



## COED Slow Pitch Softball Rules

### Covid-19 Changes March 2021

- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Dugouts - Only 3 players will be allowed in the dugout at any time. The rest of the team will need to setup outside of the field fence next to their dugout.
- Fans need to be at least 6 feet apart from the team and each other and 14 feet away from the fields/fences.
- Huddles - Please limit the number of huddles within your team. Huddles can last 45 to 60 seconds.
- No high fives or shaking hands with the opposite team.
- We recommend players don't share any personal equipment.
- There will be 3 game balls. Game balls will be changed at the start of the 3 and 5 inning. The ball will be wiped down after each team bats.

**Confirmed Covid-19 cases – Please notify league supervisor Whitney Dorsett [wdorsett@southportland.org](mailto:wdorsett@southportland.org) or at 207-767-7650 if you or a person you had close contact with test positive for covid-19.** If league supervisors are notified of a player's positive covid-19 results we will immediately notify city health and safety administration staff and begin contact tracing. If the player is believed to have participated in the league within 48 hours of showing symptoms or a positive test, we will postpone games and alert the league and officials. We will follow up with directions from city administration staff and Maine CDC.

- If you have an outstanding covid-19 test please do not attend the program.
- If a player on your team notifies you and the league of new potential covid-19 symptoms and you or other players have been in contact with this player within a 48 hour window of symptoms your team game will be rescheduled.

**Credits v Refunds –** If your team is unable to continue play due to covid-19 a prorated credit will be put on your account. If we (as the league) have to stop leagues altogether a prorated refund will be sent back to you within 2 weeks.

1. **Rosters:** Any roster must have at least 14 players (maximum 20) with at least 4 females and 4 males. Rosters must be confirmed by the second scheduled regular season game. All players must sign the ASA physical roster sheet handed out the first week of games. Players must appear on the roster to be eligible for the playoffs. Players must be 18 and out of from High School.
2. **Batting Order & Team Numbers:** Teams with 10 or more players must have at least 4 female players, playing both offense and defense. Batters will start with a 1-1 count. Will consist of at least 4 females. Players may re-enter the game at any time in the same batting position if you are batting everyone. Teams pick their own line-ups and bat as many as they like as long as they **do not bat more than 2 guys in a row**. Line will need to be given to the umpire at the first of the game.
  - a. If a female is missing to start the game, you may take an out from any female spot in the order.
    - i. If there is a female missing you can may only have 3 outfielders.
  - b. If a male is missing to start the game you can
    - i. Take an out from any spot in the lineup if you know the male is on the way to the game
    - ii. Replace a male in the lineup with a female in the line and field.
3. **Game Layout:** Games are 7 innings or 60 minutes; whichever comes first. No new inning can be started within 5 minutes of the next game time. If the 60 minutes expires during an inning, the final score is that of the last

completed inning. Games may end in a tie in the regular season. In the case of inclement weather 4 completed innings is considered a game. If a game is suspended prior to this, the score, number of outs, base runners and player at bat must be noted on the lineup cards by the umpire. The game will be picked up when rescheduled with the appropriate batter and a 1-1 count.

\*Players should not be on the field more than 10 minutes before their game and off field within 5 minutes after the end of the game.

4. **Start of Games:** Captains or team reps should meet with the umpire 5 minutes before scheduled start time to hand in their lineup cards. Any substitutions need to be reported to the umpire. **Play must start on time!** A minimum of 9 players, including 3 females and 3 males are needed to start a game. (See **Batting Order & Team Numbers** above for more details) There is a no grace period; the game clock will start on time unless there is a field or weather issue.
5. **Players on the Field:** There must be 4 females in the field, with 2 in the outfield and 2 in the infield (*any position*). If you hit more than 10 players you may substitute freely in the field as long as this rule is followed. The encroachment line in the outfield will define the infield. **Infield is the dirt playing area.**
  - a. The encroachment line is 120 to 125 feet from home plate.
  - b. If there are 4 outfielders, 1 player will be allowed in front of the line and the other 3 need to remain behind it until the ball is hit. If you only have 3 outfielders no player is allowed in front of the line/infield before the ball is hit.
6. **The Home team** is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. Each team will provide one new league A.S.A. assigned softball to the umpire each game.
7. **Injuries:** If a player is injured on the field and you have no subs on the bench, you can play with 9, but the injured player's spot in the order is an out. If the injured player is a female, you need at least 1 female infielder and 1 female outfielder.
8. **Courtesy Runner:** If a player has a previous injury or gets injured in the game and requires a runner, the last batted out will be the courtesy runner. If the injured party is a female, the runner must be the last female that made an out. If the injured party is a male, the runner must be the last male that made an out. The "injured batter/party" will need to be able to take their turn at bat and be able to successfully run to first base before the courtesy runner can sub in.
9. **Base on Balls to a Male (with female to follow):** When a male reaches first base on a base on balls and a female spot follows in the batting order, the man automatically advances to 2nd base. With 2 outs, the female may elect to take 1st base. With less than 2 outs she must take her turn at the plate.
10. **Fouling out:** Batters with two strikes on them will be given one courtesy foul ball. If this is followed with a second foul ball, the batter is out.
11. **No Bunting:** any full swing that is fair is playable.
12. **Home Runs-** You may hit unlimited home runs.
13. **Pitching:** Pitcher MUST be on the rubber (50ft) at time of release of pitch. The ball must reach a height of 6ft off the ground, and cannot go above 10 feet. The speed must be slow.
14. **Run Rule:** A 12 run rule will be in effect for all regular season and playoff games. A team ahead by 12 or more runs at the end of the 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) shall be declared the winner.

15. **Leading/Stealing/Sliding** - There is no leading until the pitch reaches the plate. Absolutely no stealing! Sliding is allowed: Absolutely no take out slides (determining factor is intent and if runner cannot reach base during slide) or intentional interference with a defensive player. This is the official's call.
16. **Equipment**- Players must have matching shirts with numbers on the back. Absolutely no metal spikes allowed. 12" co-ed softballs are used for all batters. The league give each captain a dozen league approved balls prior to the season of the season. Captains will also receive a scorebook and ASA full rulebook. For an updated list of legal/ illegal bats go to <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-asa/certified-asa-equipment>
17. **All rules not covered here follow 2021 ASA rules. South Portland Recreation reserves the right to change any rule, at any time, for the betterment of the league.**
18. **Alcohol/Smoking/Drugs/Trash** – Smoking, alcohol and the use of drugs are not permitted on any of the fields before, during, or after the game. Please treat the city fields with respect. Pick up all trash!
19. **NO DOGS or CHILDREN are allowed in the dugouts or on the playing fields at any time.**
20. **Rainouts:** Captains will be sent an email (when possible) in the case of inclement weather by 4:00pm. Updates will be posted on the Facebook Page: SOUTH PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION. You can also call the front desk of the community center at 767-7650 after 4:00pm the date of the game.
21. The home field advantage in league playoffs will be given to the team with the best regular season record. If a tie exists, head to head competition between the two teams will determine home field advantage. If a tie still exists, a coin flip will determine home field advantage. All league playoff games should be completed. In the event of rain or any cause which interrupts a game, the game must be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped.

#### Player, Manager, Coaches, Conduct:

Any team member, who willfully strikes, shoves, bumps, grabs, or runs into an umpire will be suspended from the league for one full year. This restriction may become permanent if the Recreation Staff, Head Umpire and the Director of Parks and Recreation feel the severity of the incident justifies such action.

Any team members, who are found drinking at a playing area, will result in a team suspension for one game. If this occurs a second time, the team will be suspended for the remainder of the season without a refund.

Only the team manager or designated player will be allowed to communicate with the umpire. Other players who communicate with the umpire will be warned by the umpire (team warning through manager) first, and then ejected from the game after another occurrence. That player will be subject to the unsportsmanlike conduct rule.

If a player is removed from the game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive language, he will receive a verbal warning from the League Supervisor through the Team Manager. If the same player is removed a second time, he will receive a written warning from the League Supervisor and will be suspended for the next two games (this includes post-season play). If the same player is removed a third time, he will suspended from the league for one full year or permanently. This suspension will carry over into next season.

If the League Supervisor feels that the severity of the unsportsmanlike incident warrants an immediate one year suspension, permanent suspension, or temporary suspension, this action will be taken with the knowledge and consent of the Director of Parks and Recreation. This action will be taken in cases of excessive verbal abuse and profanity, physical abuse, in a case where an ejected player refuses to leave the field and disrupts the game, or a suspended player disrupts any league game, and in cases involving unnecessary physical contact provoked by one player against another player.

Note: These are league conduct rules. All disciplined players are subject to A.S.A. suspension according to A.S.A. rules and regulations.