

**PUYALLUP PARKS AND RECREATION
ADULT SOFTBALL SUMMER 2024
RULES AND REGULATIONS**



ARTICLE I: REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

OFFICIAL RULES will be USSSA rules, unless modified by these rules and regulations.

- A. Teams must submit a complete registration form and pay the full league fee by the registration deadline. No refunds will be given after the deadline on the registration form.
- B. Teams must submit a complete roster with signatures by the start of the first game.
- C. All teams may carry an unlimited number of players on their roster.
- D. Roster and players changes must be made in writing by submitting a new signed roster form. **A player may be added up to the day of the game, provided a new roster form has been signed and turned in to either to the League Director or Field Supervisor.**

****NO PLAYER MAY BE ADDED AFTER THE SIXTH WEEK OF SCHEDULED GAMES****

Monday (Men's E) League-August 26

Tuesday Leagues-August 27

Wednesday League-August 28

Thursday (Coed) August 29

- E. Players may transfer to another team if they are dropped in writing by the coach of their original team. An updated player roster with signatures must be filled out to keep a record of current rosters of each team accurate.
- F. Players may play on only one Puyallup Parks & Recreation team per league. A player may only participate on more than one team if they play in different leagues.
- G. A player is ineligible if they are not listed on the team roster and/or have not signed the team roster.
- I. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. All players must carry photo I.D. in order to participate. Any player without photo I.D. will be considered ineligible.
- H. If you believe a player is in violation of any of the above rules, there must be a **protest by the opposing team to the field supervisor before the game ends**. If no protest was made, once the game is over, no changes of any kind will be made.
- J. Any team violating any of the above eligibility rules shall forfeit all games in which ineligible players participate.
- K. Any player or manager violating any of the above eligibility rules shall be subject to suspension set by the league office.
- L. If a coach thinks a team is playing with upper-level players, they need to email the League Director and request a formal roster review. USSSA will run the official roster review. If the roster in question does have upper-level players, USSSA will issue the appropriate number of runs that team must spot their opponents for the rest of the season, including playoffs. Further action may be taken by the League Director which will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

ARTICLE II: EQUIPMENT AND GAME SPECIFICATIONS

- A. Players must be fully clothed while playing (shirts, pants and shoes). Matching shirts with numbers on the back are recommended but not required.
- B. Football shoes are illegal. Soccer shoes are legal.
- C. Metal cleats are not allowed in any leagues.
- D. Hats can be worn either forwards or backwards.
- E. Bats in all divisions of play must fit the current USSSA standards and have the permanent USSSA New Mark on its taper. For a list of bats that have been tested and found to comply with USSSA standards, visit their website: www.usssawa.com
- F. Mens leagues will use a 12" restricted flight softball, .40 COR, womens leagues will use the 11" ball, .47 COR. Coed leagues will use the 12" restricted flight ball, .40 COR for men and 11", .47 COR for women.
- G. Game balls will be provided by the Recreation department and issued at games by field supervisors.
- H. Base distance is set at 70 feet for all leagues.
- I. Pitching distance is set at 50 feet for all leagues.

ARTICLE III: GAME LENGTH & LIMITATIONS

SECTION 1 – Game Limitations

- A. All games are limited to 7 innings or a time limit of 65 minutes, whichever comes first. **No new inning may begin after 65 minutes.**
 - 1. A 5-minute grace period will be allowed for the first game. The grace period comes out of game time. No grace period will be allowed for later games. A forfeit shall be declared for any team not ready to play at their scheduled start time.
- B. If after 7 innings of play or time expires and the game is tied, the game shall end in a tie. No extra innings will be played. Exception: Playoff games cannot result in a tie. If tied after 7 innings or time limit, the game will be extended by 1 inning (both teams get another at bat). Last out starts on 2nd base (USSSA international tie breaker rules). If still tied, 1 more inning will be added and so on, regardless of time limit, until a winner is determined.

SECTION 2 – Legal Game

- A. Once a game begins, if it is stopped because of darkness or inclement weather, 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. See Article VI, Section Reschedules for more information on rescheduled games.

SECTION 3 – 12 Run 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 Limit Per Inning Rule

- A. No more than 10 runs may be scored in any one inning, except the 7th inning or the last inning of the time limit (unlimited runs).

SECTION 5 – Pitching

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

ARTICLE IV: LINE UP OPTIONS, HOMERUN RULES & COED INFO

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

- A. A team submits a batting order lineup with 10 players listed. All 10 players bat in that order, and all 10 players must play defense. *This is an established USSSA rule.*
1. This lineup can't be changed except through normal substitution.

SECTION 2 – Option 2 – Everyone Bats

- A. This option may not be used by teams starting shorthanded. This lineup option may only be used when at least 11 players (12 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.)*
1. All team members present will be listed in the official batting order and must bat in that order for the duration of the game.
 2. Defensive positions may change from inning to inning; however, the batting order can't be altered at any time.
 3. 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 that show up after their team completes one full batting rotation, can only be used through the normal substitution.**
 4. 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. 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).

SECTION 3 – Option 3 – Starting Short Handed

- 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.
1. **A team may begin and finish a game with 8 players.** *(Coed – Minimum four men/four women)*
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, a forfeit shall be declared.
 2. **Teams starting shorthanded with 8 or 9 players may not use the Everyone Bats option.** 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.
 3. 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 their team completes one full batting rotation with extra female(s) may only substitute into a male position in the lineup held by an extra female.

SECTION 4 – Batting Rules

- A. **Players receive 3 balls and 2 strikes.** A player is awarded a base on balls when three balls are called by the umpire.
- B. **FOUL BALL RULE: Once the batter has one strike against him/her, if a foul ball is hit, the batter is automatically called out. If foul ball is caught, any runners on base can advance at their own risk.**
- C. The following limits for over-the-fence home runs shall be in effect for all league games. Progressive homeruns: once both teams have reached the stated home run limit (1), no team may be more than one home run ahead of their opponent. A dead ball out shall be declared on any subsequent batter(s) hitting any excess home runs.
 - E League and Open League: 1 and progressive home runs
 - Rec League: 2 home runs, per team, per game (not progressive)

SECTION 5 – Misc. Rules

- A. Sliding is allowed.
- B. Intentionally blocking home plate or any other base is prohibited.
- C. Base stealing is not allowed. Leading off is not allowed.
- D. 75 Second Rule - When the third out is made each team will have 75 seconds to take their positions respectively. If there is no batter in the box and the defensive team is set, then the umpire will signal to play ball, and a strike will be called. The umpire will then signal to play ball again, give 10 seconds, and then announce strike 2. This will continue until either a batter takes a position in the box, or there are 3 outs recorded. If the situation is reversed and a batter is in the box with no team ready to pitch, then balls will be recorded in the same manner.

RESULT: The team at bat will be awarded an out prior to their first batter and the team in the field will begin their next "at bat" with one out.

EXCEPTION: If the next batter in the order needs extra time, in the umpire's opinion, to remove or replace gear (pitcher or catcher and their extra defensive equipment), then additional time will be allowed.

SECTION 6 – COED ONLY

- A. The batting order must alternate man/woman or woman/man. If there are not an equal number of men and women in the batting order, then women must represent the majority. Example: 6 women and 4 men or 5 women and 4 men. See page 3, option 3 for exception explanation.
- B. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next batter (female) may elect to walk by notifying the umpire before the first pitch is thrown.
- C. There are no defensive restrictions. Men and women can play in any defensive position, this includes pitcher and catcher. Teams must still play with 5 men and 5 women on defense or women must represent the majority.

ARTICLE V: 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.
 - 1. 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, a forfeit shall be declared.

SECTION 2 – Courtesy Runners

- A. Only one courtesy runner per inning (one time) may be used. The courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time his/her turn to bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out. In the mixed program (coed), any male player in the lineup can run for a male and any female player in the lineup can run for a female. You get one male and one female runner per inning. Effect: If a second runner of the inning or one not from the line up enters the game and the defensive team completes the proper appeal before the next pitch, or illegal pitchers' action, intentional walk or before all fielders have left fair territory, the runner will be declared out with no further action. Any player who has been ejected cannot be a courtesy runner or coach of a base.

SECTION 3 – Re-Entry

- A. A starting player can withdraw and re-enter only one time per game and that player must bat in the same spot in the batting order upon re-entry. Once a sub enters a spot in the batting lineup then is taken out, they can't re-enter.
- B. Unlimited substitutions allowed on defense.

ARTICLE VI: RAINOUTS, RESCHEDULES & FORFEITS

SECTION 1 – Game Schedule

- A. Each team is guaranteed 12 games. All teams advance to a single elimination playoff tournament only if weather and time permits.
- B. Schedule requests will be accepted until the date posted on the registration form (June 30th). We will do our best to accommodate special requests but can't guarantee that all will be made.

SECTION 2 – Postponed Games

- A. Games may be postponed 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 check the website or call the rainout number to make certain of the postponement.
- B. 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 will decide on any postponements after the website and rainout lines have been updated.
- C. Rainouts and postponed games will be rescheduled for the regular season guaranteed games. If the game that was rained out was part of the playoff tournament, it will be rescheduled only if weather and time permits.

SECTION 3 – Rainouts Line and Website

- A. We will be playing in light rain; however, we will not be playing if the fields are in a hazardous condition. This decision is made by the Parks Maintenance staff. **For rainout information visit www.teamsideline.com/puyallup or call the rainout line at 253-841-5519.**
 - No decision will be made until 4pm on weekdays and 8am on weekends.
- B. If you have later games, keeping checking the website for updates.

SECTION 4 – Reschedules

- A. **Games may be rescheduled for \$40 and if the reschedule is 72 hours in advance of the date supposed to be played, there is time/field space available, and the opposing team is willing**

and able to reschedule the game. You must contact the other team and clear the change with them before contacting the League Director to reschedule.

- B. If you know that your team cannot make a game, thereby a forfeit, please contact the Recreation Office: 253-841-5457, the League Director: bcarter@puyallupwa.gov and the opposing team's coach: www.teamsideline.com/puyallup to notify them of the forfeit.

ARTICLE VII: PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. Any participant drinking, swearing, or smoking on or around the playing field shall be subject to suspension by the League Director.
- B. Casual Profanity during the game:
 - 1. By offensive player/team member the current/next batter will be called out.
 - 2. If by batter before he/she hits the ball he/she is out. If after hitting the ball, the result of the play stands and next batter is out
 - 3. By defensive player, the first batter in the next inning will be declared out. If in last inning and team will not bat again, the ejection rule will apply.
 - 4. Out will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation
 - 5. A player ejection or a game may be ended by casual or unsportsmanlike language.
- C. Any team, coach, spectator, or player found guilty of being abusive toward the umpire, other players, coaches, spectators, or any Recreation Department representative, shall be subject to immediate and indefinite suspension by the League Director. THIS WILL APPLY EVEN IF THE GAME HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
- D. Any player or coach ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the next league game. Players or coaches may have to sit out more than one game if the infraction warrants such action. Any player who is ejected from a game and causes his team to forfeit by not leaving the field immediately will be suspended for a minimum of two games.
- E. Any player or coach who participates in a game from which they have been suspended will result in the game being declared a forfeit. The individual will also be suspended for the rest of the season.
- F. Any coach 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 towards the umpires or Recreation department staff, shall be subject to an indefinite and immediate suspension by the League Director. Any suspension appeal must be made within one week of the infraction.
- G. Any player or coach that strikes an umpire, spectator, player or league official, before, during or after a game, will be suspended from all recreation programs for life.
- H. Any ejected player, coach or spectator must leave the ballpark area immediately. The game will not continue until the ejected party leaves the grounds. Ejected coaches, players, or spectators will have five (5) minutes to be off the grounds and out of the parking lot, or the game will be forfeited. Failure to supply our umpires or field supervisor/scorekeeper with the name of the ejected players or coaches will result in a game forfeit.
- I. A one game suspension may not be appealed. A suspension longer than one game can be appealed to the sports committee. An appeal hearing must be scheduled within two weeks of the initial suspension ruling. A final appeal with the League Director must be made within two weeks of the Sports Committee's final decision.

ARTICLE VIII: ALCOHOL & TOBACCO USE

- A. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (including Electronic Cigarettes) are illegal in city parks

(Clarks Creek North and the Puyallup Valley Sports Complex are city parks). 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):
 - 1. **Before or after game in common areas:** City personnel and/or umpires 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 League Director for additional follow up.
 - 2. **During play in or around dugouts or on the field of play:** Game will automatically end with offending team forfeiting the game. A written report will be filed by the umpire and forwarded to the league office. A possible lifetime participation ban in Puyallup Parks & Recreation run leagues may be instituted by league office based on the amount of times a team loses by way of alcohol forfeiture.

ARTICLE IX: PROTESTS

- A. To be valid, a protest must be made with the umpire and entered in the official scorekeeper's book before the next pitched ball and a \$25 protest fee must be paid to the Recreation Office within 24 hours of the occurrence, with a written account of the protest and the specific rule which is being protested. Verbal protests will not be recognized. **An umpire's judgement is not grounds for a protest.**
- B. **In the case of player eligibility, there must be a protest by the opposing team to the field supervisor before the game ends.** If no protest is made, once the game is over, no changes of any kind will be made.
- C. During the playoffs a roster protest will be decided at the field by the field supervisor. If a team is found to be playing with an illegal player not listed on the team's roster, the game will automatically be forfeited and not played.
- D. All protests will be handled by the League Director or designee who may appoint a protest committee. The decision of the protest committee will be final.
- E. Clarification of any rule should be protested to the umpire before the next pitch. If no protest is made, once the next pitch is thrown, no changes of any kind will be made.

ARTICLE XI: UMPIRES

- A. USSSA shall appoint umpires for league and playoff games.
- B. In the event an umpire does not appear, teams should try to find and agree on someone to umpire the game. If this is done, the game will be considered an official game.
- C. One USSSA umpire will be used in all softball league games.
- D. Complaints against an umpire must be submitted in writing to the League Director, who will forward the complaint to the appropriate umpire association representative. Verbal complaints will not be recognized.

ARTICLE XII: MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1 – Keeping Score

- A. **Home team will be responsible for keeping the official score of each game.** Scoreboards will be used for games if a volunteer is supplied to operate it. Designated scorekeepers should be there 10 minutes prior to the game. Coaches should turn in line-ups into designated scorekeepers no later than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
- B. League standings will be updated weekly on our website: www.teamsideline.com/puyallup
- C. Field Supervisors will report the scores. If a field supervisor for any reason can't work, the League Director will email the coaches for the final scores of their games. Be sure to check the website each week that the correct score was reported, and standings are accurate.

SECTION 2 – Final Regular Season Standings / Playoffs

- A. The division winners will be determined by win/loss record after the designated amount of regular season games.
- B. The team with the best record at the conclusion of the league will be declared the league champion. If teams are tied at the conclusion of the regular season, then final standings will be based on the premise as follows; If two or more teams are tied, then the winner of the head-to-head matchups will win the league. If two or more teams have split head-to-head, then it will be determined by the run differential in the head-to-head matchups. If teams are still tied then the league will be determined by the total run differential in the league, then total runs against then total runs for.
- C. Championship t-shirts will be awarded to the regular season first place finishers in each league of play. 1st place trophies will be given to the winners of each league playoff series. Each league will have a single elimination playoff tournament at the end of the regular season only if weather and time permits.

SECTION 3 – Dugout Rule

- A. Only players listed on the official roster are allowed in the dugout and/or bench area.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 4 – Misc. Items

- A. Each coach 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. Recreation employees will be empowered to declare players ineligible and forfeit all games. They can also request photo ID to verify eligibility.
- C. Any matter not covered by these rules and regulations shall be left to the discretion of the League Director and Field Supervisors.
- D. No refunds will be given after the deadline on the registration form. There will be a \$50 administrative fee for all refunds issued before the date listed.
- E. Players or teams suspended, or removed from the league for rules violation will not receive any refunds.