



## **Cultural & Community Services**

# **Adult softball Handbook**

**Cultural & Community Services  
(305 W. Third Street, 1st Floor West Wing)  
Oxnard CA 93030 (805) 385-7995**

Revised 2025

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# I. Introduction

Welcome to the City of Oxnard's adult softball program! We appreciate your interest in our recreational league where we strive to offer a fun, safe environment so participants of all levels can enjoy playing the great sport of softball.

In accordance with the Cultural and Community Services Department's mission (included below), we have revised the adult softball handbook to better serve the needs of all our teams.

Our mission:

City of Oxnard Cultural and Community Services strives to enrich the quality of life for people of all ages by providing safe, positive and active opportunities within our community that embrace diversity and promote

social connections, wellness, civic pride, and life-long learning.

## II. General Information and Regulations

- A. The current SCMAF Slow Pitch rules in addition to the following City of Oxnard modifications shall govern all softball league play. The Recreation Coordinator and/or Recreation Specialists will have jurisdiction over all rules and regulations herein not covered.
- B. Seasons (all dates are subject to change)
  - a. Spring (March - May)
    - i. Registration opens January - February
  - b. Summer (June - August)
    - i. Registration opens April - May
  - c. Fall (September - November)
    - i. Registration opens July - August
- C. Registration
  - a. Can be done online, in-person at the Recreation Office, or over the phone.
    - i. Online link (must create an account to register):  
[https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/oxnardrec/home?onlineSiteId=0&from\\_original\\_cui=true](https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/oxnardrec/home?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true)
    - ii. Recreation office- 305 W. 3rd St., Oxnard, CA 93030
    - iii. Phone Number- (805) 385-7995
  - b. Registration fee of \$400 must be received at the time of registration.
    - i. There is an additional \$20 per team umpire fee per game that must be paid at the start of each scheduled game.

1. Umpire fees may not be prepaid or paid with personal checks.
- ii. No refunds will be issued after the game schedule is released.

#### D. Classifications

- a. Rookie (Mens and Coed)
  - i. This division is designed for newer teams who have little to no experience participating in organized baseball or softball.
  - ii. A maximum of two rostered players with experience in organized softball or baseball (including high school and/or college) and playing two nights per week is permitted.
- b. Amateur (Mens and Coed)
  - i. This division is designed for teams where half its roster has players with experience in organized baseball or softball and some tournament play (no more than five tournaments a year). Up to three nights of play per week is permitted.
- c. Elite (Mens)
  - i. This division is designed for teams where more than half of the team has organized baseball or softball experience and participates in a minimum of 5 tournaments played per year, but no more than 15 tournaments played per year.
  - ii. Players in this division **are not** eligible to participate in any lower level division (Rookie or amateur).
- d. Teams/ players will be classified according to past performance to maintain equitable play within each division.

#### E. Divisions

- a. Divisions are subject to change depending on number of registered teams and / or team in improper division

- b. Games start as early as 6:30pm
- c. Mondays
  - i. Rookie Mens (12 teams maximum)
- d. Wednesdays
  - i. Rookie Mens (6 teams maximum) and Amateur Mens (6 teams maximum)
- e. Thursdays
  - i. Amateur Mens (6 teams maximum) and Elite Mens (6 teams maximum)
- f. Fridays
  - i. Rookie Coed (6 teams maximum) and Amateur Coed (6 teams maximum)

F. Code of Conduct

- a. The Manager and Assistant Manager agree to support and influence good sportsmanship, high moral standards, and be responsible for the conduct and acts of themselves, their players, and their spectators.
- b. ALCOHOL & SMOKING OF ANY KIND IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE PARK PROPERTY (FIELD, DUGOUT & BLEACHERS).
- c. Penalties for violating Code of Conduct Rules:
  - i. Depending on the seriousness of the infraction, disciplinary actions may include a formal warning, ejection from the game, suspensions, and/or expulsions from the league.
  - ii. Any player, coach, or spectator displaying unsportsmanlike conduct may be ejected from the game.
  - iii. If the person who committed the violation does not leave when asked to do so, the team responsible for the infraction will be charged with a forfeit, suspension(s), and/or expulsions from the league.

- iv. Profanity or vulgar language directed at another team (participant or spectator) or staff member will not be tolerated and receive an automatic ejection.
- d. Any ejections carry an automatic minimum one-game suspension to be served at the next scheduled game and the individual(s) must leave the area immediately.
  - i. The City of Oxnard adopts an “out of sound, out of sight” approach to define “leaving the area”.
  - ii. Any ejected/suspended individual is also suspended from participating in any other City of Oxnard sporting event/programming (i.e spectator, coach, etc.) until their suspension has been served.
- e. Enforcement of the Code of Conduct at a game site will be based on the site monitor and/or umpire’s best judgment and may be rescinded, increased, or upheld by the Recreation Coordinator.
- f. The terms of the Code of Conduct may be found on the City’s teamsideline webpage

#### G. Umpires

- a. It shall be the duty of the Umpire to administer decisions of the game in accordance with SCMAF rules of play and those adopted by the City of Oxnard.
  - i. The Site Monitor reserves the right to eject participants if they feel there is a threat to the health and safety of themselves or others.
- b. All league games are under the control of the Umpire and only one team Manager/ Representative may discuss decisions with the Umpires on the field of play.
  - i. Violators will be removed from the game and reported to the Recreation Coordinator.
- c. All games having one assigned Umpire must be handled from

behind home plate. Their duties and jurisdiction shall extend to all points of the playing area

#### H. Protests

- a. All protests must be made in writing, accompanied by a \$5.00 protest fee, and received by the Recreation Office within twenty-four (24) hours of scheduled time of the game in question.
- b. Highly technical protests (Judgement calls) and those which could have little or no effect on subsequent play or result of the game will not be considered.
- c. If a protest concerning eligibility is upheld, the protest will only affect the game in which the protest was made. The Cultural and Community Services Department will not consider the effect on games prior to the protest.
- d. The Recreation & Community Services Department will not take any action against an ineligible player until the opposing manager has made a protest. Upon notification of the protest, the umpire and or / monitor will then investigate the identity of the player.

### III. Field and Equipment

#### A. Fields used for game play

- a. Community Park West
  - i. Clark and Adair Fields (801 Hobson Way)
  - ii. Ground rules
    1. Any batter who hits a ball and on the fly and it falls



into any of the dead territories listed below, will earn an automatic "OUT"

- a. Tennis Courts Playground
- b. Street Over the fence at Clark
- c. Homes
- d. If the ball hits a tree or any other obstruction and then goes into the tennis courts, streets or the homes, it will be a foul ball.

- 2. If a ball lands in the parking lot (Clark Field), it shall be declared a foul ball.
- 3. Any batter who hits a fly ball into the streets and/or damages any vehicle will be responsible for damages to the vehicle in question.
- 4. A batted "fair" ball that rolls past the "fan line" or sidewalk in foul territory is a dead ball. The runner will be awarded 2 bases.
- 5. A batted "fair" ball that reaches or passes the sidewalk is a live ball.
- 6. A batted fly "fair" ball that hits a light pole or tree is a ground-rules double.
- 7. If the ball hits the ground and then the light pole/tree, it's a live ball

b. Beck Park

- i. O'Brien Fields (600 W. Kamala Street)

c. All bases will be 70 feet apart.

d. Pitcher mounds will be between 50-59 feet from home plate.

B. Equipment

a. Personal equipment (i.e. gloves, bats, etc.) must be furnished by the participating teams.

- i. Composite bats must be approved by ASA in the last seven

years.

- ii. It is recommended that safety glasses be worn by individuals who require prescription glasses.
  - iii. We strongly recommend that pitchers wear a mask.
  - iv. No metal cleats permitted
- b. The Recreation Department will provide balls used in league play.

## **IV. Game Length, Forfeits, and Postponements**

- A. A regulation game will consist of either a one (1) hour and ten (10) minute or seven (7) innings period, whichever comes first.
- a. No new inning may be started after the time limit has been reached
  - b. The assigned umpire shall notify the team managers of the time limit before starting a new inning and his decision shall be final.
  - c. A Men's league regulation game may be completed before the aforementioned conditions are met at the umpires discretion and consideration for the following circumstances:
    - i. 20 runs ahead after 4 innings- 3.5 innings if the home team is ahead.
    - ii. 15 runs ahead after 5 innings- 4.5 innings if the home team is ahead
    - iii. 12 runs ahead after 6 innings- 5.5 is the home team is ahead.
- B. In the case of a tied score at the end of the regulation game period, an

extra inning will be played.

- C. Generally speaking, game times are as follows, depending on the number of registered teams within a division: 6:30pm, 7:45pm & 9:00pm
- D. Game time is forfeit time unless determined by the umpire or staff member.
- E. League schedules will be made available for pick-up at the mandatory managers meeting and published online at [teamsideline.com/Oxnard](http://teamsideline.com/Oxnard)
- F. Forfeits
  - a. Teams forfeiting due to lack of eligible players are responsible for the entire umpire's fee of \$40.00
  - b. Failure to pay these fees before the start of the next scheduled game will result in forfeiture of the team's scheduled game.
  - c. A team that forfeits two (2) games in one (1) season without prior notification may be dropped from the league by the Recreation Coordinator and/or designated Recreation Specialist.
  - d. Once the game schedule has been released to the public, requests to reschedule games must be submitted in writing 48 hours in advance of the game(s) in question. No requests are guaranteed, but will be considered on a case-by-base.**
  - e. Game cancellations less than 24 hours before the start of gametime is an automatic forfeit.**
- G. Postponed Games
  - a. Postponed games will only be rescheduled due to extenuating circumstances such as inclement weather and will be rescheduled according to the field availability by the Recreation Department.
- H. Suspended games
  - a. Should circumstances arise after play has begun (ex: weather), four innings of play shall be considered a complete game.

- b. Should circumstances arise after play has begun, but remaining under four innings will be postponed and continue on another day with the same line-up card from the postponed game.
  - i. The umpire fees only need to be paid at the initial game and will cover the initial game as well as the suspended game.

## **V. Rosters and Players**

### **A. Eligibility**

- a. Team managers are responsible for the enforcement of and adherence to all eligibility rules.
- b. Player(s) may not play in more than one City of Oxnard league per night.
- c. Teams using ineligible players will be subject to disciplinary action by the recreation department.
  - i. Violations concerning ineligible players should be brought forth at the earliest possible opportunity.
- d. Any player participating or registering under an assumed name will jeopardize the eligibility of the team for which they play and shall be suspended from play.
- e. ID checks will be conducted to ensure fairness throughout the season (1st game, 4th game, Playoffs)
  - i. Must be physical ID (no social media, photo of ID, etc)
  - ii. Random ID checks may be conducted at any time
- f. Players must play at least 3 games during the regular season to be eligible for playoffs. We track lineup cards after every game.

### **B. Coed Softball**

- a. A defensive team shall consist of up to ten players with no more than

five players of either gender on the field at any time

- i. A team may have three players of either gender with a maximum of five players of the opposite gender to start or finish a game.
- C. Line ups are due to the umpire ten minutes prior to game time. Failure to do so in a timely manner may result in a team's forfeiture.
  - a. Names on the roster must match the names on the line up card.
    - i. No nicknames, please use real names as we track players play the required 3 games minimum for playoffs
- D. Players must bring PHYSICAL identification to every game (i.e. State issued ID, State issued Driver's License, Passport).
  - a. Photo identification may be requested by any manager to the umpire or staff member at any point of the game.
  - b. Random ID checks may be performed at any point of the season, and will be conducted during the first week and during playoffs.
- E. A team must field at least eight roster players at all times during league play.
- F. If a team only has eight players, the game may start if the opposing team agrees to furnish a "courtesy catcher" only to return the ball to the pitcher.
  - a. Should a team decline to provide a courtesy catcher, that is their right and the result shall be a forfeit charged to the opposite team.
- G. Rosters are limited to 15 players.
- H. All players must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older.
  - a. Minors will not be permitted to participate, no exceptions.
- I. Teams with three (3) or more female players will only be eligible for coed leagues.
- J. All players must have signed the roster form or the add/drop request form prior to participating in their game in order to complete eligibility requirements.
  - a. Rosters must be completely filled out in ink.
- K. Any player dropped from the batting line-up (and not substituted for) will be declared an out only on the first missed at bat, unless the player is dropped due to injury.

- a. A player who has to come out of a game because of an injury will not be penalized with an out.
- L. Teams have until the fourth week of play to add or remove players from the roster.
  - a. Players may be added provided that the team does not have a full roster (15 players).

## **VI. General Rules**

- A. Music
  - a. Music may be played during games, but the volume may not be to a level where the umpire's calls cannot be heard.
  - b. Music may not be vulgar or contain profanity.
  - c. The umpire reserves the right to have any and all music shut off.
- B. Post season play
  - a. In order for a player to qualify for playoff games, they must have participated in at least three regular season games.
  - b. A log will be kept by League Admin and will be strictly enforced. No exceptions will be made.
- C. COED rules
  - a. COED teams utilize the 2nd safety homebase rule for both uppers and lowers
  - b. When female batter is at bat, only 1 outfielder can be in front of the 180 feet line.
    - i. The 180 feet line will be painted for the players and umpires by staff.

## **VII. Fielding, Running, Pitching, and Batting**

- A. Fielding
  - a. shall consist of MAX ten players, whose positions shall be designated as: (1) pitcher, (2) catcher, (3) first basemen, (4) second basemen, (5)

third basemen, (6) shortstop, (7) left fielder, (8) left center fielder, (9) right center fielder, (10) right fielder

- b. Defensive players must make every effort to avoid standing on the base lines. Failure to do so may be called obstruction based on the umpire's best judgment.
- c. If a thrown ball enters the dugout, the runner(s) are awarded 2 bases.
- d. If a thrown ball hits any object on the field belonging to their own team such as bats, gloves, and/or players not involved in the play, it will be a dead ball/interference. Runners will be awarded an extra base.

#### B. Base Runners

- a. All effort must be made by the base runners to avoid any contact with defensive players.
- b. All contact will be declared illegal and will be called an out, unless the umpire rules unavoidable or accidental contact.
- c. When running to first base, if there is a play to be made, base runners must step onto the orange extension.
  - i. In order to avoid collision, a baserunner may step on the white base.
- d. When the orange extension is used, runners must tag the white portion of the base if returning from an attempt to advance to the next base.
- e. Sliding is permitted.
- f. Base runners may lead off their respective base only after the pitcher releases the ball. Penalty for leaving early is an automatic out for the base runner in question.

#### C. Courtesy Runners

- a. A player may be a courtesy runner only once per inning.
- b. The manager may select any player to be the courtesy runner provided that said player has not already been a courtesy runner in the current inning.
- c. If a courtesy runner is on-base when it is their turn to bat, an additional out will be awarded to the defensive team.
  - i. A courtesy runner cannot be requested for a courtesy runner.

- d. A courtesy runner that is issued the out is allowed to remain on-base.
- e. A courtesy runner is eligible to run after one pitch is thrown.

#### D. Pitching

- a. Count starts at one ball and one strike
- b. Pitches must be released while standing within the pitcher's box.
- c. The arc of the toss must be below twelve feet and above the height of the batter.
- d. Pitchers may be substituted after one batter has either reached first base or been retired.

#### E. Batting

- a. If a batted ball hits any object on the field belonging to their own team such as bats, gloves, and/or players not involved in the play, it will be a dead ball/interference. Runners will be awarded the base that they reached.
- b. Both feet must be within the batter's box when contact with the ball is made.
- c. Any player dropped from the batting line-up (and not substituted for) will be declared an out only on the first missed at bat, unless the player is dropped due to injury.
  - i. A player who has to come out of a game because of an injury **will not be penalized with an out.**

## VI. Teamsideline

#### A. Game schedules

- a. A season consists of eight regular season games and at least one playoff game.
  - i. All teams make the playoffs.
- b. All league standings shall be determined strictly on a percentage



of wins and losses for the league schedule.

c. Ties affecting league standings for the first and/or second place

will be handled in the following order:

- i. Head-to-head record
- ii. Run Differential
- iii. Coin toss