



## 2024 MEN'S CHURCH SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES

Games will be played by the United States Specialty Sports Association Rules (USSSA), except when in conflict with one of the following rules:

### LEAGUE AUTHORITY

1. The operations of the league or tournament will be fully governed by the policies and regulations set forth by the Buhler Recreation Commission.
2. The Buhler Recreation Commission will not be responsible for any injuries or accidents incurred to players or spectators.

### TEAM ROSTERS

1. Team rosters will be limited to 20 players. To be eligible to participate as a player, that player's name must be on the official roster, only players on the roster will be eligible for Team awards from the league.
2. USSSA by-laws will be followed for adding players.
3. The minimum age to participate in a BRC Men's Church softball league/tournament is 16 years of age. Players under 18 will require parental consent.

### LEAGUE RULES

1. **GAME TIME:** Game time is forfeit time. Teams not ready to play at the designated time shall forfeit. A team must have 8 players to start or finish a game. No automatic out for playing short.
2. **REGULATION GAME:** A game will consist of 7 innings unless one the the following occurs:
  - a. **TIME LIMIT:** A 1 hour time limit will be in effect. No new inning will begin after 55 min (unless tied).
  - b. **RUN RULES:** The games will be ruled complete if a team is ahead by the following runs.
    - i. 15 runs after 3 innings (2½ runs if the home team is ahead),
    - ii. 10 runs after 5 innings (4½ runs if the home team is ahead).
  - c. **TIES:** In the event of a tied game, an additional inning will be played until a complete inning is completed without ending in a tie.
3. **BATTING:**
  - a. Batters will start with a 1-1 count.
  - b. There will be 1 courtesy foul ball.
  - c. **Home Run Rule:** Each team will be allowed 3 over the fence home runs. Once both teams have hit three, a one-up rule will be applied. (If team A hits a 4th homerun, team B must hit one also before team A can hit another. If team A hits a 5th homerun before team B hits a 4th, it will be ruled out and runners will not advance.)
  - d. Up to 2 Additional Hitters are permitted.
4. **BASERUNNING**

- a. COURTESY RUNNERS: One courtesy runner per inning (one time) may be used. The courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup on the roster. Once the courtesy runner occupies the base, the selected courtesy runner may not be exchanged for any other desired courtesy runner. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.
    - i. In the Coed League, any male player in the roster may run for any male, and any female player in the roster may run for any female. Both a male and female player may opt for a courtesy runner in each inning.
    - ii. If a second courtesy runner of the inning, or one not from the lineup roster, enters the game, and the defensive team completes a proper appeal before the next pitch, illegal pitcher action, intentional walk, or before all fielders have left fair territory, the runner will be declared out.
5. BALLS
  - a. Men will play with a 12" yellow Classic M slow pitch ball.
  - b. Balls will be provided by BRC.
6. UNIFORMS: Players are not required to wear uniforms. However, teams should be dressed alike as nearly as possible and wear appropriate softball clothing. A shirt with inappropriate language or graphics will not be allowed. No exposed jewelry may be worn (excluding wedding bands and stud earrings). No Metal Cleats. Playing barefoot is NOT allowed. This will be up to the site supervisor for enforcement. Teams and players may be suspended for not following the rules.
7. SCORE KEEPING: Score will be recorded each half inning by the umpire.
8. ALCOHOL: Consumption of alcoholic beverages while playing a game is NOT allowed. This includes the dugout area, spectator stands, and the parking lot. Penalty for violation of this rule will be ejection from the game. If outside beer is brought into the complex, the player or players will be ejected immediately and the team will be given a warning with the next incident resulting in the team to forfeit their game.
  - a. No refunds for games will be given back for forfeits due to violation of Rules.
9. DUGOUT: Eligible players who are properly registered with the team shall be the only ones in the dugout during the game. While a team is batting, all players must remain completely in the dugout and out of the playing area with the following exceptions:
  - a. The on-deck batter in the designated circle.
  - b. (1) 1st base coach and (1) 3rd base coach in the designated areas.
10. MUSIC: Due to safety concerns and potentially offensive/suggestive language, players and spectators are not permitted to play music within the complex.
11. INCLEMENT WEATHER/CANCELLATIONS: All changes to the game schedules will be posted on Facebook (Buhler Recreation Page) as soon as a decision is made. The Director will also notify each coach of changes. Make-up games will be rescheduled as soon as possible. 3 innings (2½ if the home team is leading) shall constitute a regulation game if the game is called. Note: All rainout games or games called that are not regulation games will be replayed from the beginning.
12. RESCHEDULING GAMES: BRC will work to reschedule all postponed games BUT in the event that a postponed game(s) has not been played by the end of the season, the Director may only reschedule the games that affect the 1st place standing.

13. STANDINGS AND TIE BREAKERS: In the event of a tie in standings, the following tie-breaker system will be used:
  - a. Head to Head
  - b. Run Differential
  - c. Runs allowed
  - d. If two teams remain, we will have a coin flip.
14. MANAGERS AND UMPIRES: In the case of a dispute, managers/head coaches are the only ones allowed to talk with the umpires. If a manager wants to inquire concerning a call, he must call "time" and request an explanation in a calm and respectful manner. He is the only one allowed on the field to confer with the umpire - other players, coaches, and assistants must remain in the dugout.
15. BALL DELAYS: If a ball goes out of the playing field the pitcher cannot wait for that ball to be returned. Another game ball must be used until the batter is retired or the ball is hit out of play.

#### UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

1. Profanity, verbal abuse, or any threats toward BRC game umpires, scorers, administrators, or representatives before, during, or after the games will not be tolerated and is grounds for suspension from the program for up to one year as determined by the BRC staff. Any profanity that the BRC umpire or site supervisor deems inappropriate will be addressed by:
  - a. Verbal warning given
  - b. Ejection from the facility. If the offender fails to leave the complex the local law enforcement will be called and it will result in the team forfeiting the game.
2. Any player who, in the umpire's judgment, purposely pushes or strikes a player to the extent that it could cause personal bodily injury will automatically be suspended from the program.
3. Anyone assaulting an umpire or BRC representative will be banned from all adult athletics for the rest of that season plus the next year and may be prosecuted to the fullest through all legal channels.
4. Anyone starting or pursuing a fight with another player, coach or spectator, will be suspended from the program for one year from the date of the incident.
5. Appeals must first go through the Buhler Rec Director and further appeals to the BRC Board.
6. Any player ejected from a game will be suspended a minimum of two games and must visit with the League Director before playing another game.

#### PROTESTS

1. REGULAR SEASON LEAGUE GAMES: Protest will be allowed on rule interpretations and ineligible players during regular season league games ONLY. All protests must be in the hands of the director no later than 5pm the day following the alleged violation. The protest must be legible. In all cases, when a rule interpretation protest is made, it must be made at the time of the play in question, verbally to the umpire on the field, that the remainder of the

game is being played under protest. The umpire is to immediately notify the opposing manager.

- a. Date, time, and location of the game and the name of the umpire.
  - b. Rule and section of the official rules under which the protest is being made.
  - c. The decisions and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
  - d. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
2. TOURNAMENTS: Protests WILL NOT be allowed during Tournaments. This includes post season games for leagues. The decisions of the umpires are final.

#### RULE CHANGES

1. Any rule changes will be given to the team immediately before their next games.