



Columbia City Parks & Recreation Department

## 2019 NSA COED SOFTBALL RULES

Be sure to discuss these rules with your team. Each player should be familiar with these rules before beginning play.

**Please remember that this is a Recreation Program, and you're out here to have fun!**

1. Team rosters are due to Parks & Rec. office by **June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Teams will list a maximum of 20 players. Minimum age for players is 18 years old by **June 10<sup>th</sup>** of the current year. Additions of new players may be added or changed on the wavier/roster up to the middle of the season (July 28<sup>th</sup>). After July 28<sup>th</sup> there will be NO additions or changes to the team roster.
2. The time limit rule means no new inning will start after the time limit has been reached. Time Limit will be 1 hour or 7 innings. Do not start a new inning with less than 8 minutes on the clock. This is measured from the time of the third out that ends the inning. If the home team is at bat and ahead when time expires, the game will be called.
3. Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled time with a minimum of 8 players, otherwise they must forfeit. Please be at the field 10 minutes before game time. All players have to be on the roster in order to play, teams can't pick-up a player for one game or the tournament.
4. If a team begins with only 8 players, they may add players at the bottom of the batting order up until all players in the line-up have batted once. They will not be charged an out in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> positions.
5. Teams must have 8 players to start a game. No delay in the game waiting on players.
6. Courtesy runners are allowed one per inning, per gender, with the runner being the player who made the last out. Man for man, or woman for woman.
7. Field 6 Rule for men: the equalizer rule is in effect after the fifth home run. Your team can hit your sixth home run after the other team has hit their fifth. Women are unlimited. Will only be on field 6 if have to.
8. All batters will begin with a one and one count. After the batter has received a count of two strikes, they will be declared out on the second foul (the first foul will be called a "courtesy foul").
9. Teams may bat up to 14 players a game. However if you start with 14 batters you MUST end with 14 batters. If you don't end with 14 you must take an out.
10. You may play with a maximum of ten players on the field. With ten on the field, at least five must be women. There must be an equal number of men to women in the outfield and infield. (If playing with 4 men, 2 must be infield and 2 outfield)
11. Pitcher must be opposite gender as the catcher.
12. The batting order must alternate males with females.
13. Intimidation will not be tolerated no matter the gender.
14. Any bat used must be no older than 2012 sanction approved bat (ASA, NSA or USSSA). If there isn't a sanction stamp on the bat it is NOT a legal bat. (Sanctioned stamped bats dated 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 are to be used)
15. If your defensive team walks a male batter, he is awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> base whether or not the female bats. The female batter has the option to bat. These rules apply regardless of the number of outs a team has. Hit by pitch is a 'ball'. NO charging the mound will be tolerated.
16. Teams should be present with line ups ready as soon as the field is available for play to begin on time.
17. When females are batting the defense must stay behind the 200ft line in the outfield until the ball is hit. The Park is responsible for painting the 200ft line before games.
18. NO bunting. Batter has to make a full swing.
19. NO lead offs. Can't leave the base until the ball is hit.
20. Metal spikes and metal tipped cleats are NOT allowed. Rubber and molded cleats are allowed.

21. Teams forfeiting must pay Umpire \$25.00.
22. **Persons or players participating in the Columbia City Parks & Recreation Adult leagues are not covered in any way for personal liability, property damage, medical injuries, etc. This means that persons competing in this program do so at their own risk.**
23. Pitching mat will be used. If the ball lands on the mat or home plate, it is a strike.
24. If the catcher blocks the plate without the ball the runner will be safe. Catchers can't block the plate without the ball.
25. The pitcher must keep one foot on the rubber at all times. Violation of this rule will result in a 'ball'. Pitcher will pitch from 50 feet.
26. Pitching--No winding up is allowed. Each pitch must have a minimum of 6 foot arch and a maximum of 12 foot arch. Any pitch that is too high or too low will be called an illegal pitch which results as a "ball", unless the batter swings at or hits the pitch.
27. When batting, there will be an automatic out between two men batting in a row.
28. Runners are given the base they are running to plus 1 extra base maximum for errant throws off the playing field while throwing to first, third base or to home plate. An errant throw to second base is a ball in play.
29. ONLY in the Championship game there is NO time limit.
30. Run rule: 20pts after 3 innings, 15pts after 4 innings, and 10pts after 5 innings for all games.
31. Players do NOT have to slide into home. The catcher can NOT block the plate and must make the sweeping motion to get player out.
32. Rain: The Park & Recreation Dept. will not make that determination on games until 9:00am at the earliest. Managers will be notified of the rescheduling by phone, text or email. If a manager has not been notified within one week of the cancellation, it is the manager's responsibility to call the Park office 248-5180 for the rescheduling information. It is also the manager's responsibility to make sure his/her team members are notified of the rescheduling. The Parks & Recreation Dept may reschedule for any day, field, or time in order to complete the league schedule.
33. If a game is called for rain prior to ending, the score will stand from the last completed inning (minimum of 3 innings must be played for an official game). Umpires will decide when to call a game due to rain.
34. Runners cannot run into or over fielders. Runner must NOT intentionally run out of base line. If, in the umpire's opinion, you crash into a fielder, you could be ejected.
35. Being ejected from a game will include being ineligible to play in your next scheduled game for that team, and any other game before that time.
36. Any over-aggressive play will be warned by the umpires, but any player may be ejected at any time according to the umpire's discretion. Only captains have the right to discuss (not argue) calls with umpires.
37. ALL UMPIRE DECISIONS ARE FINAL. **There is to be NO arguing with the official over calls.** There is no exception to this rule. Foul language or other unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated. Any player, coach or observer whose temper gets out of control over a judgment call, or who by vulgarity, intimidation or yelling confronts an official, will be warned once. If the infraction is repeated, the offending person can be dismissed from the game, asked to leave the park, and/or not be allowed to continue playing the remainder of the season, depending on the severity of the infraction.
38. **Alcoholic beverages and Tobacco of any form are not allowed at the City Park at any time. Anyone found in possession on City property will be asked to leave. For a second violation, the team the offender is on will be kicked out of the league altogether.**
39. Fields are available to for teams to practice. All bookings **have** to be scheduled through the park 260-248-5180.
40. At the end of every game each team is responsible for turning in their scores. Scores must be called in 260-248-5180, emailed [mwheeler@columbiacity.net](mailto:mwheeler@columbiacity.net) , or put in the mailbox outside the park office. If the park doesn't receive scores from a team then that game will be counted as a loss toward the tournament seeding.
41. SEVERE INJURY on the field call 911 then, inform the Park of the incident.
42. **The Park has the right to add/delete/modify any rule for the league at any time in order to maintain safe and enjoyable play for all participants.**
43. If you have any questions about these rules, please contact Program Coordinator Melinda Leininger.