



EBC 2008 Summer Softball - Rules and Policies

Welcome to the Edgemont Bible Church Summer Softball league. This league is a form of Sports Ministry for the members of Edgemont Bible Church, their families, and even the community. The goal is two fold, family sports fellowship, and teaching leadership, sportsmanship, and the game of softball. Throughout the season, a time of devotion will be held in between the 3rd and 4th innings during which an individual or individuals from each playing team will present what the Lord has laid on their hearts to share with the league. Whether a personal testimony, a bible devotional, or a time of song and praise. This year it is our blessed pleasure to welcome players and teams from Community Bible Church from Swansea to the league, may the Lord bring great blessings and lasting fellowship to this addition.

Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

➤ **General Rules**

- 1) Players must turn 13 during the calendar year the season is played.
- 2) If possible, 10 players are to be fielded per game. 4 outfield players as compared to the normal 9. Batting lineup will consist of all players on a team's roster who have shown up to play.
- 3) If possible, a team must field a minimum of 3 female players on the field at all times.

- 4) An official game is 6 innings or 2 hours (an inning is when both teams have had their turn to bat). A 5-15 minute devotional will be given between the 3rd and 4th innings.
- 5) All players must be allowed to play at least two innings during the team's non-at-bat portion of a game. Captains will create a batting line-up that follows through the entire team roster, whether a player has played in the field or not they will be included in the batting line-up.

➤ **Pitching/Balls/Strikes**

- 1) The league will follow the standard 4 balls and 3 strikes to determine walks/outs.
 - a. If player has 2 strikes already, they are allowed only 2 fouls before being called out on strikes. So 4 fouls over all.
- 2) This year we are working with a mat that will be cut to fit behind home plate. This will represent the "official" strike zone, and ANY ball hitting any portion of the mat will be called a strike so long as the arch path of the pitch is a minimum of 6' and a maximum of 12' in height. This will accommodate batters of all heights.

➤ **Batting**

- 1) Teams must follow the same batting order that was submitted to the officials throughout the whole game.
- 2) Batters may switch sides of the plate during an at bat at any point up until 2 strikes are obtained.
- 3) The batter is out if and when:
 - a. Three strikes have been called
 - b. A fly ball is caught
 - c. The batter does not stand in the batter's box
 - d. The batter/runner is thrown out when advancing to a base
- 4) EBC has changed the orientation of the playing field this year and as such, the storage trailers are now the center field wall, as such, any ball striking the trailers **WHILE IN THE AIR** will constitute an automatic home run effectively creating EBC's very own "Big Mac Land" No a free Big Mac is not included. ☺

5) Due to the new orientation of the field, any foul ball striking a car is considered an automatic out - so watch out!

➤ **Base Running**

- 1) Runners must touch each base in order.
- 2) Runners may overrun 1st base only, all other bases the runner may be tagged and called out if they are off the base.
- 3) Sliding is allowed, however pop-up slides, and hook slides will be an automatic out for the base-runner.
- 4) Runners cannot lead off a base; they must be on base until the ball has made contact with the bat.
- 5) After a fly ball has been **caught** the base runner must tag the occupied base before advancing to the next base.
- 6) One base runner can not pass another base runner that is ahead of them.
- 7) Stealing a base is not permitted.
- 8) A runner is out if:
 - a. They are tagged with the ball before reaching a base.
 - b. The ball gets to and is caught by the 1st baseman before the runner reaches the base.
 - c. They run more than 3 feet out of the base line to avoid being tagged.

➤ **Additional Rules/Information**

The EBC Summer Softball League is a non-competitive league, though friendly competition is encouraged to better a player's skill. Good sportsmanship, Christ-like heart and attitude are far more important than how well or poor a player plays the game. We understand that sports are competitive, and that there's nothing wrong with the competitive nature to strive to do better, but we also understand that occasionally the fleshly nature over takes us. As such the League Board (Captains) have instituted a "disciplinary" process to help the league deal with those times when the flesh becomes overpowering. Issues where a fleshly attitude must be

addressed are at the discretion of the captains, parents, or umpires, and the League Board, will only step in on the Fourth Offense

- ❖ **First Offense** - Sit out an inning.
- ❖ **Second Offense** - Sit out the game.
- ❖ **Third Offense** - Sit out two games and offender(s) will be counseled by their respective captain and parents.
- ❖ **Fourth Offense** - The player/players/parents will be brought before the League Board - probable removal from the league.

The League Board prays that they will never have to institute the above; however it was necessary to have in place a way to deal with the possibility of dealing with such situations.

The League will have a number of Fellowship Socials during the season, we encourage players to attend, and invite their friends and families. The Socials will be a combination of BBQ, Home Run Derbies, free-play softball, and activities for all of our family members to enjoy a day of fellowshiping in the name of our Lord and Savior, and some fun in the sun.

Thank you,

In His name we serve!

EBC Summer Softball Board