

# ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

City of River Falls Conservation and Parks Division  
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The City of River Falls Softball League follows rules and regulations set forth by USA Softball, with the following additions/exceptions:

## 1. PLAYERS

- a. All players must be rostered and have a waiver form submitted to the Park and Recreation Office. Players must be 18+ as of May 5<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

## 2. TIME LIMITS

- a. Games will consist of seven innings or 1 hour time limit-whichever comes first. **No new inning may be started after the 50 min mark from schedule game time.** Ties may happen in any non-playoff game.
- b. Playoff games will NOT have a time limit. In the playoffs, if a game is tied after 7 innings the International Tie Breaker Rule goes into effect. At the start of each inning, a runner is placed on second base- the runner will be the last batter scheduled to bat in this inning. Any eligible player may be substituted for this runner. At least one full inning is played, allowing each team the same chance to score. If the score remains tied, the same process is used in each inning until a victor emerges (one team scores more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning).
- c. A grace period of 10 minutes will be allowed for each team to field players, after which a forfeit shall be declared. A team must have 8 players (4 men and 4 women) to start a game. If the team does not have 8 players within 10 minutes after scheduled game time, it is a forfeit. (This is a fun league if the opposing team is okay waiting, the game can start any time before the 50 min mark. Rule 7 is still in effect even with a late start)

## 3. SCORING

- a. Each team is responsible for their own scorebook and each must supply a new or slightly used 12-inch 52 core softball per game. Teams may supply a 11 inch ball to be used only during ladies at bats. Opposing teams must oblige to switching balls in between men's and ladies' at bat.
- b. The 10-run rule after 5 innings will be in effect.

## 4. ROSTER/LINEUP

- a. Must have a completed roster turned into the Parks & Rec. office before the 5<sup>th</sup> game! *Players may only be on one co-rec. roster and only play for one co-rec.*

*team*. Substitutes may be added in the event of an injury but call the office at 715-425-0924 so we can add those people's names to your roster.

**b. CO-REC SPECIFIC RULES**

- i. 5 women and 5 men on each team-Must be equally divided every other sex while batting and while out in the field. (i.e. first base person is a man, second base must be a woman, etc.) There can be any combination of pitcher-catcher.
- ii. Batting order is every other sex and you can bat the field or the bench. On any walk to male batter (intentional or not), the next batter-a female-has the choice of walking or hitting up until the first pitch. Male player walks the next batter has the option of taking a free base or hitting. Male on 1<sup>st</sup> base can not advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base unless female takes 1<sup>st</sup> or hits the ball to advance. At this time the rule will remain the same and we encourage the girl to hit but at playoff time it may change to " if a guy walks, he automatically gets second, and the girl only gets the choice to walk if there are already 2 outs."
- iii. Men must use a 29-inch bat or smaller. Ladies can use either the 29-inch bat (or smaller) or a bat that meets the requirements listed under Rule 6 – Equipment.
  1. Teams are required to provide their own 29-inch bat and should show it to the opposing team before the game starts. Bats must be USA approved. Any bat found to be modified or altered from its original manufactured state will be deemed illegal – see Rule 6.B.

**5. GAME PLAY**

- a. No stealing bases and you can only leave the base after the ball is hit!
- b. You must tag-up after a caught fly ball.
- c. The ball-strike zone consists of the black colored carpet "notched in" directly behind home plate. In pitching, there is a maximum arc of 12 feet allowed, with a minimum of a 6-foot arc.
- d. 2 strikes, 3 balls per batter. The third strike foul rule will be in effect.

**6. EQUIPMENT**

- a. Bats: All bats must have current USA Softball/ASA stamp on the handle. Any bat on USA Softball's Non-Approved Bat list will not be allowed. Any bat found to be modified or altered from its original manufactured state will be deemed illegal.
  - i. Please refer to the following link for more detailed information on allowable bats: [Certified Equipment - USA Softball](#)
- b. Illegal bat use will be considered a team violation. If a bat is found to be illegal it will be removed from play and will result in the batter being declared out. If the batter reaches base after using an illegal bat and is properly appealed by the defensive team, the batter-runner will be declared out and all runners must return

to bases occupied at time of pitch. Once the offending team is informed that the bat used is illegal, it may not be used again.

- i. **Approved ruling for a team's second offense:** Batter will be declared out and offending player will be suspended for three games. In addition, offending team will immediately forfeit the game.
- ii. **Approved ruling for a team's third offense:** Batter will be declared out and the offending team will immediately forfeit the game. In addition, the player will be suspended indefinitely. Offending player and team manager must appear after the season has ended before the Municipal Athletics Conduct and Eligibility Committee for possible reinstatement.
- iii. Dented bats, which are also illegal, will be removed from the game (no out, forfeit or suspension).

## 7. WEATHER/POSTPONEMENTS

- a. To find out if a game will be postponed due to rain or bad weather, Emails will be sent to managers. In the event weather comes in after a game has been started, 4 full innings will be considered a full game. For ease of scheduling anything less than 4 full innings will be considered a draw. (no rain dates)
  - i. City Staff will not always be present during games. If weather comes in after 5pm, it will be the responsibility of Team Managers or umpire to determine if a game will be played.
  - ii. In the event of steady rain, a game may be played until there is any visible standing water or the bases get too wet and threaten injury from slipping.
  - iii. Lightening within 15 miles is considered to be dangerous (If you can see it, it is within 15 miles). In the event of lightening, games must be paused until 30 minutes after the lightening is last seen or the last boom of thunder is heard.
  - iv. When deciding to wait or continue be mindful of games following you, and if it is worth waiting.

## 8. GENERAL USA SOFTBALL RULES

- a. A team may not play with fewer than 8 players without penalty of forfeit. No exceptions!
- b. Teams who know they are forfeiting a game or have a schedule or field change must inform both the opposing team AND the Park & Rec. Dept. as soon as they are aware of a change.
- c. Games will be 7 innings in duration. Ball-Strike count to the batter will not exceed 3 balls or 2 strikes. The 3<sup>rd</sup> strike foul rule will be in effect.
- d. A team that forfeits any 2 or 3 consecutive games before July is out of the league.
- e. When seeding teams for playoffs, the following procedures will be used to break a tie when teams have the same win-loss record:

1. Win-Loss record against each other
2. Runs scored against each other.
3. Difference between runs scored vs. runs allowed against division and then league teams.

**Remember, co-ed is an un-umped league. The object of this is to keep the entry fee to a minimum. This league was designed for you to have fun, enjoy yourself, and get a little exercise in the process.**

Teams that are unnecessarily complaining about calls and intimidating other teams will be subject to 3 warnings.

- Warning 1 - email from Recreation Coordinator
- Warning 2 - In-person meeting with Recreation Coordinator
- Warning 3 - Required to leave the league.