

**TEAM SPORTS PROGRAMS** · Ann Arbor Public Schools · 1515 S. Seventh Street Ann Arbor MI 48103 · (734) 994-2300

## FALL CO-REC SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

Updated 4/21/21

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### ⇨ **EACH "AT-BAT" STARTS WITH 1 BALL & 1 STRIKE!**

- ⇨ All league rules are listed by section in alphabetical order.
- ⇨ During league play and playoffs, ASA (Amateur Softball Association) Rules will be enforced except where modified by the Rec & Ed Co-Rec Fall Softball League Rules.
- ⇨ Please note that VMP identifies Veterans Memorial Park.

# ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE FACTS & DATES TO REMEMBER

All rosters, player contracts and fees are due without late fee by the Thursday prior to the first week of play, and can be turned in at Rec & Ed (Community Education and Recreation) office, located at 1515 S. Seventh Street, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Late contracts and fees will be charged a \$2.00 late fee. Late fees are due at the time of payment.

**NOTE: PLAYER CONTRACTS AND FEES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE FIELDS.**

## 2. DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- A. Any player who consumes alcoholic beverages or uses controlled substances on the playing field or in the park during the game is subject to ejection from the game and suspension by Rec & Ed.
- B. Spectators, players and team personnel may not consume alcoholic beverages on school property, in City of Ann Arbor Parks, or at facilities owned by the University of Michigan.
- C. City Park Rangers will issue citations for unlawful actions.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Upon verification of an eligibility protest by an opposing team or authorized Rec & Ed staff member, the offending team forfeits the game in which an ineligible player participated. Any use of an ineligible player will also result in suspension of the offending player and team manager.
- B. Ineligible players include:
  - 1. Any player who pays an inappropriate fee.
  - 2. Any player who plays under an assumed name.
  - 3. Any player who plays on more than one team in the same program.
  - 4. Any player who participates before his or her player's contract and fee are turned in to Rec & Ed.
  - 5. Any player who participates before he or she is sixteen years old or who plays on a high school team without written approval of the Team Sports Manager.
  - 6. Any player who is under eighteen years old and plays without parental permission signed on the player's contract.
- C. Rec & Ed reserves the right to periodically check team rosters during league play.  
Note: Site supervisors for all tournament and Playoff games will check Rosters. Before tournament and Playoff participation, players must present a picture ID to league officials. Any exceptions made to this rule will be at the discretion of the tournament director.
- D. Protests will be accepted only on the basis of eligibility. When a team lodges a protest of eligibility the following guidelines will be followed:
  - 1. The protest of eligibility must be made during the game (before the last out).
  - 2. Each manager will be issued a copy of his/her team's roster that must be signed by the Supervisor for Adult Team Sports or the Team Sports Manager.
  - 3. The suspect team must produce a current signed roster and relevant player ID to prove eligibility. If a roster and player ID cannot be produced, the game must still be completed.
  - 4. The suspect team has forty-eight hours to appeal the protest either in writing or in person at Rec & Ed and submit a \$15.00 appeal fee. If Rec & Ed is not contacted within forty-eight hours, the suspect team forfeits the game. Rec & Ed will arrange a meeting with all relevant parties to verify any suspect player's eligibility.
  - 5. All Rec & Ed rulings are final. Rec & Ed will handle protests of eligibility not covered in these rules in the spirit of these rules.
- E. Penalties for infractions:
  - 1. Any player who plays or attempts to play ineligibly shall be suspended for a minimum of four games from any team that he/she is a valid member of. The manager of the team for which a player plays or attempts to play ineligibly will also be suspended for a minimum of **four** games. All suspensions of this nature carry over to the next season if not completed during the current season.
  - 2. If (1) the validity of a team's roster is challenged, (2) the suspect team or player walks off the field, and (3) the manager fails to prove the eligibility of the player in question within the 48-hour time period; then, (1) the suspect player will be suspended for a minimum of **five** games from any team that he/she is a valid member of and (2) the manager of the suspect team will also be suspended for a minimum of **five** games. All suspensions of this nature carry over to the next season if not completed during the current season.

Exception to 1 & 2: The Supervisor for Adult Team Sports may override suspensions if circumstances warrant.

3. Rec & Ed will handle all eligibility disputes not specifically covered in these rules in the spirit of these rules.
4. **FORFEITS & RE-ENTRY**
  - A. Any team that forfeits two games in a season (except forfeits due to use of ineligible players, ejection, or injury) will forfeit all its remaining games unless a \$50.00 re-entry fee is paid.
  - B. A team must pay the league re-entry fee at Rec & Ed within seven days of its second forfeit. A reminder will be sent only as a courtesy measure to notify a team of its second forfeit.
  - C. If a team is not sure of its number of forfeits, it is the team manager's responsibility to contact the league statistician at 994-2300 ext. 53218. The Team Sports Manager may waive the league re-entry fee at his or her discretion.
5. **LEAGUES**

Co-Rec leagues include: Central, Minor, and "7 & 3".
6. **MAKE-UP GAMES**

Rec & Ed will attempt to schedule make-up games on regular nights of play.
7. **OFFICIAL RESULT SHEETS**
  - A. The home team must keep the official result sheet. See HOME TEAM.
  - B. The winning team must drop off the official result sheet, with umpire evaluation, in one of the drop boxes located at Rec & Ed, Southeast Park or VMP (Veterans Memorial Park).
  - C. If a game ends in a tie or incomplete game, the home team is responsible for dropping off the official result sheet.
  - D. If any of these procedures are not followed, the winning team or home team will be given one week to turn in the official result sheet. At the end of this one-week period, if the official result sheet is not turned in, the game will be recorded as a double forfeit.
  - E. Any discrepancies in standings or scores should be directed to the league statistician at 734-994-2300 ext. 53218.
8. **PLAYOFFS & TIEBREAKERS**
  - A. When there is a tie in the standings between two teams for league or division championship, for runner up awards, or before position play begins, these tiebreakers will be utilized in the following order: 1) head to head games; 2) head to head - fewest runs allowed; 3) fewest runs allowed in all games played. If the teams are still tied after using these 3 tiebreakers, a single tiebreaker game will be played.
  - B. When a tie in the standings exists between three or more teams for league or division champions, for runner-up awards, or before position play begins, these tiebreakers will be utilized in the following order: 1- head to head games (if all teams played the same # of times); 2- head to head - fewest runs allowed (if all teams played the same # of times); 3- **fewest runs allowed in all games played**. If the tied teams have not played each other the same number of times, Tiebreaker #3 will be used (fewest runs allowed all games during the season). If the teams are still tied after using these 3 tiebreakers, a tiebreaker bracket will be played.
  - E. Games played to a tie during the regular season are considered regulation games and will not be replayed. Furthermore, tie games will not be factored in the calculation of a team's won-lost percentage.

Note: Tiebreaker games are played using normal league rules. Coin toss determines home team.

#### **POSITION PLAY**

- A. **What position play is . . .**

Position play is a scheduling instrument Rec & Ed employs to complete or round out each team's full complement of matches. **POSITION GAMES ARE CONSIDERED REGULAR SEASON GAMES.** Therefore, they **are** included in the standings to determine championship/playoff teams.
- B. **What position play is not...**

Position play is not an elimination tournament or playoff.

Note: Position play rankings do not change at any time during position play.

9. **RAINOOTS & GAME CANCELLATIONS**

Rainouts will be rescheduled on make-up dates determined by Rec & Ed in accordance with these league rules.

- A. Games cancelled before 5:00 pm (Monday - Friday)
  - 1. The decision to cancel games due to inclement weather or poor field conditions will be made between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.
  - 2. Check the website: **aareced.com**
  - 3. A message will be left on the Weather Update Line at 994-2300 ext. 53115 between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.
  - 4. All teams must report to their game sites unless they have been notified through one of the above methods that games are cancelled.
  
- B. Games cancelled after 5:00 pm (Monday - Friday)
  - 1. If games are not cancelled before 5:00 pm, the decision to play or not to play will be made by the home plate umpire. The decision should be based on safety as well as potential damage to the field.
  - 2. Under certain circumstance the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department may determine that the fields are unplayable and decide to cancel the games.
  
- C. Games cancelled on weekends
  - 1. Information on weekend game cancellations can be found at **aareced.com** website or the Weather Update Line 734-994-2300x53115, or the Area Supervisor:734-368-7418.
  
- D. Lightning & Thunder
  - 1. If an umpire or site supervisor's weather app detects lightning within 15 miles of the field location, play is suspended immediately for a minimum of 30 minutes.
  - 2. If there is no staff or umpire with a weather app, the game is suspended as soon as the umpire sees lightning or hears thunder.
  - 3. When in doubt, always err on the side of safety!
  - 4. Officials, players & spectators should seek appropriate shelter during the delay.
  - 5. **When can play resume?** Officials must not resume play until
    - A) thunder has not been heard and lightning has not been seen for 30 minutes;
    - B) the weather app (if available) indicates that there is no lightning within 15 miles of the field.
  - 6. If the game is suspended for weather, the game clock will not stop.
  
- E. Thor Guard Protection System  
Buhr Park and Veterans Memorial Park (Vets Park) are equipped with the Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System in an effort to alert umpires, ball players, spectators and coaches of the likelihood of a lightning strike. Once the Thor Guard System determines that a lightning strike is imminent, an alarm or horn blast will sound for 15 seconds. In some cases the horn blast may be accompanied by a flashing strobe light. Ball players, coaches, spectators, umpires, and other staff should seek shelter immediately. When the system determines that the threat of lightning has passed, three short blasts will be emitted from the horn clusters. Coaches should share information on how to react to these lightning prediction systems with team players and spectators and parents of players affiliated with teams.

10. **REFUNDS & NSF POLICY**

- A. Refund requests must be made in writing.
  
- B. Refund requests must be submitted to Community Education & Recreation, 1515 S. Seventh Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Please include the following information: sport area, league name, team name, manager's complete address and telephone number, and the refund recipient's name and complete address.
  
- C. Sponsor Fee and Team Fee Refund Request Deadlines:
  - 1. Sponsor fee and team fee refund requests that are submitted to Rec & Ed more than fourteen days before the team's first scheduled game will be subject to a \$10.00 service fee.
  - 2. Sponsor fee and team fee refund requests submitted to Rec & Ed between fourteen and seven days before the team's first scheduled game will be subject to a 50% service fee.
  - 3. Sponsor fee and team fee refund requests that are submitted to Rec & Ed less than seven days before the team's first scheduled game will be denied.

- D. If a manager writes a check that is returned for non-sufficient-funds (NSF) or written on a closed account, the team in question will forfeit all of its remaining games after being notified by Rec & Ed. A cash payment in the amount of the returned check plus an additional \$50.00 league re-entry fee must be paid before the team will be allowed to participate again.

Note: Refunds may take four to six weeks to process.

11. **ROSTER LIMITS**

There is no limit on roster size.

12. **SUSPENSIONS**

Upon recommendation by a Rec & Ed staff member or umpire; any player, coach, manager or team affiliate may be suspended or put on probation for unsportsmanlike acts, whether physical or verbal. Please see Rec & Ed's Policy on Probation, Suspension, and Hearing Procedures posted on the Rec & Ed Website.

13. **TEAM CLASSIFICATION**

Rec & Ed reserves the right to classify teams according to ability level.

14. **TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

- A. A player may transfer from one team to another after he/she has obtained a written release from his/her former coach, returned his/her uniform, submitted a player release form signed by his/her former coach, submitted a new player contract signed by the coach of his/her new team, and paid the \$2.00 transfer fee.
- B. A coach may refuse to release a player if the player does not return his/her uniform. In all other cases, a coach may not refuse to release a player.
- C. A released player will be allowed to transfer back to his/her original team only once.
- D. Player fees cannot be transferred from player to player.

15. **UNIFORMS**

- A. Uniform shirts are recommended but not required.
- B. Teams participating in ASA state tournaments are required to wear complete uniforms as specified in the ASA Rule Book.
- C. Use of a pitcher's mask (also known as a face guard) is strongly recommended, but not required.

## **PLAYING RULES**

16. **AFTER GAME CONDUCT**

- A. Any player, coach, manager, **or spectator** who displays unsportsmanlike conduct or directs disparaging comments to an umpire or Rec & Ed staff member after the conclusion of a game will be suspended for a minimum of one additional game.
- B. Any participant ejected during the game who, at the conclusion of the game, displays unsportsmanlike conduct or directs disparaging language to an umpire or a Rec & Ed staff member, will be suspended for a minimum of one additional game.
- C. Suspensions as outlined in 16-A & B are automatic and cannot be appealed.
- D. Suspensions for more than one game may be appealed in accordance with Rec & Ed's Policy on Probation, Suspension and Hearing Procedures (posted on the Rec & Ed Team Sports Website).
- E. **Taunting or provoking an opposing player before, during, or after the conclusion of a game for any reason, including, (but not limited to) gender, appearance, or ability level, will not be tolerated. Likewise, sexual innuendos of any kind (verbal comments, nicknames or physical gestures) will be treated with a zero tolerance policy.**
1. The first instance will result in the umpire issuing a verbal warning to the offending player and the player's manager. A second offense in the same game results in immediate player ejection from the game plus the following game plus identification to the Rec & Ed office. That player & team manager will then be issued a formal reprimand to remain on file at the Rec & Ed office, and the team will be placed on "probation" status for the remainder of the season.

2. Any further instances during the same season by this player will result in expulsion from ALL Rec & Ed sponsored activities for one full calendar year and the team will forfeit the remainder of its season. Infractions during future seasons will result in an individual lifetime ban from all Rec & Ed sponsored activities, and team disqualification from future seasons. **Rec & Ed Sports should be fun for EVERYONE.**

17. **AUTOMATIC OUT**

- A. Whenever two males bat consecutively, an out will be called before the second male batter takes his turn at bat.
- B. If a player is forced to leave a game due to injury or commitment, a reserve player, not previously entered into the game as a hitter, must hit in the batter's place. If no reserve is available, an out will be called each time the exiting player's spot comes up in the batting order.

18. **BASE DISTANCES**

- A. Bases are set by the Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department at all diamonds.
- B. The official base distance for all Co-Rec leagues is 65 feet.

19. **BATS**

- A. Any bat with a crack is illegal.
- B. See current ASA RULE BOOK for more details on bat and warm-up bat specifications.
- C. See list of illegal bats for Rec & Ed league play on [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com). Go to the "Certified Equipment": ("Equipment", then "Bats", then select "Display all").

20. **BATTING ORDER**

- A. Batting orders must alternate by gender (male, female, etc. or female, male, female, male, etc.).
- B. Whenever two male players bat consecutively, the offensive team will be charged with an out before the second male batter takes his turn at bat. **There is no automatic out when two women are back to back in the batting order.**

21. **BLOOD RULE**

- "A player, coach [manager] or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his [or her] uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left up to the umpire's JUDGEMENT. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:
1. Stop the game and immediately call a coach [manager]...or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment.
  2. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if necessary." See 2016 ASA RULE BOOK: RULE 4-Section 1.

22. **BORROWING PLAYERS**

- A. If a team lacks the minimum number of players to begin the game, it may borrow players from the opposing team, as long as the manager of the opposing team agrees. If borrowed players are used, the game will count in the standings.
- B. Borrowed players must be rostered players from the opposing team.
- C. If the team borrowing players acquires the minimum number of players after the start of the game, all borrowed players must be returned to the sending team and used as legal substitutes without penalty.
- D. Players taking over for borrowed players must take the borrowed players spot in the batting order.

23. **COURTESY RUNNER**

In all Rec & Ed leagues, a courtesy runner may be employed under the following conditions:

- A. The courtesy runner may enter the game after the batter/runner or runner reaches base safely and time is called by the umpire.
- B. The courtesy runner may be **any eligible player of the same gender**. A courtesy runner will be called out when his / her turn at bat comes up while on base. (USA Softball Rule 8 Sec.9 B&C).

- C. The courtesy runner is limited to run for only one player per inning, but may do so more than once in the same inning, as long as it's for the same player. However, the TEAM is not limited in the number of courtesy runners used per inning.
24. **DEFENSIVE POSITIONING**  
Fielders do not have to alternate according to gender.
25. **DOUBLE BASE**  
A double base will be used at first base in all leagues, and the following rules will be enforced:
- A. A batted ball hitting or bounding over the white portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting or bounding over the colored portion is declared foul.
- B. Whenever a play is being made by an infielder on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion. The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the white portion, providing the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base. Once the runner returns to the white, no appeal can be made.
- C. On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, or an errant throw pulling the defense off the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or colored portion.
- D. On extra base hits or balls hit into the outfield, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the batter-runner return, the runner must return to the white portion.
- Note: If the runner returns to the colored portion only and remains there until the pitched ball is released, no pitch is called and the runner is out.
- E. When tagging up on a fly ball, either portion may be used.
- F. If, when using the double base, and there is a force play by an infielder on the batter-runner, who touches only the white portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the white, interference is ruled, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out, and all other runners are returned to the base last occupied at the time of interference.
26. **EXTRA PLAYER (EP)**  
A. EP's may be employed with the following exceptions to ASA Rule 4-Section 4.  
1. The starting EP and any substitute EP may re-enter the game once.  
2. Should an EP or his substitute be injured, ejected, or otherwise incapacitated, his/her team must enter a substitute or an out will be called whenever it's the EP's turn at bat.
27. **FORFEIT TIME**  
A. Game time is forfeit time in all leagues.  
B. **Exception:** If the manager of the team with enough players agrees, the game may be postponed ten minutes to wait for the arrival of the minimum number of players for his/her opponent to field a team. However, teams will not be given any additional time to play the game (see example).  
**Example:** If a game is scheduled to begin at 6:15 pm and the minimum number of players does not arrive on site until 6:25 pm, no inning may begin after 7:20 pm, not 7:35 pm.
28. **GAME BALLS**  
A. The official game ball will be the Worth .52, COR 12" leather softball.  
B. At the beginning of each Co-Rec slow pitch game, the home team shall supply a new ball and the visiting team shall supply an acceptable used ball to the plate umpire.  
C. At the end of the game, each team shall receive their ball or balls back unless a ball has been lost. In that case, the visiting team will not receive (a) ball(s).  
D. If a team does not provide the proper game ball or balls, the umpire shall proceed with the game using the best balls available **which meet prescribed league specifications**. However, the ump may report the incident to Rec & Ed and the offending team shall be assessed a \$5.00 ball fee.
29. **HOME RUN RULE**  
A. In Co-Rec Minor, an over-the-fence home run is an out. **EXCEPTION: When games in Corec Minor are played at Vets 2 or Vets 3, an over-the-fence home run will be a "base on balls".**

- B. **In Corec Central and “7 & 3”, teams may hit no more than three dead ball home runs per game.** After a team has hit its limit of three dead ball home runs in a given game, any member of that team who hits an additional dead ball home run shall be declared out and his/her home run will be nullified. No runners will be allowed to advance.
30. **HOME TEAM**  
 A. During regular season play, the home team is the team listed first on the league schedule.  
 B. A coin flip will designate the home team during all tiebreaker and playoff games.
31. **MAXIMUM RUN RULE**  
 The maximum number of runs that can be scored in one half inning is ten.
32. **MERCY RULE**  
 A. A runs ahead rule, or mercy rule, must be used in all Rec & Ed softball league play. Whenever one team attains a significant lead over its opponent as described in Section B of this rule, the game ends, and the team with the lead is declared the winner. (See Section B Below)  
 B. The runs ahead rule is in effect if a team is ahead by 20 runs after three innings of play, by 15 runs after four innings of play, or 10 runs after five innings of play. Complete innings must be played unless the home team reaches the run ahead limit while at bat. When the visiting team reaches the run ahead limit in the top half of the inning, the home team must always have an opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning before the run ahead rule can be enforced, except when the visiting team leads by 11 runs in the top of the seventh inning or an inning where time has expired. If this happens, the game is called, since the home team cannot score more than ten runs when it is their turn to bat.
33. **MINIMUM OUTFIELDER RULE**  
 A. Prior to the pitch, four fielders must be in the outfield when ten fielders are used.  
 B. Prior to the pitch, three fielders must be in the outfield when eight or nine fielders are used.  
Penalty: The first violation of this rule results in an **illegal pitch** and a team warning. After the team warning, flagrant violators may be ejected.  
Note: The outfield is defined as the outfield grass.
34. **MINIMUM PLAYER RULE (5-5)**  
 A. A team may start and/or finish a game with no fewer than eight players.  
 B. Legal male/female or female/male gender combinations include: 6 - 6, 6 - 5, 5 - 5, 5 - 4 and 4 - 4.  
**Teams may also play with 5 females and 3 males.**  
 Exception to B: A team may not play a 4 - 4 lineup when a fifth player of either gender is available.  
 C. Should a team be unable to comply with A and B above, the opponent wins the game by forfeit.  
 Note: The Rec & Ed MINIMUM PLAYER RULE and AUTOMATIC OUT RULE supersede the ASA SHORT-HANDED RULE during league play.
35. **MINIMUM PLAYER RULE (6-4 option)**  
 Rec & Ed Co-Rec softball teams may use the traditional 5-5 male/female batting line-up with 10 defensive players or the 6-4 male/female or female/male batting line-up with 10 defensive players. **If the 6-4 option is to be used, below are the specific requirements.**  
 A. A team must start and/or finish with no fewer than eight players  
 B. **If a team wants to play with 6 men and 4 women, they must receive permission from their opponents. Their opponent MAY also play with 6 men and 4 women, but are not required to. If the opponent does not approve the 6 men / 4 women lineup, the team in question must play with 5 men and 4 women.**  
 C. The following league rules and their ASA counterparts shall not apply when the 6-4 rule is used: Automatic Out Rule (Rule #17), Batting Order Rule (Rule #20) and the Walk Rule (Rule #49).  
 D. A substitute may only replace a player of his or her OWN gender in the batting line-up.



36. **POWER “7 & 3”**
- A. Teams playing in “Power 7 & 3” play with 7 males and 3 females.
  - B. Defensively, in 7 & 3, the female players are positioned as follows:
    1. One female plays in the outfield.
    2. One female plays in the infield.
    3. One female is either the pitcher or the catcher.
  - C. On offense, females may not bat consecutively, but **men MUST bat consecutively: 2 or 3 in a row. The batting order may have “3 men in a row” only once in the lineup.**
  - D. A team may play in Power 7 & 3 with a team of 6 men and 4 women, or 5 men and 5 women.
  - F. EXTRA HITTERS: A team may use 1 male Extra Hitter as long as they also have 1 female Extra Hitter (bat 12). A team may also use extra female hitters (bat 12).
  - G. All other Rec & Ed Corec League rules apply.
37. **PITCHING ARC**  
The pitcher must deliver the ball with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground.
38. **PRELIMINARY PITCHER POSITIONS**  
Prior to the pitch:
- A. The pitcher must take a position with both feet planted firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with the pitcher’s plate, OR
  - B. The pitcher may take a position anywhere from the front edge of the pitcher’s plate **up to TEN feet behind** the pitcher’s plate as long as he/she takes his/her position within the 24 inch width of the pitcher’s plate. This area is known as the pitcher’s box.
  - C. The pitcher must come to a complete stop with the ball in front of the body. This position must be maintained for at least one second before starting the delivery.
- Note: After the pitcher comes to a stop he/she is only allowed to take one step, front or back, during the delivery.
- D. Failure for pitchers complying with either A or B will result in the umpire signaling a delayed dead ball and declaring an illegal pitch.
39. **PROTESTS**
- A. There will be no protests of an umpire’s judgment decisions.
  - B. Protests involving rule interpretations must be submitted in writing within forty-eight hours after completion of the game and must be accompanied by a fee of \$20.00 which will be returned if the protest is allowed.
  - C. A team must notify the plate umpire of its intent to protest before the next pitch (if on the last play of the game, the protest must be lodged before the umpire leaves the playing field). After the protest is declared, the game must be completed.
- Note: Protest procedure is set forth clearly in the ASA Rule Book. See ASA rule 9-Sections 1-7.
40. **REGULATION GAME RULE**
- A. In all leagues, one hour and ten minutes will constitute a complete game regardless of the number of innings played. **Exception: In the event weather interrupts a contest, the game shall be declared official once 5 innings (or 4 and 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead). If 5 innings have not been completed, the contest shall be ruled a no-contest and shall be replayed from the beginning.**
  - B. Any game that is not completed will be replayed from the beginning.
41. **SHOES**
- A. Shoes must be worn by all players.
  - B. Metal, hard plastic, or polyurethane spikes similar to the traditional triangular sole and heel plate configuration are not allowed.
  - C. Shoes which bear hard plastic or polyurethane cleats which are not in the traditional triangular sole and heel plate configuration and possess safety nubs are allowed.

- D. Shoes with detachable cleats that screw on the shoe are not allowed; however, shoes with detachable cleats that screw in the shoe are allowed.
- E. **If a player is found in the game wearing shoes not allowed on the list above, it is an automatic out in his or her next at bat. The player will leave the game immediately (the team plays short-handed if no substitutes are available) but may re-enter the game one time if they have legal shoes to change into. Any further instances will result in ejection, since this is a safety issue.**

42. **STEALING**

Stealing will not be allowed in men's, women's, or co-rec slow pitch softball leagues. Since the ball is dead on balls and strikes, runners are not out and they are returned to the base they held at the time of the pitch. Because a runner may not steal the runner cannot be picked off either. Runners will be called out when they fail to keep in contact with a base to which they are entitled until a legally pitched ball is batted, touches the ground, hits the batter, or reaches the front edge of home plate.

43. **STRIKE OUT & "ONE TO WASTE" FOUL BALL**

A batter is called out on strikes anytime he/she is charged with three strikes during his/her time at bat. In all Fall Rec & Ed softball leagues, **batters will begin their time at bat with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.**

- A. **"One to Waste"**: The batter is out on the second foul ball hit **AFTER** two strikes (whether or not it is caught). If the foul ball (after two strikes) is caught, base runners may advance at their own risk.

44. **SUBSTITUTIONS & RE-ENTRY**

- A. Any starting player, substitute or EP may be withdrawn and re-entered into the game once, provided the player occupies the same position in the batting order.
- B. Violation of the re-entry rule shall result in the ejection of both the manager and the player who was re-entered illegally.
- C. Violation of the re-entry rule is handled as a protest that can be made at any time before the last out of the game.
- D. A player shall be officially in the game when his or her name has been entered on the official score sheet or announced. Furthermore, substitute players will be considered in the game without penalty as follows:
  1. If a batter⇒ when he/she takes his/her place in the batter's box.
  2. If a fielder⇒ when he/she takes the place of a fielder substituted for.
  3. If a runner⇒ when the substitute replaces him/her on the base he/she is holding.
  4. If a pitcher⇒ when he/she takes his/her place on the pitcher's plate.
- E. Whether announced or unannounced, any play made by or on the substitute player shall be legal.

45. **THROWING THE BAT**

- A. Should a batter throw his or her bat as a disparaging act resulting from a disagreement with an umpire's call, the batter may be ejected without warning.
- B. After being warned by the umpire, a player may be ejected for throwing the bat in a dangerous fashion.

46. **TIE BREAKER (DURING THE GAME)**

- A. If a game is tied after seven innings of play, each offensive team will begin every half inning with a runner on second base.
- B. The runner who begins the inning on second base shall be the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning.
- C. League time limits still apply.

47. **TIME LIMITS & CURFEWS**

A. Time Limits

1. The game clock begins at the first pitch of the game.

Note: The umpire may start the game clock if (1) he or she has announced that it is "game time" and (2) he or she has given teams one minute from the announcement to throw the first pitch.

2. **All games shall have an hour and ten minute time limit.**

3. No new inning shall be started after the time limit has expired. However, any inning already in progress when the time limit expires must be completed.

4. An inning ends after the third out of the bottom half of the inning.

Example: If the game clock begins at 6:15 pm and the third out of the bottom of the fifth inning occurs at 7:25 pm, the sixth inning should not be started.

B. Time Limit Extension

1. In order to break a tie game, the last game of the evening on a diamond may be continued beyond the time limit, if the managers of both teams agree to continue play.

2. The home plate umpire may call the game due to darkness, curfew, inclement weather, or other causes that interfere with the continuation of play.

C. Curfews

1. Curfew at VMP 1, 2, 3 and Southeast #1 and #2 is 11:50 pm.

2. Curfew at VMP 4 is 10:50 pm.

3. Lights on VMP 1, 2, 3 will be shut off at 12:00 am and on VMP 4 at 11:00 pm.

4. The Parks and Recreation Department has the final decision on any change in curfew.

Note: If there is not enough time to play the last scheduled game of the evening, either of the managers during the pre-game conference may elect not to play it. However, if they agree to play the game under the time limit, the game stands as long as it meets the minimum required innings necessary to qualify as a regulation game.

48. **WALK RULE AND "1 & 1 PITCH COUNT" – NEW!**

**NOTE: Batters begin their turn at bat with a "1 ball and 1 strike" count.**

Therefore, a batter draws a walk anytime he/she receives three pitches that the umpire calls balls during his/her time at bat. The award to the batter for the base on balls depends on the gender of the batter and how many strikes the batter is charged with during the batter's time at bat.

- A. Anytime a male batter is intentionally walked or is awarded a walk on 3 straight pitches that the umpire determines to be balls without having been charged with a strike **and the next batter up is a female**, the batter is awarded two bases and the next batter (female) must bat.

Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

Note: Should a female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during this dead ball period. A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be out if properly appealed.

- B. In any other instance, when a male batter or female batter draws a walk, the batter is awarded first base. Runners advance one base each without liability to be put out only if forced to vacate their base to allow the batter or a preceding runner to advance because of the award of the walk to the batter.

- C. In Fall Rec & Ed slow pitch softball leagues, batters will begin their time at bat with a 1 ball and 1 strike count on them.**

49. **WALK OFF RULE**

In all adult slow pitch play, on any fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run or one a four base award, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter and any runners on base are not required to run the bases. This rule eliminates any appeal plays on the runners.

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