

Office of Sports, Community & Well-Being



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2020 CALVERT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION CO-REC SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

The Calvert County Parks & Recreation CO-REC Softball League is intended to provide the adult men and women of Calvert County and their guests the opportunity to participate in a fun and competitive atmosphere. The League is designed to promote softball in accordance with the spirit of sportsmanship, honesty and fair play.

Parks & Recreation's Office of Sports, Community & Well-Being will formulate all policies, rules and regulations in the best interest of the league. The Office of Sports, Community & Well-Being shall reside over all meetings and perform such administrative duties as needed and otherwise supervise and promote the league; enforce rules and rule on eligibility of all league participants as needed. Periodically, it shall designate a committee comprised of league participants to review and update league rules as needed.

Registration & Termination: Teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Teams consisting of Calvert County residents have first preference. Team rosters that have 50% or more of out-of-county residents will be considered an out-of-county team. League membership may be terminated for any one or more of the following reasons. They are but not limited to:

1. Resignation in writing to the Sports Office.
2. Failure to comply with league rules.
3. Failure to fulfill league commitments.
4. Failure to pay registration fees on or before the date designated.

Any team removed from the league loses all of its league rights, finances, etc.

Rosters: Teams must consist of a minimum of 14 players with a maximum of 20. Once a player has participated in a game for any given team, that player may not change teams for

any reason during the season or tournament play.

Players may not participate in both the Recreational and Competitive division simultaneously.

Once league play has begun, teams may add or drop two female or two male players prior to September 21st. Roster changes will only be accepted in writing and must be received by the end of business (4:30pm Monday - Friday). Adds/Drops may be emailed to taylor.morton@calvertcountymd.gov or nate.smith@calvertcountymd.gov *add/drop form on the last page.*

I.D. Requests: Managers may request a valid form of identification from any player prior to the start of a game. Any player that cannot produce a valid ID will not be permitted to participate in that game. Any manager who refuses to abide by this rule may jeopardize his/her team's further participation in the league and will forfeit all fees.

All rosters must be received by the Calvert County Parks and Recreation Sports Office with entry fee and team application or it will be returned.

Age Limit: All players must be 16 years of age as of December 31st of the current season.

Game Regulations: It is the responsibility of each team manager to see that the proper order and control are maintained as is necessary for the proper atmosphere to play.

Failure of managers or coaches to do so shall result in one or more of the following:

Forfeiture of the game in progress and possibly expulsion from the league. Umpires will be instructed as to the specific rules of the league. They are in complete charge of the game from the opening pitch to the last out and have the full backing of Parks & Recreation to take whatever action deemed necessary to keep control of the game, fans, etc.

1. **Batting Order:** Batting order must alternate male/female. It is up to each individual coach whether to lead off with a man or woman. Any starting player may re-enter the game one time in the same batting order.
2. **Starting the Game:** A team can start a game with nine players. Five men and four women or vice versa. The tenth batter will be scored as an automatic out.
3. **Extra Hitter Rule:** The extra hitter rule will be in effect. This is not mandatory. Each coach can use it at his/her discretion. But in order to use it the lineup has to contain twelve (12) batters. One (1) extra man and one (1) extra woman. The extra hitters can enter the game defensively once during the game.
4. **Positioning of Players:** CO-REC defensive positions shall include two males and two females in the outfield, two males and two females in the infield, and one male and one female in the pitcher-catcher positions. Once determining positions, the players must be stationed in fair ground. Per ASA rules.
5. **Umpires:** In the event that the scheduled umpire fails to appear, the managers of both teams must select a person to act as an umpire. Once mutual consent has been reached by both managers, the acting umpire shall have full control of the game.

6. **Pitch Count:** All batters will start with 1 ball and 1 strike. Third strike foul rule will be in effect with one to waste.
7. **Home Runs:** Fence-clearing home runs are limited to one in the Recreation division, three in the Competitive division. Any fence clearing balls in fair play after the maximum will be recorded as an out in the Recreation division and a single in the Competitive division.
8. **Intentional Walk:** Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. **EXCEPTION:** With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or to bat (ASA Rule 8 Section 1 C-3).
9. **Evans Rule:** A courtesy runner may be used for any individual with a permanent disability provided that he/she reaches base safely. The runner may be any player not in the starting line-up or the player that made the last out (same sex). Approval from the Sports Office is needed (players must be designated on team roster forms prior to the start of the season).
10. **Courtesy Runners for Injured Players:** A courtesy runner shall be allowed twice in each inning for a current or previously injured player. The player must reach base safely and the courtesy runner shall be the last recorded out (men for men, women for women). If in the opinion of the umpire, the courtesy runner is being used solely for strategic advantage, the courtesy runner will be disallowed.
11. **Time Limit:** One hour and 10 minute time limit will be in effect. No new inning will start after one hour and 10 minutes.
12. **Slaughter Rule:** There will be a ten (10) run slaughter rule after five (5) complete innings. Losing team must have five at bats.
13. **Runs Per Inning:** In the recreation division, teams will be limited to eight (8) runs per inning. The last inning will be unlimited. In the competitive division, there is no run limit per inning. *Updated 2019*
14. **Grace Period:** Games must start on time. If either team cannot start the game with a minimum of nine players, that game is a forfeit.
15. **Bases:** Base length for the Competitive division will be set at 70'. Recreational base distance will be 65'.
16. **Forfeits:** Any team forfeiting 3 games in a row (double headers, count as a single game), or any team who forfeits 5 games in a season will be removed from the league and all registration fees will be retained by CCPR.
17. **Rescheduling Games:** No courtesy scheduling! The only time games will be rescheduled is for rain outs. Games will be rescheduled at the discretion of Parks & Recreation along with field availability. Once a team declares they intend to forfeit a game or double header that game will not be rescheduled for any reason.

18. **Rain Outs:** Teams must notify the Office of Sports, Community & Well-Being of all rainouts that occur in order for make-ups to be rescheduled.
19. **Scores:** Winning teams must email scores to taylor.morton@calvertcountymd.gov or nate.smith@calvertcountymd.gov no later than the first available working day after their game. Teams failing email scores will be given a loss. **Double headers: The team that wins the first game must call in the scores of both games.**
20. **Tiebreaker:** In the event of a tie in the final standings, the following methods will be used to determine the higher seed for the end of season tournament in the following order:
 - Head to Head Record
 - Fewest Runs Allowed (Head to Head)
 - Coin Flip
21. **Conduct:** Disciplinary problems reported in writing by an opposing team or the game umpire, or any problem that the Office of Sports, Community & Well-Being has knowledge of will be dealt with on an individual basis. Any decision reached is final and not subject to review.

Equipment

Bats: Male players in the Recreational division must use wooden bats. Composite wooden bats are illegal. Female players may use whatever softball bat they wish in either division as long as the bat has not been banned by ASA or USSSA. **In the Competitive division, men must use ASA or USSSA approved bats.** If either team says no to a particular bat, the bat shall not be used. Please check the ASA and USSA website for banned bats. If the umpire determines that a bat is illegal, players will be called out. Once a batter enters the batter's box, it is not required for the batter to swing the bat in order for them to be called out. Umpires have final say on all bats.

Balls: The home team is responsible for supplying two new balls of each size, and two used balls of each size for each game (condition must be approved by the umpire).

Spikes: No metal spikes are allowed. Any player with metal spikes will be ejected if he/she cannot change to proper footwear. No bare feet.

Protests: The only situation calling for a protest is as follows: Umpires judgment is not subject to appeal or protest.

1. Team having an ineligible player who is not on the official roster. The ineligible player and manager are subject to disciplinary action or suspension.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct written in the form of a grievance by a manger or umpire concerning the department of a player, coach, manager or umpire.
3. Misinterpretation by the umpire of a playing rule or failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.

All protests must be declared at the time of the suspected infraction with the umpire and the opposing team. If this is not done at the time of the infraction, the protest is invalid. The protest then

must be submitted in writing and emailed to the Office of Sports, Community & Well-Being at taylor.morton@calvertcountymd.gov or nate.smith@calvertcountymd.gov within 48 hours of the game. Once received, the protesting team will then have 24 hours to submit a \$50.00 protest fee to the Parks & Recreation Main Office in Prince Frederick. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned. If not, the protest fee will be forfeited.

**CALVERT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION CO-REC SOFTBALL
ADD/DROP SLIP**

(Must be Received by no later than September 21, 2020)

TEAM NAME _____ Division _____

DROPPED PLAYER'S NAME _____ D.O.B. _____

ADDED PLAYER'S NAME _____ D.O.B. _____

_____ DATE _____

MANAGER'S SIGNATURE