

# ANKENY PARKS & RECREATION

## COED & MEN'S

### SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

Weather Hotline: 515-963-3575

Website: [www.teamsideline.com/ankeny](http://www.teamsideline.com/ankeny)

#### LIABILITY STATEMENT

The City of Ankeny, Ankeny Parks & Recreation, its employees or appointed agents assume no responsibility for any personal injury or loss that any team member or spectator may incur as a result of Parks & Recreation programs. Individuals are encouraged to have their own personal health/accident plans for any such injuries which could occur. Players may be held responsible for unnecessary damage which may occur as a result of misconduct in a facility.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- All players must be 18 years of age prior to the start of league play.
- The fee for participation by a non-resident is \$10 per person.
- All team and non-resident fees must be paid at the Parks and Recreation office before participating in the league.

#### ROSTERS

- A team will be comprised of 10 players. A team may start a game with 8 players. No outs will be assessed. Late players may be inserted into the game by asking the umpire for time and inserting them to the end of the lineup. If however, a team has less than 8 players because of injury, ejection, or has to leave, the game will be a forfeit. Teams may continue to play with 8 players. Teams do not have to take an out if a player leaves.
- There will be a limit of 20 players to a roster.
- Players may be added to a team roster anytime prior to their third scheduled game of the season. There will be no switching or exchanging of players after they are on the roster or have been added to the roster. If a player drops from a team, they are not eligible to play for any other team in their league for the remainder of the season.
- No player is allowed to play on more than one team within the same league in Ankeny in the same season. Violation of this rule will result in individual suspension and/or game forfeiture.
- Teams may choose to place all players present for the game in one batting order and use free substitution in the field. If using this form of lineup, the opposing team Manager must be made aware prior to the game starting. **Coed Exception: An out will occur for men batting back to back.**
- Roster Protest: If a team or the Department has a question about a player's eligibility, the following procedures should be followed:
  - A. Player in question must be protested to the umpire before the game ends. The name of player(s) will be recorded by the umpire on the scoresheet.
  - B. If name does not appear on roster, the team will forfeit the game.
  - C. Single Elimination Tourney — Each tournament player must have played in two regular season games to be eligible for the tournament unless approved by teams.

#### LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

- All softball games will be played in accordance with the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) with the exception of any rule changes specifically stated as follows:

- Teams are required to keep their own score and the home team's book will be the official book. The home team is also required to keep the score on the scoreboard. The first base dugout is the designated "home" dugout.
- **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME:**
  - Be RESPECTFUL – teams sign up wanting to play and not wanting forfeits. Do your part and have enough players each week.
  - More than one forfeit in a season or if the entire team no shows, without notifying the opposing manager and the Recreation Superintendent will result in immediate release from the league with no refund of fees.
  - **Weeknight Leagues:** You must notify the opposing team manager and Recreation Superintendent before 4:30 p.m. on the scheduled game day.
  - **Weekend Leagues:** You must notify the opposing team manager and Recreation Superintendent before 3:00 p.m. on the scheduled game day.
- **LENGTH OF GAME:**
  - Games will be seven innings or 55-minute limit.
  - A game will be considered official after 4 innings; if 4 innings are not completed due to rain the game will be rescheduled and resume at the exact point where the game was stopped.
  - If the score is tied after 7 innings or 55 minutes, the game will be played with the batter beginning with a 3-2 count (no courtesy foul) – the game will continue until a winner is declared.
  - Tournament – All regular season rules apply. The Mercy Rule (15 after 5) also is in effect.
- Five warm up pitches will be allowed in the first inning and two warm up pitches will be allowed between innings. Infield ball or throwing the ball around the horn will only be allowed during the first inning.
- No stealing in any leagues.
- A starting pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher unless they have been removed for pitching with excessive speed.
- The only players that are allowed on the field while on offense are the base coaches, the on-deck batter and the batter. It is the responsibility of the manager to keep all other persons from this area. For their safety please keep children out of the dugouts.
- The batter will start at bat with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike. There is no-courtesy foul.
- The pitch must have a minimum arc of 6 feet from the ground and a maximum arc of 10 feet from the ground.
- Strikes will be called by using a mat strike zone located on the ground, hugging the corners of the plate to approximately 36" behind the plate. A pitched ball, with proper arc, landing anywhere on the mat or on the plate is a strike.
- Over the fence home runs will be ruled an out for the batter after the following limits are met: **Home Runs do NOT have to be run out at all or touch 1st base — hit and sit down**

<b>Men's B</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Men's C</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Coed B</b>	<b>3</b>

- Teams may bat all players. Players must be listed in the scorebook.
- **SOFTBALLS: .52/300 ball with ASA/USA Softball Logo**
  - Teams must supply and hit their own game ball.
  - A 12" ball with the ASA/USA Softball logo is required.
  - **Thunder Advanced Softballs are not allowed.**
  - If a team needs more softballs throughout the season they are responsible for purchasing them. Balls are available for purchase at the Hawkeye concession stand.
- **BAT CERTIFICATION:** All bats used in Ankeny Parks and Recreation League play must be inspected and stamped with an approved sticker by designated Parks & Recreation staff or umpire. All bats must bear 2000 or 2004 ASA stamp and also must be on the ASA approved bat list <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment> to receive the approval sticker. Any player caught using a noncertified bat will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension to be served in the next consecutive game. Any player caught twice in the same season using a noncertified bat shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.
- **MERCY RULE:** 15 run-rule after 5 innings
- **SLIDE RULE:** If there is a play at a base you may slide or avoid contact (avoid contact at all times when the defensive player has the ball or is receiving the ball). No running over or crashing into another player. When a defensive player has the ball, or is about to catch and throw the ball, and the runner remains on his feet and crashes into the defensive player, the runner will be declared out. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. We encourage the use of sliding pants.
- **COURTESY RUNNER:** Any eligible player on the official line-up, including available substitutes, may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning. Any courtesy runner used in Coed must be gender specific.
- **HIT YOUR OWN BALL:** Teams will provide their own ball to be hit. Both teams will provide each other game balls and between innings the pitcher will be responsible to carry the balls with them. Backup balls need to be supplied by the team at bat. Umpires will approve any questionable balls.
- **DOUBLE FIRST BASE RULE:** The orange portion of the base may only be utilized by the offensive player and the white portion by the defensive player. Exception: On extra base hits or balls hit into the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the runner may touch the white portion.
- **BLOOD RULE:** A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his clothing shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered is left up to the umpire's judgement.
- If a player is wearing jewelry that may cause injury please take it off until after the game (watches, dangling earrings and necklaces).
- Metal spikes and metal tipped soccer shoes will not be permitted.
- **AWARDS:** League champions will receive t-shirts. Tournament champions will receive a plaque.

- **FORFEITING GAMES:** Shall be scored in Team Sideline as 7 – 0 for the team winning by forfeit.
- **TIEBREAKER:** In the event of identical league records, head-to-head competition will be used to determine the winner. If the teams split the head-to-head games, the team with the highest run differential in the head to head games shall be declared the winner. **If tie remains, the team with the most total runs throughout the season will be declared the winner.**
- **Standings and scores will be updated daily on the Team Sideline website ([www.teamsideline.com/ankeny](http://www.teamsideline.com/ankeny)).** Teams should double check scores for mistakes. Teams will be allowed to change scores within one week of the played game by showing proper scorebook.
- Teams that need to reschedule games due to districts, state, regionals, or nationals will be allowed to do so as long as two weeks notice is given, regarding your team desire to participate in the tournaments. We will then reschedule your games as tournament times become available.
- Ankeny Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to make any changes necessary. The Department will reschedule any game that is postponed during the season.

### **COED PLAYING RULES**

- Coed teams must have eight players to play (4 male – 4 female). If more males are playing an out will be called in the female batting order. Example – 9 players (5 male and 4 female) — No outs will be called if you have more female players than male. If a player is injured, 9 can play with no automatic outs.
- Extra players—Teams may play with 10 players. Eleven players will not be allowed to play. Teams may bat as many players as long as the batting order consists of male/female.
- Defensive positions shall be 2 males/2 females in the outfield, 2 males/2 females in the infield and 1 male/1 female in the pitcher/catcher position.
- All games will be played with both the **men and women hitting a 12" .52/300.**
- Batting order must alternate male/female.
- Walk rule: A walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next batter (a female) must bat if there are fewer than 2 outs; with 2 outs, the female batter has the option to take a walk or bat. If there is ever a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base with 1<sup>st</sup> base empty and a male batter is walked to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, runners will advance 1 base only. If a runner is on 3<sup>rd</sup> alone and a male batter is walked to 2<sup>nd</sup> he/she cannot advance.
- Scoring line: In an effort to eliminate tags and collisions between men and women, a scoring line will be used for coed leagues only. A scoring line will be chalked 8 feet from the back tip of home plate. The scoring line is for use by the offensive player only. All plays at home plate are force plays. If an offensive runner's foot is touching the scoring line in any way, or past the scoring line, before the ball reaches the catcher's glove at home plate, the runner is safe. Note: Runners who use the regular home plate will be called out, even if no play is made.
- The 150' arc will be used for the Coed League. All outfielders must be positioned behind the arc prior to contact of the ball by the batter. After contact, they may cross over the line.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

- If there has been inclement weather, teams may call the Weather Hotline at 963-3575 or check for updates on [www.teamsideline.com/ankeny](http://www.teamsideline.com/ankeny) after 4:30 pm.
- If games have been canceled for the evening by Parks & Recreation, games may not be played that evening. Any games played on these days will not be recorded.
- If it rains during the evening, the umpire must decide if the fields are playable enough to start a game.
- After the game has started the umpire will make the decision as to whether a game will be called or not.

### **GAME PROTEST**

- Game protests must be clearly and definitively stated to the umpire before the end of the game.
- If no decision can be reached in (1) above, the protesting team must submit a written protest to the Parks & Recreation office within 24 working hours of the scheduled start time of the protested game. Protests will be decided on by a committee consisting of Umpire-in-Chief, Site Supervisor and one of the following two (Player Representative, Parks and Recreation Superintendent).
- Game protests will be accepted regarding rule interpretations only. Judgment calls are not open to protest.
- Game protests will be considered only when the play in question had a “Significant Effect” on the outcome of the game.

### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & SMOKING**

- **No alcohol is allowed to be brought onto or leave the premises.**
- Customer must be (21) twenty-one years of age and provide adequate photo identification to purchase beer.
- Purchaser can buy no more than two cans of beer at a time.
- Beer Sales are allowed:
  - a. Weekdays beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending at the start of the last scheduled match.
  - b. Weekends beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending at the start of the last scheduled match, or not later than 9:30 p.m.
- Hawkeye Park is a smoke free facility; if you desire to smoke it must be done out in the parking lot. Smoking is forbidden by the concession stand or sand volleyball courts.
- **First Warning** – Player or players will be asked to leave the complex
- **Second Warning** – Team will be disqualified from the league with no refund
- The City of Ankeny does not serve to intoxication, nor does it serve the intoxicated.
- We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone believed to be intoxicated.

## RULES OF CONDUCT

- **PROFANITY & SPORTSMANSHIP RULE:** The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT per play/event against the offending team for the use of casual profanity and/or poor sportsmanship. This includes arguing out/safe, fair/foul. Please don't make this a problem. Player and/or team suspensions have been issued and will continue to happen if this becomes a problem.
- Each manager will be held responsible for the conduct of his/her team players and is responsible to see that all rules are observed. The manager must maintain complete control of him/herself and his/her team members at all times; this includes before, during, or after a game and any time involved with the softball program. The key to a successful program is in the hands of the manager and, in turn, his/her players. Good leadership will ensure a good program.
- Umpires and their decisions will be respected and not interfered with at any time. Unsportsmanlike conduct, disrespect, vulgarity, or profanity will not be tolerated at any time. Any manager or player removed from a game for breaking Rules of Conduct will receive an automatic one game suspension to be served in the next consecutive game. A longer suspension may be given by the Recreation Superintendent, depending on the severity of the offense or frequency of misconduct. Any player or manager that is ejected from a game in this manner must leave the park.
- A game will be forfeited in the event a team fails to respect the umpire's authority or decisions; one warning will be given prior to such action. If a team receives a forfeit win or a loss, this will count as a game played. A report will be submitted to the Recreation Superintendent whose disposal of the matter is final.
- In any discussion on the playing field with an official, only the manager (or designated manager) will be permitted to enter the discussion. Any other players approaching the official or questioning calls will be subject to ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
  - Threatening of an official will have an automatic removal for the season
- Personal harassment of official (umpires, scorekeeper, supervisor, director) may be cause for either the team or individual to be suspended from league play. A player does not have to be in the game for this rule to be in effect. He/she could be a spectator of a team. Teams are responsible for their own spectators.
- Any manager or player that is involved in a **fight** or **making physical contact** with an umpire, staff, or another player shall be suspended from all Ankeny Parks and Recreation Programs for one calendar year.

***Parks & Recreation has final say over any interpretation of the aforementioned rules and guidelines and will determine best actions to reach an appropriate resolution.***