

WEST PLAINS ADULT SPORTS

2023 COED SLOW (REC) PITCH SOFTBALL - OFFICIAL RULES

The game shall be played according to the official ASA rules except where specified in this document.

EQUIPMENT

1. Game balls will be provided. All teams will be required to furnish their own equipment (practice balls, bats, gloves, etc.) Only "Official Slow Pitch Softball" bats may be used. See illegal bat list.
2. All players must wear appropriate athletic shoes. **No metal** spiked or metal tipped spiked shoes may be used.

TEAMS & PLAYERS

1. Both teams are responsible to provide a scorekeeper to ensure that there is no discrepancy in the final score. If there is a discrepancy the official may make the final judgment call on the score. The home team reports scores (win or loss) to Airway Heights Parks & Recreation by email by Monday following the game.
E-mail: agardner@cawh.org
2. A team roster consists of a minimum of 10 players and maximum of 15 players. A minimum of 5 females per team. Each team captain must provide a completed roster, with all signatures of any players that intend to play at least one game through out the season.
3. A minimum of nine (9) players is needed to start a game. Teams need a minimum of four (4) female players on the field to start the game. The only time that males can outnumber the females on the field is if a team is playing with (9) players and there are 5 men and 4 women playing. Teams can have more females on the field than men if they choose to. *There is no formal order of fielding a team. Men and women can play any and all positions.*
4. Any team that plays with only nine (9) players must choose which defensive positions to play (pitcher & catcher are required). Opposing players, umpires or any non-roster persons may not take the place defensively of any missing player.
5. All players must be at least 16 years old. Players under 18 must have parental waiver to participate.
6. Team rosters are due to the Parks & Recreation office by the deadline given. Playoff rosters lock after week 4 of regular season.

GAME RULES

1. All games are double headers. The first team listed on the schedule will be the first "home team" and will provide game balls. The next game the other team will be the home team and will provide game balls.
2. If a team fails to appear for their game they will be charged with a forfeit and loss. Multiple no-show forfeitures may result in forfeit of the remainder of the season.
3. Games may play with nine (9) players. The 10th player, upon arrival, may be added at any time at the end of an inning, teams may also finish with nine (9) players.
 - a. The batting lineup needs to alternate male and female. You can bat two females back-to-back with no penalty but if two males bat back-to-back, the team takes an out for the missing female batter. Players can be added/ substituted to the line up at anytime during the game as long as the other team and officials are notified.
4. Teams may organize their defense positions as they see fit. Alternating in the gender in the field is not required.
5. Teams failing to appear with at least 9 players, (see team rule #2) by game time shall forfeit the game to the opposing team. Teams may use the field to play a non-officiated scrimmage until an officiated game is due to begin. If teams are playing a double header against the same team the team that forfeited the 1st game has (1) hour from time of the first game time to locate enough players to play the 2nd game. If enough players are located the 2nd game may begin early, if both team captains agree. If enough players are not located in the allotted time, then the 2nd game will also be forfeited.
6. No infield practice is permitted prior to the game time.
7. Umpire will rotate game balls between a 12" .52 core men's ball and an 11" .52 core women's ball.
8. The Lead Administrators and the umpires shall judge the fitness of the playing field. If the decision to cancel games because of inclement weather is made, team managers/ captain will be notified. It is then their responsibility to notify their players. If in doubt call the Lead Administrator and confirm if games are on.

9. It is recommended that all teams wear like colored jerseys, preferably with numbers. All team names and uniforms must be family friendly in nature, and not to display or represent tobacco, alcohol, drugs, profanity, or vulgarity.
10. A runner must slide or avoid contact at home plate & 2nd base if the throw is close. Failure to slide or avoid contact results in the runner being called out.
11. Outfielders must remain on the grass outfield portion of the field (not cheat up on the skinned infield) until the batter strikes the ball. Penalty: Batter will be awarded first base and all runners will advance one base whether forced or not.
12. Player's benches are reserved for managers, players, coaches, batboys, and sponsors. Managers will keep benches clear of all spectators. Continuously loud or distracting noise from the bench is not permitted.
13. Delaying tactics are not allowed and the umpire is empowered to forfeit the offending team after a warning has been issued and ignored.
14. The manager is responsible for presenting his/her line up, with substitutes, to the officials and official scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes before each game.
15. TIME LIMIT if, after 55 minutes of play, the total five (5)-inning game has not been completed, the inning currently in progress will be completed and the leading team declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the game will continue until one team is ahead at the end of a complete inning. If playing a double header involving the same teams, the second game may begin earlier than the scheduled time if the first game is completed in less than 55 minutes.
16. Only ten runs can be achieved in any single inning. After the 10th run in a single inning the opposing team is now up to bat. Exception: More than 10 runs may be allowed in the inning when there is a homerun with runners on base. All runs score and a homerun is awarded to the team at bat.
17. If inclement weather forces the premature termination of play, a game is considered valid after five (5) innings of play, or four and one half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is ahead.
18. A player must play in 3 league games to be eligible for the End of Season Tournament.
19. Courtesy runners are only allowed for an injury and will be the last recorded out made by the player of the same sex. If no player of the same sex has recorded an out, the player of the same sex listed last in the batting order shall be the courtesy runner.
20. If a strike zone mat is available it will be used to determine balls and strikes. Any ball that falls within the height limit and touches the plate/mat will be ruled a strike.
21. When teams take the field the pitcher is allowed five (5) pitches with the game ball.
22. To prevent injuries, batters must take a full swing and may not chop, bunt, or half swing at a pitch.
23. Batters approach the plate with a count of 1-1. No courtesy foul balls.
24. If a male batter is walked the batter is to take 2nd base. With 2 outs the female up to bat then has the option to hit or automatically take 1st base.
25. Homerun Rule: the one up rule will apply, meaning that no team can be up by more than 1 homerun, before said team is allowed to hit another. If a home run is hit by a team already up by 1 homerun, then that run is counted as a single.
26. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in City parks at any time. Any player found in possession of alcohol in the dugout, bleachers/stands, or general vicinity during a game will be ejected from the game and subject to future suspension. For a second violation, the team the offender is on will be kicked out of the league.

Please also refer to the League Captain's Handbook which outlines the leagues code of conduct, roster changes, forfeits, protest, etc.