

2023 Baptist Softball League Rules

The following rules have been approved for play in the 2023 Baptist Softball League. Each rule applies to all divisions unless otherwise noted.

1. Purpose & Intent:

- a. The main purpose of the league is not winning games but offering church congregations a chance to play softball and have a good time in a Christian atmosphere.
- b. It is intended for congregations to not only use the league as a means of fellowship but also utilize it as an outreach tool for new potential members.
- c. Each league participant should be encouraged to attend church services regularly.

2. Conduct:

- a. Conduct of all participants in the Baptist League shall be in keeping with Christian standards taught by the church he/she represents. The use of profane language, threatening actions or other unsportsmanlike conduct towards other players, spectators, umpires, score keepers, or park staff may lead to an ejection by an umpire and/or the League Directors.
 - i. Players who are ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in their teams next scheduled game
 - ii. Being ejected twice in one season will result in suspension of that player for the remainder of the season and any post-season tournament.
- b. In keeping with our Christian atmosphere, no clothing shall be worn which is a contradiction with the Christian doctrine. Example: Alcoholic logos, obscene words, images, etc.

3. Game Play Rules:

- a. The Baptist Softball League will play according to USA Softball Association (USA) rules unless otherwise noted in these rules
- b. Teams must have a word of prayer together before starting the game. Following the coin toss the home team will be responsible for leading in prayer.
- c. Eight (8) players is the minimum number of players to start and finish a game
- d. No bunting or "chopping" of the ball is allowed. To be determined by umpire discretion
- e. Any team that cannot field eight players within five minutes of their scheduled game start time will forfeit the game. The teams may have the field to play/practice for the designated hour, but that will not be umpired or scored.
- f. Time Limits –
 - i. No inning may be started after one hour from the starting time. However, once an inning is started it must be completed.
- g. Each batter will begin their time at bat with a one ball, one strike count. There will be one courtesy foul ball allowed each at bat, per USA Softball.
- h. Run Rules - Ten run rule after five innings and fifteen run rule after three innings.
- i. Lineups – 5 minutes before the scheduled game time, the manager must give the scorekeeper a line-up.
- j. Men's teams may utilize the E.P. as an extra hitter (bat 11 players)
- k. There will be player substitutions allowed and we will follow USA rules governing substitutions and re-entry with the following exceptions:
 - i. A player, when brought into the game, must bat in the same spot in the lineup for whomever he replaces and play in the field before he bats (except for the E.P.)
 1. All players must bat before they leave the game unless an injury warrants their removal.

- ii. Injury – If an injured player is unable to continue playing and there is no legal substitute, a player who has previously been in the game may take his place.
- l. Bats - Only USA sanctioned softball bats may be used in all leagues
- m. Softballs:
 - i. Mens League – USA Softball approved, Heritage Park stamped 12 inch softball
- n. Home Run Rule – The Baptist League will follow the same guideline as the city leagues and use a 6 home run limit per team each game. Home runs hit after 6 will be outs
- o. Courtesy runners – Allowed at umpire discretion only. If a player is able to play defensively then they should be able to run the bases. Courtesy runners are intended to be used to assist those with physical limitations or injury issues. They should not be used to aid in a team's competitive advantage. Batters must safely acquire first base on their own.
 - i. Mens league – Players not currently in the lineup or the last batter to make an out in the previous inning if there are no extra players
- p. Unnecessary roughness – Unsportsmanlike conduct and intentional unnecessary roughness will not be tolerated and an offender is subject to immediate removal from the game. These situations will be called at the discretion of the umpire and they are instructed to look upon any form of intentional unnecessary roughness, as unsportsmanlike conduct, and remove any offender immediately from the game.
- q. Team managers are the only person who may question, in a courteous manner, an umpire's decision. Any other player disputing a call may be subject to ejection.

4. Other Rules:

- a. Age Limits – 14 and up before May 1 or completing the 8th grade in all divisions
- b. A player must play with his own church team entered in that division.
- c. Players whose church does not have a team may play for any other church.
- d. No player may play for any team other than the one with which he signed up for.
 - i. This includes church's who have multiple teams in the same division of play. They may not share players between the teams even though they are from the same church.
- e. Ineligible Players – Teams must consist of only players who are rostered for their team. All players will have a contract on file for the team they are rostered in each division.
 - i. Challenges to a player's eligibility must be made before the first pitch of the next game that evening or before the League Director leaves the park if the last game of the night. Player eligibility challenges that are upheld will result in game forfeiture for the offending team.
- f. Players must sign up and participate before July 1 to be eligible for a possible post season tournament
- g. Players that play in more than one division must have a completed player contract for each team
- h. No smoking is permitted on the sidelines, dugout or playing field.
- i. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.
- j. Spikes – No metal spikes will be allowed

5. Field Conditions:

- a. Rain outs - In the event of rain, please access the City of St. Joseph's web site for all cancellations. In order to allow teams every chance to play, no decision will be made before 4:00 p.m. on game day. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE BEFORE 4:00 p.m.
 - i. Web site: www.stjoeparks.info
 - ii. Sports Line: 816-271-5503

- b. Every effort will be made to get teams their allotted 10 games. Rain games will be made up at the end of the schedule and could possibly be scheduled on nights not normally used by that division, if need be.

6. Disclaimer:

- a. Umpires have been given full authority to administer these league rules. Any player that does not comply with the umpire's ruling will be subject to ejection from the game.
- b. Should situations arise during the season that are not directly covered in this set of rules or by the USA Softball Association the League Directors reserve the right to make rulings that are in the best interest of the league.

Shelly & Tim Dreier

Baptist Softball League Directors

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