



Moline Park and Recreation Department Coed Slow-Pitch Softball 2022 League Rules

The official rules set forth by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) shall govern play for the current season, with the exception of the designated Moline Park league rules. *Team managers are responsible for having a thorough knowledge of all rules to avoid unnecessary disputes or questions concerning the game or the manner in which the league is operated.*

TEAM ROSTER AND ELIGIBILITY:

1. Each team may have a maximum of 20 players on its roster. A roster with at least 10 players will be required from all teams **on or before the application deadline date**. The names (first and last), birth dates, addresses, and phone numbers of all players **must** appear on your roster. You may email tleadle@moline.il.us or phone the Recreation Specialist at 524-2423 to make changes or additions to your roster up until: **3:00pm Friday, September 30**. There will be NO additions after the cutoff date. *Should rainouts affect the season, then this date will be adjusted.
2. **Players can only play on ONE coed league team per night of play (players cannot play on multiple teams on the same night of play). A protest may be filed if it is believed a player is playing on multiple teams. The cost of a protest is \$25 and must be paid at time of protest or the protest will be considered null and void. You will receive the \$25 back if you win the protest.**
3. **If a player is on more than one team's roster, the Park and Recreation Department will consider that player on the team with which he/she participates first. He/she will be removed from the other team's roster.**
4. **If it is found that a player is playing on more than one team on a night, the team the player is not originally associated with, will forfeit the game the ineligible player played.**
5. **If a completed waiver is not found for a questionable player, the player will be removed from league play for the remainder of the season.**
6. Using other than eligible players, *18 years and older and on the roster*, shall be grounds for protest. It shall be the duty of the team manager to make sure his players are eligible. Team Managers must be the person to indicate their eligibility concerns to the umpire and begin formal protest procedures. Umpires will request from the player in question a form of identification that indicates their age and identity (picture ID). If an ID cannot be produced, the player may not participate in that evening's league play, (either game) and will be considered ineligible until proven otherwise. The umpire will then reference the roster. If the player is not listed on the roster, the questionable team can ask to have the Recreation Specialist review the protest in case they were added via email or phone and had not been transferred onto the official roster. **If a player is found to be ineligible, the game in which the protest was filed will be forfeited. A protest regarding the eligibility of a player must be submitted according to the conditions set forth under "Protest."**
7. Changes or additions to your roster **must be made by 3:00 PM the Friday before the games** in order for the player to participate that following Sunday. You may call the Park Office (524-2423) with your roster additions/changes or email them to tleadle@moline.il.us, **prior to 3:00pm.**

GENERAL PLAYING RULES

1. A "strike mat" will be used to determine balls and strikes. If the softball touches any part of the mat on a legal pitch (6'-10' arc), it will be considered a strike. Pitches touching any part of the plate WILL BE considered a strike as well (Because of the small size of the strike mat and the difficulty of pitching, we've increased the strike zone to include the plate to promote teams to swing more and give pitchers a larger target.) ****IMPORTANT DISTINCTION**** the strike mat is only used for calling balls and strikes. The strike mat is not home plate. Therefore, when a runner is trying to score, he or she must touch home plate in order to score. If he/she touches the strike mat and not home plate, and then is tagged, the runner will be called out.
2. **Courtesy Runners:** 1 courtesy runner per inning. No explanation necessary. *Can be reviewed in USA rulebook. Courtesy runner must be of same sex/gender as original player.
3. **Double Base Rule:** When a batter-runner is advancing to first base they shall utilize the orange portion of the base unless occupied by the defensive player. Once passed first base the runner may use either the white or orange portion of the bag.
4. A team must have at least **six** eligible players to start a game. Teams will not be penalized for less than 10 players, but will still have to take the out when same sex/gender bat back to back in the order. The additional players can be inserted to the bottom of the lineup upon arrival. All teams having the required number of players at game time must take the field. If additional players appear on site, they will immediately be placed in the bottom of the line up in the unfilled spots.
5. Line-up cards MUST be turned in before the start of each game. NO EXCEPTIONS. This helps with any eligibility protests.
6. Home team will be responsible for keeping the book. If there are any discrepancies with the line ups, the home book will dictate the answer.
7. **Game time is forfeit time.** Teams must have the appropriate number of players at the field, ready to play, at game time. Players located any other place than the field are not considered ready to play. There is NO 5 minute leeway time. The only delay permitted will be if a team is playing on another field and the game runs over.
8. Each batter will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count. Third strike foul is an out.
9. **There will be NO Stealing allowed.**
10. **Infield Fly Rule WILL be in effect**...The rule applies only when there are fewer than two outs, and there is a [force play](#) at third base (i.e., when there are runners at first and second base, or the [bases are loaded](#)).^[1] In these situations, if a [fair fly ball](#) is in play, and in the umpire's judgment is catchable by an infielder with ordinary effort, the umpire shall call "infield fly". When the rule is in effect, the batter will be out^[2] regardless of whether the ball is actually [caught](#). If "infield fly" is called and the fly ball is caught, it is treated exactly as an ordinary caught fly ball; the batter is out, there is no force, and the runners must [tag up](#). On the other hand, if "infield fly" is called and the ball lands fair without being caught, the batter is still out, there is still no force, but the runners *are not* required to tag up. In either case, the ball is [live](#), and the runners may advance on the play, at their own risk.
11. **All games will be 7 innings or 1 hour**, whichever occurs first. **No inning will start after 55 minutes**, unless the score is tied. Games will continue until the end of the inning. If time has not expired, a new inning must be started and completed, even though it exceeds the time limit before the game is over. No inning will begin after 10:30 PM.
12. If a game is tied at the end of the 7th inning or time limit, the International Tie Breaker Rule will determine the final outcome of the game. Beginning at the top of the next inning, or following the last full inning

completed before the time limit had expired, the visiting team shall place the last legal batter on second base and the scheduled hitter will bat. This team will be allowed three outs. After the visiting team has completed its turn at bat, the home team will repeat the above process. Play will continue until the score is untied after a complete inning. If the game is not over by 10:45pm it will be considered a tie and only played out if it has bearing on the first place slot.

13. The City of Moline is not responsible for stolen, lost, or damaged equipment.
14. **No infield practice before the game.** Team players may throw the ball around during the pitcher's warm-up, prior to the first inning only.
15. **In case of inclement weather, 4 ½ or 5 innings, whichever is applicable, will be an official game. If less than 4 ½ innings are complete, the game will start over from the beginning at 0-0 when rescheduled.**
16. **Home Run Rule:** Each team will be allowed **four** over-the-fence home runs per game. In the event of over-the-fence home runs in excess of four per team, the batters will be ruled out.
17. **Pitching Height:** (Slow pitch Rule: 6 section-3 H) The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 ft. from the ground while not exceeding a height of 10 ft. from the ground. A pitch not within these guidelines will be called an illegal pitch. Players can hit the ball at their own risk, and the ball will be considered in play.
18. On a fair hit ball over the fence for a home run, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter and runners are not required to run the bases.
19. **The "20-Run Rule" after three innings and the "15-Run Rule" after four innings and "10 Run Rule" after 5 innings will be in effect.** If a team is to get run ruled, the manager of the losing team may ask the official to ask the opposing team if they would be willing to play up to the time limit. This would be considered just for fun.
20. **Balls:** 12" Balls with a Ball COR of .52 and a Ball Compression of .300 will be used in both leagues
21. **Metal cleats or spikes may not be worn** during play in any City league. Anyone caught will be ejected immediately from the game.
22. The home team will be the official scorekeeper and should check with the opposing team every ½ inning to make sure there are no discrepancies in the score.
23. Jewelry (earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches, or rings) **MAY NOT BE WORN** while playing. If rings are worn, they **MUST** be taped. Medical necklaces or bracelets may be worn, but they **MUST** be taped. Umpires shall have the final decision on whether any jewelry items may be worn.
24. Indecent language or unnecessary harassment by players, managers or spectators **will not be tolerated at any time.** Players and managers are subject to ejection from the game. Two ejections in one season in one league will automatically eliminate the player from the league. All teams must exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Anyone deemed unsportsmanlike will be given a warning and then ejected from the game immediately. Please keep in mind this is a family friend environment
25. **FAVORING FANS:** Each team will be responsible for the actions of its fans. If problems arise, the respective coach or captain will receive a warning to get control of the situation. If control of the situation cannot be achieved, the game will be ruled a single or double forfeit.
26. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the dugouts, all containers must be placed outside the dugouts. No outside alcohol may be brought into the facility. This includes all players and spectators. *See Alcohol pg.6**
27. **There will be no arguing of balls and strikes.**

PROTEST:

The Recreation Specialist will handle all protests. You can contact Teresa at 524-2423 or tleedle@moline.il.us. Protests must be made with the umpire during the game, at the appropriate time, according to the USA rules. **The protest must be submitted in writing to the Recreation Specialist within 24 hours, and it must be accompanied by a \$25 protest fee, otherwise it will not be considered. A protest must be based on a misinterpretation of the rules by an umpire, or player eligibility – NOT a judgment call.**

If a protest is being made on an ineligible player, the umpire must I.D. the person(s) in question. If that person(s) cannot produce an I.D., they will be considered ineligible until proven otherwise. The umpire will reference the roster to determine if the name appears on the roster in question.

ADDRESSING UMPIRES:

In the case of a disagreement, **only the team manager may talk with the umpire.** If another player attempts to be part of the discussion, or yells/comments from the dugout/field, they will be warned once and then ejected from the game. Two ejections in one season in one league will automatically eliminate the player from the league. Badgering/bantering of the umpires will **NOT** be tolerated.

EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS:

Ejections:

1. An ejection may be determined by the umpires for players, managers or spectators, for indecent language or actions, unnecessary harassment, players or spectators other than the team managers addressing the umpires, or any other situation which is clearly detrimental to the operation of the league.
2. **Any player or manager ejected from a game will NOT be allowed to play in the next scheduled games. An ejection is for the remainder of the game and the next scheduled game (be it that night or the next week's game).**
3. If a player or manager is ejected from a game twice during the season, the player or manager will be suspended and will not be allowed to participate in any games for the remainder of the season(s) (the season being defined as January 1 through December 31).

Suspensions:

1. **Physical and/or Verbal Misconduct:** A suspension may be made by the Recreation Specialist (in addition to an ejection) if the act warrants. Players, managers, coaches or favoring fans may receive suspensions from one game to a maximum of five (5) years from the date of the violation for physical contact with game officials, department staff or its representatives, other players, fans, coaches or casual observers; and may receive the same penalties for any damage inflicted on City, school, and/or business property and any other person's personal property.
2. Players, managers, coaches and favoring fans may receive suspensions for up to a maximum of five (5) years from the date of the violation, for the verbal harassment of other players, game officials, beleaguering of department staff or its representatives, or for use of profanity or other derogatory remarks detrimental to the operation of the league.
3. Any incident resulting in a person receiving one (1) year or more of suspensions may be reported to the governing body (i.e., ASA, IHSA, USVBA) and the person(s) involved would be subject to any penalties or suspensions levied by it.

MANAGERS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **Managers are requested to intercede in ALL cases of arguments between officials and other players. The conduct of the manager is expected to be above reproach at all times.**
2. **Assist umpires in control of players and fans during and after the game.**

3. Supply any information requested by league officials concerning any of his/her team players.
4. Help enforce all written rules.
5. The Park Office **MUST be notified** of any roster changes, address changes or changes in managing responsibilities.
6. Managers are subject to identical penalties rendered to team players.
7. Managers are responsible for seeing that there is **NO ALCOHOL** consumed by any of their players or fans in the parking lots, dugouts or on the playing fields. Failure to comply with this rule will automatically forfeit your team. Anyone found bringing outside alcohol into the facility will be asked to leave the premises.

Special Coed Rules

1. Teams should have an equal number of males and females on the field at one time. Teams do not have to line the team up boy girl...boy girl in field positions. When there is an equal amount of males/females, teams can line the players up however they choose. However, if you are playing with an odd number, there must be one more female than there are males. Team cannot play with one more male than females in the field. Teams may not utilize the eligible player rule if beginning the game with less than 10 players.
2. Batting order is continuous...you can bat more than 10 players, you just have to keep the altering of sexes/genders.
3. **Field positioning:** Teams must have two males and two females in both the infield and the outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher and catcher. If playing with one more female than males, teams can place that extra female in the outfield or infield.
4. All team's batting order will alternate sexes. If 2 same sex/gender batters bat back to back (male/male or female/female), an out will be taken for that missing guy/girl batter in between.
5. Teams will be allowed unlimited defensive changes (non-starters) during the game, providing the non-starter replaces a player of the same sex. The change will be defensive order only, and will not affect the batting order. The original players will bat in their respective order.
6. If a male batter is walked in front of a female batter with two outs, the female batter has the option of taking an automatic walk or batting. In either case, the male batter is automatically awarded second base. PLEASE NOTE: It is not necessary to touch first base, the batter can just advance to 2nd base.
6. Teams that start with 10 players and drop down to less will not receive an out for the missing batter(s).
7. The Coed league will use 65' bases and 50' pitching distances.
8. White Line Rule: An arched white line in the outfield, 200' feet from home plate. All outfielders must position themselves behind the line until the batter has made contact with a pitched ball. Should an outfielder position themselves in front of the white line, the batter has the option of batting over or staying on the base he has received from his/her hit.

OFFICIALS

Recreation staff shall have control over the selection of game officials. In case of misconduct, officials have the right to dismiss players and coaches from the playing area. It is the team manager's responsibility (within reason) to keep players calm and behaving in an acceptable, respectful manner.

The Recreation Specialist will handle any issues with the officials, please contact them with your issue. Players do not dictate what happens. Please keep in mind, it is difficult to find umpires to agree to work these leagues due to past player behavior. Please do not make a situation worse, by confronting it yourselves.

RAINOUTS:

If weather is questionable near game time, or while the game is in progress, the umpire will make the final decision at the game site. Teams playing the later games should call the Weather Cancellation Hotline at **524-2425** to determine if games are being played.

Rainouts will be determined **NO EARLIER than 2:00PM** on the day of the game. You may phone the weather hotline at 524-2425 after 2:30pm to see if games are canceled. An email may or may not be sent when games are canceled as it depends on the time and office hours. Please call the weather hotline, as that will always be updated by the times given. Please do not call our main office line. This is why we have a weather hotline. The weather hotline will **ONLY BE UPDATED IF GAMES ARE CANCELED. OTHERWISE THEY ARE ON AS SCHEDULED.**

There shall be no games postponed except for weather conditions. Rainouts will be rescheduled when able, by the league director. You can view rescheduled games at www.teamsideline.com/moline. All efforts will be made to play games when and if possible, so always plan on playing, never assume they are or will be canceled.

Alcohol:

- Customers will present a valid ID and be required to wear a wristband while drinking inside the facility.
- All alcohol will be sold for on premise consumption only within the complex fences and not in the parking lots.
- For liability reasons alcohol must be purchased from the concession stand. It's not permitted for alcohol to be brought into the facility from the outside. Anyone observed violating this rule will be asked to remove the product from the premises, or they will be required to leave the premises. Anyone who continuously violates this rule will be banned from the facility.
- Alcohol is not permitted in the dugouts, parking lots or on the playing fields.
- No inning will be held up to begin play for anyone consuming an alcoholic beverage.

Tournament Play

1. Players wishing to play in the tournament must **play in at least 2 regular season games** in order to be eligible for tournament play.
2. All regular league rules will apply to the tournament, with the exception of the championship game, where the time limit will be lifted and the game will be considered complete after 7 full innings, unless there is a mercy run ruling.