

# DELAWARE COUNTY CHURCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

## 1. DESIGNATION

- A. The name of this league shall be the Delaware County Church Softball Association, hereafter referred to as DCCSA.

## 2. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this league shall be to encourage Christian fellowship and to provide wholesome recreational activity for the members of this league. The DCCSA shall also work for the betterment and the enlargement of the Sunday Schools and Churches in Delaware County by developing character through athletics and by making Sunday School and Church attendance a condition of membership in the league.

## 3. CONTROL

- A. The control of this league shall be vested in the Executive Board.
- B. One representative from each team is entitled to one (1) vote and shall decide any question not specifically covered by the league or the rules of the National Softball Association (NSA) which shall govern play in this league except where DCCSA rules differ.
- C. The Executive Board shall decide each season if and if any and what type of a tournament shall be played. This board shall also decide the number and type of awards to be given.
- D. The Executive Board shall decide and rule on disciplinary problems that may arise from a player, coach, manager or team in the DCCSA.
- E. It is not the duty or responsibility of an Executive Board member to act as Arbiter at the ballparks or to interfere in any way with the playing of a game.
- F. The Executive Board shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Members from the men's and women's leagues are eligible for the Board, with each league being represented in the Vice-Presidential positions.

## 4. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. All DCCSA games shall be governed by the official playing rules of the NSA with the exception of any variation noted in the articles of this Constitution or any variations noted in these rules and regulations.
  - 1. For the approved bat list please refer to the bats guidelines utilized by ASA sanctioning. There is a file on the website with pictures of ASA Non-Approved Bats with the Certification Mark. (Bats MUST have ASA stamp on them for use)
  - 2. For Co-ed play in addition to rule 4,a,1, (refer to bat list) no composite or double wall bats will be allowed. (*For clarification purposes, the Worth EST series of bats are considered single wall bats and are legal for play in all leagues.*)
- B. A team may become eligible for competition in the league by applying for membership to the Executive Board. The team will become a member upon approval and after payment of the designated entry fee. Deadline for the entry fee shall be set each year by the Executive Board. Each, year, the preceding year's teams shall first be afforded an opportunity to return to the league and then teams will be taken from a waiting list to be carried over from year to year.
- C. It will be the discretion of the Executive Board to assign placement of the teams in divisions when more than one division is deemed necessary.

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## D. PLAYER ROSTERS

1. Once a player has signed a roster for a team, he or she is bound to that team for the duration of that season and cannot change teams.
2. If a Church is not able to field a fifteen (15) player team roster, it may use players from other Churches who meet eligibility requirements. The total of participating Churches shall not number more than three (3) per team without special permission from the Executive Board. If a Church has too many players to form one (1) team but too few to form two (2) teams, one team shall be made up of all players from said Church and a second team may be formed in conjunction with another Church.
3. A team may add a total of four (4) players to its original May roster before the play of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) regular season game. Adding more than four (4), must have approval from the Executive Board.
4. All players added after submission of the original May roster must be submitted to the scorekeeper or to an Executive Board member on league approved forms.
5. A player added to the roster will become eligible for participation following signature approval by two (2) Executive Board members. The player(s) name(s) will be added to the bottom of the roster for that month. Thereinafter, those names must appear on the regular eligibility roster.
6. No player may participate in tournament play unless he or she has played in four (4) of the team's regularly scheduled games or unless he or she has received special permission to play in the tournament from the Executive Board. Coaching or managing a game is not considered as playing in a game.
7. Any exceptions to the above rules must be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Requests for waivers must be submitted with a full explanation.
8. There is a minimum age requirement of fourteen (14) years of age for all players in the league.

## E. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1. To be eligible to play, every player must have attended a minimum of four (4) full services in the eight week period preceding the first game in which he or she is to play. A player must maintain an attendance minimum of two (2) full services per month to remain eligible. Eligibility requirements must also be met by Executive Board members during their time in office. Only one (1) service per week will count towards eligibility.
2. Any team known to have used an ineligible player will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player was used. Further, the coach/player submitting the lineup with ineligible player will be suspended for that game plus the next two games played. Upon a second infraction, the player and the team will be banned from further competition for the remainder of the season and all fees will be retained by the league.
3. Returning military service personnel or college students who were eligible at the Sunday School or Church they represent before going into the military or college are immediately eligible upon return home provided he or she attended Church while away. This waiver is for league games only and must be approved by the Executive Board.

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4. Eligibility lists and affirmation statements must be turned in prior to the beginning of the season and before the first game of each succeeding month to a member of the Executive Board or an authorized league official. The players' names must appear on the official game roster as they appear on the eligibility list and the list must be signed by the Pastor, Associate Pastor, or the Sunday School Superintendent on the line **immediately following the last listed player.**
  5. Only those players whose names are listed on the designated line of the approved eligibility lists provided by the DCCSA shall be eligible. No player whose name appears anywhere on the form except on a designated line will be eligible. If a team has more players it wants approved than will fit on one form, then two or more forms must be used with the signature of the proper Church official entered on each page **immediately following the last listed player.**
- F. No one but players, coaches, managers, a team scorekeeper, and one bat retriever shall be permitted in the dugout area.
- G. Players in league competition shall be allowed to wear only full-length pants or full-length sweatpants, baseball uniform pants, coach's shorts, or solid color shorts with a hem that are at least mid-thigh length. No tank tops, sleeveless shirts, or cut up shirts or shorts will be permitted. All shirts must have a full length sleeve. If a sleeveless shirt is worn, it must have a full length sleeved shirt beneath it. This dress code is in effect for the warm-up area as well as on the playing field, for all leagues. Players are required to wear athletic shoes (cleats or tennis shoes that tie), without the appropriate shoe a player will not be able to participate. Metal cleats are not permitted.
- H. If any team (men, women, or coed) is leading its opponent by ten (10) or more runs after its opponent has completed their turn at bat in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) or sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) inning, the game shall be terminated and the leading team shall be declared the winner. Further, if any team is leading its opponent by fifteen (15) or more runs after the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) inning or twenty (20) or more runs after the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) inning, the game shall be terminated and the leading team declared the winner.
- I. There will be a one hour and five minute (65minutes) time limit for all league and tournament games, excluding the championship games for each tournament or league playoff game, if necessary. The time limit will begin from the 'Amen' at the conclusion of the Prayer before each game. The next inning will begin immediately after the third out is recorded. Losing teams will have their complete at bat in the last inning. A five minute grace period will be given for the first game of the evening only. If each team has eight (8) players present the game will begin on time.
- J. Any of the starting players, including the extra hitters (EH). May be withdrawn and re-enter once, provided said player occupies the same batting position whenever in the lineup. DCCSA now allows teams to utilize an unlimited amount of extra hitters to bat in men's, women's and Coed competition. However, in Coed play the number of male players CANNOT outnumber the number of female players in the batting order. **NOTE:** Using the additional hitters is not mandatory, each team's coach determines how many players are participating in a team's lineup.

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- K. PROTESTS.** A protest may be filed only on the basis of a rules interpretation and never on the basis of an umpire's judgment.
1. The manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being contested under protest. The plate umpire shall notify the opposing manager and the official scorekeeper.
  2. All protests must be submitted in written form and filed within twenty-four (24) hours after the scheduled time for the start of the game in question along with a fifty dollar (\$50) protest fee. The \$50 will only be returned only if the protest is upheld. Protests are to be submitted to an Executive Board member only.
- L.** Failure to play a game as scheduled, unless approved by the Executive Board, constitutes as a forfeit. Three (3) forfeits during the season could result in the suspension of that team for the remainder of the season. It also could affect the following season's spot in the league if there is a waiting list with teams that will participate.
- M. PITCHING RULES.** The ball must be delivered at a moderate speed, underhand, below the hip, with a perceptible arch of at least six (6) feet from the ground before the ball reaches home plate. In all leagues the batter will start with a one (1) and one (1) count, but will have a single (1) grace foul ball.
1. In men's league competition the pitched ball will have no height limitation.
  2. In women's league competition there will be a height limit of twelve (12) feet from the ground.
  3. In coed league competition there will be a height limit of twelve (12) feet from the ground, and the *Pitching Position must be occupied by a male player.*
- N. CATCHING RULES.** In order that a pitch may be delivered legally, the catcher must take position entirely within the catcher's box, where he or she must remain while and until the pitched ball is batted or reaches the catcher's box.
- O. BATTING RULES**
1. In all leagues the batter will start with a one (1) and one (1) count, but will have a single (1) grace foul ball.
  2. The batter must stand in what may or appear to be the batters box. If the batter makes contact with the ball and is out of the box he or she will be ruled out.
  3. If a batter takes excessive time approaching the plate there may be a strike called by the umpire to penalized the batter for 'delay of game'. The NSA rule book specifies that the batter has five (5) seconds to approach the batters box.
- P. BASERUNNING RULES**
1. On an attempted double play by the defense the advancing runner must yield to the play after he or she is out on the play, if the runner does not yield the second runner will automatically be out also.
  2. On all tag plays at a base the runner is responsible to avoid contact, if the runner does not slide or attempt to avoid contact he or she will be ruled out. If excessive contact is made a player make be ejected from the game with a possible suspension from the Executive Board.

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## Q. PERSONAL CONDUCT

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct by any player, manager, or coach shall render him or her liable to suspension from the league. There shall be no alcohol or tobacco in any form on the playing field or sidelines by any player, manager, umpire, or scorekeeper. Profanity will not be allowed on or off the field at any time, and the use of profanity will result in immediate ejection from the game.
2. An ejection of a player, manager, coach, scorekeeper, or anyone officially connected with a team will result in the ejected person being unable to return during that game as well as being suspended from participating in a **minimum** of the next two (2) games played. **EXCEPTION:** When a defensive player is ejected as a result of a fake tag, the ejection shall be for the remainder of that game only.

**R. UMPIRES.** Umpires shall be assigned by the Executive Board. Umpires are directly responsible to the Executive Board for the correct performance of their assigned duties.

## S. TO BEGIN A GAME

1. A full team consists of ten (10) or more players, depending on the league rule (see Item 4, J). Teams may start or finish a game with eight (8) players. Failure to have eight (8) players in the lineup at any point on the game will result in forfeiture. Late arrivals may be added at the end of the lineup, including the eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) or more batter(s) in the order, who may be added at any time.
  - a. In coed play, each team must have at least three (3) men participating, but can fill the rest of the lineup with women if they wish.
  - b. Also in coed play, the *Pitching Position must be occupied by a male player.*
2. A team may bat an unlimited number of players in men's, women's and coed competition. When a team takes the field, no more than ten (10) players may play defense. A team may alternate these players throughout the game to form a defensive unit, but in Coed competition there **MUST** always be no more than five (5) men playing in the field as long as there are five (5) women as well. In all leagues, the coach determines the number of batters he or she wishes to utilize in the lineup.
3. No less than five (5) minutes prior to the **scheduled** game time, the respective teams must have submitted a lineup to the official scorekeeper and any change prior to the actual start of the game shall be considered a substitution.
4. Other than inclement weather, the only acceptable reason for a game not starting at the scheduled time will be that the previous game continues to be in progress. Actual forfeit time is the time at which the umpire calls for Prayer.
5. The first team indicated on the schedule shall be the home team. The home team shall use the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base dugout; the visiting team shall use the first (1<sup>st</sup>) base dugout.
6. If a team cannot maintain the number of players with which the game was started, when the absent player cannot or does not appear for a regular turn at bat, he or she shall be credited with an out. **EXCEPTION:** If the batter directly ahead of the open spot in the batting order is walked (intentional or non-intentional), the

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automatic out is not recorded and the game will continue without penalty to the batting team.

7. The DCCSA shall provide one new approved ball and one used ball in acceptable condition for each league or tournament game.
8. The DCCSA shall provide an official scorekeeper.
9. Each game shall begin with a Prayer at home plate. The home team shall lead the Prayer or provide someone to lead the Prayer.

## T. DCCSA TOURNAMENT PLAY

1. The home team shall be determined by the flip of a coin.
2. Any game called before the completion of a regulation game (seven (7) innings) shall be resumed at the point at which it was called and played out in its entirety.
3. The time limit will be enforced during the tournament, the only games not subject to the time limit will be the championship games, time permitting. For details refer to Rule 4; Letter I.

## 5. GROUND RULES

### AT TUHEY PARK

- A. A batted ball is a home run if it passes over the outfield fence between the light poles or if it strikes the top of the fence in the same area or hits any part of the light structure and bounces over the fence.
- B. A batted ball is ruled a double if it passes over the outfield fence between a foul line and the nearest light pole in fair territory. An automatic double is ruled if the ball lodges in or under and outfield fence and should not be retrieved by a defensive player; to do so allows the runners to advance at their own risk.
- C. Any ball batted by a female player that passes over the fence in fair territory shall be ruled a home run.
- D. In all leagues the batter will start with a one (1) and one (1) count, but will have a single (1) grace foul ball.

### AT WESTSIDE PARK

- A. A batted ball which hits the tree in right field over fair territory is a fair ball and is playable.
- B. A batted ball which hits the "First Baptist" tree in right field in foul territory will be declared a foul ball. If the ball strikes the tree in fair territory and bounces into foul territory it will be declared a dead ball or no pitch.
- C. Any ball batted by a female player that passes over the fence in fair territory shall be ruled a home run.
- D. For male players, the same ground rules apply regarding home runs and ground rule doubles as apply at Tuhey Park.
- E. In all leagues the batter will start with a one (1) and one (1) count, but will have a single (1) grace foul ball.