

**PEBBLECREEK SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL RULES OF PLAY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <u>RULE:</u> | <u>PAGE :</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS..... | 1 |
| 1. MISSION STATEMENT AND DEFINITIONS..... | 2 |
| 2. LENGTH OF GAME..... | 3 |
| 3. LEAGUE COMPOSITION..... | 3 |
| 4. TEAM ROSTERS..... | 3 |
| 5. UNIFORMS/CLOTHING..... | 4 |
| 6. EQUIPMENT..... | 4 |
| 7. TEAM LEAGUE STANDINGS..... | 4 |
| 8. BATTING ORDER..... | 4 |
| 9. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS | 5 |
| 10. SUBSTITUTE RUNNERS..... | 6 |
| 11. CANCELLED OR POSTPONED GAMES..... | 6 |
| 12. PROTESTS..... | 6 |
| 13. FORFEITS..... | 7 |
| 14. EJECTIONS..... | 7 |
| 15. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/FOREIGN OBJECTS..... | 8 |
| 16. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES..... | 8 |
| 17. ADDENDUMS..... | 8 |
| RULE CHANGE REQUEST (RCR) FORM..... | 10 |

PebbleCreek Senior Softball Association

Official Rules of Play

MISSION STATEMENT:

TO PROMOTE SENIOR SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL IN PEBBLECREEK FOR EXERCISE AND RECREATION IN AN ATHLETIC ENVIRONMENT DESIGNED TO SUSTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF FELLOWSHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION. THIS MISSION STATEMENT IS INVIOABLE.

The PebbleCreek Senior Softball Association plays under the rules of the Senior Softball - United States of America (SS-USA). SS-USA Rules will be the basis for PCSSA play with additions and exceptions noted below:

1. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Assigned Player:** a player who has met all League requirements and has been assigned to a team.
- B. **Eligible Player:** a player who meets all the requirements of the League including:
 - 1. Residents (including those who have signed a contract to build a home).
 - 2. Renters (who rent for a minimum of three months), during the League seasons (Players must pay the League annual dues, in-full, before the draft.)
- C. **Illegal Player:** a player who does not meet the residency requirements of the League.
- D. **Ineligible Player:**
 - 1. A player who does not meet all League requirements, a suspended player or one whom the Board has declared ineligible.
 - 2. If a player is eligible at the beginning, or anytime during the season, and subsequently moves from PebbleCreek, that player will be allowed to continue to play for the remainder of current season.
- E. **League Evaluation Committee:** a committee established by the Board responsible for establishing a systematic process in which to conduct the League's player evaluations and for use in the annual draft process and team assignments, if necessary during the season.
- F. **League Rules Committee (LRC):** a committee established by the Board to develop, write and maintain the **Official Rules of Play** for the League.
- G. **Manager:** a team's official manager, or in their absence, the assistant manager or acting manager.
- H. **PCSSA Board of Directors:** hereafter referred to as the "Board".
- I. **PebbleCreek Senior Softball Association (PCSSA):** hereafter referred to as the "League".
- J. **Player Rating:** a numerical rating assigned to each player by the Evaluation Committee which denotes the player's skill level.
- K. **Primary Pitcher:** one (1) player on each team's roster that is designated by the Manager as that team's "Primary Pitcher". It is the intent and understanding that this player is capable, willing and normally expected to pitch for that team.
- L. **Roster:**
 - (1). Team: Comprised of players drafted or assigned by the Evaluation Committee/Board.
 - (2). Daily: the batting lineup for an individual game (including substitutes).
- M. **Substitute player:** a roster or non-roster player who has met all League requirements.

- N. **Unassigned player:** a player who has met all League requirements, but has not been assigned to a team.
- O. **Waiting List:** a list that will include new players who have not been assigned to a team and those returning players who have failed to register by the last day of registration.

2. LENGTH OF GAME:

- A. Games will consist of seven (7) complete innings.
- B. A game will be considered complete after 4 ½ innings of play with the home team ahead or 5 innings with the visiting team ahead. In the event the game is suspended prior to that time, it will be replayed in its entirety at a rescheduled time or, at the discretion of the board, cancelled without being replayed.
- C. In the event the game is tied after seven (7) innings an extra inning will be played.
 - 1. Each team will have one turn at bat and will start with a runner on second base.
 - 2. The runner will be the last batter in the previous inning.
 - 3. If the extra inning runner has had a sub runner during the game, the previous batter, upon request, will be the extra inning runner.
 - 4. If, after the completion of the extra inning and the score remains tied, the game will be declared a Tie.
- D. A maximum of five (5) runs per team per inning are allowed. Unlimited runs for both teams will be allowed in the seventh (7th) and all subsequent innings.
- E. A team will be warmed up and ready to play fifteen (15) minutes prior to its scheduled playing time.

3. LEAGUE COMPOSITION:

- A. Each year, the Board will determine the following:
 - 1. Number of teams.
 - 2. Number of players per team.
 - 3. Days of the week to play.
 - 4. Number of games per day and the total number of games for the season.
 - 5. Time of play, duration of all games and amount of infield warm-up allowed, both before the game and between innings.

4. TEAM ROSTERS:

- A. A player will remain on a team roster until one of the following occurs:
 - 1. The player is expelled from the League.
 - 2. Extended player absences and removals from a roster will be in accordance with League Policy Statement # 1.
- B. The maximum number of players in the field will be eleven (11).
- C. A team will begin with, and maintain throughout each game, a roster equal to the number of players defined by the Board. After the beginning of game day play, should a player become injured and unable to play, or have to leave the game for a necessary reason:
 - 1. An attempt will be made to obtain a legal substitute for that player.
 - 2. If no substitute is obtained, play may continue with an “absent” entered into the lineup. An “automatic out” will be recorded for every scheduled subsequent at-bat for the missing player.
 - 3. The Manager will immediately notify the opposing Manager, the umpire and, following the game, a member of the Board with the name of any absent player for which NO substitute was obtained

5. UNIFORMS / CLOTHING:

- A. All players, and on-field coaches, will wear League approved uniforms during a game, which will be comprised of the following:
 - 1. Team shirt or jersey.
 - 2. Team cap or visor.
 - 3. Silver gray baseball pants or silver gray baseball shorts (above the knee).
 - a) Teams may vote to change the color of their baseball pants or shorts to match, or tastefully coordinate with, the color of their jersey.
 - b) All members of a team will dress alike.
- B. No street clothing may be worn during the play of any game. Jackets may be worn on the bench. All additional clothing must be worn inside or underneath the uniform.
- C. During cold weather, and prior to the game, both Managers and the umpire may agree to any clothing additions/deletions to be worn inside or outside of the uniform such as sweatshirts, pants, jackets, gloves, etc. for player comfort.
- D. Any player, or on-field coach, wearing improper clothing will not be allowed to participate until legally dressed. All substitutes will wear their respective team's complete uniform (or Board approved alternate).

Managers will be responsible for compliance and enforcement of this rule.

- 6. **EQUIPMENT:** Players must use PCSSA approved and supplied bats.

7. **TEAM LEAGUE STANDINGS:**

- A. The following points will be awarded per game and used for standing calculations to supplement calculation of winning percentage:
 - (1). Two (2) points for a win.
 - (2). One (1) point for a tie.
 - (3). Zero (0) points for a loss.
- B. A forfeit will result in zero (0) points awarded to the forfeiting team and two (2) points to the opposing team.
- C. Team standings will be determined using the following data both during and at the end of a season. Should the Board desire, other criteria may be used as necessary:
 - (1). Win percentage and/or Total points.
 - (2). In the event of a tie (head-to-head in the following order):
 - (a). Most wins/least losses.
 - (b). Most runs scored.

8. **BATTING ORDER:**

- A. All team players, including substitutes, who are present and ready to play, must be in the initial batting order (daily roster) and each player must play at least three (3) innings in the field.
- B. If a player, who is listed in the initial batting order, is not present for the start of play, a legal substitute may be obtained. If the absent player subsequently becomes available and ready to play prior to the completion of the 3rd inning (defined as when the 3rd out is made in the bottom half of the inning) that player may enter the game. If not available and ready for play, that player will be prohibited from entering the game.
- C. If a player elects not to play at the beginning of a game, for any reason, that player may not subsequently enter the game. A legal substitute may be obtained.
- D. Should a roster or substitute player leave a game due to an injury, illness, or personal emergency, causing the team to have LESS players than the initial roster number, a substitute of equal or lesser numerical rating may be obtained and will bat in the same position as the replaced player. If no substitute is utilized, an out will be recorded for each "at bat" for the missing player.

- E. A roster or substitute player who is not injured, ill, or have a personal emergency, leave the game prior to its completion causing the team to have less players than the initial roster number, that player will be considered a “Self-Ejection.” The same restrictions in Rule 14 (an “Ejection”) will apply to that player. If the team has less than the required number of players, an out will be recorded for each occurrence of that player’s “at bat” in the batting order.
- F. Any violation of subparagraph A, B, C, D or E. above will result in a forfeit for that team.

9. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS:

- A. All assigned League players may participate in a game as a substitute player.
- B. All substitutes (with the exception of paragraph “E”. below) will be the same or lesser numerical ranking of the player for whom they are substituting.
- C. At least seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled game of the new season, each manager will designate a “Primary Pitcher” for their team. That name will be given to all managers and the Evaluation Committee. If a team loses their “Primary Pitcher” after the start of League play, another team player may be designated as the “Primary Pitcher” for that team.
- D. A substitute for an absent “Primary Pitcher” will be one of the following:
 - (1). Another “Primary Pitcher”; this substitute must pitch while in the game. If removed from the game, other than for an injury or an emergency, NO other “Primary Pitcher” will be allowed to substitute and an out will be recorded for each scheduled at bat. A roster player or another substitute, other than a “Primary Pitcher”, may participate.
 - (2). Any roster player, or any League player who is ranked equal to or less than the absent “Primary Pitcher”, may also pitch. A substitute “Primary Pitcher”, if ranked equal to or less than the absent “Primary Pitcher”, may continue to play in any position.
- E. The Board, at the beginning and during any playing season, will make the following determinations as needed:
 - (1). The number of games that a player may substitute per day, week, month or year. Emergency substitutions, such as replacing an injured, sick, etc. player of a game in progress will not count in the total number of games a player is allowed to substitute.
 - (2). The rankings to be allowed for substitute “Primary Pitchers” and substitute players if the “same or lesser” method is not used.
- F. Substitutes may play any defensive position and be placed in any order in the batting lineup.
- G. A player, who is injured during a game and unable to immediately resume play, may be replaced by an available substitute and then return to the game. In all cases, that substitute player will bat in the replaced player’s position in the batting order **and will not be restricted.**

10. SUBSTITUTE RUNNERS:

- A. A runner may request a substitute runner any time after reaching first (1st) base. That sub runner will be the first eligible player prior to the runner requesting a sub runner. If the designated substitute runner, for any reason is unable to run, that player will be limited by Rule 10D for the remainder of the game.
- B. In the first inning, should the first batter-runner listed in the line-up require a sub runner, the player that is listed last in the batting order will become the sub runner, etc..
- C. In the event of a tie after seven (7) innings of play, Rule 2C will apply.
- D. A runner who requests a sub-runner, **from his own team**, and remains in the game, will be allowed to have a sub-runner the first time requested with no penalty. On all subsequent at bats, that same batter-runner will be limited to first (1st) base. This limitation shall NOT apply, if further advancement of the batter-runner is allowed by rule, such as over-the-fence- home run, ground-rule double, awarded overthrow at first base, etc. **If a**

runner is replaced by a player who is not on his team (substitution), rule 9G will apply without restriction.

11. CANCELLED OR POSTPONED GAMES:

- A. In the case of potentially hazardous weather or unsafe field conditions, the home plate umpire will make the decision to temporarily postpone or cancel all field activities. In the absence of an umpire, a Board member will make the decision. In the absence of a Board member, the two Managers will make the decision.
- B. All cancelled and permanently postponed games will be played on the following Wednesday, or if unplayable conditions continue to exist, the first Wednesday possible. The games will be played at the normally scheduled times and in the order of cancellation or postponement.

12. PROTESTS:

A. Types of Protest:

- (1). Illegal player. The protest must be made while the player is in the game and before the umpire leaves the playing field.
- (2). Ineligible player. The protest may be made at any time. The Board will determine a player's eligibility.
- (3). Protests will NOT be considered valid if they are based solely on a judgment call by an umpire, such as balls and strikes or calls on the bases.
- (4). Any violation of a League rule where no penalty is prescribed.

B. Procedure:

- (1). The manager of the protesting team will immediately notify the home plate umpire that the game is being protested. Every effort will be made to resolve the protest on the field by the two managers and the umpire before the next pitch to a batter. If the protest is determined to be valid due to misinterpretation/misapplication of a playing rule, the correct rule will be applied and the game will continue from the point of protest. If the protest is still determined to be valid by the offended team, the umpire will declare the game to be played "under protest" and will notify the opposing manager and both scorekeepers. If the protest is still not resolved, a Manager will have until the end of the game to again register the protest with the umpire and the opposing Manager.
- (2). A letter of "Official Written Protest" will be given to the league President or, if absent, the Vice-president within six (6) days of the protested game.
- (3). The written protest will contain the following information:
 - (a). Date, time and location of the game.
 - (b). Name of umpire(s) and scorers.
 - (c). Section of the official or league rules under which the protest is being made.
 - (d). All details and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest.
 - (e). All essential facts concerning the matter protested.
- (4). After receiving the written protest, the Board will render its decision to the two managers within fourteen (14) days.

C. Decision by the Board:

The decision rendered on a protested game will result in one of the following:

- (1). The protest is determined to be invalid, the final score stands. The Board may impose a loss of the game in the protesting team's League standing for an invalid protest.
- (2). If the protesting team wins the game, the protest will be disregarded.

- (3). It is determined that an illegal player or substitute participated in the play of the game, the offending team will forfeit the game.
- (5). It is determined that a league rule was broken where no penalty is prescribed. The Board will determine the penalty to be assessed.

13. FORFEITS:

- A. The Board will have the entire season, from opening day through the evening of the Banquet, to apply the penalty of a valid forfeit.

14. EJECTIONS:

- A. Any player who threatens or uses abusive/offensive language in any form directed toward an umpire, another player or spectator will be immediately ejected from the game by the umpire. An ejected player will leave the playing field within one (1) minute and the ballpark area, which will include the spectator stands and the parking lot, as soon as possible or the game will be forfeited. No substitute will be allowed and an out will be recorded for each "at bat" of the ejected player unless a team member is the replacement.
- B. Ejection is a very serious action taken by the umpire and will not be questioned. The player will receive a mandatory one (1) game day suspension for the next scheduled game day for that player's team. The ejected player will also NOT be allowed to substitute until after the one (1) game day suspension is completed. Any team that allows a suspended player to participate during a game in any position will result in a forfeit of that game.
- C. An ejected player may petition the Board, in writing, explaining all facts of the ejection and requesting a review. The Board, after conferring with the umpire and considering the "act" as it happened, will render one of the following decisions:
 - (1). Upholding the mandatory one (1) game day suspension.
 - (2). Deleting the mandatory one (1) game day suspension.
 - (3). Adding any additional penalty up to and including expulsion from the League.
- D. Any player who is ejected a second time within a season, or a player who physically attacks an umpire, another player or spectator will be expelled from the League for the remainder of the season. In order to be considered for re-instatement into the League the following year, the expelled player must appeal to the Board in writing.
- E. The use of abusive or offensive language not directed at any one person will be handled at the discretion of the umpire, who may issue a warning or may eject the offending player.

15. ALCOHOL / TOBACCO / FOREIGN OBJECTS:

- A. No player may possess or consume alcohol or use tobacco products on the bench or playing field during an official League game. Offenders will be removed from the game and suspended for the next game. Repeat violators will be referred to the Board for additional disciplinary action, up to and including a one (1) year suspension.
- B. Players may not wear wristwatches, bracelets or excessive jewelry. Medical alert bracelets are acceptable. No foreign objects such as cigars, cigarettes, toothpicks, etc. may protrude from the mouth of player on the bench or playing field. Offenders will be prohibited from playing until the foreign object or prohibited item is removed.
- C. Failure of the team manager to have his players comply with these rules will result in a two (2) point loss in the team's League standing.

16. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. All players are subject to assignment as scorekeepers during the game and field preparation prior to game days. Team assignments will be given to each team manager who will assign these tasks to team members.
- B. Should a team fail to prepare the field as specified in the published field preparation guidelines, the matter will be referred to the Board who may impose any penalty up to, and including, a two (2) point loss in the team's League standing for each occurrence.

17. ADDENDUMS:

- A. All proposed Rule Change Requests (RCR) will be completed by filling out the RCR form (Below) or an e-mail, utilizing the same format, and given or sent, to the Rules Committee Chairman or any Committee member.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:
PEBBLECREEK SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

