

Greater Bay Area Church Softball League (GBACSL)

www.softball4jc.org

Ephesians 6: 11-18

Official 2008 Spring/Summer/Fall/Winter Rules and Regulations

A. SPIRITUAL INFORMATION:

1. MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of the association is to glorify God in our fellowship, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ while playing organized softball. Each player glorifies God with his mouth by speaking holy and uplifting words, with his actions as representatives of God's kingdom on earth, and with his heart by sharing God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who don't know him as their personal Lord and Savior.
2. PRAYER: The Home team shall be responsible to lead in prayer with the combined teams behind the Home team dugout, five minutes prior to the start of each game.
3. DEVOTIONAL: The Visiting team shall be responsible to provide a combined devotional (or personal testimony) and prayer with the combined teams at the conclusion of each game (Exception: When a guest speaker has been provided for all teams to hear). Devotionals are mandatory for every team member. Contact our league Chaplain Pastor Scott Falkowski should you need guidelines for devotionals. He can be reached by e-mail thru the website.
4. INTEGRITY AND WITNESS: It is the responsibility of the team managers to present himself as an example to his team, players in the league, umpires, and staff of Twin Creeks, by playing within the rules of this association and more importantly fostering an environment on and off the field that Jesus himself would be proud. While everyone is competitive and would like to win, a "win at all costs" attitude will not be tolerated, and does not further God's Kingdom.

B. SOFTBALL INFORMATION:

1. LOCATION: All games are to be played at Twin Creeks Sports Complex, 969 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Phone (408) 734-0888. See website for directions (www.twin-creeks.com).
2. START DATE: Monday, April 7, 2008 (Dates for Summer, Fall and Winter League TBD).
3. DIVISIONS OF PLAY: The association has five levels of play, Division One thru Division Six. Division One is the highest level of play offered by this association. The number of teams in each division, as well as the divisions used, shall be determined by the numbers of teams which sign up. The Board and Division Representatives will assign team placement on April 1, 2008. Champions and Runner-Up of playoffs of the previous league will be automatically moved up at least one division. Other teams may be moved up as determined by the Board and Division Representatives on a "case by case" basis.
4. SCHEDULES: Division Schedules will be placed on the league website, or e-mailed, by the Thursday prior to the start of the season (i.e., Spring season will be posted on Thursday, April 3, 2008).

5. GAMES: Each team will play six games for the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. All teams will qualify for a single game elimination playoff. See attached sample playoff bracket for example of the bracket. The higher seeded team will always be home team.
6. GAME TIMES: Games shall be played at 6:40, 7:50 and 9:00 PM on a rotating basis.
7. LEAGUE FEE: \$350 early bird registration thru Friday, March 21, \$380 late registration, made payable to "Twin Creeks Sports Complex." Twin Creeks Sports Complex will accept payment either by credit card or check. All money is due at time of registration. Registration will continue through Monday, March 31, 2008 at Twin Creeks, if your registration has not been received by that date, your team is not eligible to play. See attached registration form.
8. UMPIRE FEE: \$15 fee per team, per game, to be paid to the umpire prior to the start of any scheduled game.
9. GATE FEE: \$2 fee for anyone over the age of twelve. The tokens (\$.50 value) will be able to be used towards purchase of food, drinks, video games and batting cages inside Twin Creeks.
10. GBACSL FEE: A one-time annual fee of \$20 shall be paid to "GBACSL" prior to your second game of year. This fee is collected to pay for team trophies, website, and other special prizes. If this fee is not paid to your Division Representative by the end of the second game of the season, each game that is played without payment shall be considered a forfeit. Payment can be made by mail up until the first week of the season to the following address: Greater Bay Area Church Softball League, P.O. Box 6712, San Jose, CA 95150. NOTE: Association Board Members are volunteers and receive no compensation, other than for reimbursed "out of pocket" expenses.
11. WEATHER CONDITIONS: In the case of questionable weather, call (408) 534-1169. This is the phone number for questionable weather and/or status of a possible rain-out decision by Twin Creeks Sports Complex. The recording will be updated by 3:00 PM the day of the game.

C. WEBSITE:

1. URL: www.softball4jc.org
2. INFORMATION: The website is maintained by the association, and will provide scores, standings and schedules for each Division of the league. The scores and standings will be updated within twenty-four hours after Monday's games.
3. DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS: E-mail digital photos of your team to chairman@softball4jc.org and we will post them on the website. Please include name of team, players and caption (if necessary).

D. RULES:

1. LEAGUE DECLARATION: The GBACSL is an association of Christians attempting to create a wholesome, family atmosphere around the game of softball. We have established certain private rules we believe will help develop our desired goal. These rules include, and are not necessarily limited to, respect for authority, control of language (swearing), abstinence from smoking and alcoholic beverages, and respect for others on the field and in the stands. This also includes prayers prior to each game and planned devotions and prayer after each game. There will be certain consequences that are private in nature for violations of the association rules. These rules are separate from any other entity that may impose obligations upon the participants (Twin Creeks Sports Complex and Amateur Softball Association of America), even

- if such rules happen to run concurrent with our private rules. Enforcement is private in nature, and reflects the general acceptance of all parties who have joined in our association.
2. ASA RULES AND REGULATIONS: All leagues at Twin Creeks Sports Complex are governed by the 2008 Edition of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), their website is www.asasoftball.com. Copies of these rules and regulations shall be provided by Twin Creeks Sports Complex. These rules and regulations shall be the basis for the association, with exception to those listed below.
 3. RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY: Twin Creeks Sports Complex provides umpires and fields for all games. These individuals are agents of the governing bodies and the authority when it comes to the rules of the game. These individuals shall be treated with respect at all times. Objections and protest can be lodged respectfully. "Respectfully" should include a lack of threat, contempt, character assassination, and physical contact both in word and in deed. Divisional Representatives and Board Members are included as agents of authority for the association.
 4. FIGHTING: Not an issue with our league, but we need to review it just in case there is an altercation. Physical altercations will not be tolerated and warrant immediate ejection from the game by the Umpire. Divisional Representatives and Board Members may assess additional punishment on a case by case basis.
 5. CONTROL OF LANGUAGE: Each individual participant is responsible for their language. It should be respectful to authority and to other participants. It should be representative of the wholesome environment desired by this association. Participants should be considerate of children which will be present as spectators at these games. Umpires, Divisional Representatives and Board Members have the authority to determine what language is offensive. Swearing directed at authority, fans, opposing team or fellow participants will not be tolerated and warrant an immediate ejection from the game. Non-direct swearing will warrant one warning, a second offense will not be tolerated and warrant an immediate ejection from the game.
 6. SMOKING AND ALCOHOL: Though drinking alcoholic beverages is legal, we discourage this activity while participating in this association. This includes coming to Twin Creeks already under the influence of alcohol. There will be no alcohol sales on the first floor of the Twin Creeks clubhouse, but alcohol sales will continue on the second floor due to the other non-church teams playing at Twin Creeks. Smoking should be done at least fifty feet from any participant or fan. Divisional Representatives and Board Members will assess punishment on a case by case basis.
 7. FOOD AND DRINK: All food and drink consumed on the premises of Twin Creeks Sports Complex shall be purchased at the complex. Gate tokens may be used to purchase food and drink at Twin Creeks and will have a value of \$1 towards the purchase of these items. No food or drink will be allowed to enter the complex (no coolers allowed). Also, Twin Creeks does not allow sunflower seeds, to clean up the shells would add un-needed cost to our league.
 8. EJECTIONS FROM GAME: Umpires may eject any participant from a game for breaking the association rules. This person will also be suspended from the next game, and cannot return to active status until the situation has been resolved with the Divisional Representative, and when required a meeting with a Board Member. Repeat offenders may be suspended from the association for the remainder of the season. Divisional Representatives and Board Members reserve the right to assess additional punishment on a case by case basis.

9. FORFEITS DUE TO EJECTION: Ejected players may be replaced by a bench player whose name has not already appeared on the lineup card. If a team has less than ten players as a result of an ejection, and cannot replace the open spot in the lineup due to the ejection, then it will result in a forfeit.
10. FORFEITS DUE TO LACK OF PLAYERS AT GAME TIME: Twin Creeks charges \$50 to the team that forfeits a game at the start of a game due to lack of players. This fee is due before your next game to the Twin Creeks office. This cost covers umpires fees and pizza coupon to the team that did show up for the game.
11. GRACE PERIOD: There will be a "grace period" of ten minutes for the 6:40 game only. This courtesy allows each team to have additional time to provide a minimum of eight players. Once the minimum numbers of players have arrived at the field, the game shall begin. Regardless of the time the game begins, the game clock will start at 6:40.
12. COURTESY RUNNER: Each team may request one "courtesy runner" per inning for any base runner. The "courtesy runner" shall be the last batter to make an out (Exception: The last batter in the lineup for the first inning only).
13. RUN RULES: In the spirit of fellowship, we prefer to keep games close. This is one reason we place teams in different levels of play. Occasionally we misplace a team in a division too high or too low. The following rules have been adopted to help keep games close and/or end one-sided games early.
 - SEVEN RUN RULE: No team shall score more than seven runs for any of the first four innings of the game (Exception: If a team is behind by more than seven runs, they may score as many runs in one inning as it takes to tie the score). This run rule does not apply from the fifth inning to the end of the game.
 - TWELVE RUN MERCY RULE: If a team is down twelve runs or more after their fifth inning at-bats, the game is considered final and complete.
 - TWENTY RUN MERCY RULE: If a team is down twenty runs or more after their fourth inning at-bats, the game is considered final and complete.
14. BATS: Safety of the players is our number one goal. Any bat on the "ASA Non-Approved Bat List" may NOT be used in this league (a copy of the current list is attached). Penalties: Any player using a non-approved bat will be declared "out"; any other infraction by the same team in the same game will result in the batter being ejected from the game. See rules D.8 and D.9 for other penalties and procedure in player reinstatement. As an association we have adopted these standards for league play and reserve the right to clarify this issue at any time.
15. BALLS: Safety of the players is our number one goal. The entire association shall use a Worth "Gold Dot" (44 core) ball or equivalent DeMarini (44 core) ball.
16. LINEUP: Any game may begin with at least eight players in each lineup (ninth and tenth players may be added at any point in the game). Each team may bat as many twelve players in the lineup at one time, but in this case all twelve players must be at the field at the start of the game. Any player who is listed in the lineup, and not been substituted for, shall finish the game. Exception to this rule will be a legitimate injury during the game. All players who play in the game must be from the team roster, no exceptions, unless agreed upon by both managers (i.e., a player's wife or girlfriend may fill-in on a temporary basis to play an official game).

17. HOMERUNS: Safety of the players is our number one goal. We will attempt to place each team in a division appropriate for its level of play.
- DIVISION ONE: Three homeruns total by each team over the fence, and then the equalizer rule takes effect. Any ball hit over the fence which is not a homerun, shall be considered an "out," and base runners may not advance.
- DIVISION TWO: Two homeruns total by each team over the fence, and then the equalizer rule takes effect. Any ball hit over the fence which is not a homerun, shall be considered an "out," and base runners may not advance.
- DIVISION THREE: Two homeruns total by each team over the fence, then the equalizer rule takes effect. Any ball hit over the fence which is not a homerun, shall be considered an "out," and base runners may not advance.
- DIVISION FOUR: One homerun total by each team over the fence, then the equalizer rule takes effect. Any ball hit over the fence which is not a homerun, shall be considered an "out," and base runners may not advance.
- DIVISION FIVE: One homerun total by each team over the fence, then the equalizer rule takes effect. Any ball hit over the fence which is not a homerun, shall be considered an "out," and base runners may not advance.
- DIVISION SIX: One homerun total by each team over the fence, then the equalizer rule takes effect. Any ball hit over the fence which is not a homerun, shall be considered an "out," and base runners may not advance.
- IMPORTANT NOTE: The home team can "equal", but not "go up", in the home run total in the last half inning of the game (i.e., time expiration, bottom of the sixth or seventh inning, etc).
14. ROSTER ELIGIBILITY: Each team may include a maximum of four "Non-Believers" on their roster. These individuals can be included in the same batting lineup. All other players must be "Believers" and regularly attend a Church. Note: For our purposes, a "regularly attending a church" is defined as at least two worship services every four weeks. This Church must be noted on the team's roster. Players must play for their Church if said Church is a part of this association (Exception: Consent by the Board). Rosters may be "spot" checked with your pastor during the year. No roster substitutions are allowed (Exception: Consent by the Board as a whole). All rosters shall be submitted to the Division Representative by the end of the second game of the season, each game that is played without this roster submittal shall be considered a forfeit. Violations may result in loss of game, or games, in Division Standings or even playoff berth.
15. AGE LIMIT: The minimum age for any player shall be 18 by the first game of the season.
16. PROTESTS: Any protest must be made in writing by the team manager and presented to the division representative along with a check for \$25 within 24 hours of the game time. All protests shall be reviewed by the Board as a whole and acted on accordingly. Any infraction will be forwarded to the Senior Pastor of your Church, and your team may lose a playoff berth or league suspension. The \$25 fee may be returned if the protest is validated by the Board.
17. PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY: As a minimum, each player who is eligible for the playoffs shall have appeared in three games of the six the team has played during the season. This will be determined by the names on the blue cards. In the case of a forfeit, it is the Managers responsibility to fill out the blue card for each player that showed up to the field that night. All players must bring their Drivers License to any playoff game. To help everyone, we will post a list of playoff-eligible players for each team on the website prior to the playoffs. There will be

- field verification of the roster and players for playoff games, any players participating in a game that are not “playoff eligible” will be removed from the game and a forfeit will be charged against said team. Any infraction will be forwarded to the Senior Pastor of your Church.
18. PLAYOFF FORMAT: Each team qualifies for the playoffs in their division. The teams will be seeded according to the standings and play in a single-elimination playoff bracket. The number of teams in the division and playoffs may differ, but we have attached a sample copy of a playoff bracket as a sample only. Playoffs brackets will be posted on the website and emailed to team managers by the end of the day on Thursday before the playoff games.
19. MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITY: The team Manager is responsible for the actions of each player named on the team roster, and associated spectators. The team Manager is required to inform each player of the rules and regulations of this association, and of course willfully follow the rules himself as an example to his team. Hard copies of the rules or other forms will not be distributed after the managers meeting, but are available as downloads from the website.
- E. RULES AND REGULATIONS NOTE: These regulations are representative of the intent of our association. Any verbal statement made by any Division Representative or Board Member that is not consistent with these regulations is null and void on its face, and not within the power of this agent to declare. Any verbal statement made by any Division Representative or Board Member made to clarify a regulation, and is found to be consistent with the intent of these regulations, will be considered as a part of these regulations.
- F. VOLUNTEERS: We have the need for future leadership of the Board. Those who would be interested in being a Division Representative, prayer warrior, score collecting for the website and other miscellaneous tasks, please seek out a Board Member for more information.
- G. BOARD AND DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE MEETINGS: In-season meetings will occur at Twin Creeks and be scheduled on the website. Pre and Post-Season meetings will be scheduled on the website at a location to be determined.
- H. SUGGESTIONS: We will announce a Post-Season Managers Meeting after the Summer League. This venue will be the place and time for input by the Managers and interested parties to rule changes or proposals. The Board will then consider these issues on a “case by case” basis for the following year. We are always open to new ideas and constructive criticism during the year; these can be in person or by e-mail thru the website.

EPHESIANS 6: 11-18: Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

Remember, we are here for the glory of Jesus Christ. We are his light unto the world; and our world starts in our neighborhood, workplace, and now includes Twin Creeks. There are three to four fields of non-believers who walk past our fields each Monday night and see us praying, and sharing our testimony. Let's plant a seed and watch it grow!

God Bless,

Board Members, Division Representatives and Web Team (see website for further information)

Mailing Address: Greater Bay Area Church Softball League
P.O. Box 6712
San Jose, CA 95150

END OF RULES AND REGULATIONS