



CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism**

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**CLASS "E"**  
**CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & TOURISM**  
**2019 MEN'S EARLY BIRD SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**APRIL 13 & 14**

**REGULATIONS**

The tournament will operate under the jurisdiction of the Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism Office. Unless modified by the Charles County Guidelines, all games shall be played in accordance with current USA Softball rules.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The tournament format will be bracket ball with bracket winners and runners-up returning for a double elimination on Sunday.

1. Completed team roster must be submitted with the tournament fee.
2. Players must be a minimum of 18 years of age or graduated from high school.
3. A player may play with only one team in the tournament. Any violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of all games played by the team committing the infraction.
4. The coach or manager shall be the team representative and be the liaison between the team and tournament director. He shall also be responsible for the conduct of his players and team spectators, and must keep team bench and surrounding area free of trash resulting from team members and team spectators (see Park Rules).
5. **Ejections - A player who is ejected by an official shall miss the remainder of his game. However, any ejected player that continues excessive unsportsmanlike behavior towards an official will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament. All ejected players must leave the playing area immediately.**
6. Any player involved in a fight/altercation will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament.
7. Any player, coach, or spectator who violates the Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism rules regarding the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on park property will be suspended from the tournament and be subject to arrest.
8. No batting or infield practice permitted on game fields prior to game time. Games will start within five (5) minutes after completion of previous game unless this is prior to the scheduled starting time. If agreed by both coaches, a game may start prior to its scheduled starting time.
9. Game balls will be supplied by the tournament director prior to the start of each game.

10. Bats – We will follow the Charles County Adult Softball League Banned Bat List. Copy of banned bats will be posted in each dugout.
11. Uniforms - Identical shirts will not be mandatory during Early Bird tournaments.
12. Appropriate softball shoes must be worn. No metal spikes. Rubber cleats are permissible.
13. Extra Player – An extra player is optional; but if used, the extra player must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed in the line-up. If the extra player is used, the extra player must be used the entire game.
14. Home team will be determined prior to each bracket game by flip of a coin. For Double Elimination play, home team will be higher seed from winner's bracket. For even matchups, home team will be determined prior to each game by flip of a coin.
15. All games will be played using a 1-and-1 count (one ball and one strike) for each player - with no additional foul.
16. For ALL GAMES: A 20-run rule will be in effect after three (3) innings, 15 after four (4) innings and 10 after five (5) innings.
17. Courtesy Runner – Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.
18. No base stealing allowed.
19. **No home runs allowed – the ball is dead, the batter is out and no runners can advance.**
20. Note: In the event the game is tied after seven completed innings, one pitch softball rules (strike/foul = out; ball = walk) will be in effect to determine a winner. (Exception: championship game - extra innings will be played using regular one and one count)
21. Protests - All rule infraction protests will be settled immediately at site of game.
22. Tie Breaker Procedures: In the event of a tie for won/loss record during the bracket ball on Saturday, the following tie breaker rules will be utilized for both winners and runners-up:
  - A. Won/loss record in head-to-head competition.
  - B. If more than two teams have the same won/loss record, the team/teams that had the best record for games played between the tied teams will determine placement.
  - C. Team with largest run differential for all games played in the bracket schedule.
  - D. If this results in a tie between two teams, the team that won the game between two tied teams will determine placement.
23. In case of inclement weather, call Laurel Springs Park at 301-934-2541.