

**Big Country Church League  
Softball Rules (updated 2022)**

***THE BCCL RULES WILL BE IN COMPLETE ALIGNMENT  
WITH ASA RULES WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:***

1. Pitching - Pitches must have an arch with a minimum height of 6ft and a maximum of 12ft
  - a. Pitched balls that meet height requirements and make contact with the strike zone mats are deemed **strikes**.
  - b. Pitched balls that are outside height requirements, make contact with home plate, or miss strike zone mats are deemed **balls**.
    - i. **Illegal pitches will be called once the ball lands. (too high- 12ft+, or too low/flat- 6ft-) If the batter chooses to swing at the pitch, the pitch becomes legal and the play is live no matter how high or low the pitch was.**
2. Batters will start with a 1 and 1 count.
3. There is a 5 Over the Fence Home Run Limit. Every home run after 5 will result in an out. Any player hitting a home run must touch first base.
  - a. Over the Fence Home Run is an untouched ball batted over the fence. Balls that are contacted by a defensive player that bounce off the player and over the fence are ruled a 4 base error and are not counted as one of the 5 home runs.
4. Run Cap - Only 6 runs per offensive inning will be allowed. **Runs do not carry over. Runs drop dead at 6. \*\*\*\*IF A TEAM IS DOWN BY MORE THAN 6 RUNS THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO SCORE AS MANY RUNS AS NEEDED TO TIE IN ANY INNING.**
5. Batting Order - Batting lineup MUST start with a guy and alternate guy/girl until the 9th and 10th spots (or 11th/12th for a team with 7 guys/5 girls) in which would be filled with back to back to back male hitters. Teams with 5 girls and 5 guys will simply alternate every batter male/female.
  - a. 2 Extra hitters will be allowed in the batting lineup as long as it is a male and female.
6. Courtesy Foul - **there will be a courtesy foul allowed after the 2nd strike is called.** If the first swing is a foul ball that would be considered strike 2 (not the courtesy foul).
7. Walking - If a male batter is walked and followed by a female he automatically goes to 2nd and female may choose to automatically go to 1st or hit
  - a. If male batter is walked and followed by a male he only goes to 1st base and next male batter must hit
8. **Force at home** - There will be a force at home when the runner is within 6ft of home plate.
  - a. A 6ft line will be marked on the field
  - b. If the runner has not reached the 6ft line they may still choose to turn around and run back to 3rd base.



19. Batters must not throw their bat after the swing. A warning will be given and each time following the warning, the batter will be called out.
20. In case of inclement weather, please note BCCL will post on website and social media ahead of time. If inclement weather arises during play the BCCL board will make a decision on how to proceed.
21. Season ending tournament will follow at the end of the season. Tournament seeding will be based on season record.
22. For a player to be eligible for the tournament they must play at least one game during the regular season.

**\*\*\*New 2022 Rules\*\*\***

23. **Pick up players**- Teams will only be allowed to pick up a maximum of two, opposite gender players from other teams, during the regular season. The “pick up” players must then only fill the catcher and right field positions. They may bat at any point in the lineup. You may not pick up for extra players. Only players needed to fulfill minimum roster requirements to play. See rule #12.
24. **Halo Rule**. Any ball batted within one foot of the pitching rubber and lower than 10ft (umpire discretion) will be an automatic, dead ball out. Batter is out and runners do not advance.
25. **Pitching Rubber**- The pitcher must have at least one foot in contact with the pitching rubber when the ball is pitched. After the ball is pitched, the pitcher may then move wherever they please on the field. Halo rule remains in effect whether the pitcher is in the designated “halo zone” or not.
26. **Run Rule**- The game is called if a team is down 15 or more runs **after** the 4th inning is complete or down 10 or more runs **after** the 5th inning is completed.
27. **Pinch runners**- Batters that reach a base safely may request a pinch runner. That runner must be the last recorded out of the same gender.