

WINTERVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CHURCH SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS
(REVISED 5/30/2017)

1. Eligibility

- A. All participants must be 15 years of age and are required to pay the appropriate fee and complete a consent form to be considered an eligible player.
- B. Managers must be on roster in order to be eligible to play.
- C. Anyone wishing to add players to their rosters must do so 1 business day before their next game. This must be done at the Winterville Parks and Recreation Office (2936 Church Street – Town Operations Center) between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM.
- D. No players may be added 10 business days before the start of the post-season tournament.
- E. Any team using an ineligible player will result in the forfeit of the game by the guilty team. Any game or games in which the ineligible player participated will also be forfeited.
- F. All teams must have the Pastor's signature on the roster and phone number for the church before the roster will be accepted for play. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

2. Manager's Duties

- A. It shall be the duty of each manager to see that the official roster, consent forms, and entry fees are delivered to the Parks & Recreation Department as prescribed in the annual softball letter.
- B. It is the responsibility of each manager to assure that all players on his/her team are eligible and understand the rules and regulations of the Winterville Parks & Recreation Softball Leagues. Also, if there are any questions that may arise during the game, the manager shall be the one to question the umpire.
- C. The managers are to see that all players are in the proper uniforms and that the players stay in the dugouts, except when playing a defensive position, batting, or next up, or base coaching. The minimum complete uniform will be shirts alike in color, each shirt **must have a screen printed number on the back of the shirt.** All uniforms must be complete starting the second week of the regular season. Umpires will not allow a player without the minimum uniform to play, and a team will forfeit if they do not have nine uniformed players.
- D. **Only the team manager** should contact the Parks and Recreation Department after 5 PM, in case of inclement weather. See III, Section A.
- E. The manager is responsible for the conduct and behavior of the players and fans of his/her team.

F. It is the responsibility of the manager to contact the Parks & Recreation Department concerning the rescheduling of games.

3. Inclement Weather

A. Games shall be postponed when Winterville Parks & Recreation Department determines the field to be unplayable. **Managers** should contact the Parks & Recreation Department AFTER 5 PM, and **players should contact their managers.** There is also a Inclement Rain Out line (252-353-8697) and follow the prompts. Once a game has begun, under most conditions, a game will not be cancelled until 30 minutes have passed, especially in the case of lightning. Managers need to make sure they have the official word from the umpire at the field or athletic staff that a game has been cancelled. The original schedule will not be changed. Rained out games will be made up at the end of the regular season play, as much as possible. **All incomplete games (less than 5 complete innings, or 4 ½ if home team is ahead) will be replayed as a new game.**

4. Starting the Games, Time Limits, & Forfeits

A. Each game shall last 7 innings or 60 minutes. However, if a team is ahead by 20 runs after 4 complete innings or 15 runs after 5 complete innings of play, the game is over. (three and one half innings or four and one half innings if home team is ahead.) The plate umpire is the official timer. The clock starts promptly after prayer. A new inning can not start after 55 minutes. There will be a 5 minute grace period for the first game only. If time is available, then the teams can share the field for warm up. Games must begin at scheduled time, unless the previous game is the reason for delay, in which case the following game will start immediately following the conclusion of the previous game. The scheduled game will not start early unless agreed upon by both teams and umpires. Tie games shall be played to completion. **Lineups must be turned in to the scorekeeper 15 minutes before scheduled game time.**

B. A game shall be forfeited for violation of the following: If a team scheduled to play, fails to place at least 9 eligible players in the line-up (either offensively or defensively.) **If a team forfeits 3 games during the course of a season, that team shall be removed from the league.** Each team will be granted 2 “heads-up” opportunities where managers must notify Department staff **at least 24 hours** prior to game in question. All players on a team that has forfeited out of the league will not be allowed to play the remainder of the season with another team in the league.

C. There will be **NO** time limit in the post season tournament championship games.

5. Official USSSA rules will be used with the following modifications:

A. Written protests must be in the hands of the League Director within 24 hours after the game is completed. Umpires must be told of protests immediately so that he/she can tell the other manager and scorekeeper. A twenty-dollar (\$20) fee must accompany each protest. If the protest is upheld, the money is refunded, if not the money goes towards the Softball League. The written protest must contain the situation, the reason for protesting, and reference to the rule that was violated. Protests will not receive or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire (JUDGMENT CALL.)

B. When a batter comes to the plate, he/she will start the plate appearance with a one ball and one strike count. If a player has reached 2 strikes, they are allowed one foul ball, if they foul off a second ball the batter is out. Courtesy runners will be allowed, must be a substitute, if no sub is available it must be the last out

C. No metal or steel spikes are allowed in the league. Shoes with round metal spikes are illegal. Shoes must be worn at all times by all participants.

D. MIKEN ULTRA 1 and ULTRA 2 and ULTRA MAXLOAD are considered illegal bats for Winterville Parks & Recreation Church League. If any player is caught using one of these bats they will be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and will be ejected from the game and suspended for the next game.

E. Players/coaches are not allowed to smoke in the playing area.

F. Any person using profane or vulgar language will be removed from the field. If a player is removed from the field for unsportsmanlike conduct, he/she will be automatically suspended for the next game.

G. Alcoholic beverages will not be allowed at anytime on Winterville Parks & Recreation Property or properties used by the Town of Winterville. If in the opinion of the umpire, League Director, or any Parks & Recreation Staff member, a player or manager/coach has been drinking and is not removed from the game and playing area after the manager of the team involved has been notified, the game will be forfeited.

H. Each team will be required to furnish their own new or like-new softball that is approved by the home plate umpire. Each team will hit the balls they have provided. **Teams may use any USSSA, ASA or NSA approved 12” softball (white or yellow) of COR .44/375 compression.** Any lost ball must be replaced immediately and put into play by the home plate umpire. **The ball in play is at the discretion of the umpire. Neither managers nor team players, offensively or defensively, can choose which ball to be put into play.**

I. A team must have 9 eligible players on the field or in the dugout ready to bat (either offensively or defensively) to start the game. If at any time a team cannot field 9 eligible players, unless due to injury, the game will be considered a forfeit. If a team starts with 9 players, they can add the 10th player at the bottom of the lineup at any time during the game and the batter will not constitute as an out. However, if a team at any time loses a player in the lineup and has no one to replace him/her when it becomes that players turn to bat in the lineup, the umpire will award an “OUT”.

J. An extra hitter, referred to as an (EH) is allowed. The EH must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game. If an EH is used, all 11 players must bat and any ten can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed, but the batting order must remain the same. The EH may be substituted for at any time, and then the player becomes the EH. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EH can re-enter only once.

K. Starting players may re-enter the game, but substitutes may not re-enter after being removed.

L. Each team is allowed 1 intentional walk per player per game.

M. **Ejections:** A player who is ejected from a game will be required to leave sight and sound of the facility within **1 minute**. If a player fails to leave after an ejection, the game will be forfeited by the umpire. Managers see that your player leaves promptly. **If any player is ejected from the game , he/she shall be automatically suspended for the next game. If said player is ejected from 2 games during the year this will result in automatic dismissal from the league, tournament included.**

N. Batter and runner(s) will have an option of tagging all bases on an over the fence homeruns or to only physically touch home plate.

O. Homeruns: One up home run rule: A team cannot have more than one home run (untouched ball hit over the fence) than its opponent. All subsequent home runs (untouched balls hit over the fence) will be counted as a single and base runners may only advance one base if forced. Exception: The home team, in the bottom of the last inning of the game, may hit a home run (untouched ball hit over the fence) to go one up.

P. Base paths for the men's league will be 70 feet and 60 feet for the women's league. Players are allowed to slide at home plate. **FEET FIRST ONLY**. The play at the plate will still be a force play when the runner crosses the designated 15 foot line.

Q. Both teams must rake around the bases and home plate after every game.

6. **Tournament**

A. Each division of a league shall have a post season tournament. A single or double elimination tournament will be decided by the Parks & Recreation Staff and due to amount of rain and make up games for the season.

B. Seedings in the tournament will be determined by the standings in the divisions. In case of a tie for regular season, tournament seeding will be based on the team having the better record between tied teams. If a tie still exists, there will be a coin toss to determine the higher seed.

7. **Trophies**

A. Regular Season and Tournament Champions will receive a Team Trophy.

B. Runner-Up Season and Tournament teams will receive a Team Trophy.

C. Tournament Champion shall receive t-shirts. Team manager must supply sizes and quantity.