

LEXINGTON COUNTY SOFTBALL RULES

1. All leagues will play USSSA rules, other than stated Lexington County Rules.
2. Rosters for Men's D and Women's D will be limited to 20 players. Rosters for Church and Men's 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 May 7, 2018**. 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, 2018. (**Exception: participants on Church teams ONLY who are younger must have written permission signed by their guardian and APPROVAL from the Complex Director, Jordan Bizzell or the Complex Supervisor, Scott Gordon**).
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.
8. Active participation rather than church membership are the requirement in all classifications of church play. Your roster must be signed by the pastor, stamped signatures will not be allowed!
9. In Coed, 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:** If it is the missing player's turn to bat in the lineup, that missing player's at bat **IS considered an OUT**. Coed teams may play with 9, 10, or 12 players only.

10. 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 10th batter. If on defense, he/she goes to the field).
EFFECT: If it is the missing player's turn to bat in the lineup, that missing player's 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 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!!!**
11. 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 EXTRA (11TH AND 12TH) BATTERS MUST BE PRESENT PRIOR TO GAME TIME FOR THEM TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BATTING LINE-UP.**
12. No information on rosters will be given out over the phone.
13. ALL MEN'S, WOMEN'S, & COED LEAGUES (INCLUDING CHURCH) can have **ONE Homerun (HR) Hitter**. In coed, there will be one homerun hitter for both men and women **IF the pitching screen is used by both** teams (*please see Rule 34 for more information*). 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 person 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, then the HR hitter is removed for the rest of the game. **If a team chooses to use the screen, they must use it for the ENTIRE GAME. During play, a batted ball that hits ANY part of the screen will be considered a DEAD BALL OUT with no runners advancing.**
14. 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 appeal in writing within 24 hours to Jordan Bizzell (Complex Director) or Scott Gordon (Complex Supervisor). The appeal will be reviewed as soon as possible, and the impending suspension will be upheld, revised, or waived at this time. Any player or coach, who is ejected from 3 games during the season (Spring or Fall) will be subject to an indefinite suspension from league ball. Any team that has a total of three ejections within a season will be removed from the league and place last in the standings.
NOTE: Unsportsmanlike behavior such as vulgar gestures, cursing, fighting or abusing the umpires will not be tolerated! Any player or coach displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to the maximum penalty of expulsion from all Lexington County owned and operated facilities for one year.

15. USSSA approved bats (USSSA Thumbprint) will be the standard in Lexington County Adult Leagues. Lexington County will grandfather in the older metal bats that are from the pre-composite time frame (before 2002). Lexington County Recreation reserves the right to implement a banned bat list, if necessary.

NOTE: Lexington County Recreation requires that all bats that are to be used during the season must be tested prior to the bat being used in a game. If the bat passes the compression test, we will affix a tamper proof sticker to the bat. Once a player positions himself in the batter's box, and his/her bat does not have a sticker on it, the player will be subject to be called out. **The responsibility for checking the bats for stickers lies with the opposing team and will be enforced by the umpire. Bat testing will be scheduled during the preseason on the nights teams reserve the fields for practice. Testing will also be scheduled each night in the first two weeks of the season (weeks of April 2 and April 9) until 9pm. In the succeeding weeks, a rotating schedule by night will be posted on the umpire room door on the 2nd floor of the tower. Random bat testing will still be conducted throughout the season at the discretion of the Complex Supervisor.**

16. 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 (which will be deemed by the Complex Supervisor), your team is subject to forfeiture of the game.
17. Courtesy runners will be allowed in all leagues (including coed), 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. In coed, the one courtesy runner per inning will apply. It is NOT one male and one female courtesy runner per inning. **NOTE: Courtesy runner can be anyone on the team roster. If the courtesy runner is on base and his/her time at bat comes up, that person will be considered an out at the plate.**
18. **There will be NO GRACE PERIOD FOR ANY GAME.** Both teams must have at least nine (9) players to start the game. Players must be on the playing field or in the dugout, not in the parking lot or restroom area. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
19. All games are scheduled to start on the hour or the half hour. 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.
20. 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.

21. Games will be started and considered an official game with one umpire present.
22. All leagues will play free substitution, which means that any starting player may be substituted for and then return to the lineup in the same batting spot that he/she vacated. The starter and the substitute may not be in the game at the same time.
23. 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.
24. All teams listed first on the schedule will be the home team and official score book.
25. 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.
26. Please do not warm-up on concrete sidewalks or behind the dugouts. Teams may warmup in designated areas only. These areas are as follows. Between field 1 & 2, 2 & 3, 3 & 4, and 4 & 5.
27. **IF A TEAM FORFEITS THREE GAMES IN A SEASON, THE TEAM WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REMOVED FROM THAT INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE.**
28. No metal cleats/spikes are allowed.
29. **Rainouts:** The fitness of the ground for the games will be decided by a Pine Grove staff member. When possible, games will be called by 4:30 p.m. **FOR RAINOUT INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 356-9095.** 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/Scott Gordon 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.
30. The Recreation Commission will schedule all make-up games. Team contacts will be notified by mail/email, 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 during or 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).

31. 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. Second place ties will be determined by head to head competition. There will be no playoffs for second place.
32. At the end of the season a County Tournament will be held if time permits (Rain Outs).
33. All leagues will use a 3 ball 2 strike count with NO extra foul.
34. Lexington County will be offering the use of **PITCHING SCREENS** during the season. The use of the screens is entirely up to the choice of each team.

***EXCEPTION:** In Coed ONLY, both teams must agree to use the screen in order for the Homerun Hitter to be in effect. If one team chooses not to use the screen, then there will NOT be a Homerun Hitter for either team.

Each team must make a decision at the beginning of the game whether or not they want to use the screen. That decision will remain in effect for the entire game. Any part of the pitching screen must be in contact with the 10 foot pitching box between the 50 and 60 foot pitching rubbers and be parallel to the front part of home plate. Any batted ball that hits the screen will be considered an out with NO runners advancing. If the screen is in **FAIR OR FOUL TERRITORY** and a thrown ball hits it, the ball will be considered dead and all runners will advance one base. If a batted ball deflects off of a fielder's glove and hits the screen, the ball will be considered dead and all runners will advance one base. If only one team chooses to use the screen, **IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO MOVE THE SCREEN ON AND OFF THE FIELD.**

35. Pepper will be allowed before and between games against the backstop as long as the 16" (pumpkin) ball is used. Otherwise, pepper should be played in the outfield.
36. **Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at Pine Grove Sports Complex.** No smoking in the dugouts or on the field.