

COOKEVILLE LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

CANE CREEK SPORTSPLEX

Men's Church Softball League By-Laws

Summer 2026

- 1) There is an Advisory Committee. This committee and the Leisure Services staff will advise on by-laws, protest, rule interpretations, team division placement, and other appropriate matters.
- 2) All teams will play 12 games. If there are more than 10 teams, we will play two rounds. The first round of games will be played according to their win/loss record. All 12 games will count in the final standings. Less than 10 teams will be in one division.
- 3) Standings will be determined by win percentage, and then by head-to-head, then by deferential, and then points against.
- 4) If teams tie for first or second place in the regular season final standings, they will remain tied.
- 5) Leagues and Divisions will attempt to be scheduled for the following nights. This is a guideline only and is subject to change due to make up games:
 - a) Monday: Men's Church League
- 6) The contact person (coach or captain) for each team is responsible for informing and ensuring the entire team follows the league by-laws and WSL rules. Coaches must submit a completed roster with the correct league fees by the established deadline. Rosters will be submitted through Team Sideline. The link to the platform can be found here:
<https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/cookeville-tn/content/85/Softball>
- 7) Any team that withdraws from the league after the deadline but more than one week before the coaches meeting shall receive a 50% refund for league fees. Any team that withdraws from the league less than one week prior to the first game scheduled will not receive a refund.
- 8) Roster:
 - a) The official roster will be on the league management website, Team Sideline. All participants must create an account and register for a team. All players must be at least 18 years of age on the date of the first game they play.
 - b) All rosters must be reviewed and signed by the church's pastor to verify that at least 75% of the team members are either church members or regularly attend that church.
 - c) There will be a limit of 15 players to a roster, every addition after 15 will incur a \$7 player fee.
 - d) New players must be put on the roster before the game to be eligible to play that night. No new players can be added to their team roster after the final regular season game. All players must play in at least 6 regular season games to be eligible to play in the playoffs.
 - e) Players are not allowed to transfer to a different team.
 - f) A player playing under a false name is an illegal player. Coaches may review other team's rosters at any time during the game and protest the opposing team's roster and players. See more under Protests for a formal protest. If a team is playing an illegal player the game will be a forfeit, and the illegal player and coach of the team will be suspended for two additional games. If the violation occurs twice, the team will forfeit

the rest of the season with no refund. The Leisure Services staff will make all final decisions on all roster protests. Suspended players MAY NOT play for another team while on suspension.

- 9) You may not play for more than one team in the Co-Ed or Men's Division. You can play for a Men's and a Co-Ed team during the same season. Players participating in more than one division will be required to be placed on the official roster of both teams.
- 10) All players shall wear shirts with different numbers on the back. Steel cleats are prohibited. If a player has steel cleats on their shoes, the umpire will request the shoes be replaced.
- 11) Each team must provide a men's 12-inch yellow 44 cor/400 or 375 compression slow-pitch ball. A team hitting a ball out of play, or one ruled not playable by the umpire will be required to provide another playable ball. Any altered ball or core or compression will be declared an illegal ball.
- 12) All bats must have a maximum bat performance of 1.20. The Miken Ultra, Ultra II, Freak Nasty, and any Senior bat are illegal bats. The Board and Staff will review any additional bat that becomes illegal during the season.
- 13) Legible lineup cards/sheets that include starters and substitutes are to be submitted to the scorekeeper 10 minutes before game time. The scorekeeper will call for lineups. All players not available at game time should be placed on the lineup as substitutes.
- 14) Game time is forfeit time. The only exception is for the 6:15pm game time with a 5-minute grace period.
- 15) Teams that forfeit 3 times out of the first 7 games for the season will be removed from the league.
- 16) A team shall consist of nine (9) or ten (10) players on defense. A game may begin with 9 players. The absent player must be placed in the 10th batting position. The absent player must be placed in the 10th batting position. An out will be declared each time the 10th position comes to bat. A team cannot continue to play with less than nine (9) players. You may bat 10, 11 or 12 players. If players leave and cannot be replaced, you must take an out for each player less than the number you started with.
- 17) Teams will play 7 innings or 1 hour, whichever comes first. During the first 3 innings of the game, 10 run max rule. Once 10 runs have been reached the half-inning is over. The run rule is 15 runs after 4 innings, 12 runs after 5 innings, and 10 runs after 6 innings. A new inning will not start if there is no time left on the clock when the 3rd out is made, unless the game is tied. Teams will be allowed to finish the inning they have started. If teams are tied at the end of regulation (7 innings or no time on the clock), teams will use the international tie breaker system. The last batter of the previous inning will start each new inning on second base.
- 18) Each A team is initially granted five (5) home runs per game; while B teams are granted (3) however, if both teams reach the home run limit, then each team may hit one more homerun than the other team. If a team hits a homerun when not allowed. The ball is dead. The batter is out, and no runner can advance. If two teams of a different division play, there will be a limit of (3) home runs.
- 19) All batters will start with a 1-1 count. Each batter will be given one extra foul on the 3rd strike foul.
- 20) Courtesy runner: A team may use two courtesy runners per inning. The runner may be any player on the roster. In the event the courtesy runner is on base when their turn comes to bat,

the batter will be declared out. In the event the team bats around, the same pinch runner must be used. There will be no stealing of bases.

- 21) Upon release of the pitch: the pitcher must have at least one foot in contact with the pitching plate. The pitching arc is 6 ft minimum and 10 ft maximum from the ground. The pitcher must release the ball within 5 seconds of the start of the delivery or when the umpire says, "play ball". If not, a ball is awarded to the batter. If a batter takes a pitch and the legally pitched ball first hits any part of the strike mat and not home plate, it is a strike. If not, it is a ball.
- 22) The pitcher may pitch from the pitching plate or from the pitching area, an area the width of the plate and up to three (3) feet behind the pitcher's plate.
- 23) Optional Pitcher Screen:
 - a) Pitchers have the option to use a screen while they pitch for safety.
 - b) Each batter will be allowed one courtesy foul if a batted ball makes contact with the pitcher protection screen.
 - i) On the first occurrence, the ball will be ruled a foul ball (courtesy foul).
 - ii) On the second occurrence, the ball will be declared a dead ball, and the batter will be out.
 - iii) No runners may advance on a dead ball resulting from contact with the screen.
 - c) The pitcher, if using the pitching screen, may not be the first defensive player to field a batted ball. If the Pitcher is the first player to make contact with the ball, it shall be declared a dead ball and the batter will be awarded first base. All other base runners will advance one base.
 - d) All balls that are thrown by the defensive team that hit the protection screen will be ruled a live ball.
- 24) Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - a) A player, coach, or spectator is ejected from a game, that person will draw an automatic 3-game suspension.
 - b) A player, coach, or spectator ejected for the second time within a season (regardless of how many leagues they are participating in) will be suspended for the remainder of the season from Leisure Service Athletics programming. Depending on severity of the situation, the Athletic Superintendent and/or their designee may impose a longer suspension.
 - c) If a team has 3 or more players ejected from a game, the game will be called. The offending team will be subject to review by the Leisure Service staff to continue play in the league. If determined by the Athletic Superintendent and/or their designee, the offending team may be removed from the league with no refund.
 - d) Any profanity or abusive language directed at an umpire, scorekeeper, or Leisure Service staff member will not be tolerated.
 - e) When a person has been ejected, they must leave the confines of the Sportsplex, including the parking lot. Failure to do so will result in a longer suspension.
- 25) No tobacco products will be allowed anywhere in the Cane Creek Sportsplex, including the dugouts. Use of tobacco products will result in an ejection.
- 26) No Alcohol. If there is any evidence of alcohol by a team on City property, inside the dugout, or team area, the game will be a forfeit. Ball bags and team coolers are subject to be opened by the Leisure Services staff if deemed necessary. If a player is caught a second time with alcohol,

that person will be suspended for the remainder of the season and will not be allowed to play for another team or division.

- 27) Music may be played during games, but it must be radio-friendly and free of explicit language or inappropriate content
- 28) Protests: There is a \$50 protest fee. There are only 3 valid protests:
- a) Misinterpretation of a playing rule:
 - i) The protest must be made **BEFORE** the next pitch or before all infielders have left fair territory, or if it's the last play of the game, before the umpires have left the field.
 - b) Illegal substitute/re-entry:
 - i) Protests must be made while illegal substitutes are currently in the game and before the umpires leave the field.
 - c) Ineligible player:
 - i) Roster protests can be made at any time **DURING** the game. The coach may, at no cost, ask the staff person in charge to see the opposing team's lineup card. A formal protest must be submitted **BEFORE** the game ends. The staff person will make the final interpretation as to the eligibility.
 - d) Protest fees will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
 - e) **AN UMPIRE'S JUDGEMENT IS NOT SUBJECT TO PROTEST.**
- 29) League Official is empowered to suspend or cancel a game at any time because of weather, field conditions, darkness, panic, or any other cause which puts the umpire, players or spectators in peril. A canceled game is a game that has not started or the losing team has not completed their at bat in the 4th inning with time remaining on the clock. Canceled games will be rescheduled from the beginning at a later date.
- 30) A Leisure Services staff member will contact the coach designated on the roster by email to let them know of any canceled games due to weather. It is the coaches' responsibility to contact their team about any cancelations.