



2024 Adult Slow Pitch Softball Rules and Regulations

Applies to all divisions of play unless otherwise noted. Current rules established by USA Softball will apply in conjunction with the following City and South East Park and Recreation Council (SEPRC) rule / policy modifications. The USA Softball rule book will serve as a basis for final determination of rules and / or protests which cannot be clearly defined in City / SEPRC modifications.

A. POLICY REMINDERS

Note: Managers are responsible to inform all their team participants of current "Adult Team Sports Policies & Procedures" in detail prior to league play.

- a. Carefully review policy Section "B" regarding player registration.
- b. Carefully review policy Section "C" regarding resident/non-resident participation & fees.
- c. Every player must sign the game/player roster record ("sign-up" sheet) prior to participating in a game. Managers are responsible for this procedure.
- d. Prior to a scheduled contest: Persons/Players suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and or/other drugs by game officials and/or other department staff, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED to participate in the ensuing contest. Further related problems may lead to dismissal from program. Managers: It is your responsibility to ensure that stated "problems" do not occur.
- e. NO DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES will be allowed by players or SPECTATORS during the game in any part of the playing area. Policy also applies to team managers, coaches, or any other persons associated with team play. Persons discovered drinking will immediately be ejected from the game and suspended from the next scheduled contest (cancellations will not apply as a penalty date).
- f. Any player removed from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to suspension or dismissal from league play as determined by the Recreation Supervisor and/or Department Director.
- g. Person/persons/teams ejected from a game will automatically be suspended from play in the next scheduled league or play-off game (cancellations will not apply as a penalty date).
- h. By mutual agreement of the South East Park and Recreation Council, an organization of public recreation departments (approx. 48) in the Metro-Milwaukee area, any individuals suspended from any one department will have their suspension recognized by each department member of the association.
- i. **DESIGNATED WARM-UP AREA-KONKEL PARK:** For the safety of all park users, **NO WARM-UPS ARE TO TAKE PLACE EAST OF SHELTER/RESTROOM BUILDING, PLAYGROUND, SPECTATOR AND WALKWAY AREAS.** Use of designated warm-up areas will be enforced by park staff. Individuals/teams that persist to violate policy will be subject to participation suspension and or forfeits.
- j. **Blood Rule:** A player, Coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered (Rule 4, Section 8)

B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. In all league play, participants must be a minimum of 18 years of age (legal adult) and NOT participating in any High School Athletic Teams.
- b. "30 Plus" league player eligibility is defined as: Participants must have reached their 30th birthday the day of or prior to the first scheduled contest.
- c. ONLY male players may play in any MEN'S leagues and ONLY female players may play in any WOMEN'S leagues. *EXCEPTION: Police/Fire league may have Women's players.*

C. CHANGES / ADDITIONS DEADLINE TO TEAM ROSTER

- a. **All leagues:** Summer leagues - After 8 played games by 6:00 PM (PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY!)

D. GAME TIME

- a. Seven (7) innings of play (unless a tie game/see D-3) or 50 minute time limit; (whichever comes first).
- b. ALL GAMES HAVE A 50 MINUTE TIME LIMIT. However, once a new inning begins and time expires prior to the completion of the inning, that inning must be completed (if needed).
- c. In the event that seven (7) innings have been completed with a tie score with time remaining (in accordance with D-1 & 2), extra innings will be allowed in an attempt to break the tie. **If the game remains tied at the time limit, the game will be recorded as a tie.**
- d. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if 4 or more complete innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in four or more innings than the other team has scored in five or more innings. The umpire is empowered to call a game any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic or other causes which place the patrons or players in peril.
- e. Games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped
- f. **RUN RULE:** 15 runs after 5 innings, or if the team second at bat has scored 15 more runs in four or more innings than the other team has scored in five or more innings. Note: If the away team hits the 15 runs in the top of the 5th, 6th, or 7th inning, the home team will still have a chance to bat (rule change from 2013).
- g. 5 Minutes Grace Period before Forfeit unless one or more of the following occur:
 - i. Weather/field conditions delay the start;
 - ii. Game official arrives late;
 - iii. Previous game(s) have, for one reason or another, "backed up" the schedule.

E. STARTING / ENDING A GAME

- a. **PLAYER SIGN-UP SHEET:** Every player must **PRINT** (Do Not Sign) the game roster record (sign-up sheet) before entering the game. Managers are responsible for this procedure. Players that print rather than sign will be considered illegal players for not following appropriate sign-in procedure.
- b. Umpires will review ground rules, and conduct coin flip (if applicable), prior to the start of the game, with team managers.
- c. Teams must have a minimum of 9 (nine) registered players to legally start a game without forfeiture and without taking an out in the 10th spot. Please plan accordingly.
- d. If a team begins play with the required minimum number of players, (9) that team may continue a game with one less player than it started with whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. When a team drops below the amount that started the game, the empty spot in the batting order will be considered an out. At no time can a team play with less than 8 players (Rule 4 Section 1-D)
- e. Managers must declare to the umpire which type of batting order they will utilize.
- f. It is the responsibility of team managers to "sign-off" for the correctness of the final score. This procedure must take place immediately after the game. Once submitted, **SCORE SHEETS WILL STAND (SIGNED OR UNSIGNED). NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

F. GENERAL PLAYING RULES

- a. Strikes and Balls - In all league play, two (2) called strikes or one (1) swinging strike shall be an out; three (3) called balls constitutes a walk.
- b. Foul Balls - Any foul ball is an out. A foul ball caught shall be played as in "USA Softball book rule"- batter is out and base runners may advance at their own risk.
- c. Homerun Limit – Each team will be allowed a total of 5 over the fence homeruns (collectively as a team). Any further homeruns beyond the limit will result in outs and all baserunners must return to the base they started. Exception: If both teams hit 5 homeruns, a one-up rule goes into effect, allowing the teams to go one homerun up on the opposing team. 7th Inning Exception: *A team may only go one up on a team in the bottom of the 7th inning if both teams had the same number of homeruns entering the 7th inning (more than 5 each) and the visiting team failed to hit one in the top half of the inning. Example: if both teams had 5 homeruns and the visiting team failed to hit a homerun in the top half of the 7th inning, the home team can hit a 6th homerun in the bottom of the inning. However, if the visiting team goes one up in the top half of the 7th inning and hits a 6th homerun, the home team can only tie that number of homeruns in the bottom of the 7th, but not hit a 2nd homerun to go one up.*
- d. Pitching Arc - THE BALL MUST BE DELIVERED WITH A PERCEPTIBLE ARC, AND REACH A HEIGHT OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM THE GROUND WHILE NOT EXCEEDING A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 12 FEET FROM THE GROUND. Pitched balls judged not to meet the minimum, or exceeding the maximum arc limit, will immediately be declared an ILLEGAL PITCH by the umpire. ***Pitchers may pitch from the pitching rubber and extend back 6ft. Pitchers must follow all the same USA Softball rules of pitching when not using the pitching rubber.***
- e. Strike Mat- A strike mat will be used for balls and strikes. If the ball hits any part of the mat AND/OR plate, it will be called a strike, provided the pitch is within the appropriate pitching arc. If the ball misses the plate and/or mat, or is not within the appropriate arc, it will be called a ball. Player must touch HOME PLATE and not the strike mat when scoring a run.
- f. Base Awards - Most common awards (bases given to runners):
 - i. Obstruction =Umpires judgment of how many bases the base-runner or runners would have advanced.
 - ii. Fielder comes in contact with ball through detached equipment (catches ball with cap, throws glove at ball, etc.). ***AWARDS: IF batted ball = 3 bases; IF thrown ball = 2 bases.***
 - iii. When ball is in play and is OVERTHROWN into OUT-OF-PLAY areas = 2 bases. The award is governed by the POSITION of the runners when the ball left any fielder's hand. EXCEPTION: When a fielder loses possession of a ball (such as an attempted tag) and the ball rolls into dead ball area, RUNNERS would be awarded ONE BASE from the last base touched at the time the ball entered out-of-play.
 - iv. OVER THE FENCE equals HOME RUN! When a home run is hit, all bases should be cleared. The batter **does not** need to run the bases or touch first.
 - v. A fair batted ball that rolls over, under, or through a fence = the ball is dead and all base runners are awarded 2 BASES from the time of the pitch.
- g. Sliding - THE MAJOR CONCERN RELATED TO THE ISSUE OF SLIDING IS FOCUSED ON THE DANGERS OF CRASHING INTO A FIELDER (be it the catcher or any other fielder)
 - i. AT NO TIME MAY A BASE RUNNER FLAGRANTLY RUN, BLOCK, ROLL, and/or CRASH into a fielder. Persons will be penalized to the maximum degree. ***PENALTY: Batter declared out, 3 (three) years suspension.***
 - ii. WE ENCOURAGE base runners to slide WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE and NOT TO SLIDE when it isn't! (The majority of softball injuries are related to sliding).

- iii. PLAYS AT THE PLATE WILL NOT REQUIRE AN "AUTOMATIC SLIDE" SITUATION. HOWEVER, Persons may not make **ANY** attempt to jar a fielded ball or break-up a play AT ANY BASE. Base runners must slide directly to the base they are advancing to OR AVOID ANY CONTACT BEYOND INCIDENTAL by running "around" (and remain within the required baselines) a fielder attempting a put-out. A runner MAY NOT JUMP or HURDLE to avoid a tag (will be called out).
- iv. NO "ROLL SLIDES" ARE ALLOWED.
- v. FIELDERS (in particular, CATCHERS): Remember that you must not OBSTRUCT any base runner. This means...stay clear from the base runner UNLESS YOU ARE: ***In possession of the ball attempting to make a put-out.***
- vi. BASE RUNNERS - We do ENCOURAGE sliding on a close play at the plate. Managers should instruct on-deck batters to assist runners coming home on "stand-up or slide" situations. Many of the problems experienced at the plate stem from the LACK OF TEAM COMMUNICATION.
- vii. Managers and umpires should ALWAYS review the sliding rules prior to each contest. It is the responsibility of the team managers to ensure that ALL players are WELL aware of the RULES!
- h. No Stealing will be allowed in all City of Greenfield Leagues.
- i. COURTESY RUNNERS- Courtesy runners are not allowed unless there is an injury to a player while running the bases. It will be up to the judgment of the umpire to allow a courtesy runner due to injury. Exception: 30 plus league a team may designate ONE courtesy runner that must be determined prior to the game and given to the umpire.
- j. Music should be played at a reasonable volume and should not include swear words.
- k. Warmup Pitches/Infield Practice-The first inning a pitcher will be allowed 5 warmup pitches and the infielders can take infield practice and outfielders can play catch before the inning begins. Each subsequent inning (inning 2 and beyond), the pitcher will be allowed 2 warmup pitches and fielders are not allowed to take infield or outfield practice.

G. SUBSTITUTION (USA Softball Book Rule)

- a. Re-entry rule: Any of the starting players, including the DH or EP, may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up.
- b. A SUBSTITUTE, once entered in a game, may not return if removed from play.

H. BATTING ORDER – OPTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

- a. In all leagues, the manager has the following options:
 - i. Standard, use of 9 or 10 players in batting order, NO EP or roster order.
 - ii. Extra Player (EP) - If an EP is used, all eleven must bat and any ten can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed, but the batting order must remain the same. In co-Rec play, 12 players (two EP's) must be used in the batting order (See Co-Rec Section H-4).
 - iii. Roster Batting - Any number of players present may be placed into the batting order (even if not used in the field). A specific number of hitters must be declared prior to start of the game. Further, all hitters beyond the first 10 listed in the batting order will be considered substitutes, not starters (may enter the game on defense only once).
 - iv. Use of DH (Designated Hitter) not allowed.
 - v. After the batter order has been set, the number of batters cannot be altered. If number of batters falls below the number of batters that started the game, outs will be taken in place of the batters.
- b. The EP may be substituted for at any time, either by a pinch-runner or pinch-hitter who then becomes the EP. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EP can re-enter (subs cannot). In addition, the EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.

- c. In all batting order options (except if starting a game with 9 players), the number of hitters cannot be adjusted unless due to a player injury ("one player drop" maximum).
- d. The use of one of the above stated batting order options must be declared prior to the start of the game (to umpire). Once an option has been declared, it must be implemented throughout the game. Failure to complete the game with declared option results in forfeiture of the contest.

I. SPECIFIC CO-REC RULES

- a. Batting Order: The batting order for Co-Rec Softball shall alternate the sexes.
- b. Defensive Positioning: Minimum 9 players - 5 women and 4 men or vice versa OR 6 Women and 4 Men.
 - i. Players of the team in the field may be stationed anywhere on fair territory, except the catcher, who must be in the catcher's box, and the pitcher, who must be in a legal pitching position at the start of each pitch.
 - ii. Defensive positions can be changed and players are allowed to play any position on the field, provided there are no more than 4 players in the infield, 4 players in the outfield, 1 pitcher, and 1 catcher. Once a position has been chosen for that inning, the player must play that position for the entire inning. All changes to positions have to be made prior to the start of the inning. Substitutes must enter the position of the player they are substituting for. Exception: Pitchers may be changed in the middle of an inning if needed, but must be swapped for the same sex (i.e. a male pitcher must swap out with another male player, or a female pitcher with another female player). Defensive shifts are acceptable, but players cannot change positions with another fielder in the middle of an inning. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
- c. In the event a team plays with 4 Women and 5 Men, the team must take an out in the 10th spot in the batting order. If the team plays with 5 Women and 4 Men, they do not have to take an out in the 10th spot.
- d. Male base on balls: A walk to a male batter will result in a two base award, and the female batter shall bat. With 2 outs, the female batter has the option to hit or walk.
- e. If the EP (Extra Player) batting order option is elected, prior to the start of the game, TWO EP's (one male/one female) must be utilized (12 total players in the batting order: 6 male/6 female). Remember, only 10 players can play defensive positions and once this option is elected, you must complete the game with it.
- f. A strike mat shall be placed directly behind the home plate. Any legally delivered pitch with the proper arc requirement that makes contact with any part of the strike mat OR PLATE will be called a strike. The catcher must allow the pitch to hit the mat or the ground before returning the ball to the pitcher. If the catcher catches the pitch before it hits the mat or in any way obstructs the umpire's view, the pitch shall be declared a ball. If the batter inhibits the ball from striking the mat in any way, the pitch shall be declared a strike. Any pitch, declared illegal by the umpire (not in the arc limit of 6 to 10 feet), hit by the batter shall be a live ball.

J. EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING FIELD

- a. Game Ball
 - i. Each manager must give the umpire one new ball (in sealed box) before each game, and it must be the brand adopted and purchased through Greenfield Park and Rec EXCEPTION: Men's 30+ & Co-Ed Home Team Supplies Ball.
 - ii. In the event both balls are lost, each manager must give the umpire another playable ball.
 - iii. When the ball goes out of play, the second ball is to be used. At the conclusion of the game, the umpire shall give each team one ball (winner's choice). If a ball has been lost, a toss of the coin will decide who gets the remaining ball.

- iv. In Men's 30 Plus League Play - A 12" OUTSEAM softball will be the official ball. **UMPIRE NOTE: EACH TEAM should have the opportunity to hit a new ball in their first inning at bat when possible. After the first complete inning of play, the best available ball should be utilized for each team.*
- b. All bats must meet USA softball performance standards at minimum. The parks and recreation department reserves the right to ban any bats that are deemed unsafe for recreational play. A bat that may have been certified or re-certified at one time, but no longer meets USA Softball performance standards cannot be used in City of Greenfield League play. (See attached www.teanmusa.org). **The penalty for using a banned bat will be as follows:**
 - i. **First offense:** Any team caught using an illegal bat will forfeit the game immediately and the player that used the bat will be suspended for one (1) game.
 - ii. **Second offense:** Any team caught using an illegal bat will forfeit the game immediately and the player who used the bat will be suspended for three (3) games and manger will be suspended one (1) game.
 - iii. **Third Offense:** Any team caught using an illegal bat will forfeit the game immediately and the player that used the bat will be suspended from all City of Greenfield leagues for one (1) calendar year and the manager will be suspended for three (3) games.
- c. Shoes/Footwear: **No METAL cleated/spiked shoes are allowed. Exception: Thursday Police / Fire League.** Only plastic, rubber, or soft sole shoes are permitted. **Penalty for wearing illegal footwear:**
 - i. **First Offense:** Warning and player will be asked to remove footwear immediately.
 - ii. **Second Offense:** Offending Player is suspended for one game.
 - iii. **Third Offense:** By any offending player on the team, forfeiture of game, offending player is suspended (3) games and Manager is suspended (3) games.
- d. No excessive wearing of jewelry will be allowed (umpire discretion).
- e. **ALL LEAGUES** Base distance = 65', Pitching Distance = 50'

K. TOURNAMENT (MEN'S OPEN / POLICE AND FIRE

- a. City Tournament will be held on August 12th at Konkel Park. Rain date will be August 13th. ***Tournament will not be made up beyond these dates if cancelled due to weather.***
- b. Tournament will consist of up to 20 teams. Top two (2) teams in each division based on record, plus 2 Wild Card teams. Friday league will receive 4 spots in the tournament. Tournament teams will be selected based on records as of July 28th, regardless of whether leagues are completed or not.
- c. All teams must confirm their spot in the tournament as of August 9th. In the event that a team does not confirm entry into the tournament by this date, the next best team in that league will be asked to participate, which will continue until 2 teams from each league confirm participation.
- d. Tiebreakers for Tournament Selections and Tournament seeding are as follows:
 - i. League Record
 - ii. If League Record is tied, will go to Most Runs Scored
 - iii. If Most Runs Scored is tied, will go to Run Differential
 - iv. If Run Differential is tied, will go to Runs Given Up
 - v. If Runs Given Up is tied, will go to Coin Flip
- e. Tournament will be single elimination.
- f. All games will have a 55 minute time limit. Exception: Semi-Finals and the Championship game will be a 7 inning game, or until a winner is declared.
- g. One umpire per game. Exception: Two umpires for the Championship Game.

- h. Each player participating in the tournament will need to show picture ID to Tournament Director and or designee prior to team's first game of the tournament. **Player/s not able to show proper identification will not be allowed to participate (No Questions Asked).** After the first round of games players and or whole teams will be checked on a random or complaint basis.
- i. Players who play on multiple teams must choose **one (1)** team for the tournament. Players must be legal players on that team to participate in the tournament. Rosters should be adjusted accordingly prior to the 8th week of the season to ensure tournament eligibility. Illegal players will result in immediate forfeit.
- j. Illegal Bats used in tournament play will result in immediate forfeit.
- k. Tournament protests will follow all USA Softball rules.

L. CANCELLATION INFORMATION AND MAKE-UPS

When conditions may warrant cancellation of scheduled activity due to inclement weather:

- a. CALL THE PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT 24-HOUR INFORMATION LINE (297-9008) FOR CURRENT CANCELLATION INFORMATION OR GO TO www.greenfieldwi.us/parksrec **PLEASE DO NOT DIRECT INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER.** THE STATUS OF GAMES IS ONLY ANNOUNCED IF CANCELLED. (IF NO MENTION IS MADE OF GAMES IN QUESTION...YOU CAN ASSUME GAMES ARE PRESENTLY "ON" AT THE TIME OF THE CALL).
- b. Once at a program site, decisions concerning the cancellations or discontinuation of the activity will be in the judgment of the official.
- c. All canceled games will be rescheduled for play at the end of the regular season before September 1. In extreme cases, it may be necessary to arrange special make-up dates on days other than your regular play night. **If No makeup is scheduled** credit will be issued for games that are not played. Communications will be sent to managers concerning any make-up games (see Adult Team sports Policies for important specific notification procedures related to make-up games).

M. INSURANCE / LIABILITY

- a. The City of Greenfield does not provide hospital/medical insurance coverage for people participating in sponsored activities and cannot assume responsibility for injury to any participants in its recreation programs. Participants are encouraged to obtain their own insurance coverage prior to the start of the program and to consult with a physician before participating in any strenuous activity.