

2005
Charlton Softball Association
League Rules

General

1. All games must start on time. If no umpire arrives, coaches will appoint a spectator or assistant coach from each team to work the game. One umpire may be used if umpire is acceptable to both teams. It is the responsibility of both coaches to instruct the umpires to the ground rules and basic book rules.
2. The Home Team will have the Third Base Side on all fields.
3. Umpires and coaches are asked to police themselves in speeding up games. Players should have balls and gloves ready to RUN to their positions at the end of each half inning. Catchers should have shin guards on unless they are on base, at bat, or on deck. Coaches should be ready to help catchers put their equipment on.
4. Umpires have the authority to speed up games by disallowing warm-ups between innings in slow moving games.
5. No games shall start the top of an inning after quarter to the hour of the next scheduled game. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Weeknight games shall not start an inning after 7:55p.m. **EXCEPTION:** If a game is tied at the end of regulation, it will be at the umpire's discretion if it is light enough to continue.
6. Ties that are suspended to time limits are to be decided from point of suspension in the next meeting of the two teams. If game is played on a weeknight, then completion of the suspended game should be at 5:30 p.m. If tied game is the last scheduled meeting of two teams, then it should be played at a mutually agreed upon time if it affects the final standings.
7. All teams should have their player's report to the field no later than 20 minutes before the beginning of their game. If prior game delays the start of ensuing game, then no infield practice should be allowed. Warm-ups should be done in a safe, flat area away from the game, and spectators.
8. Appropriate laced sneakers or rubber cleats, and socks along with team shirts and hats must be worn. **NO JEWELRY OF ANY TYPE IS ALLOWED.** **EXCEPTION:** 17U division players are not required to wear hats. 17U and 12U Division players may wear appropriate shorts if also wearing an approved sliding pad.
9. All players shall remain in the dugouts unless playing defense, batting, on base, or on deck. When in the dugouts all players must remain behind the fence.

- 10. All STARS:** All Star teams will have 1 manager and 2 coaches. All must have regular league members from the same division. Manager of the end of season Tournament Championship team in the 17U division shall have first option of managing the all star team in their division. The winner of the Seeding Round in the 12U Division, will have the first option of managing the All Star Team. At least one coach must be selected from the other managers within the division. All all-star player nominees must have played in at least 60% of the team's games.

The Game

The Charlton Softball Association is an ASA Junior Olympic Fast Pitch League

All playing rules are according to the ASA Junior Olympic Rule Book. The only exceptions are as follows:

1. MERCY RULE (12U Division Only) No team may score more than 8 runs in one inning. Once the eighth run has crossed home plate, play will stop and no subsequent runs will score for that team in that inning. A 9 run mercy rule will be in effect after 5 innings.
2. MERCY RULE (17U Division Only) A 12 run mercy rule will be in effect after five innings.
3. THE INFIELD FLY RULE applies to both the 17U and 12U Divisions
4. SLIDING is encouraged in both 17U and 12U. Sliding is REQUIRED at home plate if there is a play at the plate (per ASA rules). If a player does not slide into home, that player will be called out (if there is a play at the plate) (umpire's discretion).
5. STEALING is allowed at any base in 17U Division.

Stealing will be allowed to all bases, including home in the 12U division, with a cap of five (5) advancements per inning. An advancement is defined as a steal of a base, an advancement on a pass ball/wild pitch or an overthrow on a steal or a pickoff attempt. Extra bases that are a result of overthrows from a batted ball, do not count toward advancements. A walked batter, advancing an extra base on the play, will count toward the advancement cap.
6. BUNTING is allowed in both 17U and 12U divisions.
7. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE will be in effect in the 17U Division only.

8. **SHORTAGE OF PLAYERS: NO FORFEITS.** No game may start with fewer than eight (8) players per team in the 17U or 12U Divisions. If a team is short of players, additional players may be selected from the spectators, providing that player is a member and insured by the Charlton Softball Association. If any players are available to the short team, the added player must be OK'd by the other competing team. Any added players **MUST** play the outfield and bat at the end of the lineup. A team may select a player from the next younger division only if a player from their division is not available. The player's parent or guardian must give their consent in order for any player to play in an older division. For the game to be played, both managers must agree on the line up of the short team.

9. **PROTESTS: NO JUDGEMENT CALLS BY THE UMPIRE MAY BE PROTESTED.** Any protest regarding the ASA rule book must be made according to ASA rules. Any Charlton rules in question shall be directed to a member of the rules committee, or a league officer in attendance of the game, or within 24 hours of completion of the game. **PROBLEMS SHOULD TRY TO BE RESOLVED ON THE FIELD. ANY AND ALL DECISIONS OF THE RULES COMMITTEE ARE FINAL AND MAY NOT BE APPEALED.**

Conduct

1. **ANY HEATED OR ANIMATED ARGUMENTS ON THE PLAYING FIELD FROM COACHES OR PLAYERS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EJECTION AND POSSIBLE SUSPENSION.**
2. Any player, manager, coach or scorekeeper using profanity will be immediately ejected and brought before the Executive Board.
3. Any spectator using profanity towards anyone on the field, or arguing with an umpire about a call will be ejected immediately from the field.
4. **THERE WILL BE NO SMOKING, DRINKING OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS ALLOWED OR TOLERATED ON OR AROUND THE FIELD.**

General

1. One representative from each team is responsible for preparing the field for play.
2. Concession Stand - Both team's Managers are responsible to ensure there is one parent from each team running the concession stand during their games. At least one (1) **ADULT** from each team must be in the stand at all times. This responsibility can be delegated to a team mother or team administrator.
3. Cancellations - Games may be cancelled only for reasons of school, church conflicts, or due to inclement weather. The Division Director is responsible for game

cancellations prior to a game. However, if a game has not been called off (usually due to weather) and the teams have reported to the field, the managers are responsible to make the call on cancellations up until game time, if the umpire hasn't yet arrived. If the managers can't agree and an umpire is not present at the field, then a Board member NOT INVOLVED IN THE GAME must be contacted to make the decision (in the following order.....) 1. Division Director 2. League President 3. League Vice President.

4. Hit Batter Rule – If a pitcher hits a batter three (3) times in one game, that pitcher is removed from pitching and is not allowed to pitch for the remainder of the game.
5. 12U Division Playoff Format – At the conclusion of the seeding round, the four (4) teams with the best records will advance to the playoffs. In the event of a tie, to determine the rankings for the playoff rounds, the first tie breaker will be head to head competition during the seeding round. The second tie breaker will be fewest runs allowed during the seeding round. The third tie breaker will be a coin flip. The Championship Tournament will be a double elimination tournament with the top four (4) seeds from the Seeding Round.
6. In the 12U Division, the manager of the first seeded team from the Seeding Round, will have the first rights to manage the All Star Team. If the manager of the Team seeded first refuses the All Star managers position, it will be offered to the manager of the second seeded team and so on...
7. In the 12U Division, the draft order for the following year will be as follows:
 1. Sixth Rank Team from the Seeding Round
 2. Fifth Ranked Team from the Seeding Round
 3. Forth Place Finish in the Championship Tournament
 4. Third Place Finish in the Championship Tournament
 5. Runner-up in the Championship Tournament
 6. Tournament Champion
9. In the 17U Division, Playoff format, All Star Manager requirements and determination of the following years draft, will be decided on prior to the beginning of the season, as determined by the division director.

Adopted on March 9, 2005