

Summer Softball Rules

II. TEAM ROSTER'S

- A. **ALL PLAYERS MUST SIGN ROSTERS AND SPORTSMANSHIP AGREEMENTS ON IMLEAGUES BEFORE THEY PLAY.**
- B. No player may play on more than one team in the same league.
- C. 10 players on field: (see forfeit section for further ruling)
 - 1. 5 men and 5 women for co-rec.
 - a. There shall be no more than 5 of the same sex on the field.
 - 2. Maximum of 15 shirts/awards per team, for tournament champion.
- D. All players must be listed on the team roster on IMLeagues **BEFORE** they play. Check with site facilitator.
- E. Pick-Up Players: allowed, must be on IMLeagues with waiver signed
- F. College experienced players:
 - 1. There is a maximum of 2 college experienced players (played in the last 5 years) for Co-Rec Novice and Intermediate leagues.
- G. Minimum age is 14 years old.
 - 1. Must turn 14 prior to start of league.
- H. Team captains are responsible for rosters and fees.

III. UNIFORMS

- A. Teams are required to furnish their own jerseys of same color.
- B. Cleats:
 - 1. Co-Rec League: Rubber cleats or regular tennis shoes **ONLY** (no metal cleats).
 - a. Players caught with metal cleats in any league will not be allowed to play until they change cleats. Repeat offenders will be removed from the league.

IV. EQUIPMENT

- A. Game balls will be provided by Missoula Parks and Recreation.
 - 1. (2) 12" ASA approved softballs per game.
- B. All other equipment is provided by teams: bats, gloves, etc.
- C. Scorebooks will be provided to each team. (please take your books with you after games)
 - 1. Home team keeps official score.
- D. Legal ASA approved softball bats **ONLY**. No baseball, fast pitch softball, or ASA non-approved bats allowed.

STARTING GAME, GAME TIME, EXTRA INNINGS, & SUBSTITUTIONS

I. STARTING GAME

- A. Team captains and umpire will determine which team will be home and visitor by:
 - 1. **Regular Season Games:** Coin toss, Even/Odd, Etc.
 - 2. **Tournament:** the team with the higher seeding will be awarded home team.
- B. Number of players – no more than 10 players on the field
 - 1. **(See fielding section for co-rec player ruling).**
 - 2. Teams must start and end the game with at least 8 players. No more than 5 of one gender allowed on the field.

3. Roster players may be added to bottom of lineup as they get to game.

II. GAME TIME

- A. Games will be 7 innings (see below for time restrictions).
- B. All games will start at designated time:
 1. No inning will start after the game has reached 1 hour and 5 minutes of play. Umpires will keep the official time.
 2. Games will be forfeited if 8 players are not ready to play or if game is not started 10 minutes after the scheduled game time.

III. EXTRA INNINGS (TIEBREAKER)

- A. After the 7 innings or the time limit (whichever comes first) has been played and the game is tied, the following tie-breaker rule will occur to break the tie:
 1. Both teams will receive one more at bat (3 outs).
 - a. The last batter of the previous inning will be placed on 2nd base
 - b. In the event that the tie game ends with no score, the team that advances the player the farthest will receive 1 run to break the tie.
 - c. In the event that neither team scores nor advances their runner further than the other team, the tie game scenario will repeat.
 - d. Games will end in a tie after two tie-breaker innings.

PLAYING RULES, PITCHING & BATTING & FIELDING

I. PLAYING RULES - Most ASA rules apply, unless otherwise stated in these by-laws.

- A. No leading off base.
- B. No stealing.
- C. Double play rule: players **MUST** get out of the way of attempted double play.
 1. Player will be called out at first if no attempt by runner to get out of the way.
- D. Run Rule: games will be called for 20 runs after 4 innings or 12 runs after 5 innings.
- E. Batters running to first must touch the orange safety bag to the right of the white first base.
- F. Infield Fly Rule:
 1. A batter is out when they pop the ball up to the infield, or area immediately surrounding, with runners on 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd with less than 2 outs. The ball must be fielded with ordinary effort. Runners may run at own will.

II. PITCHING

- A. Illegal pitch: a pitched ball's arc must be between 6' and 10'. A pitch is illegal if it is outside of this height.

III. BATTING

- A. All players on line-up must bat, with open substitution in field.
 1. If a player plays any inning, that player must bat.
 2. If a player is injured and decides to play in field, that player must bat.
- B. Throwing bat
 1. Players throwing bat after hitting ball may be ejected from game.
- C. Co-Rec leagues: teams must alternate sexes in the batting lineup.
 1. Rotating line ups are accepted (2 lineups) if uneven number of players:

- a. Men's lineup and women's lineup.
- b. Men follow men and women follow women in their perspective lineup.

D. Foul-out rule:

1. Summer & Fall Leagues (co-rec):
 - a. No foul-out rule.

E. Foul-out to catcher:

1. If ball is fouled back and the catcher has to make a play to catch the ball, the batter will be out.
2. If ball is fouled straight back into the catcher's mitt and caught, it will be a strike. Batter will only be out if that strike is the 3rd.

F. Swinging the bat:

1. No intentional bunting. A full swing must be attempted.

G. Home run rule:

1. Only 3 home runs over the fence allowed per team. Home runs hit after three will be a walk to first base. In the latter situation, runners must stay at their base unless pushed to next.

H. Ground rule double:

1. Batted ball under outfield fence.
2. Batted ball bounces over fence.
3. Runners on base will be awarded two bases.

I. Walking:

1. All players will be awarded first base **only** on walks.
2. Next batter must bat.

J. Courtesy Runners:

1. Courtesy runners may only be used once per inning, per team, and only after that in the event of an injury sustained during that team's current at-bat.
2. Any eligible player on the official line-up may be used as a courtesy runner.
 - a. Courtesy runner must be same gender as base runner.
3. Team captains must inform the umpire(s) when using courtesy runners at all times.
4. To use a courtesy runner, player must bat and make it on base, before substitution occurs. Substitution must be made on a dead ball.

IV. FIELDING

A. Co-Rec Leagues:

1. Teams can play with an even or odd number of men and women in the field (no more than 10 players on defense).
 - a. 5 men and 5 women for 10 players
 - b. 5 men and 4 women **or** 4 men and 5 women for 9 players
 - c. 5 men and 3 women **or** 3 men and 5 women for 8 players
2. Infield, Outfield and Battery:
 - d. Teams do not need to alternate fielders; male and female can play any position on the field.
 - e. Teams must have at least one player of each gender in both the outfield and infield, at all times.
 - f. Battery (pitcher/catcher) Co-Rec Leagues: may be male/male, female/female or male/female.

V. FACILITY RULES

1. NO smoking, drinking, or chewing tobacco is allowed during Parks & Recreation programs. Team captains are asked to inform their team of these rules.
2. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by a non-playing adult.
3. Please help pick up trash, water bottles, clothes, etc. after your game.
4. Games must be played as scheduled. Games postponed due to unsafe conditions, storms, etc. will be rescheduled. Games will not be rescheduled for any other reason.

FORFEIT & LIGHTNING PROCEDURES

I. FORFEIT

- A. Games will be forfeited if 8 players are not ready to play within ten minutes of start time.
- B. Teams will forfeit if an ineligible (non-roster) player steps onto the field.
- C. Any team responsible for more than 2 forfeits may be removed from the league.
- D. A forfeit constitutes in 5 runs for winning team.
 - A forfeit with 24+ business hours notice = 2-0 loss, SR of 3
 - A forfeit with less than 24 hours notice = 4-0 loss, SR of 2
 - A forfeit with NO notice = 6-0 loss, SR of 1, subject to removal from the league

II. LIGHTNING PROCEDURES

- A. If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, anywhere in the sky and at anytime during a game, games will be cancelled. If an official cancels a game at a sport facility, **ALL GAMES PLAYED AT SAME TIME WILL BE CANCELLED AT THAT FACILITY.**
- C. Make-up games:
 1. If game is cancelled before the top of the fifth (5th) inning, game will be rescheduled (score & inning will resume from cancelled game).
 2. If game is cancelled after the top of the fifth (5th) inning, game is final.
 3. Forfeited games will stand, regardless of cancelation or rescheduling.
 4. Max number of games to be rescheduled is 2.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR & RULES OF ADULT SPORTS PROGRAMS

I. SPORTSMANSHIP AGREEMENT

- A. All players must sign waiver and sportsmanship agreement on IMLeagues before they can play.
- B. The site facilitator or umpire has the right to eject a player from a game.
 1. If a player is ejected from a game they may not play in the following week's game.
- C. Please be courteous to the site facilitator. **INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH LEAGUE SITE FACILITATOR WILL RESULT IN EJECTION FROM THE LEAGUE AND MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL CHARGES.**
- D. Report all unsportsmanlike conduct to the site facilitator. Unsportsmanlike players shall be suspended for the current game and the next game.
- E. Player misconduct may result in ejection from the league based on the league managers ruling. Team captains are responsible for the actions of their players, and failure to control your players' behavior may result in a captain's ejection from the league.

II. OFFICIALS

- A. All officials are employees of the City of Missoula and have the authority to make necessary decisions to make the league and games run as smoothly and safely as possible.
- B. All calls by the officials are final.

C. Please be courteous to the official(s). INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS WILL RESULT IN EJECTION FROM THE LEAGUE AND MAY LEAD TO CRIMINAL CHARGES.

I. RULES OF ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

A. NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED AT ANY MISSOULA PARKS & REC. PROGRAMS

1. No drinking of alcoholic beverages before, during or after at location of any parks and recreation adult sports leagues and/or any programs organized by the parks and recreation department.

2. Evidence of drinking before, during or after the games may result in an automatic forfeit and/or team or player suspension.

3. Repeated offenses may result in ejection from the league.

B. Games must be played as scheduled.

C. Games postponed due to inclement weather might be rescheduled, depending on number of innings already played.

D. The Adult Sports Coordinator will communicate weather cancellations by 4pm on the day-of games.

II. All rules not included in these guidelines will follow the ***ASA Rules of Softball.***

III. All teams must comply with posted rules for Fort Missoula Regional Park phase 2.