

CHILHOWEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Softball Rule Book

Revised 2009

Chilhowee Baptist Association Softball Rule Book

The Amateur Softball Association Rule Book (ASA) has been adopted as the official Rule Book of the Chilhowee Baptist Association with the following additions and exceptions:

Eligibility

- 1. All churches must be members of the Chilhowee Baptist Association (known hereafter as “the Association”), or have applied for membership in the Association and be under its watch care or accepted as an affiliate member team.*
- 2. In order to participate as a player, coach or manager, a person must be a member or a regular attender of a church in the Association or affiliate church. (Regular attendance is considered as 3 services out of 5, but each church may set its own standard).*

3. Small churches who are part of the Association can join together to place a team or teams in the Association league.
 - a. If more than two churches wish to combine to form a team or teams, special permission is required from the Recreation Committee.
 - b. If a church has a team, but a player from that church wishes to play for another church, he/she may not do so, unless it is a combined team of both churches.
 - c. When churches combine to form a team or teams, the name of each church must appear on the entry form.
 - d. A separate roster from each combined church is required along with the pastor's signature to certify a player's eligibility to play.
4. A person's name can only appear on one church's roster, playing for only one church team.

Age Limits

Men and Women: players must be 13 years of age or older prior to April 1.

Roster

1. Each player's name is required to appear on the roster of the team for which he/she plays.
2. Rosters must be signed by the pastor or designated staff members of the church the player attends. If a church is without a pastor, another staff member or the Chairman of Deacons may sign the roster in order to verify the attendance of said player(s).

3. *The initial team roster must be turned in by the pastor or persons designated by the pastor prior to the first regular season game.*
4. *Rosters are to be turned in at the Chilhowee Baptist Association Office. No other location is acceptable as a location for turning in rosters.*
5. *Churches that combine to form a team must turn in a separate roster from each church represented.*
6. *After the initial roster has been turned in, players may be added to the roster 2 weeks after 1st game by the pastor or the staff member designated by him (See Rule #2 Signature required) in the following ways:*
 - a. *Church office keeping copy of roster and when people are added (after ok'd by pastor) fax back to the associational office to keep on file.*
 - b. *Sending a letter to the association office on the church's stationary requesting the name or names be added to the roster.*
 - c. *By coming to the association office and adding the name or names to the roster.*
7. *No one may be added to a church's roster after June 1 of each year (Please see Hardship section).*
8. *No one may be added to a church's roster due to hardship consideration within two weeks of the Associational tournament.*

Hardship Additions to the Roster

1. *Hardship additions to the official team roster take place after the 2 week deadline and no later than two weeks prior to the Association tournament.*
2. *If a family moves into the church's field and either joins or begins to attend the local church, the pastor may file a petition (in the form of a letter) with the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Committee will then rule on the request.*
3. *If a church feels it has another valid reason to petition the Recreation Committee to allow a player to be added after the 2 week cutoff time, they may do so (in the form of a letter). The Recreation Committee will then rule on the request.*

Managers/Coaches Responsibilities

1. *Each coach/manager is required to control his/her players at all times, on or off the field.*
2. *Each coach/manager is responsible for the conduct of his/her fans.*
3. *Only one individual can be designated as the team's official coach/manager listed on the team's entry form.*
4. *Only the designated coach/manager is allowed to discuss rule interpretations with umpires.*

5. If a coach/manager is ejected from a game, an automatic minimum 2 game suspension will be leveled against the individual(s).
6. If an ejected coach/manager fails to leave the field and the park complex, his/her team will forfeit the ball game; the time required to do this is determined by the home plate umpire.

Infractions, Penalties and Rule Enforcement

1. All infractions, penalties and rule enforcement will be carried out by the Recreation Committee or its designated representatives (umpires, officials, etc.).
2. If a player is ejected from a game, they will draw a minimum 2 game suspension.
3. Swearing, cussing, fighting or any other behavior deemed to be UNCHRISTLIKE or not in the best interest of the Association are grounds for ejection.
4. Anyone striking, striking at or verbally abusing an official or umpire will be ejected from the game and suspended for a time period to be determined by the Recreation Committee (normally not less than one year).
5. NO USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ALCOHOL OR DRUGS
6. If a team is found to be using players who are not eligible, that game will be forfeited as well as all games in which that player(s) has participated. The offending team will also draw a two game

suspension. After review by the Recreation Committee, other penalties can be leveled (including team suspension for the season).

7. The umpire or umpires provided by the Association have jurisdiction over all on field decisions, and may overrule the volunteer field umpire when circumstances warrant.
8. The Association reserves the right to schedule one or more umpires per game as they deem fit (This would supersede the requirement for a volunteer umpire).
9. Appeals or protests must be filed in writing and addressed to the Association Recreation Committee for review.

Time Limit and Run Rules

1. Time limit on regular season games will be one hour (the inning will be completed where necessary).
2. A grace period of ten minutes is only available for the first ball game of the day.
3. To take advantage of the ten minute grace period, a team must have less than ten players. You cannot use the grace period to wait on the "right" ten players.
4. After 4 complete innings, 20 runs ahead is a ball game. After 5 complete innings, 15 runs ahead is a ball game. After 6 complete innings, 10 runs ahead is a ball game.

Equipment

1. All bats, gloves, balls and shoes must meet the standards set by the ASA.
2. Metal spiked shoes are not allowed in any Chilhowee Baptist Softball League.
3. All players must have shirts with non-duplicating numbers on the back by June 1 of each season. Shirts must be the same color. Shirt fronts may be blank or carry the church name.
4. The official softball is any restricted flight softball approved by the ASA.

Participation & Substitution

1. Teams may play with 9 players, if no other player is available, with the 10th spot in the batting order counting as an out.
2. If a team has used all its subs and a player(s) becomes injured, a sub may reenter in order to finish with 10 players.

Tournament Regulations

1. All players must play in 1/3 of his/her regular season games to qualify for tournament play, unless a hardship situation is declared by the Recreation Committee.
2. Line ups must be turned in 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time listed on the tournament bracket. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit.
3. Once the roster is turned into the official scorekeeper, any change is treated as a substitution.
4. Each team must have a score book which contains the record of regular season games as well as the record of game participation. If this record is not available and a player protest occurs, the team or player(s) in question will be declared ineligible and suspended from tournament play.
5. If a team is found to be using ineligible players during the tournament, the entire team will be suspended from tournament play.
6. Teams must be ready to take the field at their scheduled game time (prayer should be concluded well before the scheduled game time).
7. Uniforms - All players must have the same color shirts with non-duplicating numbers on the back.