



Mather Sports Complex
3755 Schriever Ave., Mather, CA 95655
Phone: 916-362-1704/www.crpdpd.com

Adult Softball Rules & Regulations

Revised Spring 2023

TeamSideline

Team schedules and online rosters along with other important information is available online on Cordova Recreation & Park District's official TeamSideline (TSL) page: www.teamsideline.com/cordova.

Weather and Field Information

Weather cancellations and field condition updates will be posted on TSL www.teamsideline.com/cordova. You may also contact the Mather Sports Center/Recreation Coordinator at (916) 312-1493, for an update on field conditions. Please keep in mind due to playing on synthetic fields we will only cancel games due to weather, in extreme circumstances such as thunder, lighting or heavy rain; we will play though light to medium amounts of rain.

Behavior and Sportsmanship Guidelines/Expectations

Cordova Recreation & Park District's (CRPD) goal is to provide participants with the opportunity to participate in high-quality, recreational activities while encouraging physical fitness, healthy competition, fun and fellowship in the form of organized sports. Friendly competition and good-spirited rivalry are expected. However, officials and CRPD employees will not tolerate verbal abuse or physical threats directed at them or other participants, managers and/or spectators. Inappropriate conduct will result in penalties ranging from game ejection to lifetime suspension. Conversations with umpires shall be kept to a minimum. Only team managers should address the umpire regarding matters of rule interpretation and/or essential game information and must do so in a courteous manner. The Umpire or Field Monitor may forfeit games if either team's participants or supporters act in such a way as to interfere with proper conduct.

It is every player's responsibility to know the rules and abide by them. It is also every player's responsibility to respect and cooperate with the officials. It is the responsibility of the **team manager** to insure proper behavior on the part of his/her teammates and spectators. The team manager is ultimately responsible to the Cordova Recreation & Park District for all the above. All infractions will be governed by the Players Code of Conduct and are subject to interpretation by the Recreation Coordinator and/or Supervisor.

Liability/Insurance

Players participating in all CRPD leagues/athletic activities are not covered in any way by CRPD for personal liability, property damage, medical injuries, etc. Persons competing in this program do so at their own risk. For further information, please review the liability waiver on the back of your roster.

All teams participating in CRPD adult softball leagues are required to pay an annual \$30 USA Softball registration fee, making them eligible for team insurance through USA Softball. Note: if the manager or team name changes from a previous season's roster (in the same year), teams must pay another \$30 registration fee (per USA Softball

rules). Liability insurance for teams and leagues is built into the USA Softball of Sacramento registration fee and field owners are now named as additionally insured at no extra cost to them or to the teams. Information regarding team insurance is available by contacting USA Softball of Sacramento at www.usasoftballsacramento.org.

Field Reservations

CRPD ballfields are available to rent/reserve. Please contact Recreation Coordinator, Maria-Linda La Fontaine at (916) 596-9221 or mlafontaine@crpd.com, for availability and pricing.

Mather Sports Complex (MSC) Rules

Prohibited

1. Metal cleats are not permitted on any synthetic turf surface at MSC under any circumstances.
2. Sunflower seeds and other **seeds/nuts with a shell are strictly prohibited** inside the MSC. If a team is found in violation teams will automatically forfeit their game, a fine up to \$100 may be assessed and/or team will be removed from the league (no refund shall be issued).
3. Players will refrain from any alcoholic beverage consumption while his/her game is in progress. Any player drinking on the field, in the dugout, or outside the field of play will be ejected from the game and the "Code of Conduct" rules will be enforced.
4. Players may be asked to remove jewelry, clothing, shoes or any other accessory deemed unsafe or inappropriate by the Umpire or MSC staff

Blood Rule

1. A player with a bloody injury or blood on his/her uniform must leave the game. The player may not return to the game until the wound is no longer bleeding, the wound is covered, and/or the uniform is changed.

Player Eligibility Guidelines

1. Players must be 18 years of age.
2. Players may not play on two teams in the **SAME** division on the same night. No exceptions.
3. Players **MUST** be on the online roster to participate, and they **MUST** accept the invitation and agree to the liability waiver and Player Code of Conduct. Violation for use of non-rostered players is forfeiture of game(s).
4. Woman can play in a men's division if they are added to the online roster and the terms have been accepted which include the liability waiver and Player Code of Conduct.

Rosters

1. Managers must submit a team roster online on teamsideline.com. Managers will receive an automated email after registering a team for an upcoming season. If a team does not submit their roster risk removal from the schedule at the discretion of the Recreation Coordinator. If a roster is not on file, teams will not be permitted to play, and games will be marked as forfeits.
2. All teams must have a minimum of 10 players on their roster. The maximum number of players will be set at 16. All teams and players information must be accurate and complete, with a legible name, phone number and signature.
3. Roster additions are permitted up to, and until the fourth week of assigned games in the season. individual must play in one game during the regular season to be eligible for playoffs.

4. Hardships will be accepted when teams are down to ten players, or, on a case-by-case basis. An email must be submitted to the Recreation Coordinator for approval, prior to additional player participation.
5. Only players who have accepted the online roster invitation and agreed to the liability waiver and Player Code of Conduct can participate.

Uniforms

1. Team uniforms or matching shirts are recommended, but not required.
2. CRPD requires all shirts to be of appropriate, family-friendly material.
 - a. CRPD reserves the right to ask any team to change shirts or jerseys, if they are found to be offensive or are deemed inappropriate. Teams refusing to remove offensive clothing during league play, are subject to removal from the league and no refund shall be granted.

Staff

CRPD staffs one scorekeeper (per field) and one field monitor (per night). Umpires (one per field) are contract employees from the Greater Sacramento Softball Association. For any and all staffing compliments or concerns please contact Recreation Supervisor II, Nina Sinor at nsinor@crpd.com.

1. Scorekeeper – one per field.
 - a. Scorekeepers collect line-up cards, maintain the scorebook, inspect dugouts and operate the scoreboard. Scorekeepers must be notified in the event of an official protest.
2. Field Monitor – one per night. Field Monitor responsibilities include, but are not limited to, monitoring all areas of the MSC (i.e. fields, dugouts, stands), assure all league and complex rules followed, assist umpires in rule interpretation/violation calls and answer any questions that arise from teams. Field Monitors have the right to stop, cancel and/or forfeit any game deemed unsafe or in violation of CRPD's "Players Code of Conduct."
3. If no umpire shows and the Field Monitor is unable to fill in, the teams may play a pick-up game. The official game will be rescheduled.

Rules and Regulations

Rules

1. Official **USA Softball Rules** will be used except where CRPD Rules take precedence. Official USA Softball Participant Manuals are available to all players. Please contact MSC staff for your copy.

Safety

1. CRPD will follow the current USA Softball banned bat/equipment guidelines. Equipment information can be found on TSL [Information, USA Softball Equipment](#) or by visiting www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment.

Collisions

1. Reminder: If the catcher (or fielder) is not in possession of the ball, or in the act of fielding the ball, the USA Softball obstruction rule applies.
2. Contact is not necessary to impede the progress of the runner.

Playing Time

1. All games will be 55-minutes or seven innings. No new inning will start after the 55-minute mark.
2. Playoff Games are 55-minutes or seven innings. In the event of a tie, the International Tie-Breaker Rule will be implemented to determine the winner (see below).

3. Championship games will have a 70-minute time limit.
4. All games called due to weather, darkness, or any other unplayable conditions are official after the bottom of the 3rd inning, no make-ups or restarts shall be considered.

Mercy/Drop Dead Rule

1. Once the game has reached the 55-minute limit and one team is losing by 15 or more runs, the game will officially end.

International Tiebreaker rule

1. The International Tie-Breaker rule shall be utilized for playoff games tied at the end of regulation.
2. The batting team will start the extra innings with a baserunner on second base, the baserunner must be the batter responsible for the final out in the previous inning.

Forfeits

1. Game time is forfeit time. Forfeits will not be rescheduled.
 - a. **Exception:** Games beginning at 6:00 p.m. will be given a 5-minute grace period.
2. Teams must start and finish their game with a **minimum of 7 players** or the game will be forfeited.
3. Games will not be postponed or rescheduled unless a game is called or cancelled due to weather.
 - a. Playing in another league or tournament shall not be considered sufficient reason to reschedule a game or withhold a forfeit.
4. Typically, CRPD will not schedule games on federal holidays.
5. Any team manager posting two “no call – no show” forfeits, will be suspended for one game.
 - a. Should a third violation occur, the team will be prohibited from finishing their current season and may be barred from further participation until the Recreation Supervisor considers the case.
6. Refunds will not be issued for forfeits.

Line-Up Substitution

1. Managers are responsible for turning in a complete line-up to the scorekeeper 10-minutes prior to the game.
2. Players must be present to be included in the batting order.
3. Late players must be added to the end of the batting line up when they arrive. Team manager must notify umpire, scorekeeper and opposing team manager.
4. At minimum, teams must bat as many players as they have playing in the field. Teams may choose to bat their entire line-up and have free defensive substitution by half-inning.
5. Anyone playing in the field on defense must bat.
6. If a player is ejected from the game, the team will be credited with an out every time that player's batting position comes up.
7. If a player is unable to continue due to injury, teams may substitute the injured player with a rostered player, not in the current lineup.

Batting/Batting Order

1. All batters start with a 1-and-1 count. Once a batter has two strikes, they may foul off one additional pitch that will not result in an out. Once this extra foul is credited, a subsequent foul ball will result in a third strike and the batter is out.

Dugout/Equipment Etiquette

1. Bats shall be kept inside the dugout, unless otherwise permitted by the umpire.
 - a. Bats leaned against the fence are a potential safety hazard.
 - b. Should bats, left on the field, obstruct the path of a live ball, the umpire will call the appropriate USA Softball obstruction rule.
 - c. Umpires will inspect bats before each game.
2. Any player witnessed throwing his/her bat shall be given an official warning by the umpire for the first offense, the second offense will result in an ejection.

Courtesy Runners

1. Teams may utilize one courtesy runner per inning. Courtesy runners must be of the same gender he/she is replacing. Runners don't have to be the last out.

Pitching Mat

1. All divisions utilize a pitching mat 22" x 29" positioned behind home plate. Strikes are called when the ball makes contact with the mat.

Pitching Requirements

1. Pitcher must start with his/her foot on the pitching rubber.
2. A strike is any legally pitched ball that hits the mat. The plate is not considered a strike.

Home Run Rule

1. Men's Upper and Women's divisions:
 - a. Three homeruns per team, with a one-for-one equalizer rule after 3 homeruns.
2. Men's Recreation (Lower) and Co-Ed divisions:
 - a. Three homeruns per team.
3. Excessive home runs are counted as an out.
4. Players need only to clear the fence on the MSC Blue Field (not the left field net).

Bunting/Stealing

1. No bunting or stealing is allowed in any league.
 - a. **Penalty: Bunting** - the batter is out. This does not include "full swing bunts".
 - b. **Penalty: Stealing** - Dead Ball, runners return to their bases, pitch stands as called.

Protest

1. All judgment calls will stand. Only rule interpretation calls may be protested.
2. When a matter of protest arises during a game, the manager of the protesting team must immediately, prior to the next pitch, notify the umpire, scorekeeper and opposing team that the game is being played under protest. The protest must be noted in the official scorebook.
3. Protests of illegal players must be made prior to the top of the third inning.
 - a. An official protest must be followed by submitting an email report of the protest by 5:00 p.m. the following business day to Recreation Supervisor II, Nina Sinor at nsinor@crpd.com

- b. Failure to submit a protest email by 5:00 p.m. the following business day will result in a non-reviewal, as the protest is considered late, and by extension, invalid.

League Specific Rules

In addition to the rules outlined above, the following rules pertain to specific divisions.

Men's Division

1. Men will hit an official 12", .52 COR softball.

Women's Division

1. Women will hit an official 11", .52 COR softball.

Co-Ed Division Rules

Co-Ed Equipment

1. Men will hit an official 12", .52 COR softball.
2. Women will hit an official 11", .52 COR softball.
3. Players may not hit the wrong ball.

Player Requirements

1. Teams are required to field seven players to start and end a game. A minimum of four of those seven must be women.
2. Teams may play an equal number of male and female players.
 - a. If a team is short players, more women can play than men. Example: four men, six women.
 - b. Males cannot outnumber female players at any time.

Defensive Rules

1. At no time is it permissible for male players to outnumber female players on the defensive field.
2. No more than five male defensive players can be in the game at any time.

Courtesy Runners

1. Courtesy Runners must be the same gender as the individual they are replacing.
2. Teams are permitted one courtesy runner, per gender, per inning.

Batting Order

1. Teams must bat players in alternating order (male/female).
2. Teams batting more women than men, have discretion regarding how men and women alternate in the batting order (i.e. Male, Female, Male, Female, Female, Male, etc.).
3. Two men may never bat back-to-back. This could result in a forfeit, should it not be corrected immediately.
4. Teams batting more male players than female players must have the male player share a spot on the lineup card with another male player. Example: the lineup card shows Jim/Bill. Jim should bat the first time through the lineup; the second time Bill will bat.
5. Managers may freely substitute, provided they follow the guidelines above.

If a female player must leave the game due to injury or ejection:

1. If a female leaves the game and there is no substitute, resulting in two men batting back to back, the following male batter must be removed from the game. In this situation, the removed male batter is not credited with an out. If a player is ejected from the game, the team will be credited with an out every time that player's batting position comes up. If a player leaves due to injury and there is no player to replace that person, the team will be credited with an out one time and there will be no further penalty.

Walking a Batter

1. If you walk a male in the line up to get to a female, with two outs, the male gets two bases, and the female has the choice to hit or take first base.

Substitutions

1. Gender for gender substitutions only. **Exception:** a team is playing more females than males.

Contact at the plate

1. Minimal contact at the plate. The umpire will consider the efforts of both players a reasonable tag/play. No forced contact/running over the catcher.