

CYO SOFTBALL

1. Should reflect Christian attitudes and values.
2. Provide young people with the opportunity to be examples of Christian sportsmanship
3. Helps the players enjoy playing the sport

The CYO Coach

1. Sets a good example for participants and fans to follow in what they say and what they do.
2. Respects the judgments of officials, abides by the rules of the events.
3. Treats opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect.
4. Coaches in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values.

Something To Think About

“The only successful youth sports program is the one with the coach who will accept the losing along with the winning last place in the league along with the first, and still be able to congratulate his team for their efforts.”

- Roger Staubach

Specific Rules Governing Girl’s Softball

1. Eligibility
 - Determining Age
 - a. The participant shall be under the specific age for her division as of September 1 of the year of competition
 - i. Beginners Under Age 9
 - ii. Midgets Under Age 12
 - iii. Bantams Under Age 15
 - iv. Intermediates Under Age 19
 - Player Restrictions
 - a. A player shall register and compete in only one division per season. If a player plays on more than one team, each game that player played in results in a forfeit for each of those teams.
 - b. CYO competition shall be restricted to amateur participants only. Participants who have received remuneration or other compensation for play in their specific activity are ineligible.
 - c. No player shall register, compete or be publicized under an assumed name.

- Registration
 - Entry Forms
 - The Office for Youth Ministry shall provide entry forms for participating parishes in each competitive activity. These forms shall be made available well in advance of each season or tournament. The Office for Youth Ministry shall take charge of the distribution of such forms in order that every parish within each division has the opportunity to submit entries.
 - The entry shall be returned to the Office for Youth Ministries no later than the deadline on the form
 - All rosters must be complete and submitted by June 8th.
 - Each player named on the roster shall present a copy of a birth certificate. (Note: Any parish, coordinator, parent or guardian may contact the Archdiocesan Advisory Board in writing regarding a Letter of Waiver of the birth record requirement. Application for a Letter of Waiver shall be accompanied by as much documentation as is available and must be submitted to the Archdiocesan Advisory Board at least one (1) week prior to the roster deadline.)
 - The local parish CYO Director or athletic representative shall examine each roster for accuracy in the matter of age, residence, status, and identity and shall submit each roster to the Office for Youth Ministry for approval before the deadline established by the Office for Youth Ministry.
 - Coaches are required to have a copy of a birth certificate for each player on the roster for each game.
 - The division coordinator shall examine all rosters for completeness and for compliance with the general and specific rules and shall reject all incomplete rosters, and rosters which do not comply with the Archdiocesan general and specific rules.
 - Teams whose rosters have not been filed with the Office for Youth Ministry shall be ineligible for the Archdiocesan Tournament.
- Entry Fees
 - The Archdiocesan entry fee for each activity shall be determined by the Archdiocesan CYO Board Of Coordinators and noted on the entry form. This fee shall be submitted with the proper entry by means of a check made payable to “Office for Youth Ministry”
 - In order to meet local expenses, a league coordinator may charge a reasonable coordinator fee. Such a fee shall be levied on a per parish basis only.
- Game Restrictions
 - No team shall play more than two (2) games in a day.
- League Playing Rules
 - Play shall begin in each division on June 1st to permit the full schedule to be completed.
 - Semi finals will be played the final weekend in July. The final games will be played the first weekend in August. Initial scheduling should plan on

completing the regular season games by the second last Sunday in July. The week between the second last Sunday & the final weekend of July should be left available to complete games that have not been played.

- Eligibility for Tournament will be based on points.
- A win is worth two (2) points. A tie is worth one (1) point. A loss is worth zero (0) points. A forfeit is worth minus one (-1) points.
- If a team fails to place in at least 75% of its scheduled games they are ineligible.
- The top four teams make the play offs in each division.
- Start time is the time on the schedule. If the umpire is late, start time is when the umpire shows up.
- There is a fifteen (15) minute wait time for a team to be able to field a team.
- A team may start with (8) players. In this case, the missing player's at bat is considered an automatic out.
- Any team unable to field a team after the fifteen (15) minute wait time will be subject to a forfeit.
- In the event of a tie after seven (7) innings played, the game can continue up until the tie is broken as long as those innings are played within the two (2) hour time limit. There is a maximum number of nine (9) innings.
- Any inning that is started shall be completed, even if that inning exceeds the two (2) hour limit. This assumes the inning was started prior to the two (2) hour limit.
- The umpire has discretion to start a new inning or not in order to keep back to back games on schedule.
- Regulation game – A regulation game consists of seven innings, unless extended because of a tie score or shortened because the umpire calls the game. If a game is called, it is a regulation game if (5) innings have been completed.
- Ground Rules – Game ground rules shall be agreed upon the home team, the visiting team and the umpire before the game begins.
- Substitution – Free substitution is allowed under the following guidelines:
 - A replaced player may return to the game only after her replacement has played at least (2) innings in the field and has completed a turn at bat when there are 15 players or less in the line up.
 - For teams with a line up exceeding 15 players, positions such as Extra Player (EP) , Extra Fielder (EF) and Designated Hitter (DH) can be used to in order to make a best attempt to play all players. For teams with 15 players or less, the Extra Player (EP), Extra Hitter (EH) and Designated Hitter (DH) positions are not an option. See ASA rules for descriptions for such positions.
 - A replaced player may re-enter only in her replacement's position. Exception: When an injury is incurred and a replaced player is the only player available to substitute, the replaced player may enter the game for the injured player.

- A player that comes out of the game for a second time is out for the game and cannot re-enter.
 - Coaches – Baseline coaches should be uniformed players or coaches listed on the roster.
 - Spikes or metal cleats are illegal. Only rubber cleated shoes are permitted.
 - Windmill shall be permitted.
 - Bunting and stealing will be allowed for Bantams and Intermediate divisions.
 - For all divisions, sliding is required when there is a play at that same base.
 - For all divisions, each runner may leave the base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand, but must return to that base immediately after each pitch that is not hit by the batter. If the runner fails to return to touch the base she previously occupied, she may be called out at the base or on a force play or by a tag.
 - The runner is out if she leaves the base too early.
 - The Infield Fly Rule is in effect for all divisions.
 - Catchers, batters and youth base coaches must wear helmets which include chin straps and face masks
 - Pitchers may not step backwards during the delivery of the ball.
 - Base paths are 60 feet for all divisions.
 - Pitcher's mound is 35 feet for Midgets and 40 feet for Bantams and Intermediates.
 - If a hitter is hit by a pitch, she takes her base.
 - All players wear team shirts.
 - For midgets, the 10th player must play in fair territory.
 - There is a ten (10) run inning limit per inning for Bantams and Intermediates. There is a seven (7) run limit per inning for midgets. Run limits remain in effect for the entire game including the last inning.
 - If a team leads by fifteen (15) runs after the 5th inning, the game ends.
 - Each team provides a game ball.
 - Players must play in three (3) games to be eligible for the tournament.
- Schedule
 - All teams within a division will observe strictly that schedule which the division coordinator may prepare.
 - Any postponed games shall be rescheduled within seven (72) hours of the original date for a new date by agreement of the teams involved subject to the approval of the division coordinator. No attempt to reschedule within seven (72) hours could result in a forfeiture.
- Postponement
 - A game may be postponed only in the case of inclement weather. The home team will determine whether the game will be played and shall inform the opposing team, assignor of officials and division coordinator.. Any questions regarding this rule must be referred to the division coordinator. All re-scheduling must be done through the division coordinator.

- Should a team fail to make notification of postponement such team shall forfeit the game and be responsible for the payment of officials assigned to the game.
- If an umpire is not present, every attempt should be made to play the game.
- Each team is responsible for paying Midget umpires \$34 and \$42 for Bantam & Intermediate.
- Protests
 - All protests should be typewritten and filed with the division coordinator and must include a fee of \$25 made payable to the Office For Youth Ministry.
 - The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
 - All protests of player eligibility must be specific with definite facts.
 - Protests of rule interpretation during actual game conditions must be made orally with the game official at the point of the alleged misinterpretation.. The home team scorebook must be noted and initialed by the official. The game must be completed or the protest will not be allowed. Such protest must be submitted and postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours of the protested game.
 - Under no circumstances will a protest involving the judgment of officials on decisions be considered.
 - Should a rule interpretation protest be upheld, the game shall be replayed in its entirety.
 - All protest rulings shall be decided by the C.Y.O. Advisory Board.
- Forfeiture
 - All games in which a proven ineligible player participates shall be forfeited.
- Officials
 - The league coordinator shall assign rated officials to all league games
- Game results
 - Immediately following each game, the home team's coach must notify the division coordinator of the results of the game.
- Uniforms
 - Every effort should be made to provide a team with proper uniforms. When ever possible, the uniforms should bear the name of the parish represented.
- Equipment
 - Each team is responsible for providing proper and safe equipment for its own players.
 - Beginners will use an eleven (11) inch softball
 - Midget, Bantam and Intermediate will use twelve (12) inch softballs
- Financial Responsibility
 - Any parish which fails to meet the financial responsibilities of a season (i.e. payment of fees and officials) shall be subject to suspension from league play.
- Coaches

- Men who coach girl's teams shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- Beginners
 - Beginner game will consist of three (3) innings.
 - A full team will get up for each turn at bat regardless of the number of outs or runs scored.
 - A player may hit off the bat or be pitched to according to their ability. A limit of (5) pitches per batter is required to keep te game moving. After (5) ptches, the hitter must hit from the tee.
- Scores
 - Call in your scores to the coordinator of your Division each week.
- Tournament
 - Tournament start dates will be the the last weekend in July for the semi-finals and the first weekend in August for the finals.
 - Each event winner will be determined by the best of two (2) out of three (3).

Any rule that is not explicitly stated will be in accordance to A.S.A. Softball Guidelines Fast Pitch Rules for all CYO League and tournament softball games.