



PARKS & RECREATION ATHLETICS DIVISION

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Adult Slowpitch Softball Spring 2023 Men's/Women's/Church Leagues

Points of Emphasis

1. GAME LENGTH:

- A) Game is limited to **7 innings or a Time Limit of 1 hour and 5 minutes**, whichever comes first.
- B) **Time Limit begins immediately at the conclusion of the coaches meeting and cannot be protested. Coaches are responsible for confirming the start time, monitoring and confirming time with the umpire.**
- C) No new inning may begin AFTER 1 hour and 5 minutes has expired.
- D) A new inning "starts" immediately after the 3rd out is made.
- E) If the game Time Limit has expired and the score is tied, the game will **END in a TIE**.
- F) If the game Time Limit has NOT expired and the score is tied, the game will continue.

2. BALL REQUIREMENTS:

- A) Each team must provide their own ball while on offense.
- B) **Men/Church:** 12", optic **Yellow** cover w/USSSA or GSL & Classic M or Classic Plus logo.
- C) **Women:** 11", optic **Yellow** cover w/USSSA or GSL & Classic W logo.
Penalty: ***If a team cannot provide a ball that meets the above requirements, the opposing team may choose to share the game ball or accept a forfeit. If neither team has a legal ball, both teams will forfeit that game.***

3. BAT REQUIREMENTS:

The umpire has sole discretion to allow or disallow a bat.

- A) Only "Official Softball" bats from authorized manufactures with permanent and visible USSSA and BPF 1.20 markings, will be allowed for use in league play.
- B) Any player, who steps into the batter's box ready to play, using an unapproved or altered bat, will be **immediately ejected** from the game.

4. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS NEEDED TO START/FINISH A GAME:

- A) Team may START/FINISH with a **minimum of (8) players** with **NO OUT** being recorded in the batting order for the missing player(s). If less than (8) players are present, the game will be declared a forfeit.

Note: **Player(s) arriving AFTER the start of the game may be inserted into the line-up at the bottom of the order at ANY TIME during the game.**

5. MERCY RULE:

15 run **MERCY RULE** will be enforced after (5) innings or (5 ½) if the Home Team is ahead.

6. FLIP-FLOP RULE:

If the HOME TEAM is trailing by 10 or more runs at the end of the 6th inning or 55 minutes, the Home team will exchange Home & Visitor status. This will bring the former Home team to bat in the top of the 7th inning and if necessary, the former Visiting team to bat in the bottom of the 7th inning.

(Points of emphasis continued on back side)

7. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

- A) For information on field playability during inclement weather, call the **“RAIN LINE” 360- 473-5700, announced at 4 PM.**
- B) Game Umpire will retain the final judgment on field playability at the field.
- C) Games canceled will be rescheduled and information will be posted on the city website and at Pendergast Park on the bulletin board located next to softball field #1.

8. **UMPIRE NO-SHOW:**

If the game umpire is NOT present **10 MINUTES PRIOR** to the scheduled game start time;

- 1. Call the **USSSA Umpire-In-Charge (360-621-5422)** and leave a voice message including field location, field # and game time.
- 2. Both coaches will try to recruit a volunteer to umpire the game. If an agreement is reached the game will be considered official and a protest will not be allowed. If an agreement cannot be reached, the game will be rescheduled by the League Director.

9. **SCOREKEEPING/LINE-UPS (New 2021):**

- A) Home team is the Official Scorebook. If the Home team is unable to have an official scorebook and the Visiting team does, the Visiting team will become the Official Scorebook.
- B) Players first and/or last name must be listed (NO NICK NAMES or #'s). If there are multiple same first names, last name MUST also be given.
- C) **Coach who knowingly list an incorrect name on the line-up is grounds for a 1 YEAR SUSPENSION from participating and a LIFETIME BAN from COACHING.**

10. **HOME RUN LIMITS/FIELD LIGHTS SCHEDULE:**

Listed is the 2023 Game Rules and posted on the inside of each fields backstop.

11. **CONCUSSION PROTOCOL:**

If a player or coach is struck in the head area with any significant force and exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance), they shall be IMMEDIATELY removed from the game. This shall be determined at the discretion of the umpire and cannot be protested.

12. **½ STRIKE/FOUL BALL RULE (League Play Only)!**

If a batter has a strike and hits a foul ball, a ½ strike will be given and no out will be enforced. A foul ball hit after a player has 1 & ½ strikes will result in an out. Base runner(s) may advance on a caught foul ball.

13. **DOG(S) BROUGHT TO GAMES:**

For the safety of players, spectators, and umpires, dog(s) brought to the softball field MUST be on a Leash (**BMC 7.15.010**) and CONTROLLED at all times (tying/tethering your dog(s) to the fence is NOT considered on a leash) or the participant responsible will not be allowed to play.