

LEXINGTON COUNTY SOFTBALL RULES

1. All leagues will play USSSA rules, other than stated Lexington County Rules.
2. Rosters for Mens D, Womens D will be limited to 20 players. Rosters for Church and Mens Industrial leagues will be unlimited. Coed league rosters are allowed a maximum of 15 men and 15 women. **A complete roster with full names of each individual (NO Nicknames) must be handed in prior to your first game or your team will not be permitted to play. Rosters available for viewing upon request, for your league/Division, by head coach only!**
3. Additions or deletions to rosters must be made before September 2, 2011. After this date the rosters are frozen for the rest of the season. Additions must be made in writing and submitted to the Pine Grove Sports Complex. Players added to rosters must sit out one game from date added. **Exception:** Players who need to be added after the frozen date may be done so on a case by case basis with the approval of a Pine Grove staff member.
4. Participants must be 15 years of age or older as of April 1, 2011. **(Exception: participants on Church teams ONLY who are younger must have written permission signed by their guardian and APPROVAL from the Complex Director, Carrie Lyons or the Complex Supervisor, Danny Crews).**
5. Women cannot appear on men's team rosters nor can men on women's.
6. Players may not participate on two teams within the same league. We will determine your legitimate team by the team you participate with first, whether you are on the roster or not. We reserve the right to add you to that roster.

Players playing on two different teams within the same league may be identified by the umpires or the complex director. The opposing team **DOES NOT** have to protest. If caught, the player will be subject to suspension from all softball leagues within Lexington County for one week. Second offense: suspension for the remainder of the year, **Team penalty:** is a forfeit.

7. If an umpire **hears threatening comments** of hitting the pitcher with a batted ball or **intentionally hitting up the middle** the player is subject to ejection without warning.
8. Active participation rather than church membership are the requirement in all classification of church play.
9. All players of Industrial league teams must be an employee or spouse of an employee of the team sponsor. Penalty, First offense: Team forfeits game. Second offense: Team suspension entire season.

10. In Coed league, you can start with nine players. (five men and four women or five women and four men). The game can continue with nine (9) players. However, on the arrival of the 10th player his/her name must be added at the bottom of the lineup. (If on offense, he/she becomes the 10th batter. If on defense he/she goes to the field.) **EFFECT:** When the missing player's name is up in the batting order, that missing players turn at bat **IS** considered an **OUT**.
11. All men's and women's leagues may start and continue with nine (9) players, however, on the arrival of the tenth he/she must take their place in the game. If on offense, he/she becomes the tenth batter. If on defense he/she goes to the field). **EFFECT:** When the missing player's name is up in the batting order, that missing players turn at bat is **NOT** considered an Out. **NOTE: If you start with ten, eleven OR TWELVE players and one player leaves for any reason (excluding injury suffered during the course of a game) and you have no substitutions their time at bat will be considered an out. If you are caught faking an injury to play on another field you will be suspended for two weeks....no exceptions!!!**
12. In all Men's, Women's & Church Leagues you may have 2 (additional hitters) for a total of 12 in the batting line-up. **THE 11TH OR 12TH BATTER MUST BE PRESENT PRIOR TO GAME TIME FOR THEM TO BE INCLUDED INTO THE BATTING LINE-UP.**
13. No information on rosters will be given out over the phone.
14. ALL Men's and Women's LEAGUES (INCLUDING CHURCH) will have a **ONE Homerun (HR) Hitter**. The coach can either designate the HR Hitter at the beginning of the game or wait for the first person to hit a HR which would make that individual the HR Hitter. If the HR Hitter is walked for any reason, it will allow someone else in the lineup to become the new HR Hitter. If any HR Hitter is ejected or substituted for during the course of the game than the HR hitter is removed for the rest of the game.
15. Players or Coaches ejected from the game are subject to suspension from all Lexington County owned and operated facilities for one week or for the remainder of the season. Any player or coach who feels that he/she has been unjustly suspended by a league official may have his/her case heard by a disciplinary board prior to serving the suspension. The request for a disciplinary hearing must be made in writing within 24 hours to Carrie Lyons (Complex Director) or Curtis Martin (Asst.Athletic Director). This hearing will be scheduled as soon as possible, and the impending suspension will be upheld, revised, or waived at this time. **NOTE: Unsportsman like behavior such as vulgar gestures, cursing, fighting or abusing the umpires will not be tolerated! Any player displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to the maximum penalty of expulsion from all Lexington County owned and operated facilities for one year.**

16. Only USSSA approved bats will be allowed in Lexington County Adult Leagues. Lexington County Recreation reserves the right to implement a banned bat list if deemed necessary.

NOTE: If caught using an altered or disguised bat you are automatically suspended for the rest of the season from all Lexington County Recreation owned and operated facilities.
17. Protests: **All rule protests must be made at the point of infraction to the umpire.** All eligibility protests must be made verbally to the umpire before the last out of the ball game. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE PROPER PROCEDURE.** **NOTE:** In case of eligibility protest, be prepared to show picture identification. If you are unable to produce a valid ID within a reasonable period of time, your team is subject to forfeiture of the game.
18. Courtesy runners will be allowed in all leagues, one courtesy runner per inning through the 5th inning. In the 6th and 7th inning the courtesy runner must be approved with the opposing team's coach. **NOTE: Courtesy runner must be last offensive batter not on base.**
19. **There will be no grace period for any game.** Both teams must have at least nine (9) ball players to start. Players must be on the playing field or in the dugout, not in the parking lot or restroom area. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
20. Time limit for games is one hour and five minutes. Be sure to check with the umpire for the exact starting time. No new inning will start after one hour and five minutes, except in the case of a tie. Umpires, coaches, and players are encouraged to keep the game moving.
21. If a game is forfeited due to the lack of players, and both teams want to scrimmage, the umpires will officiate the game if requested. **NOTE:** Both teams must have 9 players.
22. Games will be started and considered an official game with one umpire present.
23. All leagues will play free substitution.
24. Game balls will be furnished by Lexington County Recreation Commission and umpires will provide these balls. After each game, both teams will be given a game ball, provided it has not been lost. Teams should keep these balls for backup in future games.
25. All teams listed first on the schedule will be the home team and official score book.

26. If a team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 4 complete innings, (or 3 ½ if home team is ahead) they will be declared the winner. If a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 5 completed innings, (or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead) they will be declared the winner.
27. Please do not warm-up on concrete sidewalks or behind the dugouts. Teams may warm-up in designated areas only. These areas are as follows. Between field 1 & 2, 2 & 3, 3 & 4, and 4 & 5.
28. **IF A TEAM FORFEITS THREE GAMES IN A SEASON, YOUR TEAM WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REMOVED FROM THAT INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE.**
29. No metal cleats allowed.
30. **Rainouts:** The fitness of the ground for the games will be decided by the Complex Director. When possible, games will be called by 4:30 p.m. **FOR RAINOUT INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 356-9095.** Coaches please help us out by giving this information to all your players to keep the # of calls at the office down. If this is not possible, games will be called at the fields. After games have begun it will be left up to the Complex Supervisor/Danny Crews whether to continue or to postpone games. At all outlying fields the umpires will make the decision. When an incomplete game is suspended because of rain, power failure, etc., it will be restarted at the point of interruption with the same situation as when the game was suspended. However, if the game is not tied and 4 ½ or 5 innings have been completed the game will be considered a completed game.
31. The Recreation Commission will schedule all make-up games. Team contacts will be notified by mail as to the time and location. Games will be made up on the first available Friday Night that there are no other events scheduled at the complex. Otherwise, make-ups will be held after the season. Be prepared to play makeups on any night during the week regardless of what night you play during the regular season. (If necessity dictates, makeups could be held Sunday afternoon).
32. First place teams will receive a team trophy and individuals. Second place will receive a team trophy. In the event of a tie for first place, the tiebreaker will be head to head competition. If teams split, there will be a one game playoff. In leagues where some teams play each other only once, their head to head match-up will decide first or second place. Ties for second place will be handled in the same manner.
33. At the end of the season a County Tournament will be held if time permits (Rain Outs). County Tournament: First and second place teams in each league will be awarded a County Tournament bid. In leagues with eight or more teams, the third place team, provided they have a winning record, will be considered.