

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

Local Rules—Slow Pitch
Amended August 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, Avery, Canton/Tippens/Hasty, Clayton, Hickory Flat, Holbrook (Free Home), Holly Springs, Macedonia, Mountain Road, Sixes/Liberty, and Waleska. (Amended 8-2007)
- B. Based on a player's age as of Jan 1st of the current year, players will play in the following age groups: 4-6, 7, 8, 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 1st 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 Mar 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 no more than 12 players or less than 9 players, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. (Amended 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. The missing batters are not outs. An obviously injured player cannot constitute the 6th player. (Amended Mar 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 1 division. All games will now count towards standings. (Amended 2-2006)

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. Each player shall play the field at least one inning in the first 3 innings in every game, provided the game lasts the official time and innings. ASA re-entry rule will be in effect. Failure to comply will be cause for protest (Amended 14-99).

- B. ASA Extra Player rule will be a coach's option for 10 and under through 14 and under. The extra player must play two complete innings.
- C. Any manager having a player with any type of special medical and physical condition must advise the umpires and opposing team manager prior to the start of the game.
- D. 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.
- E. If a player is benched for disciplinary actions, the manager must notify the parent, umpire and opposing manager immediately before or during the game and given reason.
- F. 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 — Player Equipment

- A. All catchers are required to wear: catcher's mask, helmet, throat and chest protectors. Chest protectors are optional for 5-6, 7, and 8-year-old divisions, All batters and base runners are required to wear helmets with chinstraps. Face guards are not required but would be recommended. (Amended 1-2006)
- B. A reduced injury ball called Incredi-Ball or other ball approved by the Board of Directors will be used in the 5-6 Division. Official Softball youth softballs will be used in all other divisions.
- C. All bats must be "Official Softball" bats except 5-6 division that may use "Tee Ball" bats.

Section 6 — Advancement to Older Division

- A. A player may advance no more than one age division at the time of registration. A written permission slip must be signed by the parent or guardian and approved by the manager of the advanced age division team. A child may be allowed to play up more than one division, only with Board of Directors approval, provided that the parent or guardian must attend all practices and games and must sign an agreement to do so. (Amended Mar-2007)
- B. If a player advances to an older division, they do not forfeit the right to play as an All-Star in their regular age division.
- C. A player advancing to an older division may automatically be placed on a team with their sibling or on the team that their parent or guardian is managing or coaching, provided the team is in their eligible district.
- D. If there is no team available in their age bracket or in their district, the player may choose to go into the draft or advance to an older division.

Section 7 — Game Limit

- A. 4-6, 7, and 8-year-old divisions—6 innings or 1 hour. No inning will start after 1 hour, unless the game is tied. (Amended 2-2005)
- B. 9-10 division —6 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes. No inning shall start after 1 hour and 15 minutes, unless the game is tied. (Amended 2-2005)
- C. 11-12 through 15-18 divisions —7 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes. No inning shall start after 1 hour and 15 minutes, unless the game is tied. (Amended 2-2005)
- D. If a game is suspended due to rain or any other reason, 45 minutes will count as a complete game. (Amended 1-3-2000)
- E. NCYS does not guarantee a certain number of games, because of possible weather problems or field availability.
- F. Teams in all age divisions shall exchange sides after 3 outs or the batting team has scored a maximum of 8 runs, with the exception of the 9-10 age division, which shall exchange sides after 3 outs or the batting team has scored a maximum of 4 runs. (Amended 8-2002) (Amended 4-2007).
- G. There will be a 15-minute grace period given for the first game scheduled only, if one of the teams does not have enough players present to constitute a team.
- H. Infield fly rule is waived for 4-6, 7, 8, and 9-10 divisions. (Amended 2-2005)

- I. Third Strike foul is not an out.
- J. In Tournament Championship game there is no time limit. There are no tiebreaker rules during this time.

Section 8 — 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 team must be chosen from this short list of All Star candidates. The first and second place team coaches will have turned in four (4) candidates but may protect more from their team following the guidelines provided below. (Amended 2-2006)
- 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 selection will proceed as outlined in section 8-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 this 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 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd 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 9 — Rules Applicable to 4-6 Only

- A. A 15-foot safety arch will be in front of home plate. No defensive player is allowed inside the safety zone until after the ball is hit.
- B. The pitcher will be a team manager or coach that is on the roster. The pitcher cannot make a defensive play or interfere with the ball. An inadvertent interference shall result in a dead ball with no outs called and no advancement of the runners. The pitch will be replayed. The pitcher will pitch BEHIND the 15-foot arch, in direct line with home plate and second base. A violation may result in removal of the pitcher from the game. The pitcher will exit the field after batter makes contact and attempt to get the bat if they can do so without interference.
- C. Each player will receive 7 pitches or 3 strikes. No walks.
- D. No adult may play as catcher.
- E. The manager or coach of that team, in compliance with ASA rules, may perform an appeal to an umpire's call.
- F. 5-6 year old age group may have 2 defensive coaches in the field behind the outfield players. If a defensive coach intentionally touches a hit ball, the batter will be awarded a home run. If a coach unintentionally touches a ball, the batter will be awarded the base she is closest to, plus 1 additional base.
- G. In the event of an overthrow at 1st base, the batter will be allowed to continue to 2nd base, with the risk of being put out, but cannot proceed past 2nd base.

Section 10 — Rules Applicable to 7 and 8 year olds ONLY

- A. The pitcher will be a manager or coach that is on the roster. The pitcher cannot make a defensive play or interfere with the ball. An inadvertent interference shall result in a dead ball with no outs called and no advancement of the runners. The pitcher will exit the field after the batter makes contact and attempt to get the ball if they can do so without interference.
- B. Pitcher must pitch from 35 feet.
- C. Each player will receive 7 pitches or 3 strikes. No walks.
- D. No adult may play as catcher.
- E. The manager or coach of a team in compliance with ASA rules may perform an appeal play.

- F. Two (2) defensive coaches will be allowed in the field behind the outfield players. If a defensive coach intentionally touches a hit ball, the batter will be awarded a home run. If a coach touches a ball unintentionally, the batter will be awarded the base she is closest to plus 1 additional base. (Amended 1-2004)

Section 11 — (Removed 2-2005)

Section 12 — Base and Pitching Distances

- A. Base Distance: 4-6: 50 feet; 7; 8; 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18: 60 feet. (Amended 8-2007)
- B. Pitching Distances: 4-6: Behind 15 foot arch; 7 and 8: 35 feet; 9-10: 40 feet; 11-12: 40 feet; 13-14 and 15-18: 46 feet. (Amended 2-2005)

Section 13 — 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 an 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 returned. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the manager filing the protest.

Section 14 — 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. Managers and coaches must also have a yearly background check performed through 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 offense~ 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 overage, 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 15 — 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 16 — 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 17 — 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
 - Revised August 2007