

# **RCPRA Fitzpatrick Softball Constitution and Bylaws 2022**

Any question regarding bylaws should be directed to Mike Osborne

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## **Article 1 Name**

The name of this organization shall be the RCPRA 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 RCPRA.
- B. The RCPRA 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 RCPRA 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 of the season.

## **Article 5 Registration & Eligibility**

- A. The entry fee, established for each season, must be paid in full to the RCPRA office by the second week of the season. *Make check payable to RCPRA*
- B. All team players must be registered on the roster provided by the RCPRA to qualify for tournaments. All additions to the team rosters must be done with the Field Supervisor/Fitzpatrick Park Manager.
- C. Players are all required to fill out the RCPRA waivers form prior to their first game played.
- D. There can be a **maximum of 20 players on any league roster**. All players must **play a minimum of six season games** with their team in order to qualify for league tournaments. If there are instances of teams having to forfeit, this will be evaluated by league manager. If a team does not get in their sixteen regular season games, players from these teams must have played at minimum, 30% of their team's games. The league manager will be keeping track of how many games each player has played throughout the season in order to determine who has tournament eligibility.

- E. All roster additions/deletions must be made in person to the league manager. Additions/deletions must be made on the proper roster forms and require additional players signature and completed waiver form.
- F. No changes to rosters will be allowed after June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- G. Teams may pick up players throughout the regular season from the community or other teams in order to have enough to play regular season games. Players names must written in the scorebook prior to the first pitch of the game they plan to be borrowed for. Players on team's rosters may substitute into any game at any time. Players may only be borrowed from other teams if the team does not have 10 rostered players available. No more than 2 players may be borrowed in order for a game to be counted toward a team record. If you borrow 3 or more players in order to compete the games are recorded as a forfeit for record purposes.
- 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 registered member of the church with 75% of the teams players also being registered church members. All other players must attend said church at least twice during the season in order to qualify for the roster. This is non negotiable and will be checked with church and/or team captain.
  - 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 bay 8 male & 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order if a player is not preset 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 the 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 prior to game times. Game information will be posted on our Facebook page or a team representative may contact the league supervisor via text or call at (304) 920-4211.
- 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 or near holidays for either 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 USSSA rules and/or specific changes for local situations as follows:
- 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 USSSA or GSL stamped balls. No Stadium balls.
- F. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a minimum of 3 feet from the pitcher's hand and no higher than 10 feet from the ground
- G. Only USSSA bats are acceptable.
- H. Coed league lineup requirements are as follows:
  - Teams with a lineup of 7 & 3, females bat 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Teams with a lineup of 6 & 4, females bat 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Teams with a lineup of 5 & 5, alternate male and female throughout lineup.
  - Teams batting 8 & 4, females bat 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Teams batting 7 & 5, females bat 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Teams batting 6 & 6, alternate male and female throughout lineup.
- I. All at bats will start with a one (1) ball, one (1) strike count.
- J. Courtesy foul is in effect.
- K. The mercy rule will be as follows:
  - 20 runs after the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, 15 runs after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning or 10 runs after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning
- 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. Walk rules are as follows:
  - All females will receive one base if walked, any male walked in front of a female while fielding a 5 & 5 or 6 & 6 lineup will go to second and female behind has choice

- to bat or take first base. After 2 outs, in any lineup configuration, the same rule will apply.
- N. Each team is allowed 5 homeruns per game, if both teams meet that number, the total will increase at the top of the next inning by 1.
  - 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 has their feet in the outfield grass when the pitch is delivered.
  - Q. No inning will be started with less than 7 minutes left to play under the time limit.

### **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 all games.
- C. Coaches are responsible for marking which of their players are present on official game forms, which will be provided by league manager. Each opposing coach will confirm that their opposing team is correct and both coaches will sign to confirm. These forms will determine player eligibility for tournaments.
- 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 protest committee will review the protest. Protest committee will consist of umpires, field supervisor and one representative from each team available at the time of protest. The committee's decision is 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 team names, players first name and last initial. 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 is forfeited to the RCPRA.
- K. Players who wish to protest another players eligibility must come to the league director directly. The director will then determine the player's eligibility.

### **Article 9 Disqualifications & Forfeitures**

- A. Teams are required to provide notice to the league director if their team must forfeit a minimum of two hours in advance of the scheduled game starting time.

- B. If a team forfeits their game, the win will be awarded to their opposing team with 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 a \$30 fee before playing another game.
- E. Any team that forfeits 5 weeks of games will be disqualified from the league and tournament play.
- F. Acts of poor sportsmanship and misconduct on the part of players and coaches will not be tolerated. They will be reported to the RCPRA for disciplinary action.
- G. Any player or coach that lays a hand upon, shoves, verbally threatens or strikes an umpire will be suspended for no less than one year and up to lifetime.
- 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 one year from the date of the ejection.
- 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 their 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 being 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 for one year from the time of the infraction.
- 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 team members are present.
- M. During tournaments, game times will start at time established as well. NO EXCEPTIONS!

## **Article 10 Supervisors**

- A. RCPRA 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, RCPRA Director, RCPRA 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 RCPRA Board members will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension.
- E. Any coach who continually protests and causes conflict will lead the RCPRA 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 during scheduled league game times.
- D. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on RCPRA property. Violators can be suspended for up to one year.

### **Article 12 Code of Conduct**

#### **NO PLAYER OR COACH SHALL:**

- A. At any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike or threaten an umpire. (1-year suspension)
- B. Refuse to abide by an umpire's decision.
- C. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at any umpire's decision by throwing gloves, bats, balls or any other forceful actions.
- 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 the play of the game.
- F. Be guilty of physical attack, as an aggressor, upon a player, umpire or spectator.
- G. Be guilty of abusive verbal attack upon a player, umpire or spectator.
- H. Use profane language in any manner 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, 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 the RCPRA. Players who continually violate RCPRA 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 to be made by RCPRA.