



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

Colossians 3:15

Fall 2018

Parents...

RCYS **requires** all players, adults and youth, to have any past due balances paid before being eligible to participate in any current program.

This is on a per family basis. So if any one member of a family has past due balances, the past due amounts must be paid before anyone in the family will be eligible for any RCYS program.

Anyone who has unpaid fees should make arrangements with our office. Contact staff@rcys.net if you have any questions.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

Where do we practice?

Your coach will call you with all details, but ALL practices will be held at Bethel Christian Park. Our RCYS League rules dictate that your team can only practice one hour per week so your team will only practice one night per week. League rules do not permit teams to practice anywhere other than Bethel Park.

When will we get a game schedule?

Your coach will notify you of practice & game schedules. A full game schedule will be available on our website at www.rcys.net as soon as it is ready. If it isn't there, it simply isn't ready. We post it on the website as soon as it is finalized.

Where do we park?

There are **THREE** designated parking areas which are located as follows:

- 1) Gravel parking lot closest to the park is for Handicap and Elderly parking only!
- 2) Cemetery/grass, parking across the road (upper & lower grass lots)
- 3) Church/paved, parking lot across the road.

We **DO NOT** offer parking within the park gate itself. Only ALL DAY APPROVED VOLUNTEERS are allowed within the gate.

Handicap parking is outside the gate, at the designated area. Please do not park on the road itself or within the park. Special arrangements can be made to unload at the pavilion if you have made arrangements to rent or use the pavilion. Vehicles may not park on the road, side of the road, or in front of the park gates.

Can I Bring Food or Drinks into the Park?

We ask that you do not bring food into the park. The program depends on concessions funds in order to maintain our current low league fees. We ask that you patronize our concessions as much as possible. A little each week goes a long way. We do however, encourage teams to bring snacks and drinks to each game. We ask that you be sure to take any refuse back out with you. Of course we don't allow any alcohol or tobacco of any type, at any time. Keep in mind, we offer concessions during practices and games and have a reputation for having excellent prices. We grill hamburgers and hotdogs as well as offer corndogs, chips, drinks, sports drinks, candy bars, etc...

What are some other park rules that I need to know about?

Noise makers, of any kind, are **NOT** allowed in the park (this includes air horns, speakerphones, megaphones, powered equipment, etc...)

Visitors to Bethel park may not carry firearms, knives or weapons of any type. Shirts and shoes are to be worn at all times. All clothing must be appropriate for a church environment.

Children should be instructed not to swing bats around other people. Bats may not be swung in Bethel Park except on the ball field during practices or games.

Please be careful on our walking trails and in and around the woods as there are many hiding places for snakes and other wildlife. Never handle any wildlife of any kind. We want to be kind to nature. The park may only be used only with prior permission from the church office.

What about Restrooms? Where is the First Aid?

We have clean restrooms in our concessions buildings. Our restrooms are cleaned every week prior to games and are stocked with soap, paper towels, etc... A **First Aid** station is located at the concession building.

PARK RULES

- **Tobacco Free Zone**—Bethel Park is a tobacco free zone. We will be very quick to ask you to leave the park. The park is a safe environment for youth and we take that very seriously. This includes the roadsides, woods, etc... NO means NO. This also means no smoking in vehicles. Vehicles on Bethel Property are subject to same rules. Bethel Park is private property and subject to rules.
- **No Alcohol or Illegal Drugs** - Once again, we take the safety of our youth seriously and will contact the proper authorities without hesitation. If our park staff or security suspects you have been drinking or are under the influence, you will be asked to leave the park.
- **No Motorized Vehicles** - All Motorcycles, ATVs, Scooters, etc... are explicitly prohibited inside the park (except for those with approved parking permit). Email staff@rcys.net to request a permit to park your motorcycle in the park. Park staff does use ATVs, Golf Carts, etc... which are for park use only. Handicapped persons may of course use a motorized scooter to enter the park.
- **No bicycles, skateboards, scooters**, wheelies, etc. may be used in the park during softball season. This includes games and practices.
- **Security, Umpires, & RCYS** staff does have the authority to eject a player, coach, parent and or spectator from the park (*Bethel Park is a PRIVATE park*). Anyone asked to leave should do so peacefully and we will gladly welcome you back the following week with open arms.
- **Pets** - Pets are **NOT** allowed in Bethel Park during practices or games. This INCLUDES small, toy sized, pets. Exception: Certified SERVICE ANIMALS are permitted in the park at all times.
- **Walking Trails** - The walking trails are off-limits to RCYS players during our softball season. There are many reasons but the one that should suffice for everyone is simply to protect the youth. There are snakes, a pond and other dangers in the woods. Instruct your children about the presence of snakes and other wild life in the woods and instruct them to not enter the woods.
- **Trash** - We ask all park visitors to be sure and place their trash in the trash receptacles located throughout the park.

- **Park Use** - Bethel Park is a private park and is not open to the public except by permission only. You may contact our church office at 770.483.2371 if you would like to inquire about renting the park facility.
- **Park Closed After Dark** - Bethel Park is closed to the general public after 7pm. Only those participants who have scheduled practices (or games), along with their parents, coaches, and immediate family, may remain in the park after 7pm on Monday – Thursdays. Children under age 18 may not be in the park without a parent or guardian after 7pm.
- **No Loitering in Parking Areas** - No one is permitted to just hang out in the parking areas. Security will be prompt to ask those hanging around the parking areas to leave the parking area.
- **No Climbing on Trees or Fences** – Please keep children from climbing on anything in the park (trees, landscape walls, gates, fences, buildings, etc...)
- **The Pavilion (on the hill) is Off Limits** – While it is our hope to restore access to the pavilion in the near future, it is off limits to all visitors until further notice. This includes storage buildings as well.

KEY DATES

July 10 th -August 14	Registration for Softball
August 4 th	Evaluations 11:00am-2:00pm (check website for times)
August 5 th	Mandatory \$15 late fee begins
August 10 th	Coaches Meeting – 6:00pm
August 13 th	First week of practices
TBA	Work Day in the Park @ 10:00am
August 25 th	Opening Day – All Teams Play
TBA	Team Pictures (Check schedule)
Week ending Oct 20 th	Tournament Week

RCYS Youth League Rules

SECTION 1 – CONDUCT

SAFETY DISCLAIMER – The game of softball has its inherent dangers. RCYS does not require any specific safety gear other than helmets, pitchers masks for those playing the pitchers position, and a softball glove. Players are encouraged to wear safety gear that is accordance with the game of softball.

(1.1) Dress Code – STRICT ADHERANCE REQUIRED

Players **must wear** the league provided jersey for the CURRENT SEASON. Our sponsors are gracious in helping support our program and they expect that their name will be displayed on their team’s jerseys at every game. RCYS jerseys **MUST NOT** be modified, cut or changed in anyway. Any Jersey that is cut, modified, etc... must be replaced at the expense (full cost) of the player (approx. \$35-\$40). The player may not be permitted to play until a new jersey is acquired. No refunds will be distributed for players who can’t play due to rule or policy violations.

DRESS CODE APPLIES TO ALL GUESTS & PARTICIPANTS: Shorts/Pants, etc... must be modest and loose – not tight. Shorts/Pants must not be tight and must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee cap which means the outer most layer of clothing must come to **within three (3) inches** of the knee cap (or be longer) regardless of slider shorts being worn underneath. In addition, there must not be any writing or text on the back of the player’s shorts or pants.

EVERYONE: For the player’s safety, no hard jewelry will be allowed. Players may wear soft, jewelry at the umpire’s discretion. A team jersey will be provided by RCYS and should be worn for each game. A player may not be allowed to participate in the game if they are deemed to be in violation of the dress code. (Umpire’s Discretion)

IMPORTANT: Neither RCYS nor its umpires will extend any latitude with respect to dress code. Players will not be given any warnings. If a player arrives at a game and is in violation of the dress code, he/she may not be allowed to play until his/her attire meets the RCYS dress code (at Umpire’s Discretion based on history).

Coaches: Same as above plus a shirt with sleeves (no tank tops). Head coach must see that all assistant coaches meet these standards. The head coach must wear his team jersey to all games.

A Jersey will be provided for ONE HEAD COACH per team. Additional coach’s jerseys may be purchased separately. Hats for coaches are also sold separately at concessions.

(1.2) RCYS Hats Only!

Hats: **Only Official RCYS** hats are to be worn on the field during ball games. This applies to coaches and youth. No other hats are allowed on the field during an RCYS game. Umpires will be instructed to not allow any hats on the field if they are not RCYS provided hats. Hats may be purchased from concessions for \$15.

(1.3) Conduct

- Umpiring is difficult. Umpires will make mistakes. We **DO** expect everyone to honor the authority of the umpire and understand it is our policy that the umpire is ALWAYS right, even when they might have seemingly missed a call. It is necessary for every coach, parent and player to respect the umpires so we can maintain the integrity of the game and honor Christ with our actions. Anyone who becomes disrespectful to the umpire, a coach, or player will be asked to leave the park. You will be welcomed back the following week.
- In order to set a Godly example for our children in their attitude toward authority, spectators are asked not to yell at, or argue with the umpires or coaches. Part of raising a child correctly is to teach them that we are to respect authority (regardless whether that authority is God the Father, Jesus Christ, local authorities such as Police, etc...) Coaches and players are to submit themselves to the authority of the umpires when they enter our ball fields. Please demonstrate that respect for authority by submitting to the authority of the umpires and the RCYS Committee who ultimately bare responsibility for the entire program.
- Spectators are not allowed in the dugouts. ONLY coaches and one team parent are permitted in the dugouts. Other parents must stay out of the dugout. Any child under 8 years of age, including coaches' children, should not be permitted into the dugouts. Division A would be excluded of course since the players are ages 5 to 7.
- Bat slinging will not be allowed. The batter may be called out at the umpire's discretion for slinging a bat, **with or without warning**. Any slung bat that hits an umpire or catcher is an automatic out—no warnings.
- Bethel Park is a **Tobacco Free Zone**. The use of Alcohol and Tobacco products is strictly prohibited within the park and on all church property. This includes ALL Tobacco products (Dip, Snuff, Chewing Tobacco, Cigarettes, Cigars, etc... ALL TOBACCO products are prohibited.)
- The use of ANY profane language will result in ejection from the game and or the park. This also applies to using the Lord's name in vain (God Almighty, My God, Jesus Christ, etc... are all examples of using the Lord's name in vain when used for any purpose other than specific praise, worship and adoration of God.) This set of rules may be the ONLY warning that will be given.
- Anyone running over another player intentionally in the opinion of the umpire during a close play will be called out and may be ejected from the game. All runners MUST avoid a collision at the bases and home plate. The best way to avoid the collision is to slide in most cases. At first base, the batter-runner should use the orange bag and the first baseman should use the white bag. The runner must avoid a collision.
- Coaches must not touch a runner while the ball is "in play" or live. If touched, the runner may be called out if in the opinion of the umpire they assisted the runner's movement in any way (this means stopping them, pushing them, helping them up, etc...)
- **(READ AND RE-READ)** Please note, our umpires have been instructed to have zero tolerance for violations of league rules including dress code and our code of conduct. Understand that our umpires will be **quick** to eject people (Players, parents, coaches) from the game (and/or park) for conduct violations. RCYS respects each person but for the sake of preserving the peace and upholding our high standard of conduct, our umpires have been instructed to **enforce these rules aggressively**.

SECTION 2 – GAME PLAY

(2.1) About our Rules

RCYS follows **2006 “ASA Softball” rules and guidelines** with the exception of stated differences in this document. A copy of the 2006 “ASA Softball” rules can be downloaded from our website, www.rcys.net. A complete understanding of RCYS rules and guidelines can only be obtained by reading the above mentioned **ASA rules** in conjunction with the RCYS rules and guidelines. **RCYS rules supersede ASA rules when a conflict exists.**

(2.2) Eligible Players

Boys & Girls who are between the age of 3 and 17 on Oct 20th, 2018 are eligible to play in the Rockdale Christian Youth Softball league. (Girls up to age 18 on the date above may also play.) Each season, the age divisions of our league may change in response to the number of players that sign up in each age group. The age of a child on the date listed above is the “playing age” and each child will be placed in the appropriate division based upon their “playing age.”

(2.3) Game Length

Games will be seven innings or **55 minutes** in length. (The time may be shortened due to circumstances as deemed necessary by the umpire or RCYS committee.) The game will be called after five innings if there is a lead of ten runs or more for all divisions. The “Run Rule” or “Mercy Rule” shall be 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after four innings or 10 runs after 5 innings. The Scorekeeper shall not start the GAME CLOCK until the first pitch of the game. Rainout games are not likely to be replayed. In the event of a rainout, the game shall be considered a TIE and no winner will be declared, regardless of the score.

T-League Game Length

All T-League games will have a 30 minute time limit. The game clock will start on time.

Run Rule Summary: 20 runs after 3 innings, **15 runs** after 4 innings, OR **10 runs** after 5 innings.

(2.4) Batting order

Every player present must be in the batting order and bat in his/her turn. A team will bat in an inning until one of the following occurs:

1. Three OUTS are made **OR**
2. The team has batted through the entire batting order**, unless they have less than a **five run advantage**, in which case they will continue to bat until they have made three outs or have gained a five run advantage/lead. However, there is no 5 run-advantage-limit beginning in the 5th inning of each game. In other words, starting in the 5th inning, each team may score as many runs as they can before incurring 3 outs.

Teams will only bat their “present” lineup with respect to the “5 Run Advantage rule”. It doesn’t matter if team A has 14 batters and team B has 10 batters, you only bat the number of batters in your lineup with respect to the “5 Run Advantage” rule.

*** If a player is determined by the umpire to have batted out of order, the player who batted out of order will automatically be called out if that batter has put the ball in play. If the out of order batter is caught during his at bat, the correct batter should step in and assume the pitch count of the out of order batter. An appeal from the head coach must be made to the plate umpire prior to the next batter receiving his first pitch. If an appeal is not made before the next batter receives his first pitch, no penalty will be incurred by that batting team.

For **Division 1 Only** – A 5-Run Advantage Rule is in effect for the entire game. When a team has batted their entire batting order (all batters), if they have a 5 run lead, they stop batting regardless of the number outs they have made.

For **Division 1 Only** – When a team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the coach should refrain from allowing his/her batters to use a TEE.

(2.5) Home Run Rule

(Home Run refers to an “over-the-fence” homerun)

In ALL DIVISIONS, a “one-up” home run rule is in effect. Simply stated, one team may not have more than a “one” home run advantage over their opponent. If “Team A” hits a home run, then they cannot hit another home run until “Team B” hits a home run. Once Team B hits a home run, both teams have now hit one home run. Now, “Team A” or “Team B” may hit a homerun. This is not an alternating rule. It simply means that a team may not at anytime have hit anymore than “one more” homerun than their opponent. So the following hypothetical order of homeruns would certainly be valid: **(Team A, Team B, Team B, Team A, Team A, Team B, Team A, Team B, Team B, Team A.)**

Any home run that exceeds the “**one up**” rule will be deemed a “**SINGLE**” and all on base runners will advance ONE base from their starting positions – ONLY IF FORCED TO MOVE UP.

For instance, if there is runner on 2nd base, but not on first base, a home run “single” would cause the runner at 2nd base – to stay at 2nd base, while the batter runner proceeds to 1st base.

In other words, on base runners only move up one base if they are forced to move by a runner behind them.

Four Base Award: Per **ASA rules**, if a ball is hit into the air (and the ball does not touch the ground) and a fielder touches that ball while it is still in the air causing the ball to go over the fence in fair territory, then that hit ball shall be declared a “four base award” and does not count towards the homerun totals. (The ball must have been fair, never hit the ground inside the fence, touched a player, and exited the homerun fence line). The batter-runner will be awarded all four bases.

(2.6) Pitching

A coach will pitch to his own team in **Division 1 - 5**. Coaches who pitch must not intentionally interfere with the play of a hit ball or his/her batter may be called out. If the pitching coach is standing outside the pitchers circle and is consequently hit by a ball off the bat of his player, the batter/runner shall be called out. If the pitching coach is standing inside the pitchers circle and is hit by the ball, then the ball is dead and deemed a “**No Pitch**” and the batter will continue his/her at bat. If a coach catches a “hit ball” in defending himself while pitching, the pitch will be deemed “No pitch” and the batter will continue his/her “at bat” and hit again.

*** The pitcher (coach or player) MUST pitch from within pitchers box/or circle if one exists. When the coach/pitcher releases the ball, BOTH feet must be within the pitcher's box/circle
EXCEPTION: Division 1 coaches may pitch forward of the circle however the umpire may give limitations at his discretion.

*** The youth player/pitcher has the right to stand where he or she wishes (left or right, front or back) within the pitchers box; however, he/she cannot interfere with the adult pitcher. If the adult pitcher chooses to move forward as he/she pitches the ball, the youth pitcher may position himself at the same forward position as where the adult pitcher is releasing the ball. This will be enforced at the umpires discretion.

Coaches MUST show respect to each other and to each other's teams. While this means MANY things, we specifically want to point out that it means a pitching coach will wait until the defense is ready before pitching the ball to his/her batter. At RCYS, we hold "fair play" as one of our highest values and for a pitching coach to try and "quick pitch" to his batter in order to catch the defense off guard is contrary to our goals and values.

(2.7) Batting

Helmet Rule – Players must keep their helmets securely on their head during game play. If a batter/runner is called out, the batter/runner must keep their helmet on until they are walking into their dugout. Umpires will issue a warning at their discretion; however, if the helmet rule is violated, the umpire may call the runner who is closest to home plate, OUT.

Training League: Each batter will swing until they put the ball in play.

Division 1 Only: Each batter will receive up to five pitches to put the ball in play fairly. If the batter does not hit the ball by the 3rd pitch, the batter may choose to use a tee to aid in hitting the ball for their remaining two swings – with the coach's permission.

Divisions 2, 3, and 4: Each batter will receive up to five pitches to hit the ball. No walks.

Division 5 Only – The batter will receive up to five pitches to put the ball in order; however, "Swinging Strike Outs" are in play. If a batter swings at THREE pitches and misses all three times, the batter shall be called out regardless of how many pitches he/she received. If the batter fouls the 3rd strike, the batter will be allowed one extra swinging strike before being called out. The batter shall still only receive a maximum of 5 pitches regardless whether or not they foul the last pitch.

(2.8) Team Size on the Field

Training League & Division 1 Only - Coaches will place ALL players in the field. The infield may not have extra players, but the coach may play as many outfielders as necessary so that all players are in the field. (this might mean 5, 6, or 7 outfielders.)

Divisions 2,3,4 & 5 will consist of eleven players (five in the outfield). No team will be forced to forfeit a game for not having enough players. All players who are present **MUST** bat in the lineup even if they aren't playing defensively on the field.

(2.9) Player Positions

2.9.1 *** In all divisions the pitcher-player must have both feet within the pitchers box or circle, until the ball is hit; furthermore, the pitcher-player cannot be forward of (in front of) the pitching coach at the point of ball release. In all divisions, when the ball crosses the plate, the players must be in the following positions:

- Infielders must be behind the base path (which is a direct line between bases).
Exception - the pitcher must be even with or behind the pitching-coach.
- **ALL** Outfielders **MUST** start behind the encroachment line (a painted line in the outfield) – the fielder may not cross the line until **AFTER** the ball has been contacted by the bat. To be clear, RCYS no longer allows a “Floating/Short Fielder” **Additionally, all outfielders must remain relatively STILL during the pitch.**

VIOLATION of Above Rule: At the umpire’s discretion, the batter may be awarded first base and each runner will thereby be advanced one base if the above rules are violated.

2.9.2 Roaming outfielders are no longer allowed. Coaches will play up to five outfielders, each of which must start behind the white encroachment line on the field.

Division 1 – All players may be played on the field. The infield can only consists of 6 players, but the coach may play the remaining number of players in the outfield (e.g. 5, 6, or more outfielders).

2.9.3 On defense, once your players have started a defensive position for a particular inning, they may not change defensive positions during that inning. (e.g. The shortstop **may not** suddenly decide to switch with an outfielder just because a “big hitter” is coming to bat.) The only exception to this would be in case of injury. If there is an injury, the coach may make reasonable changes to compensate.

2.9.4 Defensive players may not gather around home plate when a runner is potentially running from 3rd base to home plate. The Catcher and ONE additional **BACKUP** person may be at home plate. The backup person should be behind and away from home plate. If the umpire sees **THREE** or **MORE** defensive players in the immediate area around home plate, the **UMPIRE** will declare **DEAD BALL** and award the runner at or near 3rd base, Home Plate. All other runners will advance **ONE** base. This is to **PREVENT** collisions at home plate. Coaches should **TRAIN** their catcher and backup player on this procedure. The runner must avoid the collision (except for sliding) and allow the umpire to make the right call.

2.9.5 The pitcher may stop a batted ball after the ball is in play, but may not chase the ball beyond the infield base lines. The point of this rule is to prevent the “pitcher”, often a very good player, from taking away the opportunity for other children to field the ball. Coaches should always promote “Team Work” rather than solo efforts.

(2.10) Timeout

In Division 1, the fielding team will automatically receive timeout by returning the ball to the pitcher inside the pitching circle once the pitcher has demonstrated control of the ball. Any player may request a timeout from anywhere on the infield. The umpire will grant a timeout only when he feels it is appropriate.

In ALL other divisions anyone may **request** timeout from the umpire, but such timeout will only be granted when the umpire determines that the play is dead. (The defensive team must demonstrate that they have reasonable control of the runners.)

Coaches will be limited to just **two** “coaches timeouts” per game. Umpires may STOP the clock at their discretion if they feel that a team or coach is attempting to delay a game. Injury timeouts, etc... are umpire timeouts, not coach’s timeouts.

(2.11) Training League *(for 3 & 4 year old children)*

The RCYS committee has started this “pilot program” for 3 & 4year old children. Therefore, RCYS reserves the rights to change rules, policies or procedures, at any point during the season

Except for the rules listed below, all RCYS rules apply to the Training League:

1. When a team has batted all their batters, and the ball has been declared dead or time out is called, the batting team stops batting and takes the field (and the fielding team comes into bat.)
2. There are NO RUN RULES for Training League
3. Game length will be 4 Innings or 40 minutes.
4. Coaches and Volunteers will umpire the game.
5. Every child will hit from a “Hitting Tee”. There are no strike outs, each child will swing until they put the ball in play.
6. Parents are allowed on the field (one per child), but only at the coaches discretion.
7. Pitchers Circle Rules Apply. A player may get the ball in the pitchers circle for time out to be called.

SECTION 3 - MISCELLANEOUS

(3.1) Team Assignments

Only the head coach’s children and those of **ONE** previously designated assistant coach will be guaranteed to be placed on a specific team. There will be **no other special consideration** for placing players.

Colossians 3:15 – *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

(3.2) Equipment

Regulation (11” inch) softballs will be used in all divisions. Either softball or baseball bats may be used in Division 1. In all other divisions only softball bats may be used. For ages 10 and up, only **ASA approved** bats may be used. **ASA approved means they have the ASA stamp on the bat AND the bat does not appear on the ASA Banned Bat List.**

In Division 5 ONLY, boys will hit 12” softballs. Girls will hit 11” softballs.

(3.3) Additional Rules

- Players must remain in the dugout unless they are the “on deck batter”.
- Batters will be called out if they “Sling” their bat. A “slung” bat is one that comes out of the batters hand, uncontrollably, during a swing. This is not the same as a bat that “slips” out of a player’s hand. Umpires do know the difference and will call batters out when they “sling” their bats.
- At the UMPIRES discretion, he/she may require a player to wear a chin strap on their helmet if the player demonstrates a problem with keeping his/her helmet on while running the bases.
- At RCYS, we do not invoke an automatic “infield fly” rule. However, at his/her discretion, the umpire may award bases where appropriate if in his opinion, a defensive player drops a fly ball to gain defensive advantage.
- In Division 1 the pitcher cannot tag the batter going to first nor may he tag the first base bag to get the batter out. He must throw or transfer the ball to another player (any other player) who then tags either the batter or the bag.
- In **ALL OTHER** divisions, the pitcher may tag the runner or step on first to get the runner out.
- In all divisions, catchers must wear a protective helmet, with face mask.
- All runners while on base as well as the batter and the on-deck hitter must wear a batting helmet.
- Every player must play on defense for at least two innings per game. (We really expect 3 innings for every player but understand some games may only allow for two innings.)
- During an infield play, when a defensive player is attempting to get the batter-runner out at first base by throwing or rolling the ball to first, an attempt to throw the ball to first base must be made. If a defensive player intentionally rolls the ball to first base, the runner **MAY** be called safe at the umpire's discretion. (This does not mean that the first baseman or second baseman can't get the ball and step on first.)

(3.4) Ground Rules

When a ball is thrown and enters a dugout, all runners will receive one extra base. If a ball is overthrown and leaves the playing field, (*i.e. over the fence*) all base runners will receive one extra base. When the ball is hit and bounces over the fence, it will be ruled a “double”. When a ball is hit and leaves the playing field (*i.e. Rolls through an opening in the fence or open gate*), it will also be ruled a double. Defensive players should hold both arms in the air when a ball goes under the fence or through a crack in the fence to signal to the umpire the ball is out of play.

If in the judgment of the umpire(s), a defensive player intentionally forces a ball to go under the fence, or around the fence, the umpire may award the batter a “Four Base Award”.

Every effort shall be made to install temporary fences for the appropriate divisions (Division 4). However, if the fence is not able to be installed prior to a game, the following rules shall apply:

The Base Umpire shall, at his discretion, call a hit ball a “ground rule double” when the hit ball rolls well beyond the temporary fence line (painted on the ground). This rule is in effect regardless whether or not a player “touches” the ball. If a hit ball rolls just a few feet beyond the “painted fence line”, the umpire may allow the ball to be played live. If a hit ball rolls more than a few feet beyond the fence line, then the umpire should call a “ground rule double”. Because of the subjectivity of this rule, the umpire’s ruling is always correct and it must not be argued at any time. If the players do not hear “Ground Rule Double”, they should play the ball and not think that a ball that rolls over the line is automatically a double.

Trees Limbs: If a batted ball contacts a tree limb, the umpire shall declare a foul ball (regardless whether it lands in fair or foul territory). The pitch does count as one of the five allotted pitches in Divisions 1 - 5.

SECTION 4 – TOURNAMENT GAMES

(4.1) Tournament Games

The start time of a tournament game can begin as early as 20 minutes before the scheduled start time. It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure their players are ready to start their game 20 minutes prior to the posted game time. Tournament schedules are difficult and we must begin games as soon as we can. If your players aren't present when the game starts, add them to the bottom of the batting order when they arrive.

All Tournament Games will use the **International Tie Breaker Inning**.

If at the end of regulation play (7 Innings or the Clock Expires), the game is tied, then the following tie breaker rules will be in effect.

1. The batter who was the last ‘at-bat’ (last batter) in the previous inning begins the new inning on second base.
2. Two Outs Are In Effect
3. Game Play proceeds as normal.
4. A full inning is played (starting with two outs for each team).
5. If the score is tied at the end of the inning, another international tie-breaker inning can be played.

During the **last day** of tournament, when a game is officially rained out, the tournament is over. The RCYS Committee (those present in the park) will make the decision as to when a tournament game is rained out and thereby end the tournament. If the game is cancelled and thereby the tournament is cancelled, no team shall be declared the winner. It was fun, but the game and tournament are over. It is not possible to reschedule tournament games.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The RCYS Director or Co-Director may choose to modify the tournament to Single Elimination if they foresee the need to do so. A common reason would be weather reports, or other unforeseen issues that might otherwise prevent the tournament from being completed on Saturday.

SECTION 5 - PARENTS

(5.1) Parents

Parents are expected to be an example to all children. We will not tolerate parents yelling at any children in the park, including their own. Parents are to be encouraging to all players - even those on the other team. We will not tolerate any parent displaying negative attitudes toward their own team, own coach or the opposing team or coach.

Colossians 3:15 – *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

Once a team organizes, parents should work together to create a schedule for post-game snacks, drinks, etc...

Parents can really make a significant impact on a player's experience. We encourage all parents to get involved with their respective team and be a part of the experience – not just a spectator.

SECTION 6 - COACHES

(6.1) Coaches

It will be the coach's responsibility to inform the parents and the players of all of the league's rules.

Each coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players and parents. Practice is restricted to one, "one hour" practice per week. **Teams may not enter the field earlier than 10 minutes prior to game time.**

Any "coach" or "assistant coach" that is on the field, who is age 17 or younger, must wear a protective batting helmet whenever he/she is on the field (e.g., base coach, etc...).

All questions can be directed to staff@rcys.net.

Any adult working with the youth for more than **1** game must complete a coach's application. This includes any base coaches, dugout coaches, etc... Anyone working with the children and teaching them the game of softball (for more than 2 games) will be considered an assistant coach. The head coach needs to insist that any adults that would serve as assistant coaches go to our website and complete a coach's application (the same coach's application works for both head coaches and assistant coaches).

The UMPIRES will be directed to randomly (and frequently) ask adults on the field if they have completed the online coach's application/agreement. If the adult on the field has not, the umpire will direct the adult to leave the field. If the adult claims to have completed the application, the umpires will write down the adult's name and give a list of those coaches to RCYS personnel to verify that the application was posted PRIOR to game time. **RCYS TAKES THIS REQUIREMENT QUITE SERIOUSLY.** We must have an agreement with every adult on our fields.

Coaches should take special note of the following:

1. Returning coaches must choose a team color that is different than they have used in the past two seasons.
2. It is the coaches' responsibility to DO WHAT IS RIGHT, regarding all situations. INTEGRITY is of the utmost importance. If you know someone on your team is breaking the rules, using illegal bats, using shaved bats, etc... you are OBLIGATED to correct the problem. Any problems that you discover become your responsibility to correct.
3. PROFANITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Ejection from the game and or park will result.
4. YELLING or ABUSIVE LANGUAGE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Ejection from the game and or park will result. A second offense on the part of a coach will result in removal from the RCYS program for the remainder of the current season.
5. COACHES MUST treat their own children as equals to others on the team. No favoritism. And the coach must **not** be harder on their own child than they would be someone else's child.
6. Using the Lord's name in vain will not be tolerated (e.g. Shouting Jesus, Jesus Christ, God, God Almighty, and any other derivative IS using the Lord's name in vain – that is unless you are sincerely worshipping God and using is name in a reverent way.)
7. ARGUING with umpires will **not** be tolerated. Questions by the HEAD COACH are fine. Arguing IS NOT!
8. All coaches are to keep the bats, helmets and balls picked up in and around the dugout.
9. All coaches are to absolutely refrain from engaging in any argument with other coaches, parents and umpires. All complaints are to be communicated directly to the RCYS Director.
10. All coaches are to carefully guard their speech. All speech is to be uplifting and encouraging. A coach is to never yell at any player, parent, coach or umpire.

Colossians 3:15 – *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

11. All coaches are to maintain good communication with their players and parents.
12. Practices are not to be cancelled without notifying the RCYS Director first, except in the case of rain.
13. Coaches are to communicate with your team weekly. We recommend using Calling Post to notify your teams of practices, games, rainouts, etc...
Visit www.callingpost.com to get signed up. It's cheap and saves hours of phone calls.
14. Coaches should begin each practice with prayer, and end each practice with prayer.
(Same applies to game day.)

Regarding Rain – Rain does not necessarily (and USUALLY DOES NOT) cancel practices or games. All three fields at Bethel Park can withstand a lot of rain without becoming unusable. Always contact staff@rcys.net for more up to date information; or, contact one of the numbers below.

RCYS COMMITTEE

Kim Flanagan	Director	678-449-5090	kimberlyflanagan1@comcast.net
Brad Flanagan	Assistant Director	678-883-6928	bfcure88@comcast.net
Barbie Oberkrom	Treasurer	678-758-3171	barbie4140@bellsouth.net
Kim Flanagan	Concessions Coordinator	678-449-5090	kimberlyflanagan@comcast.net
Meagan Stokes	Registration Coordinator		
Norah Stolarski	Equipment Coordinator		
Ken Stokes	Senior Advisor	770-845-1320	ken@bcchome.org
Brad Flanagan	Umpire Chief	678-883-6928	bfcure88@comcast.net
Aisling Bell	Logistics Coordinator	770-480-3524	

ASA NON-APPROVED BAT LIST

Any bat used in RCYS Youth League must have the ASA Approved logo on the bat. The bats listed below may have the ASA Logo, but are banned from play in RCYS youth league.

The official bat in RCYS Play must meet all of the requirements of ASA rules and must bear either the ASA approved 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 certification mark as shown below, **and** must not be listed on an ASA non approved list, and must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; or must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.

BANNED ASA BATS (Not a complete list)



Combat VIRSP3 Lady Virus
Easton SCX2 Synergy
Easton SCX22 Synergy 2
Louisville Slugger FPC305 Catalyst (-8)
Louisville Slugger SB304
Louisville Slugger SB34 Genesis
Louisville Slugger SB404
Miken MSF Freak
Miken Ultra
Miken Ultra II
Miken Ultra Maxload
Nokona Tomahawk
Schutt Red/Silver Schutt Bat
Worth EST9
Worth QESTFP
Worth SBWK(Wicked)
Worth SBWKA
Worth WWSC Wicked Comp. (SP Only)
Worth WWSCA
Worth XEST9X
Worth XGold
Worth XPST4
Worth XRed
Worth XWICKX Wicked (SP Only)

Colossians 3:15 – *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

RCYS COMMITTEE MEMBERS JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Program Director – Kim Flanagan

- a. Manage the general direction of the ministry in accordance with the expectations of the Elders/Pastors of Bethel Christian Church.
- b. To organize a committee that in turn, operates the RCYS ministry.
- c. To prepare a budget each season that is consistent with the objectives and purposes of the ministry and the objectives of Bethel Christian Church.
- d. To make proposals to the RCYS Committee for filling vacant committee members. Anyone may have a suggestion but the proposal should come first to the director, then to the committee.
- e. Approve scholarships that are awarded.
- f. To carry out any assignments as requested by the Leadership Team of Bethel Christian Church.

Assistant Director – Brad Flanagan

- a. To work with the program director to ensure the smooth operation of the RCYS ministry.
- b. In the absence of the program director, the assistant director will serve as “next in charge” for all RCYS operations. All RCYS operations have their ultimate accountability to the elders of Bethel Christian Church.
- c. Purchase team equipment as needed and or requested by Team Equipment Manager

Logistics Coord. – Aisling Bell

- a. Work in conjunction with the Program Director to handle day to day issues as they arise.
- b. This person will assume various tasks as they arise at the appointment of the program director.
- c. Oversee the process of compiling teams – to be completed within 10 days after evaluations.
- d. To advertise the program in a way that is consistent with the desires of the committee.
- e. To publicize the RCYS ministry whenever and wherever possible.
- f. To place the order for jerseys/t-shirts (Players, Coaches & Parents)
- g. To place the order for Trophies (Players only)
- h. To place the order for Coaches Plaques.
- i. Serve as primary liaison with all coaches & assistant coaches.
- j. To communicate with coaches and criticize when necessary.
- k. To Build the “TEAMS” with the following directives:
 - a. Teams are to be built so teams are equal in skill, gender makeup, etc...
 - b. There must not be any favoritism allowed into the team building process.
 - c. Teams are to be built so that, to the best of our ability, a team doesn't look the same season to season.
 - d. Teams are to be approved by the Program Director & Assistant Director.

Concessions Coordinator – Kim Flanagan

- a. To recruit volunteers to support concessions during practices and games.
- b. Ensure that concessions are open at all practices and game days.
- c. Ensure that concessions are open for the adult co-ed league on Saturday evenings.
- d. Implement procedures to safe guard both people and money.
- e. To make cash deposits to the RCYS treasurer at the end of each week.
- f. To make recommendations to the RCYS Committee regarding guidelines for concessions volunteers including minimum age, # of workers needed, etc...
- g. Set concessions pricing in a manner that is consistent with RCYS goals and objectives.
- h. To maintain a clean and organized concessions area (including serving room, patio, etc...).
- i. To organize tasks such as purchasing inventory, stock level management, etc...
- j. To actively monitor concessions and make necessary adjustments
- k. To protect RCYS cash, checks, etc...
- l. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Park Maintenance Manager – _____

- a. To serve as the point person for all maintenance request of park assets as they relate to the operations of RCYS ministry.
- b. To coordinate the maintenance of the request mentioned in item “a” above.
- c. To make recommendations to the RCYS committee regarding any relevant park improvements.
- d. To quickly resolve any maintenance issues in the park that are deemed hazards or dangerous to our RCYS guests.
- e. To verify proper operation of field lights and scoreboards at least once, prior to the start of spring season and Spring season each year.
- f. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Field Manager – By Volunteer (for now)

- a. Ensure that field conditions are safe for practices and games.
- b. Ensure that all ball fields are dressed (cut, dragged, lined) before games start each game day. Fields are to be redressed prior to co-ed games on Saturday evenings.
- c. Make suggestions to the Program Director regarding the need to close fields or limit field access.
- d. As the Field Management team uses RCYS golf carts and utility vehicles, it is the responsibility of the Field Manager to ensure the proper use and storage of those vehicles. When other departments use the utility vehicles, it becomes their responsibility to store them away properly.
- e. To remedy any hazards that exists in the park during the RCYS seasons.
- f. To recommend improvements to the Program Director and RCYS Committee.
- g. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Registration Manager – Meagan Stokes

- a. Lead the registration process for Softball Registration and Softball Camp Registration.
- b. To acquire all necessary information from registrants as requested by RCYS administrative personnel.
- c. To enter all acquired registration information into the RCYS database no later than 5 days after evaluations.
- d. To ensure an efficient and streamlined registration process that is consistent with a warm & friendly atmosphere that we want park visitors to experience.
- e. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Treasurer – Barbie Oberkrom

- a. To make deposits, balance checkbook, and accurately post financial transactions in Quick Books according to defined account codes.
- b. To pay bills on a timely basis.
- c. Follow up on unpaid registration fees.
- d. To ensure that Quick Books accurately reflects the financial status of RCYS on an ongoing basis.
- e. To provide financial reports at all “announced” RCYS committee meetings, AND to provide year end reports 45 days after the season is complete.
- f. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Community Sponsorship Coordinator – _____

- a. To contact community business and individuals to raise sponsorship funds for RCYS.
- b. To provide RCYS Administrative Personnel with the following information:
 - a. Which sponsors want a Sponsorship Plaque?
 - b. Identify specific teams that sponsors want to provide sponsorship for.
 - c. Send letters requesting payment from sponsors who haven’t provided payment.
- c. Coordinate and organize the spring, season finale picnic.
- d. Send out Thank You letters to our sponsors.
- e. To distribute any sponsorship plaques that may have been requested.
- f. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Park Operations Manager –

- a. To keep an eye on park activity and ensure safe operations during practices and games.
- b. To ensure that trash receptacles are emptied on a timely basis and maintain the cleanliness of the park.
- c. To ensure that procedures are in place to close the park each evening.
- d. Ensure that restrooms are cleaned twice per week and each Saturday morning.
- e. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Volunteer Recruitment – Aisling Bell

- a. To communicate with RCYS committee members and assess the proper volunteer staffing levels that are required to operate the RCYS ministry.
- b. Execute a campaign to recruit volunteers.
- c. Actively promote a volunteer program in and around RCYS events.
- d. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS Committee.

Team & Field Equipment Manager – Norah Stolarski / Aisling Bell

- a. Prepare Equipment for distribution (coach's bags) to coaches before the "Coaches Meeting" each season.
- b. Make necessary repairs to equipment (e.g. Repairing Helmets, Fence Parts, etc...)
- c. Receive back into inventory all RCYS coaches bags, bats, balls, helmets, etc... at end of season.
- d. To ensure that Scoreboards are working and ready to go prior to games. This includes distribution of Scoreboard Controllers.
- e. Keep TIGHT control on Softball Inventory.
- f. Prepare Umpires Bags with Balls before the start of each game day. (Can be done in advance of course.)
- g. Is responsible for the setup, breakdown, and proper storage and upkeep of the portable fence system. (assemble a volunteer team for this)
- h. Keep an accurate inventory of team equipment (Bats, Bags, Helmets, Catchers Helmets, etc... Make recommendations on equipment needs (Bats, helmets, bases, etc...)
- i. Upkeep, cleaning, of Bases (Should get Bleached a couple times per season)
- j. Help Committee Whenever Possible (Evals, Camp, game days, etc...)
- k. To carry out any assignments as requested by the RCYS committee.

(This List of **Job Descriptions** is a work in progress and not intended to be all inclusive.)