



Currituck County Coed Church Softball League

2009 Rules and By-Laws

www.geocities.com/curritucksoftball

- **REGISTRATION** – Registration fee will be \$140 due on April 27.
 - **SEASON** – Season starts Saturday, May 9th.
 - **CHURCH ATTENDANCE** – All players must attend a minimum of 3 services per month during the season at the church they are playing for. A second church may join with a named church team to form one team as long as no more than two churches form together to field one team.
 - **ROSTER** – There is no limit to size of team roster but a photocopy of the signed roster must be submitted to the league prior to playing first game and **MUST** be signed by the Pastor or Pastors of the church or churches they are representing to verify all above players are in good standing with the church and the attendance guidelines. New players added to the roster after it has been submitted must have their names initialed by their pastor and called in to the league prior to game time in order to be eligible to play. **NEW ADDITIONS ARE REQUIRED TO SIT OUT ONE GAME AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE ROSTER BEFORE THEY CAN BE ADDED TO THE LINEUP.**
 - **PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY** – Rosters will be frozen before the last two weeks of the regular season. Players must have played in games in at least two weeks of the regular season to be eligible for playoffs.
 - **AGE LIMIT** – Age limit is 16 (15 with high school experience at the coach's discretion). All minors are required to have their parent or guardian's signature to participate.
 - **OTHER LEAGUES** – Players are allowed to play in other leagues.
 - **LOCATIONS** – Games will be played at Knapp Elementary.
 - **GAME TIMES** – Two games played each Saturday evening and game times are 5:30, 6:40, 7:50 and 9:00.
 - Official NSA rules (www.playnsa.com) will be used with the following additions, exceptions, and clarifications.
1. **UNIFORMS** - Teams are suggested to wear numbered uniform shirts. If they choose to not purchase uniform shirts, it is suggested that they wear the same color shirts for that team.

2. GAME BALLS - A yellow 12-inch red stitch, core 44, restricted flight softball will be used. New softballs will be purchased by the league and distributed to the each team prior to the beginning of the season. The home team will be responsible for supplying game balls for each game. (1 new and 1 good used at the start, as well as any lost foul balls during that game). Only balls provided by the league or the equivalent are acceptable.
3. BATS – For simplification and pictured lists we will follow the guidelines for bats according to ASA (www.asasoftball.com/about/certified_equipment.asp). All bats must meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard, and bear either the 2000 and 2004 certification mark and not be on the ASA non-approved list. “Grandfathered” bats are no longer authorized by ASA beginning in 2008. Baseball bats or fungo bats are illegal and will not be allowed.
4. SHOES - Shoes (sandals and flip flops not included) must be worn at all times. Plastic/rubber cleats are permitted. No metal cleats will be allowed.
5. BASES & PITCHING RUBBER - Bases will be set at the furthest set distance allowed on the field being played and set in the existing ground posts and the pitching rubber will be 50 and 46 feet from home plate on the front and back field respectively. During baseball season (when the pitchers mound is present), if both coaches agree prior to the start of the game, another location may be selected (it is not necessary for both pitchers to pitch from the same location).
6. TIME LIMIT - All games will have a one-hour time limit for seven innings. No new inning to start within five minutes of time limit. Game time will start at the first pitch. Umpires time will be the official time.
7. TIE GAMES - If a game is tied after seven innings or the one-hour time limit, and is agreed by both teams, one extra inning will be played. If the game is still tied after the extra inning, the game ends in a tie.
8. WEATHER - In the case of inclement weather or other harmful conditions, four full innings (or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) will constitute a full game.
9. UMPIRES - Each field will have three teams with two teams playing and the extra team supplying the umpires for the game they are not playing. (Recommend to have 1 plate umpire and 1 field umpire)
10. UMPIRE’S CALLS - All judgment calls made by an umpire are final, right or wrong. No appeals. No arguing a call or you will be automatically ejected for that game and one game following. Two ejections and that player will be subject to suspension for the rest of the season. Only rule interpretations may be protested, in a respectable manner, immediately following the issue in question. The umpire’s decision is final.
11. OFFICIAL SCORE - The home team will be responsible for the official book. Teams are encouraged to confer scores between innings. Winning teams will be responsible for reporting scores to league president no later than the Monday following the game(s).
12. PLAYERS - There must be a minimum of 4 female batters and fielders. In the event that there are not 4 females, the team will be charged an out in the absent female’s slot in the batting lineup up to a maximum of 2 outs each rotation. No more than 6 males can play on the field at any time. It is required that if one team is playing with 5 females that the opposing team, if players available, play with the equal amount of females for courteous competitive balance. Conversely, if a team only has 4 females that the opposing team, although they may have 5 or more females, may also play with 4 females for competitive balance.

13. LINE-UPS - Offensive batting order is the official line-up. Females must be alternated in the batting line-up between males and not batting back to back in the line-up (this includes carry over from the bottom to the top of the lineup). Defensive positions can be changed but the batting order must remain the same. In theory you could have a separate 10 defensive players from the batting line-up.
14. FORFEIT - There will be an automatic forfeit if a team cannot field minimum of 7 total players.
15. COURTESY CATCHER – If a team is only able to field 8 players or less, the opposing team must supply a courtesy catcher. The courtesy catcher will not be used to cover any plays, only to return the ball to the pitcher.
16. MERCY RULE - A 10 run “mercy rule” will be in effect if after 5 innings a team is leading by 10 runs or more. Only 4½ innings will be required if the home team is leading by 10 runs. A 15 run rule is in effect after 4 innings, and a 20 run rule after 3 innings. If a team cannot field a full team to start a game then they will bat first (as the visitor) and the 10 run mercy rule will start in effect immediately.
17. EXTRA HITTER - An extra hitter referred to as an “EH” is optional. A team may have either 1) a female OR 2) both a female and male as extra hitters in the line up. The EH will not play the field unless switched with a fielder and counted as starters. If the extra player(s) are used it must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the score sheet in the regular batting order. If a team starts the game with 11 or 12 players but finish with less than that number, the player or players removed from the line-up will be recorded as an out each time they were suppose to bat. If an “EH” is used, all 11 or 12 players must bat and any 10 can play defense. An “EH” may be substituted for at any time either by a pinch runner or a pinch hitter who then becomes the “EH”. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the batting line-up.
18. COURTESY RUNNER - One courtesy runner per inning is allowed. The runner must be a player, of the same gender, not in the game or made the last out.
19. RE-ENTRY - Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting position. A starting pitcher who is withdrawn can return to the pitching position for the remainder of the game. A player other than a starting player may not again re-enter the game after once being withdrawn. The only exception to this rule is if a team player is seriously injured.
20. BALLS AND STRIKES - Each batter will start with the count of one ball and one strike.
21. STRIKE MAT - A strike mat shall be placed directly behind the home plate. Any legally delivered pitch with the proper arc requirement that makes contact with any part of the strike mat will be called a strike. Any pitch that makes contact with both the strike mat and home plate simultaneously shall also be called a strike. The catcher must allow the pitch to hit the mat or the ground before returning the ball to the pitcher. If the catcher catches the pitch before it hits the mat or in any way obstructs the umpire’s view, the pitch shall be declared a ball. If the batter inhibits the ball from striking the mat in any way, the pitch shall be declared a strike. Any pitch, declared illegal by the umpire (not in the arc limit of 6 to 10 feet), hit by the batter shall be a live ball.
22. BATTERS BOX – There will be no batters box, however a batter must maintain a reasonable proximity to home plate. At a minimum, a portion of one foot must remain behind the front “plane of home plate when the bat comes in contact with the ball. Failure to do so will result in a call of “dead ball: and considered a foul, and a team warning will be issued. Further violations by any member of the offending team will be declared and “out”. The home plate umpire will be responsible for

making this call.

23. **FOULS** - A batter who hits a foul ball, including foul tips, after he/she has received a count of two strikes, will be declared out on the second foul (the first foul will be considered a “courtesy foul”).
24. **WALKS** - If a male batter is walked with a female on deck, he is automatically awarded second base and, if there are two outs, the coach has the option of walking the female batter or allowing her to take her at bat. If there are less than two outs, the female must bat.
25. **BUNTS OR INTENTIONAL CHOPS** - The batter will be called out if they bunt or intentionally chop at the ball. A Chopped ball is any ball that is swung at in a downward manner, with the intention of driving the ball sharply into the ground in front of him (or her). Please keep in mind that there are times when a batter may swing the bat “tomahawk” style at a high pitch. This is acceptable. If the ball is hit into the outfield or outskirts of the infield, then the ball was not “chopped” at. There are times (especially on the small field) when a batter may shorten his swing, or have a more “compact” swing in an attempt to keep the ball from going over the fence. This is also acceptable. This does not mean that every ball hit on the ground in the infield was “chopped” at. Keep in mind that these are only guidelines, and ultimately this is going to be a judgment call on the part of the umpire.
26. **STEALS** - No steals are allowed in slow pitch softball. A base runner may not leave the base until a pitched ball is hit. If the base runner leaves early, and the ball is hit, the umpire will declare the base runner out.
27. **HOME RUNS** - Only 2 home runs (untouched over the fence) per team per game allowed, all other untouched hits over the fence will be scored as an out.
28. **BASE RUNNING** - Under no circumstance will stand-up collisions, at any base, be tolerated. Sliding is strongly encouraged, but not required. **HOWEVER**, the responsibility of avoiding contact lies with the runner. If, in the umpires’ judgment, the runner fails to take the necessary steps to avoid contact, and causes contact, they shall call the runner out. On double play situations, runners tagged out at second must refrain from interfering with the throw to first base. Any interference by the base runner will cause the runner going to first base to automatically be called out for runner interference. Any excessive force used to tag a base runner out, or to force a fielder to drop a ball may warrant an ejection.
29. **INTERFERENCE** - A fielder (catcher also) has the right to go into the base path when A) he/she has the ball B) he/she is in the act of fielding the batted ball C) he/she is in the act of fielding the thrown ball. If accidental contact is made under these circumstances the umpires will decide if the runner will be awarded the next base. If the runner blatantly made the contact, then the runner will be called out.
30. **OBSTRUCTION** - If a defensive player illegally hinders a batter or base runner then the base runner will be awarded an extra base. A fake tag to induce the runner to slide is considered obstruction and the runner will be awarded an extra base.
31. **DEFENSE AGAINST FEMALE BATTERS** - Any defensive player considered as an outfielder by the umpire will not be allowed to step closer than 20 feet of the infield dirt when a female is batting until the female batter has actually hit the pitched ball.
32. **OUTFIELD FORCE OUT AT FIRST** - An outfielder stationed on the outfield grass at the time of the pitch may NOT initiate a throw to First Base to complete a force out of the batter-runner. If an illegal throw is initiated, the batter-runner is awarded First Base without liability to be put out. The

ball continues to be considered “in play.” Note: Once the batter-runner touches First Base, an out attempt may then be made on the batter-runner.

33. **OVERTHROWS & OUT OF PLAY** - When a ball is overthrown into foul territory, the advancement of the base runners is unlimited. The ball is considered in play and runners can be tagged out while advancing. Overthrown balls going beyond the out of play line will award base runners two bases from the last base they had touched when the ball was thrown. If a ball is carried out of play, the base runners are awarded one base at the time of the carry over. If a batted ball enters dead ball territory without being touched by a fielder, the ball shall become dead, and the batter-runner shall be awarded one base from the last base touched at the time the ball went out of bounds. The one exception occurs when a batter-runner has not yet touched first base at the time the ball goes out of bounds. In that instance, the batter-runner shall be credited with a ground-rule double and will be awarded second base.
34. If a batted ball enters dead ball territory after being deflected by a fielder, each base runner is entitled to two bases from the last base touched at the time of the deflection. Deflected balls shall be treated in the same manner as overthrown balls in this regard.
35. **INFIELD FLY RULE** - A batter is called out on an easily caught pop fly to any defensive player near or in the infield when there are runners on first and second or the bases are loaded and there are less than two outs. The batter is called out and all base runners advance at their own risk once the fly ball has been touched. When such a hit is made the umpire should immediately call “infield fly the batter is out”.
36. **PITCHING** - Each pitch must meet arc requirements of 6-12 feet from the ground. If a pitch does not meet these requirements then the home plate umpire may call “flat”, “top” or “illegal” and considered a ball. On an illegal pitch, if a batter swings it will then be considered a live pitch and play will continue from result of that swing. A pitcher must keep one foot in contact with the pitching rubber during the entire pitching motion.
37. **ALCOHOL / TOBACCO** – The facilities that we use, as well as the surrounding properties / parking lots are property of the Currituck County Board of Education and by law are 100% alcohol and tobacco free. This means that the use of any alcohol / tobacco product is prohibited as stated on numerous signs posted throughout the facility. The possession of alcohol is prohibited by law on any school property as well. These are not league rules; they are county laws and will be strictly enforced. Any player violating these laws will be given a warning. A second offense will result in forfeiture of that game or the last winning game played, if not in progress, for the offending players team. The offender will be required to leave the premises.