



Section 1 – The Game

1. All leagues will follow the 2026 USA Official Rules of Softball. Please note major changes made from last season below.
[Official Rulebook - USA Softball](#)
2. Each team must have at least eight (8) players to begin the game. See section 7 for additional Co-ed gender rule breakdown.
3. There will be a mat behind home plate that will determine balls and strikes. If the ball meets the legal 6' minimum and 10' maximum and hits the mat, it will be determined a strike. Hitting the plate is a dead ball.
4. There will be no pre-game infield practice.
5. ALL balls must be turned in to Site Staff at the end of the game.
6. All games will have a *55-minute running clock*. When the clock expires, the inning will be completed unless the home team is batting and they are ahead. No new inning can start after time has expired unless it is to break a tie. A new inning is considered started once the last out is recorded in the inning.
7. The international tie breaker rule will be used to break ties. The player who was the last person up to bat in the previous inning will start at second base.
8. Men's Doubleheader Leagues will NOT be allowed to steal. Runners cannot leave the base until the ball crosses the front part of the plate. There are no leadoffs.
9. Progressive Homerun Rule: All leagues will play with a progressive home run (over the fence) rule. Either team can hit 2 home runs and then, the next home run is an out unless the other team has hit 2 home runs. Once both teams have hit the 2 home runs, either team can go up one (1) home run. Exception: Home team cannot go one up in the last playable inning.
10. Run Rules:
 - i. If at the end of five (5) complete innings of play, one team is ten (10) runs or more ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.
 - ii. If at the end of four (4) complete innings of play, one team is fifteen (15) runs or more ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.
 - iii. If at the end of three (3) innings of play, one team is twenty (20) runs or more ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.
 - iv. If at any point during the game (at the end of a completed inning), one team is twenty-five (25) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.
11. Extra Hitter Rule (optional): At the beginning of each game, the manager will have the option of using a 10 (10) to twelve (12) player batting order (**All leagues.**) The option the team chooses stands for the remainder of the game cannot be changed. If the extra hitter rule is used, any ten players in the batting order may take the field on defense provided gender rules are followed.
12. If a player is removed from the batting order for any reason (**except injury**), and the batting position cannot be filled by a legal substitute, the vacant batting position shall be an automatic out each time that batting position is scheduled to bat. This still applies if a team chooses to use the extra player option.
13. All leagues will play by the "avoid contact" rule. If a defensive player has the ball, the runner must slide or make an obvious attempt to avoid contact with the defensive player.
 - a. If the runner remains on their feet and crashes into the defensive player the runner is to be declared out. The runner will be ejected if the act is flagrant.
 - b. Defensive players obstructing a base without the possession of the ball will be issued a verbal warning for the first offense. If the player continues to obstruct the base, the



defensive player will be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and the runner will be ruled safe.

14. Plays at home plate: A secondary Homeplate will be used. Once a runner rounds 3rd base, **and has crossed the 35 ft. commitment line**, it is the responsibility of the runner to touch the second Homeplate. Sliding into the primary Homeplate will result into an out. The fielder's responsibility is to take the actual plate for force outs. No tag plays will be allowed. Any tag applied to the runner after they have crossed the commitment line will result in the runner automatically being called safe.
15. The last batted out, or sub from the bench, may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.
NOTE: Any Courtesy Runner used in Coed must be gender specific
16. The count on the batter will begin at one ball and one strike.
17. The following courtesy foul rules will be followed for Champaign Park District Leagues only:
 - a. Women's and Co-Rec Leagues: A batter hitting a second foul ball is out.
 - b. All other leagues: A batter hitting a foul ball on the third strike is out.
18. Base path is 70', pitching mound is 50'.

Section 2 – The Uniform

1. Only tennis shoes and plastic or rubber cleats will be allowed in this program. A person may not play without shoes, in open-toed shoes, or street shoes. Golf shoes, track shoes, steel cleats, or similar type spiked shoes will not be allowed.
2. Teams are not required to have matching uniforms. However each player must have a permanently affixed 6" number on the front or back of their shirt. Only one (1) player is allowed to play without a number.

Section 3 – The Equipment

1. Each team will furnish its own bats. Bats must not be on the USA Non-Approved Bat List. The USA Non-Approved bat list is found here: [bannedbatlist.pdf](#)
2. Any bats found to be used during game play and listed on USA Non-Approved Bat List will result in an automatic out of the current batter, and removal of the Bat from the game. If the bat is used a second time after the removal from a game, it will result in an automatic forfeit of the game. Teams caught using a banned bat in more than one league game will be subject to captain, player & team suspensions.
3. The Park District will not replace balls hit out of play. A team that hits a ball out of play is responsible for retrieving that ball, not Site Staff. If the ball is not retrieved or the game is delayed (longer than 5 minutes), the team will be subject to a forfeiture declared by the Umpire or the Site Staff. If the ball is "un-retrievable" Site Staff will replace balls as necessary.

Section 4 – Roster and Player Status

1. A player must be fifteen (15) years of age at the start of the season to be eligible to play.
2. Team rosters are limited to twenty (20) players.
3. **Players can play/substitute on up to two teams in the league, until the roster lock date.**



4. **Teams can play with a max of 2 subs, from another team on the same league night, until the roster lock date.**
5. **All players must be listed on one roster per league after the roster lock date.**
6. Official rosters are due before the start of each team's first scheduled game. Each team member must provide their first name, last name, email, phone number, and signature to be considered a rostered player.
7. If a team plays with a non-rostered player, before the roster lock date, the player will be declared an out, and must sign the team's waiver before being allowed to play again in the same or following game.
8. If a team plays with a non-rostered player or a player found to be on another teams' roster in the same league, after the roster lock date, the game will be declared a forfeit and the player can be subject to suspension. **Team manager and assistant manager may be subject to a suspension as well.**
9. The eligibility of a player must be protested by the opposing team prior to the end of the game. **A player's eligibility cannot be questioned after the game is over.** ALL Rosters are kept on Site in the Site Office. When questioning player eligibility time will be paused while Site Staff retrieves the team Roster. If a player is not found on the Roster the team automatically forfeits the game and results will be entered as 7-0 in quickscores. See Section 6 for protest procedures.
10. If a team knows in advance that it will have to forfeit, the Sports Department must be notified within three (3) business days of the forfeit. Any team forfeiting more than 3 games will be dismissed from the league.
11. Rosters will be locked 2 weeks before the start of the end of season tournament. For Fall season there is no Roster deadline.

Section 5 – Sportsmanship/Player Behavior

1. Alcoholic beverages are NOT allowed on Champaign Park District property. Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs will result in suspension and/or expulsion from league play as well as all park district sports activities.
2. **There is NO TOLERANCE of alcohol. Any team found with alcohol in their dugouts or in their possession will have their game forfeited by the park district.**
3. Any person in an intoxicated condition will be removed from the game and face suspension and/or expulsion from league play.
4. **There will be absolutely no arguing balls and strikes, nor judgment calls. One (1) warning MAY be given and after that, the player may be ejected from the game.**
5. Any person resorting to unsportsmanlike behavior at any point in the evening in front of officials, players, spectators, and league supervisors will result in possible ejection and suspension from league play. Unsportsmanlike behavior includes but is not limited to profanity and threatening or assaulting another person.
6. The Umpire or Site Staff may eject any player or manager in violation of any of the above rules. Upon ejection of a player for unsportsmanlike conduct, the umpire will inform the team manager and Site Manager that the player has been ejected. The team manager will then be responsible for removing the player from the park within one minute of the ejection. A player remaining in the



vicinity of the ballpark (including the parking lot) after being ejected for the game will cause their team to forfeit the game and will be subject to a longer suspension.

7. Any player or manager ejected from a game for any reason will face an automatic 2 game suspension. The suspension will begin immediately and includes all leagues and tournament games sponsored by the Champaign Park District.
8. Any player or manager serving a suspension may not attend any Champaign Park District adult softball games while they are suspended. If a suspended player or manager is in attendance while serving a suspension, their team's game will be subject to forfeiture and the player's suspension will be extended.
9. Any players ejected or suspended more than once in a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
10. An ejected player who refuses to leave the complex or who continues to argue will be subject to lengthier suspensions and possible expulsion from the league.
11. Under extenuating circumstances, a player may appeal his/her suspension to the Sports Manager in writing. The protest procedures must be followed.

Section 6 – Protests

1. Only the team manager may discuss a protest with the umpire. Anyone else may be ejected for interference. If a team manager protests a player with an official the clock will continue running while the official flags down the site staff to get the opposing teams rosters. Game play can resume while waiting for the roster.
2. Only protests concerning player eligibility and ejections/suspensions may be filed. Judgment calls by the umpire cannot be protested.
3. **No protests will be taken outside of game time.**
4. **Any team not providing a representative at the mandatory manager's meeting will forfeit its right to protest any game.**

Section 7 – Additional Co-Rec Rules

1. At no point shall there be more males than females playing.
2. Players who identify as non-binary are considered a "neutral" gendered player, and count towards the overall player total/minimum.
3. Two males may not bat in order.
4. If a team is unable to field ten (10) players the team can play with as few as eight (8) players (4 female or non-binary players, 4 male or non-binary players) No outs will be taken for the 9th or 10th batting position. When and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the lineup at the 9th & 10th batting position.
5. On any walk to a male batter, intentional or not, the batter will be awarded two (2) bases. If there are two (2) outs, the next female or non-binary batter has the option to hit or take an automatic walk.
6. Defensive positioning shall include two (2) males or non-binary players, and two (2) females or non-binary players in the outfield and infield. The pitcher and catcher position must be opposite genders, or a non-binary player.



Section 8 – Rainouts and Rescheduling

1. The sports staff will determine if the games are postponed due to inclement weather. Please sign up for alerts on Rainout Line and download the app to receive notifications. (<http://rainoutline.com/search/dnis/2178054100>) The decision will be made by the Sports Manager by 4:00PM. If rainout line hasn't been updated by 4:00 PM games are assumed still on. After 4:00pm for pre-game time cancellations the Site Staff will communicate with sports/field staff to decide if games are cancelled.
2. **Rainout line does not update automatically, it will only be updated when there is a cancellation or a delay. We will do our best to give people as much time as possible, but the decision to cancel will not come before 4:00 PM.**
3. If a team decides to not play and fields have not been cancelled, that team will be subject to a forfeit.
4. Once games begin, if the weather is threatening, the site supervisor will determine if the game is postponed. If lightning is observed in the vicinity, teams will be asked to leave the playing area for thirty (30) minutes. If the lightning disappears after 30 minutes, the game will continue. If the lightning continues after 30 minutes, the game will continue to be postponed until the area is lightning-free for thirty (30) minutes. Games will not be pushed back farther than 60 minutes and later games will be pushed back, or rescheduled as deemed fit by the program manager. Rainout Line will be updated to reflect any delay of games.
5. Any game terminated because of weather will be completed at a later date from the exact point at which the original game was stopped. If a game reaches 4 innings or 3 ½ innings with the home team winning it will be considered a complete game.
6. The Champaign Park District will do everything possible to make sure that games that were cancelled due to inclement weather are rescheduled. However, no games will be played after date printed in the guide.
7. Teams are required to play make-up games as scheduled or accept a forfeit.

Section 9 – League Awards

1. League awards will be given to the end of season tournament winner.
2. (Spring league) All teams will be awarded up to 15 team sweatshirts. Order forms will be sent out at the conclusion of the season to all of the winning teams. Teams that do not return their order forms by the stated deadline will not receive their award.
3. (Fall league) NO League Awards will be issued

Section 10 – Fall Softball Differences

The fall leagues will use the league's rules as listed EXCEPT for the following changes:

1. There will be no end of season tournament or awards given for the fall season.
2. There will be no roster addition deadline, but all players must be on the team's roster to play.

Section 11 – Miscellaneous

1. The Champaign Park District will not be responsible in cases of injury to players or spectators or for loss of property.



2. In case of inclement weather, managers and players should look at the Rainout line.
<http://rainoutline.com/search/dnis/2178054100> Updates to this line are not done automatically, updates will only be given when there is a delay or a cancellation.
3. Team managers are responsible for the behavior of their team's fans.
4. League standings will be kept on quickscores/cpd website.
5. The Home team is the first team listed on the schedule. For double header leagues the home team for the first game will be the away team for the second game.