

**BREVARD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
AND BREVARD CHURCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES & POLICIES
(Revised as of June 1, 2018)**

CHURCH DIVISION - PLAYING RULES & POLICIES

- A. *Palm Bay Local Rules & U.S.S.A. Rules apply (except the starting pitch count will be 1 strike and 1 ball). The pitching arc cannot be lower than 3 feet and cannot be higher than 10 feet. The pitch must have a slow projected arc. The umpires must call “illegal pitch” of balls being pitched, in advance of them crossing the plate. The following rules and provisions are for the Church Division.*
- B. *Church Division Rosters must adhere to the Brevard Church Softball Association (BCSA) Rules of Eligibility. Rosters must be made up of Players who are ACTIVE Members of that Church or regularly attend that Church. Regular attendance of a church is defined as a minimum of attending twice a month. All players must sign a County Roster/Waiver to be eligible to play, and can only be on one roster.*
- C. *1. Women are eligible to play with the following provisions, outfielders must remain behind the 200-foot Co-ed outfield line when they bat, and likewise infielders must remain in the infield dirt when they bat. They will use the 11” softball when batting. If either of these rules are broken, the women batting get first base automatically. 2. Youth can also play, but must be 13 years old by December 31st. The steering committee will evaluate the youth’s competitive level, and determine if said youth is physically fit to play in the league. They cannot play in the infield, except for catcher and must wear a mask. There will be a special effort to not schedule the youth to play against the more competitive teams.*
- D. *Additions and deletions to the Team Roster can be made up to the 15th Game of the Regular Season. No Post Season Play Roster Changes! Any exceptions must go thru the steering committee. Any player on an existing roster cannot move to any other roster without the O.K. of the steering committee.*
- E. *Uniform Requirement is a Numbered T-Shirt of the same color for all Players.*
- F. *The League will have an over-the-fence homerun rule of 1 plus Progressive per team per game. Any other homeruns hit over the fence will be outs. A player may choose to only touch first base instead of rounding all the bases.*
- G. *Courtesy Runner Rule- (allowed two courtesy runners per inning) The first runner is the “last player to make an OUT”. The second runner will be the “second to last Out”.*
- H. *Home Team is the Official Scorekeeper of each game. 1 Plate Umpire provided each game. Game Results must be turned in after each game to the Recreation Staff person on site.*
- I. *CHURCH CODE OF CONDUCT as determined by the BCSA in conjunction with Brevard County Rules & Policies on conduct will be enforced and adhered to by all Team Players, Coaches, & Fans. Suspension and expulsion may result from any violation, or act of unsportsmanship including PROFANITY! This is a Church Division with lots of family members present and the proper spiritual protocol will be adhered to by all or action will be taken for the good of all. Team managers are exhorted to immediately address any initial conduct violations with a warning. With all subsequent violations, the manager must take action immediately which may result in the benching or suspensions of players. If the steering committee receives complaints from managers about violations not dealt with, the committee may get involved to take action.*

- J. All Schedule Requests for the Season must be made prior to the Season's Opening Day. All Suggestions and requests must be directed thru the BCSA Steering Committee for consideration and preliminary approval prior to submission to the BCSA Softball Director for consideration and Final Approval.**
- K. The only slaughter rule for games is, 12 run lead at the end of the 5th inning.**
- L. BCSA Rule Amendment #1: There will be a 10 minute grace period for teams who need time to field a team for 7:00pm games only. However the "Game clock is started at 7:00pm for the 60 minutes of play allowed for the game". If 50 minutes remains on the clock when the game begins, that will be the remaining time left to play in the game. If a Team cannot field a team within the 10 minute grace period, then that team or teams will forfeit. If one team is granted the grace period, that team will be the visiting team regardless of the schedule.**
- M. BCSA Rule Amendment #2: Teams with less than 9 players at game time may recruit or borrow up to 2 replacement players from other league teams to bring their respective 9 player requirement to play to avoid a forfeit and play a legal game. Any exceptions to this rule or the borrowing of more than 2 players in a game will be made by the steering committee on hand. Under no circumstances can any team borrow a tenth player. These replacement players must be registered with league teams and meet all other league eligibility requirements to play. If a team roster player or players arrives during the game, the player replacements must exit the game immediately maintaining the 9-player requirement for a legal batting order. If any team consistently has difficulty in filling their team at game time, the steering committee may intervene in order to resolve the issue, which may result in the assigning of free agent players to the team.**
- N. BCSA Rule Amendment #3: The BCSA Steering Committee will establish and maintain a "banned bats" lists every season. Once the list is communicated to every Team Manager, the following rules will apply:**
- 1. If any player steps into the batter's box with what is determined an illegal bat by an umpire or opposing team, it will automatically end the inning.**
 - 2. If any subsequent player on the same team uses an illegal bat in the same game, it will result in an automatic forfeit.**
 - 3. Any Team which repeats the use of illegal bats in subsequent games in the same season will face possible suspension, forfeitures, or expulsion. The BCSA Steering Committee will determine the penalty.**
 - 4. All useable bats must contain an official legible factory ASA stamp on it. In addition, members of the steering committee will test all bats with a bat tester during every season, and will place a bat sticker on acceptable bats before use. Bats cannot be used in the game without the bat sticker.**
- O. In order to participate in the playoffs, a player must have played in a minimum of 10 regular season games with the team on whose roster you are on.**
- P. Competition Policy: The Church League is Recreational! Teams shall not have more than (3) players on their roster which have competed in other leagues or sanctioned tournament formats in the last 2 years. (Senior League and ladies and other church league excluded). Teams with more than 3 such players shall not participate in the Church League. Any violations will result in teams and players suspended for the rest of the season. Steering Committee will review rosters for any other possible exceptions. Any exceptions to this penalty will be determined by the BCSA Steering committee.**

Q. "That all players will play with their church team" and can only be on one roster. Any exceptions to this will require the player to ask the BCSA Steering committee to waive this rule, and get the agreement of the two managers involved.

Classification of players:

Free Agents---active church members who have no church team

Prospects--- un-churched,(usually non-believer)who must attend a minimum of twice a month the church they play for

Players--- active church members who have a church team

R. "The "five run rule" per inning is in effect for all games played. However, both teams may score unlimited runs in what is determined to be the last inning of the game. Before the game starts, managers must establish whether they will waive the rule for their particular game. If it is not discussed prior to the start of the game, it is automatically in effect. If only one manager wants the rule in effect, it is in effect.

S. The BCSA Steering committee will inspect all bats prior to their use (first game of the season) and will mark them with a sticker. No bats will be used in games without this sticker. The Steering committee will review each bat separately for any exceptions. You may visit the website ASASoftball.com to learn of the banned bats we are enforcing.

T. Each game time duration is 7 innings or 60 minutes. Umpires shall call last inning no earlier than the 50-minute mark. No inning will commence after the 55-minute mark, unless game is tied.

U. If a game is tied after the 60 minute mark, the "Texas Tiebreaker" will be imposed. The last batter starts at second base and must run for himself. This is done for both teams until there is a winner.

V. Any players playing in the field defensively only, do not have to be in the batting order. But there must be at least 9 players minimum in the batting order.

W. Platooning Rule. Teams may use two players in the same batting slot or to run for the other player if desired. These players must be designated as "platooning", which means that they will alternate turns batting each time the batting slot comes up during the game. The manager must declare which platooning batter will hit the first time around. The line-up must remain so for the entire game. An exception would be if a platooning batter was injured during the game and could not continue to play, the spot would be filled by the other platooning player. Likewise a manager may at their discretion utilize two players in one defensive position on the field.

X. You may add batters at the end of the batting order after the start of a game.

Y. Only handicapped players (pre-approved by the steering committee before the season) who are batting, may use a runner as long as his starting position is 65 feet from first base and beside the fence. This runner must be the last batted out.

Z. Score sheets must have at a minimum the players' first initial and last name, and the scorekeeper must record the game's starting time on it from the umpire.

AA. The regular season schedule will have pre-determined designated home teams for games in lieu of the coin flip. Playoffs will still utilize the coin toss.

BB. Any player ejected in a game will be automatically suspended for playing in the next four consecutive games. Further penalty could result to player being ejected longer. The steering committee will review ejections for any exceptions. If a player is ejected, he is an out in the line-up the balance of the game.

- CC. Whenever there is a play at first base, the runner must step on the orange (outside) base. If the runner steps on the inside base, it is an out. The only exception is if the runner is attempting to avoid an imminent collision.
- DD. The team manager is the only one who can challenge any umpire calls during the game. Any players arguing with an umpire may result in ejection.
- EE. Any player may be withdrawn from the game and re-entered one time. Such player must occupy the same batting position in the line-up.
- FF. Sliding into bases is permitted, although there is no mandatory slide rule. However, when a tag play is evident, a runner must seek to avoid contact with the fielder. Crashing into players is not permitted! The runner will be declared out as well as ejected from the game if determined by the officials as deliberate. This is an umpire judgment call.
- GG. A team's lineup cannot fall below 9 players. If a team starts with 10 or more players and a player becomes unable to continue due to injury, and this would cause a team to finish the game with less players than they started the game with, there is no team penalty and it is still a legal game. In the event a player leaves for any other reason, or is ejected by game officials, and there is no other available team member to fill that slot in the batting order, there will be an automatic OUT registered each time that slot in the batting order is scheduled to bat.
- HH. A "strike mat" will be used to determine balls and strikes. The catcher must allow the ball to strike the mat for it to be considered a strike. A pitched ball not landing on the strike mat will be called a "ball" by the umpire. If the softball touches any part of the mat (on a legal pitch) it will be considered a strike. Pitches touching any part of home plate WILL NOT be considered a strike. If a ball strikes part of the plate and part of the mat at the same time it is a "ball".
- II. On a play at the plate, the defensive player only records an out if they are in contact with the original home plate and in possession of the ball before the runner touches the alternate/scoring plate. Tag plays are not permitted at the plate. A runner who touches the original scoring home plate before touching the alternate/scoring plate is "out". A commitment line (20) feet from the alternate/scoring plate will be used. Once the runner's foot touches the ground or past, on this line, the runner is committed to advancing to the alternate/scoring plate. If a runner re-crosses the commitment line, he will be declared out and the ball remains alive.

Steering committee: Matt Thomas, Russell Flamm, Gerard Zeo, James Conte, Steven Debolt