

# City of Fort Collins Adult Softball Rules

*Anything not listed here will follow USSSA Softball Rules. Updated May 2026*

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## Division Types

### 1. 2+ HR Division

- Teams can hit unlimited home runs, as long as the difference between the two teams' totals is no more than 2.
- If a team hits 2 more than their opponent, any further home runs become outs until the gap is smaller.
- Clarification: Example — Team A hits 4 HRs, Team B has 2. Team A may not hit another HR until Team B hits one more.

### 2. 1 HR Division

- Each team may hit 1 total home run per game.
- Additional home runs = outs.

### 3. Recreational Division: Applies to all Recreational Divisions:

- Each team may hit 1 total home run per game
- Additional home runs = outs
- 5-run limit per inning, except in the final inning
- The final inning is defined as the **7th inning** or any inning that begins with **under 10 minutes remaining**
- Division standings are not updated online
- Senior League Only:
  - ASA bats are optional
  - Unlimited courtesy runners per inning
  - Home Plate Commit Line Rule
  - Pitchers are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask and catcher's gear

**Note:** League Coordinator may merge divisions or move team's level of play based on previous record, except in the Recreational Division.

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## Park Rules

- No Alcohol
- No Glass Bottles
- No Unattended Dogs – Must be leashed and attended at all times.

- No Hitting into Fences – Violators pay for damages.
  - Speakers – Allowed, but no explicit lyrics. Volume control is at umpire/field supervisor's discretion.
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## Field & Equipment Specifics

- Dimensions: Base paths: 70 ft x Pitching distance: 50 ft (an additional 6ft back is optional)
  - Bats – Not provided. Must have USSSA 1.20 BPF stamp and appear on the approved bat list. Altered bats = illegal, may result in a suspension
  - Ball – Provided USSSA-approved softballs (Classic M for men, Classic W for women).
  - Optional gear: Pitchers are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask and catcher's gear
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## Game Rules

### Pre-Game

- **Lineups & Players:**
    - Minimum 8 players to start.
    - All players must meet roster requirements:
      - Offense (Batting Lineup): Number of male players may not exceed the number of female/other/non-male players by more than 1.
      - Defense (Fielding): Number of male players may not exceed female/non-male players.
      - No maximum player limit in lineup
    - All players listed on the lineup card must hit (no designated hitters).
    - All Subs listed cannot enter game until notifying the umpire they are subbing in for a player. The player sub out cannot reenter the game.
  - **Game Time:**
    - Starts at the scheduled time with a coin toss to determine home team.
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### During the Game

- **Game Length:**
  - 55-minute time limit or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
  - Run Rule:
    - 20 after 3 innings
    - 15 after 4 innings
    - 10 after 5 innings

- No Flip Rule
  - Tie-Breakers:
    - Regular Season: 1 extra inning, then game ends in a tie.
      - Clarification: Last legal batter from previous inning starts on 2B.  
No courtesy runner allowed.
    - Playoffs: Unlimited extra innings until a winner is decided.
- **Late Arrivals:** Added to the bottom of the lineup upon arrival.
- **Player Forfeits:**
  - If a player leaves mid-game without replacement, it counts as an out if they do not have a sub to add into the lineup.
- **Home Runs:**
  - 2+ HR & 1 HR Divisions: see above rules.
- **Batting:**
  - Start with 0-0 count.
  - 3 balls = walk, 2 strikes = out. No courtesy foul after first strike.
  - Bunting = out. Must complete a full swing.
  - Stepping out of batter's box = out.
    - Clarification: Both feet must be inside the lines at contact. Foot completely outside = out.
- **Pitching:**
  - Slow pitch, underhand only.
  - Ball must arc 3–10 feet (measured from ground).
  - Pitchers may pitch up to 6 feet behind the rubber, within the width of the rubber.
  - Pivot foot must remain in contact with the ground.
  - Flat or excessive speed pitch = illegal pitch = ball, unless the batter swings.
    - Clarification: Illegal pitch is live ball unless batter does not swing.
  - USSSA Catcher's Box Rule is not enforced in our leagues.
- **Courtesy Runner:**
  - 1 per inning per gender (*Unlimited for Senior League*)
  - Must be a player in the lineup not currently up to bat in the batting order.
  - If on base when it's their turn to bat, the batter is out.
- **Commit Line Rule: (Mixed/Senior League Only)** Once a runner crosses the commit line (located between third base and home plate), the following rules apply:
  - **Runner:**
    - Once the runner crosses the commit line, they may not return to third base.
    - Runner must touch the designated safety base (located to the right of home) to score.
    - Runner touches home plate = runner out
  - **Fielder:**
    - The fielder must touch home plate to record an out, not the runner.
    - Tagging the runner = runner safe
- **Subs:** A player who is listed on the roster but has not yet participated in the game (either offensively or defensively) at the point they enter.
  - Once a player has been legally substituted, that player is ineligible to re-enter the game.

- The substitute must bat in the same lineup position of the player they are replacing.
- **Injury Rule:**
  - Under 10 players: no automatic out for injured player.
  - 11+ players: out unless a sub is used.
- **In Game Protests**
  - Protest is heard and recorded by field supervisor.
  - Only rule interpretation may be reviewed, not judgment calls.
  - Umpire has final say.
- **Ejections & Conduct:**
  - **Minor Infractions (Warning Issued)**
    - Polite disputes or disagreements over judgment calls
    - General mild profanity not directed at any individual
    - Minor unsportsmanlike behavior (slow play, competitive banter)
    - Music violations: Playing music with explicit lyrics or excessive volume
    - Spectator misbehavior that does not target a player or official
    - Acts that could cause harm to a player, including:
      - Bat throwing
      - Fake tags
    - Any Park Rule violation
  - **Major Infractions (Automatic Ejection)**
    - Any excessive minor infraction
    - Aggressive or offensive language directed at a player, umpire, or staff
    - Aggressive or unsafe slides into a player (beyond normal play, intended to injure or disrupt)
    - Aggressive harassment, bullying, or discrimination based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other protected classes
    - Extreme spectator interference causing safety or game disruption
    - Physical aggression toward players, umpires, staff or spectators

## Mixed League Modifications

**Spirit of the Rule:** These rules have been adapted from traditional coed modifications with the intent to be more inclusive to all gender identities. In that vein, players not using these rules in the spirit they have been written in will be given one warning and then the player will be referred to the Site Supervisor and/or ejected from the game.

- **Roster & Lineups:** A minimum of 8 players is required to start a game, and all players must meet roster requirements.
  - **Offense (Batting Lineup):** The number of male players in the batting order may not exceed the number of female (or non-male) players by more than one (+1).
  - **Defense (Fielding):** The number of male and female (or non-male) players must be equal, or there may be more females (or non-male players) than males. The

- number of male players may not exceed the number of female (or non-male) players.
  - There is no maximum limit on the number of female (or non-male) players on the field or in the batting lineup.
- **Batting Balls:**
  - Male-identified players must hit 12" ball.
  - Female (or non-male hitters) may choose to hit 11" or 12"ball.
    - Once chosen, the ball size must be used for the entire game
- **Batting Order:** All players listed on the lineup card must bat. There is no requirement to alternate gender identities in the order. Teams may have any number of female (or non-male hitters), but the number of male-identified hitters cannot exceed the combined total of female (or non-male hitters) by more than one.
  - **Examples of legal male-to-female (or non-male) ratios:**  
The number of males is equal to or at most one more than the number of females/non-males, such as 6:5, 5:4, 7:6, or where females/non-males outnumber males, like 4:6, 3:7, 2:8.
  - **Examples of illegal male-to-female (or non-male) ratios:**  
The number of males exceeds females/non-males by more than one, such as 6:4 or 7:5.
- **Walk Rule:**
  - 3 straight balls without a strike or an intentional walk: batter is awarded 2nd base.
    - Next batter has the option to bat or walk.
- **Commit Line Rule:** Once a runner crosses the commit line (located between third base and home plate), the following rules apply:
  - **Runner:**
    - Once the runner crosses the commit line, they may not return to third base.
    - Runner must touch the designated safety base (located to the right of home) to score.
    - Runner touches home plate = runner out
  - **Fielder:**
    - The fielder must touch home plate to record an out, not the runner.
    - Tagging the runner = runner safe

## Game Delays / Weather Policy & Process

- **Lightning Delay:** Games may be delayed a maximum of 20 minutes before or after the scheduled start time. If conditions do not improve, the game will be cancelled and/or rescheduled at a later date.
- **Weather Cancellation Notification:**
  - Before Game Times:
    - Call the Weather Line: 970-416-2887
    - Visit: [www.teamsideline.com/fortcollins](http://www.teamsideline.com/fortcollins)
      - Weather cancellations will be posted at the top of the page.

- During Game Times:
    - Field Supervisor will notify participants.
    - Games that do not reach the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning or 40 minutes of play will be rescheduled in full and will not resume from the point of cancellation.
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## **Player Eligibility & Miscellaneous**

- Players must be on official roster and may show photo ID.
- Random roster checks allowed. Ineligible players = suspension + forfeit.
- Teams may add players to their roster up to the final league game. Any roster additions must be approved by the field supervisor.