss. The only way a runner may go home after being stopped at third base is:

1. If the bases are loaded and the batter is walked/hit by a pitch.
2. The batter hits the ball.
3. A play is made on the runner at third (3rd) base by the defensive team.
4. If there is a live ball situation (example: a runner on first (1st) base is stealing second (2nd) base, the defensive team makes a play on the runner stealing second (2nd) base, the runner on third base cannot advance home. (July 2000)

The key to this ruling is that the runner is stopped or stops at third (3rd) base, either by the defensive team or voluntarily. If a runner goes past third (3rd) base, and then stops either voluntarily or by the defensive team she is still considered to be stopped at third (3rd) base and may not steal home base unless a situation as described in A.-D. above occurs.

Once a runner stops at third (3rd) base she may not advance/steal home base if the pitcher misses the ball when it is thrown to her either by the catcher or by another member of the defensive team.

If the runner does not stop at third (3rd) base on a hit ball she may advance home at her own risk if the ball is thrown to the pitcher and the pitcher misses the ball.

A runner once stopped at third base may not advance/steal home when there is a past ball by the catcher or if when the ball is thrown to the pitcher the pitcher misses it.

In Junior Miss if a batter is walked, she may continue on to steal second (2nd) base at her own risk if she does not stop at first (1st) base when she reaches it. If a runner stops either by the defensive team or voluntarily at first (1st) base after being walked she may not continue on to steal second (2nd) base until after the pitcher delivers the ball to the batter.

If a coach or coaches is unsure about this ruling it should be discussed with the opposing team coaches prior to the beginning of the game.

I have read and I understand and agree to follow all of the Carroll County Girls Softball League Constitutions and By-Laws.

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Signature of Head Coach Date