

## Unified Softball Rules

- The Fort Collins Unified Softball League is administered through the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program and the City of Fort Collins Sports Division.
- All rules will be governed by the A.S.A. rules and Special Olympics guidelines with the additions or exceptions of the following.
- Unified [partner's](#) playing capabilities should be matched to the athletes that they play with. The Fort Collins Unified league may involve players of high to low skill on each team in a recreational league and play should be modified accordingly.  
If the sports supervisor observes that a player is playing above the skill level for their division, that player will be notified to modify their playing skills or be removed from the league.
- The City Umpires will be calling the game according to ASA Slowpitch Softball rules.
- Taylor Ingram ([tingram@fcgov.com](mailto:tingram@fcgov.com)), Unified Softball Coordinator will serve as the "Unified" Supervisor and give feedback to coaches, players and teams in this regard. Let her know if you have any questions or concerns.
- Each team will have a managing coach 18 years or older. The Coach will determine the team roster and guarantee that a proportionate 5 athletes and 5 partners ratio are on the field. The head coach or pitcher are the only two-team members allowed to call time-out.
- The playing positions will be as follows according to unified team rules: During competition the following position requirements are two athletes and two partners in both the infield and the outfield, and one athlete and one partner as pitcher and catcher. [Players in position must make a play when it is theirs.](#) (If short stop makes a play on third when there is a third baseman present, this could be called domination. You must allow your athletes to make plays when the play is theirs; However, you may communicate, back up, and assist players to make plays if needed.)
- Home plate domination rule will be enforced. Pitcher cannot take play from the catcher if the catcher is in the base area. Pitcher may back up the catcher.
- The batting order will consist of the roster with athletes alternating with partners. No two athletes or partners can bat back to back. All players on the line up can bat, regardless if they are playing that inning.
- [Fielders](#) should attempt to include the combination of partners and athletes in most plays if possible.
- All players are allowed 4 balls and 3 strikes. A [maximum](#) of 6 balls pitched per batter will be allowed.
- Beginner and Intermediate division athletes who strike out often, can use a T after receiving two strikes.
- Athletes that hit the ball over the outfielder's heads will take a double for the first hit. Partners are encouraged to hit the ball in play, not over the outfielders' heads.
- The [pitcher](#) is an important position and will need to do the following:

- 1) Make every effort to help the batters hit the ball ie: moving closer, tossing the ball lightly, throwing consistent and legal slow pitch balls etc.
- 2) Decide to field the ball, let the ball go through to another player to field, make the play to a different base all depending on the best play for the batter and the fielders to allow their maximum participation.
- 3) Pitchers should most always be partners.

- **Third Base coaches** are important to control aggressive base running when it is not necessary. Base runners should not advance unless the coach is indicating to do so; Base runners should advance only one base on an overthrow.
- Teams must be ready to play at game time. No warm up time will be permitted on the infield. Rosters are due to the scorekeepers 15 minutes before game time.

\*\*\*Sportsmanship:

- There will be no taunting of other athletes, name calling, foul language or other poor sportsmanship behavior accepted. The Sports division Code of Conduct will be followed by all teams. Coaches and partners are to be setting good examples. **Those who cannot follow proper behavior will be ejected from the game and asked to leave the ballpark if necessary.**
- Unified teams should strive to play strong as a team, involving all players and incorporating their various skill levels.
- Unified Coaches shall coach their team to play with balance and the "spirit of unified."

\*\*\*Clothing Attire:

- All players on a team must have matching shirts with numbers on the back, along with athletic shorts, baseball pants or sweat pants. Athletic footwear must be worn. NO metal spikes or open toes, work boots, cowboy boots or sandals will be allowed. No denim. Watches and jewelry must be removed.
- All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets. Helmets must be worn correctly.
- Catcher must wear a catcher's mask and helmet.