

2026 EP Strong!

Is a City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Slow Pitch Tournament and will be conducted under USSSA rules(<https://cms.usssa.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/12/usssa-slowpitch-2026-rulebook-final.pdf>) as amended herein, the following local rules/procedures take precedence in all cases.

- **Teams must submit a roster online by Friday, July 31st at 3:00pm, (players must accept their invite in order to count). No write ins!** Names on Roster must match name on each players photo ID (government issued id i.e. driver's license, DoD ID etc.) Anyone found playing in the wrong class will be considered an illegal player and an automatic forfeit will be given.
- Players may not play on more than one Men's, Women's or Mixed (Coed) team.
 1. Example: if there is a Men's Class C, D, & E, the athlete can only play in one of the three divisions. The same goes for the Women's divisions
- Players can play on one Men /Women's team and one Mixed team. Playing in more than one team of the same category will result in a forfeit.
- In the Mixed Division only (3) women are allowed to play down one class (not classified Elite). Men cannot play down.
- In Women & Men Divisions, teams may not exceed 3 players who are classified **one** class higher (not classified ELITE).
 1. Example: A Men/Women Class-E team can only have 3 players on their roster that are Classified D players. They **can-not** have any players on their team that are classified as a C player or higher.
- Divisions will not combine going down. (C teams cannot play in the D bracket, or D in the E). Teams may play up a division (E can play in the D bracket) but there will be no equalizers, and no awards guaranteed.
- **Home Run Limits: NO HR Bracelets or HR tickets will be made available for purchase.** We'll use the following Homerun limits:
 - Men's, Women's, & Mixed C (and pickup) teams = 5/game all others are outs
 - Men's, Women's, & Mixed D teams = 3/game all others are outs
 - Men's, Women's, & Mixed E teams = 1/game all others are outs
- At least 5 teams must register for a division to make.
- **UNIFORMS:** Team uniforms may be different colors but must have a non-duplicate number. Second duplicate number or no number will be an out, but can play defense.
 1. No duplicate numbers regardless of gender.
 - a) 1 & 01 are two different numbers and not considered duplicates
 2. Players **are not allowed** to fix their shirt AFTER they've received an out & that slot in the lineup will remain an out every turn of at-bat for the remainder of the game.
- Double elimination bracket play. 50-minute game times finish the inning. The clock officially starts at the conclusion of the pre-game conference.

- In case of extra innings, the last batter of the previous inning is placed on second base and game will switch to a One Pitch format. Each batter starts with 2 strikes and 3 balls. If the pitch is a strike and the player does not swing or misses, he is out. If the pitch is a ball and the player does not swing, he walks.
- **Run Rules:** 15 @ 3, 12 @ 4, 10 @ 5. Flip Flop rules will be applied
- The point of no return and scoring line **will not** be used in tournament play.
- The halo rule **will not** be used for the tournament. However, if a ball is batted up the middle intentionally, the player will be ejected from the game and/or tournament and face possible suspension by USSSA. The umpires call on the field is **final**.
- **Runners must touch Homeplate when forced to advance on base on balls.**
- Coin flip will determine home team, unless the equalizer rule is used. For Championship game, undefeated team will be home. In the event that there is an *If game*, teams will flip for home.
- **Players must be 18 and older to play and must have a picture id for all games** (El Paso sports ID not required). Field supervisors can check rosters/ IDs at any point in the tournament.
- **If an illegal player is found an immediate forfeit will be declared for that game. Team is also disqualified from the tournament.**
- Game time is forfeit time. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- **Players must be on the roster and in the dugout/field to be officially counted.**
 1. In the Men's and Women's Program, a minimum of 9 players are needed to start a game. However, an out shall be declared when the 10th position in the line-up is scheduled to bat. A 10th player may be added in the 10th position any time before the end of the game.
 2. COED may start with 8 but the 9th and 10th position will be declared an out. A 9th and 10th player may be added any time before the end of the game.
- Unannounced batters will be an out instead of an ejection when they're up to bat.
- Coed teams may play with more females than males to make up their 10 players or bat 12. (if a male replaces a female, it must be announced or receive an out, and the lineup must change to avoid batting two males in a row)
- **Official Balls:** Teams must purchase and use City of El Paso Tournament balls with the official EP Strong stamp during the entire tournament. Sold for \$5 each or \$50 for a dozen. You only have to buy what you believe you'll use for the tournament!
 1. The balls can only be purchased at the designated game complexes.
 2. Outside balls are **NOT** permitted to be used at any time during the game.
- **If a non-stamped or illegal/doctored ball is found both the player and coach are ejected from the game. If the team does not have enough players to continue game is considered a forfeit.**
- All bats must have the new USSSA 240 thumb print. Bats with the old 220 stamp, Fast pitch bats and senior bats will not be allowed in any divisions.



- Any team/player/coach found using an altered or illegal bat will receive an **automatic forfeit (THIS IS YOUR WARNING)**, the individual shall be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and may be subject to further disciplinary action. The discretion of the tournament Director is FINAL
- Courtesy runner (s) may be used once per inning (to include the ITB inning) for the Men's & Women's Divisions and twice per inning for the Mixed Divisions (one male & one female). Runner can be any player on the roster of the same gender. If the runner's spot comes up in the batting line up while on the bases it is an out.
- Pitchers may use a courtesy runner that does not count against the one courtesy runner per inning (must be the same gender and if the runner's spot comes up in batting line up while on bases it is an out)
- Protective masks are encouraged but not mandatory.
- Ejection from game is a suspension from current game & individual must leave the complex (in a timely manner - staff & umpire discretion).
 - Once a player(s) is ejected the Player(s) will be ejected from the entire tournament.**
- Unsportsmanlike conduct (to include but not limited to foul language) directed toward any official, player, coach, spectator or City of El Paso staff will not be tolerated.** The penalty for this behavior can be (but not limited to) ejection from the game, the entire tournament, and possible suspension by the City of El Paso and/or USSSA.
- Alcohol and Smoking/Vaping is not allowed anywhere in the Park or in the Sports Complex. (In compliance with City Ordinance 13.24.130) Neither is urinating in public.**
 - Anyone caught drinking or urinating will be ejected from the Park for the rest of the tournament.**
 - If a player is caught drinking during a game, in the dugout or in the area by the field, the game will be stopped immediately and a forfeit will be issued to the team. Further disciplinary action will be administered to the players/coaches.**
- Game times, game format (one pitch) and locations may be changed due to inclement weather at The Tournament Director's discretion. Game status may be checked https://www.ussa.com/slowpitch/event_home/?eventID=414773 **no phone calls or texts will be made. It's your responsibility to keep track of tournament status.**
- Protests will only be considered for player eligibility and will only be conducted with a \$100 fee. It must be submitted before the last 10 minutes of the game. Rulings on protests are final and cannot be appealed. If protest is upheld the \$100 fee will be refunded. Tournament Director ruling is Final.
- Teams who would place 2nd place during the tournament but receive a forfeit due to: Illegal players, clearing benches, physical altercations or illegal bats shall receive no awards.

For questions or concerns:

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