WUSA ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. Girls between the ages of 5–18 years of age. WUSA recognizes a players age and sex as assigned at birth as denoted on the player's original birth certificate as presented from a recognized authority of the State of Texas or other such governing body authorized to issue birth certificates for their citizens.

B. No geographic or zoning limitations exist for WUSA. Players may join the league from any Houston or surrounding area.

C. No player may play for a non-WUSA tournament or select team while they are on the roster of an active WUSA recreational or tournament team. Players discovered to be playing for a select team while on the roster of an active WUSA recreational or tournament team will be considered ineligible.

D. Ineligible players will be removed from the WUSA team with no refund of registration fees and/or tournament team fees. Such removal from the WUSA team shall be subject to review and approval by the WUSA Executive Committee, and, in the case of a WUSA tournament team, by the Tournament Team Director in coordination with the President.

II. DIVISIONS

A. There are nine divisions in the West University Softball Association ("WUSA") *Spring* recreational season, (5U, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U and 14U). There are seven divisions in the WUSA *Fall* recreational season that include all divisions listed except for 5U and 6U.

WUSA Recreational Season Play: Starting Fall 2024, WUSA's "Softball Age" cutoff date for recreational play is September 1st. WUSA allows players to play one recreational division lower with approval by the registrar based on a player's skill-level and safety. As WUSA phases-in the date cutoff change, players born between 9/1/2018 – 12/31/2018 (and each age year earlier e.g. 9/1/2017 – 12/31/2017, etc) may play one division higher than their defaulted age division.

WUSA Tournament Teams: WUSA recognizes various softball sanctioning associations base a player's softball age on different dates (e.g. FASA 8/1, USA Softball 9/1, USSSA 12/31, USFA 12/31, etc.). WUSA's September 1st cutoff allows WUSA Tournament Teams the opportunity to compete in a majority of sanctioned events in the greater Houston area (e.g. 4TierSports, FASA, USA Softball, etc.). WUSA will phase-in the date cutoff change starting with players born 1/1/2019 or later*. Players born between 9/1 and 12/31 of each age division may tryout for a team in a division consistent with a 12/31 cutoff. Per sanctioning body restrictions, players may not play down divisions. See table below as a guide.

WUSA September 2026 – August 2027 Season (Fall and Spring)			
Birth Date Default Range (and allowance)	Default **Recreation** Division	Recreational Play Allowance	**Tournament Team** Division (9/1 – 12/31 Allowance)
9/1/2020 – 8/31/2021*	5U	No Adjustment	N/A
9/1/2019 – 8/31/2020*	6U	No Adjustment	N/A
9/1/2018 – 8/31/2019	7U	9/1/2018 – 12/31/2018 (8U)	8U
9/1/2017 – 8/31/2018	8U	9/1/2017 – 12/31/2017 (9U)	8U (10U)
9/1/2016 – 8/31/2017 (- 12/31/17)	9U	9/1/2016 – 12/31/2016 (10U)	10U
9/1/2015 – 8/31/2016 (- 12/31/16)	10U	9/1/2015 – 12/31/2015 (11U)	10U (12U)
9/1/2014 – 8/31/2015 (- 12/31/15)	11U	9/1/2014 – 12/31/2014 (12U)	12U
9/1/2013 – 8/31/2014 (- 12/31/14)	12U	9/1/2013 – 12/31/2013 (14U)	12U (14U)
9/1/2012 – 8/31/2013 (- 12/31/13)	14U (13YO & 14YO)	9/1/2012 – 12/31/2012 (14U)	14U
9/1/2011 – 8/31/2012 (- 12/31/12)	14U	N/A	14U

III. SELECTION OF MANAGERS

A. Each Division Coordinator is responsible for assembling a slate of manager nominees for that division.
B. The WUSA Board must approve each manager nominee before the manager nominee drafts players for a team or runs a practice for a team.

IV. PLAYER EVALUATIONS

A. Except for players in the 5U, 6U and 14U Divisions, all players must participate in player evaluations each year for the Spring recreational season, including managers' daughters.
B. At the Spring season evaluations for the 10U, 11U and 12U divisions, players who wish to play pitcher or catcher must complete a pitcher or catcher evaluation session.
C. In the event a player registers after evaluations have occurred, and if late registration is allowed, each Division Coordinator has the right to place such late registrants on teams following the draft at his or her discretion, provided that the Division Coordinator places the player using an equitable process designed to equalize the talent levels of players distributed on all teams in the division.

V. DRAFTING RULES

A. 5U and 6U – Spring Only
    1. The Division Coordinator assigns players to the teams.
    2. The Division Coordinator will attempt to honor parent requests as much as possible.
    3. Requests for assistant coaches, friends, carpool buddies, etc. will be honored where possible.
    4. In lieu of a draft and prior to the release of team rosters, there will be a managers' meeting to review and finalize team rosters, discuss the division rules, and communicate league expectations for all managers, parents, and players.
B. All other divisions – Spring
    1. All teams will redraft each year in the Spring recreational season.
    2. After evaluations and before the draft, all managers will submit to the Division Coordinator:
        i) A list of managers' daughters and the draft round they estimate in which the player would be drafted if she were available in the draft; and
        ii) In the 10U, 11U, 12U, and 14U divisions, (a) all players who try out as or are known to be pitchers in simple ranked order, and (b) if so, requested by the Division Coordinator, all players who try out as or are known to be catchers in simple ranked order.
        iii) Additional information may be requested to help facilitate the draft such as an estimate of draft round for sisters and/or an overall ranking of up to the top two rounds of players.
    3. The Division Coordinator will compile and publish a cumulative version of these rankings to the managers (only) prior to the draft. The Division Coordinator will assign draft rounds and possibly draft positions for managers' daughters to maximize the potential for parity of talent among the teams. Typically, this will include random order in the draft, a serpentine draft (order reversed each round), and at the discretion of the Division Coordinator a "pitcher's round" and "catcher's round" in the divisions with girl pitchers. The decisions of the Division Coordinator on draft order and slotting are final.
    4. Sisters, other than slotted managers' daughters, who wish to be on the same team are drafted as a "package" of two (or more) picks in succession. Typically, the sibling(s) will

be drafted in subsequent rounds; however, the Division Coordinator may, at his or her discretion, solicit feedback from the managers regarding the later round in which the additional sibling(s) should be drafted. The Division Coordinator has final decision as to which later round(s) the sibling(s) is drafted.

5. No requests will be honored for assistant coaches, neighbors, relatives, carpool buddies, etc. All players other than managers' daughters must be drafted in an open process.
6. Managers may not use verbal pressure during the draft to subvert the open draft process. Examples of verbal pressure include, "you can't pick her, her dad was going to be my assistant coach," "but I was going to pick her next," and "I didn't have her rated that high; you can't pick her in this round." While there are steps to in place to mitigate the potential, managers may not attempt to manipulate the draft through the player's conflict entry process at registration or other technique.
7. Any players not present at evaluations will be reviewed openly, fairly, and thoroughly by all managers and the Division Coordinator as to ability prior to the start of the draft. Any players not present at evaluations must be declared by a manager prior to the start of the draft for open draft eligibility. Any players not present at evaluations may be selected in any of the first four rounds of the draft following such review by the managers and Division Coordinator. This rule may be modified by the Division Coordinator depending upon the specific circumstances of their division.
8. The regular, open draft process ends when there are not enough girls available that attended evaluations to support a full draft round. Any remaining players are randomly assigned at the conclusion of the draft. The undrafted players are assigned randomly among all the teams (each team receiving one or zero of these players). Players that register after the draft (if late registration is allowed) are then randomly assigned to the teams that did not receive an undrafted player, and the remainder of the late registrants (if any) are randomly assigned among all the teams.
9. Managers may trade players according to the following process:
    i) Trades may not commence until the draft has concluded.
    ii) Both managers and the Division Coordinator must agree to the trade. Undue pressure may not be exerted by any manager desiring a trade.
10. All trades must be completed at the conclusion of the draft and prior to the managers and the Division Coordinator leaving the draft room.

C. All other divisions – Fall Ball
    1. The Division Coordinator makes provisional player team assignments based on relative skill balance among the teams.
    2. The Division Coordinator will attempt to honor parent requests as much as possible.
    3. Requests for assistant coaches, friends, carpool buddies, etc. will be honored where possible.
    4. The manager's meeting will serve as an opportunity to finalize the team rosters (e.g. adjust assignments for specific requests respecting competitive balance), discuss the division rules, and communicate league expectations for all managers, parents, and players.

VI. FORMATION OF WUSA TOURNAMENT TEAMS

A. WUSA Forms Tournament Teams for the Spring, Summer, and Fall Seasons that allow WUSA players and families the option to gain not only more softball, but a progressively more competitive softball experience. Tournament teams are formed for the following seasons by age division.

1. Fall Tournament Teams (playing September – November) are formed for 8U – 16U Divisions
2. Spring Tournament Teams (playing February – April) are formed for 12U and 14U Divisions
3. Summer Tournament Teams (playing May – July) are formed for 8U – 16U Divisions

B. Tournament teams are formed in each age division where there is sufficient interest among the players, coaches, and parents. The number of tournament teams depends on the number of players (considering pitcher and catcher positions starting with the 10U division) and coaches available. Tournament age divisions are grouped by 2-year increments (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U). For example, this means that players enrolled in 7U will tryout and be evaluated among those also enrolled in 8U.

1. Fall Tournament Team Player Eligibility:
   a. All players enrolled in the current Fall Recreation Season (7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11/12U, or 14U) are eligible to tryout for a Fall Tournament Team. All players trying out for 8U and 10U Tournament teams must be enrolled in the Fall Recreation Season.
   b. Players trying out for 12U Tournament Teams (or older) (e.g. 14U players) who were enrolled in the previous WUSA Spring Recreation Season may tryout for a Fall Tournament Team without a requirement to be enrolled in the Fall Recreational Season.
   c. Players trying out for 12U Tournament Teams (or older) who did ***not*** participate in the previous spring's recreation season ***must*** enroll in the Fall Recreation program to be eligible.

   *NOTE: All players trying out for 12U tournament teams and older, not selected for a Fall Tournament Team, may enroll in the Fall Recreation Season Program.

   **NOTE: As per Section I-D, no player may be a member of a WUSA tournament team and a member of a non-WUSA tournament team/select team at the same time.

2. Spring Tournament Team Player Eligibility:
   a. Players enrolled in the current Spring Recreation Season (11U/12U & 14U) are eligible to tryout for a WUSA Spring Tournament Team as offered by age division.
   b. 11U/12U players must be enrolled in the Spring Recreation Season to be eligible for a WUSA 12U Spring Tournament Team.
   c. 14U players are not required to enroll in the Spring Recreation Season to tryout for a WUSA 14U Tournament Team*. 14U players who make a WUSA Tournament Team participate in WUSA's Spring Season CO-OP program with their WUSA team. Players not selected for a WUSA Tournament team are encouraged to enroll the Spring Recreational Season Program if not already enrolled.
   d. 14U (and older) players must have played at least 6 recreational seasons with WUSA. Players having not played 6 recreational seasons with WUSA may request and exemption by writing to the WUSA President who will review with the WUSA Tournament Team Director and the WUSA Executive Committee.

   *Note: WUSA's 14U team forms in the Spring and continues through the Summer Tournament Team Season. No additional tryouts are conducted for this team once it is formed for the Spring.

   **NOTE: As per Section I-D, no player may be a member of a WUSA tournament team and a member of a non-WUSA tournament team/select team at the same time.

3. Summer Tournament Team Player Eligibility:
    a. Players enrolled in the current Spring Recreation Season (7U – 14U) are eligible to tryout for a WUSA Summer Tournament Team as offered by age division.
    b. 7U - 12U players must be enrolled in the current Spring Recreation Season to be eligible for a WUSA Summer Tournament Team
    c. 14U (and older) players are not required to enroll in the Spring Recreation Season to be eligible for a WUSA Summer Tournament Team.
    e. 14U (and older) players must have played at least 6 recreational seasons with WUSA. Players having not played 6 recreational seasons with WUSA may request and exemption by writing to the WUSA President who will review with the WUSA Tournament Team Director and the WUSA Executive Committee.

    **NOTE: As per Section I-D, no player may be a member of a WUSA tournament team and a member of a non-WUSA tournament team/select team at the same time.

C. Tournament Team Managers:
    1. Candidates for Tournament Team Manager are selected by the Tournament Director or proposed by members of the Board of Directors and are submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. The Tournament Director screens candidates and considers several factors in determining nominees, including tournament experience, coaching ability, fairness, and organizational skills. Prior to the tournament team tryouts, the Tournament Director will select the Tournament Team Managers for the Wave (first) teams at each age level.

D. Tournament Team Player Tryouts
    The WUSA Tournament Director, Executive Committee, and the respective Wave Team Managers at each division, are responsible for arranging open tryouts and supervising player selection. Tournament teams are selected after holding open tryouts according to the following guidelines:
    1. The Tournament Director provides a standard, objective scoring model that is used at all levels.
    2. Each tryout must include at least one and preferably two objective evaluator(s). Evaluators must be approved by the Tournament Director.
    3. The Tournament Director, an Executive Committee member (or designee) along with the Wave Tournament Team Manager(s) attend and supervise each tryout.

E. The WUSA Tournament Director, in coordination with the Wave Manager and Board Members, is responsible for supervising the evaluation of tournament teams. Final player selection is determined by the WUSA Tournament Director alongside WUSA Tournament Team Managers. Selection is based on recommendations from the objective evaluator(s) and players are evaluated based upon a number of factors, including ability, attitude, commitment, availability, and team needs. Factors considered beyond the tryout day evaluation include historical recreation league manager assessments and end-of-season player assessments. The rosters for the tournament teams are posted as soon as practical after tryouts are complete.

F. In the event a player participates in WUSA's tournament team tryouts and is placed on a WUSA tournament team and then at any time after teams are announced elects not to participate on such tournament team (other than for reasons approved by the Board of Directors), the player will become ineligible to participate on future WUSA tournament teams. Such player shall be ineligible for at least a one-year period beginning August 1 if the player elected not to participate on a summer tournament team and at least a one-year period beginning December 1 if the player elected not to participate on a fall or spring tournament team. At the conclusion of the

one year period described above, and only upon approval by the Board of Directors, the player may regain eligibility status to participate on a WUSA tournament team.

G. When 24 or more players attend tournament team tryouts for one age group (and contingent upon there being adequate pitching to form a second team at the 10U and older age levels) WUSA will form subsequent tournament teams. The Tournament Director will identify suitable managers from prospective players' families. If no suitable manager can be identified, no further teams will be formed.
H. Tournament Team eligibility is contingent upon participating in Tournament Team tryouts unless an exemption is granted by either the Tournament Team Director or WUSA President.
I. All Tournament Team substitute players must be approved in advance by either the Tournament Team Director or WUSA President.
J. There is no participation requirement in tournament competition. There are only 9 players on the field (10 players at the 8U level), as few as 9 players only in batting order, no required substitution, and no minimum-play rule.
K. Tournament Team Managers will set fees for tournament team participants on a team-by-team basis. Each tournament team participant is expected to contribute their designated fee once notified of such by the Tournament Team Manager.
L. At the direction of the WUSA President, Tournament Team Director and WUSA EC, Tournament Team mangers will be provided reasonable expectations for their team's participation in league-supported activities that TT managers, their players and their families support while participating on a WUSA tournament teams. Expectations may vary from year-to-year and season-to-season, but in-general will include periodic support of WUSA's Fall development programming, WUSA-hosted clinics and instructional support, WUSA CO-OP Program (Spring), various operational needs (e.g concessions, ACES), and overall advocacy of the league. Failure to support such expectations may result in removal from the tournament team.

VII. Other League Rules

A. For the 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U divisions, rainouts will be rescheduled as determined by the WUSA Scheduler, with input and approval from the WUSA Executive Committee. Rainouts will not be rescheduled for the 5U and 6U division. For the 14U division, rainouts will be rescheduled as soon as possible based on teams' availability.
B. A game can only be rescheduled pursuant to Rule VI.A. There is no rescheduling of games (except pursuant to Rule VI.A) or swapping of games among teams. A game not played as scheduled, except a game that is forfeited, results in a forfeit being charged against the team(s) that fail(s) to field six players at the scheduled official starting time for that game.
C. Umpire-in-Chief: The WUSA President may appoint an Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) to supervise all umpires. Responsibilities of the UIC include the following: assignment of competent umpires for all WUSA games; counting and reporting to the WUSA Umpire Coordinator the number of games officiated by each umpire; determining safe playing conditions at the beginning of each day's or evening's games; and reporting rule interpretations and/or rules questions to the Division Coordinators and the President.
D. When a coach does not play a player due to disciplinary actions or illness, the player's name and the coach's reason must be disclosed to the other manager before the start of the game.
E. No warmup may occur on any part of a field while a game is being played on that field. Normal game warm-up prior to the start of the game is allowed on the outfield grass only, with the following exceptions:
    2. At WUSA's fields located at West University Elementary School, teams may also use the dirt infields for warm up.

3. At WUSA's South Campus, McGovern and Pershing fields, teams may use the portion of the dirt infields outside the baselines for warm up in addition to the outfield area.
4. The home team may utilize the batting cage for 30 minutes beginning 60 minutes prior to the scheduled first pitch. The visiting team may utilize the cage beginning 30 minutes prior to the scheduled first pitch.

F. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on school grounds, and, other than at an adult-only event approved by the WUSA President, no alcoholic beverages are allowed on any other grounds on which any playing fields are located.

G. Coaches will have their team members pick up trash on the field and in the bench area after all practice sessions and games. This responsibility includes ANY field a team may use.

H. In the Spring recreation season, trophies, or medals, provided by WUSA, are awarded to 1) all players on the first and second place teams in each division and 2) all players on the first and second place teams in WUSA's end of season tournament.
   1. Team standings will be established on the following point system: Win = 2 points; Tie = 1 point; Loss = 0 points.
   2. The following methodology is utilized when two (or more) teams are tied for total points.
      i) Winning percentage
      ii) Head-to-head
      iii) Head-to-head differential
      iv) Total runs for
      v) Total runs against
      vi) Total runs differential
      vii) Lowest number of forfeits
      viii) Coin toss

VIII. WUSA All Star Games

A. At the conclusion of each WUSA Spring Season, an All Star Game (ASG) is held for the 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U divisions. All Star games are played the day after the WUSA Spring Season Championship games.

B. All Star Game Player and Team Manager Selection Process
   1. <u>Phase 1: Player Nominations</u>
      Managers submit <u>*nominations*</u> from their team roster for All Star consideration. A 7-day window will be open for managers to nominate players from their team. The nominations window will be scheduled approximately the 7th week of the season.
      - In 7U – 10U managers may nominate up to three players on their team.
      - In 11U and 12U managers may nominate any number of players on their team.

   2. <u>Phase 2: Manager Voting</u>
      A manager voting period will open <u>*two weeks before*</u> the scheduled end of the regular season and will run Saturday AM – Friday 5PM. WUSA provides a voting template for managers in each division
      - Managers will select 26 players from the nominations list to enter on their ballot

   3. <u>Phase 3: All Star Game Team Formation</u>
      Team Manager Selection:
      Managers of the regular season first and second place ranked teams as of Week 11 of the WUSA season will be offered the option to be the ASG managers. The top two

ranked team managers will be informed by the Spring Commissioner (or designee) if their daughter will be considered for placement on the team based on the overall manager's voting. If a manager declines the invitation to manage an All Star Game team, the 3rd ranked team's manager for the division will be contacted, and so forth until there are two ASG managers confirmed.

Player Drafts for ASG:
The weekend before the last week of the regular season, the ASG managers will meet along with Spring Program commissioner to draft the two ASG teams. The commissioner will prepare a file of players for consideration for drafting and will organize the players alphabetically by Pool Grouping based on the vote tally such that 22 or fewer players can be selected in Pool 1. The commissioner will construct a 2nd Pool of players who receive an equal number of votes in order to reach the required number of players (13 players per team for divisions 7U and 8U and 12 players per team for divisions 9U, 10U, 12U). If needed, a third pool will be constructed such that two alternates for each team can be selected (4 alternates)

i) The draft will be an open draft with snake order. No round for pitchers/catchers. All players are available to be selected
ii) The manager of the 1st place regular season team at the time of selection, will pick first
iii) Managers may select any player from within the pool grouping.
iv) All players within Pool 1 must be selected before a manager can select players from the 2nd Pool and so forth with the 3rd and 4th Pools if applicable. (League administrator will assure that at least 1 player from each recreation team is represented among the All-Star Rosters.
v) Managers will draft 2 alternates for each team also using the above pool stratification.
vi) Managers are free to select assistants based off their drafted team (usually 3 assistants).

4. <u>Phase 4: All Star Player Notification and Confirmation Process</u>
    i) WUSA will notify the individual player's family of their selection as a confirmed "All-Star Game Player" or as an "All-Star Game Alternate Player" for the ASG, provide the date and time of the game, and request their confirmation that they can attend and play. A response is needed within 24 hours.
    ii) If a family is unable to attend or play, the roster slot will be offered automatically by WUSA to the 1st alternate drafted by the manager and moving on to the 2nd alternate if needed per team.
    iii) Once WUSA receives confirmation from families of availability for 12players per team, a league-wide notification of the All Star Team Players and Alternates will be announced as part of a spring end-of-season preparation email.
    iv) Only after the league has provided the OK will ASG managers communicate to their ASG team families.
    v) All Star Game Players (regardless of their ability to play in the game) and Alternates that are called upon to play in the game will receive an ASG Jersey.

5. <u>All Star Game Playing Rules and Manager Guidance</u>

i) The All Star Game is held the day after the conclusion of the Spring Recreation Season End-of-Season tournament's championship games.
ii) All Star Games should be approached as an exhibition-style event.
iii) The Home team is determined by the first place manager of the spring regular season at the time of the ASG Player Selection. The home team sits on the 3rd base dugout and has the batting cage 1st. The Home team will wear WUSA BLUE All-Star Game Jerseys.
iv) The Visiting team will be coached by the 2nd place manager of the spring regular season at the time of the ASG player selection and will sit on the 1st base dugout and has the batting cage 2nd. The Visiting team will wear WUSA RED All-Star Game Jerseys.
v) Games will follow division-specific time limits and rules with emphasis below and noting the following exceptions:
    a) In the 7U and 8U division, all 13 players will play in the field within the 1st 3 innings (e.g. 4 outfielders + rover)
    b) In the 9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U divisions there will be 9 players in the field (e.g. 3 players resting each inning)
    c) No girl will sit more than one inning
    d) In the 10U, 11U, and 12U divisions, no girl can pitch more than three innings total
    e) Managers are allowed free fielding substitutions and are able to substitute players within the inning as appropriate
    f) Games will finish-the-inning after time expires or 6 innings whichever occurs 1st
    g) Games may end in a tie

6. <u>All Star Game MVP Recognition</u>
   One All Star Game MVP award is given to the game's most valuable player as agreed upon by the two managers at the conclusion of the game.