

# ***Bennett's Creek Women's Softball League By-Laws***

1. The name of the League shall be called Bennett's Creek Women's Softball League (BCWSL), for women age eighteen by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, or 17 and a graduating Senior from High School and older.
2. EXECUTIVE BOARD AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
  - a. The BCWSL Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Player Agent, Player Representative, Concession Manager, Ways and Means, and Coach Representative. If voted off for failure to fulfill board responsibility, they are not eligible for a board position again
  - b. Upon start of season, each team will select a Team Representative and an alternate, and with the Executive Board, will comprise the Board of Directors.
  - c. Allow/expect one board member from the previous year to be a consultant to the new board as a non-voting member and not hold an official title. This includes being present during the player draft
3. EXECUTIVE BOARD RESPONSIBILITY: The Executive Board shall be responsible for overseeing the operation of the league consisting of:
  - a. Having Executive Board meetings that begin in January and meet monthly until the season begins and then meet at the Executive Board's discretion with the Board of Directors during the season.
  - b. Conducting registration.
  - c. Conducting the draft.
  - d. Approving all coaches.

- e. Setting sponsor fees.
- f. Purchasing necessary equipment and uniforms.
- g. Scheduling games (Making of schedule and rescheduling rainouts, postponements.)
- h. Providing umpires.
- i. Organizing fund raising activities.
- j. Oversee concession operation and purchasing concessions.
- k. Organizing and conducting the end of season tournament.
- l. Determining the play-ability of the fields in regards to foul weather and energizing of field lights during game time due to poor visibility.
- m. Provide a treasurer's report.
- n. Having an independent audit performed at the end of each playing season.
- o. Newsletter.
- p. Obtaining a sponsor at a value set by the Executive Board.

**4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITY:** The Board of Directors will be responsible for:

- a. Ruling on protested games.
- b. Determining the policy on any rule not covered herein
- c. Taking action on complaints brought to the board by the player representative.

## **5. TEAMS:**

- a. Each team shall consist of a minimum number of players to be determined by the Board at the time of the draft based on player registration numbers with a maximum of 15 players.
- b. In an event that a team falls below the playable number of 10 players they become first to get a player from the pool. Once they reach the playable number of 10 players then they return to the requested pool rotation.
- c. Each team shall disband at the end of the season and new teams will be drafted at the beginning of each new season.
- d. No new teams can be formed without Board of Directors approval.

## **6. PLAYERS:**

- a. A player who has completed a registration form and paid the required registration fee prior to the set deadline date, will be placed on a team at the time of the draft. All players not drafted in the preseason draft will be placed in a player's pool and placed on teams as requested. The Player Agent is responsible for the player's pool and the placement of players on the teams in a timely manner.
- b. Any player who has not filled out a registration form and paid the required registration fee will not be drafted unless deemed necessary by the board for completion of team drafting.
- c. Registration money is not refundable to a player who voluntarily or involuntarily leaves a team after league provided shirts have been ordered.
- d. No new players will be added to any team's roster during the last two weeks of the season.
- e. The only player (s) guaranteed a given team will be an approved Head Coach's family member or girlfriend. One (1) family member unless it is a mother/daughter/granddaughter combo.

- f. Any player that drops or is voted off a team may not come back on to any team until the following season.
- g. All players are responsible for participating in fundraiser activities and concession stand duties. The Executive Board is excluded from Concession responsibilities. Any monies owed to the league ie; fundraisers, opt outs, must be paid in full by the due date. If not paid the player will not be allowed to play until the situation is rectified. The affected player and coach will be notified in writing.

## 7. UNIFORMS:

- a. A player must be in the issued uniform while participating in a game unless said uniform is unavailable and is agreeable by both coaches.
- b. All league provided team uniforms consisting of shirts shall be similar in team color.
- c. Wearing of hats is optional.

## 8. RULES OF CONDUCT:

- a. Board of Directors action will be taken on Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches or Players causing dissension. Complaints are made to the Team Representative and then brought to the Player Representative of the league for the Board of Directors review.
- b. All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Players shall conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner at all times.
- c. The Mandatory Play Rule is as follows:
  - 1. Coaches must ensure a minimum of 3 full innings (3 offensive and 3 defensive innings) to any player or the offending team forfeits. A team will not be penalized if the home team is winning after 5 ½ innings and time expires, or the 12 run rule is in effect.

2. Illness, injury, or disciplinary action constitutes proper basis for exclusions under this rule. Coach must identify to the opposing Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach and Umpire the player involved and the reason for exclusion of the mandatory play rule before the game begins.
  3. Once a team is losing by 12 or more runs at four and one half innings, they may elect to follow the ASA 12 run rule or continue the game.
- d. A team shall not field less than eight players at the start of any game.
1. If due to injury, a team falls below the eight-player minimum, the team may elect to continue play, however a 12 run rule will be in effect for the team with the least amount of players.
  2. There will be no penalty when using less than 10 players.
- e. 12 batters will be allowed to bat.
- f. If a player comes to a game after the first full inning of play, the Coach is not bound by mandatory play rule to play her. The coach may decide to play the player any or no amount as determined. If a coach plans to play this person less than the mandatory play requires, the opposing coaches and the umpire must be informed as soon as possible.
- g. No player may be intentionally walked.
- h. All tie games will go into extra innings, if time and field conditions permit. If not, the game will resume from point where it is tied, at the next available date. The game is not to be replayed from the beginning.
- i. Every player must attend called practices or she can be dismissed by a vote of the team.
- j. The pitching distance is 46 feet from home plate, and base paths are 60 feet. Pitching arch 6-12 ft.

k. Re-entry:

1. A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once in her original batting position provided that player's substitute has completed three full innings of play, unless injured, or the offending team forfeits.
2. In the event of an injury or illness, any player on the team may enter the game in their place. Players that have not completed three full innings must be placed in the lineup before other players are considered.
3. Courtesy Runner - Re-entry rule 8(k)(2) applies first. A courtesy runner will be allowed 6 times a game, whether used for injury or courtesy. If there is no available player on the bench the last official out may run for the player. The player must be the one to ask for the runner. A coach cannot put a runner in if the player wants to run. In the event of an injury, no out will be given to the team for having fewer players in the batting order than what they started with in this situation.

l. Protests:

1. In case of violation of 8(k)(1) through 8(k)(3), said violation is grounds for protest.
2. At time of rules infraction, the chief umpire must be informed of the protest by the head coach and the home team scorebook will be signed and clearly marked at the point of the infraction by the chief umpire prior to the game progressing. If the chief umpire refuses to sign the scorebook, both coaches sign the scorebook. If a coach refuses to sign the scorebook, he automatically loses the protest. It is the protesting team's responsibility to see that the chief umpire or both coaches sign the home team scorebook regardless of whether they are the home team. The home team

scorebook will be made available to the protest board upon request.

3. All protests must be in writing and delivered to only Executive Board Members not involved with the protested game within 24 hours of the occurrence.
4. Any discrepancy not settled in five minutes will be treated as a protested game and will be handled per section 8(l).
5. Teams involved in protest shall not be represented on the Board of Directors for the protested hearing.

m. Penalties:

1. Violation of rules and intent of League by Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches or Players, will result in disciplinary action taken by the Board of Directors:

- a. First offense - verbal reprimand unless player is ejected from a game. If ejected, 8 (m)(1)(b) is automatic penalty.
  - b. Second offense - written reprimand with a 1 game suspension
  - c. Third Offense - Expulsion from League for the remainder of the season (including tournament) and all player fees forfeited.
- n. This league will be played with three balls and two strike rules. Batters will receive a walk on the third called ball and batters will be called out by the umpire on the second called strike.
- o. Playing rules will be based on ASA Slow Pitch Women's Rule with the exception of those covered herein.

- p. Tournament games shall have 2 umpires for every game. All tournament games shall have an hour and a half time limit except for the championship games.
- q. If the season records of 1st and 2nd place teams are tied, they will have a play-off game to determine who the first place winner is. The playoff game will be played prior to the first tournament game at the discretion of the Executive Board. All other ties will go "head-to-head", then by run differential (which team recorded the largest number of runs against the other), if the teams only play each other twice REVERT TO ASA RULES.
- r. All bats must be ASA approved.
- s. Alcohol is prohibited on the school property, which includes the softball complex and the parking lot. Any player caught with alcohol will be expelled from the league for the remainder of the season including tournament and all player fees forfeited. If you are caught with alcohol, you can be arrested.
- t. NO animals are allowed at complex.
- u. NO smoking is allowed at complex.

9. COACHES:

- a. Head coaches and Assistant coaches from the previous season will have the first option at coaching a team. Coaches should submit a letter to the board to request a coaching position. The Executive Board will approve all coaches.
- b. Any coaches causing dissension that could adversely affect the League can be brought before the Board of Directors, by the coach's team and resolved by the team, coaches and the Board of Directors.
- c. Each team should only be allowed one Assistant Coach.



- d. Coaches shall have a representative on the Board of Directors and will have a vote. The coaches for that season will vote on their representative
- e. Coaches are responsible for their own practice schedule and practice locations.
- f. Ranking of players
- g. Coaches are responsible for returning all-league provided equipment (balls) at the end of the team's tournament play.

10. DRAFT:

- a. The pre-season draft will be conducted by the Executive Board as follows:
  - 1. All registration forms are placed in the ability groups (i.e. pitchers, "A" players, "B" players, "C" players, "D" players, "New" players, etc.) as determined by the Executive Board. Players in the pitchers group will also be ranked according to the ability groups.
  - 2. Each group's registration forms are placed face down and shuffled starting with pitchers, then group "A", group "B", group "C", group "D", and "New" players.
  - 3. Team drafting order is determined by lot.
  - 4. Any Head coach is allowed one family member or girlfriend to be removed from her ability group and placed on their team, unless she specifically requests not to play with him. Any Head Coach receiving a family member or girlfriend, as a player will relinquish their first draft pick in the family member or girlfriend's ability group.

5. Each coach selects a player from the pitcher's group until the group is emptied. Each coach will relinquish their first draft pick in the selected pitcher's ability group.
6. Each coach continues to draft in the same order through group A, group "B", group "C", group "D", "New" players, etc., until all groups are emptied.
7. All teams must have a coach and/or Assistant Coach present at the draft. All coaches are allowed a total of 2 trades, initiated or non-initiated, during the draft. All player trades must be approved by the Executive Board for documentation purposes.
8. If a head coach has already chosen an assistant coach, the family member or girlfriend of each coach will have the choice of being put on their team and the coach agrees to give up his first pick for whichever category they are classed.
9. The only instances a coach may be allowed more than two trades will be for Mother/Daughter, legally wed spouses and sisters. These requests must be mutually asked for by both Mother and the Daughter, spouses or sisters. Example of honoring Mother and Daughter requests during draft: When the highest rated of the two is drawn by blind draft the lowest ranked of the two is automatically placed on that team so the team loses a draft pick of that ranking but a forced trade is not lost to that team. Only in this case will this be a double draft pick and will only force the team to skip their first pick from the lower of the two categories. This will allow all teams the opportunity to use their two trades for other requests.

#### 11. STARTING TIME AND POSTPONEMENTS:

- a. All games will be set by the Executive Board according to field/lighting conditions prior to the season. At a minimum, there will be a ten-minute break between early and late games.
- b. A minimum of eight as required by section 8d to start a game and you are allowed a 10 minute grace period.

- c. Only weather or poor field conditions can cause a game to be postponed. If 1st inning is not completed, game will be restarted. The game must be played to completion with the same number of players, and same players if possible. If the same players are not available, another player may be put in. Once the inning is completed, the coach may sub as desired only using the original number of players. If a team cannot field the required number of players, they will forfeit. Rained out games during the week will be made up on that week's available night, or the game will be forfeited. Any available, playable field shall be used as necessary for rainouts.
- d. Games will have a one hour and 15 minute time limit, if tied revert to (8h.) Any inning in play must be completed. Extra innings will be played until game is won. No ties.

## 12. CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

- a. The intent of the League is to provide women of the community a recreational outlet to promote community friendship, sportsmanship, and fun for all, and changes to the By-Laws should be submitted with this spirit of intent anytime by league members.
- b. Recommendations for changes to the By-Laws will be accepted at any time by an Executive Board or Board of Directors member provided they are submitted in writing and signed by a league member, coach, Executive Board or Board of Directors member.
- c. By-Law changes will be approved by majority vote at the Pre-Season meeting.
- d. All majority vote approved By-Law changes must be enacted for (1) full summer season prior to being eligible for future revisions.

## 13. RECOGNITION AWARDS:

- a. Amanda Moegenberg Sportsmanship Award: This award will be given to any player nominated for displaying sportsmanship throughout the season who receives the majority of votes cast by league players at the end of season meeting.
- b. Major Carbaugh Coach Award: Coach award will be given to one coach in recognition of service.

\* Updated by League Vote 6/2/2026