

Hesston Recreation Softball League Rules

- All games will be played under USSSA guidelines with local exceptions.
 - Softball must be 3' above the release point to 12' maximum height during the pitch.
 - The USSSA "Flip-Flop" Rule.
 - 70' basepaths
- Players must be on a roster to play.
- All teams must submit a roster to the HRCE Recreation Director. A roster has no maximum of players, but the same player can not be on two different rosters. A player must be on the official roster by 4:00PM the day of the game. Exceptions to this might be granted due to player injury.
- Players wanting to play for another team must be released by their manager. The release is then communicated to the HRCE Recreation Director. A released player may not play with another team until 24 hours has elapsed from the time of the release in the HRCE office.
- Teams must have nine players to start a game. Forfeit time is game time. If a team has only 9 rostered players, the team will play with 9 players with no automatic out for the 10th positions if they choose not to borrow a player. If only 8 rostered players are available, the team may play with 8 if the opposing manager agrees to the game.
- Game Lengths
 - Games will be 7 innings with a time limit of 1 hour.
 - There is a run rule of 15 runs at the end of 5 innings.
- If a game is forfeited, teams may use the field until 10 minutes prior to the next game.
- Borrowing Players
 - Regular Season - A team may borrow a player or players from another team's roster to reach 9 or 10 players if they choose. Borrowed players must play either pitcher, catcher, or 1st base. If a team's rostered player shows up after the game has begun, the player will replace the borrowed player in the field and in the batting order. Players arriving during the game can be added to the batting order up to a maximum of 13. Any borrowed player must be replaced as soon as the the player arrives.
- There are no protests. The umpire's decision is final. In the event of a discussion with the umpire, players are to remain on the bench or in the dugout. Only the manager may talk to the umpire. When the umpire calls "play ball" the game must resume immediately.
- A second foul ball on a 3rd strike will result in the batter being called "out."
- The umpire will notify both team managers when there are 10 minutes lefts in the 1 hour time limit. A new inning will start if there are 5 or more minutes remaining within the 1 hour time limit.
- In case of inclement weather, five completed innings will constitute a complete game.
- There will be no warm-up or infield practice before games on the field.
- No steel cleats. A player will be asked to change steel cleats after the first offense. The player will be ejected from the game after the second offense.
- Hesston Recreation and Community Education will not be liable for any injuries that occur due to the game. People must be personally responsible for injuries they receive.
- The umpire has the authority to eject anyone from the game for disobeying any rule, or the use of foul or obscene language. After the first ejection, the player will sit out the team's next game. A second ejection during the season will band the individual from playing the remainder of the

season. Any player ejected from a game for striking another player or an official will be banned forever from further participating in HRCE softball.

- No alcoholic beverages are allowed on any Hesston ballfield premises. This pertains to both practices and games and includes the field, dugouts, and parking lots.
- A team may bat 13 players and play 10 in the field. These players may be changed in the field without reporting to the umpire or scorer. Batting order changes must be reported.
- Each team shall provide game balls. A "Classic M" will be the standard ball for this league.
- Players must have completed the 12th grade to play.
- There is no home run or run differential. Each team will be allowed 4 home runs per game. Any ball over the fence after a team's 4th home run will be considered a foul ball. The second ball over the fence during the same at bat will be considered an "out."
- Home run hitters may touch first base and return to the dugout. Home run hitters may choose to circle the bases, but should do so quickly.
- Baserunners must attempt to avoid contact with the defensive player.