

# **ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **TEAM ROSTER ELIGIBILITY**

All players must be at least 18 years of age by June 3 of the playing season.

## **LOCAL GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **\*\*\*NEW RULE IN BROOKLYN PARK IN 2017\*\*\***Per City Ordinance, loud music is “NOT” allowed in the city parks. As a result, we will “NOT” allow Boom Boxes to be on the benches or near the dugout area during games. We are hearing this other surrounding communities as well, and some of the music is inappropriate especially when there are families with young children nearby.
2. All players should wear a uniform consisting of at least a jersey with numbers.
3. The Home Team is to occupy the first base bench area.
4. Each manager is responsible to check their score with the umpire and other team after each inning to assure accuracy. Home team is official score book.
5. Alcoholic beverages “ARE” allowed inside the complex “BUT NOT” in the dugout or on the field of play. Keep outside the fenced playing field area and clean up after yourselves when done and then we won’t lose the privilege.
6. Vulgar or profane language is not allowed. An umpire may eject a player from the game for violation of these regulations. Any such ejection will be considered an ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct.
7. If a player is EJECTED for any reason, the ejected player’s team will take an out in the batting order every time that player would have come to bat, if they don’t have a substitute to put in the game. If a team has less than 8 players because of ejections that team will FORFEIT, THE GAME.
8. During a game the team bench area is to be occupied by players only. All adult fans and children are NOT ALLOWED on the bench and must be behind the fenced area of the field. This USSSA rule is the result of a lawsuit a few years ago where a team “batboy” was hit in the head by a bat thrown by a player on the team he was batboy for.

## **LOCAL RULES OF PLAY**

1. The rules of the United States Slo-Pitch Softball Association will govern in all instances where superseded by local rules.
2. Games will be 7 innings in length, with a 60-minute time limit, so hustle in and out. The three-ball walk and the two strike out will be used. NO “courtesy foul”. A foul ball on the second strike is a DEAD BALL.
3. A 5-minute grace period will be allowed at the start of a game before the game is declared a forfeit. Umpire starts keeping time for game at the scheduled game time start, which is on the hour in 2019.
4. **No new inning starts after 55 minutes of play.** Tie games end at the end of the inning after the time limit expires.

5. A team may start, continue and/or end a game with 8 players without penalty. Less than 8 players to start is a forfeit. If additional players arrive at the field, they can immediately enter the game and will assume the last spot(s) in the batting order. To be eligible under this rule, a Co-Rec team must have 4 men and 4 women. In Co-Rec with 8 players (4 & 4) – NO AUTOMATIC OUTS, PLAY AS NORMAL.

6. A men's team may bat 10 players, or 11 or 12 players using the Additional Hitter rule, or its entire roster. If a team uses a 10, 11, or 12-player line-up, any applicable re-entry rules will be in effect. If a team uses a 10, 11 or 12-player line-up, any 10 players may take the field defensively. If a team bats its entire roster, free substitution is permitted. However, defensive changes during an inning will only be allowed due to injury or a pitching change. Any player arriving after the start of the game must be reported to the umpire, scorekeeper, and opposing manager and will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

Co-Rec teams: If a Co-Rec team has 9 players with 5 men and 4 women and they bat all 9 players, the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order will be an automatic out every time up. If the team has 5 women and 4 men, they can bat the 2 women back to back with NO out between them. If a Co-Rec team has more than 10 players, and an odd number of men to women (example 6 and 5). If they have more men than women, they can rotate 2 of the men in and out for each other, but not rotate all the men in and out of the game. If they have more women than men, they can bat more women than men with "NO OUT" between the women batters.

7. Run Rule: will be in effect during all regular season games. A team which is leading by 25 or more runs after 3 complete innings, 20 or more runs after 4 complete innings, 15 or more runs after 5 complete innings and 10 or more runs after 6 complete innings will be declared the winner. If the visiting team goes ahead by the specified runs, the home team will bat at the bottom of the inning.

8. The USSSA uses the "FLIP FLOP" rule across the board for all programs. This rule goes into effect when the run rule for that inning is reached.

9. Injured Player: If a player leaves the game due to injury and no player is available to fill his/her spot in the line-up, no penalty will be assessed when his/her turn at bat arrives. His/her spot in the line-up will be skipped. If a player leaves the game for any other reason and no player is available to fill his/her spot in the line-up, an automatic out will be recorded when that player's turn at bat arrives.

10. In the event a player leaves the game due to injury, and there are extra players available (i.e.: a player who was in the game previously for another player) free substitution will be allowed to avoid a forfeit. A player that leaves a game due to injury will not be allowed to re-enter unless the team has enough players and can use the re-entry rule to put the player back in. Exception: a player who has left the game under the blood rule may return.

11. Continued participation due to injury, bleeding, or open wound:

- a) Teams should have in their possession a first aid kit containing bandages, tape, etc., in order to treat any player who may become injured and sustain an open wound.
- b) Any person injured or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until the bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered.
- c) If treatment can be administered within a reasonable amount of time, he/she will not be required to leave the game.
  - i) A reasonable amount of time is in the umpire's judgment.
  - ii) If more time is involved, the reentry rule applies.

- d) If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform or if a bandage becomes blood soaked, in the judgment of the umpire, the uniform/bandage must be changed before the individual may participate.
12. Use of an illegal or altered bat: Any individual using an unapproved bat will be ejected from the remainder of the game, and the bat removed from the game. The bat will be returned to the team at the completion of their games for the day. If the same individual uses an altered bat a second time they will be suspended for the rest of the year and reported to the State Director. Bats approved in Brooklyn Park: Brooklyn Park has decided to follow the USSSA rule book which states USSSA approved bats can be used in 2018 league play. At the discretion of the league director. Brooklyn Park will allow "old" approved bats to be used in league and in our in-house tournaments. All players and teams playing in USSSA tournaments must have the "NEW" approved USSSA bats with the logo on its tapered end.
13. Home Run Rule
- a) MIXED PROGRAM – Each team is allowed 3 home runs by males and 3 home runs by females. Any home run hit by any player after the allotted numbers will be declared an OUT.
- b) MEN'S PROGRAM - Each team is allowed 3 home runs total per game. Any home run hit by a player after the allotted 3 home runs per team will be declared an OUT.
14. Courtesy Runners
- (2 PER TEAM ONLY, PER GAME) will be allowed in all programs. NOT courtesy runners for 2 different batters the entire game. The courtesy runner will be the player occupying the last position in the batting order to make an out. If the game goes extra innings teams will be allowed 1 additional courtesy runner. This rule was changed a few years ago from feedback received from the end of season survey sent out to team managers.
15. Dugout Rule
- \*\*\*This was a new rule in 2013\*\*\* The USSSA added a new rule that pertains to the number of players that can be outside of the dugout on the field of play at any time during the game. "NO MORE THAN 2". Both the team batting and the team in the field. Be sure to tell your team as we will be enforcing this rule during games.

## UMPIRES

Umpires will enforce all USSSA rules and local rules and will be supported 100% by the Parks and Recreation Department. All on-field decisions by an umpire involving the exercise of his/her judgment are final.

## PLAYABILITY OF THE FIELDS

If there is a question about the playability of the fields due to inclement weather, the manager, and only the manager of each team, should call the Parks and Recreation Department at **763-493-8181 press 1 after 4:00 p.m.** If no recorded message is received, all teams will be expected to appear at their assigned field at their scheduled game time. After 4:00 p.m. and prior to the start of a game, playability of field conditions will be determined by the Softball Supervisor on site. After the start of a game, playability of field conditions will, in the absence of the Softball Supervisor be determined by the umpire assigned to the field. We will also try to send an e-mail out to team managers involved if there is time prior to the 6pm games.

## LOCAL SPORTSMANSHIP RULES

One of the most potentially detrimental factors affecting the success of the recreational softball program is the effect of unsportsmanlike conduct. If these acts go unchecked, there is the potential of creating a negative operating atmosphere for the entire program. Therefore, the following rules regarding sportsmanship have been established to assure a quality program:

1. Vulgar or profane language: Directed toward officials, players, or spectators by players or spectators will not be tolerated. First time the offender will be given a warning. After that the offender will be ejected from the game AND the premises. USE OF THE "F"-WORD": AUTOMATIC EJECTION – NO WARNING NEEDED. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its players and fans. Managers make sure your team knows these rules. A player that is ejected is suspended from the game in progress and the next scheduled game, if the violation is deemed to be flagrant.
2. A second violation of the above rule will result in a player being suspended for THE REST OF THE SEASON.
3. Any fighting or physical violence with an official will result in suspension from all adult recreational team sports for a minimum of one calendar year and will be reported to the State Director.
4. Any fighting or physical violence with another player will result in immediate ejection from the game in progress and suspension for the rest of the season.

## **INSURANCE**

NOTICE: The parks and recreation department does not provide accident insurance for participants in any programs. Participants assume all inherent risk of injury from their involvement in all programs or activities.