

**BRANDON
LEAGUERETTES
MISSION STATEMENT:**

To provide a safe environment for all girls to learn and enjoy the sport of softball, to develop team camaraderie, lasting relationships and to practice good sportsmanship on and off the field.

2007/2008 League Rules

Brandon Leaguerettes

1. These policies may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members (as defined in the County Rules, Section A. article 2A) in good standing, attending regular meetings, provided written notice of meeting has been presented to the members at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.
2. The League shall prepare, publish, and distribute League Rules to all members.
3. The elected Board of Directors will consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. This Board shall transact routine business of the League and act in emergencies, and handle all disciplinary actions involving Managers, Coaches, Parents and Team Members, as well as any other affiliates of Brandon Leaguerettes.
4. Roll is taken at each Board of Directors' meeting. Managers, Coaches, or a team representative must attend all mandatory meetings. (I.e., Coach/Manager meetings), clinics or special functions of the League.
5. The Head Scorekeeper and/or Umpire Coordinator shall not be a Manager or first coach of a team, without permission from the Board. Scorekeeper's rules shall be submitted for approval by the elected Board of Directors and then posted in a prominent place in the score box. A copy will be furnished to each Manager and Scorekeeper.
6. Umpires will be provided on a contract basis. In the event that contracted umpires are late or absent, parent volunteers may be recruited. Said volunteers must meet the approval of both affected team Managers and/or Coaches. One official umpire will be considered sufficient.
7. Player Agents cannot have a child in the same division.
8. The Rule-Protest Committee shall consist of the President, Head Scorekeeper, the appropriate Player Agent, and The Rules Committee. A fee of \$25.00 per protest will be required. The fee will be returned if the protest is ruled valid. The final decision will be made by the Board of Directors. Refer to ASA rules. Should any conflict of interest involve a Board member or a committee member, then that member must step aside.

9. Parents/Guardians are responsible for any monies due as a result of fundraising activities. The penalty shall be, but shall be limited to, withholding a trophy from the player at the closing day ceremonies should parents/guardians owe money.
10. League or team rules are to be submitted to the President and elected Board of Directors in writing for approval prior to handing them out to team members.
11. Each team shall have a Team Parent, who has filled out and turned in a background check to the Board of Directors that is responsible for all financial team activities.
12. The Board will furnish rosters containing the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all team members to the division Player Agent by opening day. Managers shall provide their team's roster to their Team Parent.
 - A. All Manager's must provide the Board of Directors with a list of all Coaching Staff by Opening Day.
 - B. A change in Coaching Staff must be presented and approved by the Board of Directors. Approval is based on a case by case basis
13.
 - A. **Anyone on the field or in the dugout must have a background check. This applies to all rules.**
 - B. All Managers and Coaches must be certified and must be approved by the elected Board of Directors. The league will not allow a 1st Coach or Manager to take a position of freezing his or her daughter without assuming the responsibility of managing or coaching full-time.
 - C. All Managers and Coaches are required to attend practices and games. At least one team representative is required to *all* Coaches/Managers meetings. Three (3) absences from any required event (season and post-season) could result in removal, with Board approval.

The Manager or a woman must be present at the field at all times. If the Manager cannot be present a team mom or female needs to be present at all times.
 - D. If a team does not have a Manager and/or a first coach before the draft, the division's player agent will draft for that team, and the board will thereafter assign a manager and a first coach.
 - E. All background checks will be kept confidential.

14. No Manager or Coach shall have more than one team within a division.
 - A. All new Managers and Coaches will be required to instruct one full instructional season in order to be eligible to receive a team in the regular season, if a team is available.

15. Managers/Coaches will remain with the team unless he/she resigns to move to another division, can no longer fulfill the position, or is removed by the Board. Existing team coaches have the option of remaining with the team. If a Manager or Coach resigns his or her position, it will be for not less than one year, and he/she must regain Board approval for any future coaching responsibilities. The one-year time period prescribed above can be reduced or waived upon consideration and approval by the Board.

16. Managers are required to hold practices at least once a week, if game schedule and field availability permit. Mandatory team practices and/or games (or any combination thereof to make three) shall not exceed three (3) within a one-week period (with the exception of county tournament and all-star teams). A fourth optional practice may be held. The week is from Sunday to Saturday. Any special exceptions must be approved by the Board. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action by the elected Board or Directors.

Each team must be supervised by an approved Manager or Coach at all times.

	Practice Length	Practice Times
Pixies	Maximum 1:30 practice	Pixie 5:30-6:45pm
Pigtail & Ponytail	Maximum 2 Hr. practice	Pigtail 6:30-8:00pm
		(warm-up in outfield 6:30-6:45pm)
Ponytail		Ponytail 8:00-9:30pm

17. For each official game of each division, the umpire, official scorekeeper, and Manager/Coach of each team will sign the official score sheet at the end of the game.

18. Only team Manager, Coaches (2), and Board approved adult (1) may be in the dugout with team members during scheduled games. This is limited to a total of four(4) adults per dugout, team members and/or pick up players. This shall apply to all regular season and tournament play.

19. All team members not participating in the game shall be listed with an explanation of their playing status on both the official score sheet and on the opposing team's list. Failure to comply with this rule will result in forfeiture of the game.
 - A. All substitutes will play at least three(3) consecutive outs or one complete inning before being removed from the game unless injury occurs.
 - B. All substitutes must play their six(6) defensive outs in a game except in cases covered by the County Rules.
 - C. The Manager or Coach in charge will be responsible for notifying the scorekeeper of all team changes.

20. The home team shall provide an official scorekeeper (to be approved by the board) for each game. Absence of an official scorekeeper will require that one of the coaches take on this responsibility. The home team shall utilize the third base dugout. The home team will be responsible for placing the bases prior to the first game, and the home team will be responsible for picking up and storing the bases at the end of the last game of the day. No one else should be in the scorekeeper area except scorekeepers, spotters, or an official. The home team will become the visitors if they are unable to provide a scorekeeper, this applies to that game only.
 - A. The visitor team shall provide an official spotter, 13 years or older, who will also be responsible for the scoreboard. Absence of an official spotter will require that one of the coaches take on this responsibility. The visitor team shall utilize the first base dugout.

21. Game times during the week are as follows:

Pixie:	6:00PM
Pigtails:	7:00PM
Ponytails:	8:00PM

Saturday game times may vary for each division.

22. If a team has nine or less players for a scheduled game, then that team may pick up to two(2) league-registered players from the next lower division to complete up to a ten-member roster, not to exceed the opposing team total number of players. Pick up players for that team will play either the catcher or right field position only and will bat in the last and/or last two positions in the batting order. This rule also applies during tournament play.
 - A. An injured player may return to the game if her injury is minor and she is capable of playing.

- B. If a player is injured during the season but returns to play within four weeks of the injury, she shall remain on the roster. If a player is injured during the season and does not return to play within four weeks of the injury, she may be removed from the roster upon request of the Manager, and her team may pick up a replacement player from the waiting list, if one exists, in accordance with county rules.
 - C. If a player is absent from two or more games/practices due to a medical condition that poses a risk to herself or other players, her parent/guardian must provide a doctor's release to a member of the Board before she returns to play. The Board has the right to require a doctor's release before she can return to play.
 - D. If a player is pregnant or suspects that she may be pregnant, she will not be allowed to play in this league. If we receive a doctor's release that states she is not pregnant then she may resume practice with her team.
23. Base coaches will be determined by the manager, must be certified and have a background check required by Hillsborough County.
24. A chest protector, catcher's helmet with a throat plate are mandatory for all practices and games when in the catching position, shin guards are optional.
- B. All offensive players (batters) will be required to wear an NOCSAE approved helmet secured with a strap while at bat and on the bases (base runners) for all practices and games.
 - C. Per County Rules all offensive and defensive players are required to wear a mouthpiece during all warm-ups/soft toss, practices and games. **They will not be allowed on the field without this equipment.**
 - D. All team members are required to wear the full uniform that is issued by the Brandon Leaguettes (shirt, socks & shorts). Sweatshirts and solid colored cotton/nylon pants (color's to be determined by each team) may be worn. Team short's do not have to be worn over sweat pants. If a team is provided with sweatshirts in their team color that contain the player's uniform numbers, then those sweatshirts can be worn in place of the uniform t-shirt when cold weather occurs. Players can wear baseball cap, visor or solid knit hat (in cold weather). Pick-up players do not have to be in uniform. **Players who are out of uniform will not be allowed to play. (Unless an emergency approved by the board.)**

- E. As per County Rules and ASA Rules players are not allowed to wear jewelry at practice or games. Medical bracelet or necklaces are permitted. These rules will be mandatory. Any violation of any of the safety rules regarding mouth pieces, jewelry will follow the following: A 1st time offense will be a warning, 2nd time offense taken out of the game and 3rd time offense player will sit a whole game.
25. Any excused absence from a practice of scheduled game could result in disciplinary action. A record will be kept by the Manager for each week. After three(3) unexcused absences, the Manager can go to the elected Board of Directors and request that the player be dropped from the team, the subject player must appear before the Board. If this happens, a girl on the waiting list may go to the team as a replacement prior to the beginning of the second half of the season, in accordance with county rules.
- B. Any league member including Managers and Coaches or a fill in (regular season or all-star team) exhibiting unacceptable behavior, i.e., late for practice, disruptive at practice or game, poor sportsmanship, etc., may receive disciplinary action from their Manager, Coach or Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must be notified of any disciplinary action.
26. All make-up games will be played at the next available date as determined by the elected Board. Managers will be given a minimum of 48 hours' notice of any make-up games involving their team.
27. All equipment must be turned in to the Equipment Manager at the conclusion of your last game of the season. Any equipment not returned by the Coach/Manager will be reported as stolen property to the authorities.
28. Female Coaches of a team will have first chance to manage that team if the current manager moved to a different division. If there are no female coaches, then the female parents of the team members have first chance to manage the team. Likewise, parents of team members shall have the first chance to coach the team if a coach moves to a different division.
29. The visiting teams playing Field 1 & 2 on Saturdays, will be responsible for lining the fields.

EVALUATIONS/DRAFT:

30. Player selection shall be by the Start Fresh method, subject to the following stipulations:

A. Prior to draft, the Board of Directors will calculate the number of ages of players that will be available for each team.

B. The Managers' daughter(s) and one coaches daughter(s) who register to play prior to the draft will be placed on their parents team, unless they request otherwise prior to the draft. However, despite such automatic placement, such players are strongly encouraged to attend evaluations. They will be placed on their respective teams in the following manner: Before draft selection, their names will be filled in on the draft forms in the second slot in their category, if available.

C. All remaining girls who attend evaluations will be placed in a common pool. The player agent will draw team names every round to determine the order of player selection for that round. If a team's slot within an age group is already filled with a Manager's or Coaches daughter, the Manager will not make a selection during that draft round. The order shall be maintained for purposes of assigning players who register after the draft. When all teams have an equal number of players, then the player agent will draw to determine team assignments for late registrants.

Girls who do not complete, evaluations (fielding, throwing & batting) will be placed in a blind draft. These girls will have their cards placed face down on the table and the Managers will draw the cards at the end of each age group in their usual drafting turn.

D. Any girl whose parent/guardian wishes her not to be placed on a team with a particular Manager/Coach must state so at registration and present their request to the Board in writing prior to the draft for approval. Before drafting begins, a Manager of a team may submit a written request that a former player not be placed on her team for another season. This request will only be granted with the Board's approval, and with supporting written documentation and/or records that state the reason and/or specific events that led to the request. Such requests will be considered strictly on a case-by-case basis. No consideration will be given to a request based solely on a player's performance.

E. Sisters in the same division will be placed on the same team, unless they request otherwise prior to the draft.

F. Any Managers' or Coaches daughters' who register after the draft will be placed on a team in accordance with the county rules regarding assignment of new players based on late registration, i.e. They will not automatically be placed on their parents team.

G. Any vacancy on a team will be filled within 48 hours of the notification of a leaving player, provided it can be done in accordance with county rules within that time frame.

H. Once placed on a team, girls may not change teams without the approval of the Board of Directors. Such girls will be reassigned to a team by the method prescribed in the county rules regarding of new players based on late registration.

I. There may be 13 girls per team; however, if it is possible to form another team and still have 11 per team, then another team will be started.

End of Season Play:

31. The team with the best overall win/loss record will be the first place team. If a tie should occur for either 1st or 2nd place a playoff will be played to determine said places. Third place team can be an alternate to go to tournament if either the first or second place team does not have a full team two weeks prior to draw. The first team coaching staff will also be the All Star Staff.

32. Manager and listed first and second Coaches will select the most-improved players only one per team. Best individual sportsmanship will be selected by the team members. Player Agents will be responsible for ensuring that this is done.

33. Team Sportsmanship will be voted on the by Manager, First and Second Coaches, and submitted as one vote, only one per team.

34. Ties on sportsmanship shall be broken immediately by the board.

35. **All Star Voting will be done as follows:**

A. Each Coach/Manager will submit a maximum of 15 nominations for the All Star Team. Nominations will be discussed at a Coaches/Managers meeting to be held the same day as All Star voting and explain why that particular girl was nominated.

B. The Manager and any two Board approved Coaches for that team in attendance will cast a secret ballot for no more than 13 nominated players. If the ballot does not contain at least 10 names, the ballot is invalid. The team players receiving that most votes will be placed on the All Star Team. If a tie vote occurs for the last position, only one representative from the teams of girls who are tied shall participate in the tie-breaking vote. If a tie occurs on the 10th position all girls tied earn a place on the All Start Team. If more than a four way tie the All Star Coaches will pick the remaining girls.

C. After an open discussion the remaining players will be selected by the All Star Coaching staff from the pool of players who ranked 11-15 in votes received in the initial round of voting.

D. The All Star coaching staff will be selected as follows:
All Star Manager/Coaches Team holds the best overall record for the regular season play. If the Manager has problems with the coaching staff, then she can approach the Board with the problem. If there's a tie there will be a play off game to determine the All Star Coaching Staff.

E. If possible, All Star voting will not occur until after the conclusion of all regular season play, including playoff games.

F. Absentee ballots can be cast with Board Approval.

G. For the Ponytail division, allow the players to vote for their top 13 All Star Player nominations prior to the nominations by the coaches, allowing the coaches insight as to who the players would choose to represent them as the All Star team. All player responses will be tallied and the 13 players with the highest number of nominations will represent one nomination in the All Star draft.

Tournaments:

36. Please refer to the County Rules regarding tournaments.

37. **DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES:**

A. Any Manager, Coach, Parent or Player ejected from a game one time will be suspended for three(3) games., and this will include practices that may occur in between those 3 games. If ejected for a second game, that Coach or Manager will be suspended for the remainder of the year. Return the following year is subject to Board approval.

B. Any Manager, Coach, Player, Parent, League Member or Spectator ejected from a game will be required to leave county property immediately.

C. Violation of practice rules will carry a one-game suspension.

D. Failure to return equipment will cause the equipment to be reported as stolen. The Manager or Coaches who fail to return equipment will be unable to return as Coaches or Managers.

E. The Board Member on duty is authorized to eject parents, players, Coaches, Managers, League Members or other spectators for un-sportsman like conduct and the Board is authorized to impose such other disciplinary action is deems appropriate.

F. Use of tobacco products is not allowed on fields. One warning and then they will have to miss a game.

G. Any Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator who attempt to intimidate, threaten or makes physical contact with any individual will be suspended for a year from the date and not allowed back without board review.

MISCELLANEOUS:

38. All Board meetings (draft, all star voting, etc.,) must be kept confidential subject to board consequences.
39. Cheering - No offensive, derogatory, or directed at individual player. One warning will be issued then the next time a game forfeiture will occur.
40. Brandon Leaguerettes fiscal year is from January to December.
41. As per County Rule #16, after regulation time has expired or the last official inning has concluded and the two teams are tied, the Texas Tie Breaker Rule will be implemented.

