

# 2009 Softball Rules

## Center Leagues Sports Association (CLSA)

**Updated 12/30/08**

*Our softball league does not fit into any specific ASA category, but our rules are loosely based on official ASA rules. As a recreational league, our goal is to provide an opportunity for fun and exercise in an atmosphere of friendly competition within our corporate campuses.*

*Note: Rules not covered here will be standard ASA.*

### GAME RULES

#### Batting / Batting Order

1. When coming to bat, player has automatic count of 1-1.
2. **Only 1 extra foul ball** allowed per batter after second strike.
3. There must be **3 outfielders on the outfield grass when a woman is batting.**
4. You may bat as many players as are on the roster, but only 10 may play the field at any time.
5. **If a team does not have the 2<sup>nd</sup> woman, there will be an out in the batting order where she would have been.**

#### Equipment

If **base box** is not open by 5:15 p.m., please call **847-417-3744 for after-hours assistance.**

1. **Balls** – Each team is to bring 16" softballs and team captains will decide which ball to use.
2. **Bats** – Each team provides their own bats. Bats need to be approved ASA softball bats only. Umpire will make final determination if need be to determine correct bats.
3. **Gloves** – Women players may use gloves.
4. **Bases** – The base box behind the backstop **will be opened by Van Vlissingen personnel prior to game time. The home team of the late game is responsible for placing the bases back in the box and locking it (no key needed).** If this is not done and the bases are missing or stolen, the home team is responsible for reimbursing the CLSA office for the replacement cost of the bases.

#### Forfeits

1. If a team has **less than 8 players**, it must forfeit the game.
2. **If a team cannot have at least 2 women on the field at all times, it does not have to forfeit (refer to Section 3 under Players).**
3. Any team that knows in advance that it will have to forfeit must **notify the opposing team captain and the Sports Coordinator at the earliest possible time, preferably by 3:30 p.m.** to prevent umpire charges for that game.
4. The **top 8 teams who have not forfeited more than 2 games** will be eligible for tournament play.

#### Grace Period

There is a **10-minute grace period before the first scheduled game** to allow for team members who are running late. Should the team not be ready to play within 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, it must **forfeit**.

#### **There is no grace period for the 6:30 game.**

No new inning can start after one hour; games are one hour. **If a player is running late for the 6:30 game, however, the game may commence without them. If the late player is from the home team, the home team becomes the visitor. If the late person has not arrived by the time their spot is up in the batting order, their team must forfeit.**

#### Pitching

1. **2 fake pitches** are allowed per batter.
2. **A drag step** is allowed.
3. Pitches must have between **6' and 12' arcs.**

#### Players

1. Even if a company has multiple teams, **each employee may play for only 1 team in each sport.**
2. Each player must have signed and submitted the Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement/Roster to the CLSA office prior to play.
3. **A full team consists of 2 women and 8 men, but if a team only has 1 woman show, they do not have to forfeit, but there will be an out in the batting order where the second girl would have been. Team 2 is not penalized because Team 1 is unable to field a full team. Teams are never allowed to have 9 men on the field.**

#### Runners

**No lead-offs!** Runners may not leave the base until ball passes the plate or the runner will be called out at the umpire's discretion. **NO STEALING BASES!**

#### Slaughter Rule

A **12 run lead** after 5<sup>th</sup> inning or a 10 run lead after 6<sup>th</sup> inning will give the leading team the win.

#### Substitutes

**Courtesy runners** (boy/boy, girl/girl) are allowed at any time during the game, **provided notice is given to the umpire.**

#### Tie Games

If **after 5 innings** the game is tied and called by the umpire because of darkness or bad weather, the game reverts back to the last fully completed inning of play. If still a tie, the game is declared a tie and will be recorded as a tie (excluding playoffs).

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If the umpire calls the game **before 5 innings** are completed, the game will not be rescheduled. The game will not be included within either team's record.

**During playoffs**, the tie game reverts to the last full inning of play. If still a tie, the game is continued on the next available date scheduled through the Sports Coordinator.

## HOUSE RULES

### Alcoholic Beverages

No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances (drugs) are permitted on the premises. The penalty for you and/or your guests having these substances is an **automatic forfeit** of the game.

### Awards

Awards will be given at the discretion of Center Leagues Sports Association.

### Clean-up of Area

All players and their guests are asked to keep the sports area clean and discard all trash in appropriate containers before leaving the area.

### Days/Time

Games are randomly scheduled on either Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, with each team usually playing no more than once a week. Early game begins at **5:30 p.m.** and the late game begins at **6:30 p.m.**

### Eligibility

All employees of the Lincolnshire Corporate Center, The Corporate Grove and The Corporate Woods are eligible to play in the leagues. **No non-employees are permitted.** Due to liability insurance restrictions, this rule will be strictly enforced. If an ineligible player is found, that team will forfeit the game or be disqualified for the season.

### Fees

**Entrance fees are due upon registration (checks only, no cash)** and should be made payable to Center Leagues Sports Association. Fees are **non-refundable.** Prior to the start of the season, the Association must apply the entrance fees to the expenses of implementing the league. Withdrawal from the league does not lessen those expenses. The Association receives no refunds from vendors and makes no profit from the leagues.

### Hold Harmless/Indemnification Agreement

Every participant in the league must **sign** a "Hold Harmless/Indemnification Agreement" **before entering a game.** Roster forms are available on our website at centerleagues.com.. Please print the form, have your team members sign and send the original to our office. **Keep a copy** for your records. If a player is found who has not signed the HHIA, the game must be forfeited.

### Home Team

Home team is the **first** team number listed for the game. Example: **5 vs. 7, 5** is the home team. Home team occupies the 3<sup>rd</sup> base bench.

### Parking

The designated parking area for sports activities is the **300 Knightsbridge Parkway** lot just east of the field. **No parking** is permitted in the **Vance Publishing** parking lot as it is private property. If you park there, your team is subject to forfeiting the game. The property (**backyard**) of **Honeywell** is private property and is off limits for practice sessions.

### Practice Times

Practices may be scheduled one week in advance with the Sports Coordinator and **must not conflict with regular league activities.** Regular league play dates/times/rain dates have priority over practices.

### Rain Dates

**A week (or two) will be scheduled during the season** to make up rained out games. If there is a rainout, please call the sports director to reschedule your game.

### Sports Line – Message Center

Captains call the **sports line at 634-3798** to record wins the morning following the game. (Example: **Team Q beat Team Z on Wednesday, Sept. 5).**

This is also the Sports Information number updated once per day after **4:00 p.m.** with rainouts and forfeits. If weather conditions become threatening **after 5:00 p.m., the assigned umpire will be the sole judge as to whether the softball diamond is playable or game called due to inclement weather.** That means the umpire and both teams must meet at the field and be ready to play, but the umpire may then call the game due to rain, field conditions, or darkness.

### Scheduling

Each team will play 10 games per season (once per week, schedule permitting), with teams distributed as equally as possible across start times of 5:30 and 6:30, Monday thru Thursday. The scheduling will be done with the best interest of the entire league as priority and at the Sports Coordinator's discretion.

### Standings

Standings are available on our website, [www.centerleagues.com](http://www.centerleagues.com).

### Tournaments

The **top 8 teams with no more than 2 forfeited games** during the season will be eligible for tournament play. CLSA reserves the right to schedule team placement in tournaments at their discretion.