



PARKS & RECREATION ATHLETICS DIVISION

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Sunday Mixed League Spring 2023

Adult Slowpitch Softball USSSA

Points of Emphasis

1. GAME LENGTH:

- A) Game is limited to **7 innings or a Time Limit of 1 hour 5 minutes**, whichever comes first.
- B) **Time Limit begins immediately at the conclusion of the pre-game 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 will begin AFTER 1 hour and 5 minutes has expired.
- D) A new inning starts immediately after the third out is made.
- E) **A game will END IN A TIE if the Game Time Limit Has Expired and the score is tied.**
- F) The game will continue if the score is tied but the game time limit has not expired.

2. BALL REQUIREMENTS:

- A) Each team **MUST** provide their own ball while on OFFENSE.
- B) Men: 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. DEFENSIVE POSITIONING:

- A) There are no restrictions regarding the defensive positioning of players on the field.
- B) There must be 4 or 5 males and 4, 5 or 6 females (maximum of 10 players on the field at all times).
- C) **At NO time will more than 5 males or more than 6 females be allowed to play defense at the same time.**

5. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS NEEDED TO START A GAME:

- A) Teams may start with (8) players (**a minimum of 4 males & 4 females**). **NO OUT** will be charged for the missing 9th & 10th spots, when starting with fewer than 10 players. Player(s) arriving after the game begins, may be inserted into the line-up in the bottom of the batting order.
- B) **At no time will a team be allowed to play with fewer than (8) players.**

6. MERCY RULE (New 2021):

15 run Mercy Rule will be enforced after (5) innings or 5 ½ if the Home Team is ahead 15+.

(Sunday Mixed League Points of Emphasis continued on back side)

7. **BATTING ORDER:**
The batting order will ALTERNATE the GENDERS regardless of the number of batters. You may bat an uneven number of males & females, but the genders must alternate (i.e. if you bat 5 females and 10 males, the females would bat 2 times for every males at bat).
8. **COURTESY RUNNER:**
A) Unlimited.
B) **Last available player in the batting order of the same gender.**
C) Once a player's turn at bat is over and a pitch is thrown to the next batter, a base runner CANNOT request a courtesy runner.
9. **FLIP-FLOP RULE (New 2021):**
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.
10. **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. (New 2020)**
11. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:**
A) For information on field playability during inclement weather, call the "**RAIN LINE**" **360-473-5700, announced at 3 PM.**
B) Game Umpire will retain the final judgment on field playability at the field.
C) Game(s) canceled will be rescheduled and information will be posted on the city website and at the Pendergast Park bulletin board located by softball field #1.
D) **RESCHEDULED GAME(s):**
1. Scheduled on Friday evenings.
2. Special requests accepted within **(2) days** of a game cancellation.
3. **Once a game is rescheduled, teams MUST participate or forfeit.**
12. **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 number 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.
3. A volunteer umpire will be paid for their service. The home team will notify the Athletic Office anytime a volunteer umpire officiates a game to report his/her name, address and phone number.
13. **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 listed.
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.**
14. **HOME RUN LIMITS/FIELD LIGHTS SCHEDULE:**
Listed in the 2023 Game Rules and posted on the inside of each fields backstop.