

Cabarrus County Parks Department
Cabarrus County Youth Baseball / Softball Leagues
2011 League Rules and Regulations

Concord Exceptions *(Applies to all Concord teams playing in- house and all teams playing with Concord in-house.)*

- 9-10 Boys will not have a 10ft lead off rule. Bases will remain closed and batters must stay on base until the ball crosses home plate. This rule will be in effect until the last 4 games of the regular season. The final 4 games will adopt the 10ft lead rule and will be designated on the schedules.
- No forfeits will be awarded or allowed. Teams with less than the designated number of players will be allowed to pick-up as many players as possible or needed up to 10. Pick-up players must be registered on teams playing in the current division. Teams with greater number of players will roster down and play even numbers.

Article 1. Eligibility

Section 1. The following dates will be the age cutoff date for the **2011** season. The players' age on that day will determine what age group they participate in.
Girls Softball – January 1, 2011 **Boys Baseball – May 1, 2011**

Section 2. The following divisions will be offered for league play this year:

Boys Baseball:	Ages 7-8	Girls Softball:	Ages 7-8
Boys Baseball:	Ages 9-10	Girls Softball:	Ages 9-10
Boys Baseball:	Ages 11-12	Girls Softball:	Ages 11-12
Boys Baseball:	Ages 13-15	Girls Softball:	Ages 13-15

Section 3. A younger player may participate in an upper age division. They can only move up one division (EX: a 9-10 player can move up to 11-12 but not 13-15). However, after one game in the upper age division, he or she will be ruled ineligible to participate in his or her respective age group for that season. **Player may move back down to the lower age group for the following season if necessary.**

Section 4. A player cannot participate in more than one organized baseball/softball league or division sponsored by the cosponsoring agencies of the Cabarrus County Youth Baseball/Softball Leagues.

Section 5. The league coordinator will approve each player's age by use of birth certificates at the start of each season. Each player must be on the team roster before the first game to be eligible to play in a league game.

Section 6. A new player may be added to a team roster after the cutoff date with the approval of the league coordinator.

Article 2 Team Composition

Section 1. Teams will be selected using the athletic districts as outlined in the Cabarrus County Parks Department Co-Sponsorship Agreement.

Section 2. Each league/association is responsible for conducting their registration and drafts in accordance to the Co-Sponsorship Agreement.

Section 3. It is the responsibility of the league coordinator to conduct drafts, registration, and for placing players on the teams. Parents with questions or concerns should speak to their coordinator with the concern when it arises.

Article 3 **Duties of the Coach**

Section 1. Must wear photo ID badge at all practices and games or be subject to dismissal from duties. Be at least 18 years of age.

Section 2. The coach is responsible for exchanging lineups before each game with the other team and to meet with the umpires before the game starts.

Section 3. It is the duty of the head coach to maintain proper conduct among his team and fans at all times.

Article 4 **Game and Weather Postponements**

Section 1. In case of inclement weather on practice days, the coach should contact the players on the team. A coach should use reasonable judgment during threatening weather and remove his team from the field if necessary.

Section 2. For game day cancellations, it is the duty of the home field/association to cancel games when playing conditions are not adequate. The home field coordinator/association should contact the Cabarrus County Parks Dept. (by 4:00 pm) the coordinators of the teams playing at their site and the officials booking agent. Each coordinator should then call their respective coaches who are responsible for contacting their players.

Article 5 **Jurisdiction of Rules**

Section 1. The Cabarrus County Youth Baseball/Softball League Rules are under the jurisdiction of the Cabarrus County Youth Baseball/Softball League Coordinators. They have the authority to make amendments to the rules in order to obtain the program objectives.

Article 6 **Officials**

Section 1. Officials for each site are the sole responsibility of the respective association for which home games are scheduled. **Suggested pay rates for officials for the 2011 season will be at a rate of not more than \$20.00 for ages 8 and under; not more than \$25.00 per game for ages 9-12; and not more than \$45.00 per game for ages 13-15.**

Section 2. Each association is responsible for the booking agent and seeing that the Cabarrus County Youth Baseball League Rules and Regulations are available and understood to their umpires.

Section 3. After a game has begun, assigned league coordinators and league officials will be responsible for discontinuing the game for any reason.

Section 4. All officials should report ejection of a player or coach to the home site coordinator. Each site has an ejection letter that is to be signed at the end of the game. The home site should then contact the league coordinator of the ejected player or coach.

Section 5. In the event that only one official is present for a game, that official must start the game on time and play until the second official arrives. The game cannot be protested when only one official is present.

Article 7 **Code of Conduct**

Section 1. Coaches should always keep in mind that they are setting examples in sportsmanship and fair play and should conduct themselves accordingly. Constant yelling and abusive behavior toward players on either team is strictly prohibited.

Section 2. Any coach not carrying out the duties and responsibilities and policies as established by the league will be subject to dismissal from the league.

Section 3. A coach will be suspended indefinitely for playing ineligible players.

Article 8 **Protests**

Section 1. Only protests that involve an interpretation of playing rules or the use of an ineligible player will be permitted. Judgment calls cannot be protested.

Section 2. Procedure for protests is:

- Notify the umpires that protest is being filed.
- Umpire should stop play.
- Notify the umpires exactly what is being protested.
- Umpires should then contact home site coordinator/protest committee.
- A protest fee of \$50.00 is payable to the home site coordinator/protest committee.
- The home site/protest committee should rule on the protest at the time of protest.
- If protest is denied, coach will forfeit the fee. If ruling is upheld, the fee is refunded.

Section 3. Any coach who wishes to protest should do so carefully considering the impact of poor relationships and ill feelings that could arise from the process.

Article 9 **Practice Guidelines**

Section 1. Practice sessions are held in accordance to the Co-sponsorship Agreement and should be scheduled with the local coordinator.

Section 2. Teams may have non-mandated practice during school holidays. Coaches violating practice schedule will be subject to dismissal from coaching indefinitely. All practices and games must take place on county approved playing facilities. No practices are to be held prior to 6:00 PM on school days.

Section 3. Players must attend practices to be eligible for games. Any player not attending practice and shows up for the game that week is subject to the coach's option to play or not. A coach must announce to the home plate umpire before the game which players are being held out for missing practices. The coach must also notify their coordinator of the situation prior to the game and state that the player did not attend practices during the week.

Article 10 **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Section 1. Players, coaches, and fans should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. This includes before, during, or after a game. Players and coaches who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct (throwing equipment, arguing, etc.) will be suspended for 7 days. A second ejection during the season will result in an indefinite suspension from all Cabarrus County Youth Athletic Leagues.

Section 2. Any player, coach, or fan that is ejected from a game or facility for fighting, profanity, or threatening others will be suspended indefinitely from all facilities for all Cabarrus County Youth Athletic Leagues.

Section 3. If a player, coach, fan, or official's actions become harmful and disruptive to the program, they face being suspended from their remaining games for that season.

Section 4. A player or coach who pulls a team off the field for any reason will be suspended indefinitely. If the suspension occurs in the last game of the season, an indefinite suspension will occur.

Section 5. No player, coach, official, or fan shall at any time lay a hand on, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike another player, coach, fan, or official before, during, or after a game. Officials include umpire, scorekeeper, coordinators and designated volunteers, department staff personnel, other players, coaches, or fans. This will result in an indefinite suspension from all Cabarrus County Youth Athletic Leagues, facilities, and programs.

**National Federation of High School Athletic Association Rules and Regulations
Boys Baseball (9 -15) & Girls Softball (Ages 9-15)**

All leagues ages 9 & up are straight up baseball/softball with the following exceptions:

Team Composition

A team must have seven (7) eligible players to avoid a forfeit. Any team that has seven players may pick up a maximum of two (2) players for the 11-15 BB / SB divisions and three (3) players for the 10 and under divisions from other teams in the league to avoid forfeit. Pickup players must be from the same age group and be on a team in the league. If the team's players arrive after the game has started they must replace the pick up player immediately. Pick up players cannot be pitchers while playing as a pick-up. In the 9-10 division, associations playing together for regular season may decide to use 3 or 4 outfielders.

Grace Period

A team will be allowed a 10-minute grace period when they have less than seven players. If a team does not have seven of its own players after 10 minutes have passed the original game time, then the game shall be declared a forfeit.

Shoes

Youth divisions 9-10 and 11-12 must wear rubber molded cleats if wearing baseball style shoes. Ages 13 & up for baseball and softball are allowed to wear metal cleats.

Infield Fly Rule

The infield fly rule is in effect for all age groups.

Time Limits/Length of Game

9-12 Baseball	1 hr., 30 minutes	6 innings
13-15 Baseball	2 hours	7 innings
13-15 Softball	1 hr., 30 minutes	6 innings

Time limits are enforced from when the first pitch is thrown. The official scorekeeper is responsible for recording the time. Once an inning has started, it must be finished, provided the home team is behind when it is their turn to bat. No new inning shall be started when there is less than 10 minutes remaining in the time limit. **A new inning begins immediately when the third out is made in the previous ½**

inning.

Appeal Plays

High School Federation Rules apply to all appeal plays.

Run Lead

9-15 Baseball & Softball 15 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings

Participation Rule (All age groups for baseball and softball)

The entire roster of players shall be batted and each player must play the field in every other inning. Failure to abide by the participation rule will result in the head coach being suspended for one game. A second offense during the season will result in the coach being removed from their duties.

Regulation Game

It is a regulation game if four or more innings (9-12 division) or five innings (13-18 division) have been completed if the game is called because of darkness, curfew, etc. Any game that is tied at the end of regulation play will not continue pass the time limit. The game will be declared official as a tie. If the home team is winning then the bottom of the inning does not have to be completed after the game has reached regulation game status.

Base Stealing and Sliding

9-10 Baseball: 10 ft line to be drawn from front of base. Runner cannot cross the 10 ft line until the ball crosses the plate. **Penalty:** Runner is removed from the base with no out. Ball becomes dead immediately and no pitch is declared.

No head first sliding is allowed at home plate. **Penalty:** Runner is out and ball remains live. Dive backs are not considered headfirst slides.

9-10 Softball: Runners may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. **Penalty:** Runner is removed from the base with no out. Ball becomes dead immediately and no pitch is declared.

Jewelry

No player is allowed to wear jewelry while playing. This includes watches, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, etc. of any kind. When it is discovered, the player will be asked to remove it. Failure to remove it will result in player being removed from game. Taping over jewelry is not an option.

Game Balls

Game balls are the sole responsibility of the home team on the schedule.

Balls and Bats

Baseball Bats: The big barrel bat is legal for ages 9-15.

Softball Bats: All age groups must use National Federation High School approved bats.

Baseballs: 9-10 and 11-12 can use any approved Little League specification. 13-15 may use any approved National Federation Approved Baseball.

Softballs: 9-10 can use any approved 11-inch softball and 11-12 and 13-15 can use any National Federation Approved Softball. Must be of optic yellow color.

Third Strike

High School Federation Rules Apply with the following exception:

9-10 baseball: Third strike passed ball – batter is declared out and cannot advance, ball remains live and the runners on base may advance.

9-10 Softball: A foul ball on the third strike is a foul ball. Batter will remain at bat until they strike out or reach base by any other legal way.

Equipment/On Deck Batters

All batters, runners, and on-deck batters must wear helmets at all times. **Penalty:** removal from game for refusal to wear it. Catchers should wear protective equipment: mask, shin guards, chest protector, athletic supporter, throat guard, and catchers' helmet during all practices and games.

Mouthpieces are mandatory for softball (all age groups). A game face can be used in place of a mouthpiece.

Faceguards on helmets are mandatory for softball (all age groups).

On deck batters may go to opposite circle in order to be behind the batter.

Batter Limit (9-10 Baseball and Softball Only)

Each team may only score a maximum of 5 runs for the first inning. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th innings the team leading may always score 5 runs even though the lead could be greater than 5 runs. The team that is behind when batting after the first inning, may always be able to score as many runs as possible to even the score, and then score 5 additional runs in those innings. The 6th inning or any additional innings played are unlimited scoring innings.

Curfew Times

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Friday & Saturday</u>
8 & under	8:30 PM	9:00 PM
9-10	9:30 PM	9:30 PM
11-12	9:30 PM	10:30 PM
13-18	10:00 PM	11:00 pm

Base Paths/Pitching Distances

9-10 Baseball	65 ft. bases	46 ft. pitching distance
11-12 Baseball	70 ft. bases	50 ft. pitching distance
13-15 Baseball	90 ft. bases	60 ft. 6 inches pitching distance
9-10 Softball	60 ft. bases	35 ft. pitching distance
11-12 Softball	60 ft. bases	40 ft. pitching distance
13-15 Softball	60 ft. bases	40 ft. pitching distance

Baseball / Softball Pitching Rule (Baseball Ages 9-15 and Softball 11-15)

There is no limit to the number of innings a pitcher may throw in a calendar week (Monday – Sunday) however, once a pitcher throws at least four (4) innings or more in a game, that pitcher must have two (2) calendar days of rest before being allowed to pitch in another game. If a pitcher throws three (3) innings or less in a game, that pitcher does not have to rest between days pitched.

Example: Pitcher throws 4 innings in a game on Monday, that pitcher may not pitch in another game until Thursday.

Example: Pitcher throws 5 innings in a game on Saturday, that pitcher may not pitch in another game until Tuesday.

Once a pitcher toes the rubber that is considered an inning pitched.

Baseball / Softball Pitching Rule (Softball 9-10)

There is no limit to the number of innings a pitcher may throw in a week. Pitchers are **PROHIBITED** from using the fast pitch windmill motion while pitching during all 9-10 year old division games. If used, the penalty is a dead ball, illegal pitch and a ball is called on the batter.

The arc of the pitch must be no more than 10 ft from the point of release.