

Cindy La Rue Co-Rec Softball League

RULES

The Cindy La Rue Co-Rec Softball League was formed in 1980. The league originally consisted of teams representing Columbia's villages and was known as the Columbia Inter-Village Co-Rec Softball League. It changed its name in 1993 to memorialize Cindy La Rue, a member of the Columbia Quakes (now known as The Lighthouse Lions) who was murdered in late August 1993 by a co-worker. Cindy represented what the league tries to convey: an exuberant and enthusiastic personality who enjoyed participating each week and who came to play hard, make friends, and have fun.

- 1) There shall be no arguing with the umpires.
- 2) All players must be at least 19 years old at some point during the season. A player may play on only one team and may not move from one team to another during the season. All players must sign a liability release statement upon payment of the participant fee.
- 3) 80% of each team's roster must live or work in Howard County.
- 4) Each team is to provide its own bats and practice balls. The league will provide the bases, alternate home plate, first-base carpet, foul-line cones, two catcher's masks, and one (new) ball (0.44 COR and 375 lb compression) for each game.
- 5) Games will start *promptly* at 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. There is a ten-minute grace period to allow each team to field the minimum number of each gender; after 1:10 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. for the two game times, respectively, the game shall be a forfeit loss for the team that does not have enough players; double-forfeits are possible as well. No full inning shall start after 2:20 p.m. and 3:50 p.m.
- 6) There must be at least 8 fielders at all times. The minimum number of fielders of one gender is 3. The maximum number of fielders of one gender is 6. If a team is fielding only 3 of one gender, the 4th slot in that gender's batting order is an automatic out.
- 7) If a team fields 6 players of one gender and 4 players of the other gender, the opposing team has the option of fielding the same gender ratio.
- 8) If a team has only 8 players, the opposing team *may* provide a catcher for the sole purpose of returning pitched balls (the catcher shall not be involved in any defensive plays).
- 9) Batting order shall alternate between male and female, and may include more than 5 batters of either gender.
- 10) Only one outfielder is permitted to position him/herself within 150 feet from home plate, regardless of the batter's gender.
- 11) If in the judgment of the umpire an intentional walk is executed, the following batter shall have the option of batting or taking first base. Moreover, if the first four pitches to a male batter are balls then the female batter immediately following that male batter has the option of taking first base.
- 12) A batter is out when fouling a pitch with two strikes.
- 13) There shall be no courtesy runner for the batter. The batter must reach base before a pinch runner (the next available preceding batter of the same gender) can be inserted.

14) First base is a double bag. On all infield ground balls or on *any* defensive play at first base, the batter-runner must run to the carpet in foul territory and shall be declared out if he/she runs to the first-base bag in fair territory. **EXCEPTION:** on an errant throw, the first baseman and the batter-runner may touch either bag to avoid a collision.

15) There shall be two home plates, and all plays at home shall be force outs (no tag plays) regardless of the number of baserunners. To score, a runner must touch the alternate plate before the catcher (or other fielder) touches the regular plate while in possession of the ball. A runner advancing to or touching the regular plate shall be called out automatically. A runner advancing toward home who touches the commit line (halfway between third base and regular home plate) or the ground beyond the commit line cannot return to third base (a runner who recrosses the commit line is automatically called out).

16) Pitchers must deliver the ball from the rubber (50ft from home plate), with an arc of 6 ft to 12 ft.

17) Players are entitled to play their positions without fear of "encroachment" from teammates.

18) Catchers are required to wear catcher's masks.

19) Unlimited substitution is permitted only when a team is taking the field at the beginning of a half-inning. No substitutions (except for the pitcher) will be permitted at other times unless a player is hurt. Players can reenter the game after sitting out one inning.

20) When a player is hurt, the umpire shall stop play, call "dead ball," and award bases that the runners would normally have advanced to if the injury had not occurred.

21) For the first 60 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game each team shall be limited to a maximum of 6 runs per at bat. For every full inning that starts after 60 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game, there is no limit on runs per at bat.

22) Metal spikes are prohibited.

23) Exposed jewelry (earrings, bracelets, necklaces, rings, watches), except for wedding bands and medical alert items which must be taped to the body, is prohibited.

24) Double-, triple-, & multi-walled bats and titanium bats are not allowed. The league also provides a list of specific bats that are allowed and not allowed.

25) Whenever lightning is seen and/or thunder is heard, the fields shall be cleared and players shall seek shelter for 15 minutes before play resumes. Subsequent games shall start as scheduled.

26) Teams assigned Equipment Responsibilities are to a) pick up the bases, first-base carpet, alternate home plate, two catcher's masks, and two foul-line cones at the end of the game and bring them to the designated game the following week.

27) Trash and waste products (including cans and bottles) must be removed from the field at the end of each game.

28) Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, smoking, unrestrained pets, and inappropriate or indecent conduct, harassment, and/or language are prohibited and are cause for immediate ejection from the fields at the discretion of umpire or Commissioner.