

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CHURCH SPORTS LEAGUE

## SOFTBALL RULES

REVISION-6 April 10, 2025

### General Rules for the Rantoul Sports Complex

#### John 13:34-35

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

As a church sports league our primary purpose is to glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the interaction/fellowship of team sports. We consider ourselves an outreach and evangelistic tool for all Champaign County churches, and we encourage all area churches to take an active role in building relationships with those in the community through softball. It is not a requirement but we strongly encourage all players to be associated in some way with their host church, although we do require that coaches/managers are members of their team's church.

We are serious about our role in encouraging others to follow Christ by showing His love as mentioned in John 13:34-35. In an effort to keep this attitude in our league and bring about a consistent family friendly atmosphere, any unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Each incident will be reviewed by CCCSL officials along with the Rantoul Rec Department and then a determination of appropriate action(s) will be made.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any speech, action or deed that does not foster a constructive resolution to a situation and/or exhibits disrespect toward participants.

This conduct includes the following, although is not limited to:

- Cursing while on the field and in the dugout, including any foul language that shows disrespect to the opposing team or umpire.
- Throwing bats or any equipment in anger.

- Physical contact with any participant or spectator out of anger.
- Any conduct the umpire determines as inappropriate that will warrant ejection from a game such as taunting, fighting or any disruptive behavior, including confronting an umpire or player with threats on the field or in parking lot, etc.

Team managers/coaches - you are responsible for the conduct of your players. Remember, this is a church league and it is imperative that we as participants in the CCCSL hold our actions to the highest standard possible while representing Christ on and off the field.

**NOTE: CCCSL will be regulated by the ASA/USSSA slowpitch softball rules with the exceptions of the following which have been added or changed to reflect the safety and attitude of our church league.**

1. A CCCSL waiver/roster sheet has to be filled out and turned in to league officials prior to the start of the first game of the season. Any team failing to do so will forfeit each game until it is turned in. For any player that's not at the first game will have to fill out an amended waiver/roster sheet before his/her first game. A player can only be listed on one men's division team. Any player listed on two rosters will not be eligible to play the remainder of the season. If you are using subs from another team they are not required to sign your team's waiver since they should already be on a roster. Players can be registered on a competitive co-rec team and a men's team. You can only be listed on one men's roster. You can only be listed on one competitive co-rec roster. You can be listed on both a men's team and either a co-rec A team or a co-rec B team but not both A & B. When you sub you have to fall into the guidelines of what division you are eligible to play in. (men's A, B & corec A) ( men's C, D & corec B )
2. All players must at least be going into high school (or 16 yrs of age) in the fall to participate in the Champaign County Church Sports League. Players under the age of 18 must have a parent sign a parental/guardian consent form.
3. Eligible players: Each player is required to play in at least 2 games during the regular season to be eligible for the league tournament at the end of the season.

4. When adding a player to your roster during the season the new player must sign the waiver form and make sure Jerry Johnson or Mike Moutray have received a physical or digital copy before 5:00 pm that Monday before their first game. If it is found that a player has played in a game before being eligible then your team may have to forfeit the game. Remember, you cannot add any players to your roster after your team has completed its 8th game of the season. Please make sure that the info on the waiver form is legible, especially their name, phone number and team name. Below are league officials email addresses and phone numbers so you can send waiver forms to. You can also have new players fill out form on softball page of [cccsportsleague.com](http://cccsportsleague.com).

Jerry Johnson - [jjfriendlyspirit@yahoo.com](mailto:jjfriendlyspirit@yahoo.com) or 217-649-0418

Mike Moutray – [moutray51@gmail.com](mailto:moutray51@gmail.com) or 217-369-9440

5. Each team must have a minimum of 7 roster players from their own team to play. You can then pick up one player from another team to make it 8, which you have to have 8 players to be able to start the game. If not, it is a forfeit.

NOTE : If you are picking up subs from other teams to fill your lineup, please follow the guidelines listed below:

6. You can pick up eligible subs from other teams to make a 10-man roster only. If you have 10 players from your roster you cannot pick up a sub. You cannot add subs and then have your players from your team's roster DH, or use a sub as a designated hitter. Also, subs are only allowed during the regular season. You cannot pick up subs during the tournament. You must use only eligible roster players for tournament play.
7. You are allowed to pick up subs from only certain divisions. A player is allowed to sub for another men's team only with a team within the same division that he/she plays in or with a team in a higher ranked division.

Here is a guideline for picking up subs from other divisions:

- Men's A players can only sub for men's A teams and co-rec A teams only.
- Men's B players can only sub for men's B and A teams and co-rec A teams only.
- Men's C players can only sub for men's C, B and A and co-rec A & B teams only.
- Men's D players have no subbing restrictions.
- Co-rec A and Co-Rec B have no subbing restrictions.

c. If you have subs and you have a player that arrives late and is eligible to enter the game, the sub can stay in the game as long your roster for the game does not exceed 10 players.

d. All men's divisions are now allowed to have up to 2 EH hitters.

e. All Co-Rec teams are allowed up to 4 EH hitters, although you must follow the (guy/girl), (girl/girl) or just (girl) options. Never a guy or two guys as a EH. If you have 1 extra guy than girls, you must take an out for the empty girl spot in the line-up.

Also, if you have only 9 with 5 guys and 4 girls the 10<sup>th</sup> spot will be an automatic out.

d. In men's D division, teams are not limited to the number of players they can bat in their line-up, although they can only have 10 players on the field.

8. Lineups are to be turned in to the opposing team manager prior to game time. Late players cannot enter the game unless they are listed in the lineup prior to start of their game. If the game starts with a player in the lineup who is not present, a decision must be made when that player can enter the game. If you start the game and you have a player that has not shown up to start you will have to take an out at the time of that players at bat until the player shows up and enters the game. If the game starts, and a late player shows, and he/she is not listed on the lineup card at the start of the game, player cannot enter the game. A late player can only take the field when play has stopped, and a time out has been called by the umpire. If a team has substitutes, they should be on the team's line-up card and listed as a substitute even if the player is late.

9. NO METAL CLEATS! ONLY PLASTIC CLEATS, TENNIS SHOES OR TURF SHOES CAN BE WORN ON THE FIELD! Although due to possible injuries related to plastic cleats on turf playing surfaces it is recommended that turf shoes are the best option.

10. Slaughter rule: If a team is getting beat by the slaughter rule which is a 20 run lead after 3 innings, 15 run lead after 4 innings or 10 run lead after 5 innings, the game is over. Teams can continue to play until 10 minutes prior to the next game start time without an umpire. The slaughter rule also applies during tournament.

11. All protests must be done within the 48hr time frame and within the guidelines of the ASA/USSSA. When making a protest, you must bring it to the umpire's attention. Once all evidence has been reviewed by CCCSL officials from all parties involved, a final decision will be made.

12. All rules in Champaign County Church Sports League will follow the ASA/USSSA rules and guidelines unless specified in CCCSL rules.

13. Many products once stamped with the ASA logo are now stamped only with USSSA Softball logo. The specifications have not changed, the rules have not changed, only the logo has changed. Bats and balls with the USA Softball stamp ARE legal for USSSA play.

\*Bats used in senior leagues will be banned.\*

14. Any disputed calls by an umpire, should only be discussed with the umpire by the coach/manager or designated assistant. Any player found arguing a call with an umpire that is not a designated coach/manager of that team can be ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpire. **Nor are you allowed to address the umpire away from the field, such as in the parking lot at any time.** This could be considered verbal abuse and physical intimidation. This is definitely not tolerated and the player involved in this type of altercation would be banned from the park complex indefinitely. If a player is ejected from the facility and refuses to leave in a timely manner that player's team's game could be declared a forfeit.

15. Female players can play on men's teams.

16. Any team that may indicate that they are obviously overqualified in their division after the season starts, league officials will determine if changes should be made by moving those teams to different divisions. **One of our goals in this league is to make it as competitive as possible for all teams involved.**

17. Please look at the following guideline for the make-up of teams based on park district players.

Men's D teams should have up to 0 Park District players on its team

Men's C teams should have up to 1-2 Park District players and no more

Men's B teams should have up to 3-4 Park District players and no more

Men's A teams does not have a limit, although you cannot add players to your team who you know should not be in that division. Safety is especially important in our league and that is the reason for us to have this guideline in CCCSL.

**Note: This is a church league so when recruiting new players please keep that in mind.**

## 18. Playing Rules

a. Men's and competitive co-rec games are 7 innings and each will use a running clock.

**Umpires will start the clock once the pitcher has thrown the first pitch.**

Games are 55 minutes long unless the game falls under the slaughter rule.

If time expires before the next inning starts the game is considered over.

The next inning officially starts when the home team from the prior inning makes the third and final out and as long as there is time left on the game clock.

Games cannot end in a tie and games will continue with extra innings until a winner is declared.

- b. All divisions will use the 52 core/300 compression 12-inch softball which is ASA approved.
- c. For all Co-Rec divisions and Men's B, C and D divisions there is a commitment line (marker) halfway between 3<sup>rd</sup> and home plate. Once a runner touches the line or passes the marker, the runner has committed and must advance to home. If the runner decides to return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base the runner will be called out. If the umpire has determined that the runner did not commit past the commitment marker then the runner will be allowed to return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Also, for Co-Rec A and B, along with Men's B, C and D divisions an extra base will be located in front of the home plate. The front base is used for the catcher while home plate is for the runner. There are no tags and should not be any contact at home. If there is contact on a play at home the umpire will make a call based on who initiated the contact. This is implemented in order to keep from having collisions at home that could cause serious injuries. A division will not have a commitment marker or extra base at home. Contact is allowed.
- d. Each batter starts with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
- e. CCCSL uses the courtesy foul, which means that a batter can have 2 fouls on the second strike before being called out.
- f. The pitch height range is 6 to 10 feet. The umpire will call an illegal pitch if it fails to be within this range. A strike mat will be used and any pitch within the 6-10 foot height range that hits the mat and home plate will be called a strike. If a pitch that hits home plate will not be called a strike.
- g. Men's teams in all divisions can use 2 EH's in their lineup.
- h. Co-Rec teams can have up to 14 in their batting line-up, which should have 7 guys and 7 girls. If a team has 9 players and 5 guys and 4 girls the 10<sup>th</sup> spot is an automatic out.
- i. Outfielders cannot play on the infield, or at Rantoul Family complex on the brown part of the infield.

- j. Any fair ball hit into the outfield and ends up in or under the portable fences stored in foul territory of the outfield should not be played and the batter will automatically be awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

#### 19. Home run rule:

- a. Men's A division has a 3 homerun progressive rule. Example - if a team has 3 home runs during a game, that team cannot have another home run until the opposing team has 3. Once each team has 3 homeruns (these are only over the fence homeruns. Inside the park homeruns do not count with this rule.), then the 1 homerun progressive rule applies.
- b. All other divisions will have a 1 homerun progressive.

#### 20. International tie-break rule:

- a. This rule is for all extra-inning games. Each team will start each extra inning game with a runner at 2nd base. This runner must be a player who made the last out in the previous inning.

#### 21. Substitute Runner:

- a. Substitute runners are allowed for the pitcher and one other runner in each inning when necessary in all men's divisions.

In Corec only, you can have 2 substitute runners and does not have to be the pitcher.

Substitute runners must be a player from the line-up. If there is an injured player during his/her at bat the substitute runner must be a player who is listed on the team's official line-up/batting ordersheet. The injured runner who left the game may re-enter but must come into the same spot of the batting order. If a team has an injured player,

and there are no substitutes available on the team's bench, then the following will take place:

- b. The player who made the last out will come in as a runner for the injured player, and it has to be the same gender. An injured player must be removed for at least one entire inning of play, or one full inning of defensive and offensive play before entering the game,

c. NEW: If a team has a player on their roster who has a physical injury that hinders their running ability and is needed to be on the team's game time line-up, before the game starts the coach of that team can present this to the umpire and opposing team coach to request a substitute runner. If agreed upon the substitute runner has to be a player that's in the team's line-up and had made the last out. This rule is to be used only for players with an obvious physical handicap. Not intended to be used to insert your fastest runner.

#### 22. Competitive co-rec Rules:

- a. Teams must have at least 7 regular roster players from your team to play, and a minimum of 8 players in order to play an official game or it's a forfeit.

b. If a co-rec team is short on players, you can play with 5 guys and 4 girls. However, you will have to take an out in the batting order when that spot is due to bat.

c. You can pick up subs from other teams to make 10 during the regular season. Subs cannot be a EH. Subs cannot replace roster players. During the tournament teams cannot pick up subs. Only players listed on a team's roster are eligible to play in the tournament.

d. If a male batter is walked, intentional or not, he proceeds to 2nd base. Runners already on base advance accordingly. The next female batter will hit as normal. However, if there are 2 outs when a male batter walks, the female batter has the option to either take a walk or bat as normal, although the umpire must be informed of that decision before the female batter enters the batter's box.

- e. Defensive alignment: Ten players (five male and five female) with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and outfield and one male and one female as pitcher and catcher.
- f. Instead of teams being forced to have females in both the left outfield slot and left- side infield position, you are allowed to have one girl on the left side of the field at all times. This means that there must be a girl playing one of the following positions: left, left-center field, shortstop, or third. If a team is playing with 9 players or less this rule still applies.
- g. Once your game is complete, please send scores to Jerry and Mike as soon as possible, preferably before you leave the sports complex. One of us will be at the complex during the whole evening.

## **ADDENDUM**

### **2025 ADDED RULES**

1. This rule applies to C division and CoRec teams:
  - a. Base runners rounding 3<sup>rd</sup> base heading home will now have to touch a runner's plate which will be placed between home plate and the backstop. There's still a commitment line (or cone) and if a runner passes this line, runner has to commit to running home and must touch the runner's plate. If a throw is caught by the catcher and touches home plate before the runner touches the runner's plate, the runner will be called out. There is no tag rule in C and CoRec so if a runner is tagged on a play at home the umpire will call the runner safe.
  - b. A division only: There is a no commitment line or cone in this division. And there is no extra base at home. Runners must touch home plate (white front plate) and not the black mat. Black mat is used only as part of the strike zone, not for runners.
2. Men's A1 and A2 divisions will have a playoff at the end of the season and the champion of each of those divisions will receive a t-shirt, and then the winner of



A1 and A2 will play in the championship game and the winner will receive a championship hooded sweatshirt/jacket.

The same will be for C1 and C2 divisions. The winner of playoffs in each of those divisions will receive t-shirts and then play for the C division championship. The winner of C division championship game will receive hooded sweatshirts/jackets.

3. Substitute runners: Each team is allowed to have two substitute runners per inning. One is allowed for the pitcher and the sub must be a player who had made the last out. Substituting for the pitcher is optional, although if you do not utilize a sub for the pitcher you can only have one substitute runner that inning. The second substitute runner in that inning can be any player you choose off the active line-up.

If you bat around in an inning that same runner used for the pitcher previously must be used again for the pitcher. It does not matter for the second runner.

4. As always, Jerry and Mike will make necessary adjustments to divisions if needed during the season. Our goal is to ensure fair competition by adjusting team divisions for a competitive balance.
  - In CoRec, with only 5 teams, we may make adjustments after a couple weeks of the season in order to make the games more competitive, which could be starting weaker teams with added runs or other possible advantages for weaker teams.

5. Illegal bats are bats the do not have ASA,USU, or USSSA stamped on them. SENIOR bats now allowed for only for seniors 55 and older.

**John 13:35** - By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

**Romans 15:5** - May God, who gives us patience and **encouragement**, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.