



Spring 2024

Even Better!

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”

Colossians 3:15

QUESTION & ANSWERS	3
PARK RULES.....	5
KEY DATES	6
SECTION 1 – CONDUCT.....	7
(1.1) Dress Code – STRICT ADHERENCE REQUIRED	7
(1.2) RCYS Hats Only!.....	7
(1.3) Conduct.....	8
SECTION 2 – GAME PLAY	9
(2.1) About our Rules	9
(2.2) Eligible Players	9
(2.3) Game Length / Mercy Rules	9
(2.4) Batting order	9
(2.5) Home Run Rule.....	10
(2.6) Pitching	11
(2.7) Batting.....	11
(2.8) Team Size on the Field.....	12
(2.9) Player Positions.....	12
(2.10) Timeout	13
(2.11) Training League (<i>for 3 & 4-year-old children</i>).....	13
SECTION 3 - MISCELLANEOUS	14
(3.1) Team Player Assignments.....	14
(3.2) Equipment	14
(3.3) Additional Rules	14
(3.4) Ground Rules	15
(3.5) Portable Fence.....	15
(3.6) Weather, cancellations, rainout, etc.	15
SECTION 4 – TOURNAMENT GAMES	16
(4.1) Tournament Games	16
SECTION 5 - PARENTS.....	16
(5.1) Parents.....	16
SECTION 6 - COACHES	17
(6.1) Coaches.....	17
SECTION 7 – SAFETY DISCLAIMER	17
USA SOFTBALL OR ASA BATS ALLOWED.	19

QUESTION & ANSWERS

Cancelation/Refunds: In the event of a community health crisis (e.g., Covid19, natural disasters, inclement weather, etc.) whereby the RCYS Committee has to cancel practices, games, or the season-ending tournament, RCYS may not be able to offer refunds after March 1st. This is due to the fact that RCYS has already spent considerable funds to prepare to start the season.

Where do we practice?

Your coach will contact you with the details. ALL practices will be held at Bethel Christian Park. Our RCYS League rules dictate that your team can only practice one hour per week; therefore, your team will only practice one night per week. League rules do not permit teams to practice anywhere other than Bethel Park.

When will I receive a game schedule?

Your coach will notify you of practice & game schedules. A full game schedule will be available on our website at www.rcys.net as soon as it is ready. If it isn't there, it simply isn't ready. We post it on the website as soon as it is finalized (typically 7-10 days before "opening day". Also, you may view the entire game schedule on our mobile app. Download the **Sports Engine** app to your smartphone, then log in using the same credentials that you used when registering your child to play at RCYS.

Where do I park?

There are **THREE** designated parking areas which are located as follows:

- 1) Gravel parking lot closest to the park is for handicapped and elderly parking only!
- 2) Cemetery/grass, parking across the road (upper & lower grass lots)
- 3) Church/paved, parking lot across the road.

We do not offer any parking within the park gate itself. Only APPROVED VOLUNTEERS are allowed to park their vehicles within the gate. **Handicap** parking is just outside the gate, at the designated area. Vehicles may not park on the road, side of the road, or in front of the park gates.

Public Health Concerns (Covid 19, Flu, etc.)

It's crucial to maintain vigilance against Covid-19 and other contagions. We urge parents to monitor their family's health and, if any member shows symptoms of Covid-19, particularly a fever, to keep their child from attending practice and games, following a 5-day isolation period.

Can I Bring Food or Drinks into the Park?

Please refrain from bringing outside food into the park. Our budget relies on concession sales to help keep league fees low and maintain park facilities, including restrooms, fields, and equipment. We encourage supporting our concessions, where even small purchases can make a significant difference. Teams are welcome to bring snacks and drinks for players during games, but we ask that all trash be removed from the park. Concessions are available during practices and games, featuring competitively priced items like hamburgers, hotdogs, corndogs, chips, various drinks, and candy bars. Consider volunteering at the concessions stand during your child's practice nights to support our efforts.

What are some other park rules that I need to know about?

- Pets are not allowed in the park during practices or games.
- All forms of noisemakers, including air horns, speakerphones, and megaphones, are prohibited.
- Firearms, knives, or any weapons are forbidden within Bethel Park. Visitors must always wear shirts and shoes, and clothing should be suitable for a family-friendly setting.
- Children must be advised against swinging bats near others. Bats are only to be used on the ball field during official practices or games.
- Exercise caution on walking trails and around wooded areas due to potential wildlife, including snakes. Do not interact with or handle any wildlife.

May I use the park?

The park may only be used only with the permission from the league director or church office.

What about Restrooms? / Where is the First Aid?

Our restrooms are cleaned every week before games and are stocked with soap, paper towels, etc.

A **first-aid** station is located at the concession building.

PARK RULES

- **Tobacco Free Zone**—Bethel Park is a tobacco-free zone. We will be very quick to ask you to leave the park. The park is a safe environment for youth. This includes the roadsides, woods, etc. This also means no smoking in vehicles while on Bethel property. Vehicles on Bethel Property are subject to the same rules. Bethel Park is private property and is subject to rules.
- **No Alcohol or Illegal Drugs** – If our park staff or security suspects you have been drinking or are under the influence, you will be asked to leave the park.
- **No Motorized Vehicles** – All Motorcycles, ATVs, Scooters, etc. are explicitly prohibited inside the park (except for those with approved parking permits). Email staff@rcys.net to request a permit to park your motorcycle in the park. Our park volunteers will use ATVs, Golf Carts, etc. which are for park use only. Handicapped persons may of course use a motorized scooter to enter the park.
- **No bicycles, skateboards, scooters, etc.** may be used in the park during the softball season.
- **Security, Umpires, & RCYS** staff does have the authority to eject a player, coach, parent, and or spectator from the park (*Bethel Park is a PRIVATE park*). Anyone asked to leave should do so peacefully and we will gladly welcome you back the following week with open arms.
- **Pets** - Pets are **NOT** permitted in Bethel Park during practices or games. This **INCLUDES** small, toy-sized, pets. *Exception:* Certified Services Animals are always permitted in the park.
- **Walking Trails** - The walking trails are off-limits to RCYS players during our softball season. There are many reasons but the one that should suffice for everyone is simply to protect the youth. There are snakes, a pond, and other dangers in the woods. Instruct your children about the presence of snakes and other wildlife in the woods and instruct them to not enter the woods.
- **Park Use** - Bethel Park is a private park and is not open to the public except by permission only. You may contact our church office at 770.483.2371 if you would like to inquire about renting the parking facility.
- **Park Closed After Dark** - Bethel Park is closed to the general public after 7 pm. Only those participants who have scheduled practices (or games), along with their parents, coaches, and immediate family, may remain in the park after 7 pm on Monday – Thursdays. Children under age 18 may not be in the park without a parent or guardian after 7 pm.
- **No Loitering in Parking Areas** - No one is permitted to just hang out in the parking areas. Security will be prompted to ask those hanging around the parking areas to leave the parking area.
- **No Climbing on Trees or Fences** – Please keep children from climbing on anything in the park (trees, landscape walls, gates, fences, buildings, etc.)
- **The Pavilion** (on the hill) is Off Limits – While we hope to restore access to the pavilion shortly, it is off-limits to all visitors until further notice. This includes storage buildings as well.

KEY DATES

RCYS 2024 Season

Jan. 1 st – Jan 31 st	Early Registration for Softball (Save \$15)
February 1 st	Regular fees begin <i>(we want everyone registered before evals).</i> Evaluations <i>(check website for exact times)</i>
February 9 th	\$15 late fees begin <i>(we want everyone registered before evals).</i>
February 24 th	Coaches Meeting – 9:30am
February 26 th	First week of practices
March 16 th	Opening Day – All Teams Play
Fri/Sat	Games every Friday and Saturday
April 13 th	Team Pictures (Check schedule)
March 30 th – 31 st	No Games (Easter Weekend)
May 13 th – 18 th	Tournament Week - Season Ends on May 23 rd

EQUIPMENT

Helmets: There aren't any specific requirements, other than a baseball or softball helmet.

Glove/Mitt: Just make sure to get a softball glove, that isn't too big or too small. We use a 11" ball mostly.

Bats (some requirements):

Ages 3-4 (T-League) - They can use any bat.

Ages 5-7 (Division 1) - They can use any softball bat.

Ages 8-17/18 - Must use a "USA Softball" certified bat. The USA Softball logo must appear on the bat.

Note: USSSA is not the same thing. You can also refer to the league rules on our website at www.rcys.net

Where to buy:

Academy Sports / Conyers (At Hwy 20/138 and I-20)

Dicks Sporting Goods / Loganville (Across from Lowes)

RCYS Youth League Rules

V 2024.1

SECTION 1 – CONDUCT

(1.1) Dress Code – STRICT ADHERENCE REQUIRED

Players must wear the current season's league-provided jersey, unaltered, to honor our sponsors who expect visibility at every game. Modifying jerseys in any way requires replacement at the player's cost (around \$40), and they cannot play until a new jersey is obtained. There are no refunds for inability to play due to rule violations, nor after Evaluation Day.

PARK DRESS CODE APPLIES TO ALL GUESTS & PARTICIPANTS:

Shorts and pants must be modest, loose-fitting, and extend to no more than 3 inches above the knee, even with slider shorts underneath. Additionally, the back of these garments must not feature any writing or text.

JEWELRY:

For safety, hard jewelry is prohibited, but soft jewelry may be permitted at the umpire's discretion. RCYS will provide a team jersey to be worn at each game. Non-compliance with the RCYS dress code may result in a player being barred from participation, at the discretion of an RCYS Committee Member.

CLEATS/FOOTWARE: Steel cleats are prohibited for both coaches and youth at all times. Additionally, all players and coaches must wear closed-toed shoes.

Dress Code: RCYS and its umpires will enforce the dress code strictly, without leniency or warnings. Players and coaches not adhering to the dress code may be prevented from participating. Specifically, coaches cannot wear sleeveless shirts, and head coaches are responsible for ensuring all assistant coaches comply.

Head coaches are required to wear their team's jersey, as provided for each head coach. Additional jerseys for coaches can be bought on www.RCYS.net. Coach hats are available for purchase at concessions.

Hats:

During RCYS games, only official RCYS hats are permitted on the field for both coaches and youth. No other hats will be allowed. Umpires will enforce this rule strictly, disallowing any non-RCYS hats on the field. Official RCYS hats can be purchased at concessions.

(1.3) Conduct

- Umpiring is difficult and they will make mistakes. RCYS requires that each person honor the authority of the umpire and understand that RCYS policy is that the umpire is ALWAYS right, even when they might have seemingly missed a call. Every coach, parent, and player must respect the umpires so that we can all maintain the integrity of the game and honor Christ with our actions. Anyone who becomes disrespectful to the umpire, a coach, or a player will be asked to leave the park, and then welcomed back the following week.
- Spectators are expected to refrain from yelling at or arguing with the umpires or coaches. Part of raising a child correctly is to teach them that we are to respect authority (regardless of whether that authority is God the Father, Jesus Christ, local authorities such as Police, etc.). Coaches and players are to submit themselves to the authority of the umpires when they enter *Bethel Park*. Please demonstrate that respect for authority by submitting to the authority of the umpires and the RCYS Committee who ultimately bear responsibility for the entire program.
- Spectators are not allowed in the dugouts. ONLY coaches and one team parent are permitted in the dugouts. Other parents must stay out of the dugout. Any child under 8 years of age, that is not a player, including coaches' children, should not be permitted into the dugouts.
- Bat slinging will not be permitted. The batter will be called 'out' at the umpire's discretion for slinging a bat, **with or without warning**. Any slung bat that hits an umpire or catcher is an automatic out.
- Bethel Park is a **Tobacco-Free Zone**. The use of Alcohol and Tobacco products is strictly prohibited within the park and on all church property. This includes Vape products and ALL Tobacco products (Dip, Snuff, Chewing Tobacco, Cigarettes, Cigars, etc. ALL TOBACCO products are prohibited.)
- The use of ANY profane language will result in ejection from the game and or the park. This also applies to using the Lord's name in vain (God Almighty, My God, Jesus Christ, etc., are all examples of using the Lord's name in vain when used for any purpose other than specific praise, worship, and adoration of God.) This set of rules may be the ONLY warning that will be given.
- Anyone running over another player intentionally in the opinion of the umpire during a close play will be called out and may be ejected from the game. All runners MUST avoid a collision at the bases and home plate. The best way to avoid the collision is to slide in most cases. At first base, the batter-runner should use the orange bag and the first baseman should use the white bag. The runner must avoid a collision.
- Coaches must not touch a runner while the ball is "in play" or live. If touched, the runner may be called out if in the opinion of the umpire they assisted the runner's movement in any way (this means stopping them, pushing them, helping them up, etc.

SECTION 2 – GAME PLAY

(2.1) About our Rules

RCYS follows “**2006 ASA Softball**” rules and guidelines except for differences outlined in this document. A complete understanding of RCYS rules and guidelines can only be obtained by reading the above-mentioned **ASA rules** in conjunction with the RCYS rules and guidelines. RCYS rules supersede ASA rules when a conflict exists.

(2.2) Eligible Players

Boys & Girls who are between the age of 3 and 17 on the last day of the tournament, are eligible to play in the Rockdale Christian Youth Softball league (and girls up to age 18 on the date above may also play). Each season, the age divisions of our league may change in response to the number of players that sign up in each age group. The age of a child on the date listed above is the “playing age” and each child will be placed in the appropriate division based upon their “playing age.”

(2.3) Game Length / Mercy Rules

Divisions 1 – 5 (ages 5-18)

Games will be seven innings or **50 minutes** in length. (The time may be shortened due to circumstances as deemed necessary by the umpire or RCYS committee.)

T-League (TL) Game Length (ages 3-4)

All T-League games will have a 40-minute time limit. The game clock will start on time for TL.

Mercy Rules

The “Run Rule” or “Mercy Rule” shall be 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after four innings, or 10 runs after 5 innings.

Start Time

The Scorekeeper shall not start the GAME CLOCK until the first pitch of the game. Rainout games are not likely to be replayed. In the event of a rainout, the game shall be considered a TIE and no winner will be declared, regardless of the score.

(2.4) Batting order

Every player present for the game must be on the batting lineup and bat in his/her turn. Players who arrive late are to be placed at end of lineup card. A team will bat in an inning until one of the following occurs:

1. Three OUTS are made.
2. The team has batted through the entire batting order** unless they have less than a **five-run advantage**, in which case they will continue to bat until they have made three outs or have gained a five-run advantage/lead.

5th Inning...There is no 5 run-advantage-limit once the 5th inning begins, meaning each team may score as many runs as they can until they make 3 outs.

Teams will only bat their “present” lineup concerning the “5 Run Advantage rule”. It doesn’t matter if team “A” has 14 batters and team “B” has 10 batters, you only bat the number of batters in your lineup concerning the “5 Run Advantage” rule.

*** If a player is determined by the umpire to have batted out of order, the player who batted out of order will automatically be called out if that batter has put the ball in play. If the out-of-order batter is caught during his/her at-bat, the correct batter should step in and assume the pitch count of the out-of-order batter. An appeal from the head coach must be made to the plate umpire before the next batter receives his first pitch. If an appeal is not made before the next batter receives his first pitch, no penalty will be incurred by that batting team.

For **Division 1 Only** – A 5-Run Advantage Rule is in effect for the entire game. When a team has batted their entire batting order (all batters), if they have a 5-run lead, they stop batting regardless of the number of outs they have made.

For **Division 1 Only** – When a team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the coach should refrain from allowing his/her batters to use a TEE.

(2.5) Home Run Rule

“One Up Homerun Rule”

In all divisions, the "one-up" home run rule applies, limiting a team to no more than one home run ahead of their opponent. For example, if Team A hits a home run, they cannot hit another until Team B also does. After each team has hit one home run, either team is then allowed to hit another. This rule does not require teams to alternate home runs but ensures no team exceeds a one home run advantage over the other.

Under the "one-up" home run rule, any home run hit beyond the allowed one home run advantage will count as a "single," advancing on-base runners only one base, and only if they are forced to move. For example, if a runner is on 2nd base with no one on 1st base when a "single" home run is hit, the runner on 2nd stays put while the batter takes 1st base. Essentially, on-base runners advance just one base from their initial positions, and only when required by the presence of a following runner.

Four Base Award (not a homerun)

According to ASA rules, if a batted ball is hit into the air, does not touch the ground, and is then touched by a fielder, causing it to go over the fence in fair territory, it is awarded as a "four base award." This play does not contribute to the game's home run totals. For this rule to apply, the ball must have been in fair play, never touched the ground within the field, made contact with a player, and then crossed the home run fence. The batter-runner is granted all four bases.

(2.6) Pitching

In Divisions 1 - 5, a coach pitches to their own team. The pitching coach must avoid intentionally interfering with a hit ball; otherwise, the batter could be declared out. If a live ball hits the coach while they are outside the pitcher's box, the batter-runner is called out. However, if the coach is inside the pitcher's box when hit, the ball is considered dead, the event is ruled a "No Pitch," and the batter's at-bat continues. Additionally, if a coach defensively catches a hit ball while pitching, the pitch is declared a "No Pitch," and the batter resumes their at-bat.

Adult: The pitcher (coach or player) must pitch from within the pitchers' box if one exists. When the coach/pitcher releases the ball, BOTH feet must be within the pitcher's box.

EXCEPTION: Division 1 coaches may pitch forward of the circle however the umpire may give limitations at his discretion.

Youth/Child: Youth players acting as pitchers can position themselves anywhere within the pitcher's box, to the left, right, front, or back, but must not obstruct the adult pitcher. Should the adult pitcher advance forward while pitching, the youth pitcher is allowed to mirror this position at the point of ball release. The enforcement of this rule is subject to the umpire's judgment.

(2.7) Batting

Helmet Rule – Players must keep their helmets securely on their heads during the game. If a batter/runner is called out, the batter/runner must keep their helmet on until they are walking into their dugout. Umpires will issue a warning at their discretion; however, if the helmet rule is violated, the umpire may call the runner who is closest to home plate, OUT.

If no other runner is on base to be called out for a helmet infraction, an out will still be charged. The on-deck hitter will not be called out or prevented from taking his regular turn at-bat.

Training League: Each batter will swing until they put the ball in play. No strike outs.

Division 1 Only: Each batter will receive up to five pitches to put the ball in play fairly. If the batter does not hit the ball by the 3rd pitch, the batter may choose to use a tee to aid in hitting the ball for their remaining two swings – with the coach's permission.

Divisions 2, 3, and 4: Each batter will receive up to five pitches to hit the ball. If the batter fails to put the ball in play by the 5th pitch, he or she is out. We do not have "walks" at RCYS.

Division 5 Only – The batter will receive up to five pitches to put the ball in play; however, "Swinging Strike Outs" are in effect. If a batter swings at THREE pitches and misses all three times, the batter shall be called out regardless of how many pitches he/she received. If the batter fouls the 3rd strike, the batter will be allowed one extra swinging strike before being called out. The batter shall still only receive a maximum of 5 pitches regardless of whether or not they foul the last pitch.

(2.8) Team Size on the Field

Training League & Division 1 Only - Coaches will place ALL players in the field. The infield may not have extra players, but the coach may play as many outfielders as necessary so that all players are on the field. This rule then permits for 5, 6, 7, or more outfielders (Div 1 only).

Divisions 2,3,4 & 5 will consist of eleven players (five in the outfield). No team will be forced to forfeit a game for not having enough players. All players who are present **MUST** bat in the lineup even if they aren't playing defensively on the field.

(2.9) Player Positions

2.9.1 In all divisions the pitcher-player must have both feet within the pitcher's box or circle until the ball is hit. The pitcher-player cannot be forward of (in front of) the pitching coach at the point of his pitch release. In all divisions, when the ball crosses the plate, the defensive players must be in the following positions:

- Infielders must start behind the base path when the ball is pitched and until the ball is hit.
- Outfielders must start behind the encroachment line (a painted line in the outfield) – and may not cross the line until **AFTER** the ball has been contacted by the bat. Additionally, all outfielders must remain relatively **STILL** during the pitch.

VIOLATION of Above Rule: At the umpire's discretion, the batter may be awarded first base and each runner will thereby be advanced one base if the above rules are violated.

Division 1 – All players may be played on the field. The infield can only consist of 6 players, but the coach **MUST** place the remaining players in the outfield (e.g., 5, 6, or more outfielders).

2.9.2 On defense, once the player has started a defensive position for a particular inning, they may not change defensive positions during that inning (e.g., the shortstop **may not** suddenly decide to switch with an outfielder just because a "big hitter" is coming to bat).

*Exception: In the case of an injury, the coach may make reasonable changes to compensate.

2.9.3 When a runner is advancing from 3rd base to home plate, only the catcher and one backup defender are allowed near home plate. The backup must position themselves behind and away from home plate. If an umpire observes three or more defensive players near home plate, a dead ball will be declared. The runner from 3rd base will be awarded home, scoring a run, while other runners advance one base. This rule aims to prevent collisions at home plate. Coaches are advised to instruct their catcher and backup on this protocol, ensuring the runner attempts to avoid collisions primarily through sliding, allowing the umpire to make accurate calls.

2.9.4 Division 1: The pitcher may stop a batted ball after the ball is hit into fair territory but may not chase the ball beyond the infield baselines. The point of this rule is to prevent the "pitcher", often a very good player, from taking away the opportunity for other children to field the ball. Coaches should always promote "Teamwork" rather than solo efforts.

(2.10) Timeout

In Division 1, the fielding team will automatically receive timeout by returning the ball to the pitcher inside the pitching circle once the pitcher has demonstrated control of the ball. Any player may request a timeout from anywhere on the infield. The umpire will grant a timeout only when he feels it is appropriate.

In ALL other divisions, anyone may **request** timeout from the umpire, but such timeout will only be granted when the umpire determines that the play is dead. (The defensive team must demonstrate that they have reasonable control of the runners.)

Coaches will be limited to just **two** “timeouts” per game. Umpires may STOP the clock at their discretion if they feel that a team or coach is attempting to delay a game.

(2.11) Training League *(for 3 & 4-year-old children)*

Regarding the T-league program, to facilitate the best experience possible, RCYS reserves the right to change rules, policies, or procedures, at any point during the season.

Except for the rules listed below, all RCYS rules apply to the Training League:

1. When a team has batted all their batters, and the ball has been declared dead or time out is called, the batting team stops batting and takes the field (and the fielding team comes into bat.)
2. There are NO RUN RULES for Training League
3. Game length will be 4 Innings or 40 minutes.
4. Coaches and Volunteers will ‘oversee the game – no umpires.
5. Every child will hit from a “Hitting Tee”. There are no strikeouts, each child will swing until they put the ball in play.
6. Parents are allowed on the field (one per child), but only at the coach’s discretion.
7. Pitchers Circle rules apply. A player may get the ball in the pitchers’ circle for time out to be called.
8. T-League parents that participate on the field are NOT required to purchase an RCYS matching team shirt.

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SECTION 3 - MISCELLANEOUS

(3.1) Team Player Assignments

Only the head coach's children and those of one previously designated assistant coach will be guaranteed to be placed on a specific team. There will be no other special consideration for placing players.

(3.2) Equipment

Regulation (11" inch) softballs will be used in all divisions.

Division 1: Either softball or baseball bats may be used in Division 1. Games will be played with 11" softballs.

Divisions 2 – 5: Only *USA Softball* approved, or *ASA* approved bats may be used in Divisions 2 through 5.

"USA Approved" means the bat has the "USA Softball" certification stamp on the bat AND the bat does not appear on the USA Softball banned bat list (see end of this document). Divisions 2 – 5 will use 11" softballs; however, in Division 5, boys will hit 12" softballs.

(3.3) Additional Rules

- Players must remain in the dugout unless they are the "on deck batter".
- Batters will be called out if they "sling" their bat. A "slung" bat is one that comes out of the batter's hand, uncontrollably, during a swing. This is not the same as a bat that "slips" out of a player's hand. Umpires do know the difference and will call batters out when they "sling" their bats.
- At the UMPIRES discretion, he/she may require a player to wear a chin strap on their helmet if the player demonstrates a problem with keeping his/her helmet on while running the bases.
- At RCYS, we do not invoke an automatic "infield fly" rule. However, at his/her discretion, the umpire may award bases where appropriate if in his opinion, a defensive player drops a fly ball to gain a defensive advantage.
- In Division 1 the pitcher cannot tag the batter going to first nor may he tag the first base bag to get the batter out. He must throw or transfer the ball to another player (any other player) who then tags either the batter or the bag.
- In **ALL OTHER** divisions, the pitcher may tag the runner or step on first to get the runner out.
- In all divisions, catchers must wear a protective helmet, with a face mask.

- All runners while on base as well as the batter and the on-deck hitter must wear a batting helmet.
- Every player on the team must play on defense for at least two innings per game.
*Every player is expected to play for three innings, though it's understood that some games may only permit two innings of play.
- **2024 NEW Guidance:** A defensive player attempting to out the batter-runner at first base must attempt to throw or toss the ball. Rolling the ball directly to first base is not allowed. However, if a thrown or tossed ball falls short and then rolls to the first base, it is considered a legal play.

Therefore, if a defensive player deliberately rolls the ball to first base without attempting a throw or toss, the umpire may declare the runner safe, at their discretion.

(3.4) Ground Rules

If a thrown ball enters a dugout or is overthrown out of the playing field (e.g., over the fence, into a crowd), all runners are awarded one extra base. A hit ball that bounces over the fence is considered a "ground rule double." Similarly, a ball that exits the playing field through an opening in the fence or an open gate is also ruled a double.

Defensive players are advised to raise both arms to signal the umpire when a ball goes under or through a fence, indicating it is out of play. If the umpire determines that a defensive player intentionally manipulated the ball to go under or around the fence, they have the discretion to award the batter a "Four Base Award."

Trees Limbs: If a batted ball contacts a tree limb, the umpire shall declare a foul ball (regardless of whether it lands in fair or foul territory). The foul ball does count as one of the five allotted pitches in Divisions 1 - 5.

(3.5) Portable Fence

Efforts to install temporary fences for Division 4 will be made. If unavailable, the umpire can call a "ground-rule double" for balls rolling significantly beyond the temporary ground-painted fence line, regardless of player contact. Balls just over the line can be played live, but those well past the line warrant a "ground-rule double" call. Given the rule's subjectivity, umpire decisions are final and indisputable. Play should continue unless a "Ground Rule Double" is explicitly announced, as not all balls over the line automatically become doubles.

(3.6) Weather, cancellations, rainout, etc.

Regarding Rain –Rain does not automatically lead to the cancellation of practices or games. Bethel Park's three fields can handle significant rainfall without becoming unusable. For the latest updates, contact staff@rcys.net or visit www.RCYS.net.

SECTION 4 – TOURNAMENT GAMES

(4.1) Tournament Games

Tournament games may start up to 20 minutes before the scheduled time. Coaches are responsible for ensuring their players are prepared to begin 20 minutes prior to the listed start time. Due to tight tournament schedules, games need to commence promptly. Players not present at the start will be added to the bottom of the batting order upon arrival.

All tournament games will use the **International Tie-Breaker Inning**.

If at the end of regulation play (7 Innings or the Clock Expires), the game is tied, then the following tie-breaker rules will be in effect.

1. The batter who was the last 'at-bat' (last batter) in the previous inning begins the new inning on second base.
2. Two Outs Are in Effect
3. Game Play proceeds as normal.
4. A full inning is played (starting with two outs for each team).
5. If the score is tied at the end of the inning, another international tie-breaker inning can be played.

On the Final day of the tournament, if a game is officially canceled due to rain, the tournament will be over. The decision to cancel a game and end the tournament is made by the RCYS Committee members present at the park. In such cases, no team will be declared the winner. While the competition was enjoyable, both the game and tournament come to an end, as rescheduling tournament games is not feasible.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The RCYS Director may choose to modify the tournament to Single Elimination if they foresee the need to do so. A common reason would be weather reports or other unforeseen issues that might otherwise prevent the tournament from being completed on Saturday.

SECTION 5 - PARENTS

(5.1) Parents

Parents are expected to be an example to all children. We will not tolerate parents yelling at any children in the park, including their own. Parents are to be encouraging to all players - even those on the other team. We will not tolerate any parent displaying negative attitudes toward their team, own coach, or the opposing team or coach.

Once a team organizes, parents should work together to create a schedule for post-game snacks, drinks, etc.

Parents can make a significant impact on a player's experience. We encourage all parents to get involved with their respective teams and be a part of the experience – not just a spectator.

SECTION 6 - COACHES

(6.1) Coaches

It will be the coach's responsibility to inform the parents and the players of all of the league's rules.

Each coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players and parents. Practice is restricted to one, "one-hour" practice per week. Teams may not enter the field earlier than 10 minutes before the posted game time.

Any "coach" or "assistant coach" that is on the field, who is age 17 or younger, must wear a protective batting helmet whenever he/she is on the field (e.g., base coach, etc.).

All on field coaches must wear an "RCYS Jersey", but the color doesn't necessarily have to match (as we have coaches going back and forth to multiple fields).

All questions can be directed to questions@rcys.net.

Adult Volunteers: Adults involved with the youth for more than two games, including base coaches, dugout coaches, or any role teaching softball, must complete a coach's application found on the website. This rule applies to anyone who would be considered an assistant coach after participating in more than two games. Head coaches are responsible for ensuring that potential assistant coaches submit a coach's application via our website, applicable to both head and assistant coaches.

Volunteer Verifications: Umpires will randomly and regularly inquire if adults on the field have completed the online coach's application/agreement. Adults who have not will be asked to leave the field. Those claiming to have completed the application will have their names recorded by umpires and checked by RCYS personnel to confirm submission before game time. This requirement is strictly enforced by RCYS to ensure agreements are in place with all adults on the fields.

SECTION 7 – SAFETY DISCLAIMER

Softball inherently carries risks. RCYS mandates helmets for batting and running, masks for pitchers, and gloves as the only required safety equipment. Players are urged to use additional safety gear appropriate for softball. Parents should not permit their children to play if they believe the child cannot adequately protect themselves during softball activities or interactions with peers in the game.

COACHES INSTRUCTIONS

1. Integrity: Coaches are responsible for upholding integrity, including addressing any rule violations or use of illegal equipment within their team.
2. No Profanity: Using profanity will lead to ejection from the game or park. Repeated violations might result in removal from coaching.
3. Respectful Communication: Yelling or abusive language is prohibited and will result in ejection. A second offense might lead to removal from the RCYS program for the season.
4. Equal Treatment: Coaches must treat all players equally, without favoritism, especially regarding their own children. Coaches should try to move players around on the field occasionally, as feasible.
5. Reverence: Misusing the Lord's name in vain is unacceptable. Repeat violations might result in removal from coaching.
6. Umpire Interactions: Questions to umpires by the head coach are allowed; arguing is not.
7. Equipment Management: Keep bats, helmets, and balls organized in and around the dugout. Please remove all trash and debris from the dugout when your team leaves the dugout (practices and games).
8. Professional Conduct: Avoid arguments with coaches, parents, and umpires. Direct any complaints to the RCYS Director.
9. Positive Communication: Speech should be uplifting and encouraging; yelling at players, parents, coaches, or umpires is not permitted.
10. Communication: Maintain clear communication with players and parents. Remind them of "next practice" and "next game".
11. Practice Cancellations: Do not cancel practices without notifying the RCYS Director, except for rain. As a rule, practices should never be canceled. Even if the head coach cannot be there, ask your assistant coach or another parent to fill in.
12. Weekly Updates: Use Calling Post (www.callingpost.com) for efficient communication with your team about practices, games, and rainouts. Some coaches use WhatsApp or simple texting. Many use the SportsEngine app.
13. Prayer: Start or end practices and game days with a prayer.

USA SOFTBALL OR ASA BATS ALLOWED.

Any bat used in RCYS Youth League must have the **USA Softball** or **ASA Approved** logo on the bat (except T-league and Division 1).



USA Softball Logo

HOMEPLAY USA SOFTBALL CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT

Certified Equipment

USA Softball has taken great strides to protect the integrity of the sport. Each year, USA Softball's Equipment Testing and Certification Committee examines the current rules and specifications governing various items of equipment. This committee makes recommendations to USA Softball's council comprised of USA Softball commissioners, select youth and player representatives, umpire-in-chiefs, elite athletes and other affiliated members. The council is the ultimate decision maker of USA Softball rules and regulations regarding equipment.

The official bat in RCYS Play must meet all of the requirements of USA/ASA rules and must bear either the USA or ASA approved 2000/2004 certification marks.

