



2025 Henderson County Girls Softball  
Coach's Handbook

## Important Dates

- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Coaches Meeting and Evaluations
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Registration Closes
- March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> – Evaluations
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Coaches Meeting and Draft
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – Practice Begins (coach background check and volunteer forms must be complete prior)
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - Uniform Verification - verify all sizes and numbers and send to Leighanne
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – Team Sponsor Forms and Artwork for Banners Due to Leighanne
- April 1<sup>st</sup> - Beginning of Season Play
- April 5<sup>th</sup> – Opening Day
- End of Season Play by first week in June
- End of Season Tournament – May 24 or May 31 (tentative dates)

## **Background Checks & Volunteer Waivers**

Anyone stepping on the field must have a clear background check. This includes head coaches, asst. coaches, and dugout helpers. All coaches and dugout helpers will be background checked through Protect Youth Sports – Verity. **All coaches and volunteers will be responsible for background check fees.** The link is <https://opportunities.averity.com/HendersonCntySA>. ALL coaches and volunteers must also have a **signed volunteer waiver** on file. This is a requirement of our insurance. The link to the volunteer waiver will be sent out via email or group me. **YOU CANNOT HOLD YOUR FIRST PRACTICE UNTIL BOTH THE BACKGROUND CHECK AND VOLUNTEER WAIVER IS COMPLETE.**

## **Rosters**

Roster limits will remain at 15 players. A legal roster must consist of a minimum of 9 players. Each team may only have 8 maximum age players. For example, a 10U team may only have eight (8) 10 year olds max. Official Rosters must be submitted to the state office before the first league game is played. Therefore, **all rosters must be submitted to Leighanne at least one week before beginning of league play. (March 25<sup>th</sup> )** No additions to a team shall be permitted after the first league game is played. Any additional players will be added according to drafting rules.

## **Draft & Protected Players**

No team will be allowed to protect more than a maximum of 4 players. If the head coach has a daughter(s) playing on the team, it is mandatory that such players must be included as protected players. Pitchers and catchers will be equally divided and should serve as protected players. All unprotected returning players will return to the draft each year.

The draft order will be determined by a lottery prior to the draft and recorded by the Draft Coordinator

We will use the up/down method. For example, if there are five teams in that age group, the pick order is 1 to 5 then 5 to 1. Every coach will get a first round draft pick; then selection will be continue in the order listed. The Board reserves the right to amend the drafting rules as necessary to insure teams are equal, fair, and competitive.

## **League Schedule**

League play will begin on or after April 1<sup>st</sup>. League play will terminate on June 7th. A completed league schedule consists of a minimum of 10 official league games per team. The official league schedule shall be prepared no later than one week before the start of regular season play. The schedule shall be arranged so that no team will be required to play on successive days or more than (3) games per calendar week, except for the playing of (1) postponed, makeup, or suspended game. (exception double headers)

## **Team Pictures**

There will be no official league picture day. Shelli Nicole Photography 903-880-8471 will contact coaches directly to pick the best day and time for team and individual pictures. **All teams are required to schedule a picture day with Shelli Nicole Photography.**

## **Uniforms**

Each player will receive one (1) uniform jersey (shirt only). Players will provide their own uniform pants and socks. Uniform sizes and numbers will be populated from registration forms and verified by coaches. **Uniform artwork and size/number verification is due to Leighanne by March 11<sup>th</sup>.** Uniforms will be ordered by the league from their approved vendor.

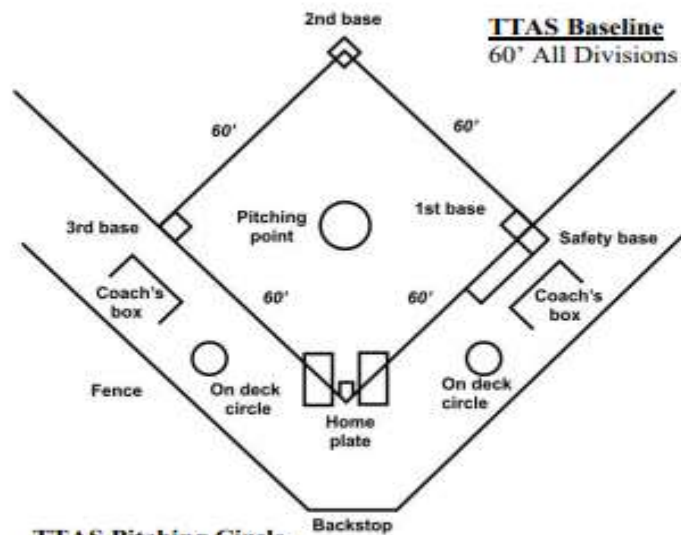
## Concession Stand Duty

Each team will be assigned concession stand duty on TWO non-game night. Teams will be responsible to provide workers or pay a \$125 buy out fee to the league. If they fail to provide workers or pay the fee, then they will forfeit the next game following their assigned concession stand duty.

### 10S-12 Softball Field Diagram

### TTAS Outfield Fence

180' or more Girls 6U T-Ball thru Girls 15U  
185' or more for HSE



### TLAS Pitching Circle

16' for Girls 10U through Girls HSE

**TTAS**

### Pitching Distance

42' Girls 6U T-Ball  
35' Girls 8U Coach Pitch,  
Girls 8U Machine Pitch &  
Girls 10U  
40' Girls 12U  
43' Girls 15U  
HSE per NFHS rules

# HCGSA 4U Local Rules and Regulations

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**\*These are local rules only. Tournament play rules could vary by tournament.**

## Game:

- Up to 1 hour (finish the inning) or 5 innings. Every player has had an opportunity to bat.
- 7 runs or 3 outs
- In the case of rain a full game will be considered 3 innings. If the game must be rescheduled it will pick up exactly where left off.
- Run rule is 15 runs after 3 innings or 8 runs after 4 innings.
- 11" ball will be used

## Offense:

- Bat dug-out.

## Defense:

- 10 on field with free defensive substitution IF batting dugout (local rule only)
- Players must remain behind the half-way marks until the ball has been hit
- The pitcher must have at least one foot on the pitching rubber until the ball has been hit

## Coaches:

- 2 offensive coaches (1 on each baseline)
- First half of the season, 1 defensive coach can be out on the field to help with instruction. (until May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Second half of the season, no defensive coaches in the field will be allowed, 1 defensive coach is allowed outside of the dugout (after May 1<sup>st</sup>)

## Field Chalking:

- 42' pitching rubber
- On-deck circles are 4 ft.
- 10' semi-circle from back of plate
- Half-way marks between all bases

## Rules

- Players must have helmets WITH facemasks, chin strap is optional
  - Only Official USA or USSSA stamped softball or stamped T-Ball bats may be used
  - The coach can adjust the batter by physical touch, or by verbal cues
  - 3 strikes (swinging) (Max 3 swings)
  - Hitting the tee and not the ball is considered a strike
  - Hitting the tee and the ball is considered a foul ball if the ball does not proceed past the 10' mark
  - Ball must leave the 10' arc to be considered a fair ball
  - Pitcher **must** wear face protection
  - When lead runner is stopped that constitutes a dead ball. Lead runner must be stopped to stop immediate play.
  - Runners may not leave the bases until the ball has been hit
  - ½ the distance between bases enforced for all runners
  - 1 base on overthrows to 1<sup>st</sup> only
  - 4 fielders **MUST** be behind the base line.
  - Coaches/Parents (with approved background checks and coach approval) may be on the field to instruct players during game.
  - OBUSIVE or OBSCENE LANGUAGE towards and UMPIRE, coach, player or another fan will NOT be tolerated. Coaches, keep your fans under control.
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# HCGSA 6U Local Rules and Regulations

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**\*These are local rules only. Tournament play rules could vary by tournament.**

## Game:

- 1 hour (finish the inning) or 5 innings. Games CAN end in a tie (except end of season tournament)
- Game can be played with 7 players. You DO NOT have to take an out if you have only 7 or 8 players.
- 6 runs or 3 outs
- In the case of rain a full game will be considered 3 innings. If the game must be rescheduled it will pick up exactly where left off.
- Run rule is 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 4 innings.
- 11" ball will be used

## Offense:

- Teams bat their entire lineup and provide every player with a minimum of 1 complete inning in the field. Line up will never change

## Defense:

- 10 on field with free defensive substitution IF batting dugout (local rule only)
- Players must remain behind the half-way marks until the ball has been hit
- The pitcher must have at least one foot on the pitching rubber until the ball has been hit

## Coaches:

- 2 offensive coaches (1 on each baseline)
- First half of the season, 1 defensive coach can be out on the field to help with instruction. (until May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Second half of the season, no defensive coaches in the field will be allowed, 1 defensive coach is allowed outside of the dugout (after May 1<sup>st</sup>)

## Field Chalking:

- 42' pitching rubber
- On-deck circles are 4 ft.
- 10' semi-circle from back of plate
- Half-way marks between all bases

## Rules

- Players must have helmets WITH facemasks, chin strap is optional
- Only Official USA or USSSA stamped softball or stamped T-Ball bats may be used
- The coach cannot adjust the batter by physical touch, only verbal cues
- 3 strikes (swinging) (Max 3 swings)
- Hitting the tee and not the ball is considered a strike
- Hitting the tee and the ball is considered a foul ball if the ball does not proceed past the 10' mark
- Ball must leave the 10' arc to be considered a fair ball
- Pitcher **must** wear face protection
- When lead runner is stopped that constitutes a dead ball. Lead runner must be stopped to stop immediate play.
- Runners may not leave the bases until the ball has been hit
- ½ the distance between bases enforced for all runners
- 1 base on overthrows to 1<sup>st</sup> only
- 4 fielders **MUST** be behind the base line.
- OBUSIVE or OBSCENE LANGUAGE towards and UMPIRE, coach, player or another fan will NOT be tolerated. Coaches, keep your fans under control.

# HCGSA 8U Local Rules and Regulations

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**\*These are local rules only. Tournament play rules could vary by tournament.**

## Game:

- 1 hour 15 mins (finish the inning) or 6 innings. Games CAN end in a tie (except end of season tournament)
- Game can be played with 7 players. You DO NOT have to take an out if you have only 7 or 8 players.
- 6 runs or 3 outs (Tournament play does not have a run rule limit)
- In the case of rain a full game will be considered 3 ½ or 4 innings. If the game must be rescheduled it will pick up exactly where left off.
- Run rule is 15 runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings.
- 11" ball will be used

## Offense:

- Teams bat their entire lineup and provide every player with a minimum of 1 complete inning in the field. Line up will never change

## Defense:

- 10 on field with free defensive substitution IF batting dugout (local rule only)
- Players must remain behind the half-way marks until the ball has left the machine
- The defensive player listed as the pitcher must remain 4 ft beside or behind the pitching rubber until the ball has been hit.

## Coaches:

- 3 offensive coaches (1 on each baseline and one as pitcher)
- No defensive coaches in the field will be allowed, 1 defensive coach is allowed outside of the dugout
- Pitching coach CANNOT coach runners or batters

## Field Chalking:

- 35' pitching rubber
- On-deck circles are 4 ft.
- Half-way marks between all bases

## Rules

- Players must have helmets WITH facemasks, chin strap is optional
- Only Official USA or USSSA stamped softball bats may be used
- No infield fly rule
- 3 strikes
- 5 maximum pitches or 3 strikes. As long as contact is being made, you may exceed the 5 maximum pitches
- Pitcher **must** wear face protection
- NO BUNTING, but slap hitting allowed
- NO STEALING, the ball must be hit to advance to the next base
- When lead runner is stopped constitutes a dead ball. Lead runner must be stopped to stop immediate play.
- Runners may not leave the bases until the ball is released by the pitcher.
- No walks or "base on balls", intentional or otherwise.
- ½ the distance between bases enforced for all runners
- No overthrow rule
- 4 fielders MUST be 10' behind the base path.

- If the batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the umpire will judge if the Pitching Coach made a legitimate attempt to get out of the way, the ball becomes dead. All runners advance one base. Batter is awarded first base. If the umpire rules that the Pitching Coach did not make the attempt to get out of the way, then the batter is declared out. No runner shall advance.
- The Pitching Coach must keep one foot on or straddle the pitching rubber.
- Pitching must be an underhand motion.
- The Pitching Coach will not coach while in the pitching position, either verbally or physically and once the ball has been hit, must position himself/herself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any play at all. PENALTY: Removal of the Pitching Coach.
- OBUSIVE or OBSCENE LANGUAGE towards and UMPIRE, coach, player or another fan will NOT be tolerated. Coaches, keep your fans under control.



# HCGSA 10U Local Rules and Regulations

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**\*These are local rules only. Tournament play rules could vary by tournament.**

## **Game:**

- 1 hour 15mins (finish the inning) or 6 innings. Games CAN end in a tie (except end of season tournament)
- Game can be played with 7 players. You DO NOT have to take an out if you have only 7 or 8 players.
- 6 runs or 3 outs (Tournament play does not have a run rule limit)
- In the case of rain a full game will be considered 3 ½ or 4 innings. If the game must be rescheduled it will pick up exactly where left off.
- Run rule is 15 runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or 10 runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings. 11" ball will be used

## **Offense:**

- Teams bat their entire lineup and provide every player with a minimum of 1 complete inning in the field. Line up will never change

## **Defense:**

- 9 on field, may start with 8 (during league play)

## **Coaches:**

- 2 offensive coaches (1 on each baseline)
- 1 defensive coach is allowed outside of the dugout

## **Field Chalking:**

- 35' pitching rubber with 16' circle
- On-deck circles are 4 ft.

## **Rules**

- Players must have helmets WITH facemasks, chin strap is optional
- Only Official USA or USSSA stamped softball bats may be used
- Infield fly rule is in effect
- 3 strikes
- Base runner is out for leaving the base before the ball has left the pitchers hand. Base runner may advance on a live ball with the chance of being put out.
- Runner CAN steal home
- Ball in circle with possession or when lead runner is stopped constitutes a dead ball
- No overthrow rule
- OBUSIVE or OBSCENE LANGUAGE towards and UMPIRE, coach, player or another fan will NOT be tolerated. Coaches, keep your fans under control.

# HCGSA 12U Local Rules and Regulations

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**\*These are local rules only. Tournament play rules could vary by tournament.**

## **Game:**

- 1 hour 30 mins (finish the inning) or 6 innings hour. Games CAN end in a tie (except end of season tournament)
- Game can be played with 7 players. You DO NOT have to take an out if you have only 7 or 8 players.
- 6 runs or 3 outs (Tournament play does not have a run rule limit)
- In the case of rain a full game will be considered 3 ½ or 4 innings. If the game must be rescheduled it will pick up exactly where left off.
- Run rule is 15 runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or 10 runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings.
- 12" ball will be used

## **Offense:**

- Teams bat their entire lineup and provide every player with a minimum of 1 complete inning in the field. Line up will never change

## **Defense:**

- 9 on field, may start with 8

## **Coaches:**

- 2 offensive coaches (1 on each baseline)
- 1 defensive coach is allowed outside of the dugout

## **Field Chalking:**

- 40' pitching rubber with 16' circle
- On-deck circles are 4 ft.

## **Rules**

- Players must have helmets WITH facemasks, chin strap is optional
- Only Official USA or USSSA stamped softball bats may be used
- Infield fly rule is in effect
- 3 strikes
- A base runner is allowed to steal but is out for leaving the base before the ball has left the pitchers hand.
- Runner CAN steal home
- Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike is in effect
- Ball in circle with possession or when lead runner is stopped constitutes a dead ball
- No overthrow rule
- OBUSIVE or OBSCENE LANGUAGE towards and UMPIRE, coach, player or another fan will NOT be tolerated. Coaches, keep your fans under control.

# HCGSA 15U Local Rules and Regulations

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**\*These are local rules only. Tournament play rules could vary by tournament.**

## **Game:**

- 1 hour 30 mins (finish the inning) or 7 innings. Games CAN end in a tie (except end of season tournament)
- Game can be played with 7 players. You DO NOT have to take an out if you have only 7 or 8 players.
- 6 runs or 3 outs (Tournament play does not have a run rule limit)
- In the case of rain a full game will be considered 4 ½ or 5 innings. If the game must be rescheduled it will pick up exactly where left off.
- Run rule is 15 runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or 10 runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings.
- 12" ball will be used

## **Offense:**

- Option to bat dugout (local rule only)

## **Defense:**

- 9 on field, may start with 8

## **Coaches:**

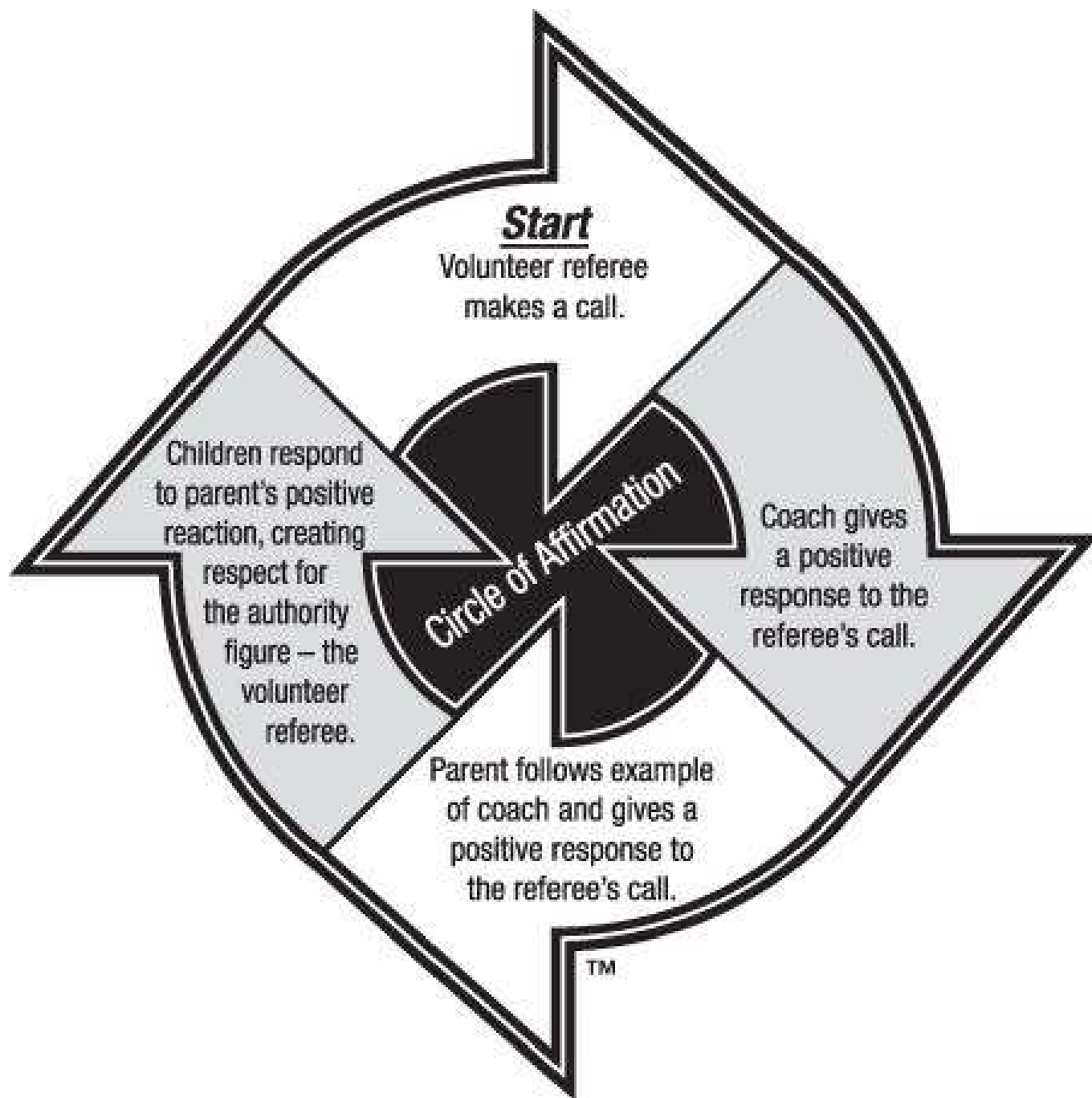
- 2 offensive coaches (1 on each baseline)
- 1 defensive coach is allowed outside of the dugout

## **Field Chalking:**

- 43' pitching rubber with 16' circle
- On-deck circles are 8 ft.

## **Rules**

- Players must have helmets WITH facemasks, chin strap is optional
- Only Official USA or USSSA stamped softball bats may be used
- Infield fly rule is in effect
- 3 strikes
- A base runner is allowed to steal
- Runner CAN steal home
- Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike is in effect
- No overthrow rule
- OBUSIVE or OBSCENE LANGUAGE towards and UMPIRE, coach, player or another fan will NOT be tolerated. Coaches, keep your fans under control.





## HCGSA PLAYER PROTECT FORM 2025

No team will be allowed to protect more than a maximum of 4 players. If the head coach has a daughter(s) playing on the team, it is mandatory that such players must be included as protected players. Pitchers and catchers will be equally divided and should serve as protected players. All unprotected returning players will return to the draft each year.

### Protected Players

1. Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Board Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Board Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** This form must be filled out and submitted before the draft.

## HCGSA - Official Team Roster

## Affiliate

Name: Henderson County Girls Softball Association

Season: 2025

## League

Name:

Division:

## Team

Name:

### First Official Game:

Roster Status:

Roster Submitted On:

## Coach

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address Line One:

Address Line Two:

City:

Zip Code:

**Coach's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assistant Coaches:**

## Players

[illegible]

## HCGSA TEAM UNIFORM REQUEST

**Team Name:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Division:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Uniform Shirt Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Name Color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach Shirt Size:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assistant Coach Shirt Size:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assistant Coach Shirt Size:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Coach Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Artwork suggestions need to be email to [hcsaboard@gmail.com](mailto:hcsaboard@gmail.com) asap. No more than 2 color artwork.

**\*\*SAMPLE FROM LAST SEASON\*\*** Pricing subject to change.

# SHELLI NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY SPORTS

Circle Package and add on items then write the image # here: \_\_\_\_\_

A \$30 fee will be applied to returned checks.

## Package 1 - \$15.00

1 - 5x7 individual  
4 - Wallets individual

## Package 2 - \$25.00

1 Memory Mate 8x10  
1 - 5x7 individual  
1 - 5x7 group  
4 - Wallets

## Package 3 - \$40.00

1 - 8x10 individual  
portrait  
2 - 5x7 individual  
2 - 3x5 individual  
4 - Wallets individual  
1 - 5x7 group

## Package 4 - \$50.00

1 Memory Mate  
2 - 5x7 individual  
portraits  
2 - 3x5 individual  
4 - Wallets individual  
1 sheet Trading Cards

### **Add on to Package only:**

1 - 5x7 indiv. \$7.50  
2 - 5x7 - \$15  
4 - 3.5x5 - \$15  
1 - 5x7 Team Photo -  
\$7.50  
2 Photo Magnet - \$8  
2 Buttons - \$10

### **A La Carte items:**

8x10 Memory Mate - \$15  
8x10 Team Photo - \$15  
8x10 Magazine Cover -  
\$15  
1 Bag Tag Indiv. - \$7.00  
8 Trading Cards - \$15  
8x10 - \$15  
1 5x7 ind. + 1 5x7 group  
- \$15

Player's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Trading Card info:**

Age:

Ht:

Wt:

Coach:

Team:

Player #:

Position:

Shelli Nicole has over 20 years experience  
and offers all kinds of photography. Each  
package includes a gift upon booking a future  
portrait session or event. Ask for details.



WGT45rlofqAT

**Shelli Parker | Owner/Lead Photographer**

Shelli Nicole Photography  
E: shellinphoto@gmail.com | W: www.shellinicole.com  
M: 903-880-8471 | W: 903-880-8471

Scan QR, Tap Notification, Scroll and Save Contact



## **HENDERSON COUNTY GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORM**

This Release and Waiver of Liability is signed by the volunteer releases HCGSA (Henderson County Girls Softball Association) a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of State of Texas and each of its directors, officers, employees, and agents. The volunteer desires to provide volunteer services to HCGSA and engage in activities related to serving as a volunteer for the HCGSA.

Volunteer understand that the scope of Volunteer's relationship with HCGSA is limited to a volunteer position and that no compensation is expected in return for services provided by Volunteer; that HCGSA will not provide any benefits traditionally associated with employment to Volunteer; and that Volunteer is responsible for his/her own insurance coverage in the event of personal injury or illness as a result of Volunteers services to HCGSA.

**1) WAIVER AND RELEASE:** I, the Volunteer, release and forever discharge and hold harmless HCGSA and its successors and assigns from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from the services I provide HCGSA. I understand and acknowledge that this Release discharges HCGSA from any liability or claim that I may have against HCGSA with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result from services I provide to HCGSA or occurring while I am providing volunteer services.

**2) INSURANCE:** Further I understand that HCGSA does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide me with financial or other assistance, including by not limited to medical, healthy or disability benefits or insurance of any nature in the event of my injury, illness, death or damage to my property. I expressly waive any such claim for compensation or liability on the part of HCGSA beyond what may be offered freely by HCGSA in the event of such injury or medical expenses incurred by me.

**3) MEDICAL TREATMENT:** I hereby Release and forever discharge HCGSA from any claim whatsoever which arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first-aid treatment or other medical services rendered in connection with an emergency during my time as a volunteer with HCGSA.

**4) ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** I understand that the services I provide to HCGSA may include activities that may be hazardous to me by involving working with grease in concession stand, working with field equipment, being on softball field during a game, getting hit with a ball or bat, inherently dangerous activities. As a volunteer, I hereby expressly assume the risk of injury or harm of the activities and Release HCGSA from all liability for injury, illness, death, or property damage resulting from the services I provide as a volunteer or occurring while I am providing volunteer services.

**5) PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE:** I give HCGSA all right, title, and interest in any and all photographs, images, video, or audio recordings of me or my likeness or voice made by HCGSA in connection with my providing volunteer services to HCGSA.

**6) OTHER:** As a volunteer, I expressly agree that the Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Texas and this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. I agree that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release is deemed invalid, the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Release shall not be affected.

By signing below, I express my understanding and intent to enter into this Release and Waiver of Liability willingly and voluntarily.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

[ If volunteer is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign]