

Carroll County Church Softball League 2009 Rules

SPORTSMANSHIP

It is hoped by the League Representatives that the purpose of this League will be solely for fellowship and recreation. The League requests that each team perform to the height of good sportsmanship and that the competitive spirit not be allowed to overrun common sense and good fellowship.

PLAYERS

Age Limit: The minimum age limit for players will be no lower than 14 years of age and a player must be 16 years of age to pitch or catch.

Affiliation/Non-Affiliation: The majority of the players shall be affiliated with the church for which they are playing. Affiliation shall be defined as a regular attendee of the church represented. "Regular Attendee" shall be defined by each church individually. There shall be no more than 6 non-affiliates per team.

Roster: The roster for each team will be limited to 30. Roster members not affiliated with the church must be designated as such. A non-playing manager may be listed on the roster but will not be counted as one of the 30. Rosters must denote the manager and assistant manager. Preliminary rosters must be turned in to the Executive Committee of the League prior to the first game of the season. A final roster must be declared by the third week of the season. Any team not presenting a revised roster at this time shall be considered to have no roster changes. Additional players can be added during the season with the approval of the Executive Committee. Only those whose names appear on the final roster are eligible to play in the remaining games and/or the playoffs. A roster is required for all teams; Teams that do not turn in rosters before the start of the season will forfeit all games until a roster is received by the Executive Committee.

GAME

Game Time and Forfeit Time: The first game of all doubleheaders shall begin promptly at 6:30 or 8:30 p.m. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME! Eight (8) players shall constitute enough players to start a game. The forfeit time for the second game shall be 7:00 p.m. For late games scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. forfeit time for game two shall be 9:00 p.m. Two complaints reported to the League Commissioner will result in possible action by the Executive Committee, possible probation, forfeiture, etc. A team that forfeits will be required to pay the entire cost (\$50) of the umpire that night.

Time limit: All games will be subject to a one hour time limit. A game may end in a tie if 7 innings have been completed and the hour time limit is up, at the discretion of the umpire.

OFFICIAL RULES

Regular slow-pitch softball rules as set forth in the "ASA Rule Book" will be observed with the only exceptions being those indicated on these sheets, and specifically as follows (as voted on February 25, 2007):

Height of Pitch: This league will observe a height of pitch of 6-12'.

Bases: This league will observe a distance of 65' between bases and will use a double first base.

Pitching: All pitches shall be thrown with at least one foot on the rubber using an uninterrupted standard slow pitch delivery (as per ASA rules).

Bats: This league will utilize the ASA Restricted Bat List as a means for determining which bats may be used for league play.

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UMPIRES

A League-provided umpire shall officiate any game played. Each team will be responsible for providing ½ of the umpires pay per game. The teams shall pay the umpire before the game begins. Any team that does not pay the umpire shall forfeit the game, and be responsible for the full amount of those games forfeited.

OFFICIAL BALLS

Regulation restricted flight softballs shall be used (Maximum 44 core, mid compression). Teams shall provide one new and one "as-new" ball for each set of doubleheaders. The standard league softball shall be an ASA or USSSA approved 12" softball. Female players have the option of using an 11" ASA or USSSA approved ball if they wish.

RAIN

All games scheduled for play at the Carroll County Sports Complex will be subject to rainouts as called by the Complex Manager. During rain events, managers should call the Complex weather line at 410-857-4832. The Complex will announce closure by 5:30 p.m. Decision to play during weather events for games scheduled at other fields will be at the discretion of both managers who are scheduled to play at those locations. Decision must be made by 5:30 p.m.

Rainouts and other postponements shall be made up on the first available BYE night on the League schedule, on the fields and at the times those games were originally scheduled to be played. In the event that more than one rainout or postponement occurs before the next schedule bye, then the teams shall make those games up on the next scheduled BYE. Should all BYE nights built into the schedule be used, every effort should be made to make up games on available nights at the Community College or at the Sports Complex.

Lightning: Lightning strikes will result in a 20 minute delay of game. Teams must leave the field, benches, and bleachers for a lightning delay. Games may resume upon a consecutive period of 20 minutes without a lightning strike. The umpire reserves the right to cancel a game due to excessive lightning delays. A lightning delay on one field shall be enforced on all fields.

PROTESTS

A Board of Arbitration will be composed of the Officers of the League. In the case of protest the team managers will meet with the officers. The game will continue from the point of protest, if upheld. Protests shall be reported to the Board of Arbitration within 24 hours, if at all possible.

REPORTING GAME RESULTS

Both managers shall be responsible for reporting the results of all games to the League Scorekeeper, within 24 hours of the completion of the game(s). This should be done either via e-mail, telephone, or personally speaking with the scorekeeper. Repeated failure to report scores could result in possible forfeits or fines.

GENERAL

- No steel cleat shoes are permitted
- Any penalties assessed a team by the League shall be reported in a letter to the church represented by such team
- Any offensive player or base runner is disallowed from intentionally running into a defensive player that would have the ball attempting to make a putout. Intentionally running into also includes sliding high or out of the baseline to hit a defensive player. If this occurs, then the runner is out, and at the discretion of the umpire, ejected from the game, and all other runners return to their original bases.

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- The 15 run rule is in effect after the trailing team has batted four times; the 10 run rule is in effect after the trailing team has batted five times. This is not an option. This league will not utilize the flip-flop rule.
- A one ball and one strike rule shall be in effect during all games. A second foul ball with two strikes on a batter shall constitute an out.

EXTRA HITTERS

Up to five extra hitters may be allowed and shall be declared so by the team electing to use them at the start of each game. If a team starts with any extra hitters, they must end the game with the same number of extra hitters, barring injury. Extra hitters can be added at the end of the batting order **after the start of the game** up to a maximum of 15 batting positions.

SUBSTITUTION

Free substitution for any position player including extra hitters is allowed as long as the substitute and original starter bats in the same batting order position. At any point during any game should a player be unable to continue, due to injury, and no replacement is available, that spot in the batting order shall be stricken.

COURTESY RUNNER

A courtesy runner is allowed to run for an injured player after the injured player has successfully reached base. The courtesy runner must be a player who has not or is not already in the game, either as a player or a courtesy runner for another player. Once a courtesy runner is used, that player may only enter the game as a free substitution player with the injured player that he/she ran for. Should another player become injured during the game, continue to bat and need a courtesy runner, then the player who makes the last out before this new injured player bats, becomes the courtesy runner for this player, unless there is another extra player who has not or is not currently being used. In the event the injured player cannot continue, then a player that had been used as a courtesy runner can take his/her place, but now the player who makes the last out before the original injured player bats becomes the courtesy runner for this original injured player, again unless there is another extra player who has not or is not currently being used.

ALL STAR GAME

Teams must participate in the All Star Game unless they notify the All Star Organizational Committee that they will not participate. The League Executive Board is responsible for running the All Star Game.

TOURNAMENT

Players: If a player is on the final roster, he/she is eligible for the playoffs or tournament if he/she has played in at least 5 regular season games. The Executive Board is responsible for organizing and running the League tournament. All teams must turn in a tournament roster to the Executive Board noting all players who are eligible to play in the tournament.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LEAGUE

Fees: Each team will pay the agreed upon registration fee of \$25 which will be used for the disbursement of cash awards to the first and second place teams in each division.

Light and Field Fees: The payment of the light and field fees shall be made by the method determined by the Executive Committee.

If any fees due the League are not paid in full by the third week of the season, every game thereafter is forfeited until the full fee is paid.

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ATTENDANCE AT LEAGUE MEETINGS

Teams must attend all meetings (this need not be the manager). Failure to do so may result in a league imposed fine of \$25 per meeting missed.

PROBATION

Probation will be levied against any team, not to punish that team, but to help a team to fall in line with League rules and objectives. Probation will be levied against teams not abiding by League bylaws, against teams that are repeatedly reported for unsportsmanlike conduct, and against teams that have not paid all fees and fines by established deadlines. After one year of probation, the status of those teams will be assessed by the Executive Committee, with those teams possibly being removed from the League.

SCORE BOOKS

Each team shall be responsible for keeping a scorebook for each game. Lineups shall be written in ink and first and last names must be used. The reason for this rule is that, in the event the eligibility of a player for Tournament play is questioned, the Tournament Coordinator can review the scorebook of the team in question to determine the eligibility of said player.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, coaches, and managers will be required to sign a League Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct must be turned in to the Executive Board before the first game of the season. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of games.

All players, coaches, managers, and fans will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct. As voted on during the 2006 season, first violation of the Code of Conduct will result in an automatic two (2) game suspension from League competition. Suspension entails not be allowed in the Sports Complex facility during the suspension. A second violation by a player will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season, and, at the discretion of the Executive Board, the team manager can be suspended for the following two (2) games.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A President and a Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected for a two (2) year term after an odd number season. 1st and 2nd Alternates shall be determined by order of succession every year, with positions alternating from different teams in the League. No team may have more than one (1) representative on the Executive Board.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2009:

President:	Tim Edwards, Westminster United Methodist
Secretary/Treasurer:	Matt Purkins, New Windsor Presbyterian
1st Alternate:	Charlie Claggett, Westminster Baptist
2nd Alternate:	Brandon Dillon, Grace Lutheran

Order of succession to the 2nd Alternate position in subsequent years:

Ellicott City Assembly of God
Life Point I
New Hope Fellowship Chapel
Life Point II
1st United Methodist Church of Hanover
New Teams for 2010 in order of entry to league (if applicable)
Union Bridge Brethren
St. John's Catholic
Ascension Episcopal
Westminster United Methodist
Westminster Baptist
New Windsor Presbyterian
Grace Lutheran