



City of West Sacramento Adult Softball Rulebook

Revised 3/25/10

I. Introduction

- a. All City of West Sacramento Softball Leagues are governed by the current Amateur Softball Association/USA rule book and all teams must be currently registered and in good standing.

II. Equipment

- a. Uniforms are not required, but both players and managers must wear shirts and shoes at all times while on the field and in the dugout, sandals or flip-flops will not be allowed (shirts of the same color are recommended). Pants or shorts may be mixed, without regard to color.
- b. Metal cleats are not allowed in any City of West Sacramento sponsored league or activity.
- c. Bats: All bats must be approved by ASA standards. For a list of ASA approved bats please visit www.asasoftball.com or see the scorekeeper.
- d. Softballs: One new and one good used ball will be provided for each game.
- e. All cast or braces must be cleared by officials or League Director before play. Penalties for violation will result in a removal from game until cast or brace is removed or replaced with approved equipment from officials (safety).
- f. No Jewelry allowed at anytime during play.

III. The Game

- a. The game time will be 55 minutes. No new inning may start after 55 minutes.
- b. **There is a 5 minute grace period after game start time. The grace period is a part of the official 55 minute game.**
- c. Players will start with a one ball & one strike count entering the batters box
- d. Second foul ball on third strike is an out.
- e. Sliding is allowed in Men's and Coed leagues.
- f. A pitching mat will be used. If the ball lands on the mat, it is a strike. If the ball hits the plate it will be called a ball. The official will decide whether the height of the pitch is between 6ft and 10ft.

- g. One courtesy runner is allowed per inning (coed, per sex) The runner must be the player who made the last out. In co-ed leagues, it must be the player of the same sex who made the last out.
- h. Pitching – The pitcher must start his/her motion and have one foot in contact with the pitching rubber when releasing his/her pitch.
- i. Fake tags are not allowed. It is at the official's discretion to warn the player(s)/team(s) or make an ejection if he/she deems necessary.
- j. In the event of a tied game after 55 minutes, the following will take place.
 - 1) The last batter from the previous inning will be placed on third base with two (2) outs.
 - 2) Teams will have no more than two innings to score.
 - 3) If a team scores in the extra inning and the other team does not match it in the same inning, no additional inning will be played.
 - 4) If the game is still tied after two additional innings, the game will be ruled as a tie.
- k. Teams may bat more than ten players. There must be an equal or greater number of women in the lineup for co-ed play. Substitutions on defense may be made at any time, but the batting order never changes (only one substitution may be made per inning.) Prior to the game, the manager must announce any additional hitters that are used.
- l. Eight (8) players must be present to start and continue each game, with the ninth and tenth positions in the batting order being considered an out. When the ninth and tenth players arrive, those players will be inserted into the line-up in the vacant spots in the batting order. However, the extra hitters (EH) cannot be added once ten (10) players are inserted into the lineup and/or the batting rotation has been completed one time through.

OR

If a team manager knows that the 9th and/or 10th player(s) will not arrive, they can decide prior to going once through the batting order whether the said team will play with only 8 or 9 players for the whole game. If that decision is made, the said team will not have to take the 9th and/or 10th out each time, but may **ONLY** play on defense and offense with the number of players (8 or 9) during the whole game, **EVEN** if a 9th or 10th player arrives. Teams may decide to substitute in this situation if another player arrives.

- m. If a player leaves a game for any reason (other than an ejection) and no substitute is available, the game may proceed (provided there are still at least eight (8) players present) and that players at bat will be counted as an out. If less than eight (8) players are present, the game will be considered a forfeit.
- n. Players shall not intentionally collide with any other players. In the case of a runner intentionally colliding with a fielder, the runner will be called out and may, at the umpire's discretion, be ejected from the game. All base runners must either slide or give up their right to a base (avoid a collision by stopping or leaving a base path) if the defensive player (e.g. catcher) has possession of the ball and is able to make an apparent play on the base runner. If a defensive player is not in possession of the ball so that they are able to record an out (apparent play at any base), they cannot block the base (e.g. home plate) or be in the base path so as to impede (obstruct) the base runner's right to that base. Under such

circumstances, the defensive player shall be responsible to avoid collision. If a collision does occur under these circumstances, the runner will always be considered safe and the obstruction rule shall be enforced.

IV. Miscellaneous

- a. Base runners must touch home plate in order to score in Men's league. Base runners must cross the safety line in Coed League (touching home base in Coed is an out).
- b. In the case of rain, teams may call the Parks Office **after** 4:00pm at 617-4638 to see if their game will be played. If the Parks and Recreation Department determines the fields playable, the umpire retains the final decision at the field. If a rain-out does occur, teams will be notified about make-up dates.
- c. A limit of "over the fence" homeruns will be used in all men's and coed slow pitch divisions. Please see league classification for limits. After the limit, each home run is an out.
- d. One courtesy runner allowed per inning. The courtesy runner will be the player recording the last out. Man for man, or woman for woman.
Exception: If a person is removed from the game due to an injury occurring on that play, the last out shall run even if it is from the previous inning. If a player is removed from the game due to injury, that player is not allowed to reenter the game.
- e. The official may call an automatic double play if "obstruction" is ruled (judgment call). **Note:** There is no West Sacramento or ASA rule that says, "Get down or get out of the way."
- f. Softball scorekeepers and/or officials **may** point out and enforce corrections with illegal substitutions and improper batting orders. The Scorekeeper is responsible for the official score. The umpire shall keep the official time.
- g. No medical insurance is covered by the City of West Sacramento or ASA/USA league policy. Teams are encouraged to purchase team medical and liability insurance.
- h. If the umpire fails to show for your game, both managers will agree upon a person or persons to umpire the game.
- i. Homerun restrictions for Softball divisions.
- j. **"C"** – Highest league offered. Consist of strong talent that performs well competitively. Three (3) homeruns + equalizer.
- k. **"D"** – Semi-competitive league consisting of average talent. Home run restriction: Two (2) homerun + equalizer.
- l. **"E"** – Recreational League. One (1) homerun + equalizer
- m. After each team reaches the homerun limit, each "unassisted" homerun hit over the fence is an out.

V. SPECIFIC RULES FOR COED LEAGUES:

- a. Male/Female ratio may be as follows: There must be an equal or greater number of females to males on the field at all times.
- b. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award (female must bat). **EXCEPTION:** With two outs, the female batter has the option to

- walk (one base) or bat. In the event that a team has two females batting back to back, only one female can use the option to walk with two outs.
- c. The outfield line, or THE ARCH, is where all outfielders (4 people) must start behind when a **female** is up to bat. When the female batter has made contact, you may enter the arch line to field the ball. If an outfielder starts in front of the arch line, the female batter will automatically be allowed to go to first base.
 - d. Teams are allowed to place males and females in any defensive positions they desire.
 - e. COED C & COED C/D leagues will play with the following size balls:
 - Male – 12” Ball – Yellow Dot
 - Female – 11” Ball – Green Dot
 - f. If the extra player rule is used, you must have at least one more female, or two extra players - a male and a female. If you have twelve players and a player is injured, you may finish with 11 players and the injured player's spot in the batting order will be a dead ball out. If you have 10 players and a player is injured you may drop to nine players with the injured players spot being an out.
 - g. The batting order must alternate male/female throughout the lineup.
EXCEPTION: A team may bat two females back to back.

All other rules as stated within this rulebook will also apply to all coed leagues.