



COED SOFTBALL LOCAL RULE BOOK

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CANCELLATION LINE
410-548-4900 EXT. 5



**LEAGUE STANDINGS AND SCHEDULE
POSTED AT**

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WICOMICO COUNTY RECREATION, PARKS AND TOURISM
SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21804

**WICOMICO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
SALISBURY, MD**

**WICOMICO COUNTY
CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

League Rules

***CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE DUGOUTS, ON THE FIELDS OR STANDING IN ANY OF THE DOORWAYS FOR THE FIELD DURING GAMES. UMPIRES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCING THIS RULE.**

LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS-TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- a. All teams will be permitted to sign as many players as they deem necessary. It is recommended that teams carry enough players to make up a rained-out game and avoid forfeits.
- b. All team fees and a copy of the team roster must be submitted to the Recreation Department by **March 24, 2023**. A minimum of 10 player contracts and fees must be submitted by the registration deadline.
 1. Any player not listed on the original roster at the time of team registration and/or signed after **March 24, 2023** will be not be allowed to play in his team's first two played games of the season.
 2. After the 2nd game played, teams may sign players without penalty up until the designated roster freeze date listed on the schedule.
 3. The two game wait period applies to all players in all divisions.
- c. Players are bound to the team they sign with first.
 1. If a player signs with more than one team, he is ineligible to play for either team until he is properly released from one or the other team.
 2. Anyone signing two contracts will have a three game suspension after being released.
- d. **PLAYER REGISTRATION BEFORE THE SEASON BEGINS**
 1. His/Her contract is properly signed and a **\$35.00** fee is paid.
 2. He/She is properly released from another team or league to play in this league and his/her contract and release are turned into the Recreation Department by 6 p.m. the day of the game (through the Box Office or by registering online prior to 6 pm). All contracts turned in after 6 p.m. will be acknowledged the following day.
 3. Any player suspended from any other league after Feb. 10, 1987, will not be eligible to play in this league until he is reinstated in the league from which he was suspended.

- e. **TEAM ENTRY REGISTRATION BEFORE THE SEASON BEGINS**
- a. **Adjustments will be allowed to a Team Entry team before the season begins, i.e. Removing players to add new players.**
 - b. **Team Entry players may be released once the season has begun.**
2. Teams paying using the TEAM ENTRY option, are given 20 roster spots at no additional cost.

- f. **Player and Team Entry Contracts after the season begins:**
1. All teams are allowed a maximum of 20 rostered players,
 2. All players registering after the season begins **MUST** registered through the box office.
 3. No registrations will be taken on site at the fields.
 - a. This is to ensure that all players will be added correctly to their team's roster on line and that they also have a receipt of when they registered for the league.

g. **Player Transfer:**

Players wanting to transfer to another team, must have the current team's manager approval with a signed release form turned in before the transfer will be considered.

- In order to properly release a player from a team in this league the coach/manager must complete the player release form located in the back of this rule book or located in the download section on QuickScores www.quickscores.com/wicomico
- Once completed an e-mail with the completed form must be sent to the Athletic Complex Manager and the Program Coordinator.
 - Brian Workman: bworkman@wicomico.org
 - Ed Russ: eruss@wicomico.org

i. **Player Options for a New Team:**

1. Transfer Up 1 division. Example Division 2 to Division 1.
2. Transfer to another team within the current division they are playing in
3. Transfer Down 1 division. Example Division 1 to Division 2
 - a. **Once a player has transferred to another team, that player is NOT allowed to complete any further transfers for the remainder of the season.**

GAME TIME---Games will be played on Wednesday evenings.

- Game times will be 6:30, 7:35, 8:40.
- Alternate Friday, Saturday or Sunday dates may be used at the discretion of the league in order to complete the season on time.
- There will be a 5-minute grace period allowed only on the first game scheduled at a field.
- If 8 players are present and a minimum of 4 or more are female players that game must begin.

RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- All teams will be allowed to make preseason requests
 - Limited to a maximum of three (3).
- The league will make every effort to honor those requests. **However, the league is not obligated to do so.**
- Once the official schedule is published, games will only be rescheduled due to weather-related cancellations. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Scheduling requests must be submitted in writing or by email to bworkman@wicomocounty.org the Athletic Complex Manager by 6 pm on the registration deadline date. Requests received after this date will not be honored.

TIME LIMITS

- There will be a 1 hour 15minute time limit on games.
- No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes has expired from the actual starting time of the game.
- **If a game is tied and time is still remaining the game shall go to extra innings using the following format:**
 - **International Rule-Put the completed At-Bat on Second Base and play is now regular play each batter. 1-1 No Waste.**
- **Once time has expired if the game is still tied, it shall be scored as a tie.**
 - **Exception: Playoffs, all games must have a winner, NO TIES**

RAIN-OUTS

- If four (4) innings have been completed (3 1/2 if visiting team is losing) when the game is called, the game shall be considered complete and official.
- If this is a **Regular Season** Game and four (4) innings have not been completed when the game is called, the game will be re-scheduled from the beginning and the previous results are erased.
- If this is a **Playoff Game** and the game has been called due to rain or darkness, the game will be put into suspension mode and will be picked up from the exact point in which it was stopped and the remaining innings to complete the game shall be finished, regardless of what inning it was in.
- All Playoff Games must be a complete 7-inning game time limits are lifted in the Playoffs.
 - Exception: All Mercy Rules are still in effect.
 - The game goes extra innings
 - Extra-Inning Games **do not** adhere to the International Rule-Play as normal
- Games will be made up as soon as possible.
- If a Friday night cannot be used, then games may be made up on Sunday afternoon and evening.

POSTPONED GAMES/MAKE-UPS

- All postponed games will be made up on the earliest possible date available
- The program coordinator will contact the teams with the make-up date, time and field location.
- There is the possibility of having to play 3 games in one night.
- Optional Weekend dates may be used at the discretion of the league.

FITNESS OF GROUNDS

- a. There shall be a 15-minute waiting period (:30-minute maximum) in any case where a game is interrupted by weather conditions. If at any time during the waiting period the umpire should judge the grounds to be fit for play, he shall call the teams to the field and resume the game from the point of suspension.

After 3:00 P.M., field playability will be determined by the umpire assigned to the field.

- b. **Lightning rule:** At the first signs of lightning or thunder, leave the ball field. Go to your vehicle and take shelter with the windows rolled up. "If you can hear it, clear it."

Stay out of the dugouts and bleachers. These are not safe from lightning. Avoid going underneath trees - trees attract lightning. Avoid metal fences, gates, tall light poles and power poles.

Wait 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder before you leave shelter. Game officials will signal a resumption of activities when it is appropriate.

Adapted from the National Lightning Safety Institute,
http://www.lightningsafety.com/nlsi_pls/lsvl_plans.html

- c. For games that are scheduled for ball fields outside the City limits, the local team that uses this ball field as their home park will determine the fitness of the grounds. If the field is not playable, it is up to the local coach or manager to notify the other teams scheduled for this particular field, before 4 p.m. on the day of the game. Condition of fields within the City will be determined by the Recreation Department. Games can be canceled only due to uncontrollable conditions such as weather, etc.

NOTE: During inclement weather, call **410-548-4900 ext. 5**.

FORFEITS

- a. **If a team forfeits more than FIVE (5) of their Regular Season games, the result will be disqualification from all awards and playoffs.**
- b. In the event both teams of a scheduled game fail to appear for the game, each team will be credited with a forfeit.
- c. Teams forfeiting a game before the 3:00pm deadline will NOT be assessed the forfeit fee.
- d. Teams forfeiting a game after 3:00pm will be assessed an umpire fee coast penalty for the forfeit.
 - i. **(This does not included games that begin and then forfeit due to rules violations)**
- e. The forfeit fee will be \$45.00 per each game forfeited that night (cost of an umpired game)
 - i. This will be invoiced to the coach of the team via e-mail and the amount of the invoice must be paid at the Wicomico Civic Center. The offending team will have five (5) business days to pay the forfeit invoice.
 - ii. This can be paid by Cash, or Credit Card only. No Checks will be accepted.
- f. If the forfeiting team does not pay the invoice before the five business day deadline, then the teams next game will also be forfeited.

EJECTIONS- There are NO WARNINGS

Adult Softball Ejection Rule – Effective September 7, 2022

Rule #1:

A player ejected from a game for verbally or non-verbally insulting an umpire will serve a six game suspension and will be placed on probation for a full calendar year from the time of the incident.

Verbally- Calling an umpire a derogatory name or threaten bodily harm.

Non-Verbally- Using a derogatory gesture towards an umpire

Rule #2:

Any player or players ejected from a game for any physical confrontation/fighting on the field or within the confines of the Henry S Parker Athletic Complex, will be removed from the league immediately and serve a minimum one-year suspension plus probation for a full calendar year from the time of the incident.

Rule #3:

A player ejected from a game for saying the F word not directed at any person will serve a current game plus one game suspension. Example: Yelling it out in anger after making an out.

Rule #4:

A player ejected from an adult softball game for any other rule violation that does not pertain to rules 1,2, or 3 will serve an automatic current game plus a two game suspension.

Examples are- Throwing a Bat, Arguing Ball and Strikes, Use of derogatory language directed toward and individual or team, etc.

Rule # 5 (Repeat Offenders)

Any player ejected a second time for violating Rule #4, during the season shall be removed from the league for the remainder of the season and placed on probation for full calendar year from the time of the incident.

Rule #6

Any ejected player that is caught returning to any part of the Henry S Parker Athletic Complex other than the parking lot will be removed from the league immediately and will serve a two-year suspension from all Adult Softball programs.

Probation time is defined as a calendar year, and it shall begin from the day of the initial ejection.

Example: A Player placed on a one-year probation April 1, 2023, would remain on probation until April 1, 2024.

If a player on probation is ejected from any game before the end of their probation, said player will be removed from the league immediately for the remainder of the season and will serve a full calendar year suspension from Adult Softball program. This suspension will begin with the time of the incident

This offending person will also be subject to removal from all Wicomico County Recreation Programs and USSSA events

- a. If a team finds that an ejected player is playing in a game illegally, that game should be protested immediately after the line-ups have been handed in or before the game is complete. **(See Protest Section above)** If an ejected player is found to be playing in a game and is caught doing so, that player shall now serve an additional 3 game suspension, for violating the Player ejection rule policy.
- b. If the game is protested and upheld, the game will be considered a forfeit.

UMPIRES

- a. The umpires shall be appointed by the assignor for all games.
- b. If the umpire does not show for a scheduled game, within :30 minutes of the scheduled game time this game will be postponed and rescheduled for a later date.
 - i. Reason: Due to USSSA Liability insurance reason all umpires and rules set forth by the Delmarva Umpires Association all umpires must be sanctioned by USSSA.

- c. The umpire has sole authority in conducting a game. If there are any questions regarding any decisions, ONLY the coach, captain, or manager may question the umpire concerning a call made during the game. ANY PLAYER APPROACHING AN UMPIRE IN REGARD TO AN UMPIRE'S DECISION WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISMISSAL FROM THE GAME BY THE UMPIRE.
- d. Umpires must give the assignor 24-hour notice if they cannot make their scheduled game, unless an emergency arises. If the umpire does not show for his scheduled game without giving notice to the umpire-in-chief, he will not be paid for the game missed and will not receive payment for one game already worked.
- e. Umpires MUST have a copy of the league rulebook at every game. Umpires are required to collect line-up cards prior to each game.
 - i. Line-up cards must include FIRST AND LAST NAMES (NO EXCEPTIONS).

PROTESTS AND APPEALS:

- 1. **Rules Violation Protest:** A protested game will only be considered if the umpire is notified immediately before the next pitch has been thrown after the play in question.
- 2. The umpire will announce that the game is being played under protest and play shall continue. If the team protesting wins the game, then the protest will be voided and the result will stand. If the team protesting loses then then steps below to file a formal protest must be followed. If the umpire is not notified there will be no protest.

Protesting an Illegal Player

- 3. In the case of protesting an illegal player or an ejected player, it MUST BE brought to the attention of the umpire at any time after the line-ups have been submitted and before the last out of the game has been recorded.
 - a. The manager must make the announcement that his team is playing the game under protest of an illegal/ejected player.
 - b. The game will be stopped and the site supervisor will be brought to the field
 - c. the protesting team must supply the site supervisor with the \$50.00 protest fee, refundable if protest is upheld, once the fee is in hand the site supervisor will check the team's roster on line for an illegal rostered player.
 - d. If the player is not listed on the site, he shall be declared illegal unless the player can produce a receipt from the box office that he has registered showing that he is a legal ball player if this cannot be produce then the game shall be forfeited. NO EXCEPTIONS
 - e. If found to be an illegal ball player; the game shall be awarded as a forfeit.
 - f. If the player can produce the receipt the game shall continue and the team will be given back their \$50.00 fee.

Illegal Players

What happens if a team is caught using an illegal player during season?

A. Regular Season

- a. Illegal Player who has not registered at all is not allowed to sign with any team for the remainder of the current season
- b. The coach/manager of the team using the illegal player must serve a two (2) game suspension.

B. Playoff Season

- a. Teams using an illegal player will forfeit current game and is eliminated from remaining playoffs games for the season.

Protesting an Ejected Player

- g. For an ejected player: if the ejection is not listed on line than the Site Supervisor will get in contact with Ed Russ to get verification.
 - h. If this cannot be settled at this point the game shall continue and if the protesting team wins the game the protest will be voided and the result will stand. If the protesting team loses the game, the Recreation Department will look into the matter at hand and a decision will be made regarding the protest on the findings and all teams involved will be notified.
 - i. If an ejected player was found to be playing illegally that player will now serve an additional 3 game suspension for violating the league's ejection policy.
 - j. All decisions are final
4. **NO PROTESTS** on illegal or ejected players will be accepted after a ball game has been completed.

A. A protest must contain the following for a rules interpretation protest:

1. A \$50.00 protest fee. This fee must be cash and is refundable only if the protest is upheld.
2. A detailed written account of the situation being protested. Please use the protest form in the back of this rulebook.
3. Rule interpretations must be stated on the report. Please include the page number, section, article and rulebook (Wicomico County Men's Slow Pitch or Official USSSA) in which it is located.

- B. The protesting manager must notify the Athletic Complex Manager within 24 hours of completion of the game in question. Call (410) 548-4900 ext. 105 or e-mail bworkman@wicomicocounty.org to report a protest.

The protesting manager must also submit the Protest form located in the back of this rulebook to the ACM or Program Coordinator. The Complex Manager will

notify League Board Representatives within 24 hours of being notified.
(Weekends excluded)

- C. The umpire must notify the league umpire assignor within 24 hours of the completion of the game in question.
- D. A protest committee will then be formed, comprised of league officials. Excluding parties directly involved with the division protesting.
- E. The committee will hear and review the case, and make their decision in a timely manner.
- F. Decisions made by the protest committee are final. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- G. All parties involved must attend the protest hearing, including coaches and umpire(s).
- H. If the protesting coach does not attend the meeting, then the protest will be thrown out and the result of the game in question will stand. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- I. **All protests will be heard within a maximum of five business days after the protest has been filed. Both coaches will be notified of the date of the protest hearing either by phone, mail or e-mail (if applicable).**
- J. Once the protest date is set it CANNOT be changed.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. **COUNTY POLICY:** Any player physically or verbally assaulting an employee, volunteer, spectator or participant will be subject to disciplinary action, which will be decided in accordance with the severity of the offense. Physical assault is defined as offensively touching, shoving or striking another person without that person's consent. Verbal assault is defined as threatening bodily harm or directing excessive profanity toward another without that person's consent. The minimum penalty for the offense shall result in a 3-game suspension with a maximum penalty of indefinite suspension from the County public recreation program.
- B. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted at any of the playing fields. All offenses involving players and spectators, including and not limited to, the consumption of alcoholic beverages, loitering, creating a public nuisance and reckless driving, will be enforced as per the Penal Code of Maryland. Players are subject to ejection if they possess or consume alcohol at any of the playing fields and will be subject to further disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the league.
- C. **EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1993, SMOKING ON COMPLEX PROPERTY WILL BE PROHIBITED.**

LOCAL PLAYING RULES

- A. The League shall adhere to the present year's official USSSA Slow Pitch Softball Rules. Below are local adaptations which shall take precedence over the Official USSSA Slow Pitch Rules.

Roster Adding Deadline

A. No additional roster moves are allowed after

B. Tuesday April 27, 2023

A. Face Mask Rule:

- a. Catcher's Face Mask
 - i. Catcher's Face Mask are optional to be worn by Female or Male behind home plate.
 - ii. Catchers not wearing a face mask will not be allowed to kneel down behind home plate
 - iii. Catchers must stand an equal or further distance than the umpire
- b. Pitcher's Face Mask
 - i. Pitcher's Face Masks are required.

B. Game Balls for Game Play

- a. At the beginning of each game, the home team will supply two new game balls
 - i. (one women's ball & one men's ball) to the umpire that will be used by both teams during game play.
- b. The visiting team will supply two slightly used balls to the umpires (must be approved by umpires).
- c. Each team should also have at least one good ball on reserve in the event that another ball is needed.
- d. A base coach will be responsible for switching out the men's and women's ball between batters.
 - i. If the wrong ball is hit, the play will be replayed using the correct ball with no penalty.**
- e. If a foul ball occurs, the base coach should have a ball ready to replace an out of play ball.
- f. Teams are responsible for retrieving their own balls.

Official game balls are to be determined; by Recreation Department prior to the season

A. The following softball have been approved for the season:

- i. Women's: AD Starr Tattoo .44 cor, 11", 400 compression**
 - ii. Men's: Dudley Thunder Heat ZN .40 cor, 12", 325 compression**
 - iii. Men's: Worth Gold Dot Xtreme .40 cor, 12", 325 compression**
 - iv. Men's: AD Starr Tattoo .40 cor, 12" 325 compression**
- a. Additional balls will be available for purchase at the Henry S Parker Athletic Complex.
 - b. Bats and other equipment (catcher's mask, etc.) are to be provided by the teams (USSSA banned bat list will be used). www.ussa.com
 - c. Fast pitch bats are permitted for use in the coed softball league.

C. Shoes Permitted:

- a. Rubber cleats or tennis shoes must be worn
- b. Metal cleats are not permitted, at any time in this league regardless of the field being played on.
- c. Players will be asked to change shoes refusal to do so, could result in removal from the game.

D. Jewelry Rule:

- a. For safety and injury prevention, exposed jewelry shall not be worn during the game.
- b. Players will be asked to remove the jewelry refusal to do so, could result in removal from the game.

E. Line-Ups

- i. All line-ups MUST be presented to the umpire before a game starts.
- ii. Line-Up cards must have **FIRST AND LAST NAMES** before the game begins.
- iii. Site Supervisors will have line-up cards available if one is needed.
- iv. A game cannot start until the umpire has both line-ups.
- v. The umpire has the right to call a delay the game until both line-ups are turned in correctly.
- vi. If the game is delayed after the home plate meeting due to a line-up infraction the game time clock will still begin once the meeting has been concluded.

F. All uniforms should be numbered and be of like color whenever possible.

- a. The League shall adhere to the present year's Official USSSA Slow Pitch Softball Rules. (There may be some local adaptations that shall take precedence over the Official USSSA Slow Pitch Rules).
- b. Teams may have a maximum of two players on deck. All other players must be off the playing field and behind the fence.

MALE----Homerun Rule

All Games will be - One homerun per inning. For Male Batters

FEMALE----Homerun Rule

Unlimited for all Female Players

****Any ball tipped over the fence will count towards the Home Run total.**

*****After the Home Run limit has been reached any tipped ball shall be a four base error.**

B. The Batter Count:

- a. The league will be playing with a 1-1 count with NO WASTE.

C. Mercy Rule - the league will abide the following Mercy Rule

- **20 after 3 innings**
- **15 after 4 innings**
- **10 after 5 innings**

E. Extra innings:

- a. Regular Season - International rule and Regular play.
 - i. International Rule place the last complete at-bat from the previous inning at second base.
- b. Playoffs - all Extra-Inning games will be played as normal. No International Rule

F. Five men and five women play in the field at one time. However, if only nine players of a team are present, they may play with nine as long as there are no more than five males in the game.

1. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to start a game, including a minimum of 4 female players. If eight players are not present to start the game, the game is declared a forfeit.
2. A team may play with as few as seven players only in the event of injury during a game.
 - a. **For example:** Team A starts a game with 9 players; 5 males and 4 females. If one of the female players becomes injured, a male player must also be removed from the lineup since you can only have one more male than female. In this scenario, the team could continue the game with 4 males and 3 females.
 - b. In all cases, you may only have one more male than female, but you can have more females than males.
 - c. In the event that a male player must be removed because of an injury to a female player the following actions will take place:
 - i. The injured Female player's line-up position shall be recorded as an out.
 - ii. The Removed Male player's line-up positions shall be passed over and play shall continue with no penalty as he must be removed from the game both on offense and defense, to abide by the one over male to female rule.
3. If a game begins and any player is removed because of an injury or leaves the game for personal reasons or is ejected and a substitute cannot take his/her place in the lineup that spot in the order will be counted as an out each time it comes up.
 - a. If this is a female player and a male player must be removed; please refer to the above rule letter c sub section ii.
4. If there are not enough male players to field a 10-person team. A team may play with as many female players in the field as needed to complete a team. Provided there is at least one male in the line-up.

- a. Example 6 Females and 3 males is a legal line up / as is 9 Females and 1 male.
- b. There must be at least 1 male player on the field at all times if the rest of the team is female players.
 - i. **Exception:** if a team begins a game with 7 female players and 1 male player and the male player is injured and is removed from the game the game may continue with the 7 female players. An out will be recorded in the male batting line-up position.

F. Extra Offensive Players

- a. Teams may bat all players present at one time with the rules listed below. Provided all players are listed on the Line-Up card given to the umpire.
 - i. Teams may bat additional male and female players while still complying with the rule that there may only be one more male than female players in the line-up.

Example:

Legal Line- Up Options for Additional Batters

6 Males and 5 Females

6 Males and 6 Females

8 Males and 7 Females

Illegal Line-Ups for Additional Batters

7 Males and 4 Females

7 Males and 5 Females

8 Males and 6 Females

G. **Batting Order**

Sexes shall alternate in batting order.

* Players of the same gender can bat back-to-back when the lineup turns over from the bottom to the top.

For example, a team bats 9 or 11, players beginning with a male and ending with a male. The team has only one more male than female and has alternated their order so this is permitted.

* The only exception to the above rule is when a player arrives late.

For example: Team A starts with 8 players (4 male, 4 female) and the lineup begins with a female and ends with a male. In the second inning, an additional male player shows up and is placed at the bottom of the lineup, giving the team 2 male players at the end. This is permitted because the team had less than 9 players to begin the game, they have only one more male than female, and the lineup alternated when the game began.

If all nine players were present to start the game, this lineup would not be allowed.

* If you begin a game with 9 or 10 players and other players arrive late, they can be placed at the bottom of the batting line-up so long as they maintain an alternated (male/female) line-up (extra offensive players included up to 12 players) and they maintain a lineup with only 1 more male than female.

*** Under no circumstances can a team bat 3 male players in a row.**

Men and women may bat regular-handed.

- H. Any male batter who draws a walk is entitled to receive two bases.**
- a. If the next batter is a female, she has the option of hitting or taking one base.
 - b. If the next batter is a male, the male batter must hit and the male batter who received the walk is only entitled to **ONE BASE**.

I Courtesy Runners

- i. Each team is allowed 2 courtesy runners per gender each inning regardless of the players age.
- ii. This courtesy runner may **NOT** be the same runner in the same inning.
- iii. The courtesy runner may be any player that is listed on the line-up card given to the umpire at the beginning of the game.
 1. This includes substitute players not in the current line-up.
- iv. A courtesy runner that is still on base when his turn comes up to bat in the line-up will be declared an out and play will continue with the next batter.
- v. A courtesy runner may NOT be replaced with another courtesy runner.
- vi. The original person they are running for may replace their courtesy runner any time before the next pitch is thrown.
- vii. Courtesy Runners also include runners who are injured during the game.
- viii. If a team has batted around and both courtesy runners have been used then:
 1. the batters that were given the courtesy runners the first time through the line, may also receive a courtesy runner for the rest of the inning as long as they continue batting for the entire inning.
 2. This courtesy does not need to be the same courtesy runner as the first time used.
 3. All other batters must run the bases.

J. The Pitcher and Fielders

- a. Teams have the option of letting a woman pitch and a man catch, or a man pitch and a woman catch.
 - b. There shall be a limit of 4 infielders on the infield dirt when the ball is hit and there must be an equal number of males and females in the infield and outfield. 2-male infielders and 2-female infielders. They do not have to be alternated in placement.
 - c. In the case when there are only 4 female players present, the following fielding set up shall be followed.
 - i. Female – Pitcher or Catcher. This will leave 3 remaining female players to play the field. It can be any combination of the following
 1. 2 Female Outfielders & 1 Female Infielder
 2. 1 Female Outfielder & 2 Female Infielders
1. **AT NO TIME** during the progress of the game shall the Pitcher be allowed to use tape or any other substance (including a glove) upon the pitching hand or fingers. It is illegal to apply any foreign substance to the ball or hands, unless the pitcher is given the Umpire's permission to use a bag containing powdered resin to dry the hands.

2. **Sec. 5. TYPE OF PITCH PERMITTED.**
 - i. The ball must be pitched underhanded at slow speed.
 - ii. The pitcher may utilize the floating rubber option of 6 feet behind the pitcher's plate
 - iii. The pitched ball
 - a. must arc at least 5 feet from the ground
 - b. No higher than 10 feet above the ground.

Pitcher Area Rule (Revised as of July 1,2018)

This rule is put into effect to protect the pitcher from injury and to promote good sportsmanship during the game. The following rules are in place for a ball being hit into the pitcher's box:

1. **A ball hit into the pitcher's area is defined as the following:**
 - i. Any ball that is hit with excessive force within the 24" W x 84" H box which extends from the 3 feet in front of the Pitcher's Plate to the front of second base.
2. **All Umpires rulings are final and not allowed to be protested.**
3. **Mandatory Helmet Rule**
 - a. All pitchers must wear a helmet, not just a facemask, when pitching in the WCMSPL. Pitchers/Teams that do not have a mask of their own may ask the site supervisor at the complex to borrow one for the game and then return it after the game.
4. **Pitcher's parameters-what is protected and what is not**
 - a. Any pitcher standing outside of the Pitching Box Area (left or right side) is not protected by this rule
 - b. Any pitcher that tips a ball that is NOT within the Pitching Box Area is not protected by this rule.
 - c. Any pitcher that jumps past the 84" H limit in the judgement of the umpire is not protected by this rule.
5. **Striking a Pitcher with a ball hit in the Air or on the Ground**
 - a. Any ball hit with excessive force (Scud/Missile) in the air or on the ground (Ankle Biter) that strikes the pitcher within the parameters listed above will result in the following.
 - i. Dead Ball Out plus an Offensive Ejection.
 - ii. All base runners must return to their original base.
6. **Tipped Balls by the Pitcher within the pitcher's area**
 - a. A ball that is hit with excessive force as deemed by the umpire and that ball tipped by the pitcher in a defensive reaction to protect himself, from being hit by the ball; the umpire shall declare it a dead ball out and an Offensive Ejection will be enforced.
 - b. A ball that is hit **WITHOUT** excessive force as deemed by the umpire and that ball is tipped by the pitcher and hits the pitcher, the umpire shall make no call and play shall continue as normal.
7. **Hitting a Ball Through the Box that does NOT Strike the Pitcher**
 - 1a. Any ball that is hit through the box with excessive force that does not strike the Pitcher in any way shall be considered a live ball and play will continue as normal
8. **Pitcher Catching a ball hit with excessive force**
 - a. Any ball that is caught by the Pitcher either in the air or on the ground will be considered live and play will continue.

9. Offensive Ejections

- a. An offensive ejection results in an OUT each time that batting position comes up in the line-up regardless of who is batting in that position.
- b. This player is still allowed to play in the field for the remainder of the game.
- c. Teams are allowed to walk a batter to get to the OUT(s) in the line-up.

PLAY-OFFS

To Be Determined by the Program Director depending on the number of teams in the league.

The League reserves the right to change the playoff format at any time for any reason deemed necessary.

Suspension of play due to weather or darkness for Playoff Games

- **Playoff Game**—Any game that has been called due to rain or darkness, that game will be put into suspension mode and will be picked up from the exact point in which it was stopped and the remaining innings to complete the game shall be finished, regardless of what inning it was in.
- All Time Limits in all Playoff Games are lifted.
- All Playoff Games must be a complete 7-inning game with the following exception below:
 - Exception:
 - All Mercy Rules are still in effect.
 - The game goes extra innings.
 - Extra Innings Games do not adhere to the International Rule-Play as normal

Determining Home and Away Teams in the Double Elimination Playoff Brackets (without multiple forfeit rule coming into effect)

- i. **First Round and Winners Bracket Games:** The team with the Best Seed will always be the Home Team in these games.
- ii. **Losers Bracket Games:** Any games in the Losers Bracket the Home Team will be determined by a coin flip.
- iii. **Championship Games:** The Undefeated Team will be the Home Team for the first game. The “if” game the Home Team will be determined by a coin flip.

Tiebreakers

- 1) Head to Head (Group)
- 2) Head to Head Run Differential (using only games played against each other)
- 3) Total Run Differential
- 4) Total Runs For
- 5) Total Runs Against
- 6) Average Run Differential
- 7) Least Amount of Forfeits
- 8) Coin Toss

PARKING ON THE ENTRANCE ROAD TO THE PARKER COMPLEX AND IN THE PARKING LOT ACROSS NAYLOR MILL ROAD IS PROHIBITED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

Wicomico County COED Slow Pitch Protest Form

*** This protest form must be given to the Program Coordinator within 24 hours of notifying the league of the protest.

*** All protests will be determined within five days after the game has been protested.

This form must include all of the following information below to be considered valid.

A \$50.00 protest fee in the form of either a money order or cash and must either accompany this form to be considered a valid protest.

No checks or credit cards are accepted.

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM COMPLETELY

This protest form is for Rules Interpretations ONLY!

Coach Name			
Team Name			
Contact Number			
E-Mail			
Date of Game			
Location of Game			
Umpire of Game			
Rule Interpretation	Circle One: Men's Slow Pitch Rule Book	USSSA Rulebook	
Please Indicate	Page Number:	Section:	Article:
Brief Description of situation being protested			
Protest Committee Only	Result of Protest Circle One: Rejected	Upheld	

Signature of Coach: _____

Acceptance of Protest:

Signature of Program Coordinator: _____

Wicomico County COED Slow Pitch Player Release Form

League Entry & Team Entry Teams

This form must be completed and signed by the manager of the team who is releasing a player.

Once this form is in the hand the Program Coordinator or Athletic Complex Manager the released player will be notified that the release has been approved and then that player may sign that is one of the following:

1. Transfer Up 1 division. Example Division 2 to Division 1.
2. Transfer to another team within the current division they are playing in
3. Transfer Down 1 division. Example Division 1 to Division 2
 - b. **Once a player has transferred to another team, that player is NOT allowed to complete any further transfers for the remainder of the season.**

A released player cannot resign with another team in the Wicomico County Slow Pitch League until 24 hours after the release form has been received by the Program Director or the Program Coordinator.

Wicomico County COED Slow Pitch Player Release Form

I _____ manager of _____ is granting the release of
(name of manager) (name of team)

_____ effective _____.
(name of player being released) (date of player's release)

I understand that the player released may sign with any team that falls within the parameters as shown above.

(Manager's Signature)

Office Use Only

(Date Received) (Initial)

(Signature of Program Director or Program Coordinator)

(Date Allowed to Resign with a team)