

# Adult Softball

## Constitution and Bylaws

[www.campbellcountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.campbellcountyva.gov/parksandrec)

### I. **Purpose:**

To offer a well organized sports program that promotes sportsmanship and provides enjoyment for each participant. Herein these by-laws only cover those games sponsored by the Campbell County Recreation Department.

### II. **Registration:**

1. Team registrations must be received by the recreation department before the close of business on the published registration deadline. Registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis until the maximum number of teams or deadline is reached. The entry fee must accompany the registration form for the team. Checks are to be made payable to the Parks and Recreation Department. No refunds will be issued after schedules have been created, unless league is dissolved. Team names that the athletic department feels are vulgar or suggestive will not be permitted.

2. Team rosters will consist of no more than **25** players. **Rosters must be received at the recreation office by the start of the first game.** Rosters will be open for the first three weeks of the season for players to be added and removed. A written request including name, address and if they live or work in Campbell County must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Manager at the recreation office to add or remove a player to a roster.

3. Each player's full name (no nicknames) and signature must be on the team roster for them to be eligible to play.

### III. **League Rules:**

1. All teams entered into the adult softball leagues will be sanctioned by the USA Softball Association (USA). This sanction will provide each team with an USA rule book, liability insurance and score book.

2. Players must be fifteen (15) years old on or before the first game in order to be eligible to play. ALL PERSONS PLAYING UNDER AGE 18 MUST SUBMIT A SIGNED PROGRAM PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM SIGNED BY THERE PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

3. Transfer of players during the season is not allowed. Once you play one pitch during a game for one team you are on that team for the season. A player is only eligible for one slow pitch team per division.

4. No vulgar or suggestive shirts will be allowed. Shirts promoting or advertising drugs, alcohol or any shirt with profanity written on it will not be allowed. Tank tops and wife beaters will not be allowed jerseys must be a t-shirt (sleeveless t-shirts are allowed).

5. **All players must wear shoes that completely cover the feet. No player is allowed to wear metal baseball cleats in any Campbell County Softball Leagues. Players found to be wearing metal baseball cleats after a game has begun will be immediately ejected. Football cleats (round) can be worn, but an umpire must check them before each game. Penalty for ejection for metal baseball cleats is the remainder of the night ejected and two more scheduled nights of play or four games which ever is greater.**

6. There will be no hitting practice before games, and only players, managers / coaches and scorekeepers are allowed on the bench.

#### IV. Playing Rules:

1. All games will be conducted under official USA Softball rules for slow pitch, except for provisions herein. All leagues will be played with a three ball, two strike count. Third foul ball is an out. The home team will keep the official book, but it is recommended that both teams keep a book. **There shall positively be no GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT between manager's or coaches of teams in conflict with any rule or bylaw listed within.**

2. A team that does not have nine (9) players at the scheduled starting time will forfeit the game. There will be a five (5) minute waiting period for the first scheduled game of the night only. If the first game is forfeited after the five (5) minute waiting period the forfeiting team(s) have an additional fifteen (15) minutes to field a team for the second game.

3. All games will be seven (7) innings or fifty-five (55) minutes in length; whichever comes first. Once time has expired, the current inning will be completed and no new inning will be started. If the game is tied at the end of the seven (7) innings or fifty-five (55) minutes teams will play one (1) extra inning with batters receiving one (1) pitch. **\*REGULAR SEASON GAMES CAN END IN TIES!** \*Umpires (home plate) will have a timepiece and call out the games start time and have it recorded in the official book.

4. **Slaughter Rule-** The USA slow-pitch rule will be used 20 runs after three (3) innings, fifteen (15) runs after four (4) innings and ten (10) runs after 5 innings.

5. Campbell County will provide balls for all league and tournament games each team will hit a new ball on the first pitch of the game after that is up to the umpire what ball each team hits.

6. All bats must be on approved USA bat list this list can be viewed by going to [www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com) and look under approved equipment.

7. Casts or braces made from hard plastic or metal materials are not allowed to be worn while participating in the game.

**8. Each coach or manager prior to the start of the game must fill out the official lineup/scorecard with the correct date, team name, and full names of all players. Managers must also sign or initial the official lineup/scorecard, checking that the score is listed correctly after completion of the game.**

**9.** Games will be scheduled as double headers. If a team does not have nine players to start a game a forfeit will be declared. Teams can forfeit up to two nights per season, after the second forfeit, that team will be dropped from the league and tournament.

**10.** A game will be considered an official game if four (4) innings have been played three and a half (3 ½) if the home team is winning. If a game is stopped before it is an official game due to weather or other event, the entire game may be replayed at a later date, time and weather permitting.

**11.** Items that are not specifically addressed in the by-laws or USA Softball rule book are left to the discretion of the umpire in charge of the game.

**12.** Players attempting to reach a base should slide or give themselves up if a defensive player is in the act of making a tag (with the ball in their glove) or catching the ball. Base runners should attempt to avoid contact with the defensive player and give themselves up if the out is imminent. If contact does occur and in the opinion of the umpire, excessive force or intent to make contact with a defensive player is made, the base runner will be called out and depending on severity of the contact could possibly be ejected from the game. Fake tags are not allowed and can result in ejection of the offender.

**13.** A team may start a game with 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 players, with the 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> players being Extra Hitters (EH). **A team may start with only 9 players but can add a 10<sup>th</sup> player before the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. A player can be added at the start of any half inning until the top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. The 10<sup>th</sup> player will not be considered an out.**

**14.** Should a player become unable to finish a game and the team does not have a substitute, then an \_\_\_\_\_ out will be called when that player's spot comes up in the batting order. Teams may not drop more than one player per game. At no time can a team play with less than 9 players.

**15. During games a manager and assistant manager who are actually playing in the game will be designated in the official book. During the course of the game the umpire(s) can ask a manager or assistant to control an unruly player(s), if they do not the player(s) can be ejected and the manager can also be ejected. If no one is designated in the book, then the umpire will eject the offender and the player in the batting order under them. If a manager asks the umpire to eject a player because he/she cannot control them, the umpire can eject only the offender.**

**16.** Courtesy runner allowances:

Men's: One courtesy runner will be allowed per inning + one additional courtesy runner for the pitcher each inning.

Coed: One courtesy runner of each gender will be allowed per inning + one additional courtesy runner for the pitcher each inning.

The batter must reach base safely and receive an approved timeout from the umpire. The courtesy runner will be the player that made the last out. If it is the first inning it will be the last person listed in the batting line-up. If a person is injured after a courtesy runner has been used for that inning then another courtesy runner can be used for the injured player but only for that inning. A courtesy runner must be subbed in for the hitter at the end of the hitter's turn. Courtesy runners may not be subbed in once the hitter's turn is over.

**17.** The pitcher must take position with at least one foot on the pitching plate and one foot must remain in contact with pitching plate until ball is released from hand. The pitcher must pitch the ball towards home plate once motion has begun. There will be no faking or hesitation of pitching allowed. There will be no pitching between the legs or behind the back allowed. Any illegal motion will result in a ball being awarded to the batter.

**18.** The pitching arc will be 6 feet to 10 feet. The ball after leaving the pitchers hand must reach a minimum of 6 feet from the release point and not travel higher than 10 feet from the ground.

**19.** Umpires are not required to call illegal pitches before the ball reaches the batter. If an umpire feels that an illegal pitch has been made, a ball will be awarded to the batter after the ball crosses the plate.

**20.** A player after hitting a home run over the fence only has to touch first base. Any players on base at the time of the home run may walk off the field and all runs will be counted.

**21.** Face masks for pitchers are required. No exceptions.

**V. Behavior:**

**1. No alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed at a Campbell County sponsored event by any player or team personnel before, during or after a game.** Any players or teams found violating this policy will be suspended from league play.

**2. No drugs of any kind, regardless of legality, are allowed at a Campbell County sponsored event by any player or team personnel before, during or after a game.** Any players or teams found violating this policy will be suspended from league play.

**3. Threats or assaults toward any recreation staff or official during or after a game will result in that person being expelled from the league and from any further participation**

in activities offered by this department. Additional criminal charges will also be filed against any person involved in this type of behavior.

**4. Profane or abusive language directed at an official/Parks and Recreation staff or arguing with an official/Parks and recreation staff during or after a game will not be tolerated. Such actions will result in the player being ejected.** Players that have been ejected **must immediately leave County property.** Continued use of profane language after ejection will result in suspensions for multiple games or possibly the entire season or multiple seasons.

**5.** Fighting among players before, during or after a Campbell County sponsored event will result in the player and/or team being suspended from league play for an entire year. Profane or abusive language between players or criticizing another player may result in the offender(s) being ejected and/or suspended from the game and league.

**6.** Umpires and the Site Supervisor have complete control of the field and surrounding area(s) and also have the power to remove any player(s) or spectator(s) who exhibits any of the above behavior. The police will be called to remove a spectator(s) or player(s) if necessary.

**7. All suspension lengths not listed above for violation(s) will be made by the Parks and Recreation Manager after speaking with the involved parties and any witnesses if possible. Any player ejected from a game automatically receives suspension for the remainder of the night, the next night the team plays and possibly more if the infraction warrants, and must leave school property and may not attend games during their suspension. Suspension lengths may be greater depending on the severity of the offense.**

#### **VI. Playoff Rules:**

**1.** All teams qualify for post season playoffs. The Parks and Recreation Manager has the authority to withhold a team from post season play if they have forfeited games and or shown negative behavior throughout the season. The Parks and Recreation Manager has the full authority to designate the season end tournament arrangements.

**2.** Minimum game requirement for players to be eligible for the playoffs: At least 33% of the games played in the regular season.

**3.** If two or more teams are tied in the final standings, the following tie breakers will be used.

**A.** Teams record against each other.

**B.** Teams run differential against each other.

**C.** Teams total runs allowed for the season.

**D.** Coin flip.

4. The slaughter rule (Section IV. #4) will be used during all playoff games. Playoff games cannot end in ties and will be played until a winner is determined.

5. All games will be seven innings or 55 minutes in length; whichever comes first. Once time has expired, the current inning will be completed and no new inning will be started. (Except if game is tied). The Tournament Championship Games will be seven innings.

6. Top seeded teams will be the home team. Except in the Championship game the undefeated team will be the home team in the first game. If a second game is needed the winning team of the first game will be the home team.

7. If a playoff game is unable to be finished due to weather or lighting before the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, it is up to the Parks and Recreation Manager to determine how to finish the game.

**VII. Protest Procedures:**

1. Protests can only be made concerning rules and violations of the bylaws. Official's judgment is not subject to protest. If a coach wishes to protest an incident, the following steps must be taken.

2. The coach must notify the official and opposing coach of the protest at the time of the incident. For no reason can a protest be made after a game is complete.

3. The coach must file a written protest including a \$50.00 protest fee at the Campbell County Recreation Office with the Parks and Recreation Manager by 4:30 p.m. the next working day after the incident occurs. If the protest is upheld the \$50.00 protest fee will be refunded. **Under no circumstances** will a protest be accepted by phone.

4. Player eligibility may be protested at anytime by the team manager/coach notifying the umpire who will then get the players name and age and could if necessary check the players I.D. and record it on the scorecard where it will be checked by the Parks and Recreation Manager who will report findings to the protesting manager. \* Player eligibility does not require the \$50.00 protest fee.

**VIII. Weather Conditions:**

1. In case of inclement weather, a message will be sent to team managers via email. Team managers/coaches may call the Parks and Recreation Manager at 434-332-9848 after 4:00 P.M. to find out if games are being played. Game cancellations will also be posted on the Parks and Rec website ([www.campbellcountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.campbellcountyva.gov/parksandrec)). If there is no cancellation message on the website, the games will be considered playable for that week.

2. If no announcement has been made or after a game has started all decisions to cancel due to weather and field conditions will rest with the umpire at game time.

3. Teams are **NOT** to be on the fields if games are cancelled due to weather.

**IX. Makeup and Game Information:**

1. If a game is postponed due to weather or field conditions then the Parks and Recreation Manager will reschedule games at the end of the current schedule or on any available date to finish the season. If numerous rainouts occur the Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel games.

2. **MAKEUP SCHEDULES WILL BE EMAILED OUT.**

3. Access game schedules, team standings, and other league information at the counties web site. [www.campbellcountyva.gov/parksandrec](http://www.campbellcountyva.gov/parksandrec). This information may also be emailed to all managers.