

# 2009 Charlton Softball Association League Rules

## General

1. All games must start on time. For the Junior and Senior Division, there will be ASA umpires assigned to each game. If no umpire arrives, an umpire will be selected as outlined below for Intro Pitch Division.

For the Intro Pitch Division, 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 15 minutes prior to the start 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. Tie games that are suspended due 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 players report to the field no later than 20 minutes before the beginning of their game. If the 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:** Senior division players are not required to wear hats. Senior, Junior and Intro 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. Manager of the end of season Tournament Championship team shall have first option of managing the all star team in their division. 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. Players are eligible to play on the All Star Team, as long as they are age appropriate. For example
  - Players who are ASA 16U, are eligible to play on the 16U All Star Team
  - Players who are ASA 12U, are eligible to play on the 12U All Star Team
  - Players who are ASA 10U, are eligible to play on the 10U All Star TeamFor players who are playing in a higher division and want to be considered for the All Star in a lower division where they are age eligible, they can request to be considered for the All Star Team. This request must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors in conjunction with the division managers will determine whether the player's request will be granted, and allowed to play on the All Star Team in the lower division.
11. Sliding is encouraged in the Intro, Junior and Senior Divisions. The umpire has the discretion to call the player out at home plate on a close play and the runner does not slide.
12. One representative from each team is responsible for preparing the field for play.
13. Pitchers are prohibited from warming up on the pitchers mound prior to their team taking the field at the start of the game.
14. Concession Stand - Both teams 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.

15. 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 an Executive 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.
16. In the Intro, Junior and Senior Divisions, all regular season games will count toward the teams ranking in the Championship Tournament. Teams will be ranked based on their record at the conclusion of the regular season.
17. Intro Junior and Senior Division Playoff Format –All teams will advance to the Championship Tournament. 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 season in the Intro, Junior and Senior Divisions. The second tie breaker will be fewest runs allowed and the third tie breaker will be a coin flip. The Championship Tournament will be a double elimination tournament.
18. In the Intro, Junior Division and Senior Divisions, the draft order for the following year will be the reverse order of a team's finish in the Championship Tournament. For example:
- 6th Place team in the Championship Tournament picks First
  - 5th Place team in the Championship Tournament picks Second
  - 4th Place team in the Championship Tournament picks Third
  - 3rd Place team in the Championship Tournament picks Fourth
  - 2nd Place team in the Championship Tournament picks Third
  - 1st Place team in the Championship Tournament picks Sixth

In the case of a tie, the lower Seeded team will get the higher pick.

## **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. All players are to be included in a continuous batting order. The defensive team can field 10 players and there are free substitutions with the exception of the pitcher. Only the starting pitcher can be re-inserted into that position only once. If a pitcher is not the starting pitcher and is removed from the pitching position, she cannot be re-inserted in to the pitching position.
2. The Intro and Junior Divisions will play a Six (6) inning game. The game will be considered complete if the game is suspended because of darkness or time limit. If the game is tied at the end of six innings, extra innings will be played until a winner is determined.
3. RUN AHEAD RULE (Intro and Junior Division Only) No team may score more than 8 runs per inning in the Junior Division and 5 runs per inning in the Intro Division. Once the Eighth run, in the Junior Division, or the Fifth run in the Intro Division has crossed home plate in any inning, play will stop and no subsequent runs will be scored that inning. A 9 run, Run Ahead Rule will be in effect after 5 innings for the Junior Division and a 6 run, Run Ahead Rule will be in effect after 5 innings for the Intro Division.
4. RUN AHEAD RULE (Senior Division Only) A 12 run, Run Ahead Rule will be in effect after five innings.
5. THE INFIELD FLY RULE applies to both the Senior and Junior Divisions. There is no Infield Fly Rule in the Intro Division.
6. STEALING is allowed at any base in Senior and Junior Divisions.
7. Stealing of second and third bases will be allowed in the Intro Division. A base runner may advance only one base at a time. Advancing an extra base on an over throw will not be permitted. A Batter/Base Runner may not attempt to advance to second base on a walk. Each team will be allowed three advancements per inning. BUNTING is allowed in all Divisions.
8. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE Rule will be in effect in the Senior Division only.

9. Coaches are allowed in outfield in the Intro Division. Each team is allowed to have two coaches in the outfield when their team is in the field, except for the playoffs. During the playoffs, coaches are not allowed in the field.
10. In the Intro Division, girls will pitch the entire game and be allowed only three walks per inning, a hit batsmen counts as one walk. Coaches pitch after the Third walk. A pitcher may walk a runner home from third. Balls will not be called when coaches pitch.
11. In the Intro Division, Coaches, parents and players will pitch from 35'. When coaches or parents pitch, the player at the pitching position must have one foot within the circle. If no circle is present, the player should be within 5' of the rubber.
12. If the coach hits a batter with a pitch, the batter is not awarded first base. If a player is pitching and hits a batter, the batter will be awarded first base.
13. In the Intro Pitch Division, the play is not dead until the ball is in control of a player inside of the pitchers circle. The ball returning to the pitchers circle must be returned to a player, not a coach.
14. In the Intro Division only, batted balls that reach the outfield grass on the ground or in the air, the batter may advance as many bases as possible until the ball gets back to a player in the pitchers circle.
15. In the Intro Division, on a batted ball, if a Coach is pitching, the Coach/Pitcher must stay in the pitching circle. The Coach/Pitcher is encouraged NOT to coach the base runners.
16. In the Intro Division, on a Batted Ball that reaches the outfield grass, a Base Runner may advance an additional base beyond the Batter/Base Runner. For example:
  - Batter/Base Runner Advances to First Base:**
    - Base Runner on First may attempt to advance to Third Base, but not beyond Third Base
    - Base Runner on Second may attempt to advance to Home
  - Batter/Base Runner Advances to Second Base:**
    - Base Runner on First Base may attempt to advance to Home
    - Base Runner on Second Base may attempt to advance to Home
17. In the Intro Pitch Division, players will be able to advance one base 2nd and 3rd not home on an overthrow.

18. **SHORTAGE OF PLAYERS: NO FORFEITS.** No game may start with fewer than eight (8) players per team in the Senior, Junior and Intro 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 (Unless otherwise agreed by the managers prior to the game). 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. A team can bring in a player that is not on their roster only if they have less than (9) roster players at the start of the game. If a team starts a game with non roster players and a roster player shows up after the start of the game, the non roster player can remain in the game. The roster player will be placed at the end of the batting order.

19. **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.
5. The Charlton Softball Association is recommending that pitchers, first baseman and third baseman wear protective face masks. This may become an ASA rule in 2009.

**As Amended February 4, 2009**