



CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2016

PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE

To foster fellowship in the community of Reynoldsburg.

REGULATIONS

1. Entry is restricted to church teams.
2. There will be an entry fee of \$424.00 per team which must be paid in full before the first game of the season.
3. A complete roster of players, with a **maximum of twenty-five (25) players** is to be turned in to the Parks & Recreation Department before the first game of the season. The standard roster form is to be used with all requested information completed for each player. **No changes in the roster will be permitted after the sixth game.**
4. **There will be no alcoholic beverages permitted in the parks at any time.**
5. **This is a church league and all participants are expected to act in a Christ-like manner. There will be no profanity. If profanity is used the following will take place: Immediate ejection. No exceptions. No warnings.**
6. Any player and/or manager removed by an umpire will be suspended according to the following rules:

First Offense - One additional game suspension from League play.
Second Offense - Three additional games suspended from League play.
Third Offense - Expulsion from League play for the remainder of the season.
7. NOTE: The Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to expel any participant for the remainder of the season for any offense.
8. All players must have reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday before the start of the current season.
9. The Leagues will play a total of ten (10) regular season games plus a post-season tournament.

10. All teams will be required to complete a team line-up card before the start of each game which the umpire will supply. Listing on this card will be used to supervise eligibility rosters. Line-up cards should be completed with the first and the last name of each player who participates in a game.
11. All players will be required to show a picture ID prior to the start of each game. The site supervisor or umpire will verify with the official roster. If you fail to bring a picture ID, you will not be eligible to participate.

PLAYING RULES

1. The USSSA Rule Book will govern play except where noted below. USSSA league rules can be found at www.ussa.com.
2. A minimum of **nine (9)** players will be required to start a game.
3. Only the team coach will discuss calls or decisions with the umpires. Failure to comply will lead to expulsion from the game at the umpire's discretion.
4. There will be a no grace period for any game.
5. Infield warm-up between innings is limited to the time the pitcher takes to complete three pitches or one minute, whichever comes first.
6. Sliding is permitted.
7. Baseball shoes are legal to be worn so long as the soles of the shoe are made of molded plastic or rubber.
8. There will be a no grace period for any game. The umpire's watch will be the official time. If both teams are not able to field the required minimum number of players, both teams will record forfeits.
9. Protests for possible rules misapplication or misinterpretation only must be declared immediately to the game official as prescribed in the USSSA Softball rule book and in writing within 24 hours to the Parks & Recreation Department.
10. Score keeping will be the responsibility of both teams. By mutual agreement, a spectator may keep score.
11. **This is a church league and all participants are expected to act in a Christ-like manner. There will be no profanity. If profanity is used the following will take place: Immediate ejection. No exceptions. No warnings.**
12. **THE USSSA RULE FOR SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE LEAGUE. A STARTING PLAYER MAY LEAVE THE LINEUP ONCE AND RE-ENTER THE GAME BUT MUST RE-ENTER IN THE SAME BATTING POSITION IN THE LINEUP AS SUBMITTED TO THE UMPIRE AT THE START OF THE GAME.**

13. A twelve (12) run lead rule is in effect at the end of the fifth or sixth inning.
14. There will be a short prayer at home plate prior to each game. It is the home team's responsibility to offer either a silent or audible prayer.
15. Courtesy Runners: You may have one courtesy runner per inning. The batter must always get to first base. The courtesy runner shall be the most previous batter not on base. You must notify the umpire each time you are ready to put the courtesy runner on base.
16. **THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUSPEND ANY PARTICIPANT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON FOR ANY OFFENSE.**
17. The two foul balls after two strikes will be used in league play. Once a batter has acquired two strikes in the count, then only one foul ball will be permitted without being called out. A second foul ball will cause the ball to become dead and the batter declared out. The ball then becomes dead upon touching by a defensive player.
18. **When a batter steps into the batter's box to start an at-bat the count on the batter will be 1-1 (one ball and one strike on the batter) before the first pitch is thrown to the batter.**
19. Out of play areas down the first and third base areas shall be considered a dead ball area outside the fence lines extended.

RAINOUTS

1. **Games that are postponed due to the weather will be made up as follows:**
2. **The first two (2) times that games are postponed the games will be played by being rescheduled to the end of the season on the same night as the league plays.**
3. **Any additional nights of postponement after two (2) will be made up on any day available at the direction of the Parks & Recreation Department.**

GAME SCHEDULE

1. The league will be a twilight schedule format. Game times will be 6:20 PM and 7:40 PM each night. The following rules will be followed:
2. The first game will begin promptly as scheduled with no **GRACE PERIOD**.
3. No new inning will start after one hour and ten minutes has elapsed.
4. If the game is in the middle of an inning the umpire will announce that the last inning is in progress and no new inning will start at that point.

5. Should a game be tied at the time when the game is called due to the time limit then the game will be counted as a tie game for each team. In the standings each team will be credited with one half of a point.
6. The time limit will apply for both the first and second game each night.
7. Schedules and standings can be found at the following site: https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofreynoldsburg/ActiveNet_Home ; click on SPORTS and then your league/year.

PLAY-OFF GAMES

1. The league will be made up of a maximum of eight (8) teams. Each team will play ten (10) games for the regular season.
2. At the end of the regular season there will be a single elimination tournament for all teams. The number one team will play the number eight team, the second place team will play the seventh place team, the third place team will play the sixth place team and the fourth place team will play the fifth place team.
3. Determination of places in the final standings will be based upon the standings after the ten (10) weeks of regular season play. If ties exist in the final standings those standings will be broken based upon head to head competition. Should two teams play each other twice in the regular season and the teams split in their two games the tie will be broken by giving the higher place in the standings to the team that scored the most runs against each the other team(s).

FORFEITURE OF GAMES

1. The umpire's watch is the official time. If, at game time, a team does not have the minimum required number of players to start the game, it will be ruled a forfeit.
2. If both teams are not able to field the required minimum number of players, both teams will record forfeits.
3. Forfeited games will not be rescheduled.
4. Any team playing a participant not on the official roster will forfeit the game.
5. If the game forfeited is the first of a doubleheader, the second game is not forfeited until the regularly scheduled start time of the second game, unless either team declares a forfeit before the start time of the second game.
 - a. Teams must give at least 24-hour notification via e-mail to dbauman@ci.reynoldsburg.oh.us , if they must cancel or forfeit a game so opponents and game officials can be notified. No refunds will be given to teams that forfeit or cancel games.

b. A team that forfeits or cancels games may not be eligible for league playoffs and may be suspended from the current or future leagues. Prior notice of a forfeit or cancellation does not exempt teams from this rule.

ANY TEAM WHICH FORFEITS MORE THAN TWO (2) GAMES DURING THE SEASON WILL LOSE THEIR AUTOMATIC POSITION IN THE LEAGUE FOR NEXT SEASON.

For inclement weather call the Activity Status Hotline at 614.322.6834. The Activity Status Hotline is updated by 4pm.

The City of Reynoldsburg Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to modify any rule as deemed necessary.