

2009 WICOMICO COUNTY CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Regular Rules (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: a limited supply of softballs (women: .47cor, 11", 500+ compression; men: .44 cor, 12", 400- compression) will be given to each team before the season. Bats and other equipment (catcher's mask, etc.) are provided by the teams (USSSA banned bat list will be used).
- B. At the beginning of each game, both teams should have two men's and two women's balls for game play. A base coach will be responsible for switching out the men's and women's ball between batters. If a foul ball occurs, the base coach should have a ball ready to replace out of play ball. Teams are responsible for retrieving their own balls.
- 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 cancelled 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 on Sundays. Depending on the Complex schedule, the make up games will be the first Sunday available. Times will be late afternoon or early evening.

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 (410-548-4900 x 105) by Friday at noon 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 (USSSA). There may be some local adaptations which shall take precedence over the Official Slow Pitch Rules. **—2 male HR's per game, per team; Unlimited HR's for females.**

Pitching Rule

1. **AT NO TIME** during the progress of the Game shall the Pitcher be allowed to use tape or any other substance (including a glove) upon the pitching hand or fingers. It is illegal to apply any foreign substance to the ball or hands, unless the pitcher is given the Umpire's permission to use a bag containing powdered resin to dry the hands.
2. **AT THE BEGINNING** of an inning or when a Pitcher relieves another Pitcher, one minute may be used to deliver not more than THREE PRACTICE PITCHES to the Catcher or some other Teammate.
3. **LEGAL POSITIONS OF THE PITCHER'S FEET.**
 - i. The pitcher may pitch from the Pitching Plate or from the Pitching Area, an area the width of the plate and up to six (6) feet behind the Pitcher's Plate.
 - ii. Prior to pitching, the pitcher shall take a position with his/her pivot foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the Pitching Plate or Pitching Area. The pivot foot must be in contact with the Pitcher's Plate or Pitching Area when the pitched ball is released.
 - iii. The other foot (free foot) has no restriction on position and may be placed on, in front of, to the rear of, or to the side of the Pitcher's Plate or Pitching Area. After taking the initial position, the Pitcher may take

more than one step with the free foot, in any direction of his choice, provided that it is taken prior to, simultaneously with or during the actions of delivering the pitched ball.

- iv. After the release of the Pitch, there are no restrictions on Pitcher's subsequent movements, or the fielding positions he may assume as a Defensive Player.

4. **Sec. 4. PITCHER'S LEGAL MOTIONS ALLOWED IN ACTUAL DELIVERY OF THE PITCH.**

- i. After assuming the pitching position on the Pitcher's Plate or in the Pitching Area, the pitcher must present the ball in FRONT OF HIS BODY (for at least one second) in either one or both hands before starting the delivery motions. Note: All Pitching rules that apply to the pitcher's actions before and during the release of the pitch along with the restrictions on height, speed, etc, shall remain the same.
- ii. The pitcher may hold or grip the ball in any manner before delivery.
- iii. Only a definite underhand motion is permitted in the delivery of the pitch.
- iv. The pitcher may release the pitched ball in any manner when delivering the pitch. This includes any and all types of delivery.

EFFECT Sec. i-iv. After the pitcher presents the ball, he may make any windup or arm motions desired, either in front of his body, above his head or behind his back, including stops and pauses in these motions.

- v. Once the pitcher begins his delivery motions, the umpire shall not give a call or signal for "Time" unless something unusual occurs.
- vi. The pitched ball must be released within 5 seconds from the time the pitcher has the ball and the batter has taken his position in the batter's box. From this point, the Umpire shall not give a call or signal for "Time" unless something unusual occurs.
- vii. Pitcher must face Home Plate on delivery of pitch.

5. **Sec. 5. TYPE OF PITCH PERMITTED.**

- i. The ball must be pitched underhanded at slow speed.
- ii. The pitched ball must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of Home Plate.
- iii. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground.

EFFECT Sec. 5. i-iii. The speed of the pitch and height of the pitched ball are left entirely to the judgment of the Umpire (**NOTE:** For sake of uniformity in decisions, any doubtful pitch should be ruled as an unfairly delivered pitch). The Umpire shall warn a pitcher who delivers a pitch with EXCESSIVE SPEED that repeating such EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH will cause the pitcher's removal from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game. A pitch that does not arc the full 3 feet as required (flat level pitch) may not be an EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH, but merely an Unfairly delivered Pitch.

- B. The league will be playing with a one-one count, and a courtesy foul.
- C. The pitching rubber distance shall be fifty feet. Base distance is 70 feet.
- D. Slaughter Rule - the league will abide by a 15 after 4, 12 after 5 run rule.

1. Flip/Flop Rule will be used: In the inning when the Run Rule for that particular program is exceeded and the home team is losing, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If the team (new visiting team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the Run Rule the game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below the Run Rule then the new home team will bat. If they subsequently score enough runs to exceed the Run Rule the game will be over. If they do not, the game will continue under that format. If the situation reverses, the teams would flip/flop again.

- 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. Only the manager may dispute the misuse of the re-entry rule. Any misuse of the re-entry rule will result in the illegally entered player 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. **If the wrong ball is hit, the play will be replayed using the correct ball**
- H. **Any male who draws a walk will receive two bases. If there are 2 outs and the next batter is female, she has the option of hitting or taking one base.**

SPECIAL CO-ED RULES

- A. Five men and five women play in the field 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 eight players. If you start a game with 9 or 10 players and a player becomes injured, you may play with one less. Example: 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 and women may bat regular-handed.
- E. Extra innings: International rule plus one pitch will be used.
- F. 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 Umpire Assignor for the Delmarva Softball Umpires Association (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, 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 can not supply an umpire). If a volunteer umpire completes the game, please submit their name for payment. Also contact Ed Russ or Steve Miller about this issue (410-430-9054 or 443-944-6085).

****CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE FIELDS OR STANDING IN ANY OF THE DOORWAYS FOR THE FIELD DURING GAMES. UMPIRES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCING THIS RULE.**

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

We will play a double elimination playoffs consisting of all teams which will be seeded by winning percentage.

Tiebreakers

- 1) Head to Head
- 2) Run Differential (between tied teams)
- 3) Division Record (if applicable)
- 4) Record versus other division
- 5) Coin Toss

AWARDS

The First place team during the regular season and the top three during the playoffs will be given team awards.

PROTESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.