

## WINFIELD RECREATION COMMISSION SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL GENERAL RULES

### **GENERAL RULES**

The official ASA softball rulebook will govern play for all situations except when in conflict with local rules:

1. **TEAMS THAT FINISHED FIRST IN THEIR DIVISION LAST YEAR AND HAVE AT LEAST HALF OF LAST YEARS ROSTER RETURNING WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE BUMPED UP TO THE NEXT DIVISION.**
2. **TEAMS ARE NOT GUARANTEED PLACEMENT IN THE LEAGUE OF THEIR CHOICE. \* NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE HAS PASSED\*.**
3. **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME** - All games should begin at their scheduled starting time. **Teams not ready to play at the designated time shall forfeit.** Teams may start the game with eight (8) players. Players arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting order. Everybody bats. Teams not able to field 8 eligible players at game time will forfeit. Free substitution for fielders. Only an eligible player who is not yet in the scorebook can substitute for a runner. An automatic out will be assessed anytime a player leaves the game unless he/she can be substituted for by an eligible player who is not yet in the scorebook.
4. **LINE-UPS** - Home team will occupy the third base dugout. Line-ups should be turned into the official scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to the **scheduled** starting time of each game.
5. **ROSTERS** - Team rosters will be limited to 20 players. To be eligible to participate as a player with a team in league play, a player must be properly registered on the team roster. Once a player is placed on a roster, he/she is obligated to play with that team until dropped by the manager of that team. **\*PLAYERS MAY NOT PLAY FOR MORE THAN ONE TEAM.** This will result in a forfeit by the offending team even if agreed upon before the game by both teams.
6. **ELIGIBILITY** - Players must be at least 16 years of age (by August 1). Players must be on the official team roster that is on file with the Recreation Commission in order to be an eligible player. **If a team uses a player that is not on the official team roster, the team forfeits the game that the offending player participated in.**
7. **RUN RULE** - Games will be called at the end of five (5) innings if one team is leading by 10 runs (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) or at the end of three (3) innings if one team is leading by 15 runs (2 1/2 if the home team is ahead).
8. **TIME LIMIT** - Games will be scheduled on one-hour increments. When the umpire indicates "Play Ball", the official scorekeeper will write down the starting time in the scorebook. Games will be played until one team has won (no tie games). A game becomes official after four (4) innings have been played (3 1/2 if the home team is leading). No new inning will start after the one-hour time limit has expired. If the game is tied after the time limit has expired, the game will revert to Texas rules, i.e.; batter has a 3-2 count.
9. **SMOKING AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL – IS PROHIBITED ON THE PLAYING FIELD AND IN THE DUGOUTS. CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED AT BLACK CREEK PARK. THIS INCLUDES ALCOHOL IN ITS ORIGINAL CONTAINER AND/OR POURED INTO CUPS WITH LIDS.**
10. **JEWELRY** - No jewelry will be allowed with the exception of wedding bands (not rings), medical bracelets or jewelry with religious significance (must be tucked under clothing).
11. **POSTPONED GAMES** - All games postponed because of rain or other reasons will be announced on the **WRC Hotline at 221-7232 or on the web at winfieldrec.com, after 4:00 p.m.** on the day of the postponement. You can also sign up for Rec Alerts by going to [www.winfieldrec.com](http://www.winfieldrec.com). This instant alert will keep you notified of cancellations and other important information. Make-up games will be scheduled as soon as possible with a memo being mailed to the team managers. **ONLY GAMES THAT ARE CALLED BECAUSE OF WEATHER WILL BE RESCHEDULED.**
12. **CRASH RULE** – In order to prevent injury and protect the defensive player attempting to make a play on a runner, the runner must be called out if he remains on his feet and with force, crashes into a defensive player holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. In order to prevent a crash ruling, the runner can slide, jump over the top of the defender holding the ball, go around the defender (if outside the three-foot lane, the runner would be called out), or return to the previous base touched. Note: If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender will be ejected. A runner may slide into the fielder.
13. **ANY ARGUING ON THE JUDGEMENT OF BALLS AND STRIKES WILL CONSTITUTE A TEAM WARNING. ANY REPEAT OFFENSES SHALL RESULT IN THE EJECTION OF THAT TEAM MEMBER.**
14. **BALL ONE STRIKE ONE COUNT**-Each batter will begin their at bat with a one ball and one strike count.

15. **TRAVESTY RULE** – When a team employs tactics noticeably designed to delay or to make a mockery of the game. Example: When a team refuses to score or a defensive team purposely allows a team to score in order to play more innings a forfeited game shall be declared.
16. **TIME-LIMIT MERCY RULE** – When a team on defense is behind at least 12 runs with the time limit about to expire, and said team is the home team and has to bat to complete the inning but is unable to get three outs, umpire will call time and have teams exchange sides.
17. **IN THE DUGOUT** - **Only the manager, players on the roster, and one (1) bat boy/girl will be allowed in the dugout.**
18. **HOME RUN LIMIT** – There is a limit of 3 over-the-fence home runs per team per game for all leagues! For any in excess of 3, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance. Any fair fly ball touched by a defensive player that goes over the fence in fair territory, should be declared a four-base award and shall not be included in the total of over-the-fence home runs. Both male and female home runs count towards Co-Rec limit.

#### **UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT:**

1. The following uniform code must be followed: Pants, sweats or shorts must be worn; caps are optional. Players must wear a shirt. Shoes must be worn. Steel and metal cleats are prohibited. No jewelry will be allowed with the exception of wedding bands (not rings), medical bracelets or jewelry with religious significance (must be tucked under clothing)...
2. **BALLS – Teams hit their own balls. The 12” ASA ball with a COR .52/300 Compression will be used for all men’s leagues.**
3. BATS - Bats must meet ASA specifications. Check the ASA website for approved bats [www.softball.org](http://www.softball.org)

#### **SPECIAL BLOOD RULE:**

If at any time an umpire sees blood on the uniform or body of a player, a coach, or an umpire, the game should be stopped and someone from the dugout should treat the wound by cleaning and covering the area. If the uniform has blood on it, have the player exchange that part regardless of jersey, pant, or undershirt color. There will be no violation for a wrong color. The umpire does not have to determine whether a uniform is saturated or not with blood--just have the player change the article with blood. If the umpire feels it will take too long, he should have the player leave the game and have a substitute report for the injured player. Regular re-entry and substitution rules played locally will apply. A team can play short-handed if necessary.

#### **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:**

**UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** Winfield Recreation Commission sponsored leagues are designed solely for the recreational values derived by the players, managers, coaches and spectators from the sport of softball. Any player, manager or spectator who displays any form of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as flagrant rule violation, vulgar language, engaging in fighting or obviously attempting to injure anyone, threatening or purposely touching a league official before, during or after a game, may be suspended from the league and/or all leagues sponsored by the Recreation Commission. In addition, the team may be placed on probation. **Fees will not be refunded.**

Any person(s) ejected from the game shall leave the facility immediately, **NO SIGHT/NO SOUND**. Failure to do so will warrant a forfeiture of the game by the offending team. The coach or manager shall be responsible for actions by his/her players and spectators and for informing them of all rules. Badgering or taunting the opponents, officials or spectators is strictly prohibited and is grounds for suspension. When a player, manager or coach is ejected, he/she is automatically suspended for the next game. If he is ejected a second time during the same season he will be kicked out of the league for the remainder of that season and will not receive a refund.

#### **PROTESTS:**

All protests concerning softball rules must be made to the umpire at the time of the incident and prior to resuming play. **Judgment calls may not be protested.** The umpire should immediately notify the official scorekeeper and opposing manager and record the protest in the scorebook. All protests must then be submitted to the Recreation Commission office the following workday by 5:00 p.m. Protests must be detailed in writing.