

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CHURCH SPORTS LEAGUE

SOFTBALL RULES

Revised April 2012 (Final)

General Rules

1. First and foremost, the most important rule of our league is that each and every player be in relationship with Jesus Christ in some shape or form. It is not a requirement that a player must attend regular church services at the respective church. Although it is recommended, we understand everyone's journey is different. We consider the CCC sports league an outreach. Hopefully, through the interaction with different churches, hanging around Christian believers, by having prayer and by leading by example. We can bring people to Christ thru this league.
2. A waiver/roster sheet for both the Champaign Park District needs to be filled out and turned in prior to starting each team's 2nd game of the season. **Any team failing to do this will forfeit each game until it is turned in.** Each player on the team is required to sign a waiver/roster form before playing his/her first game. If a player(s) are not present and haven't signed the forms before it's turned in. Just make sure the player(s) are listed and those player(s) will be required to sign in at the umpires check in area at that respective field. Either at the Dodd's 3-plex or 4-plex or at Dexter field upon playing their first game. Coaches!! Please know who you are signing to your roster. A player can only be listed on one men's division team. **Any player listed on two rosters will not be eligible to play the remainder of the season.**

If you are using subs from another team. They are not required to sign again. They should already be on a roster. Players can be registered on a competitive co-rec team and a men's team or be on both co-rec leagues and still play on a men's team. Just not be on 2 men's teams.

3. All players must at least be going into high school in the fall to participate in the Champaign County Church Sports League. Any player that's not will need an approval from a league official. Any player under 18 will need a parental/guardian consent and signature to participate.
4. Eligible players: Each player is required to play in at least 2 games during the regular season to be eligible for the league tournament at the end of the season. Players not playing in at least 2 games will not be eligible.
5. When adding a player(s) to your roster during the season. Coaches are required to call or email Jerry Johnson no later than 5:00 pm the day of the game or that player(s) are not eligible to play that game. If it is found that a player(s) played in the game that is not eligible. Your team will forfeit the game. If I am not notified by the deadline those player(s) will have to wait until the following week to begin play. Please state the name, phone number and address of the player your adding plus the team you are adding he/her to. Keep in mind, coaches; you cannot add a player(s) to your roster after your team has completed its 8th game of the season. Send your additions to: jjfriendlyspirit@yahoo.com or 217-649-0418.
6. Each team has to have 7 roster players from their own team to play. If not, it's a forfeit. You have to have 8 players to start a game or it's a forfeit.

NOTE : If you are picking up subs from other teams to fill your lineup, there are guidelines you have to follow:

- a. You can pick up eligible subs from other teams to make a 10-man roster only. Meaning, if you have 10 players then those 10 players play. You cannot pick up subs and sit out regular players nor can you add subs so regular players can DH. Subs cannot be designated hitters either.
(During the tourney only) You are allowed to only pick up subs to make a total of 9 players.

- b. You are allowed to pick up subs from only certain divisions. A player is allowed to sub for another men's team only with a team within the same division that he/she plays in or with a team in a higher ranked division.

For example: When you pick up from a co-rec team to play on a men's team, make sure you know who you are picking up and if he/her plays on another men's team and from what division.

Men's A players can only sub for men's A teams and co-rec teams.

Men's B players can only sub for men's B and A teams and co-rec teams

Men's C players can only sub for men's C, B and A and co-rec teams

Men's D players have no restrictions

- c. If you do add subs, you are required to let the other teams coach know as well as the scorekeeper.
 - d. If you have subs and you have a player that arrives late and is eligible to enter the game. The sub can still stay in the game as long as it doesn't make the team have more than the 10 player limit.
 - e. All men's divisions are allowed to have only 1 DH hitter. Competitive co-rec is allowed up to 2, (guy/girl), (girl/girl) or just (girl) are options. Never just a guy or two guys as a DH.
7. Lineups are to be turned in to the scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to game time. At game time #:00, you will be given a 3 minute warning. At that point, you have until #:03 to have a lineup in or your team forfeits. Even if all your players haven't arrived it's still a good idea to turn in a lineup and add them as they show prior to game time. Late players cannot enter the game at all!! Unless, they are listed in the lineup prior to the start of the game. If the game starts with a player in the lineup who is not present, a decision has to be made when that player(s) time to bat comes up. Either by removing him/her at that time, or by taking an out each time until he/she shows. If the game starts, and a late player shows and he/she is not listed in the lineup at the start of the game. That person will not be able to enter the game and is considered ineligible for the remainder of the game. A late player can take the field only during a downplay.
 8. NO METAL CLEATS! If caught wearing them. You will be sit the rest of the game or find alternative footwear. No exceptions.
 9. Slaughter rule: If a team is getting beat by the slaughter rule which is a 20 run lead after 3 innings, 15 run lead after 4 innings or 10 run lead after 5 innings, the game is over. The team's can stay on the field until 10 minutes prior to the next game start time. Teams can continue to play without the presence of a scorekeeper and umpire. Once the game is declared over the presence of them is not a requirement but by choice. Please exit the field at no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of the next game so the next games players can take the field and start on time. Slaughter rule also applies during tournament.
 10. All protests must be done within the 48hr time frame and within the guidelines of the ASA. Please when making a protest, bring it to the umpire's attention and the scorekeeper will note the scorebook. A decision will be made once all evidence is in. A final decision will be made by me after reviewing and talking to coaches, umpires and the Park District.
 11. All rules in Champaign County Church Sports League will follow the ASA rules and its guidelines unless specified in these playing rules of CCCSL.
 12. ASA Banned Bat List: Before buying bats make sure your bat of interest is not on the ban list. All bats must be ASA approved. There is a banned list of bats located on the CPD website or you can ask a CCC sports league official or an umpire for approval of any bat in question. Players found using banned bats are subject to suspension of up to two weeks.

13. All disputed calls with an umpire, should only be discussed with the umpire, by the coach or assistant coach of a team. Anyone else is not allowed. Umpires are not perfect, nor do they claim to be. Never are you to address the umpire away from the field or in a parking lot at any time. This may be considered abuse and intimidation. This will not be tolerated. Anyone doing this will be suspended or possibly banned from the league.
14. All coaches are responsible for their player's conduct while on Champaign Park District property. This including parking lots. Fighting, profanity, swearing and obscene gestures will not be tolerated. Any player(s) breaking these rules can be suspended depending on the severity of the offence. The suspension could be 1 or 2 games or for remainder of the season. The length of any suspension will be decided by CPD and by the CCC sports league.
15. If a player is rejected and refuses to leave in a timely manner, the game could be declared a forfeit if the umpire sees fit to do so.
16. Girls are allowed to play on men's teams. However, they must hit the 12-inch softball and same rules apply.
17. If a team or teams are playing in a division(s) that they are obviously overqualified for or not qualified for. I reserve the right as president of this league to make changes if I see fit to move a team (s) to different divisions to better suit those team(s). I, as president, try to make these division's as competitive as I can and as equal as I can. Coaches don't always know how good or not good that a team is going to be. New players, better players, players leaving all play a factor in deciding what division a team is put in. However, if change is needed, then adjustments will be made if needed. Keep in mind,
Men's D teams should have up to 0 Park District players on its team
Men's C teams should have up to 1-2 Park District players and no more
Men's B teams should have up to 3-4 Park District players and no more
Men's A teams do not have a limit
Park District players are players that play in other Park District leagues other than CCCSL.
 Coaches, please don't add players to your team that you know shouldn't be in that division. Safety is the most important thing to keep in mind.

Playing Rules

1. Men's and competitive co-rec Games are 7 innings and will use a running clock. Games are 55 minutes long unless the game falls under the slaughter rule. If time expires before the next inning starts the game is considered over. The next inning officially starts when the home team from the prior inning makes the third and final out and as long as there is time left on the game clock. Games cannot end in a tie and games will continue with extra innings until a winner is declared.
2. Traditional co-rec (Fridays only) Games are only 4 innings and you bat the entire line up each inning and also have a running clock. Games are 55 minutes. If time expires before next inning starts, the game is over (tournament will have same format as regular season). Slaughter rule applies too. If slaughter rule applies during the course of the game. The game is over. Inning is over when the last batter in lineup is declared out. Games cannot end in a tie. Extra innings will be played until a winner is declared.
3. Men's A and B divisions These two divisions will use regular park ball rules in regards to using no commitment line between 3rd and no extra home plate. The extra base is removed for these games only. All plays are made at the regular home plate by force out or by tag out. Tags are legal. Keep in mind, the avoid contact rule. The catcher cannot block the path to home plate nor can the runner intentionally run into the player trying to make the play and try to dislodge the ball. The runner can be declared safe or out depending on if either the runner or catcher doesn't follow that rule. Umpire can make the call as he/she fits. Safety is the main concern. If a play is expected to be made. The runner has to avoid contact at all cost by sliding, jumping over the defender, or by

trying to go around the defender or by returning to 3rd base. If injuries become an ongoing factor, I reserve the right to change it back to original rule during the course of the season.

4. Commitment line (Men's C , D and co-rec only) Will be located between 3rd and home plate and is located 20 ft off of 3rd base. If a runner passes the commitment line as he/she rounds 3rd they have to go home. No tags can be made and the play for the out is at the extra plate located in front of the batter's box. Tags accidental or not are not allowed and runner is declared safe. If runner crosses line and goes back to 3rd. That runner is out. All runners can advance accordingly. Again it's an umpire's decision whether or not a runner passes the commitment line during the course of a play.
5. Pitching Every batter starts with a 1-1 count
 - a. if a batter has a called strike then fouls a pitch, he still has another at bat
 - b. if a batter has a foul then called for a strike, that batter is out
 - c. if a batter fouls two pitches, that batter is out
 - d. 3 called ball pitches, the batter takes 1st base

PITCH HEIGHT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 6 ft - 10 ft

6. Home run rule Men's A and B only will have a 3 homerun progressive. This meaning if a team has 3 home runs during a game. They cannot have another home run until the opposing team has 3 as well. After that a team cannot have more than 1 homerun over the opposing team during the rest of the game. In the park homeruns do not fall into this category. Men's C & D and competitive co-rec have a 1 homerun progressive. Note: at Dexter field only each team is allowed 1 extra homerun.
7. Play interference When a player is trying to make a force out or try for a double play. The defensive player must be given the opportunity to throw the ball without being hindered. A runner who is forced out and comes into base standing is not considered hindering a player from throwing the ball, unless he tries to intentionally distract the player from throwing. Please try to get out of the way if you know you are going to be out.
8. Interference this is an action by a runner with the intent to dislodge the ball from a player or to prevent/confuse/shout the defensive player from making a play. Play stops and ball is dead. The base runner is ejected and any other runner close to scoring is out as well. Sportsmanship criteria.
9. Obstruction A defensive player blocks the base path while not in possession of the ball (no fake tags), play is dead and runner gets base and all runners advance.
10. International tie-break rule All extra innings of a game will use this rule. Each team will start the inning with a runner at 2nd base. The player who made the last out of the prior inning will be the player who takes 2nd base.
11. Substitute Runner Rule Substitute runners may take the place of a player whose name is in their teams batting order. Coming in as a substitute runner will count as an official entry into the game. The player that is being substituted for may reenter the game but must come into the same spot of the batting order that they started the game. In the case of an injured player, if there are no substitutes available on that team bench the following will take place. The player that made the last out may come in as a runner for the injured player. It also has to be the same gender as well. Keep in mind, an injured player has to be removed for at least one entire inning of play. Meaning, one full inning of defensive and offensive play.

Competitive co-rec and traditional co-rec only

Rules

1. Teams must have at least 7 regular roster players from your team to play. If not, it's a forfeit
2. You need to 8 players to play or it's a forfeit.
3. If a competitive co-rec team is short on players. They are allowed to play with 5 guys and 4 girls. However, 10 spots will fill the lineup and the 10 spot will be an out when that spot comes up to bat in the lineup.
4. You can pick up subs from other teams, but only to make a 10. Subs cannot be DH's. Roster players first. Subs don't replace roster players. Roster player can sub or sit either. During tourney, you can only pick up enough subs to make a total of 9.
5. (Competitive co-rec only) you can have 2 DH's (2 girls, 1 girl or 1girl/1guy). No DH's in traditional. Only a 10 batter lineup.
6. If a male batter is walked, intentional or not, he proceeds to 2nd base. Runners already on base advance accordingly. The next female batter bats as normal. However, if there is 2 outs when the guy walks. The female then has the option to either take a walk too or bat as normal.
7. Defensive alignment Instead of teams being forced to have females in both the left outfield slot and left side infield position, the new rule is that at only one girl is now required to play on the left side of the field at all times when a team is playing defense in the field. This means there must be a girl playing one of the following positions: left, left-center field, shortstop, or third. If a team is playing with 9 players or less this rule still applies. Pitcher/catcher has to be guy/girl combo or both girls.
8. (Traditional co-rec only) Bat entire lineup. Last batter has to be forced out. Either by strike out, force fly out, or force at first base. If the batter passes first base without being declared out. Then play continues until the last batter is forced out at the home plate. He/she cannot be tagged out beyond 1st base, only force at home. All runs score until that last batter is declared out. Last batter cannot walk. If he does walk, then the first batter in the lineup takes 1st base and base runners advance accordingly. Pitch count starts over until last batter is out and inning is over.
9. Competitive will use 11inch softball for girls and 12 inch softball for guys Traditional will use 11 inch softball for girls and a 12 inch rag ball for guys.