

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SOFTBALL LEAGUE

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Pacific Christian Fellowship Softball League (PCFSL) is to glorify God through fellowship, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ while playing organized softball.

- Each player glorifies God with his/her:
 - Mouth by speaking holy and uplifting words
 - Actions as a representative of God's Kingdom on earth
 - Heart by sharing God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who don't know Him as their personal Lord and Savior.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

All teams wishing to play in PCFSL are required to meet the following requirements.

- The team must be connected to a Church body. Church is defined as a group who gathers regularly at a published time and place, who's gatherings are open to the general public, who believes in a Triune God (The Trinity): The Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit, and is Bible centered in their teachings.
- Pastor/Leader of the church must sign off or acknowledge the initial team roster. It is the intent of the league that a team shall be made up primarily of regularly attending members of the church that bears its name and use the league as an opportunity for outreach. The Pastor's sign off is the team's approval to be operating under the church's name.

Exception: Two churches needing to combine to form one complete team may do so with approval from the PCFSL board at the beginning of each season. The combined team is still required to operate under a Church body's name and pastoral approval still applies.

LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY

Regular slow pitch softball rules (ASA Co-ed Slow-Pitch) will be observed with the following changes or added emphasis:

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Minor players must be of age to be entering the 9th grade in the fall of the same year or older and must have parental consent. Please follow this important safety rule. Coaches can request special board approval for an exception to this rule. A player agreement form must be completed and a copy kept with the team manager along with a copy turned into the conference coordinator if any player on the team is under the age of 18.

BALLS

Home team will provide a new RESTRICTED FLIGHT RF 300/.52 core Slow Pitch 12" game ball. Visiting team may bring a quality RF back-up ball, pre-used quality ball is fine. All balls must be stamped RESTRICTED FLIGHT or RF 300/.52 Core. All regular season balls will be provided by the league and given to coaches by their conference coordinator.

BASES

70' feet between bases, except when bases are set by field owners at another distance (60' or 65') and 70' is not available.

BATS

All bats used must be listed in the updated ASA 2004 bat listing found on the PCFSL website, or if manufactured prior to 2000, would conform to the standard of less than 125 feet per second or 98 MPH. Wooden bats are acceptable for play. Any bat found damaged or modified is not eligible for use and must be removed from the batting area. No senior bats are allowed in PCFSL league play even if they have an ASA stamp. Coaches are encouraged to check the opposing team's bats before the start of game. Note: This rule will be enforced because safety is very important.

CATCHERS MASK

Each team is required to provide a catcher's mask. All coaches should encourage its use.

SHOES

No metal cleats on the shoes.

UMPIRES

Two Captains will agree on an umpire(s). Examples: Team at bat supplies umpire or someone volunteers to umpire, rotate by innings, or volunteer pool.

OPENING PRAYER

The Home Team will provide a prayer for all present prior to the game at the pitching mound.

NO ALCOHOL or FOUL LANGUAGE

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE PLAYING FIELD AT ANY TIME. Any player under the influence will not be allowed to play. Disciplinary action will result in a forfeit and a minimum 2 game suspension for the player involved. NO SWEARING OR FOUL LANGUAGE WILL BE ALLOWED, THIS INCLUDES ANY WORDS ON CLOTHING. The umpire will give a verbal warning. A second occurrence may result in the player being ejected and a possible one game suspension. Please report any problems to your conference coordinator.

LINE UP AND SUBSTITUTIONS

We play as a Christian Family-Style League. This means a MAXIMUM of 7 men and a minimum of 2 woman players on the field at all times. NOTE: There must be a minimum of eight players on the playing field, or the team has to forfeit. If a team plays with 8 players, two of the players must be women. Please remember the goal of PARTICIPATION OVER COMPETITION. Leaving women on the bench, while playing less than 10 players on the field, is a violation of that intent.

- a. If playing with less than 10 players, the out will be assessed at the last spot of the line-up. If playing with 10 or more players and only two women, an out will be assessed at the 10th spot in the line up. If both teams have only two women present to play they may waive the automatic out rule. If a team has only one (1) woman player, coaches can agree to:
 - Forfeit and play for fun with substitute players.
 - Forfeit and not play.
- b. You can use a conventional set line-up order with substitutions OR allow the entire player list declared to bat consecutively as a batting order with free substitution. Either is allowed. Prior to the game, both coaches will declare to each other their line-up format. Both teams do not need to use the same type of line-up. The intent is for all fielders to bat and all batters to field, however exceptions may be made by coaches prior to the game for medical exceptions. We value participation over competition.
- c. If a player shows up late he/she is added to the end of the batting order.
Exception: During Tournament play no player shall be added after batting through the batting order unless agreed upon by both coaches before the game. After play starts, if a woman player is hurt and leaves the

game, another woman must replace her. If no other woman player is available, the team must play a fielder short. There will be no penalty in the batting order. Rule a. of this section still applies.

- d. No more than 4 men in a row in the batting order. The exception will be when you run out of women and it is not possible to follow the 4 man rule, then there will be no penalty. This does not cancel rule a. of this section.

PINCH RUNNER

In case of injury only, a courtesy runner may be used once the batter reaches 1st base on a gender (same sex) basis. The courtesy runner is the same sex player farthest away in the batting lineup. Coaches must agree on any other use of courtesy runners prior to the beginning of the game.

PITCHING

- ✓ Legal pitches are to have an arc of 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- ✓ The pitching rubber is to be 50 feet from home plate.
- ✓ Two foul balls after two strikes is an out.

The strike zone is from the bottom of the front knee to the back shoulder where it crosses the plate in a normal stance in the batters box. A pitched ball that hits ANY part of the plate is a ball. (This includes the black strip around the plate.) See rule book 2004 all of rule 6, page 91-93

HALO RULE

Any player striking a well hit ball (line drive or grounder), which goes through an area from the ground to a height of 1' above the pitcher's head and within the width of the pitching rubber and leaves the pitcher defenseless, will be called out, with the play becoming a dead ball with no player advancement. This rule needs to be reiterated between coaches before each game.

BASE ON BALLS WITH AUTOMATIC WALK TO SECOND

Any walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award, if the next batter is a female. The female batter will bat. EXCEPTION: Only with two outs does the female batter have the option to either walk or bat. (2004 ASA Rule Book, page 103, rule 8, section 1, Article C.3)

BASE RUNNER

The runner is out when a defensive player has the ball, or is about to catch the ball, and the runner remains on his feet and deliberately crashes into the defensive player. NOTE: If the act is determined to be flagrant the offender shall be ejected. (2004 ASA Rule Book, page 115, rule 8, section 7, item Q)

HOME PLATE

Home plate is the sole possession of the defensive player. Any offensive player that touches home plate will be called out. A "commitment line" will be marked 2/3 of the way between 3rd and Home. If the offensive player crosses that point, they must continue to home and the play becomes a force out. The defensive player must catch the ball and touch home plate to get the out. The runner must run to a point behind home plate on all plays to score a run. There is no tag out play at home plate, force only.

BOUNDARY LINE FOR OUTFIELDERS

No outfielder is allowed within 130 feet behind 1st, 2nd, or 3rd base until the crack of the bat. Markers will be placed on the fields behind 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases. Rover is considered an outfielder.

RAIN OUT

In case of a rain out: 4-1/2 innings constitutes end of game, if the home team is ahead. Any game called prior to 4 ½ innings, per agreement by both coaches, will be replayed in its entirety.

FORFEIT/RESCHEDULING GAMES

The forfeit time will be 15 minutes after the designated start time. Any team who is not available for a particular game because of a church function is required to inform the opposing team and conference coordinator by making verbal contact. Notification must be a minimum of 8 days prior to the game in question. Less than 8 days notice means the opposing team will get a forfeit win, unless the two coaches agree on a make up time. Make-up games are to be arranged by both Team Captains and your Conference Coordinator. If the teams are unable to make-up a game due to late season changes or lack of field access, the scheduled game will be removed from the schedule with neither team showing a win/loss for the game.

RUN LEAD AND RETIRING SIDE OF INNING / TIME LIMITS

Fifteen (15) run lead after 5 innings is an automatic win. Seven (7) runs in one inning retire the side. Exception: If time permits in the 7th inning or the last inning to be played, after 7 runs, play may continue until the 3rd out. You must give up the field for the next game to start as scheduled. International Tie Breaker Rule to be used if game is tied after completion of 7th inning (see 2004 ASA rule, page 82, rule 5, section 11, A).

SCORE REPORTING

Winning teams are responsible for reporting the official score to your conference coordinator.

WINNING RECORDS AND TROPHIES

Awards will be given to division winners. If there is a tie, a tie breaker game will be scheduled by the division coordinator and the two coaches. If the teams cannot schedule a playoff game, the division winner will be determined as follows: The winner of "head to head" game(s). If still tied, then run differential of head to head league games. If still tied, then Co-trophies will be awarded. A Fellowship Trophy will be awarded to one team from each division showing the best sportsmanship and Christian conduct. The fellowship trophy is determined by vote of the division's coaches.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

All rules stated above apply to tournament play. The PCFSL tournament is open to all league teams regardless of regular season records. An individual must play a minimum of 2 games during the regular season and be on the teams roster as of July 19th to play in the Tournament.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Special attention should be paid to the fact that there will be no league insurance coverage. Please make sure all your players are adequately covered with medical coverage.

Please respect the fields we use and clean up around your playing area after each game.

We look forward to a fun filled season with extra emphasis on FAMILY. Bring out as many supporters as possible. For the safety reasons, please keep your children behind the fence or back stop.

This year's tournament will be held the second weekend in August at Meldrum Bar Park in Gladstone. More information regarding the tournament will be released to coaches at a later date.