



2011  
Cranberry Cup  
"A new Decade of Giving. A future of hope"  
Softball Tournament Rules

1. The Cranberry CUP Charity Softball Tournament is played for FUN to support a worthy cause. Participants are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. The ultimate winners are the Beneficiaries and the community you represent.
2. Participation is open to all residents in your neighborhood. The neighborhood team coordinator is responsible for advertising the Cranberry Cup throughout the entire neighborhood, encouraging (not discouraging) any and all eligible persons to participate, determining eligibility of all players on their team and submitting all participant registration forms.
3. Eligibility: ALL participants must complete and submit a registration form. Participants must satisfy all of the following criteria: (1) 18 years or older AND (2) resident of the team neighborhood at time of registration. Participants must be prepared to provide proof of eligibility in the form of a photo driver's license and/or Cranberry Twp ID card. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game. Adult children who no longer live in that subdivision cannot play for that team. Two "soft players" must be on each team. A "soft player" is defined as anyone over the age of 65 and/or female players.
4. Residents who do not live in a "named subdivision" or who do not have enough participants to form a neighborhood team from their subdivision can participate in the Open Division (formerly known as the Business League).
5. The fields and competing teams for the first game will be drawn before the tournament starts.

#### Rules of the Softball Games

6. UMPIRES decisions are FINAL! Umpires are volunteers. **COURTEOUS SPORTSMANSHIP IS EXPECTED, NOT OPTIONAL.** There is ABSOLUTELY NO ARGUING with the UMPIRES. If unclear about this Rule, see Rule #1. Mistakes are tolerable and are part of the game for players and umpires; Misconduct is not.
7. **NO PROFANITY or UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR.** Zero Tolerance is the policy with enforcement by the Umpires. Umpire decisions are Final. Player will be ejected from the game. Further disturbances by the player or team, individually or collectively, will result in forfeiture of the game. The Board has the right to determine if that team can continue to play in the tournament or future tournaments.
8. Before the start of each game, the team coordinator is responsible for providing the opposing team with their batting order on the provided Cranberry CUP roster/scoresheet. All females must be listed on the roster with the prefix "LADY". For example, Mary Smith must be listed as "LADY Mary Smith" and male players over 65 will be identified in the roster with the prefix "SIR". Thus, the batting orders will clearly identify the women and senior batters for the opposing team's awareness.
9. Home team will be determined by coin toss.
10. The team's coordinator will consult with each participant to determine if that player is willing and able to participate in a game. Players must be in the batting rotation to be eligible to play in the game. Teams will have two options:
  - Coaches may split their players to participate in alternate games. Unless unable to participate, players will not be excluded for two consecutive games.
  - Coaches may split their players between innings. In this case, all players must be in the continuous batting rotation.
11. A player cannot start a game if he/she cannot stay to finish that game.
12. Ten (10) defensive players must be on the field at all times with free substitution. At least 2 "soft players" must play in the field at all times or game is forfeited.
13. Each game will be 6 innings or time limit, whichever comes first. Time limits will be 1 and ¼ hours unless otherwise identified. The time limit DOES NOT apply to the semi-final and final games or if an Umpire decides otherwise.
14. In the event of a tie game, weather permitting, the international tie breaker rule will be used for the remainder of the game. The last scheduled batter in the inning for the offensive team will start as a runner on second base. For example, if the number 5 batter is to bat first this inning, the number 4 batter

would start on second base. At the discretion of the umpire, if the weather does not permit game continuation when a tie exists at the end of the 1 ¼ hour time limit, the score at the end of the last inning in which the score was not tied will determine the winner.

15. A game is considered complete after four innings. The “mercy rule” or “run ahead” rule will be used according to ASA slow pitch regulations where one team is ahead of the other by 20 or more runs after 3 full innings, 15 or more runs after 4 full innings, or 10 runs after 5 full innings, the game will be considered complete.
16. With the exception of the final playoff game in each of the Neighborhood and Open Divisions, a count of One (1) ball and One (1) strike will apply to the batter and a batter’s second foul ball after two strikes results in batter out, e.g. strikeout.
17. NO LEADING OFF BASES. NO STEALING. IT IS AN AUTOMATIC OUT. Base runners must keep in contact with their base and may leave it ONLY when a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground or reaches Home Plate. If an umpire sees the base runner leave early, they are out. If the ball reaches the plate and the batter swings and misses, it is a dead ball.
18. Courtesy Runner: The player who made the last out may be used for an injured player remaining in the game provided that the manager of the opposing team agrees to the substitution. This can be discussed between managers before the game for prior injuries; however, injuries that occur during a game, the opposing team needs to agree to the substitution.
19. Sliding is permitted only by observing the “No Contact Rule.” You must slide at home plate if there is a play; if not, you are out. The umpire has discretion to call a runner out for a flagrant violation of this rule.
20. **There will be NO sliding on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base on fields that have grass infields\*\*\*\*\* (Fields J and I)**
21. If a male batter is walked with a female/lady or senior batter on deck, then the female or senior batter receives the option for an **automatic walk and is awarded first base**. Since the rosters will clearly identify the “soft players” with “LADY” or “SIR” in advance, it will be the responsibility of the scorekeeper for the DEFENSIVE team to announce to his/her own pitcher/team in the field that a woman or senior is on deck prior to the first pitch. Failure by a team to identify their soft players on the provided Cranberry CUP roster as outlined above will result in the soft player having to bat.

### **Rules for Event Fields**

22. The distance from the Pitcher’s plate to home plate is 50 feet. Slow-pitch softball with no wind-ups will be played with a 6 to 12 foot arc.
23. **CO-ED OUTFIELD LINE**. There is a line in the outfield at 120 feet. Outfielders must remain behind this line for a woman or senior batter until the woman or senior batter makes contact with the ball. Violation of this rule results in the batter being awarded first base or given the option of taking the outcome of the play. Discussion of outcome permitted between batter and coach.
24. **Fields 1, 2, and 3 at Cranberry Park** are considered short fields. For the safety of all CUP attendees and supporters (which is of highest priority), a ball hit over the fence at any of these fields will constitute an automatic OUT. **Haine School Field, Field 5 at Cranberry Park, Field L and Field H at Graham Park** will observe a “ground rule double” for balls hit over the fence in fair territory. No more than two ground rule doubles are permitted per inning per team. Beyond the two permitted, each ball hit over the fence at these fields will constitute an out. For **all other fields (Field 4, Veteran’s Field, Seven Fields, Graham I and J, Rowan 1 and 2, etc.)** a ball hit over the outfield fence will be considered a home run. No more than two home runs are permitted per inning per team. Beyond the two permitted, each ball hit over the fence will be considered an out.
25. For the safety of children and all spectators, the team at bat on all fields in Cranberry Park and Graham Park is responsible for providing at least 2 adults to stand beyond the outfield fence to catch balls. If play begins without 2 adults beyond the fence it will result in the first out of that inning. This rule can be enforced by any Cranberry CUP board member, as well as an umpire who witnesses a violation.

### **Equipment**

26. No metal spikes are permitted.
27. No Bunting.
28. BATS: FOR SAFETY OF ALL PLAYERS, FANS AND CHILDREN. All bats will be supplied by the Cranberry CUP. Four (4) bats will be available at each field.
29. ASA rules apply except as identified above.

**Stay Safe and Have Fun! Thank you for your participation.**