

Raleigh County Recreation Authority (RCRA)

Fitzpatrick Softball Constitution and Bylaws 2020

Any Questions regarding bylaws should be directed to Aaron Hamilton
Call or text (304) 228-3401 or email FitzpatrickParkWV@gmail.com.

ARTICLE 1 Name

The name of this organization shall be the RCRA Softball Association.

ARTICLE 2 Object

A. To assist in the promotion of the game of softball among those who are in the sport solely for the pleasure and for the physical, mental, and social benefits they derive there from. B. To educate the public regarding the splendid qualities of softball for all.

ARTICLE 3 Management

- A. The program shall be governed by the RCRA.
- B. The RCRA reserves the rights to adjust bylaws to cover any unanticipated occurrences or happenings during the season.

ARTICLE 4 Age Qualifications

Any person wishing to participate in the RCRA softball leagues must be at least 15 years of age before they can play with written consent up to 18 years of age. Player must be 15 years of age before the first game.

ARTICLE 5 Registration & Eligibility

- A. The entry fee, established for each season, must be paid in full to the RCRA office **by the second week of the season.** Make Check Payable To RCRA.
- B. **All team players must be registered on the roster provided to the RCRA to qualify for tournaments. All additions to the team rosters must be done with the Field Supervisor/Fitzpatrick Manager.**
- C. **Players are required to fill out RCRA waivers prior to their first game played.**
- D. **There can be a **maximum of 20 players on a coed league roster.** All players wishing to play in the tournament must **play a minimum of six required games** with their team during the season to be eligible for tournament play. **If there are instances of teams having to forfeit, this will be evaluated. If a team does not get in their sixteen regular season games, players from these teams must have played at least 30% of their team's games to be eligible for tournaments. The League manager will be keeping track of how many games players have played throughout the season in order to determine player eligibility for the end of season tournament.****
- E. **All roster additions/deletions must be made in person to the Field Supervisor. Additions/deletions must be made on proper roster forms and require the additional player's signature and completed waiver.**
- F. **No changes to rosters will be allowed after June 15th.**
- G. **Teams may pick up players throughout the regular season from the community or other teams in order for them to have enough to play regular season games. Players names must be written in the scorebook prior to the first pitch of the game if they are planned to be borrowed. Players on team's roster may sub in games at any time. Players should **ONLY** be borrowed from other teams, if a team does not have 10 rosters players available.**
- H. **Teams may NOT pick up players during tournaments. They must be on the roster and must have the minimum required games in order to be eligible. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- I. **Team eligibility is as follows:**

- a. Church League – Team captain and/or team manager must be a registered member of the church with at 75% of the players being registered members of the church. All other players must attend said church at least twice a month but do not have to be a registered member.
Rosters must be signed by church pastor or member of leadership along with a contact number before it can be turned in for their team. Church leaders are responsible for confirming the amount of church members on their team. Church rosters have no number limitations.
- b. Coed League - Each team must have a minimum of 5 male and 3 female players to be eligible to field a team to play. You must have a minimum of 3 female defensive players in the field.
Coed teams may play with 7 male & 3 female, 6 male & 4 female, or 5 male & 5 female players. Teams may choose to bat 8 male & 4 female, 7 male & 5 female, or 6 male & 6 female players. Lineup requirements are listed in ARTICLE 7 H.
- c. A minimum of 8 players is needed to form a team; however, 10 are required to not be penalized. Any team without 10 players will take an out in the 9th and 10th spot in the batting order if a player is not present to occupy that spot in the batting order.
- d. A team with less than 8 players will be forced to forfeit.

ARTICLE 6 Scheduling

- A. The schedule will be drawn up and given to each head coach in time for the first league game.
- B. Games will be played as follows:
 - a. Monday – Summer Church League Monday – Fall Men’s League
 - b. Thursday – Summer Coed League Thursday – Fall Coed League
 - c. Tuesday (Universal Makeup Day for all leagues)
- C. Games can only be cancelled for rain or unforeseen happenings. If the field’s integrity is compromised or deemed unsafe, the games will be rescheduled. The Field Supervisor will reschedule as many games as season allows. Games will be made up on Tuesdays. If time allows at the end of the regularly scheduled league season, any games that have not been made up yet will be made up then.
In case of rain, field conditions will be determined at least 2 hours before game time. Game information will be posted on our Facebook or a team representative may contact league supervisor via TEXT at (304) 228-3401.
- D. Each team has until 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time to have at least 8 players present and ready to play or they will be forced to forfeit their first game. If neither team has enough players to begin, they may choose to continue waiting for enough players.
- E. The game time limit will always start at the scheduled game time regardless of when it begins.
- F. No games will be scheduled on May 25th for the Church league.
No games will be scheduled on July 2nd for the Coed league.
- G. Regular season league records will determine tournament standings. Tournament seeding for tied records will be based on head to head record, then head to head run differential and finally total run differential for teams with the same regular season record.

ARTICLE 7 Governing Rules

- A. Games shall be played under the Amateur Softball Association of America rules and/or specific changes for local situations as follows:
 - a. Note: Refer to official ASA rulebook for rules not covered in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. All leagues will play 7 inning games, if time allows during the one (1) hour 15-minute time limit.
- C. No player can play barefoot.
- D. **NO METAL CLEATS / SPIKES.**
- E. Leagues will use only .52 core 300 compression balls meeting ASA standards. All balls must have the

ASA stamp of approval or Classic "M". Each team will be required to provide their own balls. Umpire must approve all balls being used. The women will use 11-inch .44 core 375 compression balls.

- F. The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a minimum height of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding a maximum of 10 feet from the ground.
- G. USSSA or ASA bats are acceptable.
- H. Coed league lineup requirements are as follows.
 - Teams with a lineup of 7 & 3 must bat the females in the 3rd, 6th and 9th spot in the lineup.
 - Teams with a lineup of 6 & 4 must bat the females in the 2nd, 5th, 7th, and 9th spot in the lineup.
 - Teams with a lineup of 5 & 5 must alternate their male and female batters through the lineup.
 - Teams choosing to bat 8 & 4 must bat the females in the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th spot in the lineup.
 - Teams choosing to bat 7 & 5 must bat the females in the 2nd, 5th, 7th, 9th & 11th spot in the lineup.
 - Teams choosing to bat 6 & 6 must alternate their male and female batters through the lineup.
- I. All at bats will start with a one (1) ball, one (1) strike count.
- J. Courtesy foul will be in effect.
- K. The mercy rule will be as follows: 20 runs ahead in the 3rd inning, 15 runs ahead in the 4th inning, or 10 runs ahead in the 5th inning will result in the game being called.
- L. The batter runner must go to the outside bag unless taking second base. If playing defense at first base, you must tag the inside part of the bag.
- M. ALL players will receive only one base when walked at any time.
- N. Each team is allowed three home runs in one game. Any home run after that will result in an out. If both teams reach 3 home runs, they are permitted one additional home. If it is equaled by both teams, this can continue as long as both teams continue hitting homeruns.
- O. All pitchers are required to wear a mask in ALL leagues.
- P. Females CANNOT be thrown out at first base by any player who is positioned in the outfield grass when the pitch is delivered.
- Q. Notification of an approaching time limit will be notified prior to the first batter of a half inning.

ARTICLE 8 Official & Protest

- A. One umpire will be furnished for each game. (Two for tournaments, if available.)
- B. Teams are responsible for having a bookkeeper for games.
- C. Coaches are responsible for marking which of their players are present on Official Game Form provided by Field Supervisor before each game. Each opposing coach will confirm that their opposing team is correct their signature at the bottom of the form and the number of players present. These forms will help determine player eligibility during tournament time.
- D. Protests must be made on a protest form and before the game being protested has ended. The protest fee is \$25. Play will continue and the protest committee will review protest. Protest committee will consist of umpires, Field Supervisor, and team representatives. The committee's decisions are final. Protests on only the playing rules will be accepted.
- E. Both coaches must sign the scorebook on a protested game for it to be valid.
- F. Books must be filled with team names, **players last name & first initial** or vice versa. If players are borrowed to have enough to play the game, you must include what team roster they are on.
- G. Protests of games that shall be received and considered concern matters of the following type:
 - a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
 - b. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
 - c. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
 - d. Noncompliance bat.
- H. If a protest is allowed and has a bearing in the final standings, the game will be replayed from the point in which the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected.

- I. If a protest is allowed, the protest fee will be returned to the team concerned.
- J. If a protest is not allowed, the protest fee will be forfeited to the RCRA.
- K. **Players who wish to protest another players eligibility must come to Field Supervisor directly. The Field Supervisor will then determine the player's eligibility.**

ARTICLE 9 Disqualifications & Forfeitures

- A. **Teams are required provide notice to league director if their team must forfeit a minimum of two hours in advance of their scheduled game start time.**
- B. **If a team forfeits their game, the win will be awarded to their opposing team at a score of 20-0.**
- C. All league games will be played on the field indicated on the schedule. Games will be played as scheduled.
- D. Any team that forfeits 3 weeks of games will be required to pay \$30.00 before playing another game.
- E. **Any team that forfeits 5 weeks of games will be disqualified from playing tournaments.**
- F. Acts of poor sportsmanship and misconduct on the part of players and coaches will not be tolerated. They will be reported to the RCRA for disciplinary action.
- G. Any player or coach that lays a hand upon, pushes, shoves, **verbally threatens**, or strikes an umpire will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one year from the time of the incident.
- H. **If a player is ejected from a game for any reason, they must leave the park immediately and they will be suspended from the next game that their team plays. For the second offense, the player will be suspended for a period of one year from the date of their ejection from the game.**
- I. If a fan of one team displays poor sportsmanship by heckling or using abusive language toward umpires or opposing players, the umpire will notify the coach of the team they are supporting. The coach must advise them that the behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. If it continues, the fan may be ejected, and if necessary, the game will be forfeited with the win will be awarded to the opposing team.
- J. The Field Supervisor will assist umpires in controlling the game and spectators.
- K. **If at any point law enforcement is to be called on a player, coach or spectator, that person will be suspended from league games for a minimum of one year.**
- L. **Regular Season games will start no later than their established starting time. For example, if a game is at 6:00, the game time clock will start at 6:00 regardless if all members of teams are present.**
- M. **During tournaments, game time will start at time established as well. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

ARTICLE 10 Supervisors

- A. RCRA will oversee all leagues and the supervision of them.
- B. All complaints and problems that may occur should be directed to the Field Supervisor first.
- C. If a coach has a grievance or complaint to register, or if an incident occurs, they should go through the proper channels. They are as follows: Field Supervisor, RCRA Director, RCRA Board.
- D. Any coach not going through the proper channels in lodging a grievance, or any coach encouraging fans and players to contact County Commission or RCRA Board members will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension.
Coaches are responsible for communicating to league officials for their team.
- E. **Any coach who continually protest and causes conflict will lead the RCRA to believe that they are not promoting the best interest of the program & will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.**
- F. **Only one coach will be allowed on the field to take part in a discussion of a disputed call. Players and fans will not be allowed on the field. **Players who refuse to exit the fields during a disputed call will be immediately ejected from the park. If disagreement continues, the games will be declared a forfeit.****

ARTICLE 11 Field Rules for Players and Coaches

- A. **NO SMOKING** in the dugout or on the playing field.

- B. NO PROFANITY will be tolerated.
One warning will be given to both teams. If it persists, players will be asked to leave the park for the night. If it continues by specific players, they will be suspended for the season.
- C. NO PRACTICE on infields 1, 2, or 3 during scheduled league game times.
NO batting practice an hour before games start. Please warm up in the outfield before games start.
- D. NO METAL SPIKES on cleats.
- E. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED IN ANY RCRA PARK OR FACILITY UNDER RCRA ADMINISTRATION. VIOLATORS CAN BE BANNED FROM RCRA AREAS FOR ONE YEAR.
- F. NO BATTING PRACTICE when fields are muddy. NO EXCEPTIONS.

ARTICLE 12 Code of Conduct

NO PLAYER OR COACH SHALL:

- A. At any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an umpire (1-year suspension)
- B. Refuse to abide by an umpire decision.
- C. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at any umpire’s decision by throwing gloves, bats, balls, or any other forceful action.
- D. Be guilty of heaping personal, verbal abuse upon an umpire for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment.
- E. Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics against the body and person of an opposing player while in play of the game.
- F. Be guilty of physical attack, as an aggressor, upon a player, umpire, or spectator (1-year suspension)
- G. Be guilty of abusive verbal attack upon a player, umpire, or spectator.
- H. Use profane language in any manner or at any time.
- I. Be guilty of discussing publicly with spectators in a derogatory manner, any play, decision or their own opinion of other players or umpires during the game.
- J. Throw their bat. First instance will result in a warning; the second instance will result in an out.
- K. *If at any point law enforcement is to be called on a player, coach or fan, that person will be suspended for a minimum of one year.*
- L. *Offenses will be kept track of by RCRA. Players who continually violate RCRA Bylaws will be permanently disqualified from participation in the program.*

NOTE: Penalty may be a warning or ejection from the game, park or program. **Final decision by RCRA.**

2020 Church League, Coed, and Men’s Schedules

<p>Church League (Mondays) May 4th, 11th, 18th June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Church League Tournament July 6th, 13th, 20th</p>	<p>Coed League (Thursdays) May 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th June 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Coed League Tournament July 9th, 16th, 23rd</p>
<p>Fall Men’s League (Mondays) August 17th, 24th, 31st September 14th, 21st, 28th October 5th</p>	<p>Fall Coed League (Thursdays) August 20th, 27th September 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th October 1st</p>

Fall Men's Tournament	Fall Coed Tournament
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October 12th, 19th, 26th

Fall Coed Tournament

October 8th, 15th, 22nd

The universal make-up day for cancelled games will be on Tuesdays.