

2010 Slow Pitch Softball  
Additions, Exceptions, and Clarifications  
to the USSSA Rules

3-30-10

**The USSSA rules shall be followed in cooperation with the following exceptions and/or clarifications.**

1. All players must be at least 30 yrs of age on game day. It is not the umpire's responsibility to monitor the age of players. If a manager wishes to challenge the age of a player on the opposing team it must be done on appeal. Once a player in question enters the batter's box, a manager may request time and ask that the umpire verify the age of a player. **If the player cannot present proof of age, he will be ejected, and an out recorded for that at bat, and each time that player's spot in the line up is due to bat for the remainder of the game.** Proof of age is left up to the judgment of the umpire. If the umpire is satisfied that the player meets the minimum age requirement the game will continue with no action taken. The umpire may or may not grant the appeal. If the umpire feels that there are no legitimate grounds for the appeal, i.e.: the player is obviously over 30 in his/her opinion, than the appeal shall be denied.
2. The game may be started with 8 players and finished with 8 players. No grace period will be allowed. Game will start promptly at the time noted on the schedule.
3. Each team will be responsible for furnishing one scorekeeper. This person may be a playing member of the team. Teams keep their own score while at bat.
4. Length of game - A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings or no more than 55 minutes. Any inning in progress when time expires shall be completed.
5. A 10 run rule will be in effect after 5 innings, a 15 run rule will be in effect after 4 innings, and a 20 run rule will be in effect after 3 innings. A team leading by the listed number of runs after completion of the corresponding inning listed shall be declared the winner.
6. Tie game - A game that is tied at the end of 7 innings shall be continued, providing time has not expired.
7. Equipment - Metal, boots, sandals, removable, or hard cleats are **illegal**. Only molded rubber or soccer style cleat shoes are allowed. No player may play barefoot. Teams may use their own bats as long as they are USSSA approved for slow pitch softball.
8. A 12-inch white or optic yellow softball with 0.44 COR will be used in all men's games. (Exception: The league director, at his discretion, can allow the use of a .47 COR ball on days when the temperature exceeds 85 to 90 deg. In order to maintain a competitive level of play.)
9. Each batter will begin with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. After reaching 2 strikes, one courtesy foul will be allowed, but a foul ball after one courtesy foul will constitute the third strike and the batter is out.

10. Each pitch must have a minimum 6 foot arch and a maximum of 12 foot arch. Any pitch that is too high or too low will be called as a "ball", unless the batter swings at or hits the pitch.
11. No bunting or stealing is permitted; base runners cannot leave their base until the ball has crossed the plate. A runner leaving a base before, in the umpires judgment, the ball has crossed the plate will be called out.
12. Fake tags are strictly prohibited. If in the judgment of the umpire a fielder without the ball deceives the runner by impeding his progress and causing him/her to slide, slow down, or stop running, a fake tag will be called. The runner will automatically advance to the next base and the defensive player may be removed.
13. An infield fly is a fair ball (not including a line drive) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied before two are out.
14. A courtesy runner may substitute for an injured base runner. The courtesy runner shall be the player who made the last out in the preceding inning. No penalty shall be issued for an injured player who cannot take his turn at bat. Proceed to the next batter in the line up, and reinsert the injured player into his normal batting spot later in the game if he becomes able.
- 15. Absolutely no bad language or unsportsmanlike behavior will be tolerated. This is a "for fun" league made up of teams from Catholic Churches. Please represent your church in a Christian-like manner.**

#### Field Rules:

Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex provides concessions, including beer, for sale at a discounted rate to teams in the league. No outside food or beverages are allowed in the complex. *No pets are allowed in the complex.*

#### General Information:

The league is made up of 10 regular season games. Because of the odd number of teams in the league this year I have instituted a point system to determine the standings. Three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a tie. Teams with only eleven games on their schedule will be awarded 2 points automatically at the beginning of the season. The four teams with the most point totals will play each other for the championship of the league. The winners will play each other for the championship. The team with more points in the regular season will be the home team\*. The league champions will have their team name engraved on the silver loving cup, and keep possession of the cup, and all associated bragging rights, for one year. Play-off games will be announced at the end of the season.

\*In the event that two teams have identical records during the regular season, their record in head to head competition will be used as a tie breaker. If there is still a tie, then total runs scored in head to head competition will be used to break the tie.