



CFC CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2023 Rules & Regulations

Fields:

All games will be played at the Christian Family Centre on either Field 2 or 3

- 1800 U.S. 223 Adrian MI 49221

Specifications:

- 65' bases
- 50' pitching
- 275-line for homerun

Equipment & Regulations:

- Teams provide their own equipment
- Bats: Must be ASA/ single wall/softball regulation. No composite bats or handles
 - League provides bats that meets requirements
- League provides balls (12in ball / 52 Core 300 Compression)

Rules and Format:

- Each game shall begin with a prayer (**home** team shall lead prayer)
- To be eligible to play, each player must attend, regularly, their respective church.
 - Regular basis: 3+ services a month
- Teams are encouraged/expected to share a devotion before or after game (recommended 5 minutes).
 - A team may lead devotions for both competing teams.
- Minimum age shall be at coaches/team managers discretion, 16+ recommended.
- There shall be no smoking, alcoholic beverage, or profane language used during the game. Any players who violate the above code of conduct may be asked to leave the game per Sports Manager
- League Tournament will tentatively be held July 31, Aug 3, Aug 5 (weather dependent)
- Regular season play will consist of mat play (softball pitch that strikes the mat with a 6' to 10' arc is a strike).
- Teams will self-manage strike/ball counts (no ump provided) HOME TEAM provides ump for their team
- 6 inning/60-minute games
- Teams typically will play 2 games/ scheduled day (may wait up to 60 minutes between games).
- Teams must bring their own gloves (Bats must be ASA/ single wall/softball regulation). No composite bats or handles) & league balls provided.
- No metal cleats
- 3HR limit per team per game, any HR after the 3rd HR results in a single
 - Homerun = ball landing past the HR painted line
- A ball rolling past the HR line results in a ground-rule-double (integrity: outfielders call)
 - 2 Lines will be painted in outfield (Co-ed line & HR line)
- No intentional bunting
- Arc pitching; 6' minimum pitch height nothing higher than 10'
- Plate Mat used for ball/strike calls

- Walking Players: Players are encouraged to swing at *close* pitches (although balls will happen & may be unhittable)
- Mercy Rule: 15 up after 3, up 12 after 4, 10 after 5
- 3-2-1 count rule – each batter enters the box with a count of 1 ball & 1 strike. After 3 balls, the batter is awarded a base. 2 strikes = an out. Each batter is awarded a courtesy foul ball. If a batter has 2 strikes and 3 fouls hits the foul ball, they are given 1 extra strike. Any foul ball hit with 2 strikes on the batter, after the courtesy foul, is an out.

In Game Rules:

- Book: Each team is required to keep book & check w/ opposing team after ea. inning (*Home team: Official Book*)
- *ONE* courtesy foul ball per batter. After that, a ball will be considered an out.
- A batter running to first must touch the outside bag if there is a play at first (a throw to first). If the runner plans to run to 2nd, with no play at 1st, they may use the inside bag (**Double base at first base**)
- If there is a play at 1st, the 1st baseman must use the inside bag. If they use the outside bag, whether intentionally or not, interference is called, and the runner is safe.
- Obstruction: Defensive players cannot block any base without having possession of the ball.
- A batter is NOT awarded 1st base when hit by a pitched ball.
- A strike in slow pitch is any legally pitched ball touching any portion of home plate or the mat.
- Courtesy Rule: A courtesy runner will be allowed upon the opposing team's approval and will be the player who made the last out. Teams may decline to allow courtesy runners at any time. Each request for a courtesy runner is independent from the previous & must be approved separately.
- No “leading off” while on base (must touch the base until contact is made by the batter)
- No stealing bases.
- Leaving the base early on contact (fair ball only) results in that baserunner being out; Dead ball will be called, and the pitch will be replayed, unless it is the 3rd out of that inning.
- Leaving the base on a swing and miss does not result in an out
- Outfield has co-ed lines (When a female is batting, outfielders must stand behind this line until contact w/the ball is made).
- Flow of Game
 - Teams are encouraged to swing at close pitches rather than seeking to get a walk
 - Pitchers must keep games moving rather than taking an unreasonable amount of time between pitches
- A player may be ejected by Sports Manager due to behavior, comments, or other similar reasons. Each ejection can pertain to either just that game, that day, or the whole league. This will be determined by the severity of the incident. The ejected player will not be asked to leave the premises unless necessary. This player’s spot in the batting order remains open, resulting in automatic outs.

Team Roster & Rules:

- Rosters should be completed no later than week 2
 - If edits need to be made, teams may do so by contacting the Sports Manager directly.
- NO ADDS ALLOWED AFTER WEEK 3 (Exceptions may be allowed due to injuries)
- Playoffs – Tournament: Only players on the roster are eligible to play. All players must have played in at least (2) regular season games to be eligible to play.
- 8-person min roster size including at least 2 females.
 - Must play at least 2 girls in the field, but they can play anywhere (will not allow 7 or fewer)



- If team of 7 shows up, opposing team may offer enough players to field a team
- 10 players max on the field (6 males & 4 females)
- Teams must maintain a minimum of 2 females on the field (required).
- Players may only be registered on 1 team.

Line up & Game Time:

- Teams can field 10 players (4 females required), 9 players (3 females required), or 8 players (2 females required)
 - Batting order is guy/girl/guy/girl through team lineup
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- Females can play any position in the field (no infield/outfield requirements)
- Everyone on the roster *should* bat in a recurring batting order.
- No field playing time rules; Not everyone on your roster for a given game must play in the field
- Batting order must begin by alternating gender (if applicable) until one gender runs out (guy, girl, guy, girl).
- Game time is forfeit time; If your team is not on the field/in dugout by the scheduled start time, it will be a forfeit. This will only apply to ORIGINAL scheduled game times. If start times are altered for any reason (fast pace, slow pace, weather, etc.) there will be leniency.
- 6 inning/60-minute games

Substitutions:

- You may enter and exit field play multiple times throughout the game (please limit these field substitutions to between innings)
- A team that falls below 8 players at any point in the game, the game is over & results in a forfeit
- Games can be called and finalized after 4 complete innings due to weather, but only if the teams had an equal number of innings at bat

Safety rules for 2023:

- Players must sign a release of liability waiver that holds The Centre harmless if they suffer an injury or contract COVID-19 while on the premises of the League or Tournament.
- After a batter swings, making contact or not, if the bat is thrown (intentional or unintentional) BOTH teams receive a warning. Any further throws of the bat result in an out, even if it is the player's first offense.