



Adult Church Coed Rules and Regulations

League Setup

1. The season will begin on the second-to-last Sunday in April.
2. Games will be scheduled on Sunday afternoons and some Thursdays (as needed). Games will be scheduled as double-headers whenever possible.

Church League Qualifications

1. Each coach shall file a roster sheet signed by the pastor of the team's sponsoring church.
2. Each church will set attendance policy for participation.
3. If a church does not have a team, players may play for another church registered in the league.

Rosters

1. Final Rosters are due on or before the team's first scheduled game.
2. Each team in the league shall have a minimum of ten (10) players and a maximum of thirty (30) players on the roster.
3. Players may be added or dropped from the roster during the first 2 weeks of the season by the head coach or pastor by email.
4. A church team fielding more than one team may be allowed to move a player from one team to another if one of the teams has lost players and cannot field a team. This may only be done once with each player. The Recreation Department must approve all changes.
5. Players must be at least 16 years of age by the team's first game.
6. A player may play on only one (1) team sponsored by the recreation department.
7. If a coach is also a player, he/she counts as a roster spot.

Rules for League Play

1. Regular season games will play 6 innings or 1 hour.
2. Games shall be played in accordance with United States Slow-Pitch Softball Association rules.
3. Pitchers mound will be set at 50' and the bases will be set at 70'.
4. All softballs will be 44 core, 375 compression or less, 12 inch, optic yellow softballs. NO exceptions. Both teams will furnish a new ball to start game and each team will hit their own ball
5. All softballs need to be sanctioned by USSSA, NSA or ASA. No exceptions. If an official determines that a team is using an illegal ball, the game will be an automatic forfeit.
6. All bats must be on the USSSA approved list. Bats banned by USSSA are considered illegal and are not allowed in this league. If a player is caught using an illegal bat during a game, he or she will be called out.
7. All players must wear a jersey with the team name on the front and number on the back. Colors don't have to match but the team's name on the front does.
8. No infield warm-up or batting practice will be allowed on the field. Also no hitting balls into any fences.

9. At least two (2) members of the opposite sex must be part of any team at all times during any game, (Example: 8 women and 2 men, or 2 women and 8 men). *See #13 below!
10. Two women cannot bat back-to-back unless a team is playing with more women than men. Batting order should be male-female-male-female, etc.
11. If a male walks, the female has the option of taking a walk or hitting. The male will be awarded second base. NOTE: If playing with more females than males the umpire must be notified before game for the purpose of this rule.
12. Each team is allowed up to two designated hitters or a total of 12 batters in the lineup.
13. Game may begin with only 9 players (ex. One (1) man and eight (8) women or one (1) woman and eight (8) men). In this case, the second missing opposite sex person must be listed in the lineup and will be counted as an out each time that spot comes to bat.
14. If a game begins with only nine (9) players, no substitution for the out player will be allowed for the remainder of the game and no designated hitters may be added. *Start with 9 finish with 9!
15. **Homerun rule: Each team will be allowed to hit 2 homeruns per game. Every homerun after the second homerun will be considered an out.**
16. On any play being made at any base, the runner must slide or avoid contact.
17. There will be a ten (10) run slaughter rule in effect at the end of the 4th inning.
18. A player will be out after two (2) strikes, or one (1) strike and two (2) fouls. A player will walk after three (3) balls.
19. A player can only re-enter a game once after being substituted and must be placed in the same spot in the batting lineup.
20. No metal cleats will be allowed.
21. In case of inclement weather, four (4) innings will constitute an official game. If the home team is ahead, three and one-half (3-1/2) innings will constitute an official game.
22. There will be a boundary line of 105 foot from the pitchers mound that each outfielder must play behind during a females turn at bat. The outfielder may cross the line only after the ball has been hit. The penalty for crossing the boundary line is an automatic base hit for the female batter and advance of force runners.
23. At no time is an outfielder allowed to throw out a female batter as she advances to first base.
24. The home-team scorekeeper will be the official score. Teams are encouraged to confer at the end of each inning to assure that the score is correct. The game official will collect the scores and report them to the recreation department.
25. Visiting team coach must turn in lineup to the home team scorekeeper fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the game.
26. Courtesy runners shall be allowed after the batter reaches first base. Courtesy runner must be the last batter out and of the same sex.
27. The recreation department will be solely responsible for all game postponements or reschedules.

Ineligible/Illegal Players

1. If a team is found using an illegal player, all games in which that player participated in will be declared a forfeit.
2. Teams found using an illegal player for the second time will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season and forfeit all games played.
3. A third offense and the team will be expelled from the league.

Conduct and Ejections

1. Coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of their players. Improper conduct on the part of the players may result in expulsion, suspension or forfeiture of a game.

2. If a player is ejected from a game, the player is automatically suspended for a minimum of one game. The recreation department may add games to this depending on the situation and what happened.
3. Any person pushing or striking an official will be banned from the league and subject to prosecution.
4. The coach of the suspended player will be notified by the recreation department.
5. Any players fighting among each other before, during or after a game or on County property will be banned from the league.
6. If a player or a coach is ejected from a game, that person must leave the premises immediately.
7. If, at any time, the conduct of a coach or manager is deemed detrimental and contrary to the best interest of the program, the individual shall be suspended by the recreation department from further participation.
8. Profanity shall be cause for immediate expulsion.
9. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on County property at any time.
10. Any individual who is disqualified from participation in this league is also disqualified from participation in any other activity sponsored by the Recreation Department for a period of one (1) year. At the end of that year, the Recreation Department will review the case and make a ruling concerning any future participation in recreation department programs.

Grace Period and Forfeits

1. In the event a team does not have nine (9) players at the scheduled time of the game, a ten (10) minute waiting period shall be allowed. These ten minutes will be included in the one (1) hour time limit. A team shall be allowed to play an official game with no less than nine (9) players.
2. If a team forfeits a game, they will receive a loss in the standings.
3. After the game has been declared a forfeit, both teams may mutually agree to play a game unofficially as a scrimmage with no affect on the standings.
4. The umpire will officiate the scrimmage, applying all normal rules and regulations.
5. After a team has forfeited two games, the team must pay a \$25 re-entry fee or the team will be dropped from the league. Each subsequent forfeit will result in an additional \$25 re-entry fee. If a team forfeits four (4) games they will be dropped from the league and the tournament.

Final Standings

1. If two or more teams are tied in the final standings, the following tie breakers will be used:
 - a. Teams record against each other.
 - b. Total runs allowed for the season.
 - c. Coin Flip
2. A tie in the final standings of league play for first place will be declared co-champions. Plaques will be given to first place and runner-up in both regular season and playoffs.

Postseason Play

1. Recreation Department reserves right to make tournament single elimination if season has run long due to reschedules.
2. Tournament games will be 6 innings or 1 hour, except for the championship and and-if games which will be 7 innings or 1 hour, 15 minutes.
3. All teams qualify for post-season playoffs.
4. The Parks and Recreation department has the authority to withhold a team from post-season play if the team has a history of forfeiting games or negative behavior throughout the season.

5. There is no minimum play requirement to be eligible for the playoffs. The player must be listed on the roster that is on file with the recreation department.
6. The mercy rule (10 runs after 4 innings except for the championship and and-if games) will be used during all postseason games.

Protests

1. Protests must be made to the umpire before the end of the game by the team manager.
2. The team manager making protest must notify the recreation department within 48 hours in writing.
3. Judgment calls are not protest able.
4. **Protest fee:** \$100.00, which will be returned if protest is upheld.

Postponements

1. In case of inclement weather during weekday games, a message will be placed on the game cancellation hotline at 992-0012 by 4:00pm on weekdays and 10:00am on Sunday morning.
2. Any games not called because of inclement weather by the time deadline will be made by the official at the field.

Schedules

Game schedules and reschedules will be posted online at www.botetourt.org/recreation.