

**CLEVELAND HEIGHTS DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
2015 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

PROFANITY RULE-ALL LEAGUES

A player, coach or other team member may not **shout** profanity, regardless of whether the profanity is directed toward an umpire or other game official, a member of the opposing team, a member of his/her own team---or even toward the player himself/herself.

OFFENSE - When a player, coach or other team member **shouts** profanity while his/her team is on offense, an out will be charged to his/her team. At the conclusion of playing action, the umpire will call time, declare the out and issue a team warning. The warning will be reported to the scorer, who will note it on the score sheet.

All action which occurred during the play stands. If the profanity is used during action in which the third out of the inning is made, the penalty out for profanity carries over to the next inning.

DEFENSE - When a player, coach or other team member **shouts** profanity while his/her team is on defense, an out will be charged to his/her team when it next comes to bat. At the conclusion of playing action, the umpire will call time, inform the scorer that an out will be declared against the defensive team to begin its next turn at bat and issue a team warning, which will be noted on the score sheet.

All action which occurred during the play stands.

Following any team warning, subsequent **shouting** of profanity by a player, coach or other team member results in an out charged to the team and ejection of that player, coach or team member. Additionally, the umpire (s) may eject any player, coach or other team member immediately---prior to any team warning---if the umpire(s) deems the use of profanity to be of a severe nature. The umpire (s) shall be sole judge (s) as to severity of profanity for purpose of penalization and ejection.

PROFANITY RULE SITUATIONS

PLAY 1: With none out, B1 is at bat with a 1-1 count. The umpire calls the pitch a strike, after which B1 directs profanity toward the umpire.

RULING: The umpire will call time, declare an out on the offensive team and issue a team warning. B1 is ejected for directing profanity toward an umpire.

PLAY 2: Same as Play 1 but with two out.

RULING: The umpire will call time, declare an out on the offensive team and issue a team warning. The inning is over. B1 is ejected for directing profanity toward an umpire.

PLAY 3: With two out, B3 flies out to F7. After rounding first following the catch, B3 shouts profanity over his own poor play.

RULING: The umpire will call time, declare an out on the offensive team and issue a team warning. B4 starts the next inning with one out on his team.

PLAY 4: With one out, B2 hits ground ball to F6, who throws B2 out at first on a close play. Incensed by the call, B2 uses profanity.

RULING: The umpire will call time, declare an out on the offensive team and issue a team warning. The penalty out for profanity ends the inning; B3 leads off the next inning.

PLAY 5: Same as Play 4 but with R1 also on second, who does not advance during the play.

RULING: At the end of playing action, the umpire will call time, declare an out on the offensive team and issue a team warning. The penalty out for profanity ends the inning, stranding R1 at second.

PLAY 6: Same as Play 5 but with R1 at third, which scores during B2's ground out.

RULING: At the end of playing action, the umpire will call time, declare an out on the offensive team and issue a team warning. The run by R1 counts; B3 leads off the next inning.

PLAY 7: With none out and R1 at first, B2 singles to right-center. F9's throw to third goes into dead ball territory, with R1 beyond second and B2 beyond first when F9 releases the throw. The umpire calls time and awards R1 home and B2 third. While B2 is approaching third, he shouts profanity in an attempt to encourage his team.

RULING: After R1 and B2 have reached their awarded bases, the umpire will declare an out on the offensive team and issue a team warning. B2 remains on third; B3 bats with one out.

PLAY 8: The score is tied with two outs in the bottom of the seventh and the home team has received a warning for profanity. B3 hits a home run, either over the fence on a closed field or past the outfielders on an open field. While running the bases, B3 shouts profanity, either in joy at victory, as a taunt to the visiting team or as a seemingly unpenalizable jab at the umpire (s).

RULING: The home team has won. (Exception: If B3 misses a base, he is subject to being called out on appeal.) After B3 has scored, the umpire will eject B3, who will receive a game suspension, as per league rules.

PLAY 9: With one out, B2 doubles to the gap in left-center. After the ball is returned to the infield, F4 makes a proper appeal to the umpire that B2 missed first. The umpire calls B2 safe. F4 uses profanity in offering his opinion of the call.

RULING: The umpire will inform the scorer that an out will be declared against the defensive team to begin its next turn at bat and issue a team warning.

PLAY 10: With one out, R2 is on third, R3 is on second and R4 is on first. B5 flies out to F8. R2 leaves third legally and scores. R3 leaves second early and advances to third. R4 leaves first legally and advances to second. After the ball is returned to the infield, F4 makes a proper appeal to the umpire that R4 left first early. The umpire calls R4 safe. F1 is incensed by the call and directs profanity toward the umpire. F4 then makes a proper appeal to the umpire that R3 left second early. The umpire calls R3 out. R3 and his third-base coach scream profanity over the call. Both teams have received team warnings.

RULING: The inning is over; the run scored by R2 counts. F1 is ejected for the balance of this game and suspended as per league rules; his defensive team, now coming to bat, begins its turn with one out. R3 and his third-base coach also are ejected for the balance of this game and suspended as per league rules; their team will begin its next turn at-bat with two out.