

Hollister Recreation

www.teamsideline.com/HollisterRecreation

2023 MEN'S & WOMEN'S SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY

All softball participants must be 18 years of age. **A player is required to provide proof of age when requested to do so by an umpire and/or Recreation staff.** Failure to do so can result in removal from a game and/or the program. The Recreation Services Manager has the final decision when regarding a player's eligibility. ***NO PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY UNTIL A COPY OF A VALID ID IS ON FILE AT THE RECREATION OFFICE.**

The Hollister Recreation Division will follow the official 2023 USA Softball rules except for the following list hereby referred to as "Home Rules."

1. All roster players in the Mens division must appear **two (2)** times in the lineup per half to be eligible for playoffs. The Women's division players must appear **three (3)** times in the lineup during the regular season to be eligible for playoffs.
2. Matching tops are highly recommended but not required. Matching bottoms are not required. Tops with 6" Arabic Numbers are required for official purposes; taped numbers or duplicate numbers will not be recognized. **Players without a number will not be permitted to play. Tops may not display any derogatory words; which includes offensive or foul language. The Recreation Supervisor has the final decision.**
3. If a player's name is not on the official line-up when submitted to the scorekeeper by game time then said player is not eligible to play in the game. If the scorekeeper notices a batter batting out of order he or she will inform the umpire and the batter will be called out.
4. S.A.N.C.R.A. Code of Conduct specifically lists USA SOFTBALL and S.A.N.C.R.A. sanctioned behavioral guidelines for participants and the minimum and maximum penalties for their disregard of these rules. Managers are responsible for reviewing all rules with their team members.
5. Sportsmanship infractions will be recorded and forwarded to all S.A.N.C.R.A. agencies.
6. Sneakers and softball cleats will be in compliance with USA SOFTBALL rules regarding footwear. No boots, work shoes, dress shoes, etc. will be permitted. No metal, hard plastic, polyurethane spikes or shoes with detachable cleats are allowed. **NOTE:** If a player steps on the field with spikes on their shoe said person will be disqualified and suspended for two (2) games.
7. The notification of intent to protest must be made prior to the next pitch to the umpire. The official protest must be filed in writing twenty-four (24) hours after the game in question—excluding weekends and holidays—with a protest fee of \$35.00. If the protest is found invalid the protest fee is forfeited. Refer to USA SOFTBALL rule book.

8. One umpire will umpire a game, including playoff and championship games.
9. Distance between bases will be sixty-five (65) feet. Pitching distance is fifty (50') feet and the 6' - 12' pitching arc will be in effect for all divisions. The extended home plate/mat will be used. **Pitcher Safety Zone:** The pitcher safety zone box is a 6 foot box that extends 6 ft. behind the pitcher's mound. The Pitcher may deliver a pitch from anywhere inside the box as long as the (a) have one foot planted inside the box upon release, (b) pause for a minimum of one second before starting their pitching motion, and (c) abides by all USA Softball pitching guidelines. **If a ball is hit directly at the pitcher and the pitcher is standing in the safety box the batter will be called out; this call will be the umpire's discretion. In the box line drive at a pitcher is an out. If a ball is hit directly at a pitcher a second time by the batter, the batter will be disqualified from further play. The batter's spot in the line-up will be an out every time it comes up.**
10. **USA Softball Commitment Line:**
 - a. The scoring plate is 8 feet from home plate, in line with the first base foul line.
 - b. The commitment line is drawn between two points, 20 feet from the scoring plate and 20 feet from the regular plate.
 - c. Anything that happens PRIOR to the commitment line is handled just like any other classification: runners may slide, tag up on a caught fly ball, or run the bases in reverse order when necessary. HOWEVER...
 - d. Once a runner crosses the commitment line, touching the line is considered crossing it, they are not allowed to attempt to retreat to third base. If they do, they are automatically out, and the ball remains live. A runner who leaves early and crosses the commitment line on a caught fly ball may NOT return to retouch third base.
 - e. Once a runner crosses the commitment line, the defense may not tag the runner to get them out - the defense MUST tag the scoring plate while in possession of the ball. If they touch the scoring plate by mistake, there is no penalty.
 - f. If a runner touches the original home plate instead of the scoring plate, they are automatically out, and the ball still remains live. HOWEVER...
 - g. If the runner continues along the original foul line and interferes with a defensive player's ability to take a throw at or in contact with the original home plate, the ball is dead, and the runner is out.
11. **The double base** will be used at first base.

Note: When using the double base at first, the following rules will be enforced:

 - a. A batted ball hitting the white portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting the colored (orange) portion is declared foul.
 - b. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the batter-runner return, the runner must return to the white portion. **Note:** The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only

the white portion, providing the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base.

12. The official ball for the 2023 season will be:
Men: 12" .52 core center .300 compression **Yellow Optic**
Women: 11" .52 core center .300 compression **Yellow Optic**
13. All games **including playoffs** will be seventy (70) minutes except for championship games. The umpire and/or scorekeeper are the official timers. If, in their opinion, a new inning cannot begin before the seventy (70) minute time period has elapsed, the game will be declared over. Time limit will be waived on a tie score until one team emerges victorious.
- Tied Game: A game that is tied at the end of seven innings or when 70 minute time limit has expired, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.**
14. Batting lineup must be submitted **ten minutes prior to game time. A completed lineup form will reflect the team member's first and last name and designated t-shirt number. If these requirements are not followed the lineup will be rejected.** Write clearly and legibly and use the official Recreation Division lineup cards. Lineup cards submitted after the stipulated time frame—*ten minutes prior to game time*—will result in the opposing team starting with a two (2) run lead.
15. Teams may start and finish the game with a minimum of eight (8) players and. Teams may add a ninth (9) and tenth (10) player, but will not be permitted to use the extra player once the game has begun. Teams are able to bat with 14 players.
16. Extra Player (EP):
- a. Teams will have the option to use two (2) EP's.
 - b. An EP will be included on the score sheet in batting order prior to the startup of the game. An EP must be used the entire game. Failure to complete the game with the EP will result in forfeiture of the game.
 - c. An EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
 - d. If EP's are used, all twelve players must bat and any ten can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed but the batting order must remain the same.
 - e. A substitute can replace an EP. The substitute, a pinch runner or pinch-hitter, then becomes the EP. The EP can re-enter when desired to do so.
17. **Courtesy Runners:**
ONLY ONE COURTESY RUNNER IS ALLOWED PER INNING.
 The courtesy runner may take the place of an injured player only. **A courtesy runner is considered to be the last player that made an out.**
- a. The batter must first touch the base, call time out, and wait for the courtesy runner to report to the home plate umpire.

- b. A courtesy runner must be reported to the home plate umpire. If a courtesy runner fails to report or violates the courtesy runner rule he/she is considered to be an illegal runner and shall be disqualified.
18. Game schedules will designate the home team. **THE HOME TEAM WILL USE THE THIRD BASE DUG OUT.**
19. Infield practice will be allowed only as time permits.
20. The batter shall take his/her position within the lines of the batter's box. Rule 7, Section 1 - The batter must take his/her position within 10 seconds after the umpire has called for at batter.
21. ASA Rule 7 Section 3 B: Prior to the pitch the batter will enter the batter's box with a one (1) ball one (1) strike count. The batter will receive a walk on three pitches and will strike out on two pitches. If the batter fouls the second strike off, the batter will receive another strike. If a batter takes a second called strike or swings and misses, the batter will be out.
22. **One Deck Rule:**
a. Only one person is allowed on deck once an inning has begun. All other coaches and players, excluding base coaches, are to remain in the dugout. Children are not allowed in the dugout or on the playing field.
b. Only two official USA SOFTBALL bats are allowed in the on deck circle.
23. A batter throwing his/her bat intentionally will be declared out and removed from the game. If there is damage to the bat, batter is responsible for the replacement of the same bat or a bat of equal value.
24. **Ejection:**
a. If a player is ejected from the game for any reason, he/she must leave the field, school or park within two minutes. If player doesn't leave in two minutes, the team he/she plays on will forfeit the game.
b. If a player is ejected from a game for any reason, he/she is automatically out for a minimum of the next two league games.
c. Any time a team loses a player due to an ejection or disqualification, that spot in the batting order will be considered an out each time it comes up.(even if a substitute is available)
25. Manager or designated coach is the only person authorized to discuss an umpire's decision while in the confines of the park whether before, during or after scheduled game. Other players are not allowed to directly confront an umpire or discuss an umpire's decision in a derogatory manner. Once a warning has been issued to coach, manager, or player, a persistent or following incident, could result in ejection from that game or suspension from future games.

26. **Sliding** - runner must attempt to slide or veer to either side and must make all attempts to avoid contact with field player. No aggressive sliding.
27. There will be no unnecessary screaming or intentional distraction of opposing players allowed. Spectators and Players can not use excessive honking of a car horn. Fog horns are not permitted at softball fields during a Hollister Recreation program. If deemed to be excessive, a warning followed by ejection or forfeiture of game will be imposed. **The League Director has the final decision.**
28. **RUN AHEAD RULE SLOW PITCH:** If a team is ahead by 20 or more runs after the fourth (4) inning, 15 or more runs after the fifth (5) inning; The rule states that in an inning when the run rule for a particular game is exceeded and the home team is losing, the home team will stay up to bat and bat as the visiting team. If, after three outs, they were not able to reduce the run difference, the game will be over. If they are able to reduce the run differences, the visiting team will come up to bat and continue the game as normal. The flip/flop rule will reinstate itself any time this situation occurs.
29. **PLAYER ADD FORM:** Any addition of players must be accompanied by an updated and completed "Player add form". Manager wishing to sign-up new team members once their team has been placed in a division will require the approval of the League Director. The player must fill out a "*Player Add Form*" and the form must be filled out with the players & manager's signature before the new player is allowed to participate in a game. **The player-add form must be submitted to the Recreation office a minimum of 48 hours prior to the teams scheduled game. ABSOLUTELY, NO PLAYERS ADD FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE FIELD.**
After the fourth game per half, managers are not allowed to add any new team members to their team.

APPROVED BATS

The Hollister Recreation Division will provide the bats for league play. If a player steps into the batter's box with a bat other than the bats provided by Hollister Recreation then said player will be ejected from game and suspended for one (1) calendar year. In addition the manager will be ejected from the game and suspended for two (2) games.

1. **Home Run Rule:** Home runs may be hit at any time during the individual teams' allotted game time.

The divisional home runs are as follows per team:

Women and Men Division 1- 4 home runs per game per team
 Men Division 2- 3 home runs per game per team
 Men Division 3- 2 home runs per game per team
 Men Division 4- 1 home run per game per team

Men Division 5- No home runs allowed

After a team hits their allotted home runs a batter will be declared out for excessive home runs. Any time the batter is ruled out because of the excessive home run rule, the ball is dead and no runners can advance.

Home Run Definitions:

A home run will be charged for any ball hit over the fence. Inside-the-park home runs do not count toward the home run total.

ASA Rule 8, Section 3 I: On a fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter must touch first base and runners are not required to run the bases.

Any fair fly ball touched by a defensive player which goes over the fence in fair territory should be declared a four-base award and shall not be included in the total of over-the-fence home runs.

Offensive Team Responsibility:

1. The offensive team will be responsible for retrieving and returning any foul ball or home run that has been thrown or hit in foul territory or over the fence. The team has **two minutes** once the ball goes over the fence. If the offensive team does not return the ball before the allotted TWO MINUTES, the offensive team's next batter will be called out.
2. **Notification of Forfeits:** If a team notifies the League Director and states that their team will be unable to fill a team for their upcoming game, a forfeit form must be filled out and submitted to the Recreation Office. The game will not be considered a forfeit until the form has been submitted. Once the form is submitted, the opposing manager will be notified of the forfeit. The score will be declared 7-0. **Forfeits:** Any team that forfeits a game during the season, in their first playoff games the opposing team will receive a five (5) run advantage at the start of the game. A minimum of 8 players must be present at the game, ready to play for it not to be considered a forfeit. If a team has more than two (2) forfeits, the team will not be eligible for playoffs. *The remaining fees from that team will be dispersed to the teams providing either a team credit that may be used towards a light rental or registration fees the following season.*
3. **Rescheduling of Games:** All games are to be played according to the established schedule. The Recreation Services Manager may direct the postponement or rescheduling of any game where he or she deems such action is warranted. If in the opinion of the Recreation Services Manager that it is in the best interest of the program, rescheduling of games may occur under the following conditions:
 - 1) Staff is available to work a rescheduled game
 - 2) Facilities are available

- 3) Both team managers mutually agree to a rescheduled date and time
4. A player is allowed to participate on one team; once a player participates in a game then said player is frozen to the roster. In order for a player to be released from a team the manager must sign a player release form.
However some players can participate on another division roster:
 - a. **Managers:** *A Manager of record can play on another team they manage, however all player classifications still apply.*
 - b. **Pitcher:** *A Pitcher of record can play on another team they pitch for (pitcher must have pitched in previous seasons for Hollister Recreation, however all player classifications still apply.*
5. **Alcohol:** *Hollister Municipal Code: 9.04.010-* It is unlawful for any person to drink or consume, or be in possession of any opened or unsealed container of any beer, wine, or other alcoholic beverage, in or upon any playground, parking lot, or other property open to or used by the public. *San Benito County Ordinance #350* prohibits consumption of alcoholic beverages inside the premises of the Veterans' Memorial Sport Complex.
Smoking: *Education Code #48901* California Law states that no school or park shall permit smoking, the use of tobacco, or the use of any products containing tobacco or nicotine on or around parks and school grounds.
NOTE: Participants will be subject to immediate suspension from league. Spectators will be subject to immediate removal from parks and school grounds.
6. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic or other causes which places the staff, patrons or players in danger. During inclement weather, it will be the responsibility of the team manager to contact the Recreation Office after 2:00 pm to verify if the game will be played that evening.
7. For the safety of the players and children, children or spectators are not allowed to be on the playing field or in the dugout as observers or bat boys/girls. **The only people allowed in the dugout or on the playing field are the players and managers whose names appear on the official team roster.**
WARNING: **If children or spectators are sitting in the dugout and the Umpire observes this violation then the next batter on your team will be called out.**
8. Softball players are not allowed to wear any jewelry. If a player enters the batter box with jewelry the umpire has the responsibility to automatically call him/her out.
9. The League Director has the option of moving team(s) to any league and night of play, if it is in the best interest of providing a balanced softball program.
10. If, in the opinion of the League Director a player is too exceptional in ability to participate in a lower league, said player will be dropped from the team roster.
11. Managers who lost players during the season through injury or employment transfer, and such player cannot continue to play in the league, the manager may petition the League Director to obtain permission to replace the injured or transferred employee. In the event the player returns before the end of the season, the manager must decide which player he/she wants to keep. He/She cannot keep both. Proof of the above must be submitted with the petition.

12. Managers are required to report all injuries to the scorekeeper on duty. The scorekeeper will complete the required paperwork and submit to the Recreation Services Manager.

Veteran's Memorial Park- The lights at Vet's Park will be turned off ten minutes after the final game.

Any decisions regarding situations not covered in the rules will be up to the discretion of the Recreation Services Manager.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If a Recreation Division employee is assigned to supervise a specific adult or youth sports program and she/he or an immediate family member participates, coaches, officiates or manages in the same program, any issue or complaint brought forward involving the employee, any member of the employee's immediate family regarding scheduling or rescheduling of games, determination of forfeits and/or suspensions and officiating, shall be the responsibility of the City Manager. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the potential for a conflict of interest please consult with the Recreation Supervisor.

Parks & Recreation Commissioners

The Parks and Recreation Commission serves as advisory board to the City Council in order to promote, achieve, and ensure adequate and comprehensive policies, programs, services, and facilities for the City of Hollister-Recreation Department. The Commission meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 375 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA. There are no meetings scheduled in the month of July or December. All meetings are open to the public and participation and attendance are encouraged.

Christine Graziano, District 3 Chair

Aaliyah Gomez, District 4

Vacant, District 1

Vacant, District 2

Vacant, Mayor appointment

*** Meetings dates, times, and location subject to change.**