GREELEY

RECREATION

Softball Rules

www.teamsideline.com/greeley

Revised 1/2026

TYPES OF LEAGUES

The City of Greeley Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department offers Adult Softball leagues during the **Spring, Summer, and Fall** seasons.

Leagues offered:

- **Men's Leagues**
- **Co-Rec (Mixed) Leagues**
- **Novice League (Beginners only)**

To maintain an **equitable playing field**, teams may be moved into a different division during league play or tournament play based on standings, observed ability, or roster review. Division changes may occur on a different night than originally registered.

All leagues follow **USSSA National Rules** unless otherwise stated in this manual. If a City of Greeley rule conflicts with a USSSA rule, **City of Greeley rules take precedence**.

USSSA rules and approved equipment lists can be found at the United States Specialty Sports Association website.

MEN'S LEAGUES OFFERED

- **Upper (B / C / D)** – Intermediate / Competitive
- **Middle E** – Recreational

CO-REC LEAGUES OFFERED

- **Co-Rec Recreation** – Intermediate and Recreational levels
- **Novice** – Beginner level

SECTION 1 – FEES & CHARGES

1.1 League fees include regular season play and the end-of-season tournament.

1.2 All payments must be made payable to **City of Greeley**.

SECTION 2 – REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Teams are not considered officially registered until **all forms are completed and fees are paid in full through Amilia/ SmartRec.**

2.2 Team rosters must be completed using **TeamSideline**. Instructions and links will be provided to managers prior to the season.

All players must:

- Be listed on the TeamSideline roster
- Upload a clear player photo
- Sign the waiver

Players who do not meet these requirements are **not eligible to participate**.

SECTION 3 – ROSTER REQUIREMENTS & CHANGES

3.1 Teams may make unlimited roster changes **up until the start of each season** (Spring, Summer, Fall).

3.1.1 All rosters are maintained through TeamSideline.

3.1.2 All players must be fully registered and signed before playing.

3.1.3 Roster changes after the season begins must be approved by the Adult Sports Coordinator.

3.1.4 Rosters may be reviewed against **USSSA, USA etc. national rankings** to ensure fair competition.

3.2 Maximum roster size: **20 players**.

3.3 Minimum roster size: **10 players**.

3.4 Players may only be listed on **one roster per division per night**.

3.5 **Ranked or Competitive Players in Recreation Leagues:**

Players who are ranked or who have played on Competitive or Intermediate teams in the City of Greeley may participate in Men's Recreation or Co-Rec Recreation leagues only under these conditions:

- A maximum of **two (2)** such players may appear on a roster per league night.

- Exceeding this limit will result in an **automatic forfeit**.
- Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the **Adult Sports Coordinator.**

3.6 Penalties for Violations:

- Possible disqualification from the end-of-season tournament
- **$35 fine** payable to the City of Greeley
- **Automatic Two-week suspension** from all City of Greeley softball leagues and other adult leagues.

3.7 Rosters are checked regularly. During roster checks, players must:

- Appear on the official roster
- Provide a valid photo ID
- Use legal names only (no nicknames)

Failure to comply may result in removal from the game, forfeiture, and/or fines.

3.8 League placement is **first-come, first-served** until divisions are full.

3.9 Spot Checks: Field supervisors may conduct spot checks to verify eligibility. If a protest is incorrect, the accusing team must pay a **$35 fee** by 5:00 p.m. the following business day.

If a player cannot provide valid photo ID, the team will be fined **$35** and the game will result in an automatic forfeit.

SECTION 4 – REFUND POLICY

4.1 Refund requests must be submitted in writing:

- **3 or more business days before league start**: Full refund minus $10 service fee
- **2 days before league start**: 50% refund
- **After league begins**: No refunds

SECTION 5 – AGE REQUIREMENT

5.1 All participants must be **18 years of age or older**.

Players must carry valid photo identification and present it upon request.

SECTION 6 – EQUIPMENT

6.1 All equipment must be **USSSA-approved**.

6.2 All bats must display the required **USSSA certification stamp**.

6.3 **Pitchers are required to always wear a face mask**.

6.4 **Game balls will be provided by the City of Greeley**. Retrieving homerun and foul balls are the responsibility of the teams playing. If teams choose not to retrieve the balls, the clock will continue to run until team(s) get a replacement ball(s) with approve city logo softball.

SECTION 7 – LIABILITY & INJURIES

7.1 The City of Greeley is not responsible for injuries or lost/stolen items.

7.2 No insurance is provided by the City.

7.3 Umpires or staff may remove injured players for safety reasons. This removal may result in a forfeit.

SECTION 8 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

8.1 Men must play in men's leagues and women in women's leagues when available.

Women may play in men's leagues only if a women's league is unavailable.

The Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department require that individual players not play in divisions lower than their individual abilities. Players who are actively on any tournament roster or play on a competitive/ intermediate team in the City of Greeley league will not be permitted to play in the Novice league! Any player found in violation of this rule will be subject to a suspension, fine or a team forfeit NO exception!

SECTION 9 – REGULATION GAME

9.1 Games consist of **7 innings or 50 minutes**, whichever comes first.

Run Rule:

- 20 runs after 3 innings
- 15 runs after 4 innings
- 10 runs after 5 innings

Flip-Flop Rule applies per USSSA guidelines. (In the inning when the run rule is in effect and the **HOME TEAM is losing**, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If the team (new visiting team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the run rule, **the game is over)**.

9.2 No new inning will start after 50 minutes unless the game is tied. Tie games use a modified International Tie-Break rule. (The next inning will consist of the last legal batter being placed on second (2nd) base with NO OUTS! Proceeding innings runners will be placed on 2nd and 3rd bases).

9.3 Games stopped due to weather are official after:

- 3 full innings, or
- 2.5 innings if the home team is ahead

9.4 Game start times: **6:00, 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 PM**.

Teams must have **8 players** ready within 5 minutes of game time or risk forfeiture and a **$35 no-show fee**.

SECTION 10 – GAME START & PLAYER MINIMUMS

10.1 Teams must finish with at least **8 players**.

10.2 Teams may start with (8) eight players. If a team selects a sub from a different team, they are allowed to start the game with nine (9) players. If a player from original team roster shows up before 2nd inning, they will be allowed to replace that player/ sub.

If the team selects to start a game with eight (8) players, the players not participating **will** be declared an out in the ninth (9th and tenth 10th) batting position. The 9th and 10th batters may enter the game after the team has played one defensive inning. A team must finish with no less than eight (8) players. Notification of entry must be given to umpire and official scorekeeper. The added players must be entered onto the bottom of the lineup.

Missing batting positions will be recorded as outs until filled.

10.3 Teams may bat up to **16 players** in league play.

10.4 **Courtesy runners may be used once per inning and must be the last out of the same gender.**

10.5 Doubleheaders include a **5-minute break** between games.

SECTION 11 – LINEUP CARDS

11.1 Managers must submit lineup cards **5 minutes before game time**.

11.2 Late lineups may result in:

- Team being designated as visitors
- Automatic outs
- Reduced time limits

SECTION 12 – FORFEITED GAMES

12.1 If a team forfeits, teams may use the field for 40 minutes without City staff supervision.

SECTION 13 – SCORING

13.1 The umpire is the official scorer.

13.2 Score disputes will be addressed during the game. The clock will not stop.

SECTION 14 – HOME RUN LIMITS

- **Novice**: 1 home run
- **Men's / Co-Rec Recreation**: 2 home runs
- **Men's / Co-Rec Intermediate**: 3 home runs

Additional home runs are recorded as outs.

Special Notes: A player hitting a home run may go directly to the dugout after touching first base. Any players that were already on base may go directly to the dugout.

SECTION 15 – AVOID CONTACT RULE

Intentional or unnecessary contact results in an out. Umpires determine intent and penalties.

SECTION 16 – UMPIRES

16.1 Only managers may question calls respectfully during dead balls.

16.2 Managers are responsible for player and spectator behavior. **If the manager fails to control players/spectators, the game may be called by the umpire(s)/field supervisor**

16.3 **Players and coaches cannot question balls, and strike at any time.**

SECTION 17 – SCHEDULE CHANGES

Requests must be made **at least a week in advance**.

Late requests that result in rescheduling incur a **$35 fee**.

All requests go through the Adult Sports Coordinator.

SECTION 18 – RAINOUTS

18.1 Managers are responsible for checking rainout information.

18.2 **During the season, any day, including weekends, may be used to reschedule rainout games.** Teams should be prepared to play any day of the week.

18.3 Cancellations will be communicated via **TeamSideline**.

SECTION 19 – NIGHTS OF PLAY

Teams may select preferred nights when available. Placement is first-come, first-served.

The Program Coordinator may move teams to maintain league balance and keep leagues true design.

SECTION 20 – TIEBREAKERS

League ties are broken by Team sideline analysis:

1. Winning percentage
2. Head-to-head
3. Head-to-head run differential
4. Common opponents
5. Strength of schedule
6. Total run differential
7. Fewest forfeits
8. Coin toss

SECTION 21 – 3 BALL / 2 STRIKE COUNT

All leagues use a **0–0 count**. No courtesy foul.

Pitch arc must be between **3 and 10 feet**.

SECTION 22 – AWARDS

22.1 N0 awards given for Spring seasons.

22.2 Awards are given to end of season tournament team winners with **no ejections or suspensions**.

SECTION 23 – HOME TEAM DESIGNATION

23.1 Home teams are determined by TeamSideline scheduling.

SECTION 24 – ALCOHOL & SMOKING

24.1 Alcohol and smoking are **strictly prohibited** at Twin Rivers Softball Complex.

24.2 The City of Greeley Recreation staff have the authority to remove player(s) and/or spectators from the complex who have over-indulged themselves with alcohol and who may cause injuries to themselves, other players, or spectators

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SECTION 25 – UNIFORMS & SAFETY

25.1 Uniforms are highly encouraged but not required.

25.2 No metal cleats. Closed-toe shoes only. (tennis shoes, molded cleats, tuff shoes)

25.3 Dangerous jewelry or equipment is prohibited. Discretion of the Umpire!

SECTION 26 – PROTESTS

26.1 No protest on judgement call by the umpire. Only rule or eligibility protests are allowed.

26.2 Protests require:

- Notification before the next pitch
- Written explanation
- **$35 fee paid immediately to the City of Greeley Recreation.**

26.3 The Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department will review protest to see whether the protest is a rule infraction or judgment dispute.

26.4 **Eligible player protests must be protested by the players first at bat or the completion of the first (1st) inning, whichever occurs first.**

FORFEIT OF A GAME BY A TEAM

A $35.00 forfeit fee may be applied to the captain or managers' account.

26.5 A team's attitude or conduct becomes such that continuing the game, in the umpire's opinion, would cause control of the game to be lost.

26.6 A team manager cannot maintain control of team/spectators when requested by the umpire, field supervisor, or Recreation Coordinator.

26.7 A forfeit fee is not paid in full to the City of Greeley Recreation by the next regularly scheduled game. It is the team manager's responsibility to see that forfeit fees are paid before the next game, NOT Recreation Department's.

26.8 **A team member is caught playing under an assumed name or address.**

26.9 A Tournament Rostered player or competitive/ intermediate play is found playing in a Novice team.

SECTION 27 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PROTESTS

Eligibility protests must occur by the player's first at-bat or before the end of the first inning. See pervious rules.

SECTION 28 – PENALTIES

28.1 A minimum of two (2) weeks suspension from participating in any adult activity sponsored by the Greeley Recreation Department and a $35.00 fee will be the penalty for the following offenses (this includes managers, coaches, players, and spectators):

28.1.1 Threatening physical harm to other players, umpires or employees of the City of Greeley.

28.1.2 Verbally or Physically attacking any person connected with the softball program (this includes employees, spectators, managers, or other players).

28.1.3 Willful destruction of City of Greeley property (cost of replacing damaged equipment will be paid by the guilty parties).

28.1.4 Violation of a probation previously placed on a player by the City of Greeley.

28.2 A minimum of two (2) weeks suspension from participating in any adult activities sponsored by the Greeley Recreation Department will be the penalty for the following offenses (this includes managers, coaches, players, and spectators).

28.2.1. Being ejected by a City of Greeley umpire, staff supervisor, or sports coordinator before your game is scheduled to start, during your game, or after your game has been played.

28.2.2 A player ejected for using unsafe playing habits (i.e., unnecessary throwing of a bat while on the field of play). A bat that is airborne when it contacts a fence would necessitate ejection. Otherwise, warning for poor sportsmanship.

28.2.3 A player ejected due to an overindulgence of alcohol or drugs.

28.2.4 **A players shall be responsible for their own actions**. If they are involved in conduct considered as poor sportsmanship or disrespect, the officials and field supervisor have the authority to penalize the player as they see fit. The Program Coordinator will have the authority to decide if further action needs to be taken.

28.3 **Any person who is ejected from a game by a City of Greeley umpire or supervisor or must leave the property within five minutes or their team will have to forfeit their game.** The clock will continue to run if the team in violation would benefit from a stoppage. Outs or runs may be awarded if the player does not comply with the umpire/field supervisor's satisfaction.

28.4 Before the next scheduled game, the manager or player in question will need to call the Recreation Coordinator (970-350-9445) to find out his/her playing status by phone.

28.5 If an ineligible player is discovered playing and ruled on by the Recreation Department, the following consequences will occur.

28.5.1 The ineligible player will be removed from the team's roster for the remainder of the season including the league tournament.

28.5.2 All games in which that player has previously participated will be forfeited by that team at a cost of $35.00 for each game forfeited.

28.5.3 The team's manager and/or coach may be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season and end season tournament (this includes being at games on the side lines). After a review of the infraction by the City of Greeley Recreation Coordinator.

28.6 It is the team manager's responsibility to see that all player eligibility rules are followed. If there are any questions, please contact the Recreation Coordinator.

Penalties include suspensions, fines, forfeits, and removal from leagues based on severity.

SECTION 29 – SPECIAL NOTES

29.1 **NO alcoholic beverage** is allowed in the playing field. Players not adhering to this may be ejected.

29.2 **NO In-field warm-up** before the game is scheduled to begin.

29.3 **NO Pets Allowed at TWIN RIVERS SPORTS COMPLEX, even if they are on a leash.**

29.4 No glass containers allowed in the complex area.

29.5 No players outside of dugout except for two on deck batters and base coaches. Consequence of violating this rule after first warning is a strike on the batter at the plate.

29.6 Safety bases will be utilized in City of Greeley leagues and tournaments. Not using the safety base is a live ball appeal. May result in an out!

29.7 **The Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department reserves the right to reassign teams to the appropriate skill level division.**

29.7.1 To ensure an "Equitable Playing Field" teams will be moved during the tournament to play in a division comparable to their abilities. This may or may not be on the same night as league registration.

29.7.2 Teams that win league tournaments may be asked to move up divisions for the next upcoming season to ensure "Equitable Playing Fields

The City reserves the right to reassign teams.

SECTION 30 – CO-REC SPECIAL RULES

30.1 Batting order alternates' gender. However, two (2) females may bat back-to-back.

30.2 Males and females may play any defensive position.

30.3 The additional hitter rule (AH) will be in effect subject to batting twelve (12) players, one additional female and one additional male batter. Teams using the AH rule must bat twelve (12) players.

30.4 **If a male batter walks**, he automatically goes to second base. The following female batter has the option to automatically receive first base or to bat.

30.5 Third base coaches will keep both softballs and provide the proper ball to the pitcher.

30.6 Males will bat using a 12-inch softball. Females will bat using an 11-inch softball.

30.7 **Mixed teams are required to keep an equal balance of males and females while participating.** However, teams may have more men than women and the females may bat back-to-back staying in their batting order.

30.7.1 When using the AH Rule in a Mixed game and a female player is out of the game due to an injury, the team must revert to a ten (10) player line-up to avoid having six (6) men and only five (5) women in the game. (This rule applies when there is no female to replace the injured female.)

30.8 Teams must start with at least eight (8) players (any combination of men and women as long as there are never more men than women).

SECTION 31 – SPORTSMANSHIP RANKING

31.1 Teams receive a sportsmanship score from **1–5** after each game.

31.2 Teams averaging below **25.00** are not eligible for the end of season/ league tournament.

31.2 The scale will be from 1-5.

31.2.1 1 = Lowest ranking (Poor sportsmanship, team players ejected, fighting, etc.)

5 = Highest ranking (Great sportsmanship, courteous to umpires and staff, etc.)