

# CATHOLIC SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



**Diocese of Orange  
Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry**

## **Rule Book**

**REVISED APRIL 4, 2017**

Rules and Regulations Players, Spectators and Referees must follow to be able to participate in the Catholic Basketball Association league.



## **LEAGUE INFORMATION:**

1. League will be played by SCMAF (Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation) rules, except where these rules modify or super cede those rules, as outlined in this document or addenda. Managers and players should also speak with the YA Sports Coordinator with questions or concerns.
2. Team rosters must be finalized with the YA Sports Coordinator.
3. Schedules are played as published whenever possible; however, there are occasional changes, due to weather, scheduling conflicts, or other unforeseen circumstances, at the time the schedule is created. **If a change is necessary, we will notify the manager by e-mail or phone. We make every attempt to provide teams with at least one week's notice of any change. If there are any questions about the schedule, call the YA Sports Coordinator at 714-282-3055 or by email at [occsl@rcbo.org](mailto:occsl@rcbo.org). When in doubt about field conditions or rain outs, the manager or any team member should call the YA Sports Coordinator.**
4. No player can play for any team who hasn't completed the registration through the [www.occsl.org](http://www.occsl.org) website, paid the applicable fees to the diocese, and received insurance approval back from the league director.
5. Players must be at least 18 years old before playing – Age: 18-39 years old.
6. All league players and added players must also be on and sign the roster kept by the OCCSL. Each player will be required to show valid photo ID to the OCCSL staff at the game field when signing in for the first time.
7. All players must have photo ID available at all games and must sign the lineup card. Lineup cards must be filled out and turned in after each game.
8. All games will be played at the Tustin Sports Park Fields #1 and #3.
9. League standings will be displayed on the league website. (Note: League standings will also be posted on our OCCSL Facebook/Instagram accounts bi-weekly)
10. Home Team will lead both teams in prayer no later than 5 minutes prior to each game. Immediately after the game, both teams should pray together near the pitcher's mound with the home team leading the prayer.
11. No alcohol on the field or in the stands at any time.
12. Un-Christian language or behavior directed toward umpires or opposing players and fans will not be tolerated. Violating players reported are subject to suspension by the YA Sports Coordinator.

13. Players ejected from a game will be automatically suspended from playing the next game. The league director may suspend the player for further games or the season for blatant offenses. Players may be ejected at any time before, during, or after a game.

14. All grievances should be communicated by the team manager.

15. Appeals must be written and received within 24 hours.

16. Borrowing Players: Team Captains can borrow players if they are at risk of forfeiting a game due to not having enough players. During playoffs players cannot be borrowed.

## **CO-ED RULE MODIFICATIONS**

1. Two batters of the same gender may never bat consecutively. A rotating/alternating batting order will be in effect.

2. All coed teams must have at least FIVE (5) players of each gender on the field at all times to play at full strength. If a team has only FOUR (4) players of either gender present, the team may still play with no more than FIVE (5) of the other gender. A team may play with a minimum of four (4) men and four (4) women.

3. 180' Arc Rule: All outfielders must remain behind the outfield restriction line (180 ft arc from home plate, 160' from home plate on the closed fields) until the batter (male or female) makes contact with the pitch. Penalty: Batter will be awarded first base unless he/she reaches it safely and all other runners advance one base safely. A maximum of 4 players (other than the pitcher and catcher) may be considered infielders.

4. All infielders, except the pitcher and catcher, must remain behind the first to second to third baselines until the batter makes contact with the pitch. Infielders may play at any depth, provided that they are not in front of the base paths. Penalty: Batter will be awarded first base unless he/she reaches it safely and all other runners advance one base safely. A maximum of 4 players (other than the pitcher and catcher) may be considered infielders.

5. A male batter who is walked on three consecutive balls with no strikes received during his turn at bat will be awarded 2nd base. Runners advance if forced.

## **GAME RULES AND INFORMATION:**

1. Each team is made up of 10 fielders. However, a team may not have more than 6 male players on the field at one time.

2. Teams with less than 3 woman or 8 total players playing in the field must forfeit.

3. Games will consist of 9 innings or a one-hour and five-minute time limit (innings in progress when the time limit expires will be completed), whichever comes first.

4. Lineups: Prior to each game, team managers will be required to write their lineup on the scorecard and submit it to the umpire or OCCSL Coordinator.
5. The game will be called when the winning team takes a lead of 20 runs or more after 5 complete innings.
6. Each batter will come to the plate with a 1:1 count.
7. A batter hitting a 2nd foul ball after the 2nd strike will be called out.
8. A male batter who is walked on three consecutive balls with no strikes received during his turn at bat (4-1 count) will be awarded 2nd base. Runners advance if forced.
9. Pitching - to throw a strike a pitch must go higher than the batter's head but not higher than 12 feet and land on the plate or mat behind the plate.
10. Illegal Pitch - if the umpire judges that a pitch has not gone higher than the batter's head or is higher than 12 feet, he/she will call out "illegal pitch" during the pitch. If the batter does not swing the pitch will be called an automatic ball. The batter does have the option to legally swing at a pitch called out as an "illegal pitch", however a swing by the batter removes the illegal pitch designation.
11. Stealing is illegal. Penalty - runner is out when contact is made with the "stolen base".
12. The base runner may lead off after the ball has been released from the pitcher's hand during the delivery. The runner is forced back to the base if the batter fails to make contact or on a foul tip caught by the catcher. If a fielder while standing on the base catches the catcher or pitcher's throw or tags the runner before the runner has retouched the base, the runner is out.
13. The base runner or batter/runner is out when he/she does not slide or attempt to get around the fielder when the fielder who has the ball is waiting to tag the runner out, or the runner was forced out.
14. When a base runner who comes into a base standing causes contact or interference with a fielder attempting a double play, the interfering runner and the runner who could have been put out without interference shall both be declared out.
15. An unlimited number of pinch runners are allowed for injury only. Pinch runner will be the player of the same sex that made the last out.
16. All outfielders must be at least 165 feet (behind the lined arc) from home plate until the ball is hit. Infielders may play at any depth, provided that they are not in front of the base paths. A

maximum number of 4 players (other than the pitcher and catcher) may be considered infielders.

17. Official score and time will be kept by the umpire on the field. Managers should verify the score after each half inning.

18. In the event a game ends in a tie, each team will be credited with a 1/2 game win and 1/2 game loss.

19. At the end of the game, managers should ask the umpire for the official final score. The score and team highlights should be emailed to [occs1@rcbo.org](mailto:occs1@rcbo.org) ASAP after your game.

20. Fake Tags: Any time an umpire sees a player use a "fake tag," the umpire shall rule "Obstruction" and the runner will be awarded an extra base if he/she does not reach the next base safely. Flagrant or repeated violations will result in the ejection of the fielder.

21. Pitcher's Rectangle: The rectangle will extend six feet back from the pitching rubber and will be the same width as the rubber. Pitchers may pitch from anywhere inside the rectangle. The same rules will apply to the pitcher's rectangle and the pitching rubber.

## **TIES**

1. If the time limit has expired and the game is tied at the completion of the current inning, both teams will be credited with a 1/2 win and a 1/2 loss.

2. League ties that have first or second place with the same record will be broken using the following system:

- i) Head-to-Head season record among tied teams
- ii) Run differential in all games played among tied teams.
- iii) Run differential in all LOSSES during the season.
- iv) Run differential in ALL games played.

NOTE: Any forfeited games may disqualify the forfeiting team.

## **FORFEITS**

Games shall be forfeited if:

1. A team is unable to field at least eight (8) rostered players at the time their team must take the field defensively in the first inning. The game will begin when the field AND the umpire are ready to start the game and the scheduled game time has been reached. The home team may choose to bat first but must take an out for every batting position short of 8 batters each time the vacant position comes to bat. Umpires are instructed to leave the field as soon as a forfeit has been called. Once a forfeit has been called, it is irreversible unless such a ruling is inappropriate.

2. A team is found to have used an illegal or non-rostered player. The OCCSL reserves the right to forfeit any and all games in which illegal players have participated, even if the discovery of such player(s) happens weeks after the incident.

3. In the opinion of the umpire/park staff, a manager does not have complete control of his/her team.

4. A team continues to delay the game.

5. A team continues to harass the umpire or if the umpire feels the situation is such that physical harm may come to him/her, other players, or spectators.

6. Any player is consuming any alcoholic spirits during the game; this includes on or off the field, or in the bleachers.

## **EQUIPMENT**

1. Shoes must be worn, metal cleats are not permitted; plastic cleats and rubber all purpose soled shoes may be worn. Players wearing metal cleats must immediately remove them and cannot continue play until he/she is wearing appropriate shoes.

2. Multi-walled, multi-shelled, multi-layered bats, bats containing titanium alloy, and bats with composite barrels are not legal. Bats will be provided by the OCCSL.

3. Softball Glove Recommendations: The standard size for a baseball infield glove is 11.25 to 12 inches and 11.5 to 12.5 inches for softball. Outfield gloves are designed to catch high fly balls and making diving catches. This means that the gloves are longer and deeper with extra support in the fingers.

## **AWARDS**

The league champion team will have their team name and year they won put on the trophy. The team will be permitted to hold onto the trophy until the next CSA softball season.

\*\*CSA Rule Book is subject to change at the discretion of the OCCSL Coordinator or Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. If changes do occur all captains will be notified immediately.