

## Cindy La Rue League 2019 Rules

*The Cindy La Rue Co-Rec Softball League was formed in 1980. The league originally consisted of teams representing Columbia's villages and was known as the Columbia Inter-Village Co-Rec Softball League. It changed its name in 1993 to memorialize Cindy La Rue, a member of the Columbia Quakes (now known as The Lighthouse Lions) who was murdered in late August 1993 by a co-worker. Cindy represented what the league tries to convey: an exuberant and enthusiastic personality who enjoyed participating each week and who came to play hard, make friends, and have fun.*

- 1) There shall be no arguing with the umpires.
- 2) All players must be at least 18 years old at some point during the season. All players must sign a liability release statement upon payment of the participant fee.
- 3) 60% of each team's roster must live or work in Howard County.
- 4) Each team is to provide its own bats and practice balls. The league will provide the bases, alternate home plate, safety double bag first-base, foul-line cones, and one (new) ball (e.g., 0.44 COR and 375 lb compression) of each size for each game.
- 5) Rule change: **games must start on time.** If a team doesn't have enough players to officially play --- that team will start first inning batting (regardless if they are home team---they become the visiting team). One inning will be played and if by the time one inning is completed if that team still doesn't have enough players to officially play the game then that game will be considered a forfeit. The teams may continue to play a game with the umpire there but that game will only count as a forfeit. So we are not using the 10 minute grace period per game in order to wait for players to show up. **Games will start on time as described.** Games will start *promptly* at 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. There is a ten-minute grace period to allow each team to field the minimum number of each gender; after 1:10 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. for the two game times, respectively, the game shall be a forfeit loss for the team that does not have enough players; double-forfeits are possible as well. No full inning shall start after 2:20 p.m. and 3:50 p.m.
- 6) There must be at least 8 fielders at all times. The minimum number of fielders of one gender is 3. If a team is fielding only 3 of one gender, the 4<sup>th</sup> slot in that gender's batting order is an automatic out. If the batter directly before the automatic out is walked intentionally or not, no automatic out will be issued and the next player of the same gender will bat.
- 7) If a team fields 6 players of one gender and 4 players of the other gender, the opposing team has the option of fielding the same gender ratio.
- 8) If a team has only 8 players, the opposing team *may* provide a catcher for the sole purpose of returning pitched balls (the catcher shall not be involved in any defensive plays).
- 9) Batting order shall alternate between male and female, and may include more than 5 batters of either gender.
- 10) Only one outfielder is permitted to position him/herself within 150 feet from home plate (cones are positioned 150 feet from home plate), regardless of the batter's gender.
- 11) If the first four pitches to a male batter are balls that male batter automatically gets 2<sup>nd</sup> base and then the female batter immediately following that male batter has the option of taking first base. A male batter walked on 4 straight balls will receive two bases (a double) regardless of whether or not the female with the optional at bat chooses to hit.
- 12) A batter is out when fouling a pitch with two strikes.

13) There shall be no courtesy runner for the batter. The batter must reach base before a courtesy runner may be used. **If a courtesy runner is used it MUST be the player of the same gender that made the last out batting (either in the current inning or the previous one). If while a courtesy runner is on base their normal turn at bat comes up, the existing pinch runner will go up to bat and will be replaced by a batter of the same gender that either made the last out (either in the current inning or the previous one). We want everyone to have their at bats and not encourage otherwise. No automatic out will be taken should this situation arise. Should the league determine that this rule is being abused we will make changes accordingly. Teams playing should be able to make the rule work properly.**

14) First base is a double bag. On all infield ground balls or on *any* defensive play at first base, the batter-runner must run to the carpet in foul territory and shall be declared out if he/she runs to the first-base bag in fair territory. EXCEPTION: on an errant throw, the first baseman and the batter-runner may touch either bag to avoid a collision.

15) There shall be two home plates, and all plays at home shall be force outs (no tag plays) regardless of the number of baserunners. To score, a runner must touch the alternate plate before the catcher (or other fielder) touches the regular plate while in possession of the ball. A runner advancing to or touching the regular plate shall be called out automatically. A runner advancing toward home who touches the commit line (halfway between third base and regular home plate) or the ground beyond the commit line cannot return to third base (a runner who re-crosses the commit line is automatically called out).

16) Pitchers must deliver the ball from the rubber (50ft from home plate), with an arc of 6 ft to 12 ft.

17) Players are entitled to play their positions without fear of "encroachment" from teammates.

18) Catchers are not required to wear catcher's masks although it is highly recommended. All players must sign the waiver liability release form.

19) Unlimited substitution is permitted only when a team is taking the field at the beginning of a half-inning. No substitutions (except for the pitcher) will be permitted at other times unless a player is hurt. Players can reenter the game after sitting out one inning.

20) When a player is hurt, the umpire shall stop play, call "dead ball," and award bases that the runners would normally have advanced to if the injury had not occurred.

21) For the first 60 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game each team shall be limited to a maximum of 6 runs per at bat. For every full inning that starts after 60 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game, there is no limit on runs per at bat.

22) Metal spikes are prohibited.

23) Exposed jewelry (earrings, bracelets, necklaces, rings, watches), except for wedding bands and medical alert items which must be taped to the body, is prohibited.

24) Full composite (carbon fiber barrel), double-, triple-, & multi-walled bats and titanium bats are not allowed. Half and Half bats are allowed where the handle is composite and the barrel aluminum. The league provides a list of specific bats that are ALLOWED, no other bats may be used in league play. If you feel a bat that should be on the allowed list is not included, email: mbsolomon21042@gmail.com with the name, manufacturer, and model of the bat and if it meets the leagues requirements it will be added.

25) Whenever lightning is seen and/or thunder is heard, the fields shall be cleared and players shall seek shelter for 15 minutes before play resumes. Subsequent games shall start as scheduled.

26) Teams assigned Equipment Responsibilities are to a) pick up the bases, alternate home plate, extended home plate, catcher's masks, and two foul-line cones at the end of the game and bring them to the designated game on the schedule the following week.

27) Trash and waste products (including cans and bottles) must be removed from the field at the end of each game.

Updated 1/1/2017

28) Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, smoking, unrestrained pets, and inappropriate or indecent conduct, harassment, and/or language are prohibited and are cause for immediate ejection from the fields at the discretion of umpire or Commissioner.

29) This rule only applies to fields where there is blacktop next to the outfield. Example: On the fields with the blacktop basketball court in the middle of the center/right field, if a fielder who is attempting to catch a fly ball touches the pavement in any manner while before or while in the process of catching the ball, the ball will be considered a home run. This rule is an attempt to prevent injury from players trying to dive and catch the ball

30) Any fighting or undisciplined actions as determined by the commissioner can result in the immediate removal of the player from the game or league.

31) No throws from the outfield (any part of the outfield) to first base trying to get the batter/runner out at first are permitted. (any part of outfield = right field; right center; left center; left field). Even an outfielder playing in front of the cones is not allowed to make the throw to first base.

32) We will be using 2 sizes of balls this season. First base coaches will handle the exchanges of the correct ball with the pitcher. If the wrong ball is pitched the onus is on the pitcher.

33) We will be using extended strike zone mats to assist in calling balls and strikes. The ball must hit any part of the mat to be called a strike. Still the arc on the pitch must be (6 to 12 ft).