



# ADULT SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

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USA Softball rules will apply except for the following rules published here.

## GAME LENGTH

- Games will be seven (7) innings with a fifty (50) minute time limit.
- If time has expired before seven (7) innings has been played, the current inning will be allowed to finish and the game will end with the completion of that inning.
- In the event of excessive inclement weather, all options will be used to complete the season. This includes games being played on different nights of the week from your regular night of play and weekends.

## RUN RULE

- If a team is ahead by twenty (20) or more runs after three (3) innings, fifteen (15) or more after four (4) innings or ten (10) or more after five (5) innings then game will be declared over.
- The home team will get to bat in the bottom of the inning if they are the trailing team.

## HOME RUN LIMITS

- **Men's & Coed**
  - The homerun rule is based on a one and up. Each team gets a homerun until the other team hits a homerun then each team gets one homerun again. If a team hits a second homerun before the other team hits their first, it will be an out.

## DIVISIONS & ROSTERS

- The Men's and Coed divisions will be split into subdivisions at the Athletics staff's discretion.
- An individual may only be on one roster per division/per night of play
- If an individual plays on multiple teams in the same division it is up to the opposing team to protest their playing.
  - This protest must occur before said player has their first at bat
  - If the protested player is on a different roster in the same division and night being played between the two fielded teams then they are disqualified from that game

## EQUIPMENT

- Only USA/ASA approved softball balls will be legal for play.
- Must be a yellow cover.
  - Men's Division – 12" diameter, red stitched, .520 core max or under, and compression of 300 lbs. or less.
  - Coed Division – Women will hit an 11" diameter ball with red stitching, .520 core max or under, and 300 lbs. or less with an USA/ASA stamp. Men will hit a 12" diameter ball with red stitching, .520 core max or under, and compression of 300 lbs. or less with a USA/ASA stamp.
- Steel spikes are not permitted in league play.
- All bats with a certified stamp are legal unless on the no bat list provided.



## GAME TIMES

- Games will begin at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m., etc.
- There will be a ten (10) minute grace period for the 6:30 p.m. games. The game clock will be running during the grace period. If not enough players are present by then, the game will be declared a forfeit.
- For all other start times, game time is forfeit time.
- Eight (8) players must be present to start a game. “Ghost outs” will be utilized for lineups of fewer than ten (10) batters. “Ghost outs” will be placed at the **lowest possible position in your lineup**.

## COED RULES

- Coed teams will consist of at least four females and six males. (Unless playing with ghost player)
- Players can be anywhere on the field. You do not have to have alternating pitcher and catcher.
- Players in the infield must be in front of all players in the outfield before the ball is hit.
- The batting order will require the first eight batters to be alternating. You can bat up to 12 players but at least six of the players must be female. The batting order will never have more than six males, but you can have as many females as needed to complete the lineup up to 12 players. You may only bat 10 or 12 players (unless you’re batting less than the minimum with ghost outs).
- A male batter only walks if following a female batter.
- A courtesy runner is allowed for both a male and female player once per half inning.

## MEN’S RULES

- Stealing is allowed
- You can have a maximum of 11 batters in your lineup with one batter as the designated hitter

## PITCHER

- Pitchers will be protected from line drives up the middle. A line drive will be defined as any ball that goes through the protected pitching area, and ranges from the pitcher’s head to the pitchers feet. The protected pitching area is: fifteen (15) inches from each side of the pitching mound. Any ball that strikes the ground first will not be included in this rule interpretation. Umpire discretion will be used to determine the protected pitching area and intent. Pitching masks are allowed and may be worn by a pitcher.
- **Team penalties occurrence per game:**
  - 1st team occurrence - Dead ball. Batter is out. (inning continues)
  - 2nd team occurrence – Dead ball. Inning ending out. If same player commits 1st & 2nd occurrence, below highlighted rule applies.
  - 3rd team occurrence - Dead ball. Game forfeit.
- **Individual penalties occurrence per season:**
  - 1st occurrence – Dead Ball. Batter is out.
  - 2nd occurrence – Dead Ball. Player is disqualified from game and normal disqualification rules apply.
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## BATTING

- Each batter will step up to the plate with a count of one (1) ball and one (1) strike.
- A foul ball with two strikes will result in an out.



## TIE BREAKER

- When the game is tied after time or 7 innings has expired, the Progressive International Tie-Breaker will go into effect. In the first extra inning, the last batter to complete his/her turn at bat will start the inning on second base. Should any more innings need to be played the last two batters to complete his/her turn will start the inning on second and third base.

## SCOREKEEPING

- The official scorekeeper is the responsibility of the home team. If the score is in doubt the umpire will compare scorebooks and resolve any discrepancies.

## PLAYER CONDUCT

- Profanity, vulgarity, unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct of any kind that is detrimental to the game of softball and its purpose will not be tolerated. Athletic staff, City employees, League officials or umpires shall remove the offending parties from the park and the Police will be called if deemed necessary.
- **Any person ejected for profanity, vulgarity, or unsportsmanlike behavior will receive a minimum eight (8) day suspension to be served beginning immediately and could be longer if the infraction warrants it. If a player is ejected from a game, then they must leave the park for the remainder of the night.**
  - The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances by participants or spectators may be cause for immediate removal from the park. If a player is caught consuming and/or possessing alcohol during a game (either inside or outside of the dugout) the player will be disqualified or ejected from the game. If a player is disqualified the team can provide a legal substitution or a “Ghost Out” will be placed in the disqualified player’s position in the line-up. If the player is ejected the team must provide a legal substitution or the team forfeits the game.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Players in City of College Station adult leagues must be at least 18 years of age at the time of participation.
- Male players may play on (1) men's slow pitch team and (1) co-ed team per night.
- Female players have no rule restriction on the number of teams they can play per night or division.
- **Rosters are the basis for the legality of players and your batting order is due prior to the start of your game for the evening.**
  - **The manager is responsible for having every player on their team complete the waiver once. This should be completed during your week 1 game. If a new player arrives in proceeding weeks, it is the managers responsibility to have that player complete a waiver (that will be in the binder behind home plate).**
  - Batting line up cards will be provided for every team at their assigned fields.
- No roster shall exceed twenty (20) players including a player/manager unless a special exception is made by the Athletic office.
  - See “Rosters” section on Adult Softball Details document and “Divisions and Rosters” section of this document for more information.

## PLACEMENT

- Teams will be placed into divisions based on their registration questions answered and previous season records if applicable. Placement is to the discretion of the athletic staff.

## SCHEDULES

- Schedules and standings can be viewed at <http://teamsideline.com/collegestation>.
- Team captains will receive regular communications from the Parks and Recreation Department via this site and are encouraged to sign up for text message alerts on the homepage.



### **FIELD CONDITIONS/RAIN OUTS**

- When playing conditions are questionable call the rain out number at 979-764-3732 for the latest information or check Team Sideline and your email. This recording is usually updated after 4:00 p.m. or in the event the weather changes throughout the day. You can also check our website at <http://www.cstx.gov/fieldstatus> for field status.
- Teams will be notified via Team Sideline and manager's email about make up games.
- Any games canceled in progress will resume at the point the game was stopped.