

TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
ADULT SOFTBALL RULES & INFORMATION  
COED LEAGUE & OPEN LEAGUE – 2026 (Rev. 3/4/2026)

Welcome to the Town of Yucca Valley's Adult Softball League. This league is governed by the current Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) slow pitch softball rules, with minor local (by-laws) modifications. The following highlights and reminders are presented for quick reference.

### **ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY**

A. Players must be eighteen (18) years or older, with a maximum of two sixteen (16) years of age or older. Players 16 and 17 years old MUST have their parents register them online and sign the online waiver. No more than two players under the age of 18 are allowed per team. However, no players under the age of 18 are permitted to compete in the Coed Open Division on Wednesdays.

B. Each team roster is allowed a maximum of 16 players, including player/manager. Team rosters and waivers are online, managers have been sent the link by email from Town staff. Violation shall result in forfeiture of all games played without a properly submitted roster.

C. Teams have until the beginning of the third game to modify their roster freely with the scorekeeper (add/drop players). After completion of the third game no further changes will be permitted. All players must register online. Players must play a minimum of 4 regular season games in order to be eligible to play in the playoffs and championship games. Violation shall result in forfeiture of all games played with an ineligible player.

D. Wednesday Night Open Division Exception: For Wednesday night games only, there are no male/female ratio restrictions. Teams may play with any combination of male and female players.

### **GAME RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

A. All games shall begin at the scheduled game time 6:30, 7:45 and 9:00pm. A five-minute grace period is applicable only for the first game of the evening. The grace period shall be considered part of the official game time. Team line-ups must be given to the scorekeeper at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. The umpire shall determine the official start time. Game time may be temporarily suspended during an injury time out, at the discretion of the umpire.

B. All regular season and playoff games will be seven innings but will not start an innings after 50 minutes of game time, whichever occurs first. Any inning started will be completed. If the game remains tied after seven innings or after the time limit has expired, the game will be declared a tie. Only the championship playoff game goes 7 innings and it has NO Time Limit. Mercy rules do apply.

C. A complete game is defined as at least four innings (or 3 and one-half innings if the home team is ahead at the time limit). Games that are in progress and suspended before completion due to inclement weather, a facility issue, or unforeseen circumstance will be rescheduled at the end of the season only if they have a bearing on first, second, third, and fourth place.

D. A defensive team shall consist of no more than ten players, 5 men and 5 women, or 6 men and 4 women in the game at any time. However, a game may be played with 8 rostered players (no less than 4 of either gender). At least three fielders must be behind the 180-foot outfield arc until the batter hits the ball. Unless a female batter comes up to bat then only the female outfielder may enter the arc.

- **Wednesday Night Open Division:** Defensive teams may have any combination of 8–10 players without gender restrictions.

E. Infield practice is not allowed prior to game time. Two (2) warm-up pitches will be permitted before each half inning.

F. The Pitching Rule:

1. the ball must arc higher than the batter's head.
2. The ball must not exceed a height of 12 feet above the ground. This is a judgment call made by the umpire.

G. The batting order must alternate between male and female. All rostered players can be in the batting lineup. Late players may be added to the lineup between innings by the manager. A substitute may replace a player whose name appears on the team's batting order, but such relieved player shall not thereafter participate in the game except as a coach or manager. If a player is injured, ejected or leaves the batting lineup, and there is no substitute available on the roster, an out will be recorded next time that batter is due to bat. That player may not return to the game and will subsequently be skipped in the batting order for the remainder of the game with no further penalty.

- **Wednesday Night Open Division:** Batting order may follow any arrangement; alternating genders is not required.

H. Courtesy Runners: One (1) per gender courtesy runner is allowed per inning. When a batter becomes a designated runner and their turn at bat comes up, that runner will be declared an out for that inning.

I. Batter's will start with a 1 and 1 count. After having 2 strikes, the second foul ball hit will be declared an out by the umpire. On any foul tip caught by the catcher regardless of count, batter will be called out. If a male batter is pitched 3 straight balls, he shall be awarded 2nd base; does not apply to Wednesday Night Open Division.

J. The league has revised the "One Up" Home Run Rule to enhance safety and fairness. The new HR rule allows each team to hit only one home run per inning. Any additional home runs beyond the limit in a single inning will be considered outs. Balls touched by a fielder on the fly that go over the fence or bounce into fair territory and then over the fence will be ruled as four-base errors, not home runs.

K. Maximum Run Rule: A maximum of 5 runs are allowed per inning; after 50 minutes any new inning is declared unlimited runs. Mercy Rule: A game ends after 4 innings if a team is behind by 15 or more runs and has completed its turn at bat. The mercy rule applies to all league games.

L. Base Running: The league shall use the double safety base (orange) at first base. The batter runner must use the orange base on the foul side whenever a defensive play can be made at first. An appeal must be made before the next pitch by the defense if there is doubt as to which base was used. In the event contact is made by the batter/runner with the first baseman, the judgment of the umpire shall prevail. Sliding Rule: The base runner shall be called out when it is determined by the umpire that he/she did not slide or attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball and is attempting to make a throw.

M. Commitment Line: A commitment line is twenty (20) feet prior to home plate. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, he/she may not return in the direction of third base, the runner must continue toward the scoring line. Violation will result in the player being called out. Catcher is subsequent to the base only.

N. Coed Bats: All males participating in the coed league are required to use wooden bats. The handle may be composite, but the barrel must be made of wood. All bats must be on the ASA or USSSA approved bat list, excluding those on any disallowed list. New bats must be checked and cleared by Town staff or the umpire prior to the start of the game. Females in the league are welcome to use either wooden or metal bats.

O. Pitchers Box: A pitcher's safety box is used that extends 8 feet behind the rubber, 2 feet on each side of the rubber and 3 feet above the pitcher's head. Any ball that travels through the box will result in an automatic out and will be declared a dead ball. All runners go back to the base at which they started. If the ball hits the ground before the rubber the ball is live and in play. The pitcher shall take a starting position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one foot within the pitcher's box or on the pitcher's plate. Should the pitcher vacate the box completely before the ball is hit the pitcher's box shall become fair territory.

P. Outfielders: A minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind an outfield restriction line until the batter hits the ball. While a female is batting, the rover must be a female.

- **Wednesday Night Open Division:** Outfielders may be any combination of players.

Q. Foul Tip: A foul tip (regardless of the count) does not have a height limit. If the ball is foul tipped and caught it is an out.

R. Teams failing to appear with at least 8 players (4 females and 4 males) at game time will forfeit the game to the opposing team. Forfeit will appear as a score of "**5-0**" in the standings against the team that forfeited the game on QuickScores.com.

- **Wednesday Night Open Division:** Forfeit rule still applies; no ratio restrictions needed to avoid forfeits.

#### S. Borrowed Players (BP):

1. **Each team may utilize no more than two (2) Borrowed Players ("BP") per game, limited to one (1) male and one (1) female. Borrowed Players shall be assigned to catcher or right field positions only. A Borrowed Player must occupy the final available position in the batting order corresponding to their gender. A female BP shall be listed as the final female batter in the lineup, and a male BP shall be listed as the final male batter in the lineup. Teams may only field a maximum of ten (10) total players, which includes any borrowed players.**
2. Borrowed Players are strictly prohibited from participating in playoff or championship games. Only individuals officially registered on a Town of Yucca Valley League roster are eligible to serve as Borrowed Players. All eligibility and placement requirements must be met in full.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Players must wear proper footwear while playing. NO CLEATS containing steel or metal, open-toed shoes and/or sandals are not permitted.
- NO ALCOHOL OR RECREATIONAL DRUGS: Town of Yucca Valley Ordinance No. 11.80.040 prohibits the possession of any can, bottle, or other receptacle containing any alcoholic beverage that has been opened, with a seal broken, or the contents partially removed in public parks. Additionally, the use or possession of recreational drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Players and spectators are expected to abide by park rules and the official's decisions. If a player is ejected from a game, he/she must immediately leave the area including the field, dugout, bleachers, and all areas of the park facility; failure to do so may subject the team to forfeit the game.
- **Any player or spectator who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language, or disruptive behavior shall receive one (1) official warning. Upon issuance of a warning, the individual is expected to immediately correct the behavior.**
- **If the misconduct continues after the warning, the individual shall be ejected from the park premises for the remainder of the event and shall be suspended from participation in/or attendance at the next scheduled games.**
- **Any player who is ejected for a second time during the same season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.**
- **The Town of Yucca Valley Recreation Department reserves the right to impose additional disciplinary action as deemed appropriate based on the severity of the incident.**
- Music in Dugouts: Music is permitted but must be clean and family-friendly.
- Protests: will not be considered if they are based on disagreement with the umpire's judgment. The notice of intent to protest must be made by the manager immediately before the next pitch. He/she must notify the umpire, scorekeeper and the opposing manager that the game is being continued under protest. The protest then must be submitted in writing to the Recreation office in person or email no later than 5:00 p.m. the following work day and must include:
  1. The date, time and place of the game along with the essential facts relating to the protest.
  2. A \$20 cash protest fee will apply. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned to the protesting team. All protests will be considered within two business days after being submitted to the recreation office. All decisions are final. (Office) 760.369.7211. Email address is Jakob-Kusmieruk@yucca-valley.org