

*Virginia Beach Unified Softball League  
(VBUSL)*

*Pigtail Softball*

*March 2013*

Southside Softball League (VBUSL) BYLAWS (FAST PITCH).

The object of this league shall be....To provide a wholesome and enjoyable recreational activity for the participants. To develop character, skill, sportsmanship, and good will among teams and individuals participating.

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND AGE GROUPS**

1. This league is open to girls, 5 – 7 and 7 -9 years of age. A player's age on May 1<sup>st</sup> determines her eligibility.
2. All players must be attending school or be in an approved home study program to participate.
3. No independent teams will be allowed to participate in the (VBUSL). Teams must follow the guidelines of the area in which they are participating.

**ROSTERS**

1. Rosters are limited to **15** players under contract. A completed roster listing each player and number must be submitted to the Association Director on or before the day of the team's first game in order for the team to be eligible to participate. The cut-off date for adding players is after the second scheduled game. Teams may exchange rosters at game sites.
2. NO rosters will be accepted over the telephone or by fax and will not be accepted by the Association at game locations.
3. Any player contract found to be invalid for any reason not in standing with the bylaws will result in forfeiture of all games played from the time of the protest to the time the ineligible player's contract was received by the Association. Playing a player or players who are not under contract will result in an automatic forfeiture of all games that have been played by that team.
4. All rostered players must play in a minimum of 60% of the scheduled games to be eligible to participate in the playoffs.

## **SCHEDULING OF GAMES**

1. Games will be played in accordance with the schedule designed by (VBUSL).
2. If a game is postponed due to weather, light failure, or conditions beyond our control, the league will set a date for the games to be played and will update the web site so the coaches of the teams concerned of the date, time and location. Most games will be made up as soon as possible. Games that have no bearing on league standings may not be made-up.
3. The league reserves the right to arrange postponed games at its convenience. The league also reserves the right to cancel games, if necessary, due to excessive rain or conditions beyond our control.

## **STANDARD GAME PROCEDURE**

1. Teams must provide their own practice balls, uniforms, and other accessories they deem necessary. Teams must have shirts of the same color with numbers.
2. The officials will be paid by (VBUSL). The Officials Association will assign them and no team has the right to refuse any official assigned.
3. Field supervisors are appointed by (VBUSL). Coaches are expected to cooperate with the supervisors in every way possible.
4. It is the responsibility of the Coach to maintain proper conduct among team members at all times.
5. Starting time of games:
  - A. There will be no grace period. Forfeit time is game time. Teams should be at game site 30 minutes ahead of scheduled game time. A game can start earlier than the scheduled time if both coaches agree.
  - B. One hour and 30 minutes time limit for all leagues. No new ending starts after 1hr 20mins. Starting time should be logged in the scorebook. If time remains, a new inning will be started and finished. Time will be from the umpire's watch.
  - C. If a team does not have 8 players at game time; the umpire will declare the game a forfeit. If neither team has 8 players at game time, the game will be declared a double forfeit by the umpire.
  - D. The league will determine postponement or cancellation of games.
  - E. There will be no postponement of league games to permit teams to play in tournaments or to prepare for tournaments.

**ANY DEVIATION OF THE ABOVE IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THIS ASSOCIATION.**

6. The home team will occupy the third base bench and the visiting team the first base bench. Home team will be the team on the right on the schedule. Coaches are responsible for keeping spectators off their benches.

7. The home team shall provide an official scorer and furnish the scorebook. However, the visiting team's scorer is requested to frequently check with the home team's scorer to avoid the possibility of mistakes. The scorebooks of home and visiting teams must be filled out with all player's first names, and uniform numbers.

8. Players on teams scheduled for the next game shall keep behind the bleachers to warm up while a game is in progress. However, they may not detract in any way from the game in progress. For the pleasure and safety of spectators and fairness to the teams playing, coaches must see that this rule is enforced.

9. Due to the time limit, infield practice will not be taken unless awarded by the game umpire.

#### **PLAYING RULES AND EQUIPMENT**

ALL GAMES WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE "NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS" UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED ON THE LEAGUE SCHEDULE OR LISTED BELOW.

1. The (VBUSL) assumes the following responsibilities:

- A. Game site facilities
- B. Payment of officials association
- C. Custody of Team Rosters and the authority to rule on player eligibility and all rules and regulations
- D. Awards to the league champions

2. A team may start a game with as few as 8 players. The line-up will be one through eight. The ninth position will be recorded as an out. If additional players arrive at the field, they must be inserted into the line-up in the next vacant position.

3. There will be an umpire's time out for all player injuries. Injured players will be attended to before the game continues. An injured player does not have to bat if, in the umpire's judgment, the injury prevents the player from continuing the game. There will be no penalty for this as long as a team has at least nine players. If a team loses the 9th player due to injury and has no eligible substitutes, the spot vacated by the injured player counts as an out. In order to continue play, a team must always have 8 players.

4. If a team loses a player because the player has to leave the game, for circumstances other than an injury or an ejection, and has no eligible substitutes,

there will be no team penalty for this as long as the team has at least 9 players in the game. If a team loses the 9th player for this reason, any player who was withdrawn earlier may replace the spot vacated. If no substitutes are available to replace the player who has to leave, the spot vacated by that player counts as an out. In order to continue play, a team must always have 8 players.

5. If a team loses a player due to an ejection, there will be no team penalty for this as long as the team has at least 9 players. If a player is ejected and the team has no eligible substitutes, the spot vacated by the ejected player counts as an out. In order to continue play, a team must always have 8 players.

#### 6. RE-ENTRY RULE

The re-entry rule will not be in effect. All players on roster and dressed for the game must bat **in a continuous batting order and play a minimum of two (2) complete innings in the field in a 6 inning game.**

#### 7. PITCHING MOUNDS AND BASES

The distance between all bases shall be 55 feet. The distance from the point at the back of home plate and the front of the pitching rubber shall be 35 feet.

#### 8. RUN RULE

15 runs after 3 innings,  
12 runs after 4 innings,  
8 runs after 5 innings,  
will be in effect for all games.

#### 9. TIME LIMIT

One hour thirty minute time limit will be in effect for all games in this league. No new inning shall start after 1hr 20mins. If a game remains tied after six complete innings, no extra innings will be played to determine a winner, the game will end and be recorded as tie, with the exception of the play offs and Championship games in which the International tie-breaker will come into effect.

International tie-breaker rule defined: starting with the top of the sixth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who made the last out of the previous inning being placed on second base. If the absent player is the one who should begin the half inning at second base, an out is not declared. Instead, place on second base the player whose name precedes the absent player's name in the line-up.

10. 4-3 RULE. Four balls will be a walk; three strikes will be an out. No foul ball rule. Exception: A bunted ball that lands foul, and is the third strike, is an out.

11. This Division will use 11-inch optic yellow cover, red stitch, Max 375 lbs, Max 47 COR. The home team must furnish (1) new and (1) slightly used game balls. To be supplied by the home teams area association.

12. The titanium bat is not allowed in this league.

13. Shoes with metal spikes are not allowed. Only shoes with rubber soles or plastic molded soles will be allowed.

14. It is mandatory for all catchers to wear a facemask, full helmet (no skull caps), throat protector (not necessary if the face mask has a built in throat protector), chest protector, and shin guards. Batters and runners must wear helmets with earflaps and facemasks. The helmets must have the NOCSAE warning label.

15. The batting line-up will consist of every player in uniform in attendance at the game. The batting order will remain the same for the entire game. Each player must play at least two innings in the field and bat at least once in a 6-inning game. Any 9 players in the line-up may play in the field in any given inning. Both scorers will check players off in the scorebook when they play their required innings in the field.

16. The squeeze play WILL NOT be allowed in this Division. Squeeze play defined: A play in which a runner advances from third base toward home, following the release of a pitched ball, and during which the batter bunts.

**Runners will not be allowed to advance from third base to home on a passed ball by the catcher, but can advance if the defensive teams catcher attempt to throw out a player stealing from first to second base or from second to third base.**

17. A coach will be allowed one visit (**conference**) to the mound per inning. The second appearance (in the same inning) necessitates the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. If a player is otherwise removed from the pitching position, she may return to the pitching position a maximum of one time per game. **Coaches are granted one offensive conference with base runners or batters per inning.**

18. Pitchers are allowed 5 warm-up pitches the first inning and 3 warm up pitches between the remaining innings.

19. There is no intentional walk in fast pitch.

20. COURTESY RUNNER: When there are two outs, the team at bat must use a runner for the pitcher and catcher as soon as they reach base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will

be required to leave the game under such circumstances. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute in that half inning. Once a courtesy runner is designated for that half inning, no other courtesy runner or the pitcher or the catcher may return to run for the original courtesy runner. If an eligible player is not available, the player who made the second out of that half inning must become the courtesy runner for the catcher. If a courtesy runner fails to report, she shall be considered a substitute. This rule will be in effect for all league and tournament games. EXCEPTION: Should an injury occur, another courtesy runner or the pitcher or catcher may run until she scores or is put out.

21. There will be no hidden ball tricks or anything to encourage a delay. Umpires will inform players to put the ball into play immediately and make every effort to keep the game moving.

22. Pitching Techniques (emphasis) The pitcher's pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching rubber prior to the front foot touching the ground, as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground. Techniques such as the "crow hop" and "the leap" are illegal. A crow hop is the replant of the pivot foot prior to delivering the pitch. A leap is when both feet are airborne. These actions, if and when they occur, are in the judgment of the umpire and may not be protested. The slingshot technique may also be utilized by the pitcher.

### **REGULATION GAMES**

1. It will be a regulation game when (6) six innings have been played and the game is not tied or the time limit has elapsed and each team has had an equal number of "at bats". If (4) Four innings have not yet been played and there is still time left, the next inning must be started even though it may be impossible to finish the inning within the time limit. Once an inning has started, it must be completed unless the home team is ahead. A new inning must not start after the time limit has elapsed (1hr 20mins).

2. It will be a regulation game when the umpire calls it on account of darkness, rain, or other factor, which based on the umpire's judgment, interferes with further play provided four or more innings have been played. Three and one half innings (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) will constitute a regulation game if the home team has scored more runs in its three innings than the visiting team has in its four innings. If the game is ended prior to regulation, it will be rescheduled for a later date. Rescheduled games are started over, instead of beginning at the point of interruption.

3. If a game ends in a tie after (4) Four innings have been played and the time limit (1hr 20mins) has not yet expired, the game will go into extra innings (see International tie-breaker rule) until a winner is decided or the time limit expires

(1hr 30mins). If a game is tied at the end of an inning after time has expired (1hr 30mins), it will count as a tie in the league standings and will not be replayed. Ties count as half a win and half a loss in the standings.

## **PLAYER/TEAM CONDUCT**

1. **Any player or coach ejected from the game by an official for fighting will automatically be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.** No notice of this suspension shall be necessary. In the event a player or coach deviates from this ruling, it will constitute a forfeit and the team not at fault will receive credit for a win.
2. Any player or coach ejected from the game by an official for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be suspended from the **next (1)** league game to be played by his/her team. No notice of this suspension shall be necessary. In the event a player or coach deviates from this ruling, it will constitute a forfeit and the team not at fault will receive credit for a win. **The player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season.**
3. Any player, or player who is a spectator, who is guilty of striking an official in any manner on City property during or after a game shall automatically be suspended indefinitely from participating in all leagues sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and (VBUSL)
4. Teams are responsible for conduct of their fans and supporters at games. Any team refusing to control a fan or supporter will forfeit the game.

## **PROTESTS**

1. All protests must be submitted in writing to Don Whitelaw at [dwhitelaw@verizon.net](mailto:dwhitelaw@verizon.net) within 24 hours of the incident. **ONLY PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CAN BE PROTESTED**
2. In the event a protest is lodged on a player's eligibility and the player proves to be ineligible:
  - A. The player will be suspended from the league.
  - B. The team will forfeit all games in which she has participated.

## **RAIN - CONDITION OF THE DIAMOND**

1. In the event of rain during the day, league personnel will check the condition of the fields, whenever possible, prior to 7:00 a.m. The decision as to the condition of the diamonds will be final.
2. The league and its personnel cannot assume the responsibility for notifying all coaches as to the condition of the playing fields. Rain Outs will be posted on the Home Page of [www.krasports.com](http://www.krasports.com) by 7:30 a.m.
3. After 7:30 a.m., the umpire will make the decision on whether or not a field is playable. The decision of the umpire will be final. Coaches and teams will accept the umpire's decision without question. If a game is called, please keep off the diamond in order to protect it for play on the next night. If field conditions are questionable, the website will be updated as information becomes available.
4. If the first game is called because of field or weather conditions, all games for that age group field are automatically called and will be made up at a later date. The later games may still be played as scheduled. This applies also if the first game is in progress and is halted by rain. Coaches will be notified about make-up games on the web site.
5. Once a game has begun, the umpire will use field and weather conditions to determine if the field is playable. The umpire's decision will be final. In the event the game is halted, the teams will not leave the immediate area for a period of 15 minutes. After this period, the umpire will make a definite decision as to whether the game will continue or be called. See REGULATION GAME, item #2.
6. Hazardous weather conditions: If there is a tornado or hurricane warning in effect between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for the Hampton Roads area, all games may be canceled in advance for this date. For information, check the web site for details

## **INSURANCE**

1. Players participating in the league should have accident insurance coverage. This is the player's (parent's) responsibility. The league does not provide insurance in case of injuries for the players, coaches, or spectators.
2. It is to be understood that (VBUSL) will not be held liable for injuries sustained by any person or group participating in our programs while they are playing, practicing or traveling to and from games and practices.

## **SCORES**

1. The winning team is responsible for emailing in the scores by 8:30 a.m. the morning following the game when emailing, please include the following information. (kempsrecsports@cox.net) click on the tab email softball score here.

- A. Date Played
- B. League (7-9Fast Pitch)
- C. Division (if there is more than one in your league)
- D. Game Site
- E. Team Names
- F. Scores

2. It is very important that you call in scores so that accurate records of the standings can be maintained. In case of a tie, we ask both teams to call in.

### **NOTE**

Coaches will please advise parents and players of the bylaws. Ignorance of any rule in the bylaws on the part of the coach, parents, or player will not be considered. The Athletic Director will impose penalties and suspensions upon teams and players as necessary to insure the orderly conduct of the league. The Athletic Director has the authority to make final decisions on all bylaws, interpretations and any matters concerning all youth sports.

### **No Smoking**

**In accordance with city bylaws, smoking is not allowed on school and or Recreation Center property (neither indoors nor outdoors). No smoking is allowed by anyone in a city recreation center or within the confines of the playing area at a city park. Violators will be subject to dismissal from our leagues. This is enforced at all games and practices. It is the coach's responsibility to get this out to all parents and spectators of all games and practices. The coach will get one warning (asking the spectator to put it out). Any violation after the 1 warning will result in the coach being suspended 1 game. The city has zero tolerance with this issue.**