

2019
SUMMERVILLE MENS CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS
EXCERPT FOR UMPIRES
available at SMCSL.org

1. **TEAM:** A team will consist of ten (10) players, **but a game may be played if a team has no less than nine (8) players.** In the case of a team starting with eight (8) players, the game is **not** forfeited, and **batting position number 9 and 10 will not count as an out.** The ninth and tenth player may be added in the ninth and tenth batting position at **any time during the game.** **Players 11 & 12 (EP) cannot be entered once the game has started.** Teams not having the required number of players (8) will **forfeit** the game. **Players in the parking lot, or on the way are not to be counted.**

2. **GRACE PERIOD:** There will be a **ten-minute grace period for the first game (7:00) only.** Grace period counts toward **one hour and ten-minute** time limit.

3. GAME TIME: ONE HOUR / TEN MINUTE TIME LIMIT!!

a. **Scorekeeper** will start the 7:00 games promptly at 7:00. **If no umpires are present at a field, the game time will commence at the arrival of the first umpire. 8:00 and 9:00** games start times will be **established by the home plate umpire immediately after prayer.** **Scorekeeper** will be responsible for **notifying umpire ten minutes prior to time limit** of game and **when time has expired.** This will be accomplished verbally or utilizing the field PA system. The ensuing inning is to be considered to **start immediately after the third out of the previous inning.** Should time expire in the top half of an inning, the inning will continue through the bottom half of the inning unless the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team.

4. **BALL AND STRIKE COUNT:** **Batter will begin with a one ball and one strike count with an extra foul allowed.** Example: **Batter has two strike count and fouls the next pitch (extra foul). He will not be called out and will await another pitch, when fouled he will be called out.**

5. **BASE STEALING:** **Not allowed in any division.**

6. **HOME RUNS:** **Three (3) homeruns, per team per game, subsequent home runs per team will result in an out on the team hitting the home run.**

7. **Play on field 4 Only** – Any ball (fair or foul) hit **over** the safety net while any youth are participating in any scheduled practice or game on field 5 or 6, the following will apply.(per team per game)(TOS)

- 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, **inning ending out**, **three runs** for the **opposing team**, and **ejection** of the batter.

8. SAFETY RULE: Restrictions to excessive unauthorized players outside the dugout, in the field of play. THIS RULE IS TO BE STRICTLY INFORCED NOTE: failure of an umpire to enforce this rule when observed or informed by a coach / commissioner may result in the league restricting the umpire from participating in future league games.

A. The offensive and defensive team coaches are strongly urged to keep **all unnecessary** players within the dugout.

1. 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.**

a) Penalty for infraction of rule :

- 1) **First infraction** will be a **warning to the coach.**
- 2) **Second infraction** will be **awarding a ball to the ball and strike count** of the offensive batter.
- 3) **Third and successive infraction** will be **awarding first base to the offensive batter.**

B. The offensive team will be allowed to have a **coach in the first and third base coaches box**, a **batter in the batters box**, the **on deck batter in the on deck circle (if established)**, base runners (as appropriate) and **one player outside but adjacent to the dugout.**

a) Penalty for infraction of rule :

- 1) **First infraction** will be a **warning to the coach**
- 2) **Second infraction** will be the **issuance of a strike to the ball and strike count** of the offensive batter.
- 3) **Third and successive infractions** will be a **called out for the offensive batter.**

9. SAFETY BAG USE AT FIRST BASE: If the batter/ runner fails to touch the orange portion of the base on a play at the base, he will be called out by the umpire. **The runner may touch the white bag to avoid a collision if the defensive player is forced to occupy the orange bag.**

10. STOPPING GAME: WEATHER DELAYS: (RAIN/ LIGHTNING)

1. ONCE A GAME IS CALLED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS, ALL GAMES (ALL FIELDS) SCHEDULED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT NIGHT, WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED.

2. RAIN DELAYS: Should inclement weather (rain delays) occur, the following apply:

a. Umpire(s) shall wait **30 minutes** before a game can be called.

EXCEPTON: If in the opinion of the umpire(s), after **15 minutes** of delay the field conditions would not permit the safe continuation of the game, the

umpire may terminate (call) the game. **If game is called, all games on all fields will be cancelled for the remainder of the evening**

3. **LIGHTNING DELAYS:** Should inclement weather (lightning) occur within five (5) miles as indicated on the **lightning indicator located in the press box**, the following apply:
 - a. Games will be immediately suspended for a period of **thirty (30) minutes**.
 - b. If an additional indications occur prior to the completion of the initial 30 minutes, a new suspension will begin from the last indication. **After a maximum of 45 minutes of delay, all games all fields will be cancelled for the evening.**

11. THE GAME

- a. **COMPLETE GAME:** **Four and one half innings (4 ½) will constitute a complete game (if the home team is ahead after 4 ½ innings) if time has expired.**
- b. If a **game is suspended** it will be rescheduled and will resume at the exact point where it was suspended. **A suspended game form** (available in press box) will be completed and signed by the **scorekeeper, home plate umpire and both coaches**. At the start of a rescheduled suspended game, coaches will submit lineups with players in the same batting order as in the original line up. **A team can only play the suspended game with no more players than in the original game**. If, at the rescheduled suspended game only **8** players are present, **no penalty for players 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be assessed. If the ninth or tenth player (whether in the original line-up or not) arrives after the suspended game has commenced, he will be placed in batting position 9, 10.**
- c. **FIELD CONDITIONS:**(SMCSL By-law 3A2); **15 minutes** prior to game time fitness of the grounds for a game shall be **decided solely by the plate umpire**. Once a game has been called due to weather **all games on all fields scheduled for that night will also be cancelled**
- d. **BALL:** **FSA 12” 44 core 425 compression. All balls put in play must be approved by the umpires. Home team will provide a new ball at the beginning of each game. Visiting team will provide a playable ball (as determined by the umpire) at the beginning of the game. After both balls are no longer available for play, home team followed by the visiting team will alternate in providing a playable ball.**
- e. **PITCHING HEIGHT:** Minimum four (4) feet, maximum ten (10) feet (4-10).
- f. **TIE GAME:** **In the event of a tie game, after time has expired (1 hr 10 min) or at the completion of 7 innings, the INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER RULE will be in effect.**

12. LINE UP CARD: A properly filled out line-up card will be provided to the official scorekeeper **five (5) minutes before scheduled game time**. If a **properly filled out lineup**

card is **not** delivered to the scorekeeper by **actual game time**, the team not providing a lineup will have up to **five (5) minutes** to have the lineup (for those players present) turned into the scorekeeper. **Umpire will contact the scorekeeper prior to the first batter to ensure that both teams have submitted their lineup.** Game will not start until the scorekeeper receives both lineups. The five (5) minutes allowed will be part of the 1 hour and 10-minute game time limit. **If lineup card is not submitted within the allotted five (5) minute, a coach's loss will be awarded to the non-submitting team.** The game may continue as a **practice game**, but the **umpires will not call the game** and scoreboard will not be used.

13. CHANGES TO LINE UP CARD: All changes made to a line up will be reported to **the umpire, scorekeeper,** and the **opposing coach** prior to any **players entering the game.**

14. JEWELRY: No league by-law on jewelry. **Umpire discretion.** If umpire feels that **jewelry worn by an individual is a safety issue,** player will be requested to remove the jewelry in question. **First infraction** will result in a warning. **Second infraction** will result in removal from the game.

15. Uniforms: Numbers on the back of shirts must coincide with the numbers that have been recorded on the line up card turned in to the home plate umpire and the official scorekeeper. **NO DUPLICATE NUMBERS ALLOWED!** During **cold weather**, if players jersey is covered, the player must **expose his number to the score keeper prior to stepping into the batters box at his first time at bat.** Under normal conditions **shirt with a number must be worn as the outer garment while batting.**

- a. **At preseason tournament and later:** Shirt with **6 inch** number on back is required
- b. **By 3rd week of regular season (11 Apr):** Jerseys of the **same color and same logo** with differences, if any, approved by the commissioners.

16. SUBSTITUTION/ COURTESY RUNNER:

A. A player may be inserted to bat as a pinch hitter without any requirement to play in the field. The original player in that batting position or a new player who has not played in the game may be inserted into that batting position.

B. Courtesy runner: may be used for one player per inning. Only one courtesy runner can be used per inning and can be any member of the team present. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base, the courtesy runners spot in the batting order becomes an out and the the next batter listed in the batting order comes to bat. The courtesy runner "MAY NOT" under any circumstances be substituted for..

17. SHOES: No steel cleats of any kind are permitted. No shoes such as football shoes that have metal center columns as support for the rubber cleat are permitted.

- A) **Non-athletic street shoes are not permitted** due to the inherent safety hazard presented by slick soles and heels. **Tennis shoes are allowed but not recommended.**

18. CONDUCT: Any display of poor sportsmanship (Profanity, throwing of equipment, overbearing or inconsiderate actions, loss of temper resulting in unnecessary gesture or speech) by coaches, players, or fans directed at umpires, commissioners or players **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

1ST Violation for coaches / players will be ejected from the game! Any player / coach ejected from a game must leave the complex.

19. DISPUTES: All disputes or discussions will be handled by the umpires and coaches only! PLAYERS WILL STAY OUT!!!

20. PROTEST:

A: **Regular Season;** Any team who chooses to lodge a protest must **inform the home plate umpire** (at the time of the occurrence of the protestable situation) that the game is being played under protest. **Home plate umpire** will notify the **scorekeeper that the game will be played under protest.** Scorekeeper will document game status and indicate at what point protest was made.

B. **Tournament play:** Any protest lodged in a tournament game will be **acted upon immediately** by commissioners present or non participating coaches(2). The game will be **halted until a decision on the protest can be made.**

21. LEAGUE ACTIONS UMPIRES, SPECIAL PAY CONDITIONS:

- a. **ONE UMPIRE:** Should only one umpire shows up for a game, the league will only compensate that umpire for at a rate of **\$20 vice \$25.**
- b. **LATE ARRIVAL:** Should an umpire arrive at a game after the **second inning**, the league will not compensate him or her for the entire game. Compensation will be at a rate per inning (game rate (\$20) divided by (7) innings for a rate **of \$2.85) for each inning present.**
- c. **SUSPENDED GAMES:** The league will compensate the Association for suspended games as if the game was not suspended. Compensation will be for a single game.

ALL OTHER RULES: Will be determined by the 2019 FSA rulebook.

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.