

## 2010 Church League By-Laws

### **Game Schedules:**

1. Regular season games will be played on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
2. The season will start on May 16, 2011 for Youth and "A" Divisions. "B" and "C" will start on May 17, 2011.
3. We will be limiting the teams in each division on a first come first pay basis. "A" division will consist of 8 teams, "B" will be 16 teams, "C" will be 6 teams and youth will be 6 teams. Again this is a maximum number of teams per division.
4. Every team will be guaranteed 10 games.
5. Game times will be 6:15pm and 8:15pm. Early games must start on time unless you are short a player. The game will be forfeited if a team can not field a team by 6:30.
6. No inning will be started after 8:10pm for the early games. If the game is tied, it will be considered a tie.
7. Games will be seven (7) innings in length. A game is considered a legal game if at least 4.5 innings have been played, with the home team ahead; or five (5) innings if the home team is losing. When a game is cancelled, a Recreation and Parks staff person will be responsible for rescheduling. Both coaches will be notified of the rescheduled date and time.

### **Player/Roster Requirements:**

1. Minimum age is 13 by the end of the year.
2. In the youth division players must not reach the age of 18 by the end of the season. One adult will be allowed only if the team is a player short. He can not bat and his turn in the batting order will be considered an out. An adult may not play if the team has enough youth players.
3. All players on a Youth Roster will play in the game.
4. Rosters will be required for A-Division and must be turned in the first night of play. Names may be added anytime, but players must play in three regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. County players must be noted on the rosters. **First and Last names will be written in the scorebook. No nicknames.** B-Division teams are not required to submit rosters but are required to note any county players or A-Division players in scorebook.
5. Each "A" and "B" Division team is allowed to have three (3) current County players on the field at one time (i.e. Women's, Young Men's, Slow Pitch and Premier). Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture. A second violation will result in expulsion from the league.
6. "B" Division is allowed Three (3) "A" or County players on the field at one time
7. "C" division is allowed two (2) players on the field at one time that also play in the "A", "B" or County leagues. Those players must play with opposite hand.
8. Teams may play with nine (9) players but not eight (8). If you play with 9 players the 10<sup>th</sup> position is an out. If a tenth player shows up, they must go into the game immediately as the tenth batter in the lineup. If a team decides to borrow ball players, if short, the team will have to forfeit the game (even if more players show up later). Forfeit score is 7-0.
9. The DH will be allowed because it allows more people an opportunity to play.
10. If a pinch runner is used it should be someone that isn't already in the game. Otherwise it should be the person that made the last out from the previous inning and only used if the person is injured.
11. An EH (Extra Hitter) will be allowed in the "A" Division but the 3 County player is still enforced and can not be a 4<sup>th</sup> County player. If you start a game with an EH you must play the entire game with an EH. Otherwise that spot in the batting order is an out.

## **Division Movement**

1. The Church Softball League Commissioner has the option to consider moving the top two teams from one division up to another division as well as moving teams down a division based on previous years stats. Movement of teams will be decided and voted on at the first meeting.

## **Game Rules:**

1. There will be a limited arc of 6 to 12 feet.
2. There is no 3<sup>rd</sup> strike foul.
3. Umpiring will be left to the discretion of the managers.
4. There is a 15 run rule after 5 innings.
5. Free substitution will be allowed; however, it will be used only to encourage the use of more players, not to allow coaches to juggle their lineups. Therefore, a substitute must play in the field defensively before being allowed to bat. It is allowable to remove a player during the game and reinsert the player in a later inning, providing the player goes back onto the field during the teams defensive half inning.
6. Please refrain from intentional contact that might lead to injuring a defensive player when sliding into a base.
7. There is a 10 run rule in place for all divisions except for the last inning.

## **Playing Field:**

1. The pitchers mound will be 50 feet from home plate.
2. The distance between bases will be 65 feet.
3. The strike mats will be provided and MUST BE USED in all games. Mats are to be placed 4" behind the plate. (The width of the ball)
4. In lieu of an 8' circle we will begin using a 6' line across the pitching rubber. If the ball is hit through the line from the knees to the head it is an automatic out and the runners may not advance. Even if a ball is bounced before the line if it passes above the knees and below the top of the head it is an out.

## **Equipment:**

1. Metal Spikes are **forbidden**.
2. The home team will be supplied with game balls on the night of the game.
3. All divisions will use a .52 core ball.
4. Only ASA approved wooden bats are allowed in every division. Wooden composite bats are allowed. No Baseball bats.
5. Strike mats will be used in all games.
6. In the Youth League bats will be checked and marked for easy identification of use.

## **General:**

1. Coaches and managers should get together immediately to resolve any conflicts or interpretation of a rule.
2. After the game, every team is required to report the score to an employee in the concession area or the league commissioner.
3. No **drugs or alcohol** is allowed before, during or after the games while on county fields.
4. Smoking is not permitted within 50 feet of any athletic field.

5. No foul language will be tolerated at the games.
6. Coaches are asked to assist in cleaning there own dugout and bleachers after their game.
7. Parents that bring their kids to the games should keep an eye on their children. Keeping them out of the trees and off the Hall of Fame roof!

**Playoffs:**

1. All players must play in at least three regular season games before playing in the playoffs.
2. Play-off format:
  - a) "A" division will be Double Elimination with all teams being in the playoffs.
  - b) There will be no playoffs in the "B" or Youth Divisions this year.

**Play-off Tiebreaker criteria:**

- a) Head to Head competition.
- b) In the even of a three way tie, the formula will be defensive runs allowed involving games against each other.
- c) A coin toss.