

Castro Valley Girls Softball League



2025 League Operating Rules

cvgsf.org

Preface

CVGSL Inc. is dedicated to the development of maturity and the achievement of success through a program of action for the youth of Castro Valley, Calif., and surrounding areas. This goal will be attained by recruitment and training of qualified adults at the community level. The building of character and molding of personality transcends the acquisition of athletic skills or the winning of the games. The primary concern of CVGSL is to help prepare today's youth for active leadership roles as the citizens of tomorrow. One of the paramount goals of CVGSL is to contribute positively to the quality of life of the youth in the program. In order to achieve this, the attitudes and conduct of everyone involved must be exemplary. This includes positive attitudes and practices of integrity, loyalty and sportsmanship. It also includes prohibitions against such things as profanity, use of tobacco and drinking of alcoholic beverages on the playing field or while acting in any official capacity in the presence of the youth. Any spectator, coach or manager drinking alcoholic beverages or engaging in abusive language or conduct will be ejected from the premises by the umpire or by any authorized Board member. In addition, the umpire may penalize a team whose spectators are abusive toward an umpire.

1. TEAM FORMATION.....	3
1.1. DIVISIONS	3
1.2. PLAY UP RULE	3
1.3. MANAGERS AND COACHES	4
1.4. PLAYERS	4
1.5. TEAM FORMATION	4
1.5.1. Freezing of Players	4
1.5.2. Allocation of Players for 10U and Older	5
2. PLAYING SEASON INFORMATION.....	6
2.1. TEAM EQUIPMENT	6
2.2. CVGSL FIELDS	6
2.3. GAMES PER SEASON	7
2.4. MAKE-UP, RESCHEDULED AND SUSPENDED GAMES	7
2.5. INTERLEAGUE PLAY	7
2.6. END OF SEASON TIES IN STANDINGS	7
2.6.1. 6U & 8U Divisions	7
2.6.2. 10U & Older Divisions	7
2.7. END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (TOC)	7
2.8. END OF SEASON EVENTS	7
2.8.1. 6U Division	7
2.8.2. 8U Division	8
2.8.3. 10U & Older	8
2.9. ALL-STAR GAMES (10U & OLDER)	8
2.10. UMPIRES	8
2.10.1. Home Plate Umpire	8
2.10.2. Base Umpire	8
3. DAY OF GAME.....	8
3.1. FIELD PREP	8
3.2. STARTING TIME	8
3.3. GAME BALL	9

3.4.	PLAYING REQUIREMENTS	9
3.5.	GAME SCORES	9
3.5.1.	8U Divisions	9
3.5.2.	10U, 12/14U & 16/18U Divisions	9
3.6.	SCOREKEEPERS	9
3.7.	UMPIRE VS SCOREKEEPER	9
3.8.	BAT GIRL	9
4.	PRESIDENTIAL OVERSIGHT.....	9
4.1.	REMOVAL FROM GAME	9
4.2.	PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY TO REPRIMAND	10
4.3.	PROTEST COMMITTEE	10
5.	SAFETY RULES.....	10
6.	APPENDIX.....	11

This document is specifically for “Recreational Play”. This will not include Travel Team nor Competitive Team.

1. Team Formation

1.1. Divisions

1. Girls will be assigned to divisions according to age and other factors. The following will be the criteria for assignment unless exceptions are granted by vote of the Board of Directors:
 - 6U Division:** Ages 4, 5, 6
 - 8U Division:** Ages 7, 8
 - 10U Division:** Ages 9, 10
 - 12/14U Division:** Ages 11, 12, 13,14
 - 16/18U Division:** Ages 15, 16, 17, 18
2. Eligibility for each division is determined by the player’s age on August 31 prior to the current playing year. Players born from September 1 - December 31 may be 1 year older than the listed ages.
3. Any girl that has played for an “A” traveling team is not eligible to pitch in any division unless approved by the Board.

1.2. Play Up Rule

1. The player's parent/guardian must petition the Board prior to team formation to allow a player to play at a higher age division with the following criteria:
 - a. The player is within a year of being promoted to the requested division.
 - b. Provides a reference from a coach or board member.
2. The board will then vote to determine if the player will be allowed to play up a division.
 - a. For 2025 any player wishing to play up instead of playing a 3rd year in a division then no vote is necessary.

1.3. Managers and Coaches

1. Each team in CVGSL shall have one rostered manager (female, 18 years or older) and two rostered coaches (either gender, 18 years or older).

2. In the absence of a rostered manager and neither coach being a female, a female 18 or older must be in the dugout (but does not have to assume either managerial or coaching duties).
3. In the absence of a rostered coach, any adult chosen by the manager may substitute as a coach for that game. However, if rostered coaches for that team are at the playing field, they must assume their coaching duties.
4. No more than the number of rostered coaches/managers (3) will be allowed in the dugout at any one time.
5. Coaches, managers or any adult in the dugout will be required to fill out and sign standard information forms. Coaches and managers will also be required to submit approval for the USA SOFTBALL background check, ACE Certification, Concussion Training as well as the CVGSL Code of Conduct Agreement. CVGSL will reimburse the ACE certification fee for the Head Coach, one Assistant Coach, and the Manager. **Team coaches and managers must have proof of certification before the start of a game or the team will forfeit.**

1.4. Players

1. Each team in all divisions will have a minimum of 10 players unless otherwise determined by the Board.
2. Every girl selected for a team must be an active part of that team from the time she is assigned. Players will not be traded, substituted or transferred. After a warning has been made, the Board may dismiss a girl from CVGSL if she misses three consecutive practices and/or games without good reason. A manager must report all extended absences (three or more) to the Player Representative as soon as possible. Failure to do so will risk the forfeiture of the next game.
3. If a player must be replaced on a team, a player off the league's Waiting List in that division will be added to the team, with the Division Coordinator's approval.
4. A girl must play two-thirds of the scheduled games for which she is eligible to be considered for any CVGSL-sponsored postseason play. Temporary players for long-term illnesses will be subject to Board approval on a case-by-case basis.

1.5. Team Formation

Each year teams will be formed from the list of registered players. Teams will be organized in such a way as to provide the best possible balance and reasonably equal opportunity for each girl on each team. The make-up of all teams requires Board approval. Team manipulation is not allowed. After the CVGSL's registration of players, the Board will determine the number of teams in each division. All girls registered in the current year must be placed on teams in accordance with the following provisions:

1.5.1. Freezing of Players

1. Any daughter or designated player of a manager or coach will be frozen (unless requested otherwise) to the manager/coaches' team.
2. Sisters in the same division will be placed on the same team (unless requested otherwise) and will be placed when the first one is selected.
3. Any daughter or designee of a sponsor, if requested prior to player allocation, will be frozen to the sponsors' team; however, they will not be frozen to a coaching staff.

1.5.2. Allocation of Players for 10U and Older

1. Players will be sorted into groups based on Age and other factors determined by the board and asked during registration.
2. Players playing up will be grouped with the youngest Travel Experienced players of that Age Division.

3. The player will be assigned a random number for their division.
4. The random numbers will be ordered from low too high for each grouping.
5. Players will be allocated to teams from each group by Age:

Division	10U	12/14U
	11yr old Pitcher	15 yr old Pitcher
	10 yr old Pitcher	14 yr old Pitcher
	9 yr old Pitcher	13 yr old Pitcher
	11 yr old Catcher	12 yr old Pitcher
	10 yr old Catcher	11 yr old Pitcher
	9 yr old Catcher	15 yr old Catcher
	11 yr old Travel	14 yr old Catcher
	10 yr old Travel	13 yr old Catcher
	9 yr old Travel & 8 yr old playing up	12 yr old Catcher
	11 yr Old 4-6 Exp	11 yr old Catcher
	10 yr old 4-6 Exp	15 yr old Travel
	9 yr old 4-6 Exp	14 yr old Travel
	11 yr old 1-3 Exp	13 yr old Travel
	10 yr old 1-3 Exp	12 yr old Travel
	9 yr old 1-3 Exp	11 yr old Travel & 10 yr old playing up
	11 yr old 0 Exp	15 yr old >6 Exp
	10 yr old 0 Exp	14 yr old >6 Exp
	9 yr old 0 Exp	13 yr old >6 Exp
		12 yr old >6 Exp
		11 yr old >6 Exp
		15 yr old 4-6 Exp
		14 yr old 4-6 Exp
		13 yr old 4-6 Exp

		12 yr old 4-6 Exp
		11 yr old 4-6 Exp
		15 yr old 1-3 Exp
		14 yr old 1-3 Exp
		13 yr old 1-3 Exp
		12 yr old 1-3 Exp
		11 yr old 1-3 Exp
		15 yr old 0 Exp
		14 yr old 0 Exp
		13 yr old 0 Exp
		12 yr old 0 Exp
		11 yr old 0 Exp

6. Frozen players to a team will be allocated at the beginning of their assigned group.
7. Snake method will be used while placing players on teams. Example: Player 1 to Team A, player 2 to Team B, player 3 to Team C, player 4 to Team C, player 5 to Team B, player 6 to Team A.
8. Once a “grouping” has been dealt out, the first player of the next group goes to the next team in line.

2. Playing Season Information

2.1. Team Equipment

Every team will be issued equipment at the beginning of the season and must turn in all team equipment to the CVGSL Equipment Coordinator within one week after the season is completed or be liable for said equipment.

2.2. CVGSL Fields

Castro Valley High School (CVHS) Softball fields are the primary fields for the games. Practice fields may include other CVUSD or HARD (Hayward Area Rec Department) fields. Practices may only be held on fields during the allotted permit times.

2.3. Games per Season

Each season will typically consist of 10-12 games. This is based on the number of teams in each division. This does not include any games that occur at the end of season, Tournament of Champions (2.7) or All-Stars (2.9).

2.4. Make-up, Rescheduled and Suspended Games

All games not completed or played at their originally scheduled dates or time will be rescheduled

if possible. The CVGSL Schedule Coordinator will reschedule the game and advise the two teams of the rescheduled date. All suspended games that are rescheduled and were not legal games will be replayed from the point that it was suspended. Only players eligible to play in the regularly scheduled game are eligible to play in a make-up, rescheduled, or suspended game. Any new player is eligible to play in make-up or rescheduled games.

2.5. Interleague Play

In the case there are not enough teams (less than 4) in a single division, games may be played against other leagues (interleague). These games will be scheduled for Saturday as much as possible.

2.6. End of Season Ties in Standings

2.6.1. 6U & 8U Divisions

There will be no standings in this division.

2.6.2. 10U & Older Divisions

At the conclusion of all regular-season games, if there are any ties for position(s) based upon win-loss records, those ties shall be resolved as follows:

1. Head-to-head competition;
2. Runs scored;
3. Runs allowed; if still tied then
4. Coin toss.

2.7. End of Season Tournament of Champions (TOC)

1. At the conclusion of all regular-season games, there will be TOC games, these may or may not include other leagues if interleague is being played. The teams will be seeded according to their division standings.
2. Typical tournament game schedule of highest plays, lowest seed and so on until the schedule is formed. If there are an odd number of teams, the top team will have a bye for the first round.
3. For all TOC games, the higher seeded team is the home team and will use the third base dugout.
4. All TOC games except championship will have regular season time limits; the championship game will have seven innings or no new inning after two hours, whichever comes first. No TOC game will end in a tie, so extra innings can occur or go over time. If a new inning occurs after 7 innings or after time expired, then the International Tie-Breaker is in effect.

2.8. End of Season Events

2.8.1. 6U Division

End of season celebration and awards distribution will occur on the last day of the 10U and older Tournament of Champions.

2.8.2. 8U Division

A skills challenge and awards distribution will occur on the last day of the 10U and older Tournament of Champions.

2.8.3. 10U & Older

Awards ceremony, All-Star Announcement will occur on same day as Championship game

of the Tournament of Champions

2.9. All-Star Games (10U & Older)

1. There may be an All-Star game held between CVGSL players only or against other leagues if Interleague is being played. The game would take place after the conclusion of the regular season and the TOC games.
2. Every team will have at least one representative.
3. If a player is chosen, but cannot attend, that player's regular season team may choose another player.

2.10. Umpires

2.10.1. Home Plate Umpire

The League shall provide youth home plate umpires for the 8U and 10U division games. The League shall provide USA softball home plate umpires for 12/14U and 16/18U Division games.

2.10.2. Base Umpire

The League shall provide youth base umpires for the 8U, 10U, 12/14U & 16/18U Division games.

3. Day of Game

3.1. Field Prep

CVGSL typically hires a crew to set up the fields; it is the responsibility of the home team to make sure the field is set up. It is the responsibility of both teams to pick up and return all equipment, including bases, to its proper place after the conclusion of the game; this applies to weeknight games and the last game of the day on Saturday. Both teams shall clean up their dugouts, including removal of garbage.

3.2. Starting Time

1. In the event one team cannot "field a team" within ten minutes after the scheduled starting time, said team must forfeit the game. In the event neither team can field a team, it is a double forfeiture, with both teams receiving a loss (10U, 12/14U, 16/18U Divisions only). However, to prevent a forfeit a player may be borrowed from a lower division team. Said player may not pitch but may play any other position.
2. If a girl reports after the game has begun, she must be placed last in the batting order. If there were only nine or fewer girls present when the game began, the late girl can take a defensive position immediately. If more than one girl is late, the girls will be placed properly as the coach wishes until a full quota is defensively reached.
3. Non-rostered minors or non-certified adults may not participate in team warm ups, be in the dugout, or player area. - Applies to CVGSL teams only.

3.3. Game Ball

At each official game, the umpire will oversee the game balls. Each team will supply one game ball to the umpire which will be returned upon completion of the game.

3.4. Playing Requirements

No player shall sit out defensively more than 1 inning in a row and all players present will bat in

lineup order even if not in the game defensively.

3.5. Game Scores

3.5.1. 8U Divisions

While a scorebook can be kept for organizational purposes, no official score is kept in this division. Therefore, no scores need be reported.

3.5.2. 10U, 12/14U & 16/18U Divisions

Scores will be collected from GameChanger and entered to the website by the Head Scorekeeper. In the event the game was not scored using GameChanger the home team must submit the game score to the Head Scorekeeper, via email.

3.6. Scorekeepers

1. The home team scorekeeper shall keep the official scorebook using GameChanger. Visiting team scorekeeper shall keep score via paper. Scorekeepers may work together as necessary to score the games.
 - a. If Interleague is being played the CVGSL team should keep score using GameChanger.
2. Neither scorekeeper can alert the umpire as to any irregularities taking place during the game, unless asked by the umpire. Scorekeepers must take a passive role in the officiating of the game.

3.7. Umpire vs Scorekeeper

If there is a difference of opinion between the scorekeeper and the Home Plate Umpire, the umpire will have the final decision.

3.8. Bat Girl

Each Manager may designate *only a rostered CVGSL player* to be a “bat girl” during each game. This girl must wear a helmet at all times.

4. Presidential Oversight

4.1. Removal From Game

Anyone (player, coach, manager) removed from a game for misconduct by the umpire must appear before the League President before participating in any more games. A Review Committee is to be formed for each case and will be in contact with the person ejected within 24 hrs. Misconduct could result in a suspension.

4.2. President's Authority to Reprimand

The President shall have the authority to remove or reprimand League personnel, including Board members or players whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interests of the League. Said person has the right of review and can appear before a quorum of the Board within seven days.

4.3. Protest Committee

The protest committee will consist of the President and any four selected committee members

approved by the Board and will not be coaches or managers from the protested division. Committee members can be any parent, coach, manager or Board member who has a reasonable working knowledge of the League's playing rules and who has the best interest of the players at heart.

5. Safety Rules

1. Each manager should act as a safety monitor for her team. The primary concern is the health and safety of each girl.
 - a. She must be present at every practice and in the dugout at every game. If the rostered manager cannot be present, her replacement (female, 18 years of age or older) assumes all managerial responsibilities.
2. She should be aware of any specific health problems, and see that injuries are properly treated and reported.
3. She should personally examine the playing field and equipment for any safety hazards prior to each practice and game. Any hazardous conditions should be reported to the opposing manager and to the umpire.
4. Managers and coaches are encouraged to provide a thorough program for physical conditioning. Physical conditioning reduces accidents and contributes to safety.
5. Managers and coaches should maintain the kind of discipline that will minimize horseplay and reduce the kinds of accidents that result from undisciplined conduct.
6. First-aid equipment should be in the dugout during each practice and at each game, provided by the league.
7. It is mandatory that all batters, base runners and "bat girls" wear full head helmets and facemasks. Any batter or base runner intentionally removing her helmet will be called out.
8. Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with a mask, shin guards and chest protectors. Catcher helmet with mask and chest protector must be worn when warming up pitchers.
9. Defensive face masks are required in all divisions except 6U for players playing the following positions: first, third and pitcher. Youths acting as base coaches must wear approved batting helmets.
10. Metal cleats are prohibited in all divisions.
11. A player removed for an injury is allowed to return to the field. If, in the judgment of the home plate umpire, the injury could jeopardize the safety of the player or players, she/he can refuse to allow the injured player to return to the game. Judgment of the injured girl's manager and the home plate umpire will be sufficient.
12. If a girl (offensive or defensive) is injured during a play, the umpire will call timeout if continuing play would directly jeopardize the safety of the girl.
13. If a runner stops or runs wide to avoid a collision with an opposing player and would have been safe otherwise, and is subsequently out, the umpire may declare her safe, since it is paramount to this League to avoid injuries.
14. A courtesy runner will be allowed for the player who will be the catcher in the next defensive half inning, or an injured player, provided the opposing manager, all the scorekeepers and umpires have been notified. The last batted out will be designated as the courtesy runner.
15. As per USA SOFTBALL Rule 3, Section 6F, exposed jewelry such as wristwatches, bracelets, large loop-type earrings to include pierced earrings and studs, neck chains, or any other item judged dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game. Medical Alert necklaces/bracelets are not considered jewelry, but if they are worn, they must be taped to the body. If at bat, failure to comply with this rule will result in the batter being called out. Continual failure to comply at subsequent at bats will result in a dugout restriction—the player will be restricted to dugout and an automatic out will be recorded at each at bat. This rule must be enforced by the coaching staff.
16. No player may play in a game with a cast or non-removable splint or brace (does not include

knee braces).

6. Appendix

Previous rules for drafting and Freezing of Players

Drafting of Player

- a. Each year teams will be drafted from the list of registered players. Teams will be organized in such a way as to provide the best possible balance and reasonably equal opportunity for each girl on each team. The make-up of all teams requires Board approval. Team building is not allowed. After the CVGSL's registration of players, the Board will determine the number of teams in each division. All girls registered in the current year must be placed on teams in accordance with the following provisions:
- b. All girls must be rated for skill ability at the beginning of each season.
- c. All skill ratings will be compiled and will be given out at the division draft, or sooner when possible.
- d. Any daughter of a manager or coach will be frozen (unless requested otherwise) in the draft in her proper rating. Sisters in the same division will be placed on the same team (unless requested otherwise) and will be placed when drafted by their proper rating when the first one is selected.
- e. Any daughter or designee of a sponsor, if requested prior to draft, will be frozen to the sponsors' team; however, they will not be frozen to a coaching staff. (This rule does not apply to the Junior Division).

Freezing of Players

All girls within a division will be rated and listed in order of skill level, to produce one common list of ratings. This will produce the basis from which the freezing levels can be derived. For example, if a division has 10 teams, girls listed 21-30 will be assigned a level 3 rating; girls listed 31-40 will be assigned a level 4 rating, etc.

Rules on Freezing:

- Each team will be frozen independently from other teams.
- Freezing of players should be done prior to determining draft positions of each team.
- Based on the above "level" rating, each girl could be placed one level above her rating, but never any higher.
- Girls can be frozen any number of levels below the rated levels, but the team will be penalized with a block for each girl frozen below her original level. Additional penalties (blocks) will be imposed if a girl is ultimately placed more than one level below her original rated level. Blocks are utilized only in the top rounds. Care should be taken to minimize the number of blocks a team receives as this will create an imbalance of talent on that team (both at the top and at the bottom). It may be appropriate to adjust the results based on an overall assessment of the division.
- Penalties will be in the form of losing the next available draft level. Every level that is penalized (blocked) will result in that team receiving an additional draft level, beginning one round beyond the standard team size. These added players must be selected before the pool of available players on draft night is exhausted.
- For every girl placed one level above her rating, the team can have a girl placed on a level below her rating without any assessed penalty. This will offset moving a girl up; with a girl moved down, this does not eliminate the additional penalty, if any, as described above.

Steps to follow in freezing a team:

1. Determine the rating level of each girl on the team, regardless of the number of girls on that team with the same level.
2. Place all girls for a team in their appropriate levels, not more than one girl at each level.
3. If there are no girls with the same level rating, the frozen positions are complete.
4. If there are girls with the same level rating, start from the highest rated girls (level 1) on the team and proceed downward. Attempt to first place a girl one level above her rated level. If that cannot be done successfully, place her in the next available open level below. Continue this process until all girls on the team have been placed on a level.
5. Based on Step 4 placement, assess any necessary blocks and provide any additional levels to the team.

10U, 12/14U 16/18U Division Notes:

1. Each team can freeze 3 players (Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Manager's family member)
2. Sponsors can freeze 1 player (family member) to play on the team they sponsor. The Division Coordinator will determine which team that sponsor will be aligned with. The sponsor can petition the Board to be aligned with a specific team, but that must be approved.