



CITY SOFTBALL RULES

1. **ENTRY FEE**

The entry fee is payable to the City of Yuma. Registration of team and entry fee must be completed before a team is entered as a participant in the City's recreation program.

2. **USA SOFTBALL TEAM SANCTIONING**

The City of Yuma Softball Leagues will **not** be utilizing USA Softball sanctioning. However, We will utilize USA Softball Rules with these local modifications. Bats deemed illegal or non-approved by USA Softball will also be illegal or non-approved for City of Yuma League and Tournament Play

3. **TEAM ROSTERS**

- A. Rosters may have additions or changes until the Roster freeze, which will be 2 weeks before the end of the regular season
- B. Legal Roster Names: must have first and last names on roster. Name on line-up must match name on roster (including nick names). Rosters shall be entered into Quickscores. For assistance in entering, please contact field supervisor or email Nathan.zack@yumaaz.gov
- C. Players may transfer to another team one (1) time only before the roster freeze.
- D. All players must be on roster entered for their team. Infraction of this rule will result in the game being a forfeit. City officials and supervisors have the option of checking team rosters for ineligible participants during season games, playoffs and tournaments. Players may be deemed ineligible until said game(s) end.
- E. If player is found to have been playing on more than one team; at time of play, player will stay on the team playing and not be allowed to return to the original team. Coaches will be held accountable for this offense.

4. **TIMES OF GAMES AND PRACTICES**

- A. Ten (10) minutes before game time, line-ups are due to umpire and opposing team.**
- B. Men's Softball Games will be 7 innings or a **55 minute** time limit. **Co-Rec games will be 7 innings or 55 minute time limit.**
- C. No new inning will begin after the clock runs out. If Home team is ahead, the game will end at the conclusion of the top half of the inning, or immediately if home team is ahead and batting. If visiting team is ahead, the inning will play until the home team has finished their turn at-bat or takes the lead, winning the game. In regular season games, **if game is tied at end of final inning, game will end in a tie**
 - 1. If game is tied after 7 innings, **and there is time on the clock**, 1 additional inning will be played to attempt to break the tie. If still tied after 8 innings, game will end in a tie, regardless of any time on the clock.
- D. For the first game, the clock will start as stated on schedules. **In the first game of the evening only**, teams have a ten (10) minute grace period which starts at 6:30 pm. At 6:40pm games will be called a forfeit if eight (8) players are not in the dug out and ready to play.

Teams have the option of batting all of the players on their roster present at the start of the game. Players who arrive after the game has started will enter the game as a substitute in the case of a team having 12 or more players batting in their starting line-up (Note in the Co-Rec Division Rule on page 4 - # 17-B still applies).

A player can be dropped from the line-up without penalty only in case of an **obvious** injury, all others, an out will be recorded when their spot comes up in the batting order.

- E. A twenty (20) run mercy rule will be in effect after 3 innings of play, fifteen (15) runs after 4 innings of play, ten (10) runs after 5.
- i. **FLIP FLOP RULE WILL BE IN EFFECT for both Men's and Co-Rec: If beginning an inning in which the Home Team is losing by a margin that constitutes a Run Rule for that inning, then the Home Team will "flip/flop" and become the Visiting Team, and the original Visiting Team will become the Home Team.**
 1. If the home team trails by 20 or more after 2 innings, 15 or more after 3 innings or 10 or more after 4 innings, they will become the visitors and bat again.
- F. Players in the second game must keep off the playing field and the sidelines during the first game. Warming up between diamonds will not be allowed.

5. **OFFICIALS AND POSTPONEMENTS**

- A. Games will be rescheduled in the event that certified league officials are not available to officiate.
- B. It is the responsibility of the home team to keep the game statistics and the score in the scorebook. Umpire is the official scorekeeper.
- C. Any questions of the score, must be addressed before the next ½ inning

D. **FORFEITED GAMES**

- a. Teams have the option to start the game and play with 8 players. **A double forfeit will be called if both teams have less than 8 players.** Game must start on time. Field Supervisor determines the official time.
- b. Any team forfeiting five (5) games will be automatically dropped from the league.
- c. The game will be forfeited if one side fails to resume play within two (2) minutes after the umpire has called resumption of play.
- d. The game will be forfeited if a team employs tactics designed to delay the game.
- e. The game is forfeited, if for any reason there are less than eight (8) players on a team.
- f. If you have a double forfeit in a playoff game of a tournament, advancement will be decided by the flip of a coin, only if a winner is necessary.

6. **EQUIPMENT**

- A. Each team will furnish all their game equipment. The Parks and Recreation Division will furnish one (1) new game ball and one (1) back up. The umpire will decide if a ball is playable and can reject any ball put in the game.
- B. No football or track shoes will be allowed. Metal cleats or shoes with detachable cleats of any kind **will not** be allowed for city-sponsored softball leagues
- C. ONLY USA approved softball bats and balls are permitted. www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball.aspx has all the information on bats, balls, uniforms, etc.
- D. Women's League – Catcher's masks, helmets and chest protectors are mandatory for fast pitch league play.

6. **HOME RUN RULE**

- A. Teams will be allowed three (3) home runs per game. Additional home runs will be an out.
- B. The batter and any runners on base are not required to run the base. (This eliminates any appeal play on the runners)

7. **STEALING BASES**

No stealing will be allowed in City of Yuma softball leagues or tournaments.

8. PLAYERS TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. Head Coaches will be held responsible for seeing that the players they use conform to these rules and that none of their players are playing on another team in the league. Managers may be suspended as well.
- B. **Only the Head Coach will be allowed to approach an umpire with any questions or concerns regarding the game during or after play. Any player who approaches the umpire other than the head coach will be asked to go back to the dug out and get the coach. Failure to comply with the umpire's request may result in an ejection.**
- C. Any player found playing under an assumed name will be barred for the season and the game(s) he/she played in will be declared a forfeit. All players must have a valid ID with picture and DOB.
- D. Head Coaches that turn in a starting line-up with a player that is playing under an assumed name or a player that is playing for 2 teams will be suspended for the remainder of that season including the playoff's and possible for the next season as well.
- E. Players must be fourteen (14) years of age or over.
- F. All players must be on roster entered for their team. PENALTY: Infraction of this rule will force team to forfeit said game in which violation is determined. City officials and supervisors have the option of checking team rosters for ineligible participants during season games, playoffs and tournaments. Players may be deemed ineligible until said game(s) end.
- G. No player shall be considered a member of a team until he is entered on the team roster and played with said team for at least one (1) game. Players illegally participating on more than one team will be ineligible for that sport for the remainder of that season and all of the following season. A second offense of this rule results in a one-year suspension. This rule does not necessarily need a protest from opponent as it will be enforced by field supervisor and officials of the Recreation Division.
- H. All players replaced by substitutes may return to game action one (1) time during the game, in same position of the batting order. The same is true for all substitutes.
- I. Players who show up after the game begins who have not been "scratched" from the lineup by the manger/coach will only be allowed in the game as a substitute.
- J. Teams must finish games with a minimum of eight (8) players. In the event of emergencies or injuries requiring player(s) to be removed from batting order with no replacement available, player(s) will be "scratched" from the batting rotation without penalty. Player(s) "scratched" may not re-enter game. In the event player(s) are ejected and no replacement is available, said player(s) will be "scratched and an automatic out recorded when player(s) are due to bat following ejection(s). (Exception – When a team uses the option of batting more than 11 players see rule: Page 1 #4-C).

9. PROTESTS

No Protests will be considered. The umpires judgement and interpretation of the rules are final.

10. CONDUCT

- A. Only Head Coach will be allowed to approach an umpire with any questions or issues regarding the game during or after a play. Any player who approaches the umpire other than the head coach will be asked to go back to the dug out and get the coach. Failure to comply with the umpire's request may result in an ejection.
- B. **NO ALCOHOL of any kind may be consumed while participating in games. No Alcohol may be in the dugout, and players may not leave the playing area to drink and be allowed to re-enter the game. PLAYERS DRINKING OUTSIDE OF THE DUGOUT WHILE THEIR TEAM IS PLAYING ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM FURTHER PLAY IN THAT GAME. Field Supervisor shall notify Umpire that a player is disqualified from the game for drinking.**

- C. There will be a zero tolerance policy on fighting in all league games and city sponsored tournaments. Charges will be filed and suspensions will be imposed.
- D. Music is not allowed in the dug outs. Field Supervisors and Umpires have discretion to ensure inappropriate music is turned down or off.
- E. No smoking is allowed within the PAAC. This includes dugouts, playing fields, restrooms green spaces and common areas. Profanity or liquor will not be tolerated in or about the play area. THE PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.
- F. Dogs **are not allowed in Dug Outs.- ONLY SERVICE ANIMALS, WHICH MUST BE ON LEASH, ARE ALLOWED AT THE PLAYING FACILITIES**

11. **COURTESY RUNNER:** Any eligible players that may participate on offense or defense and are on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning. In coed two courtesy runners are allowed, one male and one female, must be of the same gender

12. **PITCHING: (Traditional USA Leagues)**

- A. One foot must be touching the rubber upon delivery.
- B. No quick pitches allowed.
- C. Arc limits – 6 ft. minimum from the ground, 10 ft. maximum from the ground. Other foot does not have to be within rubber (Sp Only)
- D. One continuous movement required once the hand starts forward motion. Hand must pass below elbow. For the rule describing a legal pitch, see Rule 6C, Section 3 of USA Softball participant manual.
- E. Mat extension for balls and strikes will be used for all slow-pitch leagues.

13. **CO-REC RULES**

- A. Men will hit 14" softballs and women will hit 12" softballs.
- B. Teams may bat 9, 10, 11 or 12 players.
- C. Batting order shall alternate sexes except if last and first batters are the same sex. If a player shows up late to play, said player may legally substitute or be placed at the bottom of the batting order provided that there will be no more than two (2) male batters batting in succession (1st and last batting rule) No exception even if playing under the shorthanded rule.
- D. A team must have a minimum of nine (9) players to begin and end games. In the event only 4 females are available, teams may play shorthanded but an automatic out will be declared when they are due to bat. Once the appropriate 10th batter/player shows up/ he or she must immediately be allowed in the game. A team may only have one more male than female in the lineup at any given time. **E.g. if you have 4 females, you may not play 6 males**
- E. **PITCHING** Utilizing 16" pitching rules, (USA Softball Rule 6-D) including the use of pickoffs /hesitations. With 6-10 foot Arc Limit. Strike Mat will be in use. Legally pitched balls striking the mat or home plate are called strikes. Pitching Distance 50'
- F. Base runners may lead off with liability to be put out or picked off. **NO Stealing. No Outfielders may come in to the infield as part of a pickoff play.**
- G. An arc 175" from home plate will be marked foul line to foul line. Three (3) defensive players must stay behind this line for all batters until ball has been hit fair or foul. Violation will be the result of play or automatic single.
- H. Teams may only employ six (6) infielders (including pitcher/catcher) with 3 or 4 players having to be outside the infield area at the time the ball is hit. For fielding purposes using the shorthand rule. The infield must be properly filled in for each position, accordingly, before the outfield can be field in. Penalty will be the result of play or automatic single.
- I. On a walk to a male batter (intentional or not) the batter will be awarded 2nd base and the next batter, a female has her choice of walking or hitting, until the time she steps

into the batter's box. Exception: In the event two (2) male participants bat consecutively and a male walks, said player will only be awarded 1st base.

- J. Metal cleats are not allowed to be worn by any player, male or female.
- K. Courtesy runners 2 per inning may be used, but only 1 each of male and female courtesy runner.
- L. Second Home Plate/ Commitment line – utilizing Senior Slow Pitch running rules (Rule 8, Section 9-D) **RUNNERS Shall touch the second home plate to the right of the batters box as seen coming into home. Runners shall be called out for touching the incorrect home plate**

14. MODIFIED RULES FOR THE UPPER DIVISION WOMEN’S LEAGUE A/B ARE AS FOLLOWS

Rule A1 – The one up home run will be in effect.

Rule A2 – A maximum of five (5) runs scored per inning thru the first four (4) innings of the game and then open innings after that.

(All others remain the same).

15. INSURANCE

All players on teams participating in any City recreation program shall provide their own insurance, if they desire coverage. The City of Yuma does not provide coverage and is not liable for personal or property injury or accidents. Team USA insurance is available at reasonable rates.

16. AGREEMENTS

A. Upon submitting team rosters with entry fee, each manager agrees that he/she has read all the rules and regulations and further agrees to conduct himself and control their team in accordance with all policies, rules and regulation of the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation Department.

B. It is recommended that each coach have each member of his team read the Code of Conduct and City Softball Rules.

17. ALCOHOL

A. Players may not drink alcohol during their games. Players found to be drinking shall be ejected from the game, and subject to additional suspension as outlined in the Participants code of conduct

18. PARTICIPANT’S CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Attention Players and Coaches, we offer recreational softball for team league play and league tournaments for coaches and players to participate in. However, any player that is ejected from a game or facility by an umpire or site supervisor shall be subject to further suspension as deemed warranted.. A second ejection over the course of one season from an ejected player will result in being removed from the league for the remainder of the season and may be dismissed from the league indefinitely. The umpire will inform the head coach which player is ejected and that he needs to replace with another player.

B. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: At any time, prior to, during or after a game, while on the premises, shove or strike an official, participant or spectator.

PENALTY: Officials are required to immediately suspend participants from further play. Such participant shall remain suspended until his case has been considered with a Minimum penalty of one (1) season and one (1) year probation. A minimum penalty for a second offense is a five-year suspension.

C. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Threaten to assault an official or supervisor of the league (prior to, during, or following game played while on the premises). PENALTY: Minimum of one (1) game suspension, determined by the Recreation Division.

D. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Discuss with an official in any manner the decision reached by such official **except the head coach.**

PENALTY: The degree of infraction of this tenet of good sportsmanship shall in the official's judgment draw minimum penalty of a warning or a maximum penalty of removal from the game.

- E. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game against another participant of the league. In addition, there will be no travesty/mockery of the game.

PENALTY: Officials and/or Supervisor may eject participant from that game and facility. Further action could be taken at the discretion of the Recreation Division. If travesty/mockery is judged the game will be forfeited and opposing team will win with a score of 7-0.

- F. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Be guilty of a verbal abuse attack upon any participant, official or spectator, or any other unsportsmanlike conduct.

PENALTY: Officials and/or Supervisor may eject participant from that game and facility. Further action could be taken at the discretion of the Recreation Division.

- G. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Use profane, obscene or vulgar language.

PENALTY: The degree of infraction of this tenet of good sportsmanship shall, in the official's judgment and/or Supervisor, result in a warning or removal from the game and facility, and subject to further disciplinary action by the Recreation Division.

- H. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Appear any time in an intoxicated condition.

PENALTY: Officials and/or Supervisors are required to immediately suspend participant from further play during said game.

- I. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL: Be found drinking alcoholic beverages while playing or coaching during their scheduled game. Rostered players may not consume alcoholic beverage outside team dugout or playing field while their team's game is in progress. Players not adhering to this regulation will not be allowed back in dugout or on playing field and may be suspended from further play until case reviewed by Recreation Division.

- J. **Only Service animals are allowed at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex.**

NOTE: All names listed on a roster, including the coach and manager, are participants in this league.

19. All other rules not previously defined will be in accordance with USA Softball Rules.

www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball.aspx

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