

2025

COWETA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL BY-LAWS

The purpose of the Coed, Church Open, and Open League is to provide an opportunity to participate in an organized slow pitch softball program. The main objectives of the Recreation Department are to conduct wholesome competition and to promote clean sportsmanship, good conduct and to have fun!

COED/CHURCH OPEN/OPEN LEAGUE You must live or earn your main source of income in Coweta County in order to participate in this program without an additional charge. All non-Coweta residents must pay a \$25 per person fee, prior to participating. Failure to pay this fee will result in forfeit for their respective teams.

- A. Only those players that are **16** years of age for **Church Leagues** and **18** years of age and older for **Coed and Open** shall be eligible for this program. The control date for determining a player's age is **December 31**. **Coed** must alternate in the lineup. Man/woman or woman/man all through the lineup. There will be a line 200 feet from home plate where men and women players must stay behind until the batter puts the ball in play during **Coed** games. When the ball is hit the players may move towards the ball and cross the 200' line.
- B. **Church Eligibility:** All players must be **Minister-approved**. **And, Minister-approved regular attendees of the sponsoring Church.** The Minister or her/his representative shall sign the roster confirming all players are members and/or regular attendees of the Church. A regular attendee is a person that attends the Church in an ongoing manner of at least two times a month.
- C. A Church that has 250 members or less may combine with another Church that has 250 members or less to form one team. That team will have one of the Ministers or representatives sign the roster confirming that all players are attendees of their respective Churches.
- D. **Open League: Women are eligible for the Open League.**

I. PLAYING ROSTER

- A. **Team rosters are to be turned into the league coordinator by 12:00 noon of the team's first playing date. Teams failing to meet this requirement will not be allowed to play.**
- B. **Any roster changes, additions or deletions must be made by 12:00 noon of the playing date. All changes must be made through the Recreation Department. Office (770-683-7275) or via e-mail to jsnellgrove@coweta.ga.us. Any team who plays someone not on the roster will be penalized by a forfeit of that game.**
- C. Players released from a team in this league shall not be allowed under any conditions to play with that same team again that season.
- D. **After a team has played 5 games, no players may be added to the roster.**
- E. Each team roster shall consist of no more than 20 players.
- F. Minimum roster of 10 players for all leagues. **Coed**, five female and five males.
- G. Any player switching from one team to another in the same league must sit out a minimum of **three games** before they are eligible to participate for their new team. **Players can play on one team in each Coweta County Adult softball league with age qualification.**
- H. Any player participating on a team and their name is not on the roster will make that team illegal thus resulting in a forfeit of the game. Furthermore, the illegal player will be suspended for **(1)** game and not allowed to participate for any team, including a team for which he/she may be legally on the roster.

Commented [JS1]: Changed 18 to 20 players 11/7/24

II. GAMES

- A. Official rules of the Amateur Softball Association will be used unless contrary to these by-laws. Our league will play using a **1&1** pitch count. **NO courtesy foul with two strikes! Stealing will not be allowed.**
- B. In the event a team is not ready for play at prescribed time, that team or teams will be granted a 5-minute "grace" period for the **7:00 GAME ONLY. No grace period will be allowed for the 8:05 and 9:10 games!**
- C. All teams are required to be in **MATCHING** uniforms from waist up, with **proper numbers on the backs. MATCHING** will be determined as like in color. **MATCHING** uniforms will be required at the District Tournament. If a team has

Commented [JS2]: No Stealing / changed 11/7/24

Commented [JJ3]: Revised 11/13/2023

Revised 11/8/2024

not secured **MATCHING** uniforms by the **fourth game**, their games will be declared a forfeit (**at the discretion of the Rec. Dept. Not opposing team**) and in 2024 this by-law will be strictly enforced, so Managers tell your players they must wear the **MATCHING** team jersey and it must be visible to Umpires and Staff, **THEREFORE**, said jersey cannot be covered or hidden by a jacket or any other apparel. Tennis shoes or rubber cleats must be worn. **No steel cleats may be worn at any time. If caught with steel cleats players will be ejected.**

- D. If a player chooses to wear a ski mask or any mask that hides their face they must report to the scorekeeper, Umpires and Staff prior to the game. At that time it will be determined they are on the roster.
- E. Umpires and scorekeepers will be certain that only certified players under contract, one scorer, one manager, and one bat boy/girl, sit on the player's bench. It is the duty of the umpire and each manager to keep unauthorized persons out of the playing field and off the bench.
- F. In the event of rain, 5 innings constitute an official game (4 ½ providing home team is leading). Should a game be stopped for poor weather prior to being an official game, we will reschedule the game and continue playing from the exact spot where the game was interrupted. **OR, if easier for both teams and the scorekeeper, start a new game.**

Commented [JJ4]: Player participated wearing ski mask 2023 Summer/Fall.

***** Should you have a game rained out, it is your RESPONSIBILITY to contact the Rec Dept. to find out a make-up date. Do not expect the Rec. Dept. to contact you.** Generally, games will be rescheduled by the following day at noon. **Games will be made up at the earliest convenience of the Rec Dept.**

In the event of a rained-out game, there **will be Wednesday and Friday nights designated** throughout the season for makeup games. Teams failing to appear for makeup games shall **forfeit** the game. Should there be any questions regarding weather conditions and the status of games, captains need to call the Recreation Department at **770-254-3772 or 770-616-7292. Leave a message if no answer.**

Commented [JJ5]: Saturdays deleted 10/26/2023

- G. A team that is ahead by **20 runs** or more after **3 innings**, **15 runs** or more after **4 innings**, **10 runs** or more after **5 innings** will be declared the winner and the game will be official. Teams can only score **10 runs per inning**. After 10 runs are scored teams will swap out. **However, if the bases are loaded and a HOMERUN is hit ALL RUNS will be counted and scored.**
- H. There will be a time limit of **55 minutes** in effect for all games. No inning shall be started after the time limit has expired. However, any inning started prior to the expiration of the time limit must be completed unless it is the bottom half

Revised 11/8/2024

of the inning and the home team is winning. **The only exception to this rule is if one team is winning by 12 or more runs. The game will be called after 55 minutes regardless of completion of the inning.**

- I. **All managers are responsible for having their line-ups turned into the scorekeeper 5 minutes before game time. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of that game.**
- J. All softballs must be 12" Restricted flight Cor. 52. All Coed and Open league teams are responsible for supplying their own 12" softballs during the game. These balls must be clearly marked .52 cor and be approved by ASA. The opposing team's pitcher has the right to refuse to pitch a ball to a batter that is not clearly marked. However, if a pitcher pitches an illegal ball to a batter, he gives up his right to protest use of an improper ball. Due to visibility problems, dirty balls will not be allowed. **ALL balls must be 12"ASA stamped 300 compression.**
- K. In the event there is a forfeit on one field, teams may use that field for a practice game. If another field is behind on schedule, the Rec Dept. reserves the right to start the game that's behind on the field that the practice game is being played on.
- L. **Pitching Net- Rules for the pitching net:**
 - i. Any time a batted ball contacts the screen, prior to being touched by a fielder, it will be treated like a foul ball. The umpire will declare a "dead ball", and any base runners will return to their base. Like on a foul ball, the pitch will count as a strike.
 - ii. The second time the battery hits the screen it be declared as a out.
 - iii.
- M. A manager has the right to protest over an umpire's interpretation of the rules provided the protest is made immediately and before the next pitch takes place. When the protest is made, the umpire-in-chief shall consult with his associate umpire or umpires. If he is convinced that his decision is not in conflict with the rules, he shall announce that the game is being played under protest.

Failure of the umpire to make such announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest. The protesting manager shall report to the league coordinator in writing within **24 hours** and post a protest fee of **(\$50)** fifty dollars. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned, but if not upheld, the fee will not be returned.

- N. In cases when eligibility of a player is in doubt, the burden of proof will rest with the team whose player is in question. The protesting manager shall report to

Commented [JS6]: Pitching net - dead ball on first time hitting the net / 11/7/24

the league coordinator in writing within 24 hours and post a protest fee of **(\$50)** fifty dollars. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned, but if not upheld, the fee will not be returned.

- O. **Bats**- Teams can protest bats if they feel the opposing team is playing with an illegal bat. Anyone found to be using an illegal bat will be suspended for an **ENTIRE YEAR** (including spring and fall league).

III. PLAYER CONDUCT- **ZERO TOLERANCE**

Please refer to Coweta County Municode

**All Coweta County code of ordinances apply*

- A. **No smoking, No Vaping** will be allowed on the field or parking lot, except for in your car.
- B. **No profanity** is allowed by players or spectators.
- C. **No gambling** will be tolerated.
- D. **No alcohol**

For the above unsportsmanlike acts, A through D, the player or coach will be ejected from the game. And, the player will not play in the next game of any Coweta County Adult Softball league. If the player or coach is disqualified from play a second time due to unsportsmanlike conduct, that player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Including, playoffs and tournaments.

- E. Players who insist on complaining, arguing and questioning an umpire's judgments will be ejected from the game and serve a minimum 3 game suspension. **(Please note that if an umpire warns you to stop, an excuse of "I wasn't talking to him I was talking to my teammate, spectator, etc. will still warrant your ejection.)**
- F. **No alcohol drinking** will be tolerated. A player or manager guilty of being under the influence of intoxicants shall be immediately removed from the playing area.
- G. No player shall at any time **strike, push, shove or threaten** an official, scorekeeper or staff member!
- H. No player shall be guilty of **personal verbal abuse** upon an official, scorekeeper or staff member for any real or imaginary decision or judgment.
- I. **No fighting** will be tolerated.

A player or coach guilty of acts E through I will be suspended for the remainder of the season, including playoffs and tournaments. Should a player make aggressive contact with an official, scorekeeper or staff member they will be suspended for **1 Full year**. Any suspended player or coach may appear before the League Coordinator for reinstatement in the event of extenuating circumstances.

- J. **Any player ejected from a game has 5 minutes to be out of sight and out of sound** from the playing field. Should he/she fail to adhere to this rule, the game will be deemed a forfeit and the ejected player will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Furthermore, **should a player use inappropriate language while exiting the field, he/she will be suspended the remainder of the season. IF YOU ARE SUSPENDED IN ONE COWETA COUNTY LEAGUE, YOU MAY NOT PLAY IN ANY OTHER COWETA COUNTY LEAGUE!**
- K. **NO MUSIC!**

IV. THE SEASON

- A. After a team has forfeited **(3)** three games, that team will be dropped from the league. Teams forfeiting due to church activities will not be dropped from the league if notice was given 48 hours prior to game time. A team that has forfeited three games will not be eligible for District competition or county tournaments.
- B. To determine the standing, if at the end of the regular season, two teams end with the same won-lost record, standings will be based on the head to head performances of the two teams. Should there be a split between the two teams during the season, a one game playoff will determine exact placement.
- C. ****any teams qualifying for G.R.P.A 4th District Tournament are obligated to participate. Should your team not desire to go to the District Tournament, you must notify the League Director at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the District Tournament. If you qualify and can't go, the Districts you will still be held responsible for the entry fee unless you give the League Director six weeks notice. Please note, that if you finish 1st or 2nd in the District, you are obligated to participate in the State Tournament and are responsible for all fees involved. (There has not been a District Tournament in years. If your team qualifies and you want to go, we will see what is available.)**
- D. A coin toss before each game will determine Home team. Please note that the 55-minute time limit will begin **IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COIN TOSS.**
- E. **It will be the responsibility of each manager to familiarize his/her team with these by-laws.**

Revised 11/8/2024

- F. All leagues will begin with a 1/1 strike count. Stealing will not be allowed. The following are homerun restrictions by leagues: **5 homeruns per game** for all leagues.
- G. Anything not covered by these by-laws will be left to the discretion of the Recreation Department.
- H. The Recreation Department has the right to address, add, or amend any by-law at any-time.