

2017 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 1, 2017 for "A" Division. "B" and "C" will start on May 2, 2015.
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 12 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 cannot 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. 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.
3. Each "A" and "B" Division team is allowed to have three (3) County or out of 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.
4. "B" Division is allowed Three (3) "A" or County players on the field at one time
5. "C" division teams are not allowed any "A" division players or any county or out of county players. "C" division is allowed up to two "B" division players to move down to "C".
6. Teams may play with nine (9) players but not eight (8). For "A" Division only, if you play with 9 players the 10th 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.
7. The DH will be allowed because it allows more people an opportunity to play.
8. 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. Injured players are limited to singles.
9. An EH (Extra Hitter) will be allowed in the "A" & "B" Divisions but the 3 County player is still enforced and cannot be a 4th 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. "C" Division is allowed to bat through lineup with opposing team's agreement.

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 3rd 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 team's 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 per inning in place for all divisions except for the last inning.

Playing Field:

1. The pitcher's 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 top of the head to the ground it is an automatic out and the runners may not advance. The 6' line/circle is optional for "A" division games.

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. No Baseball bats. No metal 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 their 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 “A” Division 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 event of a three way tie, the formula will be defensive runs allowed involving games against each other.
- c) A coin toss.

Church Softball League Website:

<http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/churchleaguesoftball.asp>

Schedules and standings will be posted to this site.

Church League By-Laws revised February 22, 2017 at the annual meeting. In attendance and voting:

Thomas Reese	Hollywood UMC
Ethan Rickets	St. Johns
David Payton	St. Johns
Ryan Gray	St. Johns
Daniel Norris	Our Fathers House
Anthony Simpkin	Bridgeway
Amanda Squires	St. Georges Catholic
Rick McKay	Leonardtwn Baptist
Adam Samblanet	Point of Grace
Shawn Naegele	Southpoint

In attendance – Non Voting:

Tyrone Harris – Recreation and Parks
Mark Gillingham – Recreation and Parks

Adopted Feb 17, 2016