



2024 Spring Softball League Rules

General Rules:

1. We will be using NCS for our umpires this year and will be using NCS rules. All BATS must have the NSA or USSSA 2012 stamp on it or it will not be allowed to be used. A pitch must have a legal arc minimum of 5' from the ground and shall not exceed 10' at its highest point while in the air. Pitching distance is 53' - pitcher must have foot on rubber at the time of the release of the pitch. If a pitcher fakes, or is not in contact with the rubber it will be a "Dead Ball" and the pitch will be determined a ball. **A mat placed behind the plate will be used for the strike zone. Any legally pitched ball within the minimum and maximum height limits that hits the mat will be called a strike.**
2. Three balls, two strikes. Home team is the first team listed and will be in the third base dugout. A 12" ball will be used for men, 11" for women. **Per NCS COED Rules: Due to our league switching balls there is no COED line. However, COED teams may NOT play a 5 man infield and all infielders must be on the dirt., the outfield has to be in the grass in an umbrella formation and CANNOT be on the dirt.**
3. There will be a maximum of three (3) home runs per game! Any more than three (3) will be considered an out. Home Runs will be a hit and sit. No need to run the bases.
4. There is no must slide rule, but both fielders and baserunners must attempt to avoid contact on close plays. Unnecessary contact can result in an automatic out of safe call being made by the umpire and/or a player ejection. (Umpire's discretion)
5. **50 minute time limit** or 7 innings, whichever comes first. **No new inning may be started after 50 minutes from game time.** RUN RULE: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, 10 after 5 innings. There is no flip-flop rule.
6. In the event of a tie. 1(one) international tie breaker inning will be used to determine a winner. If at the end of the inning both teams are still tied, the game will be called a tie and will be over.
7. CO-ED 10 players play on defense. The pitcher/catcher combination must be 1 male/1 female. Infield combination must be 2 males / 2 females. Outfield combination must be 2 males / 2 females. When a male batter is walked intentionally or unintentionally, the male batter is awarded second base, and the following female batter must bat. EFFECT: The ball is dead and the male batter may go directly to the awarded 2nd Base without touching 1st base. EXCEPTION: WITH TWO OUTS the following female batter has the option to bat or walk.
8. Mens/Womens Leagues: 10 players play on defense.
9. Teams must have at least 10 players for a full team. If a team has less than 8 players the game will be called a forfeit. In CO-ED there must be at least as many men as women playing at any time. Teams may play with more women than men, but not more men than women. **NEW* CO-ED teams may play with one more man than women, but must take one (1) automatic out in place of the missing woman at her spot in the lineup. If this is the case, defensively you must keep the same formation for the entirety of the inning, and may only play with nine (9)**

defensive players. (EX. If you have four (4) infielders to start the inning you must have four (4) infielders for the entirety of that inning, you may not switch to three (3) infielders for a new batter.) You must still have equal number of men and women in the outfield and infield as per NCS rules with one (1) female missing in her spot either in the infield or outfield. You must always have your pitcher and catcher combination be one (1) man and one (1) woman. Using players from the team you are currently playing will result in a forfeit. Forfeit Rule. Any team that forfeits 3 games during the season will not be allowed to participate in post season tournament.

10. **Teams are strongly encouraged to have matching (same color) shirts and MUST have a 6" number on the back.** Everyone must be in a uniform with a number on it by April 29th. **NO DUPLICATE NUMBERS! NO TAPED-ON NUMBERS!** Shirts without numbers and shirts with duplicate numbers will cost teams a run on the first offense in the game and will be an automatic out every at bat after the first offense. Shirts must be worn on outside of clothing.
11. No foul or abusive language will be tolerated. No fighting will be tolerated. Penalties for each of these violations are spelled out in the "Player Code of Conduct". Team captains are responsible to see that all team players know and adhere to the "Code of Conduct." Use of the "F" word will be an automatic ejection.
12. We will only allow 20 players on your roster. Changes (additions, replacements, etc) can be made to rosters through Friday, May 17th. After this date, the roster will be frozen for the rest of the season. Changes must be made on the official roster at the Recreation Office, not at the Ball Park. Only players listed on the roster will be allowed to play. All fees must be paid before a player can play. Do not try to play under an assumed name! Teams caught trying to cheat in this manner will forfeit the game where they were caught; and will also be suspended for two league games. If caught during tournament, the team will be suspended from the tournament. ID checks will be conducted before a teams first tournament game of the evening.
13. TOURNAMENT will be held at the conclusion of the season. Tournament games could be played on any night of the week. If you have a player that plays on multiple team's games could overlap. The tournament will be single elimination for all leagues.
14. Courtesy runners – 2 courtesy runners per team per inning for the batter only. Courtesy runner does not have to be the last out in that inning or the previous inning. The courtesy runner must occupy the base, once time has been called, prior to the next pitch. If their turn to bat coincides with being on base, the at-bat will be an out. In COED you can have 1 courtesy runner per inning per gender.
15. Any person caught with Alcohol will be suspended for the rest of the season! Teams with repeat offenses will be removed from the league.
16. Pitchers **MUST** be wearing a mask in order to pitch!
17. Only those people on your roster will be allowed in the dugout (No children in the dugouts).
18. No Metal Cleats!

19. If a player is ejected from the game for any reason the team captain of the ejected players team will also be ejected for the game and both players will be ineligible for any of that teams' games for the remainder of the evening. If after the ejections the team has less than 8 players that team will forfeit the game.
20. "Service" animals will not be allowed in the dugout! No exceptions. Anxiety and Emotional support animals are NOT service animals and are NOT covered under ADA and will not be allowed in the park. Please refer to this link with any questions concerning service animals.
https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html