

**Spring 2010 Information Packet**  
**The Ralph Lambert Senior Softball League**  
**Of Lake Norman**

1. REGISTERING

- A. All interested players age 50 and up, must submit a registration form along with league fees between February 1 and March 12.
- B. Entry Fee for Spring 2010 Season – \$30 per resident, \$45 per non resident. To be considered a resident you have to live in Huntersville or Cornelius.  
Checks are to be made out to Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department.  
\* A returned check fee of \$25.00 will be assessed. Further payments will have to be cash or money order.
- C. League fees and registration form should be turned into the HPRD offices no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 12.
- D. Once the schedule has been distributed, no refunds will be made.
- E. League games will start March 31. Tournament will be June 9 and 16.
- F. This Spring 2010 season will be a 10 game season. If a team is ejected or drops out of the league, the remaining games with that team will be counted as wins for the previously scheduled opponents, therefore, still counting as games in the 10 game schedule.

2. ROSTERS

- A. Players will be assigned to teams to achieve an age, gender, and skill level of balance. **New Players: Skills Day will be March 10 at 6:30pm held at Torrence Chapel Park** (located at 21309 Torrence Chapel Road, Cornelius). Make up skills day will be March 13 at 9am held at Torrence Chapel Park. **New players need to attend skills day.**
- B. You may be subjected to be moved to another team during the season to assure that the league maintains parity among teams.
- C. Late registration players will be placed on a waiting list and added to rosters as openings are available. Players on the waiting list will be able to participate on Saturday mornings but will not be on a team that plays Wednesday nights until there is an opening. They will then need to sign the Cornelius/Huntersville registration form and pay a pro-rated registration fee. Once they are added to the team, they will stay on that team for the remainder of the season.

- D. All players must reach their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Calendar year to be eligible to participate. *However, if a player's age is 45-49 and has played in the league before they are grandfathered in and can still play in the league.*
- E. All team rosters will be available to each team upon request to the Athletic Coordinator.
- F. If a team should forfeit out of the league before the halfway point, the players from the team will be eligible to be picked up by teams within the league.
- G. Players are only eligible to participate on one team in the Huntersville/Cornelius Senior Softball League.
- H. If a team is suspected of playing an illegal player (i.e. one that is not on the roster or playing under an assumed name) by the league supervisor or the opposing team and is proven guilty, the game will be ruled forfeit. The second such offense will result in the team being ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and the tournament, with no refund. Picture I.D. may be requested and must be produced within one hour.
- I. Tournament Eligibility –All teams will be eligible to participate in the end of season tournament.

### 3. THE GAME

- A. Games will be a max of seven (7) innings. However, if fifty (50) minutes has expired before we reach the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) inning, that inning will be completed and one additional full inning will be played.
- B. There will be a run limit of five (5) runs per inning, per team, except for the last inning, which will be unlimited scoring. The last inning is defined as the 7<sup>th</sup> inning or the additional inning after fifty (50) minutes has expired. For example, time has expired in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. The umpire will announce that time has expired and will play one additional inning, therefore the 6<sup>th</sup> inning becomes the last inning and is unlimited scoring.
- C. 20 run rule after 4 innings, 12 run rule after 5 or more innings.
- D. This league will use one ASA umpire.

### 4. TEAM LINEUP

- A. Teams have the option of having all their players in the batting order. Should a player be prevented from playing/batting due to an injury, no out will be recorded and play will be continued as long as the team does not fall below nine (9) players. Teams must field/bat a minimum of nine (9) players to constitute a legal team. **\*Teams can not pick up players\***
- B. Female players can be incorporated into the batting order among male players in any order.
- C. Teams will have a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of eleven (11) fielders.
- D. All teams must begin each game with a minimum of nine (9) players. **\*No pick ups\***

## 5. EQUIPMENT

- A. All bats must be ASA certified unless they fit into the following category.
- B. For men over 60 and all women may use bats that have a bat performance factor (bpf) of 1.20 bpf. If anybody other than men 60+ or women use it, coaches shall notify umpire before the next legally pitched ball and that batter shall be declared out.
- C. Cornelius/Huntersville Parks and Recreation will provide game balls – 44 COR, 375 Compression for each game.
- D. No metal spikes allowed.

## 6. THE FIELD

### A. Home Plate

- (1) Extension Mat- The League uses a home plate extension mat. Any legally pitched ball that hits the plate or the extended mat is called a strike.
- (2) Scoring Home Plate- The League uses two home plates. The second home plate (scoring plate) will be located eight feet from the back tip of home plate on an extended line from 1<sup>st</sup> base. Defensive players touch the original home plate and runners touch the scoring home plate. All defensive plays at home plate are force outs.
- (3) Commitment Line- A commitment line will be drawn on the line between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and the second home plate. This line will be 20 feet from the scoring home plate.
- (4) If playing with 10 or 11 players at least four (4) outfielders must be on the outfield grass (approximately 130 foot arc from home plate) until the batter makes contact. If playing with nine (9) players, three outfielders must be on the outfield grass. Penalty: The batter and all base runners will be awarded one base unless each has advanced one base safely, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the violation.
- (5) A rover can only be used with 11 players and may play anywhere in the infield or outfield with no restrictions.

### B. First Base

- (1) The League uses a double first base bag. The inside (white) bag is used for defensive putouts while the outside bag (orange) is used by a runner who is not making an attempt to run to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The runner may cross into the inside baseline to avoid a collision if a wild throw occurs.

## 7. BATTING

- A. Batters will begin with a one-ball one-strike count.

B. A batter is allowed one two-strike foul. A second foul ball results in an out.

C. Unlimited home runs are allowed.

## 8. BASE RUNNING

A. Runners may slide at all bases except on the way to first and the scoring home plate

B. Runners overrunning 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases are subject to putouts.

C. Teams are allowed to use one courtesy runner per inning. Once that courtesy runner has run, he/she can no longer run anymore in that game.

## 9. SUBSTITUTION/REENTRY

A. A starting player may be substituted for and then reentered once per game.

## 10. FORFEITS

A. **Game time is forfeit time! There is no grace period.**

B. The Recreation Department Staff will have and keep the official scorebook and clock.

C. If a team knows for sure they will have to forfeit a game, a call should be made to the office of the Athletic Coordinator and to the coach of the opposing team. The opposing team will have the choice of using the field space for practice or not showing up at the field. If the opposing team chooses not to show up at the field, a call should also be placed to the office of the Athletic Coordinator.

## 11. CONDUCT

A. No player or coach shall be guilty of objectionable dissent at the umpire's decision by throwing the bat (or any other equipment) or protesting an umpire's call by refusing to play or directing verbal abuse. Furthermore, coaches, managers, and players are not allowed to heckle or engage in "trash talking", or other forms of un-sportsmanlike conduct, against any game official, opposing players, opposing spectators, or scorekeepers. **Profanity will not be tolerated.** Umpires and field supervisors have complete discretion and tolerance on these matters. Warning given by the umpires is to be heeded!! Failure to comply can result in ejection, forfeit, and suspension.

B. No player other than the coach can discuss with an umpire, or staff, in any manner, the decision reached by an umpire.

C. Fighting, threatening others, and provoking physical attacks against officials, players, or spectators are not prohibited nor tolerated and you will be ejected.

D. If a player or coach is ejected he/she must vacate the park immediately or his/her team will forfeit the game.

- E. Any physical contact or verbal threat toward the umpires, other players, or C/HPRD staff will result in ejection from the league for **ONE YEAR.**
- F. If a player is ejected from a game he/she must sit out the remainder of the ejected game and the following game.
- G. It is the coach's responsibility to control the spectators of his/her team. Spectators are held to the same standards as players, as well as the same rules outlined above.
- H. If a player or coach is ejected from two (2) games during the season or tournament he/she will be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and tournament.
- I. There will be no tobacco products allowed in the dugouts or on the playing field. If you must use tobacco products you must go outside the fence in the designated area.
- J. There will be no profanity or alcoholic beverages allowed at the fields or in the parking lot.
- K. No fighting will be allowed on the field or on park premises. Cornelius Police will be called and involved parties will be not only be ejected from the current game, but also the park. Fighting will result in a one-year suspension.
- L. Derogatory remarks toward the umpires or other team members by players, coaches, or fans will not be tolerated. This will be grounds for ejection or forfeiture of game if players, coaches or fans cannot be controlled.
- M. If there is a valid question about a call, other than a judgment call, time should be called and either the coach or assistant coach from the questioning team and opposing team will be allowed to discuss the call with the umpire. This will be done in a sportsmanlike manner. Any profanity or loss of temper will be grounds for ejection.
- N. Anyone suspended from league play will not be allowed to return to the fields during their suspension.

All violations of Conduct Rules are subject to a case-by-case examination and subsequent judgment from the Parks and Recreation Dept. The following penalties will be the guide for how the Parks and Recreation Department deals with these violations accordingly.

#### **Minimum Penalties**

- Ejection from game by umpires
- Game or games may be forfeited
- Ejected players will sit out a following game as well and must leave the field immediately after being ejected or umpires may rule game a forfeit.
- All ejected players will have to pay a \$25.00 reinstatement fee. Player will be considered an illegal player until fee is paid.

#### **Additional Penalties**

- Higher reinstatement fees of \$50 per incident / repeat offense.

- An additional game suspension, with the possibility of a long-term suspension, no less than one additional game; no more than one year from any and all Recreation Department sanctioned adult athletics.

### **Maximum Penalty**

- Physically, assaulting, attacking, and verbally threatening an umpire or C/HPRD staff (at any point: before, during, or after) will result in a **One Year Suspension** from all adult athletic programs. If circumstances so warrant, the player can face additional suspension from participation in other athletic programs as well as criminal charges and also suspension from park property as well.

### 12. PLAYING RULES: 2010 ASA Rules with the following exceptions

- A. All team players must have a T-shirt with a visible number. During inclement weather outer garments may be worn but player must have a number on underneath the outer garment.
- B. Games will start at the scheduled time or upon completion of the previous game.
- C. Line up sheets will be required to be completed and turned into official scorekeeper at least 5 minutes before scheduled start of game. **If a team is trying to purposely stall the game the game will be ruled a forfeit. Line-up sheets must include a player's first and last names.**
- D. **No decision on rainouts will be made before 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. you may call the Rainout Hotline at (704) 766-2250, for official status of games.**
- E. In the event of rain during or just prior to a game start, it is the team's responsibility to make sure the umpire or league supervisor has officially called the game before they leave the Park.
- F. An incomplete or suspended game, due to rain or power failure, will be restarted from the point of interruption with the exact situation as when the game was halted. A game will be called a complete game after the completion of the 5th inning or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead.
- G. Make up games will be played on Saturday mornings following the rainout. If the next weekend is not available on the field schedule, the make-up game will be moved to the next weekend. Emails will be placed to all coaches to confirm date of make-up games. It is the responsibility of coaches to inform players of new game times.
- H. Each team may practice infield ball only before the first inning.
- I. The count starts at 1 and 1 with one good foul.

### 13. STANDINGS

- A. Standings will be based on win/loss records and are posted weekly on the department's website. In the case of a tie it will be determined by head to head play, then head to head game scores added together. If still tied a coin flip will decide the standings. The winner will be the higher seeded team for the tournament.

#### 14. PROTEST

- A. **There are no protests on judgment calls. All decisions made by umpires on the field are final and cannot be argued regardless of the call.**

#### 15. AWARDS

- A. Plaques will be awarded to each team. Season and Tournament champion team will receive a trophy.

#### 16. TOURNAMENT

- A. All teams are eligible to participate in a post-season tournament.
- B. Teams will not be eligible to pick up players from opposing teams during the tournament.
- B. Coaches are responsible for informing their team of the next tournament game time scheduled on the tournament bracket. **All teams must be there 30 minutes prior to their scheduled tournament game and be ready to play.**
- C. **Your team must be prepared to play any night of the week for tournament games. C/HPRD will make every attempt possible to schedule games on the regular league night or on a weekend.**

#### 17. RULES FOR TORRENCE CHAPEL PARK COMPLEX

- A. Cornelius/Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department (C/HPRD) will have an appointed representative at all games. The officials or any C/HPRD staff member will have the authority to enforce any situation that may arise.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. This league is a C/HPRD function and operates only as a "Recreational Activity".
- C. Profanity will not be permitted
- D. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the premises or people who have been drinking may not participate.
- E. Animals must be on a leash.

#### 18. INSURANCE

- A. The Towns of Huntersville and Cornelius Parks and Recreation Departments do not have insurance to cover adult sports and cannot assume responsibility for any injury.
- B. Players should provide their own insurances.

19. OTHER

- A. **This league is sponsored by the Huntersville/Cornelius Parks and Recreation Departments and is a recreational activity.** The department reserves the rights to eject, suspend, or ban any team, player, coach, or spectator for actions that may be harmful to individuals, the Recreation Departments, or the Towns in general.
- B. These rules will remain unchanged throughout the season. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the C/HPRD staff. The decision of the C/HPRD shall be final in all matters.

If you have any further questions please contact Cornelius or Huntersville Parks and Recreation Departments.

Dave White, CYSA  
Athletic Coordinator  
Huntersville Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 2879  
Huntersville, NC 28070  
Phone: (704) 766-2230  
Fax: (704) 992-5528  
[dwhite@huntersville.org](mailto:dwhite@huntersville.org)  
[www.huntersville.org](http://www.huntersville.org)

Ryan Hager  
Athletic Supervisor  
Cornelius Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 399  
Cornelius, NC 28031  
Phone: (704) 892-6031 Ext. 165  
Fax: (704) 896-2462  
[rhager@cornelius.org](mailto:rhager@cornelius.org)  
[www.corneliuspr.org](http://www.corneliuspr.org)