



ADULT SLOWPITCH RULES & REQUIREMENTS

(updated 5.10.23)

ARTICLE 1: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1 – Age Requirements

- A. The minimum age for all players is 18.

SECTION 2 – Team Limitations

- A. Players may play on only one Pierce County Parks & Recreation team within each classification.
 - i. A player may participate in more than one classification during the season.
(i.e. men's E, Rec, Women's E, Rec, Coed D,E,Rec)
- B. No trading of players will be permitted.

ARTICLE II: PLAYER ROSTERS & TRANSFERS

- A. All teams may carry an unlimited number of players on their roster.
- B. Rosters
 - i. All player information, including name address and phone number should be printed or typed on rosters provided by the league office.
 - ii. Team rosters must be turned in before teams receive their schedule.
- C. Signing of Players
 - i. After the team roster has been submitted to the league office, new players are not eligible to play until 24 hours after a roster change form has been received in the league office.
 - ii. All changes in the official team roster must be made **in writing**.
- D. Transfers
 - i. Players may be released at any time by the team manager or the player may release themselves. The player is to be notified verbally of his release and the league will consider the release legal when the have received it in writing at the league office.
 - ii. Players who are released must wait fourteen (14) days from the date of receipt of release in the league office before being added to another team in the same division. Players must wait 7 days or one game before being added to a team in a different division.
- G. Any team violating any of the above eligibility rules shall forfeit all games in which ineligible players participate.
- H. Any player or manager violating any of the above eligibility rules shall be subject to suspension of the league office.

ARTICLE III - CLOTHING / EQUIPMENT & FIELD LAYOUT

- A. Players must be fully clothed while playing (Shirts, pants and shoes).
- B. Football shoes are illegal in sanctioned play. Soccer shoes are legal.
- C. **Metal cleats will not be allowed in any leagues.**
- D. Bats from authorized manufactures that are marked with the words "Official Softball" and have the 1.20 BPF logo that meet official softball standards in NSA and USSSA play will be allowed in Pierce County league play.
 - i. For a list of bats that have been tested and found to comply with these standards please check the associations websites.
 - iii. **Any player who steps into the batter's box ready to play, using an unapproved bat, will be**

- immediately ejected from the game.**
- E. The 12" Baden ball will be used in all men's leagues, 11" Baden ball in all women's leagues. Co-Ed leagues will switch between the 12" and 11" balls.
- F. The Baden blue stitched softball .40 core (men) and the .47 core (women) is the official ball and teams are required to use them for all league games. The home team will provide a new Baden softball and the visiting team a new or suitably used Baden softball. All teams will be provided one half dozen balls as part of their entry fees. Teams that hit balls out of the park are required to either immediately get their own balls or supply another Baden softball. If they are unable to do so, they must still provide another ball to the umpire, HOWEVER, if the umpire has a Baden ball available for use, it will take precedent and be used in the game. If neither team has a Baden ball to use, the umpire will make the final determination as to what ball will be used.
- G. **Base distance is set at 70 feet for all leagues.**
- H. Pitching distance is set at 50 feet for all leagues.
 - i. **Exception: The pitcher may pitch up to 6 feet behind the pitching rubber. (*rubber set at 50ft*)**

ARTICLE IV - GAME LENGTH

SECTION 1 – Game Limitations

- A. All games are limited to 7 innings or a time limit of 1 hour and 10 minutes, whichever comes first. **No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 10 minutes has expired.**
 - i. A five minute grace period will apply only to the first game of a day's schedule. If a team has eight players there is no grace period.
- B. If a game is tied after 7 innings and the time limit has not expired, the game shall continue into extra innings. The inning must be completed. If teams are still tied after extra innings have been completed and the time limit has expired, a tie shall be declared.
 - i. **Exceptions:** Games called because of darkness or inclement weather. These games will be resumed and played to completion at the earliest date possible.

SECTION 2 – Legal Game

- A. Once a game begins, if it is stopped because of rain, it will be rescheduled, only if it has gone less than 4 1/2 innings. A game is considered to be legal if 4 1/2 innings have been played and the home team is ahead.
- B. Championship playoff games terminated because of darkness, or weather conditions, must be completed from the exact situation in which the games were stopped.

SECTION 3 – Run Ahead Rule

- A. A 12 run rule is in effect for all games, after 4 1/2 innings. If the home team is leading by 12 runs after 4 1/2 innings or the visiting team is ahead by 12 runs at the completion of 5 innings the game shall be called.

SECTION 4 – Run per inning rule

- A. No more than seven (7) runs may be scored in any one inning, except the 7th inning or the last inning of the time limit (men, women and Co-Rec).

SECTION 5 – Pitching Info

- A. Pitchers will receive three (3) warm-up pitches in the first inning (to start the game) and then one (1) warm-up pitch in all subsequent innings.

ARTICLE V - LINE UP OPTIONS / BATTING ORDER / COED INFO / *HOME RUN RULES

SECTION 1 – Option 1 – Ten Players (Regular Lineup)

- A. A team submits a batting order lineup with 10 players listed. All ten players bat in that order, and all 10 players must play defense.
 - i. This lineup can not be changed except through normal substitution process.

SECTION 2 – Option 2 – Additional Player Option

- A. A team submits a batting lineup with 11 players listed (12 players for coed). All 11 (12CE) players must bat and any 10 can play defense. In coed, an equal number of men and women must play defense.
 - i. Defensive positions may change from inning to inning; however, you can not alter the batting order, except through normal substitution process.

SECTION 3 – Option 3 – Bat-A-Round Rule

- A. This option may not be used by teams starting short handed. This lineup option may only be used when at least 12 players (*14 coed*) are present at the start of a game. All players must bat, and any 10 may play defense. (*A coed batting lineup must alternate man-woman at all times and an equal number of men and women must play defense.*)
 - i. All team members present will be listed in the official batting order, and must bat in that order for the duration of the game.
 - ii. Defensive positions may change from inning to inning; however, the batting order cannot be altered at any time.
 - iii. Players not present when the game begins may be added to the bottom of the batting order, provided the team has not completed one full rotation of the order, and will bat in that order for the remainder of the game. (*Coed- must have a male and female to add*) Players showing up after the team completes one full rotation, can not play in that game.
 - iv. Any ejection which causes a batter to not bat when his/her turn at bat occurs will result in an out being recorded for that player.
 - a. Exception: if a player is legitimately injured and unable to continue playing, that person's time at bat will simply be skipped (not an out).
 - v. The Bat-A-Round rule is a modified rule for league play only, and cannot be used in post season or invitational tournament play.

SECTION 4 – Option 4 – Starting Short Handed (8 players)

- A. A team must have a minimum of 8 players present at the scheduled field at the scheduled starting time of each game. Should the previous game run long, the starting time shall be at the discretion of the umpire. If 8 players are not present at game time, a forfeit shall be declared.
 - i. **A team may begin and finish a game with 8 players.** (*Coed – Minimum four men/four women*) If at any time a team falls below 8 players, the game will be forfeited.
 - ii. **Teams starting short handed with 8 or 9 players may not use the additional player or bat-a-round line up options.** Late players may be added to the bottom of the lineup until the batting order is complete with 10 players. Any other players may only enter the batting order through normal substitution procedure. (*Coed: A woman may play in the 9th spot when only 9 players are present. An extra woman may be added to complete the order, (10) but at no time will more men than women be allowed in the lineup. Extra women in the lineup must be placed at the bottom of the batting order after all alternating male/female positions have been filled. In this case, 2 or 3 women may bat consecutively, but two men may never bat consecutively.*) A male arriving after the lineup is set with extra female(s) may only substitute into a male position in the lineup held by an extra female.

SECTION 5 – Batting Rules

- A. All batters will start with a one and one count.
- B. The batter will be declared out if he/she hits two foul balls after he/she has had two (2) strikes.
- C. Over the fence home runs are limited in select Pierce County programs. All fair untouched fly balls over-the-fence, in excess of the limit, will be ruled and out. League limitations are progressive and are as follows:**

- Pointer DH League – Unlimited
- Men’s, Women’s Coed D Leagues – Unlimited
- Men’s, Women’s, Coed E Leagues – 3 then progressive
- Men’s Women’s, Coed Rec Leagues – 1 then progressive
- Men’s Church League – 1 then progressive

- D. The ball must be hit over the fence and netting in order for it to be deemed a home run.**
- E. Balls that are hit through or drop behind the fence after hitting the netting will be ruled a ground rule double. *(OF raise your hands so the umpire can see it has dropped behind the fence.)*
- F. Balls that hit the fence and/or netting and return to the field of play are considered live balls.
- G. When participating in an equalizer league (ex: E / Rec) the following will take place:
 - A. The lower classified team will be awarded a run differential when playing a higher classified team.
 - B. In all programs the team receiving the run spot will receive the runs at the start of the game, and are not required to score a run prior to receiving their spot.
 - C. In all programs the higher classified team’s home run rule will be used.
 - D. The lower classified team that is due to receive a run spot will not be allowed to decline the spot, even if both managers agree prior to the game.
 - E. The higher classified team will be the “home” team for equalizer games.

SECTION 6 – COED ONLY

- A. The batting order must alternate man/woman or woman/man. If not, there could be a player vacancy. (**Exception C below**)
- B. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (female) will bat. *Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.*
 - i. *When using the short handed rule, an extra female batting in the male position in the order will also be awarded two bases on a walk.*
- C. If there are not an equal number of Men and Women in the batting order, the Women must represent the majority. (ie 6 women & 4 men or 5 women and 4 men).
- D. There are no defensive restrictions. Men or women can be played in any defensive position. This includes pitcher/catcher.
- E. Sliding is allowed.
- F. Intentionally blocking home plate or any other base is prohibited.
- G. Outfielders must position themselves on the outfield grass at all times, rather than move up onto the dirt portion of the infield until the ball has been hit.
 - i. **EXCEPTION: Players are allowed 1-2 steps onto the dirt infield when the game is played on a regulation size baseball diamond. Violation of this rule will enable the batter to be (1) awarded the base(s) earned on their hit or (2) be allowed to bat over again if an out was made.**
- H. There is no encroachment rule in the county.
- I. Base stealing is not allowed. Leading off is not allowed.

ARTICLE VI ABNORMAL SUBSTITUTIONS

SECTION 1 – Injuries

- A. In the event of an injury, any player may re-enter the game for the injured player. *In coed, a male must replace a male and a female must replace a female.*
 - i. If a team starts a game with 8 players but loses a player due to an injury and has no substitute to replace the injured player, the game shall be forfeited to the opponent.

SECTION 2 – Courtesy Runners

- A. Only one courtesy runner per inning may be used. The courtesy runner will be the last recorded out. If it is the first inning of the game, no courtesy runner may be used until an out is recorded. If the courtesy runner is still on base when his/her turn to bat comes up, the original base runner can take the place on base with no penalty. For Coed games, only the last male out can run for the male and only the last female out can run for the female. You get one male and one female runner per inning. Same rule applies in the first inning.

SECTION 3 – Re-Entry

- A. A liberalized re-entry rule will be in effect for all Pierce County league and post and preseason tournament games.
- B. Teams will be allowed to withdraw and re-enter a starting player or substitute any number of times, offense or defense, providing that player occupies the same batting position in the line-up. A player replacing a pitcher in the field shall pitch to the first batter until he/she has been advanced to first base, been put out, or there has been a third out. No defensive restriction, but players must always bat in the same spot in the batting order. If a player does not bat he/she can play defense for any player or pinch run.

ARTICLE VII: SCHEDULES & TYPE OF PLAY

- A. Each team will be scheduled for 12 games in the Spring (Except Aaron Pointer DH League 20) and 12 games in the Fall.
- B. Postponed Games
 - 1. Games may be postponed up until 4:00pm only by action of the league office. If weather makes playing conditions unsatisfactory, the recreation department may postpone league games, but it shall be the duty of each manager to call the rainout number to make certain of the postponement.
 - 2. If games have not been officially postponed, both teams should appear at the game site in full strength, or the non-strength, or the non-appearing team is subject to forfeit regardless of playing conditions, due to weather or otherwise. Umpires and field maintenance staff will decide on any postponements after 4:00pm.
 - 3. In the event of inclement weather, information on field conditions will be emailed out via TeamSideline after **3:45pm weekdays**
 - 4. In the event of inclement weather, information on field conditions will be emailed out via TeamSideline after **Noon weekends**
- C. If a team cancels a ball game, they will be assessed a **\$25.00** charge.
- D. Rainouts and postponed games will be played at the earliest possible convenience. Canceled or postponed games might not be rescheduled unless it will decide a league championship.

ARTICLE VIII: PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. The use of casual profanity or unsportsmanlike language by any team member may result in an out being called against the offending team.
 - i. If a team is at bat and profane or unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter will be declared out.
 - ii. If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat, that player will be called out
 - iii. If the act is committed by the defensive team, the first batter in the next inning will be declared out.
 - iv. The outs will be treated as delayed dead ball situation
 - v. If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning, where the fielding team may not bat again, the ejection rule will apply. If a team has an eligible substitute, the game can continue.
 - vi. A game may be ended by a casual profanity / unsportsmanlike language out.
- B. Any team, manager or player found guilty of being abusive toward the umpire or any park department representative, not playing or coaching, shall be subject to immediate and indefinite suspension. **THIS WILL APPLY EVEN THOUGH THE GAME HAS BEEN COMPLETED.**
- C. Any player or manager ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the next league game. Players or managers may have to sit out more than one game if the infraction warrants it, for example, starting a fight. Pierce County sponsored pre-season and post-season tournaments are included in this rule.
- D. Any player or manager who participates in a game from which he has been suspended will result in the game being declared a forfeit. The individual will also be suspended indefinitely.
- E. Any manager who removes his team from the field prior to the completion of a game, or who causes a game to be forfeited because of his conduct or attitude toward the umpires, shall be subject to an indefinite and immediate suspension.
- F. Any player or team guilty of making a travesty of the game as judged by the game official shall be subject to

suspension.

- G. Any player engaging in a physical altercation with an opposing player will be suspended for the rest of the season. The player may request a hearing requesting reinstatement for future seasons.
- H. Any player or coach that strikes an umpire before, during or after a game shall be suspended from all recreation programs for life.

ARTICLE IX: ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

- A. According to Title 14 of the Pierce County Code, 14.08.060 , Section M: It is unlawful for any person to possess, display or open and/or consume alcoholic beverages in a park facility or on park property.
- B. Any team found consuming alcoholic beverages in or around the playing field will be subjected to the following sanction (s):
 - i. **Before or after game in common areas:** County personnel and or USSSA Umpire Services will ask to have beverages disposed of immediately. If offending group is not cooperative to request, additional measures such as calling for assistance may occur. Group will be reported to Recreation Supervisor for additional follow up.
 - ii. **During play in or around dugouts or on the field of play:** Game will automatically end with offending team forfeiting the match. A written report will be filed by the umpire and forwarded to the league office. A possible lifetime participation ban in Pierce County run leagues may be instituted by league office based on the amount of times a team loses by way of alcohol forfeiture.

ARTICLE X: PROTESTS

- A. All protests must be made in writing and turned in at the league office within 48 hours after the game has been completed.
- B. Each protest, other than player eligibility, must be accompanied by a \$20.00 fee and a copy of the signed scorebook, which will be returned if the protest is upheld. **An umpires judgement is not grounds for a protest.**
- C. All protests, to be legal, must be made to the opposing manager and umpire before the next pitched ball. In the case of player eligibility, it should be protested before the game is completed.
- D. A Park Department protest committee will handle all protests and decisions, but will not consider any protest until the protesting team has a complete and accurate scorebook record of the game.

ARTICLE XI: UMPIRES

- A. The USSSA Umpire Services shall appoint umpires for league and tournament play.
- B. In the event an umpire does not appear, teams should try to find someone to umpire from the stands or the teams to umpire the game. If this is done, the game will be considered an official game. If the game is not played it may or may not be made up depending on field and time availability as well as its bearing on the league championship.
- C. One umpire will be used in all slowpitch league games.
- D. Complaints against an umpire must be lodged in writing to the Pierce County Parks & Recreation office. Verbal complaints will not be recognized.
- E. **If an umpire does not show up to a scheduled game please contact Jared Bucci 253-579-3795 .**

ARTICLE XII: MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1 – Keeping Score

- A. The home team is responsible for keeping the official score of each game. The scorebook, to be official, must contain the last names of all players.

SECTION 2 – Reporting Game Scores

- A. Team managers are responsible for reporting game scores to the teamsideline website. Either team has the ability to report the game score via the link emailed out via teamsideline. If there are any disputes on the score we go by the home score book.
 - i. **Game scores must be reported within 72 hours (3 days) of the scheduled contest.**

- B. League standings will be updated weekly and posted on the county's teamsideline website.

SECTION 3 – Final Standings / Playoffs

- A. A team's position in the final league standings will be determined by their record immediately following the score reporting deadline. Champions, ties and/or playoffs will be determined at this time.
- B. In determining first place, the following methods shall be used in the order written:
 - i. Win-Loss record
 - ii. Head to head competition

SECTION 4 – Dugout Rule

- F. Only players listed on the official roster are allowed in the dugout and/or bench area.
- G. All players/coaches must be in the dugout and/or bench area only. Exceptions are the next to bat in the on deck batter's box and the two base coaches.
- H. If the umpire has to stop the game because players are out of the dugout, they will warn the coach then start ejecting players.

SECTION 5 – Misc. Items

- A. Each manager must obtain a copy of these rules and regulations and he/she shall acquaint his players with their contents. Ignorance of the rules and regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for violation.
- B. Officers and employees of the recreation department will be empowered to declare players ineligible and forfeit all games.
- C. Any matter not covered by these rules and regulations shall be left to the discretion of the park department.