



Community Softball Rules

Changes for this season

- Intentional Walks
 - If a pitcher throws three consecutive unhittable pitches as determined by the umpire, it will be deemed an intentional (two-base) walk. The umpire will warn the pitcher after TWO unhittable pitches.

Team Make-Up

- Teams must have EIGHT players to play. TEAMS will NOT be required to take an out for the ninth batter in the lineup if they only have EIGHT players.
- ALL players will bat.
- If a player exits the lineup due to injury, the team will not be required to take an out at that player's scheduled at-bat.
- There are no rules regarding batting line-up or fielding positions as it relates to gender-identity.
 - Captains are expected to make a line-up and fielding decisions based on equal opportunity and playing time, not competitive advantage.

Game Play

- Batters begin with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
- A pitch is called a STRIKE if it is between SIX and TWELVE feet of arc and lands on the plate OR strike mat OR if the batter swings and misses.
- Batters will FOUL OUT after their 3rd foul ball. Umpires will warn the batter of a potential foul out prior to the next pitch.
- Bats must be stamped with the ASA or USA Softball Logo
- Pitchers must show the ball as they pitch. You may not throw with backspin.
- Runners may not lead off.
 - A runner's foot may not leave the base until the ball hits the bat.
- Runners must avoid contact with any fielder by sliding or going around the tagging player.
 - If it is deemed that the tagging player was blocking the runner's way, the runner will be called safe.
- There will be a mercy rule imposed when a team is losing by 15 runs after their fifth time up at bat.
- An injured player may take a courtesy runner once they reach first base. The courtesy runner must be the last person who made a batted out.
- The outfielders must start at least 30 feet behind the infield dirt for ALL batters until contact is made.
- We will have a SECONDARY HOME PLATE in foul territory.

- Runners **MUST** go to the **SECONDARY** plate on **ALL** attempts to score.
- The catcher must cover the **ACTUAL** home plate.
- All plays at home are force plays.
- A runner is committed to home when they are two-thirds of the way home.
- If a runner goes to the **ACTUAL** plate, they will be called **OUT**.

Timing

- Regular season games will have a one-and-a-half hour (90 minute) time limit from the first pitch.
- We will not start a new inning after **ONE HOUR and FIFTEEN MINUTES** of gameplay

Conduct

- All conduct should reflect the spirit of this league. First and foremost, we are here to have fun and meet people. The outcome of each game is secondary. Please consider that when reacting to plays and calls with which you do not agree. Below is the discipline policy you agreed to when you signed your waiver.
 - Verbal Altercations
 - First offense - Warning from the league commissioner
 - Second offense – One-game suspension
 - Third offense – Expulsion from the league
 - Physical Altercation
 - First offense – Expulsion from the league
- Captains
 - Captains are expected to adhere to our captains' code of conduct. (See attached)

****Rules not specifically highlighted here will follow ASA rules.**