

Palatine Park District Adult Softball League Rules

14" and 16" ASA rules apply except where the Palatine Park District has adjusted.

- **Rosters/Substitutions**

- a. A team consists of no more than 20 players.
- b. A minimum of 8 players needed to be start a game.
- c. All rostered players must be 18 years or older.
- d. Final rosters are due before the start of the 2nd game.
- e. **Co-Rec 14"**
 - A team cannot field more men than women.
 - Unlimited substitutions are allowed.
 - No batter may bat in more than 1 batting position.
- **Men's 16"**
 - Starting players and subs may be withdrawn from the game and re-entered **ONCE**, provided players occupy the same batting position whenever in the lineup.
 - As many as two extra players (EP) may be used by any team.
 - The EP may be substituted at any time and may re-enter **ONCE**, provided the player occupies the same batting position whenever in the lineup.

- **Pitching**

- Minimum arc 6 feet.
- Maximum arc 12 feet (when pitching)
- **Co-Rec 14"**
 - No drag step or hesitation pitch allowed. A pitch must be thrown with one foot on the mound.
 - If a male is walked, he may opt to take his base or take a 1-1 count and bat again.
 - If walked a 2nd time, they will take second base and the female batting next will have the option to bat or take first.
- **Men's 16"**
 - Each batter will start with a 1-1 count.
 - No more than 2 hesitations. Must pitch ball on third.
 - If the pitcher does not pitch the ball, or makes a legitimate play on a base running, a ball will be called.
 - Drag step pitching is allowed.
 - Must deliver a slow pitch, or a fast pitch will be called.
 - If the ball hits the white portion of the plate, it is considered a ball.
 - It must clear the plate.
 - The wells will be called strikes.
 - The strike zone is front knee to rear shoulder.

- **Protest**

- The protest must be made before the next pitch is thrown.
- The umpire's decision is final.

- The umpire and site supervisor must be notified at the time of the protest to gather pertinent information (score, inning, time elapsed, etc.).
- In addition, the captain must submit any protest in writing, along with a \$25 fee, within 24 hours of the game in question to Athletics Manager Mark Dolphin via email.
- The written protest should include the following:
 - Date, Time, place of game
 - The rule in question
 - Any essential facts involving the rule in question.
- Judgement calls cannot be protested.
- If the protest is not allowed, the \$25 fee will not be returned.
- No protests allowed for the post season tournament.
- **Tiebreakers**
 - Winning Percentage
 - Head-to-Head
 - Total Runs Against
 - Total Runs For
- **Forfeits**
 - Game time is forfeit time, except the first scheduled game will have a ten-minute grace period.
 - If a team fails to have enough players (8) in their dugout by game time, the game will be awarded to the opposing team.
 - Once an umpire declares a game forfeited, the game cannot be played.
 - If a team forfeits 2 games, they will be declared ineligible for the playoffs.
 - If a team is aware they will not have enough players at least 2 hours prior to game time, the team captain should contact Athletics Manager Mark Dolphin by texting 847-496-6337 **AND** email mdolphin@palatineparks.org.
 - The Athletics Manager will attempt to notify the other team and umpire assignor.
- **Weather**
 - If the lightning detector goes off or you hear thunder, all games must come to an immediate stop for a minimum of 30 minutes. If no lightning is detected or thunder heard, you may resume after 30 minutes. If either is detected, the 30-minute waiting period starts over again.
 - Rainout Line will be used to update teams of any field closures.
 - Quickscores messaging will be used to communicate to team captains of any game cancelations.
- **Mercy Rule**
 - Game is complete if any of the following are true:
 - Up 20 or more runs after 4 innings
 - Up 15 runs after 5 innings
 - Up 10 runs after 6 innings

- **General Rules**

- No alcohol allowed in the park, in the dugout, or on the ball fields.
- No smoking allowed in the park, or on the ball field.
- No dogs allowed in the park, in the dugouts, or on the ball fields.
- Men's 16"
 - No gloves allowed.
 - The last to make an out will be the courtesy runner.
 - Leadoffs allowed, but **NO** Stealing.
- Co- Rec 14"
 - Women are allowed to use gloves.
 - The last to make an out, of the same gender, will be the courtesy runner.
 - No leadoff's allowed. Runner may leave base when pitch crosses home plate.
 - Batting order must alternate men and women.
 - If your team has more females than males, you can have multiple females next to each other in the batting order.
 - You may **NEVER** have two males next to each other in the batting order.
 - 10 defensive positions
 - 2 males and 2 females required on infield and outfield.
 - 1 male and 1 female as pitcher and catcher.
 - If your team only has 4 females, then you may use a male for both pitcher and catcher and the 4 females be split between the infield and outfield positions.
- A foul ball with 2 strikes will result in a strikeout.
- Players must attempt to avoid contact with a person covering the base with the ball.
- No new inning may start after 60 minutes from actual start of game.
- A Regulation game shall consist of 7 innings, weather permitting.
 - In case of rain, a game shall be considered complete after four and a half innings.
- Extra innings allowed if time permits.
- Co-Rec 14" will be using the International Rule for Extra Innings.
 - The last batter to make an out will be placed on 2nd base at the start of the inning.
 - Any eligible player may be substituted for this runner.
 - All batters will start with a 3-2 count.
- A tie game will only occur if all the following are true:
 - The 1-hour time limit has been reached.
 - Less than 7 innings have been played.
 - Teams are still tied after 1 additional inning has been played.
- Umpires should go over ground rules with team captains **BEFORE** the game starts. No questions are to be asked during the game.
- All players must wear shoes.
 - **NO** METAL OR REPLACEABLE CLEATS/SPIKES ALLOWED
- The batting team will keep the score. Score should be checked after each half inning with captains/umpire.

- Official softball bats must be used. Check ASA rule book for specifications.
- Game cards must be signed off by each team captain and umpire.
- **BLOOD RULE**
 - Any player who is bleeding must be removed from the game until the bleeding has stopped and all bloodied clothing has been changed. If a runner begins to bleed, a mandatory courtesy runner will be utilized until the bleeding can be stopped, the wound can be dressed, and any bloodied clothing is changed. The courtesy runner shall be the person making the last out. If a fielder begins to bleed, a courtesy fielder will be used until the bleeding has stopped, the wound has been dressed, and any bloodied clothing has been changed. The courtesy fielder can be any player that is not in the batting order at that time. As soon as the fielder is ready, he may enter the game.
- **Player Conduct**
 - Players must respect the umpire, park district staff, other players, and spectators.
 - A player's behavior is the responsibility of the player and team captain of that team.
 - Any player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct will be automatically suspended for a **MINIMUM** of **TWO** games.
 - Further unsportsmanlike conduct may result in forfeiture of games and/or suspensions.
- **Ejections/Rules Violations**
 - Players/Captains in violation of the following shall be ejected from the game in which they are participating, as well as a **MINIMUM** of **TWO** additional games (at the Athletics Manager discretion):
 - Use of excessive foul language
 - Physical contact with an umpire.
 - Possession and/or consumption of alcohol/drugs while on park district property.
 - Throwing bat or other equipment in anger
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - 2nd offense for use of metal or detachable cleats
 - 2nd offense for use of tobacco products
 - Possession of any weapon on Park District Property.
 - Active participation in any type of disorderly conduct (fighting, etc.) will result in expulsion from the league for a minimum of 1 year, beginning the day of the incident, for the player and possibly the team.
 - If for any reason, an umpire or park district staff is verbally harassed before, during, or after a game, that person will be suspended a **MINIMUM** of **ONE** game (more could be added at the discretion of the Athletics Manager).
 - If for any reason, an umpire or park district staff is physically or verbally threatened or assaulted by a player/captain before, during, or after a game, that person will be expelled from participating in any adult leagues indefinitely and the police will be notified.
 - Use of excessive foul language by spectators, or spectators in possession of alcohol on park district property, must be policed by their respective team members. Violations of this rule will result in forfeiture of the game.

**All rules subject to change at the discretion of the Athletics Manager
and/or Palatine Park District.**