



## 2016 Co-ed Softball Rules & Regulations

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### Team Manager's Responsibilities:

- A. Managers are responsible for informing all members of their team of the Rules and Regulations.
- B. Managers are responsible for the actions of team players and fans.
- C. Managers are responsible for contacting team players in the event of a game cancellation or schedule change.
- D. Managers are responsible for ensuring that all team equipment is legal and within the guidelines of ASA and the City of Ukiah.
- E. Managers are responsible for making sure all of their players have signed the roster and paid their player fee.

### LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY:

Have fun while showing outstanding sportsmanship and courtesy to other players, officials, and spectators. Sportsmanship, proper language, and refraining from taunting are expected from every player and spectator.

### TEAMS:

\*Games will be played with 5 females and 5 males. Extra Batters – 6 females and 6 males. NOTE: If extra batters are used in co-ed, 12 batters must be used. It is not permissible to use 11 players because of alternating gender.

\*ASA Shorthanded Rule: A team may begin a game with 9 players. The vacant position must be listed last in the batting order and an out will be recorded when the vacant position is scheduled to bat. If a team is playing shorthanded with either three players in the infield or outfield, at least one must be male and at least one must be female. If another player of the correct sex arrives, that player must be inserted into the line-up in the vacant spot by alternating sexes.

\*All players must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

\*All sponsorship and individual fees must be paid in order to play in the game. Fees are non-transferable and non-refundable.

\*Rosters are "frozen" after the 8<sup>th</sup> game of the season. Players must play in at least 3 regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

\*Players may play on multiple teams, however they must be in separate leagues. Players must pay the \$40 player fee for each team that they play on.

\*All players must bring photo identification to each game. A player who does not present valid ID upon request of an official will be deemed ineligible. City of Ukiah staff and officials reserve the right to conduct random ID checks. No ID, not on the roster, no play.

**\* Use of an illegal player (not on the roster, underage, on another team, etc.) will result in an immediate forfeit, the suspension of the illegal player for the remainder of the season (all leagues) and at least a 1 game suspension for the team manager.**

**\* Teams that win their league and/or league championship must move up to the next highest level of play next year (if returning at least 50% of their roster).**

### **GAMES:**

\*Lineup cards must be completed by each team prior to the game and submitted to the scorekeeper.

\*Late arriving players can only join their team between innings, or when their team is at bat. Late arriving players cannot enter the game while their team is on the field.

\*Re-entry: Any player may be substituted and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up. Players may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time. If a player re-enters the game a second time or a player re-enters the game in a position in the batting order other than their original starting or substitute position, this is considered an illegal re-entry resulting in a forfeit.

\*All games are 7 innings, with no inning beginning after 1 hour and 10 minutes.

\*A mercy rule of 20 runs after 4 innings or 12 runs after 5 innings will be enforced.

\*There is a 5 run per inning limit except in the designated last inning, which is open. In the case of a tie, the ASA tie-breaker will be used.

\***Forfeits:** A team forfeits the game if they cannot field a team 5 minutes after the official start of a game. That team must pay a forfeit fee of \$50 to the league prior to playing another scheduled game. Forfeits count as 1.5 losses. Two forfeits will eliminate teams from consideration for playoffs. If a team forfeits three times, they will be removed from the league.

### **FIELDS & EQUIPMENT**

\*Bases are 65 feet; pitcher's mound is 50 feet.

\* All softball players must have a visible number on their jersey/shirt

\*No metal spikes are allowed. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate Ejection. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: One year suspension.

\*The league will provide the softballs. Men will use a 12-inch ball, and women will use an 11-inch ball.

\* **Men may not use composite barreled bats in Co-ed Recreational Leagues.** First offense: male batters will be immediately called out for use of a composite bat. Second offense: immediate ejection. Players are responsible for what bat they bring to the plate. Men are not allowed to swing Easton bats labeled "IMX" or "IMX Inner Core" as IMX is composite.

\* All bats used must bear the ASA 2000, 2004, or 2008 certification mark and must not be listed on an ASA non-approved list, or must be included on a list of approved models published by ASA. Umpires will be inspecting bats both prior to, and during games, to ensure the legality of all bats used during the contest. If an Umpire finds an illegal bat, it will result in an immediate forfeit. Use of an illegal bat will result in a 2 year suspension. Cone and flare grips are allowed.

\* ASA double base at first rules are in effect.

## **PITCHING**

\*Pitches must have a maximum arc of 6 to 12 feet for both men and women.

The pitch must be discernibly on its way down as it crosses the plate. Pitches not meeting these criteria will be deemed "illegal."

\*When the umpire shouts "illegal pitch," the batter has the option of taking the ball or swinging at the pitch.

\*There is an implied one-and-one count on the batter.

## **GAME PLAY**

\* The first foul ball with two strikes on the batter will not be an automatic out. The second foul ball with two strikes will be an automatic out.

\*No intentional bunting is allowed; a bunt will be called an automatic strike.

\*If a male batter is walked, he takes second base. The next batter (female) has the option to bat or take first base. This decision must be made before the female player bats.

\*There is no stealing. Contact with the ball must be made before the runner can leave their base. A player leaving a base prior to the batter making contact will be called out.

\*Tagging up on fly balls is permitted.

\*On overthrows, the runner is awarded the base they were proceeding to, plus one more.

\*The infield fly rule will apply.

\*The batting order for co-ed softball shall alternate (female, male, female, male etc.) There are no exceptions to this rule.

\* Courtesy runners are allowed if an injury is involved. The substitute runner is the player who made the last out. Courtesy runners may only be used for two players during the course of a game (use wisely). The replacement runner must be the last out of the same gender being replaced.

\*Co-ed defensive positions shall include 2 males and 2 females in the Outfield, with the positions alternating (i.e., female, male, female, male). There shall be 1 female and 1 male in the pitcher-catcher positions, and the infield requiring only 2 females and 2 males in the 4 positions. In the Intermediate Division, teams may place their players defensively as they wish.

\* There is a 170' encroachment line in the outfield. Players may not cross this line until the ball is batted. This rule does not apply to the Intermediate Division.

\***Home Runs:** The league will play with the "one-up-rule". If a player on team 'A' hits a home run, team 'A' cannot hit another home run until team 'B' hits one. If team 'A' does hit one, it will be an automatic out. There will be unlimited home runs as long as the team is only one up at a time. The Home Run rule does not apply to female batters.

## **BASE RUNNING**

\* Sliding at all bases is permitted, as it is the base-runners responsibility to avoid collision.

\* Players shall not intentionally collide with any other players. In the case of a runner intentionally colliding with a fielder, the runner will be called out and may, at the umpire's discretion, be ejected from the game. All base runners must either slide or give up their right to a base (avoid a collision by stopping or leaving a base path) if the defensive player (e.g. catcher) has possession of the ball and able to make an apparent play on the base runner. If a defensive player is not in possession of the ball, so that they are able to record an out (apparent play at any base), they cannot block the base (e.g. home plate) or be in the base path so as to impede (obstruct) the base runners right to that base. Under such circumstances, the defensive player shall be responsible in avoiding a collision. If a collision does occur under these circumstances the runner will always be considered safe and the obstruction rule shall be enforced.

### **OFFICIALS**

\*Protests must be made immediately following the official's or league's interpretation of a rule followed up by a submission of the protest in writing and the \$20 protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned.

\*Protests of ineligible players must be made when the player is discovered. All protests must be made with the home plate umpire.

\***Umpires may, at their discretion, eject a player or spectator.** Refer to the City of Ukiah Adult Sports Player Code of Conduct for specific violations and penalties.

### **Methodology Used to Determine League Standings**

In the event of a tie in the final standings, the following criteria will be used to decide the winner in the following order:

1. Head to head record
2. Run differential head-to-head if more than one game played
2. Best record head to head among tied teams (if more than two teams tied)
3. Most runs scored in all league games
4. Least runs allowed in all league games
5. Coin flip

### **Playoff Rules - Top 4 teams from each Pool qualify**

1. No time limit for playoffs.
2. As used in the regular season, the run rules will be applied.
3. Home/Visitor will be determined by seedings (higher seed is home team).
4. Sportsmanship, proper language and refraining from taunting are expected from every player and spectator. Some actions may justify immediate ejection from the game and/or league.
5. League Awards: Championship teams receive 15 T-shirts, Champions trophy/ plaque and MVP. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place teams receive trophy/plaque.

ASA rules apply to any rules not specifically covered in this document.