

## 2010 North Metro Church Softball League

1. The NMCSL season will begin on **March 6<sup>th</sup>** and end on **May 22nd**
2. All games to be played on 2 fields, up to 8 games per week
3. **We will be playing Easter weekend (April 4<sup>th</sup>).**
4. Game times are 8:50, 10:00, 11:10, and 12:20pm (**except for the first week of the playoffs**)
5. There is a 5 minute grace period for 8:50 games ONLY; then the game is a forfeit
6. Games will be 70 minutes long; umpires will start the clock on the first pitch. No new inning shall be started after 65 minutes have passed.
7. Teams tied after 7 innings will play one additional inning only
8. 15 run mercy rule will be in effect after 5 innings, or 4 ½ if the home team is leading.
9. Home team will be the official scorekeeper for each game.
10. Teams will play 16 regular season games, with **7 double headers** for each team.
11. **A new playoff format is in place for this year. Basically, the 9<sup>th</sup> seed will be eliminated after the regular season. The remaining 8 teams will play best-of-three series (based on seedings). Each round will be best-of-three, all the way through the finals.**
12. **If there are uneven games played at the end of the regular season (due to weather/scheduling constraints), winning percentage will be used to decide playoff seeding.**
13. **If there are ties with even number of games played at the end of the season, Head-to-Head, then Runs Scored (season) will be the formula used to determine playoff seeding.**
14. There are NO time limits for playoff games, though the 15 run rule will be in effect for all games (excluding the championship round)
15. Teams may start a game with 7 of their own players and pick up an 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> player from other teams. Teams may play an entire game with 8 players. No short-handed team may pick up a 10<sup>th</sup> player. No player pickups will be allowed in the playoffs
16. Teams must have their numbered uniforms by March 27th, the fourth week of play. **If a player does not have a numbered jersey after March 27th, he is not allowed to play for his team.**
17. There is no team penalty for a single forfeited game; however any additional forfeits will result in a \$25 fine per occurrence.
18. Any player ejected from a game for misconduct will be suspended from the following game. A 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection will result in suspension for 3 games and a \$25.00 team fine.
19. Players must play in a minimum of 6 games to qualify for the playoffs. Managers must submit playoff-eligible rosters to League President before playoffs begin.
20. Each batter starts with “1 and 1” count. One foul on the second strike is allowed. The arc of a legal pitch is to be 6 feet minimum and 12 feet maximum
21. Only team captains may address an umpire concerning an interpretation of the rules.
22. **Each team will be provided 16 new softballs before the season. It will be each teams responsibility to bring a new softball to each of their games. The team’s name should be written in permanent marker on the softballs given to them. Before each game, teams will swap softballs. Each team will hit their on. Only one new softball may be used per team, per game. Teams should have backup softballs with clear COR .44 labels to replace balls hit out of play. This season we will be using the same softballs, but the covers will be yellow. It will be ok to use used softballs from last season (as replacements), until teams get a stockpile of the yellow used softballs.**
23. One half of a team roster must be members of that team’s church
24. NMCSL adopts the ASA’s approved bat list for league play. Any bats in question will be subject to umpire’s discretion. Visit [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com) for the list.

25. Players must avoid contact with fielders and runners at all times. Players running to first base should use the safety base outside the foul line. Base runners should be prepared to avoid contact at second base should they encounter an infielder's attempt to throw towards first base on a double play attempt. Failure to do so will result in an out.
26. Teams may bat an unlimited lineup and may have unlimited courtesy runners (last player to record an out in the batting order). Substitute base runners may only be used to replace a base runner that has a legitimate injury which detracts or inhibits his ability to run the bases. Substitute runners cannot be employed simply because a runner happens to be slow. Free substitution is allowed, with returning players maintaining their same position in the batting order
27. Any player deemed to intentionally bat a ball in an attempt to harm an opposing fielder will be called out and if he commits further occurrences will subject to removal from NMCSL.
28. The pitcher safety rule is in effect. If a batted line drive hits a pitcher without hitting his glove, the umpire may rule the batter out and the ball dead.
29. If a batter cannot bat during his place in the lineup due to injury or a commitment that forces him to leave the field, his team may substitute his batting spot with a previously unused player. If no unused substitute is available, teams can skip the player's place in lineup with no penalty. If a player intends to return to the game after an injury, the manager must alert the opposing team and that player will take an out in the lineup until he can return.
30. Any player who loses control of a bat while swinging will be called OUT by the umpire, should his bat's grip be found to be altered by a taper or excessive tape.
31. Metal cleats are not allowed.
32. A game may be called 'official' due to rain/lightning if the game has gone 4 ½ innings and the home team is leading. The game must go a full 5 innings if the visitor is leading in order to be ruled official. Games that are in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning or later and are tied when the game is called will be made up at the discretion of NMCSL.
33. Adding tardy arrivals to line-up – If a team has every available player in the batting line-up (i.e. no bench reserves that are not listed in the batting order), then any late arrivals can be added to the batting order at the bottom of the batting order without removing another player from the game. But if a team does not have every available player listed in the batting order (i.e. players are available for batting substitutions that are not currently listed in the batting order), then any late arrivals cannot be added to the batting order at the bottom, and are instead take on the same status as the other bench players not listed in the order. These players can only be added to the order to replace another player who is removed from the game.
34. All Managers need to e-mail Scott Sergent ([utscooter@bellsouth.net](mailto:utscooter@bellsouth.net)) and Sammy Queen ([samuelqueen@yahoo.com](mailto:samuelqueen@yahoo.com)) their respective scores by every Monday following your game/s, so the standings can be updated on our website.
35. New ASA pitching guidelines for this year---The pitching arc has been lowered from 12 feet (from the ground), to 10 feet. The minimum arc is still the same, 6 feet from the ground.
36. Should there be other rulings in question that are not addressed in NMCSL rule book, The NMCSL will adopt the ASA's official ruling on the matter.