



2021

Whitfield County Parks & Recreation Department

SOFTBALL

10U Machine, 12U Live Arm and 14U Live Arm

## 1. PURPOSE

- The Whitfield County Youth Softball Program is organized to provide a recreational activity for girls' ages 9-14. The program is designed for the following purposes:
- To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
- To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of softball.
- To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character with adult guidance
- To teach good attitudes and discipline to our youth participants.

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### ***Governing Authority***

1. The governing body of this league will be composed of one (1) Community Leader or Representative from each Community with the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation forming a rules making body.
2. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation and the Community Leaders.

### ***Governing Rules***

1. The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Softball League will be governed by the Whitfield County Recreation local rules and current GRPA rules.

## 3. COACHING REQUIREMENTS

1. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
2. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of softball.
3. A coach should never use profanity, use tobacco in any form during any activity with the players and shall not use alcoholic beverages during or before activities with the players.
4. A coach must never incite players or parents by criticizing an official.
5. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning, but more concerned that each child has a fun and learning experience and learns the fundamentals of the sport.
6. A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games, and meetings or have an approved assistant present.
7. A coach should try to the best of their ability to keep each player actively interested and participating through the season.

8. It is the responsibility of each coach to be knowledgeable of all rules governing the sport that they are coaching.
9. A coach is responsible for having a scorekeeper at each game.
10. Each coach must be National Youth Sports Coaches Association Certified (NYSCA). For Certification go to [www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinic](http://www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinic)
11. A coach must have a Back Ground Check on file with the Whitfield County Recreation Department.
12. A coach is now required to report suspected child abuse to their local authority. This is a state law HB1176.
13. Coaches need to remember that posting derogatory comments towards fans, officials, or the department will be deemed as unsportsmanlike. (Anyone with concerns is encouraged to contact department staff.

**4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Age control date is September 1<sup>st</sup> current year. A legal aged player participating in the W.C.R.D. softball program may “Play Up” one (1) year beyond their age and must be approved by W.C.R.D.
2. A completed Whitfield County Recreation Department Roster accompanied by birth certificate and registration form (Green Card) must be on file before any team is eligible to compete in regular season games.
3. Each participant must have insurance, whether private or through the Recreation Department.
4. Playing ineligible players shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one year time period.
5. Any player suspended or absent from school should not be allowed to participate in a Whitfield County Parks and Recreation activity during the period of suspension or absenteeism.

**5. LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Team rosters shall consist of no more than 12 players. Community Leaders should encourage fewer players per team to speed up the game and give each child more one on one coaching. Players will not be added to a roster unless a team drops below the recommended number of players.
2. The type of play, age divisions, base path and pitching distances, and time limits are as follows:

AGE GROUP	SOFTBALL	BASES	PITCH. DIST.	TIME LIMIT
9/10 Machine	11 INCH	60	40 Machine	1 HR. 20 MIN
11/12	12 INCH	60	40	1 HR. 20 MIN
13/14	12 INCH	60	43	1 HR. 20 MIN

3. Any Official size DSI, ASA, NSA, ISA or USSSA approved ball may be used.
4. The recommended uniform shall be matching T-Shirts in color and style with numbers.
5. Shoes should be rubber cleats or tennis shoes. No metal cleats will be allowed.
6. All games will consist of six innings or the designated time limit.
7. All leagues will be limited to five runs per inning on offense.
8. All leagues may play 10 (ten) players on defense, four (4) of these defensive players must play in the outfield grass as outfielders.
9. Each team is required to turn in their line-up five minutes before game time.

10. Any time two teams matchup with twelve (12) or less they must bat all players. If teams have more than twelve (12) it will be left up to the coaches. Lineup options for when teams have more than twelve (12) are as follow: (1) Continue to bat all players (2) List only eleven (11) players using the EP or (3) List ten (10) players. Choice will be determined before start of game and continue throughout the game except for injury or sickness
11. A team may start and/or finish a game with eight (8) players with no penalty. (Exception) An ejection will result in the vacated batting position being called an out.
12. Any player (starter or substitute) who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once provided:
  - a. She occupies the same position in the batting order she originally occupied.
  - b. The substituted player has batted one (1) time and played defense three (3) outs.
  - c. If all players have entered the game and no legal substitute can be made because of Injury or illness, then the opposing coach may select a substitute from the bench to replace the injured player.
13. A team at bat, may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher (catcher only in 9-10 Machine). If there are players on the bench and not currently in the game one of these players must be used as the courtesy runner. (This will not affect their substitution status). If all players are listed in the batting order, then the player that made the last out will be the courtesy runner.
14. A coach may hold a player out of a game for disciplinary reasons if he announces to the opposing coach before the game.
15. Catchers are required to wear a face mask with throat protector, approved helmet with ear flaps, shin guards which protect the knee caps and chest protector.
16. Batting helmets with ear flaps chin straps and face mask are recommended. A player sliding head first with a facemask will be called out, a "Dive Back" is not considered a slide.
17. Intentional walk: No intentional walks in 9-10 machine. 12U/14U division the pitcher does not have to pitch to the batter. (Speed up rule)
18. 12U/14U division base runner may leave base when ball leaves pitchers hand. If the base runner leaves too soon (Umpires judgment) the base umpire shall give the signal to indicate the violation at the time it occurs. Base Runner will be called out.
19. Dropped third strike:
  - a. 12U/14U Division – Can run on drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
20. An extra player (EP) is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the Start of the game and be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order.
  - a. If the EP is used, the EP must be used the entire game.
  - b. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order the entire game.
  - c. If the EP is used, all eleven (11) must bat and any ten (10) of those (11) may play defense.
  - d. Defensive positions may be changed, but the batting order must remain the same.
  - e. Re-entry substitution applies to the EP the same as any other player.
21. The home team scorekeeper will be the official scorekeeper. It is recommended both scorekeepers sit as close as possible to make sure they have the same score.

1. All Pitching will be done by an electric powered pitching machine using an underhanded delivery from forty (40) feet at 37 mph. The machine must be a minimum of 12" off the ground with a maximum of 24" from the bottom of the wheel.
2. When a batted ball hits a pitching machine, the umpire feeding the machine, or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a "DEAD BALL SINGLE" and batter/runner will be awarded first base with all runners moving forward if forced. If a batted ball hits defensive player then hits the machine, the batter is awarded first base and all other runners move up one base, if forced. Ball is dead when ball hits machine. When a thrown ball hits the pitching machine or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a "DEAD BALL" and played as if thrown out of bounds.
3. Players in pitchers position must be within six (6) feet of the pitching plate but never any closer than forty (40) feet of home plate when the pitch is delivered. A half circle shall be drawn at the pitching machine for the infielder to start prior to a pitch. Pitcher must wear infielders mask.
4. Batter will receive 5 pitches from machine or 3 swinging strikes. If 5<sup>th</sup> pitch is fouled you keep getting a pitch until hit or strikeout.
5. One bunt allowed per a game per a player. Penalty: If caught bunting twice by same player an out will be called.
6. Stealing is allowed with the following limitations:
  - a. A player cannot steal home.
  - b. A base runner can steal when the ball reaches home plate, and then only one base advance is allowed.
    - i. If a throw becomes an overthrow during a stolen base attempt, the one-base restriction will apply for stolen bases only.
    - ii. If the machine throws a ball that is uncatchable (to wide or too high) it will be called no pitch and runners cannot advance.
  - c. Runner must maintain contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate. Penalty is an out.
  - d. If a thrown ball hits the machine or umpire feeding machine, each base runner is awarded a base.
7. Infield fly rule is in effect.
8. A courtesy runner may be used for catcher only.
9. When play has ceased the umpire will call time and all play will be stopped.

## 6. PROTESTS

- All protests must be submitted by the manager to the Recreation Department Athletic Coordinator in writing before 5:00 p.m. the following workday.
- The only protest acceptable will be concerning player participation or rules misinterpretation and must be announced to the umpire and opposing coach before the next pitch.
- All protests shall include any and all pertinent information and facts leading up to the protest, i.e. involved players, score of the game, name of umpires, date, location and the rule misinterpreted.
- All protests will be decided by the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

## 7. CONDUCT

1. No profanity or abusive language is allowed. If a coach is ejected from a game the ejected coach must leave the bench area. A coach and or a player that is ejected from a game must sit the remainder of that game and must sit out their team's next scheduled game. If a spectator is ejected from a game they must leave the playing area. If a player, coach or spectator are ejected two (2) times during the course of a sports season, they will be suspended from Whitfield County Parks and Recreation activity for a period of one (1) year starting from the time of the second ejection.
2. There shall be no smoking or use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages permitted.
3. All coaches or managers will be held responsible for fan and team conduct. (Parent Code of Ethics)
4. Infield chatter is allowed but it cannot be personal or directed towards the other team.

## 8. WEATHER/SCHEDULES

- a. The Recreation Department will make the determination if fields are too wet to play
- b. If coaches and umpires are not notified of a postponement, they must arrive at their designated field prepared to play.
- c. If rain occurs before game time and both coaches are at the field, then both coaches must agree to play or postpone. When the umpire arrives and game time is reached, then the decision shall be the responsibility of the umpire to play or postpone the game.
- d. Rained out games will be rescheduled by the Recreation Department
- e. Any game suspended and not played the required innings to become official (four, or three and a half if home team is ahead) will be played from the point of suspension until the game is finished.
- f. If the Recreation Department cancels games because of inclement weather it will be announced on the rainout hotline 706-876-2570.
- g. Postponement for Other Purposes:
  - Any schedule conflict should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator before season schedules are complete. Only School and Church functions will be considered as a conflict.
  - Games will not be rescheduled after the official schedule has been published.

## 9. ACTIVITIES

- a. There will be three activities allowed per week, including games and practices, plus one activity on the weekend. Practice sessions should be limited to ninety minutes and finished by 9:00 p.m.
- b. No Practices or Game on Wednesday or Sundays.

## 10. CONTACTS

- WCRD Office: 706-226-8341 or [wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com)
- Director: Brian Chastain/ Email- [bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com)
- Athletic Coordinator: Ryan Hollingsworth/ Cell- 706-671-9882 or Email- [rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com)
- Sports Coordinator: Freddie Ownbey/ Cell- 706-671-5918 or email- [fownbey@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:fownbey@whitfieldcountyga.com)
- Weather Hotline: 706-876-2570