

2009 WICOMICO COUNTY CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Altered Rules (non-competitive)

ADMINISTRATION

The Wicomico County Department of Recreation and Parks shall be responsible for:

- a. Conducting the organizational meetings.
- b. Writing the schedule of regular season games.
- c. Spiking, matting and lining the fields whenever possible.
- d. Keeping on file the rosters of each team and/or contracts of all players.
- e. Collecting and depositing all required fees.

DUTIES OF THE LEAGUE

- a. Will represent the League at all League functions.
- b. Will assist at all League meetings.
- c. Will serve as ex-officio member of any or all committees.
- d. Will assist in conducting all necessary League correspondence.
- e. Will assist with all disputes arising out of League play as soon as possible.
- f. Keeping a record of the League standings.

DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

A player may participate on a coed softball team while also participating on a men's or women's softball team.

LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS

1. Teams will be permitted to sign as many players as they deem necessary.
2. All players must be at least 16 years of age when signing a contract to play. Any player not attaining this age by this date is ineligible.
3. **All team rosters and a minimum of 10 player contracts and contract fees (\$20 per player for residents, and \$25 per player for non-residents) must be turned into the Civic Center Box Office by Tuesday, April 14th, 5:00 p.m.**
4. A player may not play for any team in this league until:
 - a. his/her contract is properly signed;
 - b. he/she is properly released from another team;
 - c. his/her contract (and/or release) and contract fee is turned into the Recreation Department by 5:00 p.m. Friday to play that weekend.
5. Any player signing a contract can only be released to a team lower or even in standings.
6. Additions to or releases from contract agreements can be made up to the half-way point of the season (see schedule) and by team managers only.

FEES AND FINANCES

- A. Each team shall submit the **entrance fee of \$295 no later than Tuesday, April 14th**. Any team that has submitted the entrance fee and then decides to withdraw from the league after the schedule has been made shall be forced to forfeit this fee.
- B. Team rosters, contracts, and contract fees must be submitted to the Recreation office prior to the first games. If rosters and contracts have not been turned in prior to the first game, you will forfeit each game until rosters and contracts are submitted.
- C. All checks or money orders must be made payable to **WICOMICO COUNTY**.

EQUIPMENT

- A. Each team will be responsible for supplying its own game equipment: balls, bats, catcher's mask, etc. Each team will be given a limited supply of game balls before the season. Softballs will be 12", .44 cor, 400- compression for male and female players.
- B. At the beginning of each game, the home team will supply a new game ball and the visiting team will supply a new or slightly used ball (must be approved by umpires). Each team should also have at least one good ball on reserve in the event that another ball is needed. The home team is the last team listed.
- C. Rubber cleats or tennis shoes must be worn; metal cleats will not be permitted.
- D. All players on the playing field should wear shirts identical in color when possible.
- E. For safety and injury prevention, exposed jewelry must not be worn during the game.
- F. The catcher must wear a face mask, or the umpire will not allow the pitcher to pitch the ball. Refusal to wear a face mask will mean forfeiture for the team of that player.

GAME TIME

Games will be played on Sunday afternoons. Game times will be between 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. There will be a 10 minute grace period allowed only on the first game scheduled at a field. Please, no practicing on the infields prior to the game. There will be a 1 hour 30 minute curfew on games. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes has expired from the actual starting time of the game.

FITNESS OF GROUNDS

- A. There shall be a one-half hour maximum waiting period in any case where a game is interrupted due to weather conditions. The game is officially postponed when both managers agree. A game should be called at the first sign of lightning. In the event of lightning, please leave the ball field, go to your vehicle and take shelter. Stay out of the dugouts and bleachers. Avoid going underneath trees – trees attract lightning. Avoid metal fences, gates, and tall light poles and power poles.
- B. The Program Director will update the cancellation line if games are being canceled due to inclement weather by 1:00 pm. It is the responsibility of each coach to call the Department's cancellation line (410-548-4900 ext. 5) to check on games being cancelled. If there is nothing on the cancellation line, your team is expected to be present at the game unless you have verified that the umpires have cancelled.

RAIN-OUTS

If five (5) innings have been completed (4 1/2 if visiting team is losing) when the game is called, the game shall be considered complete and official. If five (5) innings have not been completed when the game is called, the game will be re-scheduled from the beginning. Games will be made up if both managers can mutually agree on a time and place for make-ups.

FORFEITS

- A. In the event both teams of a scheduled game fail to appear for the game, each team will be credited with a forfeit.
- B. Any team forfeiting three (3) games shall be subject to possible ejection from the league

with the remainder of their scheduled games being awarded to their opponents.
(Forfeiting two games will disqualify a team from participating in the playoffs).

- C. Please contact the other team and Steve Miller (443-944-6085) by noon on Friday if your team is not going to show at all.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. **COUNTY POLICY:** Any player physically or verbally assaulting an employee, volunteer, spectator or participant will be subject to disciplinary action, which will be decided in accordance with the severity of the offense. Physical assault is defined as offensively touching, shoving or striking another person without that person's consent. Verbal assault is defined as threatening bodily harm or directing excessive profanity toward another without that person's consent. The minimum penalty for the offense shall result in a 3-game suspension with a maximum penalty of indefinite suspension from the County public recreation program.
- B. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted at any of the playing fields. All offenses involving players and spectators, including and not limited to, the consumption of alcoholic beverages, loitering, creating a public nuisance and reckless driving, will be enforced as per the Penal Code of Maryland.
- C. **EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1993, SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY WILL BE ILLEGAL.**

PLAYING RULES

- A. The League shall adhere to the present year's official Slow Pitch Softball Rules ASA. There may be some local adaptations which shall take precedence over the Official Slow Pitch Rules.
- B. The Pitch - the ball must be delivered at a moderate speed, underhand, below the hip. The arc shall be a minimum of 6 ft. from the ground and a maximum of 12 ft.
- C. The pitching distance shall be fifty feet. Base distance is 70 feet.
- D. Slaughter Rule - the league will abide by a slaughter rule. In effect, the following conditions must be met: (15 runs after 5 innings)
 1. that the losing team has batted five times (innings).
 2. that the losing team is fifteen or more runs behind at the conclusion of their 5th time at bat. Therefore, if the visiting team is losing, the game must go 4 1/2 innings and if the home team is losing, the game must go 5 innings.
- E. Extra Offensive Players (unlimited number of batters)
Optional: Teams may bat additional male and female players while still complying with the rule that there may only be one more male than female players in the line-up.
- F. Re-entry Rule: any players in the original starting line-up may re-enter the game once in any position as long as they maintain the same batting order. The manager only may dispute the misuse of the re-entry rule. Any misuse of the re-entry rule will result in the illegally entered player being removed and the original player returned to the line-up. Abnormal substitutions (not a legal substitute/re-entry) are only permitted in the event of an injury and there are no legal substitutes to re-enter.
- G. The league **does not** utilize the Third Strike Foul Rule.
- H. The home team is the official scorekeeper. However it is recommended that both teams

keep score, and check scorebooks every ½ inning.

SPECIAL CO-ED RULES

- A. Five men and five women play in the game at one time. However, if only nine players of a team are present, they may play with nine as long as there are no more than five males in the game. A team may play with as few as seven players. If you start a game with 8 or 10 players and a player becomes injured, you may play with one less. If you start with 9 players (5 males and 4 females), and a female becomes injured, you must eliminate 1 of the males. You may only have one more male than females, but you can have more females than males.
If you begin a game with less than 10 players and other players arrive late, they can be placed at the bottom of the batting line-up so long as they maintain an alternated (male/female) line-up (extra offensive players included).
- B. Teams have the option of letting a woman pitch and a man catch, or a man pitch and a woman catch. There shall be an equal number of males and females in the infield and outfield. (They do not have to be alternated in placement).
- C. Sexes shall alternate in batting order.
- D. **Men must bat opposite-handed (opposite of normal batting). The opposing manager can have a stance reversed, but if changed twice, it is final.**
- E. A courtesy runner is allowed for injured players and players with disabilities (same sex). The runner that made the last out will be the courtesy runner. The opposing coach must be notified at the beginning of the game, or at the time of the injury.

UMPIRES

A paid umpire (single man system) will be assigned by the Delmarva Softball Umpires Association Umpire Assignor, Ed Russ. The umpire has sole authority in conducting a game. If there is any question on any decision, the coach, manager or captain only may consult the umpire. Any player approaching an umpire in regard to a decision will be subject to dismissal from the game.

In the event an umpire does not show, contact Ed (410-430-9054). It is recommended that you start the game with a volunteer umpire provided by the home team if possible, so that time is not wasted. (It is not a forfeit if the home team cannot supply an umpire) If a volunteer umpire completes the game, please submit their name for payment.

STANDINGS

Umpires will be calling in the scores after each day's games. Standings will be placed at the complex on the bulletin board as well as online at www.wicomcorecandparks.org.

PLAY-OFFS

Playoffs will be single elimination and all eligible teams are in. A team forfeiting 2 regular season games will be eliminated from participating in the playoffs. Teams will be placed on the bracket according to their winning percentages.

AWARDS

A team trophy will be awarded to first place regular season team and the second place regular season team.

Playoff champs and the Playoff finalist will be awarded team trophies.

PROTESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**PARKING ON THE ENTRANCE ROAD TO THE
PARKER COMPLEX IS PROHIBITED.
YOU WILL BE TICKETED!!!!
WE WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR COOPERATION.**