CABARRUS COUNTY
ACTIVE LIVING & PARKS DEPT.

CABARRUS COUNTY YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUES

LEAGUE BY LAWS
RULES AND REGULATIONS
2016

YOUTH SOFTBALL
AGES 13-15

<u>Co-Sponsoring Agencies</u>

Bethel Athletic Association
Odell Recreation Association
Northwest Recreation Association
Concord Parks & Recreation Department
Harrisburg Parks & Recreation Department
Mt. Pleasant Youth Baseball / Softball Association

Article 1. Eligibility

Section 1. The date of **January 1, 2016** will be the age cutoff date for the **2016** season. The players' age on that day will determine what age group they participate in. The participant must still be attending school in order to participate.

Section 2. A younger player may participate in an upper age division. They can only move up one division (EX: a 13-14 player can move up to 15-16) 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 3. 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 4. 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 they play their first game to be eligible to play. Team rosters must be on file with the league coordinator.

Section 5. 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 the draft 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.

Section 2. All head coaches must be at least 18 years of age.

Section 3. 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 4. 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 Active Living & Parks Department (704-920-2701 or phgabriel@cabarruscounty.us) by 4:00 pm **AND** 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 Softball League Rules are under the jurisdiction of the Cabarrus County Youth 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 2015 season will be at a rate of not more than $45.00 per official per game.

Section 2. Each association is responsible for the booking agent and seeing that the Cabarrus County Youth Softball 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 ejections of a player or coach to the home site coordinator. Each site should then contact the league coordinator of the ejected party with information about the ejection who is in return responsible for the disciplinary action as outlined.

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. 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.

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North Carolina High School Federation rules apply with the exception of the following local league rules.

Team Composition

1. A team must field 7 players from its own roster to avoid a forfeit.
2. A team can play 9 players on defense (6 infielders and 3 outfielders).
3. Players arriving after the start of the game can be added to the bottom of the lineup without penalty.

Pickup Players

1. A team must have 7 of its own players before being allowed to pick up players.
2. There is a maximum of 2 players allowed to be picked up. Pickup players are required to play outfield only and must bat in the last 2 positions of the lineup.
3. Pickup players must be from the same age group as the teams **AND** be on a team in the league **AND** must be replaced by eligible team members if they arrive after the start of the game.
4. Players removed from the game because of sickness, leaving early, injury, etc. are skipped in the lineup with no penalty. First time the player bats after being removed from the lineup is not an out. Player can re-enter on their next at bat after being removed but if they do not return at that time then they are out for the remainder of the game. They are not charged with an out.

Grace Period

1. There is a 10 minute grace period from the games scheduled start time for a team that does not have 7 eligible players. A team with less than 7 players after the grace period will forfeit the game. Grace period time begins from the **scheduled game time.**

Shoes

1. Metal Cleats are allowed to be worn by all players with the following exception. Pitchers must wear nonmetal cleats if pitching on a portable mound.

Infield Fly Rule

1. The infield fly rule is in effect for this division.

Time Limits

1. The time limit shall be 1 hr. and 30 minutes from the start of the first pitch of the game.

Appeal Play

1. High School Rules are in affect for all appeal plays.

Run Lead

1. The run lead is in effect as follow: a 15 run lead after 3 or a 10 run lead after 4 providing the losing team has had equal number of bats.

Length of Game

1. The length of the game is 6 innings.
2. Once an inning has started it must be finished, provided the home team is behind when it is their turn to bat.
3. No new inning shall be started with less than 10 minutes remaining in the time limit.
4. A new inning begins when the third out is made in the previous ½ inning.

Participation Rule

1. The entire roster shall bat.
2. Each player must play defense in every other inning.
    a. First offense: Failure to abide will result in head coach being suspended for one game.
    b. Second offense: Failure to abide will result in head coach being suspended for remainder of season.
3. Each player must sit out at least one inning on defense in every game.
4. Each player must sit once during the game and cannot sit a second time until all players have had to sit out. **EXAMPLE**: A player cannot be the same one setting out every other inning.

Regulation Game

1. It is a regulation game if 4 or more innings have been played and game is called because of darkness, curfew, etc.

Tie Games

1. Any game that is tied at the end of regulation will not continue pass the time limit.

Base Stealing/ Overthrows

1. High School Federation Rules apply

Head First Sliding

1. Head first sliding is not allowed at home plate.
    a. (Penalty) - Runner is out and ball remains live.
    b. Dive backs to the bases (head first) are not considered head first sliding.

Jewelry

1. Jewelry is not allowed to be worn during games.
2. Jewelry is not allowed to be taped over.
    a. (Penalty) When discovered, the player is asked to remove it. Failure to remove it will result in that player being removed from the game.

Game Balls

1. Game balls (softball – 12 inch) are the responsibility of the home team on the schedule. They must be Little League or other National Organization approved (PONY, Dixie, USSSA, High School Federation, etc.).

Bats

1. Bats must meet High School Federation guidelines.

Third Strike

1. High School Federation Rules Apply.

Batters Helmet

1. Batting helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners at all times.
2. Failure to wear a helmet results in player being removed from the game.

Catchers Gear

1. Catchers must wear mask/helmet, shin/leg guards, throat guard, and chest protector during all practices and games.

Misc. Equipment

1. Mouthpieces are mandatory. A game face guard can replace the use of the mouthpiece.
2. Faceguards are mandatory for all softball helmets.

On Deck Batters

1. On deck batters are allowed to go to the opposite circle to be behind batter.

Batter/Run Limit

1. Each team may score a maximum of 5 runs in the first inning.
2. In the 2nd – 5th innings, the team leading may always score 5 runs, even though their lead could be greater than 5 runs.
3. The team behind when batting after the first inning may always be able to score as many runs as possible to even the score and then 5 additional runs in those innings as well.
4. The 6th inning is unlimited scoring.

Curfew Times

1. Weekday curfew times for all practices and games are 10:00 pm.
2. Weekend curfew times for all practices and games are 10:00 pm.

Base Paths & Pitching Distances

1. Softball base path is 60 ft.
1. Softball pitching distance is 43 ft. with an 8 foot radius circle.

Pitching Limits

1. There is a limit of innings pitcher per game and per week (Monday – Sunday) for all pitchers.
2. A total of 6 innings max per game / 12 innings max per week.
3. Once a pitcher throws at least 4 innings or more in a game, that pitcher must have 2 calendar days rest before being allowed to pitch in another game.
4. If a pitcher throws 3 or less innings in a game, that pitcher does not have to rest between days pitched.
5. A coach has 3 trips to the mound per game; on the 4th trip and every trip after the 4th, the pitcher must be removed from the game.

Speed Up Rules

1. Speed up rules will be used for the catcher only.
2. The last batter that is not on base may run for the catcher at anytime but it is not mandatory.

Revised and Approved: February 2, 2016