

## Men's Adult Softball Rules

(updated as of February 18, 2008)

- Each batter will start with a 2 ball, 1 strike count
- All teams will use a defense of 10 players but may have 11 batters in the batting order (extra hitter).
- Substitutes may enter the game only once, and they must be “married” to the starter they entered for in the batting order for the remainder of the game. Once a sub has entered the game for a starter, they cannot both be in the offensive or defensive line up at the same time.
- A courtesy runner may be used at any time during the game. The runner must be the last recorded out for that team.
- **To be eligible to participate in the end-of-the-season tournament, players must participate in at least 7 games with their team during the regular season.**
- Teams have the option of using a continuous batting order. If a team elects to use a continuous batting order, subs may enter the game defensively as many times during the game as the captain wants, but can only enter once per inning. Using a continuous batting order will “freeze” their batting order for the game. Team captains (or their designee) must inform the other team prior to the game starting.
- Only 3 homeruns are allowed per team per game (**over the fence homeruns**). All other homeruns after 3 will result in an out.
- Bats must be stamped and approved by ASA, NSA, USSSA, or ISA. No titanium bats are allowed. **Umpires will check bats before each game.**
- Games that are tied after 7 innings will proceed forward using the international rule. This will continue until 9<sup>th</sup> inning. If after 9 innings the game is still tied, it will be called as a tie game.
- Games will have a limit of 7 innings or **55 minutes. No new inning may start after the 55 minute mark.** If an inning has started before 55 minutes has been reached, then the inning will be finished. Umpires are to start games as close to the scheduled time as possible and encourage teams to hustle in between innings.
- **The home plate umpire will announce the exact start time of each game.**
- Players arriving late may be added to the end of the line up and put into the game if their team is playing with less than 10 players. If a team starts the game with only 10 players, they may not add an extra hitter once they have batted completely through the order.
- Teams only having 8 players for their game may pick up a player off of another team. The player may only play with them for that game under the following conditions:
  1. They are currently on an active roster in the league.
  2. The other team's captain agrees on that player.
  3. The new player must bat last in the order.
  4. The team that needs a player drops their pick up if one of their team members arrives.
  5. If a 9<sup>th</sup> and/ or 10<sup>th</sup> player shows up, they can increase to 10 field players (if they haven't batted all the way through the order).

6. If a player cannot be agreed upon, the team can still play with 8.
- Captains are responsible for their teams and fans actions.
  - Umpires are instructed to eject anyone from the field who is acting in an unsportsmanlike manner. Game and game time will be stopped until that person has left the field area and in the parking lot. If after 5 minutes the person has not left, the umpires will call the game, regardless of the inning. If the player that is ejected is on the team that is in the lead, then the win will go to the opposing team.
  - **Anyone ejected from a game will be suspended from further play until they meet with the league director. Regardless of the reason for which a player is ejected, they will automatically serve a one (1) game suspension.** Depending on the circumstance for which they were ejected, they will then either serve a longer suspension or will be allowed to return to the next scheduled game. Team Captains **may** also serve a one game suspension for a player that is ejected more than once in a season. Captains, please make this clear to all of your players. Anyone ejected for fighting is subject but not limited to suspension for the season and possibly removal from the league for a period to be determined by the league director.
  - **NO PROFANITY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES! Profane language is an ejectable offense. Keep it clean, there are families and children around the field. This includes the parking lot.**
  - **SMOKING ON THE FIELD IS PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES! (This includes in the dugouts and players coaching the bases.)**
  - **Players are not allowed to argue any judgment calls made by the umpire (*i.e. ball and strikes, fair or foul, out or safe*).** (Arguing calls is an ejectable offense.) Captains are the only ones who may ask an umpire about a call, or ask the umpire to appeal to the other umpire. They must ask for time. **If** time is granted by the umpire, they may then go onto the field to talk to the umpire. Failure to adhere to this may result in an ejection. The only thing that may be questioned is a rules interpretation.
  - All players must be inside the dugouts at all times. The only players allowed outside the dugouts are the batter, on-deck batter, base-runners, base coaches, and the defensive players.
  - Alcohol is allowed in the dugouts only, and only during adult softball games, and only under the following conditions:
    1. **No bottles.**
    2. **All empty cans and other trash must be placed in the trash cans after each game. If this becomes a problem, or if players begin behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner, the alcohol privilege will be revoked. DO NOT ABUSE THIS PRIVILEGE!**
    3. **No drinking is allowed in the parking lot or anywhere outside of the immediate playing field.**