

## South Florida Triple Play Softball Tournament – Official Rules

1. Each team must submit a 14-man roster, with their pastor's signature, before they will be allowed to play their first game. (The rosters are due by January 10<sup>th</sup>). **No rosters will be accepted at the ballparks.**

2. **Tournament Format:** This is a 3 game guarantee not to be confused with a triple elimination. If a team loses its first two games it will automatically go into the "bottom of the barrel" bracket and compete only against teams who lost their first two games. The winner of this will be the "bottom of barrel" CHAMPION. Everyone else will continue to play a standard double elimination tournament.

3. One pitch rule will go in effect after 7 innings (a tied game), no matter what the time is with no free foul. Also, a game that reaches the time limit (60 minutes) No new inning will start. If the Home team is at bat you will finish the inning, if it is tied after the inning is complete, whoever was leading at the end of the previous inning is the winner. If the away team is at bat you will end the game and whoever was leading at the end of the previous inning will be the winner.

4. **Run rule:** 20 after 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, 15 after 4<sup>th</sup> inning; and 10 after 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

5. No metal cleats or baseball spikes will be allowed.

6. No batting practice, fielding practice or any use of any of the smaller ball fields. The only fields authorized for use will be the ball fields being played on for the tournament. If you want to take batting practice or practice pitching, you may go to any of the several open areas surrounding the fields, unless it is posted not to be used.

7. Our tournament will be using the **Trump Rock ASA 12" 52/300 Softball X-ROCK-RP-ASA-Y**. Each team is required to purchase their own balls. Balls will be available for purchase at the fields both Friday and Saturday if you forgot or were not able to purchase your own.

8. Our Tournament reserves the right to decide any bat illegal for the safety of players. This year we will follow ASA Florida Bat Rules. **Bats will be monitored closely.**

The following bats will be legal:

A. All Bats approved by USSSA, NSA, ASA, and ISA are legal for league play at Brian Piccolo Sports Park. To view bats that are approved, please visit the aforementioned associations. The date the league begins will determine the ASA rules to be applicable.

B. If it is determined that a batter entered the batter's box with an altered, banned, or illegal bat, the batter will be declared out. If the batter used an altered, banned, and/or illegal bat during the batters turn at bat, and before the pitchers

next pitch (legal or illegal), the batter-runner will be declared out and any other outs made during that batter-runner's turn at bat will stand. The remaining runner(s) will return to the base last occupied prior to the batter's turn at bat. The batter will also be ejected for using an altered and/or banned bat.

9. Teams may bat as many hitters as they wish with extra batters and free substitutions. If you can't complete the game with all hitters that started the game, that spot will be an out. You must have 8 players to start the game and can complete the game with 8 players, but an out will be given for the 9<sup>th</sup> spot on the lineup. You can fill any vacant spot on the lineup after the game has started, up to 10 players on the lineup.

10. Umpires have the final say, and there will be no appeals committee to overturn an umpire's decision.

11. No chewing of tobacco, smoking or alcohol will be allowed on the premises. Profanity will not be tolerated. Any type of confrontation that is not Christ like will not be allowed. Any of the following could result in you being removed from the tournament and possibly not allowed to return the following year. Our desire is to reach the lost through this tournament and any of these things could distract from our mission.

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1 KJV

12. The home team will be the official scorers or the visitor team will be the scorer if the home team cannot provide one.

13. Home team will be decided by the higher seed (except in champion ship game, team with no loss will be the home team)

14. Seeding this year will be done as follows: Teams that competed in last year's tournament will be seeded in the order they finished in the previous year's tournament. After that is established, the team that is traveling the furthest will receive the higher seed, If a Church is submitting more than one team, please indicate which team you wish to have as the higher seed. In the event we have a tie, the higher seed will be given to the team that submitted registration and payment first. The following years seeding will be done based on how well a team did the previous year, then distanced traveled will be implemented for new teams. If you go 0-3 this year and we have 10 new teams next year, you will be seeded higher than the 10 new teams.

15. **Home Run Rule:** 0-3 homeruns per game will be called at the plate. Coaches of both teams will tell Umpire how many homeruns they want. If team A says 3 and team B says 0, then 1 home run will be allowed for that game. All homeruns after that will be an out. If Team A says 3 and team B says 2, then 2 home runs will be the allowed for that game. The only instance where you will meet in the middle is if Team A says 3 and Team B says 1, then 2 home runs will be the allowed number of home runs for that game.

16. The tournament director has full say on whatever field he chooses to play any game on or change any field number. He also has full say on changing the tournament format based on team participation or weather.

17. If rain occurs the team captain must contact Robert Dodge at 931-237-5863 or Daniel Platt at 954- 805- 5084 or Brian Piccolo Park at 954-357-5150 ext 0. We are also on Face Book. In the event of rain we will make every attempt to complete the tournament. This may include us making this a one pitch tournament and or going to a single elimination tournament (NOTE: this is dry season in Florida).

18. **COURTESY RUNNER RULE:** Each team will be allowed to use 2 courtesy runners each inning (regardless of reason). Any player on the roster will be allowed to be the courtesy runner, you don't have to use a player that is in the lineup. If a player cannot continue once they have reached base and the courtesy runner has been used for that inning the player that cannot continue will be called out.

19. Our tournament will be using an ASA approved ball. Home runs hit over the fence need not be run out.

20. All other rules will be governed by the ASA rules. No stealing of bases will be allowed in this year's tournament. You will start with a 1 and 1 count at the plate.

21. **Games will start on time; no grace period will be given.** Please advise all players to be at field ready to start **15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.**

22. We ask that all teams have matching shirts with number on the back. It can be a plain white t-shirt with a number on the back. We just ask all shirts match the team you are playing for. We understand when teams travel things happen, if for whatever reason a player or players will not have a matching shirt please let us know as soon as you know about this issue. This rule can be adjusted on a case by case basis.

23. No cut off sleeveless shirts, no crop tops, halter tops, etc. Pants or basketball shorts are fine, shorts must be to the knee and not form fitting. At no time, at the ball field or the parking lot will it be permitted to go shirtless. The facilities have plenty of shade under palm trees and pavilions.

24. No outside music will be permitted, only music provided by the Host church (First Baptist Church of SW Borward) will be allowed. We will have music playing this year, so no need for outside music. We ask that you monitor your team as well as your fans. Thankyou in advance.

25. If you are an individual and you cannot get a team together you can submit your name as a **FREE AGENT** we will try and get you on a team. The free agent is a first come first serve. If a team says they need a player, the first name on the free agent list will be added. If you are interested in being a free agent send me an email and we will put you on the list.

26. The **senior pastor** must also sign each roster. We ask **pastors** to please help monitor their team's roster, so they understand our CHURCH tournament is unique to any others. As a **pastor**, do you consider all members of your team to be a regular attender of your church? Churches are free to set higher attendance rules than specified in our rules.

The following are the rules for player eligibility for the tournament:

1. **A player must attend a minimum of 10 Sunday morning, Sunday evening, or Wednesday night services in a 12 month period.** Watching or listening to a service via the internet or CD/DVD is not acceptable.

2. We will implement an outreach rule for this year. You will be allowed up to three players on your roster that are not regular attenders of your Church. The purpose of this is to try and be a witness and get someone to Jesus, so preferably if you have been witnessing to someone and you feel this event could help them, then this is what this is here for. This is not to go out and get two ringers that will help you win games. The **senior pastor** has to be aware of the individuals that you are adding to your roster. **NOTE:** All players on your roster have to follow the rules and guidelines of the tournament. The excuse “they are an outreach player” will not be accepted. So please ensure that whoever you have on your roster is aware of the rules.

3. Players on your team should be able to answer simple questions about your church.

4. All players must be at least 14 years of age or older by the time they play their first game.

5. Women are allowed to play, but this is not a Co-Ed tournament and Co-Ed rules will not be in effect. We want to encourage you to only use this if you have an injury or you are having a hard time filling your roster.

6. Each roster will need to be signed by each player individually, with the eligibility rules clearly shown on the roster thereby acknowledging an understanding of the rules of eligibility.

7. Even though these are great functions, we do not consider home Bible studies, devotions, before and after game prayers, picnics, corn hole tournaments, breakfast, etc., as part of meeting the normal attendance requirements.

8. Some possible exceptions to the above rules (**WHICH MUST BE CLEARED BEFORE ROSTERS ARE SENT IN**) are:

a) All eligibility exception request must be presented by e-mail. DO NOT call the church office for exceptions to the rules.

b) A player moved during the year.

c) A player who attends college and meets eligibility requirements at 2 different churches.

d) A church that does not have a large enough membership to bring a team.

e) A player who recently joined the church.

9. If you do not have enough players at your church we encourage you to merge with one or 2 other churches to make up a team. But each **senior pastor** of the churches involved would have to sign the roster for their members.

10. If a team is found to have an ineligible player it may:

a) Forfeit its game/games

b) Forfeit its entry fee

c) Lose its player

d) All of the above

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF A BAPTIST CHURCH TO PARTICIPATE**