



2017 ADULT CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES

General Rules

- **NO METAL CLEATS PERMITTED AT ANY TIME**
- **NO BASEBALL BATS ARE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME, SOFTBALL BATS MUST BE USED**
- The length of games is a maximum 60 minutes No new innings will be permitted after **60** minutes has expired. The umpire will state the official start time, monitor the game times, and have the official say.
- The Run Ahead Rule for all games is 15 after 3 innings, or 10 after five.
- A game called by the umpire shall be a regulation game if four or more innings have been played, or three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead. (Games decided by the Run Ahead Rule will be considered regulation games.)
- The final score after 7 innings (or the maximum complete innings that was played if short of seven) will constitute the winner, in the event of a tie at the end of 7 innings or time limit; there will be a “*Smash Off*.” Each team will designate a hitter and will provide their own pitcher and balls. Batters will each receive 5 pitches, the batter with the most homeruns after the five pitches will be determined the winner, if there is a tie after the Smash Off, game ends in a tie.
- Females will hit a hard 11” softball while the males will hit a 12” ball. Game balls will be provided by the league.
- Pitch heights are 6’ minimum and 12’ maximum from release.
- Pitching distance to home plate will be 45 feet. Base paths will be 60 feet in length
- The **Home** team’s scorebook is the official scorebook. The **HOME** team is to use the **3rd base side dugout**.
- A team that cannot field the proper amount of gendered players will forfeit the game by a score of 1-0. Players may be drafted from a pool of other teams league players, each name will of willing participants will be placed in a bucket and names will be drawn, a maximum of 4 players may be drawn for a game.
- **THE UMPIRES DECISIONS ARE FINAL**

Fielding Rules

- 5 men and 5 women in the field. You are permitted to have more women than men but never more men than women in the field. Eight (8) players of the correct gender minimum to start a game (at least 4 females)
- (Pitcher/Catcher) must be of opposite gender. One male and one female
- Minimum of two males and two females in infield (between 1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd base positions) and outfield at all times (Unless more females than males are being used).
- Four (4) outfielders must start from the outfield grass for all batters both male and female until the pitch is hit
- Sliding during close plays is encouraged, not sliding causing contact that results in a ball being dropped will result in an out, any malicious contact deemed irresponsible by the Umpire is grounds for ejection. **Please keep it safe!!**

At - Bat Rules

- A “Strike Zone” mat will be used. Any legal pitch that contacts the mat will be called a strike
- Batter’s count will begin with a 1-1 count
- No bunting allowed
- Batting order must alternate between male and female or vice-versa. In the event that both teams agree to begin play with 9 players, players of the same gender may bat back to back in one spot in the lineup.
- Your batting order may consist of all team members present at any given game. You must still alternate between male and females though. Teams must determine if they are batting 10, 12, or 14 players before the game, in the event a player is present but not in the game, they may substitute in and out of the game freely, as long as no player moves up in batting order from their previous position. Any player batting out of order will result in an out at that spot in the order, and the game will reset from the next batter, any advanced runners will return to their previously occupied base.
- A foul ball with two strikes is registered as an out.
- A walked male batter will go directly to second base and the following female batter will take her turn at batting. All runners will move up (bumped) one base if required by the walked male batter. If there are two outs when the male batter is walked, the female batter following will have their choice to bat or take a walk to first base.
- Courtesy runners are permitted but only once per inning. The courtesy runner must be of the same gender and the most recent batter who made an out. You are not permitted to choose your courtesy runners

Anything not covered here will be governed by current USSSA coed guidelines and the umpire’s discretion; the umpire’s decisions will be final.