

GUIDELINES FOR COACHES AND MANAGERS (TOURNAMENT/SENIOR OLYMPICS* TEAMS)

January 25, 2017

*Originally begun as “Senior Olympics”, this national tournament is now known as the “National Senior Games” (NSG). As one of the original participating states, Virginia teams are still authorized to use the “Senior Olympics” designation.

The Board of Directors of the Golden Girls has set up certain criteria for the selection of Tournament Team Managers and Coaches (see Item 5 of attached Tournament/Senior Olympics *Team Policies*). Once the selection is made it is incumbent on the Managers and Coaches to follow the guidelines as written below, for team tryouts, selection and basic organization.

TEAM SELECTION

1. Team selection shall include all possible age groups for any type of tournament – masters or seniors.
2. The Golden Girls organization may establish Tournament Teams in age divisions 40+, 45+ 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+ or higher age groups in increments of 5 years. Tournament Teams may play every year if enough interest in creating and player participation is deemed sufficient to support that year’s play.
3. In even-numbered years the Golden Girls organization may establish Senior Olympics Teams in these same age brackets as above with the youngest being 50+.
4. Only Senior Olympic participants who qualify in the even-numbered years are eligible to play in the Senior Olympics that are held in odd-numbered years. Participants may qualify by:
 - a. Playing on any Senior Olympics team (Golden Girls or otherwise) that has participated in any game or tournament that is a Senior Olympics (National Senior Games) qualifier in any state. The team must meet that state’s criteria for qualification (for instance, placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd).
 - b. Being on the roster of a Senior Olympics team (Golden Girls or otherwise) that participates in any game or tournament that is a Senior Olympics (National Senior Games) qualifier in any state. The team must meet that state’s criteria for qualification (for instance, placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd).
5. Although membership on a team in the past does not automatically qualify a player to be on a Tournament/Senior Olympics Team for the new calendar year, each team begins the season with a core group of players with known skills and abilities from the previous year. Membership fluctuates as players “age-up” or drop out. However, membership on a team as well as the number of players on the roster is ultimately the decision of the Coach.
6. Everyone wishing to join a Tournament/Senior Olympics Team must try out. A tryout is simply one or more opportunities for the Coach to assess the abilities of a player. An interested player must make known her desire to play on a Tournament and/or Senior Olympics team by talking to a tournament Coach, Manager, Board member or by indicating her interest on the application form so that she can be assessed. (You cannot be assessed if we do not know you are interested!) Tryouts are open to all Golden Girls members as well as non-members; however, an individual must become a member of Golden Girls if she is selected for a Tournament/Senior Olympics Team.
7. Tryouts may be conducted in several ways:
 - a. Traditional tryout format (inviting prospective players to the field specifically for an assessment)

- b. The prospective player may be invited to a team practice where she can be assessed by the Coach
 - c. The player's abilities may be observed by the Coach either during regular league play or during tournament play.
8. Please keep in mind that it is possible that not all players who desire to play on a Tournament/Senior Olympics Team will be selected. Tournament play is on a fairly high level and there are other criteria in addition to skill level that affect the decision.
9. Coaches and Managers should strive to be absolutely fair in the selection of players. Selections should be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Ability (hitting, running, fielding)
 - b. Willingness to be Coached
 - c. Reliability (ability to attend practices, tournaments, etc.)
 - d. Understanding of the "team" concept
10. Each player should be notified of her status as soon as possible following her tryout.
11. A team roster should be sent to all team members.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Coach and Manager are the undisputed leaders of the team according to their responsibilities (see Definitions on attached *Tournament/Senior Olympics Team Policies*).
2. It is the responsibility of the Coach and Manager to foster an atmosphere in which each team member may enjoy the experience of tournament team play while at the same time striving to win.
3. It is the responsibility of the Coach and Manager to communicate with each other and with the team. Communication is the key to the success of any organization including teams.
4. Each player is responsible for keeping the Coach or Manager advised of any scheduled event (practices, meetings, tournaments, etc.) that she would miss.
5. Each player is responsible for all expenses associated with playing on a traveling tournament team including but not limited to uniforms, transportation, lodging, food, tournament fees, softball association fees, etc.

PHILOSOPHY

1. The Coach and Manager should agree on a philosophy of the team's goals and methods of meeting those goals. At one extreme, the Coach may wish to have the best players on the field at all times; therefore, playing time may not be guaranteed. At the other extreme, the Coach may try to get all players in every game. There are plenty of options in-between the two extremes and the team needs to know what their goals are.
2. The Coach or Manager may choose to allow the team to help form the philosophy and goals.
3. Once the philosophy is established, it should be communicated to all team members. It will remain in effect for the duration of that year.

4. Although winning is highly stressed, it is also very important to *enjoy* being on a team. It is the responsibility of the Coach and Manager to strive to win while at the same time *allowing team members to enjoy the experience*.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Regardless of the chosen team philosophy, the Golden Girls organization stresses good sportsmanship at all levels of play. Each Golden Girls player is a representative of our organization especially when competing in tournaments. We are a one-of-a-kind organization with both a national and international image. Good sportsmanship on the field contributes greatly toward creating a positive image for our teams and our organization.

REPLACEMENT OF COACH and/or MANAGER

If the Coach and/or Manager prove unsatisfactory, a majority of the team may submit to the Board a request for review. The Coach and/or Manager may be counseled and possibly replaced (see Item 8 of attached *Tournament/Senior Olympics Team Policies*).

TOURNAMENT/SENIOR OLYMPICS TEAM POLICIES

January 25, 2017

DEFINITIONS

Tournament team – shall be used to indicate any team that the Golden Girls organization sponsors that participates in any competition or play outside of regular, seasonal Golden Girls League Play. This shall include traveling Tournament Teams and other teams assembled for a specific tournament (other than Senior Olympics).

Senior Olympics team – shall be used to indicate any team that the Golden Girls organization sponsors that qualifies for and participates in the Senior Olympics (National Senior Games).

Coach – shall be used to indicate the person responsible for the on-field direction of the team. These duties shall include but not be limited to choosing tournaments to enter, scheduling try-outs, selecting team members, scheduling/running practices, and making lineup and strategy decisions during games

Manager – shall be used to indicate the person responsible for the administrative duties of the team. These duties shall include but not be limited to completing paperwork for tournament registration, making hotel reservations, coordinating travel plans, handling all team finance, and accounting for use of team funds.

Member – shall be used to indicate any person who has signed and turned in their Golden Girls application and has paid current year dues including the tournament player fee.

Board – Golden Girls Board of Directors

POLICIES

1. An individual must be a member of Golden Girls to play for a Tournament/Senior Olympics team. In order to try out for a Tournament Team, an individual is not required to be a Golden Girls member however *she must sign a waiver of liability before the tryout* except when the tryout is by observation. If actually chosen for the team, she must become a member of the Golden Girls organization.

2. An individual may join the Golden Girls organization only to play on a Tournament/Senior Olympics team and will not be required to participate in the regular Golden Girls League. The fee for individuals joining only to play on a Tournament/Senior Olympics team will be the same as all other Golden Girls members except as provided in #3 below.
3. Individuals participating in a single tournament will be charged a reduced fee equal to one-half the full year membership fee.
4. Coaches and Managers must ensure that players are members before they are put on the roster for tournaments.
5. Coaches and Managers for Golden Girls Tournament/Senior Olympics teams shall be approved by the Board of Directors according to the following procedures and criteria:
 - a. An individual interested in coaching or managing a Tournament/Senior Olympics team shall indicate her/his intentions to one of the Board members. The Board member will then present the name of such candidate to the Board for consideration. She will include information regarding the background, experience, and qualifications of the individual to be nominated for approval as a Tournament Coach or Manager.
 - b. The Board of Directors will make a decision about a candidate for Coach in a timely manner, taking into account among other criteria, the potential Coach's ability to represent the Golden Girls Organization, knowledge of competitive tournament rules, ability to communicate that knowledge, management capability, ability to get along with people and previous softball coaching experience.
 - c. The Board of Directors will make a decision about a candidate for Manager in a timely manner, taking into account among other criteria, the potential manager's ability to represent the Golden Girls Organization, management capability, ability to get along with people, handle team finances and coordinate reservations and registrations.
6. The Coach and Manager of a Tournament/Senior Olympics team must agree to adhere to and enforce Golden Girls Rules and Regulations regarding Tournament teams:
 - Membership in Golden Girls is required in order to play on a Tournament/Senior Olympics team
 - Tryouts are open to all Golden Girls members.
 - Teams are to be competitive.
 - Teams are to abide by the rules of the specific Tournament Sponsor.
 - Good sportsmanship is highly stressed
7. The Manager will be responsible to the Board for any team funds used, and will be responsible to the team members for any funds supplied by them. The Manager or her/his representative shall submit to the Financial Secretary a brief report summarizing the financial activities of the Team for the calendar year by December 31. This report will also be made available to team members.
8. If the Coach and/or Manager prove unsatisfactory, a majority of the team may submit to the Board a request for review. The Manager and/or Coach may be counseled and possibly replaced.
9. Any practices, meetings, or other local activities scheduled by Tournament/Senior Olympics teams should not conflict with any regularly scheduled games or other official Golden Girls functions.
10. Each player is responsible for all expenses associated with playing on a traveling tournament team including but not limited to transportation, lodging, food, tournament fees, softball association fees, uniforms, etc.

