

N.C.Y.S.A.  
North Cherokee Youth Softball Association  
P.O. Box 1693  
Canton, GA 30114

Local Rules—Fast Pitch  
Amended March 2007

All regular season, playoff, and tournament games sanctioned by North Cherokee Youth Softball, Inc. are governed by the current year's official playing rules of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), provided that the following local softball rules, adopted by The Board of Directors of NCYS shall supersede and apply to all local league play.

Section 1 — Qualification to Play

- A. All players must be a Cherokee County resident who resides in or attends elementary school in one of the following elementary school districts: Ball Ground, Buffington, Canton/Tippens/Hasty, Clayton, Hickory Flat, Holbrook (Free Home), Holly Springs, Macedonia, Mountain Road, Sixes/Liberty, and Waleska. (Amended 1-2006)
- B. Based on a player's age as of January 1 of the current year, players will play in the following age groups: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-18. If there is not a 15-18 year old league, 14- year old players may be based on age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. (Amended 2-2005) Any amendment to these age rules will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors (Amended 1-2006)(Amended 3-2007)
- C. Players will be eligible to play on a team for the district in which they reside or attend elementary school. If a team is not available in their district, they will be placed in an open league draft and may be drafted by the team needing the most players.
- D. Returning players will be allowed to play on the same team as the year's before. This is referred to as the "Grandfather Clause". Players who played outside their district the preceding season will be allowed to play on their previous year's team or may return to the district where they reside or attend elementary school.
- E. All players will be required to turn in a birth certificate at registration if one is not on file. The parent or guardian will be required to sign a liability waiver and a release for emergency treatment.
- F. All players must be enrolled in a school with good standing to be eligible to play. The Board of Directors will review all matters involving situations such as this. All decisions will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. (Amended 1-2002)

- G. No additional players will be added to any roster following their last regular season game. (Play-off games are not regular season games.) (Amended 1-2002).

## Section 2 — Teams

- A. Each team shall be limited to no more than 1 manager, 2 coaches, 1 scorekeeper, and 1 bat person authorized to be in the team dugout during games.
- B. Teams will be limited to not more than 12 players or less than 9 players, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. (Revised 12-1-97; Revised 1-3-99).
- C. A player shall not change teams after being put on any NCYS roster (including NCYS Travel Team roster). A player cannot play in more than 1 youth softball league during certified North Cherokee Youth Softball, Inc. events (i.e. regular season games or year-end tournament.). NCYS players may play on weekend tournament teams. Violation of this rule will result in the suspension of the player(s) in question from further play in NCYS games. (Amended 2-2005)
- D. Any player who signs up after the last scheduled sign-up date may go into an open draft or forfeits her right to play. By going into an open draft, she will be placed with the team with the most need. The Board of Directors must approve player additions. If all rosters have the same number of players, the out-of-district player will be given the opportunity to go to the closest district.
- E. When players are added to an existing roster, all directors should be notified to be sure players did not sign up with another team.
- F. Play for all age divisions can start with 6 players. Less than 6 players will result in a game being forfeited. Missing batters are not an out. An obviously injured player cannot constitute the 6<sup>th</sup> player. (Amended 3-2007)
- G. If a player is removed from the batting order for injury or sickness, the batter's subsequent turn at bat will not be listed as an out. (Amended 12-2-97). If a player is removed from the batting order and leaves the game for any reason other than injury or sickness, the batter's subsequent turn at bat will be listed as an out. (Amended 1-2002). Late arrival of a player can be added to the bottom of the line-up without penalty. (Amended 1-3-2002)

## Section 3 — Divisions

- A. Teams from each age group will be divided into divisions when the number of teams is 14 or more. An age group comprised of 13 teams or less will constitute one division. All games will now count towards standings. (Amended 1-2006)

#### Section 4 — Player Participation

- A. Every eligible player listed on the roster shall be placed in the offensive starting line-up card and will bat in the subsequent order listed for the entire game. All divisions allow 10 defensive players in the starting lineup and will have their positions noted on the line-up card. (Amended 1-8-01; Amended 2-2005)
- B. Defensive substitutions may be made at any time with no notification necessary for the home plate umpire. Players substituted defensively, will remain in the original batting order on the line-up card.
- C. Flex Player (FLEX) will not be in effect. (Amended 2-2005)
- D. Any manager having a player with any type of special medical or physical condition must advise the umpires and opposing team manager prior to the start of the game.
- E. In case of obvious injury to a player, if the coach does not remove the player, the umpire or NCYS Director present has the power to remove the injured player.
- F. If a player is benched for disciplinary actions, the manager must notify the parent, umpire and opposing manager immediately before or during the game. If before the game, the said player will not be allowed to play for the entire game. If during the game, the player's subsequent turns at bat will be listed as an out.
- G. If a player is removed from the batting order for injury or sickness, that batter's subsequent turn at bat will not be listed as an out, if there is no substitute available. (Amended 12-1-97). Late arrival of a player can be added to the bottom of the line-up without penalty. (Amended 1-3-00)

#### Section 5 — Points of Emphasis

- A. Infield fly rule will be in effect.
- B. Intentional Walks — All pitches must be legally delivered to the batter. Runners may advance at their own risk with liability to be put out.
- C. Foul Tips — Runners may not advance on any foul balls NOT caught by the defense. Foul tip on third strike caught by the catcher will be an out and runners may advance with liability to be put out.
- D. Third Strike Emphasis — (1) Runners may advance with the liability to be put out if the catcher drops the third strike with fewer than 2 outs and first base is unoccupied. This does not apply to 10 year old fast pitch. (Amended 12-1-97). (2) If the batter, after the catcher drops the third strike, ventures outside the base line to return to the team area, batter will be declared out if less than 2 outs.

Batters' actions will be umpire's discretion.

- E. Base Runners — (1) Must return to previous base if umpire interferes with catcher. (2) When a pitched ball that is swung at touches any part of the batter's person or clothing, runners must return. (3) Base runner is declared out when failing to keep contact with a base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- F. Hit Batsman —(1) Pitcher must start position with both feet in contact with the pitching plate. (2) Pitcher must take the signal from the catcher with both hands separated. The ball may be in either the glove or pitching hand. (3) The pitcher shall hold the ball in both hands for not less than 1 second or more than 10 seconds before releasing it. (4) Dropped ball — If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the delivery, a ball is declared on the batter, and the ball is considered live and in play and the runners may advance at their own risk. (5) Illegal pitch — Any pitch deemed illegal by the umpire, the ball is considered dead, a ball is called on the batter, and all runners are awarded one base. (Exceptions to the illegal pitch — if the pitcher completes delivery to the batter and the batter hits the ball, reaches first base safely, and all runners advance at least one base, the play stands and the illegal pitch is nullified.) If an illegal pitch hits the batter, the batter is awarded first base.
- G. 9-10 year old exceptions: Players allowed to steal only one base at a time, even if the ball is overthrown to a base by the catcher. Players can never steal home under any circumstance. Players are not allowed to take a walk. Upon the fourth ball called, the coach of the batting team will finish pitching to the batter. Note: the batter will either strike out or hit the ball. If the count is 4 balls and 1 strike the coach will pitch 2 more pitches. If the count is 4 balls and 2 strikes, the coach will pitch 1 more pitch. If the batter fouls that pitch off, only 1 courtesy pitch will be given. At any time the coach is pitching, runners are not allowed to steal nor play off. Contact with the bases must remain until the ball is hit. If a player attempts to steal a base illegally, and is tagged, she is OUT. If a player successfully steals a base illegally, she will be put back on previous base. (Amended 1-8-0 1; Amended 2-2005)
- H. 9-10 year olds are allowed to bunt. (Amended 1-3-00; Amended 2-2005)
- I. Outfielders must play behind the base path until ball is pitched. (NOTE: Team cannot have more than 6 infielders including pitcher and catcher.) (Amended 8-2002)
- J. In Tournament Championship Games there is no time limit. There are not tiebreaker rules during this time.

#### Section 6 — Game and Run Limit

- A. Games will consist of 7 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes, whichever comes first.

No inning shall start after 1 hour and 15 minutes unless the game is tied.

- B. If a game is suspended due to rain or any other reason, 45 minutes will count as a complete game. (Amended 1-3-00)
- C. Teams will change sides after 3 outs are recorded or a maximum of 4 runs are scored in 10 years and up categories. (Amended 8-2002)
- D. There will be a 15-minute grace period for the first scheduled game only, if one of the teams does not have enough players present to constitute a game.
- E. NCYS does not guarantee a certain number of games, because of possible weather problems or field availability.
- F. When a game is **tied at the end of 1 hour of play or the end of 5 innings**, the next inning begins with ASA international tie breaker rule. (NOTE: If both teams agree to suspend play by mere flip of the coin and a director is present, this will be allowed to determine winner.) (Amended 8-2002; Amended 2-2005)

#### Section 7 — Player Equipment

- A. All catchers are required to wear: catcher's mask, helmet, throat and chest protectors and shin guards.
- B. All batters and base runners are required to wear helmets in playing area. Face guards are required along with chinstraps.
- C. A 12-inch ball with a core marking of .47 shall be used for 11-12 and 15-18 year old teams. An 11-inch ball with a core marking of .47 shall be used for 9-10 year old teams. (amended 4-2007)

#### Section 8 — Base and Pitching Distance

- A. Base distance: All age groups are 60 feet.
- B. Pitching distance: 9-10 year olds are at 35 feet. 11-12, 13-14 and 15-18 year olds are at 40 feet. (Amended 2-2005)

#### Section 9 — All Star Rules

- A. Each league coach will be required to turn into their league director a list of four (4) All Star selections from their team. This list is due one week prior to the last regular season game. The All Star teams must be chosen from this short list of All Star candidates. The first and second place team coaches will have turned in four candidates but may protect more from their team following the guidelines provided below.

- B. Two Divisions: When an age group is broken into two divisions (east & west) the divisions will be combined as one for All Star selection. The coach of the team with the best overall record will take the “A” All Star team and the coach of the team with the second best record will take the “B” All Star team. In the case of a tie then head to head competition will determine the coach. Otherwise, the coaches will be chosen by the Board of Directors. This decision will be final and cannot be appealed. The All Star team selections will proceed as outlined in section 9-C below (Amended 2, 2006)
- C. One Division: The regular season first place team coach will have first choice at taking the “A” All Star Team. The second place team coach can take the “B” All Star team if they so choose. If the first and second place team coaches combine to coach the “A” team then the third place team coach can take the “B” team. The “A” team coach may initially pick up to 7 players off his own team. Additional players must be chosen from the list of four candidates provided by each league coach. The “A” team coach is obligated to pick a player from half the teams in that age group. The “B” team coach may initially pick up to 6 players off his own team. Additional players must be chosen from the list of four candidates provided by each league coach. The “B” team coach is also obligated to pick a player from every team not already represented on the “A” team. (Amended 2-2006)
- D. If the 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams all decline to carry an All Star team, there will not be a team sent in that age group.
- E. All Star Rosters are to be submitted to Executive Board for approval (Amended 1-2004) The All Star Roster is due to your age group director no later than two weeks after the last regular season game (Amended 2, 2006)
- F. All Star players can be chosen for teams based upon the January 1 age limit rule. Players from one age group above the All Star team may be chosen for all-stars provided players from all other teams in that age group have been asked to play. (Amended 1-2004) Failure to follow these All Star selection rules will result in forfeiture of NCYS sponsorship, monies, and insurance. (Amended 2-2006)

## Section 10 — Coaching Rules

- A. Each team manager must be National Youth Sports Coaching Association (NYSCA) certified. Each manager, coach, assistant coach, or other persons assisting with league activities are expected to conduct themselves lawfully and in a moral and ethical manner. Each manager, coach, and assistant coach must also have participated in a background check provided by CRPA. (Amended 1-2005)
- B. Any manager, coach, assistant coach, or any person designated as representing a team on the playing field or in a dugout who is ejected from a game by the umpire,

will be suspended from participating in the following game played by that team including tournament games. Repeat offenses or failure to abide by above rules, at the discretion of the board of directors, could result in further suspension or removal as a team participant in NCYS.

- C. Complaints against a coach or assistant coach should be brought in writing to the NCYS board for action. Team may vote probation. NCYS board will have final decision. (Amended 1-3-2000)
- D. Offensive coaches will stay in coaches' boxes when their team is batting.
- E. Defensive coaches will stay in the dugout. No defensive coach will be allowed on the field either in fair or foul territory.
- F. The program will always promote safety first. It shall also enforce strict control over age, equipment, and behavior of all participants, including parents, managers, coaches, and spectators while attending any NCYS event. Managers and coaches will be responsible for their fans.
- G. Any violations of the above rules will be brought before the officers of NCYS and the district involved for possible disciplinary action or dismissal (Revised 12-1-97)
- H. Any contact whatsoever of an umpire or director will be permanently removed from any NCYS play (Amended 1-3-2000).

#### Section 11 — Protests

- A. The protest must be according to ASA rules. The written notice of the protest, accompanied by a \$50 protest fee, must be submitted to the district director or a NCYS officer within 72 hours of the official start of the game in question.
- B. If the protest committee rules to deny the protest, the fee will not be refunded. If the person is upheld, the fee will be returned to the manager filing the protest.

#### Section 12 — General Rules

It is the intention of North Cherokee Youth Softball to insure a safe and sportsmanlike association for the youth in Cherokee County. The following rules of conduct apply to all participants of NCYS sanctioned games.

- A. Alcoholic beverages and fighting are strictly prohibited during all activities. These areas include the playing field, dugout, stands, and parking facilities. Violators will be asked to leave and proper authorities notified. Anyone suspected of the use of alcohol will be asked to leave. (Amended 1-3-2000)
- B. Profanity will not be allowed on the playing field or in the dugouts or in the

presence of any players.

- C. Excessive roughness with the intention of injuring another player will not be tolerated.
- D. Criticism toward any player of the opposite team will not be tolerated.
- E. No player is permitted to question the judgment of the umpire.
- F. Umpires shall have complete control of all league and tournament games and they should be accorded due respect.
- G. The umpire in charge shall have complete control and authority to suspend play and determine a team forfeit if, in their opinion, the above rules are broken and the conduct of managers, coaches, parents, players, or fans become excessive to the point of effecting the play or outcome of the game.
- H. Suspended games will be referred to the Commissioner and the Board of Directors for further action.
- I. No use of tobacco products will be allowed on the playing fields or in the dugouts during games.
- J. Director on duty has complete control of the fields (Revised 1-4-99).
- K. Any rule not covered in these rules will revert to strictly ASA Rules (1-2004).
- L. In order for games to be considered officially played, they must be regulated by a NCYS director at the field or an ASA official on the field. (Amended 2-2006)

### Section 13 — End of Season

At the end of the season, if teams have the same record, there will be a one game playoff. If there is a 3- way tie for trophies, all teams will meet with the NCYS Commissioner and draw straws to play the tiebreaker in the same evening. The two teams with the longest straws will play first. The team with the shortest straw will wait and play the winner of the first game immediately following the first game, with a break. (Amended 1-3-2000)

### Section 14 — Revision History

- o Created March 1996
  - Revised March 1997
  - Revised December 1, 1997
  - Revised January 4, 1999
  - Revised January 3, 2000



- Revised January 8, 2001
- Revised January 2002
- Revised August 2002
- Revised January 2003
- Revised January 2004
- Revised February 2005
- Revised February 2006
- Revised March 2007