



Town of Sawmills

2024 Church League Softball Rules

Parks and Recreation Staff

Daniel Bowman – Athletic Programs Specialist

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- **Rosters**

- The roster for each team will allow any church member approved by the pastor to be placed on the roster and the roster will be due with the entry fee upon acceptance into the league. A date will be set for one week after regular season play starts, and at that date no names will be added to a roster. Managers and coaches that do not play will not be considered on the roster, but if they do play, will be placed on the roster.
- Each team should designate a team representative to be registered with Town of Sawmills Parks & Recreation. That person will be the first line of communication between the team and the Parks & Recreation Dept. Keep in mind that this representative will be the sole representative of the entire team. If there is any issue or violation of the rules this person will be contacted.
- Requires that all active members of church on the roster attends the church you are representing. Although church is not always defined by a building, for this purpose it does require a physical address. Church teams will also require a pastor signature saying that all active church members on roster faithfully attend the church.
- Each team will be allowed 6 non-members on roster.
- In order to play players must be minimum 14 years of age. If you are under 18, a parent or guardian must complete a consent form.

- **Player Code of Conduct**

- Team representatives will be held responsible for the conduct of their players and fans on and off the field. This person should know poor sportsmanship or continued misconduct could cause the team to be removed from the league.
- Use of alcohol and tobacco in any form will not be tolerated. Any player found to be drinking or under the influence of alcohol will be removed from the game and dismissed from the league. The same rules will apply for any use of tobacco or vaping.
- Use of Profane or Vulgar language will not be tolerated from players, coaches, or fans. Players and coaches who use profane or vulgar language are subject to

ejection from the game and removal from the park. Spectators who use profane or vulgar language are subject to removal from the park.

- If a player is ejected from a game (for any reason), he/she must leave the park upon ejection and is suspended for their team's next 2 scheduled games. Failure to leave the park or excessive misbehavior could result in further disciplinary action of the player and/or team.
- If a player is ejected from a game two times during a season, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of that season.
- Anyone involved in a fight in the league will be suspended from all Parks & Recreation Adult Athletic Leagues for at least one (1) calendar year from the date of the incident.
- Anyone charging an umpire to question a call (regardless if contact is made) will be removed from the game.
- **Arguing a judgement call / decision of an umpire is not permitted and may result in an ejection and removal from the game.**
- **The Game**
 - There will be an established time limit of 1 hour. Therefore, a game will consist of 7 innings or of 1 hour, whichever is less. The time limit begins when the first pitch of the game is thrown. When the time limit is up, the inning will always be completed if necessary. There is not a "close game rule." When time is up and the inning is complete, the game is finished. This remains the same, even in tournament play.
 - Regular season games may end in a tie.
 - Players under the age of 16 must play in the outfield only.
 - Any team not ready to play when scheduled to do so forfeits the game. To be considered "ready to play" the team must have a minimum of 9 players present and the team rep or coach must turn in a completed line-up card.
 - The Team Representative or Coach must turn in a filled-out line-up card at the pre-game meeting. The line-up card must have the player's first and last name. The line-up card is your team's batting order.
 - Softball is a 10-player game. However, to encourage play, we will allow you to start and end a game with 9 players. (6 infielders, 4 outfielders)
 - You can have no more than 6 infielders and 4 outfielders at any given time.
 - 2 Pitches will be allowed – No foul balls.
 - Pitcher's will throw from behind an L-Screen.
 - Pitcher's can not double clutch when pitching.
 - If the batter hits the L-Screen on the second pitch the batter is out.
 - Teams will be allowed 1 homerun per inning.
 - Any homerun hit after the inning limit will result in an out.
 - When starting a game with 9 players, the 10th player may be added at any time but must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. When starting a game with 10 or more players, no more players can be added to the line-up. They may only enter the game as substitutes.
 - Teams may drop to 9 players without penalty for any reason except an ejection. If their legal players present, you must play 10. When playing "Short-Handed" (less

than you began with or fewer than 10), due to an ejection, if there is no legal substitute, you will be charged an out for that spot in the lineup.

- We will run a 12-person batting line-up, with two designated hitters in order to encourage participation.
- There is a run rule of 20 runs after 3 innings 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings of completed play.
- Pinch Running is allowed. However, if a pinch runner is elected and their turn to bat comes up in the lineup, that runner is out. A pinch runner once checked in on base stays a pinch runner until the third out is called, or the runner scores.
- Leads and stealing will **NOT** be allowed.
- Protests rule: Any player protest must be before the last pitch of the game. A mark will be made in the book, the game will stop, and play will not continue until the player is deemed legal or not legal. Any rule protest must be done before the next pitch is thrown. The recreation staff will make a decision on if the protest is valid the next day, and if it is valid, the game may be played from the starting point of the protest.
- **Equipment**
 - No metal cleats are allowed and shoes must fully cover the feet.
 - Teams will provide their own approved bats that have USSA (New Stamp), ISA, or ASA Stamps.
 - All players in the field must use a glove.
- **Tournament Play**
 - After a minimum nine game regular season, a double elimination tournament will be played in each division. The number of teams in each division will decide how many different tournament brackets are created (ex. lower, upper).
 - Regular season standings will determine seeding for each tournament. If there is a discrepancy in the seeding, total runs scored in the season will be the deciding factor.
 - All tournament games will be 1 hour 15 minutes.
 - In order to participate in tournament play, a player must be on the roster finalized at the beginning of the season.
 - There will be no time limit on championship games, however run rule will still be in effect.
 - Leading up to the “if” championship game, the higher tournament seed will always be the home team. If necessary, and the “if” game is played, the home team will be decided by a coin flip.

Bases: 70ft. Pitching Distance: 50 ft. Softball Specifications: 44 COR / 375lbs 12”

****REMEMBER THIS LEAGUE IS AN OUTREACH AND THE OVERALL GOAL IS TO FELLOWSHIP AND HAVE FUN!**