

# SUMMERVILLE MEN'S CHURCH SOFTBALL RULES

Adopted July 24, 2008

[www.smcs1.org](http://www.smcs1.org)

## 1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. To participate in the Summerville Men's Church Softball League, a player must regularly attend the church for which he is playing, but is not required to be a member of said church. *Any person playing for a team other than the church of which he is a member must be attending the church for which he is playing.*
- B. Two (2) players who are members of a church without a softball team can play with another church with a team in the league. The pastors of the two churches involved must sign an official church transfer form agreeing to the arrangement.
- C. Players must be at least sixteen (16) years old, during the season. Any player under eighteen (18) years old must have a waiver form signed by his parents/legal guardian to participate in the league.
- D. All players must be certified as eligible by their pastor/minister.
- E. No players can be added to a roster after mid-season unless a player moves into the area. Mid-season will be the same for all teams. Mid-season this year will be May 14, 2009.
- F. A roster may contain no more than 27 players.
- G. Two or more churches may combine to form one team with the approval of the league commissioners.
- H. No player that was on the roster of another team in the league the previous year will be allowed to be added to the roster of another team once the original rosters have been submitted. *A church which had more than one team the previous year and has reduced their number of participating teams can add players from the dropped teams up to the scheduled add date. Players switching teams within the same church will be handled by that church and no player on any team will be allowed to switch teams once they have played in a game (does not include practice games, but does include preseason tournament games) without the approval of League commissioners.*
- I. *Any challenges to a player's eligibility will be submitted in written form to the commissioners and will be handled by a commissioner calling the pastor of the church in question.*

## 2. GAME REGULATIONS

- A. A team will consist of ten (10) players, but a game may be played if a team has no less than nine (9) players. In the case of a team starting with nine (9) players, the game is not forfeited and batting position number 10 will not count as an out. The tenth player may be added in the tenth batting position at any time during the game. Extra players #11 and #12 cannot be added to the lineup once the game has started.
- B. During the regular season, games will be played on fields 1, 2, 3, or 4 at Gahagan Park on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, with the possibility of games on Fridays and Saturdays. Weekend games will be scheduled only if necessary to complete the season in a timely manner. Game times will be 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 & 9:30. **No games will be allowed to start after 10:00PM (TOS).** There will be a ten-minute grace period for the first game only. The time limit for the game will begin promptly at 6:30 and time waiting for the ninth player will be lost. Once a team has nine players, the game will start. Time limit will be one hour and fifteen minutes. Five innings will constitute a complete game. If a game is called due to the time limit, the team that is ahead at the bottom of the last

inning will be declared the winner. Once an inning has started, it will be completed unless the home team is ahead. The visiting team will be allowed to finish their time at bat.

- C. Forfeits: Teams not having the required number of players (9) will forfeit the game. Players in the parking lot or on the way do not count.
1. **Any team forfeiting 3 games during the regular season will be dismissed from the league without refund of league fee (TOS).**
  2. *If a team has to forfeit a make-up game rescheduled with less than three days notice, the forfeit will count as a "coach's loss" and will not count against the team's limit of three forfeits.*
  3. A fee of \$60.00 will be collected with the registration fee to be used to pay for forfeited games. Any unused portion will be credited to the teams in 2009.
  4. Forfeiting team will forfeit \$20.00 of the \$60.00 fee paid at registration. This fee will be used to pay for the second umpire.
  5. *Teams that forfeit for conduct reasons will have to go before the commissioners to determine possible disciplinary actions.*
- D. Make-up games (rainouts) will be played as scheduled. Although highly unlikely, some games may be scheduled on Friday or Saturday. Any dates or times submitted before the season for "cannot play" dates due to church functions will be followed. Rained out games *if not complete, both regular season and tournament*, will start over at inning one. All rescheduling will be done through the league commissioners. Coaches will be contacted by *telephone or email* with new dates and times of *rescheduled* games and a copy of the rainout schedule will be at the field in the scorekeeper's book and on the *league website*.
- E. The ISA mercy rule will apply:
- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| 15 runs after 3 innings |
| 12 runs after 4 innings |
| 10 runs after 5 innings |
- F. Home Run Rule - Two (2) homeruns. Any subsequent home-runs will result in an inning ending out.
- G. **Field 4 Play - Any ball (fair or foul) hit over the safety net while youth are participating in any scheduled practice or game on field 5 or 6 will incur the following penalties.**
1. **First ball over the safety net will be an out and a run for the opposing team.**
  2. **Second ball over the safety net will be an out and two runs for the opposing team.**
  3. **Third ball hit over the safety net, end of inning, three runs for the opposing team, and ejection of the batter (TOS).**
- H. Players in the dugout
1. The offensive and defensive team coaches are strongly urged to keep all players not involved in the immediate play within the dugout.
  2. The defensive team will be allowed to have the defensive players in the field and one (1) other player outside but adjacent to the dugout. Infractions of this rule will incur the following penalties.
    - a. First infraction will be a warning to the coach.
    - b. Second infraction will be award a ball to the ball and strike count of the offensive batter.
    - c. Further infractions will be award first base to the offensive batter.
  3. The offensive team will be allowed to have a coach in the first and third base coach's boxes, a batter in the batter's box, the on deck batter in the on deck

circle, base runners(as appropriate) and one (1) player outside, be adjacent to the dugout.

- a. First infraction will be a warning to the coach.
  - b. Second infraction will be the addition of a strike to the ball/strike count of the batter.
  - c. Further infractions will result in a called out for the batter.
- I. Base stealing will not be allowed, except in the Faith Division.
- J. Each batter in the Spirit and Fellowship Division will begin with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. A third strike foul will be an out. In the Faith Division, the batter will begin with a one (1) ball and no (0) strike count and a third strike foul will be an out.
- K. There will be a 10 minute grace period between back to back games of a double header *if requested by the team playing the doubleheader.*
- L. The league will use the double bag (orange and white) at first base. If the runner fails to touch the orange portion of the bag on a play at the base, he will be called out by the umpire.
- M. If two teams from different divisions are playing, the rules from the lower division apply.

### 3. FIELD CONDITIONS

The fitness of the playing field will be determined by:

1. The town of Summerville - Prior to game time, **COACHES ONLY** may call 851-5211 after 5:00 pm to check for field conditions.
2. 15 minutes prior to game time - the two respective coaches will make the decision. A league commissioner will make the decision if the two coaches cannot agree.
3. Once the game has started, the umpires will make the decision to stop a game.
4. Once a game has been called, all other games scheduled on that field for that day will also be cancelled.
5. Rainout games will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Some might possibly be scheduled for Friday or Saturday.

**ABSOLUTELY NO GAMES ON A MUDDY FIELD!!**

### 4. OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPERS

- A. Official scorekeepers will be furnished by the league to keep the scorebook and run the scoreboards.
- B. A properly filled out line-up card should be taken to the official scorekeeper before the game begins. The time limit for your game will begin at game time, not when you turn in your line-up. Don't hold your line-up waiting for one player to show up. If a properly filled out line-up is not delivered to the scorekeeper by the start of the second inning, the game will be considered a **COACH'S LOSS**. This loss will not count as one of the three (3) forfeits in rule 2. C (1), however, it will count as a league loss. The game may continue as a practice game, but the umpires will not call the game and the scoreboard will not be used.
- C. The scorekeeper will notify the person delivering line-up card if the line-up card is not properly filled out. A properly filled out line-up card will include the player's names printed (last name/first initial), the jersey number and the proper batting order. Recording the player's fielding position is optional. A listing of the substitutes though highly recommended is also optional. This rule applies to pre-season games, *regular season, and post-season games.*

**PROPERLY FILLED OUT!      IMPROPERLY FILLED OUT!**

Order	Name	#	Pos	Order	Name	#	Pos
1	Smith, Jo	5		1	Jordan		
2	Smith Ja	9		2	Jarrood		
3	Smith, Ju	8		3	Justin		
4	White,Ro	4		4	White, R	4	
5	White, Ri	2		5	White, R	4	
6	Jones	3		6	Spanky	3	
7	Brown	1		7	bubba	1	
8	Bishop	6		8	Fred		
9	Beard	7		9	lefty	7	
10	Sanders	10		10	whitey	3	
11	Clark	11		11	Kevin		
12	Williams	12		12	joe	99	

- D. A line-up card will be turned in to the opposing team's coach. Any changes made to the line-up will also be given to the opposing coach.
- E. A representative from each team *should* sign the official scorebook after each game. Check to make sure that the proper substitutions have been recorded.
- F. Umpires will establish game start time. Scorekeeper will be responsible for notifying the umpire ten minutes prior to time limit of game and when time has expired.

**5. GAME RULES**

- A. Game rules as specified in the 2009 I SA Rulebook will apply to this league, with the following exceptions:
  - 1. Pitching height will be 4 to 10 feet.
  - 2. Players will not be allowed to wear any jewelry with the exception of a wedding ring. First infraction will result in a warning. Second infraction will result in removal from the game.
  - 3. Starting with pre-season tournament, each player is required to wear a shirt of the same color as his teammates, with a six (6) inch number on the back. Numbers must coincide with the numbers that have been recorded on the line-up card turned in to the official scorekeeper. No duplicate numbers allowed. A shirt with a number must be worn as the outer garment while batting.
  - 4. Players must have matching jerseys by May 14, 2009.
    - a. Same color.
    - b. Same *logo* on front.
    - c. Six (6) inch number on back.
  - 5. Each team will hit the same ball provided by the league- Decker leather, .44 core/375 compression
- B. Home team will be on the first base side, visitors on the third base side.
- C. Fees for the umpires will be paid to the league as part of the league fees and will be distributed to the umpire's association by the league treasurer.

## 6. SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Free substitutions are not allowed for the sole purpose of allowing a player to bat. Each player must play a full inning when he enters a game unless that player sustains an injury. A player may enter a game in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning to bat, but must play on defense in the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning if the game is tied after seven innings.
- B. Courtesy runners are allowed. It must be the last player to make an out and only one is allowed per inning. *Courtesy runners cannot be utilized at the same time as the base burglar.*
- C. A base burglar may be designated before the game and is indicated by placing the name at the bottom of the line-up card with the initials BB beside it. The base burglar can be used only once per inning and cannot be a position player or extra player. The person can be put into the line-up, but the team will lose the base burglar for the remainder of the game. *A courtesy runner may then be used by the team for the rest of the game.*
- D. Any changes made to a line-up will be reported to the umpire, official scorekeeper, and the opposing coach, prior to that player entering the game.

## 7. SHOES

- A. No steel cleats of any kind are permitted. No shoes such as football shoes that have metal columns as support for the rubber cleat is permitted.
- B. Non athletic shoes are not permitted due to the inherent safety hazard presented by slick soles and heels. Tennis shoes are permitted, but not recommended.
- C. These rules apply to all scheduled scrimmages, regular season games and tournament games.

## 8. CONDUCT

**COACHES - THIS IS YOUR FIRST AND ONLY WARNING.**

**GO OVER THESE RULES WITH YOUR PLAYERS BECAUSE YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF YOUR TEAM!!**

- A. Any coach not controlling his players or not resolving issues with his team is subject to ejection after being warned by the umpires, commissioners or town officials.
- B. Any display of poor sportsmanship, such as profanity, throwing equipment, overbearing or inconsiderate actions, and loss of temper resulting in unnecessary gesture or speech directed at the umpires, commissioners, players, coaches, or fans will result in an ejection from a game.
  - 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> violation for coaches/players will be dismissal from the game!  
Any player/coach ejected from a game must leave the complex. Fans will be asked to leave the complex. Town of Summerville employees, umpires and league commissioners have the authority to ask coaches, players, or fans to leave the complex due to poor conduct. Summerville police will be called to escort anyone that refuses or delays leaving the complex.
  - 2. A 2<sup>nd</sup> violation will result in a meeting of the commissioners to discuss additional disciplinary action to include possible dismissal of the violator from the league.
  - 3. *Any ejections during tournament play will result in a commissioners meeting to determine whether that player may continue play in the tournament.*
- C. The umpires and coaches will handle all disputes or discussions. **PLAYERS WILL STAY OUT!!!** This is of the utmost importance!
- D. *During games in which a commissioner is participating, the commissioner has the same standing as any other player unless he is coaching one of the teams.*

- E. Any player that threatens to hit the ball back at the pitcher and then does hit it back at the pitcher will be ejected from that game.

## 9. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- A. The league will be divided into *three divisions (FAITH, SPIRIT, and FELLOWSHIP)*
- B. Divisions will be determined based on previous year standings. *Top teams will be in the FAITH division, middle division teams will be in the SPIRIT division, and remaining teams will be in the FELLOWSHIP division. A team can petition in writing the commissioners to place them in a lower or a higher division if they believe that circumstances surrounding their team warrant the position change. The decision of the commissioners on the petition will be final.*
- C. In the event of a tie in the standings, the following tiebreakers will be utilized to determine the higher standing to determine divisions for the next year in the following order:
  - 1. If teams played each other, winner receives higher standing.
  - 2. If teams have not played each other, higher standing will be based on won lost records against other common opponents.
  - 3. Highest number of runs, based on runs scored minus runs scored against the team in consideration.
- D. The commissioners will determine the proper division for all new teams in the league.
- E. For voting purposes at meetings, churches having multiple teams in the league must have a representative from each team to be able to have more than one vote.
- F. *In the event of a tie in the regular season standings, the following tiebreakers will be used to determine the league champion/runner-up and tournament seedings:*
  - 1. *Head to head competition*
  - 2. *Most runs scored in games between teams in consideration*
  - 3. *Least runs allowed in games between teams in consideration*
  - 4. *Most runs scored in the season*
- G. *First and second place plaques will be awarded in each division and each tournament, preseason and postseason. In addition, shirts (20) will be given to the first place team in each division and each tournament.*

## 10. TOURNAMENT

Three double elimination tournaments will be held following the completion of the regular season. All players must play in 1/3 (6) of his team's regular season games to participate in any post-season tournament games. A military exemption will be granted for someone not qualified to play if a team provides a copy of the individual's orders to the league. Courtesy runners used in tournament games must also meet these same eligibility requirements. If a player/coach is ejected from a tournament game, the commissioners will determine if that player will be allowed to participate in any following tournament games.

## 11. PROTEST

- A. Any team who chooses to lodge a protest must contact a commissioner in writing within 48 hours of the incident in question. At that time, the commissioners will meet and make a decision on the protest. The commissioners must have *at least five commissioners* to rule on a protest. Rule interpretations may be protested, but judgment calls may not be protested.

- B. *Any protest lodged in a tournament game will be acted upon immediately by the commissioners present at the field. The game will be halted until a decision can be made. If at least three commissioners are not present to make a ruling, a committee of three will be formed of at least one commissioner and available non-playing coaches to make a decision. The game will resume once a decision has been made.*

## **TOWN OF SUMMERVILLE LAWS**

***NO ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES AT GAHAGAN PARK!  
THIS INCLUDES THE PARKING LOT!***

***NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON THE FIELD OR IN THE DUGOUTS!***

***NO ROLLERBLADES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, OR BIKES!***

***NO PETS OF ANY KIND OR SIZE ARE ALLOWED!!!!!!  
ANYONE SHOWING UP WITH THE ABOVE WILL BE ASKED TO  
LEAVE THE COMPLEX!***

***PARK ONLY IN MARKED PARKING SPACES!!  
NO PARKING ON THE GRASS!!!  
PARKING BY THE WORK SHED IS FOR GAHAGAN EMPLOYEES ONLY!  
ANY ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLE MAY BE TICKETED AND OR TOWED  
AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE!***

***COACHES - PLEASE GO OVER THESE RULES WITH ALL OF YOUR  
PLAYERS / FANS!***

***THE COMMISSIONERS ARE HERE TO ENFORCE THE RULES. WE ARE  
NOT HERE TO EXPLAIN THEM TO YOUR PLAYERS / FANS OR TO  
PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS TO THESE BYLAWS.***

***The Commissioners, umpires, or any Town of Summerville employee can have players, coaches or fans removed for any unruly behavior. We will not argue with the violator. They will be asked to leave. If they refuse, Summerville police will be called to escort them out.***