

## **Composition and organization of the Palm Creek Fall 2020 Softball League.**

The Fall League will consist of 5/6 Mixed Division teams. The teams will consist of 2/3 B level players and 10-12 C level players from all of the communities involved in the softball league. The teams will be chosen in a draft by volunteer coaches with the intention of forming teams that are balanced and as equal in ability as possible.

### **a.) Substitutions:**

If a team's roster drops to 10 or fewer players for any game due to injury or absence, they may use player(s) from another team to substitute for their injured/absent player(s). If a B player is missing they may use a B or C player(s) to substitute for their injured/absent player(s). If a C player is missing they can only use a C player(s) to substitute for their injured/absent player(s). Substitute players must bat at the end of the line-up and may not be used as courtesy runners. Teams may not sit a healthy player on their roster in order to use a substitute player. In addition, if a player is injured and can't continue to play, that team's line-up is immediately reduced and no penalty is incurred when the injured/removed player's spot is due to hit in the batting order.

### **b.) Courtesy Runners:**

Any player on a team's roster and present for the game may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner before the first pitch to the next player (or at any time in the case of an injury), but the courtesy runner may not be used more than once per inning. A substitute player may not be a courtesy runner.

### **c.) Field specifications:**

It is understood that games at the Palm Creek field are played with a 275 foot fence and 65 foot bases. There will be a 165 ft encroachment line in the outfield. Outfielders may NOT go in front of this line until the ball is in play. The infielders and rover may go anywhere they want on the field prior to the ball being in play.

### **d.) Equipment:**

ASA or USSSA approved 1.20 BPF bats will be used. Senior bats are NOT allowed. 44 cor, 375 compression softballs will be used. 12" balls for male hitters and 11" balls for female hitters.

### **e.) Pitching Screen:**

The pitching screen WILL be used in all games but pitchers are still REQUIRED to wear a facemask. Pitchers may wear additional protective equipment if they choose to do so.

f.) The batter will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count. There will be one foul ball “to waste”. The first batted ball hitting the pitching screen in any at bat is a dead ball and each subsequent batted ball hitting the screen in that at bat will be counted as a foul ball.

g.) Home Runs:

The Fall League will have a “2 up” home run rule. Any home run hit by a team with a 2 home run advantage will be scored as a walk.

h.) Teams are limited to 5 runs per inning except for the final inning of the game. In the “open” inning each team may score an unlimited number of runs. Game time limit will be 60 minutes.

i.) Mercy Rule:

If a team is ahead by 12 or more runs at any time after 5 innings have been completed, or four and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, the game will be declared over. The “flip flop” rule will take effect when the visiting team has a lead of 8 or more runs going into the open inning.

j.) Umpire:

Volunteer umpires (when available) will be used for Fall League games in order to keep costs down. If no volunteer umpire is available, the teams will umpire their own games using the Honor System. The team at bat will supply the umpire(s) for each half inning that they are at bat. All teams are encouraged to do their best to make sure the games are called accurately, even if that means correcting a missed call that happens to go against your team. In the case of an obvious missed call, the two coaches will discuss the play with the umpire and agree on a correct call.

The most recent SSUSA Rule Book will be used for all additional rules for the Fall league.

Bruce McClain: [brucemcclain@yahoo.com](mailto:brucemcclain@yahoo.com) (480-213-8513)