



CCU Softball 2011

League Information Guide

**CCU SPORTS & THE CHINESE CHRISTIAN UNION OF SAN FRANCISCO
WWW.CCUSPORTS.COM**

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Welcome!

From the Chinese Christian Union Softball League

We are hoping that you have had an enjoyable new year so far. If you are reading this, you already know that planning has already begun for all the CCU Sports leagues. As with the other sports leagues, we here at CCU Softball would want to welcome you back to another season of softball. We, along with the other CCU sports leagues are a united sports division of CCU.

CCU Softball has been trying to improve the softball experience for all its participants so it can for all. Through the years, we have seen many participants continue playing after the league ends. As a league, we have also have seen many new faces through outreach of your churches. There are some that play well, and some that come to just exercise their bodies and Fellowship with each other. Through the years, we have seen many friendships start and many participants start attending Church. We would encourage you to continue to use this Spiritual tool for your churches. In Mark 1:17 it says "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." We feel that this is what our league is all about. We do play against each other but we come to Fellowship together.

As Christians we should respect all in what we do. In CCU Softball we feel that everyone should adhere to the rules, Spirit of play, and being on time. For the most part we do, but we can improve. We challenge you all in 2011 to come to all games on time whether you are playing or umping. This helps us all have a better experience so that we can start on time and end on time. We then can enjoy the Fellowship time and have a better experience.

There are also some improvements we have made through your evaluations and meetings that we have. We have listened and have made some changes to the league. We like to thank all that have made many requests. Some of those changes have come about to make this league better. For some other requests, we still are evaluating them for the future but cannot guarantee it. We would ask you to continue helping us with requests so we can make this league better for you.

Fellowship has been an important part of this league and this year is no different. We have started something new along with the other leagues and for the first time we can say what our theme is before you send in your applications. This year's Theme is "**VICTORY**" based on **1 Corinthians 15:57** "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

We emphasize Christian fellowship and example. If you participate in the 2011 Chinese Christian Union Softball League (CCUSL), please participate fully, bring a loving attitude, and take your responsibilities seriously. We hope to see you on the field this year.

Dear Friends of CCU Softball,

Oh behalf of CCU Softball, I wanted to update you officially about the changes that the larger Chinese Christian Union is making to CCU Softball and CCU Sports.

In particular, started in 2010, there will be a new policy that states all teams in any CCU league must be church-sponsored and have a letter of support signed by the pastor. There might be some avenue for applying for exceptions, but we are not sure exactly what that might be yet. Many teams without a church sponsorship are probably going to wonder if we are singling them out for exclusion, but CCU is trying very hard to explain the basis for the policy. Basically, as an ecumenical and evangelistic organization, CCU believes that church sponsorship would place responsibility on the churches for proper follow-up, encouragement, and accountability within an established Christian body, namely a home or sponsoring church. This would mean greater connection between the players and churches, and also stronger accountability in the relationships if liability were to occur. Ultimately, this is an opportunity and a call to strengthen the implementation of our mission and the purpose of the Chinese Christian Union and CCU Sports.

Please remember that ANYONE can still play in CCU Sports as long as they are within an officially church-sponsored team.

For teams and individuals without a church connection, this is a great opportunity to connect formally with a Christian body, and to seek and grow mutual support within a church family.

For churches and church leaders, this is a call to welcome players and teams seeking these connections.

I hope this is not disheartening. We believe this is a great opportunity for greater outreach and building a stronger community. CCU and I appreciate your support of CCU and CCU Softball.

Thank you again. I hope we can find a solution that will continue to meet all our needs. If you have questions or concerns specific to the church-sponsorship policy, please contact our CCU Sports Minister, Pastor Don Ng (revdonng@fcbc-sf.org or 415-717-8941). Please feel free to contact me at melfong@ccusports.com if you have league questions.

Take care and God bless,

Mel

Mel Fong
Commissioner, CCU Softball

Mission Statement

Our Mission

The Chinese Christian Union Sports League (CCU Sports) is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and providing an avenue for Christian evangelism and fellowship through the means of playing organized sports. CCU Sports targets men, women, boys, and girls from Chinese Christian communities in the San Francisco area, although it is open to all.

Our Purpose

This unified sports league has many goals. Its foremost goal is to spread the Gospel to everyone. Through the support of the participants from churches and organizations, the league strives to provide a quality fellowship experience for all, Christians and non-Christians. These goals will be achieved if we put Jesus Christ first in our individual lives. In the process of achieving these primary goals, effective outreach, unity, spiritual growth, and developing Christian examples will also occur. The CCU Softball League, as part of CCU Sports and the Chinese Christian Union of San Francisco, serves many needs. In addition to our spiritual goals, we strive to provide safe, encouraging, and quality sports programs for all to enjoy. Society today tells us that fierce competition is a way of life and that winning is everything. However, the CCU Sports League's participants and leaders challenge all individuals to be bold and to stand for God's Love and Christian integrity. "They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable" (1 Corinthians 9:25). Look at the eternal life God has in store for you. CCU Sports hopes to promote what God wants for you. CCU Sports promises to expend all available resources in furthering our benevolent goals. The coordinators, leaders, and participants do not intend to earn profit through the workings of this league. The league will not share its income or earnings with any individuals associated with the league. In the event that this league is dissolved, all assets and funds remaining after its operating or outstanding expenses have been paid will be passed on to similar leagues or organizations devoted to similar Christian evangelism and fellowship purposes.

Our History

The Chinese Christian Union of San Francisco (CCU), our parent organization, adopted its first constitution in 1916. During its long history, the CCU has continued to support needs and ministries serving the Chinese community in San Francisco. CCU was instrumental in establishing the Chinese Hospital, and the YMCA and YWCA in Chinatown. The CCU is ministering in many areas: the Women's Association, the Christian Cemetery Service, Chinese Hospital, Year Round Christian Worship, Youth Programs, and organized sports including basketball, softball, and volleyball programs. In 1997 the Chinese Christian Union Sports League, also known as CCU Sports, was created to supervise the existing Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball programs.

Dates

CCU Softball League 2011: June 5th through August 28th (Tentative Dates).



Early Application Deadline	Monday, March 21 st
Final Application Deadline	Monday, April 4 th
All Shirt Orders Deadline	Saturday, April 30 th
General Meeting:	Thursday, May 12 th
Final Changes for Rosters	Saturday, June 4 th
Umping Clinic	Saturday, June 4 th
CCU Sports Kickoff	Saturday, June 4 th
Universal Waivers Due:	Saturday, June 4 th
Play commences:	Sunday, June 5 th
CCU Softball All-Star Day	Saturday, July 16 th
Spiritual Leaders Meeting	Thursday 7:30, July 28 th
Play ends:	Sunday, August 28 th
League BBQ & Awards:	Sunday, August 28 th
Final General Meeting:	Thursday Sept 8 th
Evaluations Due:	Monday September 19 th

Softball games will be played on Sunday afternoons. **Depending on field availability, some Saturday games will be scheduled.** Fields and times are TBA. All meetings are at Sunset Church in the fellowship area across from the main church (3638 Lawton St., San Francisco) at 7:30PM.

Changes

There are several changes in this year's CCU Softball League. As with other leagues we are doing this to encourage people to play and to have fair play for all. We are a different league than many other softball leagues and want to emphasize that Christian Fellowship is the main reason our league exists.

Rosters: Rosters are trimmed from 25(2010) to 20 (2011).

Waivers: Participants will not be able to participate on the field if their waivers are not in. They can be able to go to Fellowship.

Balls: A smaller ball will be used whenever a female or youth batter is up to encourage fairer play for all. The regular ball will be put back into play when a male batter 14 years and above is hitting.

Balls: Teams will no longer need to bring softballs or are given softballs to bring as the league committee members will have them at each game.

Youth: Participants that are 13 and under. They must wear a helmet at all times when at bat or running the base paths.

Rules: If in the opinion of the home plate umpire when a male batter 14 years and above attempts a swinging bunt, he will be called out and any runners on base will return to the base they were on prior to contact. There will be no warnings.

(We will demonstrate what a swinging bunt looks like and any form of it at the Umpping Clinic)

Game Time: We are asking all to be on time this year and fines will be enforced if teams do not adhere to this. Game times will be strictly enforced. Teams are encouraged to show up a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes before official game time. The game will be a forfeit if team(s) fails to show up within five (5) minutes past the official game time. Forfeits will result in a fifty dollar (\$50) fine. No guarantee for warm-ups.

Umpping: We are also asking umps to show up before the start of the game on time or the team will be fined. That means that umps should show up 10 minutes on the field at the latest. The official time they will get fined is when after the scheduled start time. We also ask that you have four umps at all times. Three umps on the field and one scorekeeper.

T-shirts: Each team will get 15 free T-shirts and extras will be charged at \$7 a shirt instead of \$12 like before. There will be a picture of the T-shirt available on the website at the end of March. If you make any roster changes after April 30th, those participants will not have a T-shirt because the orders for t-shirts will have been made. Please get them in on time so you can be guaranteed a T-shirt. We will not make extra orders like we have in the past. They will be available for pickup at the CCU Sports Kickoff.

BBQ: Each participant will be charged \$3 in 2011 for each ticket compared to \$1 in 2010.

Fellowship

Each team is responsible for fellowship. The home team will lead fellowship. Before the season starts a theme is developed for the upcoming season. In 2006, we started to have a universal CCU Sports theme that we all follow. The different sports then would create topics each week relating to the theme. Each week different example devotions are followed or modified depending upon the style of each devotional leader. Fellowship can be done in different forms. Some have used worship, skits, speakers, small groups, and games to enhance the fellowship. We will also have sign-ins before fellowship start.

Fellowship is where people can share what they know or what opinions they have about who God is and what God has done for them. It is a gathering of more than two and is used to witness about Jesus. In many ways, fellowship can provide us with making new friends and fellow brothers and sisters.

When leading fellowship, make sure that it is planned out ahead of time and prepared so it won't seem like it was a last minute job. Usually fellowship after sports would last 15 minutes at least. Occasionally, when fellowship ends, players continue to fellowship by organizing dinners and get-togethers. During fellowship, take an opportunity to meet new people, share discussions with others, and, most importantly, share the good news of God with all.

Divisions

This year we are planning to have 3 Divisions. All Divisions will be co-ed and for all ages. Although we hope to fill all divisions, some may be combined or split as needed. Below are the divisions we offer, and the recommendations and requirements for each. (Pending on how many teams we have)

- **A Division.** This division contains experienced and skilled players with most having school team or highly competitive organized league experience.
- **B Division.** This division contains players interested in a moderate level of competition one step lower in experience or skill.
- **C Division.** This division contains players at a beginning level of skill or those interested in a moderate level of competition and fellowship.

Equipment

The league will supply for each regular season game, the following:

- Double bases at first base. This is to help runners from colliding into first base. See “Rules and Regulations” for specific rules regarding this base.
- Balls. The League will supply softballs. Two balls will be used: one regular ball for men 14 years and above and smaller ball will be in play when a woman or a youth participant (13 years and under) comes up to bat.
- First aid kits. First aid kits will be at all fields. If they need to be replenished, please let any CCU Softball committee member know.
- Binders for the ump. Score sheets, fellowship sign-ins and rules and regulations will be included in the binders.

Each team will need to supply:

- Bats. Because of cost and safety reasons, only single wall bats, single wall bats with composite handles, and women fast pitch single wall bats will be allowed. No composite bats, EST bats, or multiwall bats.
- Gloves.
- Catcher’s Helmet. This is for the safety of those who play behind the plate. We want to ensure the catcher that he or she does not get hit in the face with a ball or bat. Most catchers’ helmets can be made with a batting helmet and a facemask for the helmet (this is the cheapest combination, and it usually runs around \$30 total).
- Plastic cleats. For safety reasons, no metal cleats allowed. Cleats are optional equipment; however, keep in mind that cleats do enhance play.
- Helmets. This is a rule for those under 13 years of age and under. Players 13 years old and younger must bat and run bases wearing a batting helmet.

Team Responsibilities

Character and Gracious Play

Your team and fans will be expected to exhibit proper attitude and sportsman-like conduct consistent with the CCU Sports League mission and purpose. We are seen within our churches, league, and even from outside. We want to display good character and gracious play to others. Remember, we are a Christian league and people from outside the league are watching us.

Team Sponsorship

A team must be sponsored by a church or organization. We suggest you list a **team name** on the registration form in addition to listing your church/organization name. The team leader must attend the church that the team represents. Started in 2010, you also must have the church's pastor signature.

Team Rosters

The maximum number of players per team is 20. Rosters must be completed by June 4th. For Insurance purposes, all players that are participating must have two Universal CCU Sports Release and Wavier forms fully filled out and signed:

1. **One must be filled out electronically online to CCU Sports**
2. **Another must be filled out by hand and signed to CCU Softball**
3. **A third (Optional) for the sake of having it on hand in case of an emergency should go to your team captain or representative.**

(Please bear with this process, as this will be separate from the application and will be available soon. This is the first time we are doing this.)

A player can only play on one team and one division only. Players may not cross from lower division to an upper division or upper to lower division. Players may not cross over from one team to another team even if they are in the same division. No adding players after the deadline (June 4th).

Officiating

Your team must fulfill all umpiring and scorekeeping responsibilities. Please make sure that all umpires do know the rules and know how to position on the field. There will be an Umpping Clinic, which will be explained at the general meeting. Each team is responsible to send a number of representatives. If you do not send enough representatives, this will result in an automatic fine. Officiating crews (at least 3 umpires per field) will need to be on time or the team will be fined. (FYI -You should be there 10 minutes before game starts so you don't incur a fine for being late.) **NO EXCEPTIONS! The league takes officiating responsibilities very seriously. The league asks all teams to cooperate fully so the league can control costs and uphold a high level of competition.**

Playoffs

Playoffs will occur after each division completes the regular season. The number of teams in the playoffs will depend on the number of teams that are participating in each division. If there are more than eight teams in a division, the number of playoff teams will be the top six teams with seed #1 & #2 getting a bye. If there are eight or less teams, then there will only be four playoff teams. Seeding will be announced after each division season ends.

In a six-team playoff format the playoffs would be:

- First round #6 vs. #3 and #5 vs. #4
- Second round would be #1 vs. winner of #5 vs. #4 and #2 vs. winner of #6 vs. #3
- Finals are the two winners of the second round.

In a four-team playoff format the playoffs would be:

- First round #4 vs. #1 and #3 vs. #2
- Finals are the winners of the first round.

Times of playoffs will be announced after each division finishes the season.

League Meetings

There are a total of three meetings and an umpiring clinic. All meetings and umpiring clinic are mandatory.

- 1) General League Meeting: Representatives from all teams need to attend. This is the informational meeting. Teams will receive the schedules, balls, and other league information.
- 2) The Umpiring Clinic: At least two reps from each team must attend. This clinic helps us understand the rules and regulations of our league as well as field positioning. Failure to make this clinic will result in a fine.
- 3) Mid-Season Meeting: At least one representative per team. These meetings are to give information back to your team and to inform the league how your team is progressing spiritually and play-wise.
- 5) Wrap-up Meeting: At least one representative per team. All fines will be collected and deposits received. Please submit evaluations.

These meetings are important so the lines of communication can occur. If your team does not attend these meetings there will be fines and other penalties.

Application, Rules, and Regulations

There is limited space so please submit early. CCU Churches have priority then it will be first come first serve.

Any team failing to meet the requirements stated in this document, in the 2011 Official Rules and Regulations, or at the general meetings **WITHOUT** a valid excuse or proper notification to the committee will be disciplined.

Due to fairness, all rules will be strictly enforced. Rules are made for the safety of everyone participating. At all times, the league strives to provide and promote a collaborative and Godly environment. Therefore, we ask that all teams adhere to the rules.

Fines & Disciplinary Actions

The first infraction is a ***\$50 fine and first warning***. The second is a ***\$75 fine and last warning***. The third is a \$100 fine and may result in ***IMMEDIATE disqualification from the league and a one-year probationary period***. ***WE ARE NOT WITHOUT HEART***. If you have a legitimate excuse, we will try to be accommodating. However, we want teams to take this ministry seriously for the good of all.

Fines are instituted if your team:

- Does not attend league meetings or rep meetings.
- Does not attend the Umping Clinic (2 representatives)
- Does not show up for a scheduled Umping date or shows up late (3 Umpires needed per field).
- Do not show up for a scheduled game or have less than 9 players on the field at the start of official game time.
- If a participant displays improper conduct which does not reflect Christian character.
- If a participant fights, throws a punch, whether connected or not during any part of the game or after.

Suspensions are given out if:

- Any participant fights, throws a punch, whether connected or not during any part of the game or after.
- Any participant displays improper conduct, which does not reflect Christian character.

Main Events and Activities

Family, friends, and congregation members are invited to all games and League BBQ and Awards. There also will be joint events with the other CCU sports leagues, which are open to all. These fellowship events are important for sharing the Gospel and celebrating as a Christian community. We encourage you and your team to attend. **Please make every effort to come.**

Shirts

Fifteen T-shirts for each team will be free. Each additional T-shirt will be \$7 per shirt. At this time we do not know what the availability for sweatshirts or other items will be but we will issue an announcement if we do sell sweatshirts or other items.

CCU Sports Kickoff

CCU Sports Kickoff is another event, which includes all CCU Sports Leagues. This is a great event where you can meet other participants, have fun, and fellowship with others. There are games, singing, prizes, and a guest speaker speaking on this year's theme.

All-Star Fellowship Day

All-Star Fellowship Day is a day where participants from different teams play with each other to get to know one another and have fellowship. There will be also some activities planned. Stay tuned!

Awards

Players will vote for Most Inspirational Player Awards and Team Fellowship Awards presented at the League BBQ. We need your help by submitting your nominees for various awards so we can purchase and have awards ready by the League BBQ. ***No trophies will be awarded for division champions.***

End of the Year BBQ

End of the Year BBQ is softball's day to celebrate until we see each other next year. There is fun, food, awards given and a guest speaker. This is the most popular event of the year. There will be a fee this year of \$3 per ticket. All softball participants and friends will be charged the same.

League Applications

Application Instructions

Please make sure you read all information on the applications before submitting. Applications can be downloaded online at CCUSports.com. There are 3 team sections to the application and 2 personal waivers to fill out by each participant. The following are descriptions and instructions for all sections and waivers:

Team Information Section: Information on your team is greatly appreciated. Please fill this out for identification reasons- which team you are and what church you are from. Please fill this out completely.

Team Leadership Section: We want to know who are your reps, spiritual leaders, captains, and coaches. This is where we can contact the right people who are the leaders of your team. Please fill this out completely.

Team Rosters Section: Please enter the names of people that are playing on your team and not from other people's team. This is important this year because of the new rules. Fill this out completely. You can add people on the roster until the end of June. We will only use personal e-mail addresses to e-mail league events and activities (i.e. Shirts, CCU Kickoff and End of the year BBQ).

Universal CCU Sports Personal Liability Release and Waiver Form: Please fill this out completely so we can have record of all who are playing. We need these forms for liability reasons. We are asking that each participant fills out one for CCU Sports online and a second copy for CCU Softball hand signed. The team captain or representative may also keep one on hand for emergency purposes.

Universal CCU Sports Media Release Form: We are planning to take pictures and video this year for the websites and, hopefully, end-of-the-year video. We need your authorization so we can use the pictures and video taken. Please fill these forms out completely. Again, we are asking that each participant fills out one for CCU Sports online and a second copy for CCU Softball hand signed.

(Both the Universal CCU Sports Personal Liability Release and Waiver Form and Universal CCU Sports Media Release Form will be separate from the Application. They will be on a separate form.)

Fees

\$575: league fee (*if postmarked by March 21st*).

\$600: league fee (*if postmarked after March 21st*).

Fees may come from either a personal or church check. Please make checks payable to:
Chinese Christian Union

Fees pay for insurance costs, facilities, supplies (e.g. balls, equipment, etc.), administrative expenses (e.g., postage, photocopying, etc.), awards, and most of the refreshments and food at the league BBQ.

Due Date

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 4th. APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER April 5th WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. SORRY, NO HAND DELIVERIES, FAXING, OR E-MAILING OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Waivers are due Saturday June 4th. Waivers are required for all participants.

Checklist

Make sure you have downloaded from the CCU Website:

- 2011 CCU Softball League Information Guide
 - 2011 CCU Softball League Rules and Regulations
 - 2011 CCU Softball League Application
 - 2011 CCU Softball Team Information
 - 2011 CCU Softball Leadership Information
 - 2011 CCU Softball Team Roster
 - 2011 CCU Sports Universal Personal Liability Release and Waiver Form*
 - 2011 CCU Sports Universal Media Release Form*
- *You will need to have each participant fill one out online for CCU Sports and one hand signed for CCU Softball.**

Please read over all material carefully. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

A complete application must have:

- 2011 CCU Softball Team Information
- 2011 CCU Softball Leadership Information
- 2011 CCU Softball Official Team Roster
- Registration fee (please make checks payable to CCU)
Postmarked by April 4th.

Send in complete application to:
2011 CCU Softball League
C/o Mel Fong
81 Beaumont Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94118

NO HAND DELIVERIES, FAXES OR E-MAILING OF APPLICATIONS

Questions? E-mail CCU_Softball@yahoo.com attention Mel Fong or Dom Lau.

Committee

Commissioner / Fellowship	Mel Fong	SBCC
Finance	Dom Lau	Cumberland
Communications	Peony Cheung	CBC
Scheduling	Jessica Sue	CTBC
Fields	Stephen Kwong	FCSBC
Rules & Regulations / General	John Tam	SAYBC
Rules & Regulations / Officiating	Jason Quintal	CBC
Rules & Regulations / Equipment	Danny Ng	CBC
Rules & Regulations / Bats	Gordon Lee	CEBC
Events / Kickoff and All-Star Fellowship	Danny Jung	Sunset Church
Events / BBQ	Matt Chin	FCBC
Events / Awards	Donald Ma	FCBC
On Sabbatical	Marc Bartolome	CTBC

Contacts

We do have a website you can visit. One is the CCU Sports website www.CCUSports.com which includes information, instructions, rules & regulations, scores, and standings.

You can contact any committee member at CCU_Softball@yahoo.com or from the CCU Softball Directory (A directory will be issued to team leaders). Please make sure that when you e-mail, specify which committee you wish to e-mail on the subject line.