



Adult Softball League Rules

Revised 3/26/2024

Official League Rules

- USSSA Rules will be used in all league play unless otherwise stated in Joplin Parks and Recreation rules.

Team Roster and Roster Additions:

- Each team must turn in the roster / waiver sheet prior to the start of their first game.
- Team members may be added to the team roster before a game. These “new” members must sign the team’s roster waiver sheet **before playing the game.**
- **Team members may be added to the team’s post season roster until the start of their first game in week 3 of regular season games.**
- **There is no maximum on roster size; however, each individual must have played two regular season games in order to play in the end of the season tournament.**
- Recreation division teams may have no more than 2 Competitive division players on their team’s post season roster.
- All players participating in a game must be 18 years of age or older.
- Team captain is responsible for the conduct of the team members.

Game Overview:

- Each team shall designate a captain to act as team spokesperson and make decisions.
- Only the captain may talk to umpires.
- Team representatives including players, spectators, team managers, coaches, and group members are subject to the rules.
- All batters will start the game with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike when they step in the batter’s box.
- Men’s League – Game Balls: Teams must use the 12” softballs that are provided by the Joplin Parks & Recreation Department in a game.
- Coed League – Game Balls: Teams will use both the 12” and 11” softballs. Teams must use the softballs that are provided by the Joplin Parks & Recreation Department in a game.

Start of Play:

- Teams must be ready to start the game at the scheduled game time. There will be a “grace period” of five minutes ONLY for the 6:00 game, and ONLY for teams with less than 8 players.



- Teams may start with 8 players (with no “automatic outs” for missing players), and additional players may be added to the bottom of the line-up when they arrive.

Players:

- All players participating in a game must have signed the team’s roster/waiver sheet. The manager/captain is responsible for ensuring the roster is complete and accurate (ie: all team members who participate in that game are listed on the roster.)
- The max number of players used in a game will be twelve (12), two of which must be extra hitters.
- Eight (8) players minimum are required to start and finish the game.
- The number of players in the batting order may not be reduced without an “automatic out”, EXCEPT in the case of INJURY. IF A PLAYER IS EJECTED FROM A GAME, A SUBSTITUTE PLAYER MUST BE AVAILABLE THAT IS NOT ALREADY IN THE BATTING ORDER. IF A TEAM DOES NOT HAVE A SUBSTITUTE, THE GAME WILL BE A FORFEIT.
- Courtesy runners (last player out) can be used for injured players; but the injured player can only field the catcher position or be an extra hitter the remainder of the game.
- A player must participate in two regular season games to be eligible to participate in the end of the season tournament.
- Players may only play for one team within a league division.
- Teams have until the start of the second inning to protest a roster. After the start of the second inning, no protests will be allowed regarding rosters.

Required of All Players:

- No steel cleats
- It is required that all players refrain from wearing exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, and neck chains.

Timing of the Game:

- A run rule will be in effect in all games, and 15 runs after 3 innings and 12 runs after 4 innings. 10 after 5.
- The Duration of the Game shall be seven (7) innings or (running clock) of 55 minutes.
- When the clock expires, the inning will be completed unless the home team is batting, and they are ahead. No new inning can start after time has expired unless it is to break a tie. If 3 minutes or less remain, a new inning can be started unless it is to break a tie. A new inning is considered started once the last out is recorded in the inning. The player who was the last person up to bat in the previous inning will start at second base.



Tie Breaker:

Tiebreaker rules are to be used in the following order when there are ties within the standings:

1. Winning Percentage
2. Head to Head
3. Head to Head Differential
4. Total Runs For

Home Run Rule:

- Men's Softball Leagues will have a 1 up homerun rule. So, If "Team A" hits 4 homeruns (over the fence) they cannot hit another homerun until "Team B" hits 4 homeruns. Each time "Team A" hits a homerun prior to "Team B" hitting enough homeruns to match "Team A"'s homeruns, it will result in an out.
- Silver Division is allowed 5 homeruns in each game prior to the 1 up rule.
- Bronze Division is allowed 2 homeruns in each game prior to the 1 up rule.

Pitching Screen Rule:

- Pitching Screen will be REQUIRED for pitchers unless they use a mask. Once the ball meets the bat... you never know what may happen.
- The screen will be placed no further than 5 feet in front of the pitching rubber.
- Upon release of the ball, the pitcher is required to get completely behind the pitching screen before he/she can become a fielder.
- Each time the batted ball hits the screen, it is a foul ball. If on the 3rd strike, the batter is out.
- Thrown balls hitting the screen, will be playable.

Pitching Rules:

- Modified USSSA. The ball must be lobbed underarm such that it has an arc which reaches a minimum of six feet (6 ft.) and a maximum of ten feet (10 ft.). Otherwise, the umpire will call it an illegal pitch (a "ball"). A strike is called if your pitch is good, but the batter doesn't swing and the ball lands on the "No BS" strike mat. Strikes are also called if the batter swings and misses, hits the ball out of fair territory, or if the ball lands anywhere on the "No BS" mat following a good pitch. The "No BS" mat is a tool used to help dictate strikes that reach the required arc.
- All pitches must be delivered at a "slow" to "moderate" speed, according to the umpire's judgment.

Sliding Rules:

- Players may slide at all bases. If you do not know how to properly slide, it is in your best interest to NOT slide.



- If there is a collision due to sliding that may be viewed as an attempt to harm the opposing player or to force the opposing player to drop the ball, runner will be called out. This is for safety reasons and all calls will be made off of the umpire's best judgement.

Coed 5/5 League Rules:

- Softball — (Optional Batters Choice) the 11-inch softball will be used when a female is batting and a 12-inch softball will be used when a male is batting.
- Batting order — batting order must begin by alternating male/female or female/male in the lineup.
- A walk — when a man receives a base on balls or an intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option of batting or being intentionally walked
- Defense — Men and women do not have to alternate positions in the defensive position. However at least one (1) female in the outfield and at least one (1) female in the infield.
- Players Fielded— Teams must field at least eight (8) player's four (4) men and four (4) woman, and no more than ten (10) total. All 12 must bat.
- Additional Hitter — if the additional hitter rule is used by a team, six men and six women or six women and five men may be used.
- Homerun Rule: Competitive division is allowed 4 homeruns in each game prior to the 1 up rule. Recreational division is allowed 2 homeruns in each game prior to the 1 up rule.

Prohibited Acts:

- Good sportsmanship is a requirement of all participants. Players and coaches are to conduct themselves properly at all times. Joplin Parks and Recreation reserves the right to suspend or disqualify individuals or groups for unsportsmanlike conduct. The team captain assumes full responsibility for the conduct of the team and spectators.
- FIGHTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Players involved will be suspended from further play during the regular season and tournament.
- Any player ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct will be ineligible to participate in any of the remaining games.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct includes actions, which are unbecoming to an ethical, fair, honorable individual; it consists of act of deceit, disrespect or vulgarity and includes taunting.



- The umpires will have absolute control of the game. Teams are responsible for keeping their players and spectators under control. Misconduct of players, coaches, or spectators can result in assessment of a penalty, ejection or forfeiture of the game. Spectators must also remain in the area designated by the Parks and Recreation staff. The Site Supervisor will have the power to make decisions on any matter or questions not specifically covered in the rules.
- If the person is ejected in the last game of the season, said person shall be prohibited from playing/coaching in the first game after he/she registers for another season.
- Violent conduct (including, but not limited to: spitting, threatening, continued rough play, etc.) will be suspended as outlined above and in addition, will be suspended one additional game and subject to further disciplinary action as decided by the complex management.
- Assaulting an umpire, participant or spectator will be suspended indefinitely from all activities at the Joplin Athletic Complex.
- An assault shall be defined as an attempt to commit a battery upon a person; and an act which is close to accomplishment shall be sufficient to constitute an assault upon a person. Local authorities will be notified.
- Any team that clears the bench will automatically forfeit the game.
- Team Probation – Any incidents occurring for a two-month probationary period will be grounds for suspension from Joplin Athletic Complex Softball Fields for 1 year.
- No refunds will be given to suspended players or teams.
- If for any reason an umpire or employee of the Joplin Parks and Recreation asks that a person leave the facility, the person must leave the property or authorities will be notified.
- Fighting: “Zero Tolerance Policy” Anyone fighting will be ejected from said game and suspended for a minimum of two games and up to permanently. Anyone threatening or stalking another player, coach, staff, referee or spectator will also be ejected and reported to the local authorities.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed by players or spectators in the softball complex or in the parking lot.
- Failure for players to follow this rule will result in suspension.