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MISSION STATEMENT

Saint John Neumann's Youth Softball League exists to bring the excitement of competition and the fellowship of Christ to the boys and girls who participate. These qualities are to be exemplified by all involved in the league, the players, coaches, umpires, and parents. The main purpose for our softball program is to provide an athletic environment in which everybody conducts him/herself by following Jesus Christ, Son of God, as a model. This means that everybody without exception is treated with care, love and respect. Every player has the right to play as much as any other player on his or her team regardless of his athletic ability or softball talent.

SOFTBALL CONTACTS BY LEAGUE

<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>
Jeff Carr	404-218-9140	Sports Director
Laurie Jay	770-736-7091	Secretary
Mike Alexander	770-978-0871	2-5 Boys
David Blackburn	770-972-3738	2-5 Girls
		6-8 Boys
Chris Sandquist	770-843-0338	6-8 Girls
Bill Hedges	770-972-5305	H.S. Boys
		H.S. Girls

LEAGUE INFORMATION:

A. FEES FOR EACH TEAM - \$330.00

The team league fee must be paid before the second week of the season. Starting with the third game the team will forfeit every game until it pays the league fee in full.

B. ROSTER INFORMATION

All teams are required to turn in a roster to the commissioner of their league by the second week of the season. All rosters will be frozen after the fifth game of the season. A roster player must be a uniformed player that has paid the league fee. We do not want the rosters filled with “just in case” situations.

Reserves will be allowed to play only in those cases when there are less than twelve (12) regular roster players. All reserves must be declared to the umpire before the game begins.

A minimum of eight (8) players per team is needed to start a game. A ten-minute grace period will be given to the team to have enough players. The 10 minutes come off of the game time.

All churches must have a sign up period before the softball season starts. Once all the church members have been distributed to new or existing teams, new non-church member players can be added to any team to complete a roster of 14 players. Non-church members cannot be added to a team with 14 or more players.

Once a non-church member has participated in a full season, they can continue to play the following seasons until they voluntarily quit. This rule does not apply to registered church members.

In order to qualify as a church member the player must provide his church Family ID in the signed SJN Release Form. We reserve the right to audit any team roster by asking to see the weekly envelopes given to each registered member/family of a Catholic parish.

We will allow a non-church member to play as a church member, if we receive a letter from the person in charge of the RCIA program, certifying that a parent of the player is assisting every week to the RCIA classes.

Any team with a roster containing more than four non-church members must be approved by the League commissioner and the Saint John Neumann Athletic and Sports Director.

Players can only participate in the league of their school grade or higher. Any team using a player that is not in the allowed school grade level will forfeit all the games he/she has played in. (Under no circumstances can a player play down a grade level.)

Players from one team cannot play on another team in the same league unless it is to avoid a forfeit. (Example: A team with 7 of their own players could ask one player from another team to play. That player(s) however, must play in the outfield and bat last. Any additional team members showing up late will be allowed to play, with the other fill-in player(s) allowed to play OR to be replaced at the manager’s option.)

For tournament play, no non-roster players can play unless it is to avoid a forfeit and the additional player(s) will bring the total to 8.

C. Release Form

All players will be required to fill out a Saint John Neumann Release Form in order to participate. A supply of blank forms will be available at the field.

D. Season Length

The League will consist of a ten (10) game season with a single elimination tournament at its conclusion.

CONDUCT RULES

A. Managers/Coaches

A Manager/coach may respectfully ask an umpire for a clarification of a call or his interpretation of the rule. All parties involved in the discussion are expected to be courteous and respectful of each other at all times. Once the discussion has ended, it is time to play ball. No excessive complaining or heckling will not be tolerated.

Any encouragement of dangerous play or inflammatory language towards the opposing team or the umpire will not be tolerated.

Any violation of the above the rule will result in an ejection from the game and removal from the playing area. A meeting with the sports director will be held to discuss the issue involved. Any further difficulty will result in an expulsion from the league.

B. Spectators

The spectators at the game are there to encourage the team. Any excessive complaining or disrespectful language towards the opposing team or the umpires will not be tolerated. The umpire will ask the manager/coach to ask his/her fans to refrain from the activity. If the activity continues, the game will be stopped and the spectator(s) will be asked to leave the playing field area. If the spectator refuses to leave, the spectator's team will forfeit the game.

C. Umpires

Most umpires in the SJN League have been exposed to the league for at least one season. They are familiar with all of our rules and policies. They are expected to hustle at all times and be courteous to all of the participants and spectators. In return, they are expected to be treated with the same respect and courtesy.

Any complaint concerning the umpire's attitude or effort should be make to the sports director.

D. Other Information

The managers, coaches, parents, and umpires are expected to be adult examples of Christian values on the playing field. Bad calls, unfortunately, are part of the game. Although they are upsetting, they are not an excuse for disrespectful language, heckling, or excessive complaining.

The penalties for any violation of these rules are harsh by design. They are in place to discourage this type of behavior from the onset. We encourage all of the managers and coaches to discuss these expectations with all who are involved with the league in any capacity.

LEAGUE RULES

A. Ground Rules

All areas of the field will be in play with the following exceptions:

1. The hill behind the third base (chalk line)
2. The areas behind each fenced dugout (chalk line)
3. The hill behind home plate

B. Pitcher's Mounds

1. Grades 2-5.... Coaches Pitch: Coach cannot be closer than half of the distance between home plate and the closest pitchers rubber.
2. Grades 6-8.... 42 Feet
3. Grades 9-12.... 48 Feet

A pitcher for middle school can pitch from 2nd rubber if he/she prefers.

C. Bases

1. Grades 2-5.....55 Feet
2. All Others 60 Feet

D. Jewelry

No jewelry is to be worn while playing. This includes earrings, necklaces, rings, watches, etc. This rule must be enforced for insurance reasons. There will be no exceptions. Players with newly pierced ears can play if no metal is showing. (HINT – A small Band-Aid will do the trick!)

GAME RULES

E. Game Rules – ASA Rules will be in effect except in the following cases

1. Time limit for each game is one hour and fifteen minutes. No new inning will be allowed after one hour. The umpire will inform each coach at the start of the final inning. The umpire will have the final say in this matter.
2. There is a maximum of seven (7) innings per game.

3. There is five (5) run limit for each team to bat except for in the final inning. For all age groups, a ten (10) run rule is in effect in the last inning.
4. If after one hour a team is trailing by 11 runs or more the mercy rule may be invoked to end the game regardless if the umpire notifies teams that it was the last inning.
5. All players arriving on time must be included in the batting order and play in the field as much as possible.
6. Late arriving players must be placed at the end of the teams batting order. Coaches must inform both the umpire and the opposing coach when an additional player is added to the line-up.
7. Middle School Girls leagues will start with 1 ball and 1 strike count. 2-5 leagues will have the 5 pitch rule. All other leagues will have a full 4 ball and 3 strike count. Foul balls on the third strike will count as a strike out in the high school boys league, only.
8. Any disputes involving the score of the game must be resolved before the start of the new half inning.
9. Only official softball bats are to be used except in the following leagues. Any bats that are not official softball bats must be 30" or smaller.
 - a. 2-5 girls
 - b. 2-5 boys
 - c. 6-8 girls
10. No protests will be allowed. Umpires will have the final say concerning situations that arise.
11. Anyone throwing a bat will be called out with no advance for runners. A thrown bat is defined as one that is thrown in excessive distance in the umpires' opinion, or one that hits the catcher or umpire.
12. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in any form. Types of conduct in this rule include:
 - A. swearing
 - B. Taunting of others.
 - C. Disrespectful actions towards the umpires
 - D. Encouragement of violent or excessively rough play
 - E. Any other action deemed severe by the umpire

The consequences of unsportsman like conduct will be a warning given by the umpire. A second offense will result in immediate ejection. If the first offense is ruled severe by the

umpire an immediate ejection may be ordered. Any habitual offenders of this policy, either by an individual or by a team, will result in that party to be withdrawn from the league. They will not be allowed to participate in any future seasons at Saint John Neumann.

Any player that is injured before the game starts will not be allowed to play. If the injury occurs during the game, the manager can ask for a courtesy runner. The replacement runner must be the player who was the last out. If the injured player must leave his spot in the batting order will be skipped without penalizing his team.

13. SPECIAL RULES FOR THE GRADE 2-5 AGE GROUPS

All infielders including the pitcher must be positioned at least even with the short pitching rubber at all times.

All outfielders must be positioned at least on the cut of the outfield grass.

No more than 6 players may be positioned in the infield at any one time.

A ball must be in possession of a defensive player within the base paths before an umpire can call time-out.

The infield-fly rule will-not be enforced.

It will be the responsibility of adult pitcher to exit the field of play, once the ball is hit, (either between first and home, or third and home) as to not interfere with either the defensive player or the base runner. If it is not possible to exit the field quickly enough after the ball is hit, then the adult pitcher must make a reasonable attempt not to block the view, or playing field area of defensive player. If in the opinion of the umpire the adult pitcher has not made an attempt to follow the above rule, and has caused interference, the offensive team will be assessed an out, and all base runners will return to the base they were at before the ball was hit. The umpire will have the final say in this matter.

F. Rain-out Policy

All teams are to assume that the games are to be played unless they are contacted by the umpire or the League Commissioner. We will attempt to contact teams as early as possible.

Rescheduling of rainouts will be coordinated by the Sports Director and the League Commissioner. Dates for the make-ups will be dictated by field availability. Every attempt will be made to accommodate the schedules of the teams involved.

G. Rescheduling Games

Rescheduling for reasons other than a rainout is DISCOURAGED. We will attempt to accommodate the teams involved, but cannot guarantee that a make-up will be possible. The following conditions must be met in order for the game to be rescheduled:

1. Both teams involved must agree to the change.
2. Both the Sports Director and the League Commissioner must agree to the change.
3. The Sports Director and the League Commissioner will coordinate a make-up time based on the field availability of an umpire.

If these conditions cannot be met, the team will be charged with a forfeit if it cannot play the game at the scheduled time.