



LaPorte Park & Recreation Department
250 Pine Lake Avenue
LaPorte, IN PH: 326-9600

2021 Coed Softball Policies and Regulations (Revised 2/2021)

The LaPorte Park and Recreation Department (referred to as the Department) shall determine the policies of the Adult Softball Program (slow, fast). The Department shall determine if a team name is deemed inappropriate and request that team to rename their team. Administration of the League shall be the responsibility of the Department. The Department reserves the exclusive right to accept or reject all teams from League play as well as the right to deny refund of all softball fees after the refund deadline. The *National Softball Association (NSA)* shall govern any rule or interpretation not covered in these rules. Some minor rule modifications have been implemented for the leagues to encourage sportsmanship; to adhere to time restrictions and enhance the safety and enjoyment for all involved (players, umpires, and spectators). The League Director will have the final word on placement of teams for league alignment. The League Supervisor and Recreation Director may determine any exceptions or discrepancies not covered here.

The following rules will be in effect for the current coed softball season. Any rules not covered here will be governed by current NSA rules and/or the LaPorte Park and Recreation Department Adult Softball Program Policies and Regulations.

PLAYERS

- 1) You may start a game with eight or nine players provided there are an equal number of male players or more female players, and a male and a female in the pitcher/catcher position. When the ninth and tenth players arrive, they can be put into the game together and inserted at the end of the batting order. The batting order must always alternate between males and females. A female may bat next to another female in cases of being short on male players. There is no out penalty for playing with eight or nine players. The short-handed rule will not apply to teams playing with only eight players. If any player must leave the game, when playing with 8 players (for any reason) the game will be a forfeit. The game will be awarded to the opposing team by the score of 7-0.
- 2) In regard to the shorthanded rule, if a team starts with ten to twelve players and a male or female must leave (injury or ejection) an out will be assessed for the vacated position. If a female player is lost, a male player must be removed at no additional penalty. The team may play with an odd number if there are more female players. A team may not walk preceding players (intentionally or unintentionally) to get the 3rd out of an inning. If the preceding batter walks, the out is skipped for that round of the batting order.
- 3) Teams may use the EP rule (i.e. 6 male batters and 6 female batters). Any ten players may play defense if there are five males and five females on defense. Any team that has ten or more players must have two male and two female infielders, two male and two female outfielders, and a male or female catcher and pitcher. Outfielders are not permitted to play on the infield and infielders are not allowed to play in the grass. Penalty will award batter choice of play or re hit with count before that pitch. A team may not play more than ten (10) players if they are short on male or female players.
- 4) You do not have to slide, but malicious contact will not be tolerated. Violators will be ejected immediately.
- 5) Additional players may be added, free of charge, before the first game with the approval of the League Supervisor. Once the softball season has begun there will be no add-ons accepted unless it is an emergency involving a season ending injury or a special exception approved by League Director. If the add-on player is deemed necessary, an additional fee of \$5 must be paid at the time of addition.
- 6) Absolutely no approvals for additional players will happen the final week prior to tournament. Add-on forms are available at the Park Office or available to print at www.cityoflaporte.com/parks

EQUIPMENT

- 1) Males must use an official 28" softball bat approved by the umpire. Any violation and/or use of an illegal bat by the male batter will result in said batter being declared out, and all runners will be returned to the base they occupied prior to the infraction. Altered bats are grounds for immediate ejection. Females may use approved bats under Rule 3, Section 1 of the NSA Rules of Softball. It is the defensive team's responsibility to identify the illegal bat and present it to the umpire. The Park and Recreation Department will no longer supply bats for Coed leagues.
- 2) Steel cleats are not legal for coed play.
- 3) An 11" ball will be used when female bats and a 12" ball when male bats. If the wrong ball is used in coed play, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter re-bat and assume the ball and strike count prior to the

wrong ball being discovered. It is the defensive team's responsibility to ensure the correct ball is in play. Teams will be issued 12 men's and 12 women's softballs. The league will be a hit your own ball league. Once your allotment of softballs is depleted, it is your team's responsibility to provide an NSA 2021 approved ball. When a ball is hit out of play, a replacement ball must be supplied immediately by the batting team. **The defensive team will be responsible for ensuring the ball provided meets all NSA standards.**

- a. Men Slow pitch will use a 12" NSA approved ball.
- b. Women will use an 11" NSA approved ball.

- 4) **Teams purchasing additional balls MUST purchase NSA legal balls for 2021. The Department will provide the first dozen for each team. For co-ed leagues 11" and 12" balls will be provided.** All softballs must clearly have core and compression printed on them. It is the defensive team's responsibility to ensure a legal ball is provided by the offensive team. Teams purchasing additional balls MUST purchase approved NSA 2020 softballs.
- 5) The uniform rule will be enforced. Teams must have identical shirts (color, design and numbers) or a penalty will be enforced (see Game Rule #13). A one-week grace period will be allowed to obtain matching uniforms.

GAME RULES

- 1) The run rules are as follows; 15 in 3, 12 in 4, and 10 in 5.
- 2) A one-hour time limit will be imposed. No new inning will start after the time limit has been reached, unless there is a tie score.
- 3) All games will start on the scheduled start time. There will be no grace period for any game. In case the first game runs a few minutes late, the next game will start immediately following the conclusion of the prior game, and the time limit will start from the time the game starts, not the scheduled time.
- 4) A batter will enter the box with a 1-1 with the 1/2 count.
- 5) When a male batter is walked, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. The male batter is automatically awarded 2nd base. He must first touch first base. However, if a male batter has a strike in the count, rule #5 DOES NOT apply.
- 6) The LaPorte Park and Recreation Department rules and policies followed during the summer league, are also in enforced for the fall coed league.
- 7) Home run limits are three a piece (male/female) and then the one up rule. The home team is not allowed to go one up in the bottom of the seventh innings or later innings.
- 8) All rain make-ups will be played the next available night as determined by the league supervisor.
- 9) **For rain out information, refer to the website [quickscores.com/laporte](https://www.quickscores.com/laporte). Text messaging and email notifications are available when a manager/coach signs up through the Quickscores website. When the games are cancelled due to field conditions during Park Office hours, the Department's Facebook page will provide information as soon as it is determined. DO NOT CALL League Supervisor or the Park Office.**
- 10) Alcohol consumption during your scheduled game is prohibited and will result in immediate ejection and a team forfeit. Player will be suspended from next scheduled game and team will be required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next scheduled game.
- 11) No tobacco use allowed in playing field area. 1st offense will result in verbal warning. 2nd offense will result in ejection.
- 12) **Zero tolerance** will be enforced regarding swearing, arguing, physical or verbal confrontation/enticing with umpires and/or opposing team's players. Result will be immediate ejection, and possible suspension, to be determined by League Supervisor.
- 13) All players in field area playing, coaching, managing or otherwise are required to wear a matching team shirt, (i.e. same color and style with a number on back of shirt). Players with inappropriate wording or messages on their person or attire will not be allowed to play until inappropriate wording is covered or removed. **(There is a one-week grace period for uniforms) All teams must be in compliance for week 2 of season or face the following penalty: Managers can appeal any opposing player who is out of uniform. Managers must make the appeal the first time the player in question comes to bat. If the appeal is upheld, that player will be automatically out. That player may then complete the game without further penalty for being out of uniform.**
- 14) All games will start with a coin flip to determine home and visitors.
- 15) If an illegal player is used and opposing team protests and it's determined by League Supervisor that incident occurred, player is immediately ejected from game and suspended for remainder of season from all 2021 coed play. The team he/she was playing for forfeits game and will be required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next game. Further action may take place if so determined by League Supervisor.