



City of Victorville Community Services Department
Recreation Services Division
14973 Joshua Street - Victorville, CA 92394 245-5551

MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND COED SOFTBALL BY-LAWS

PURPOSE

The purpose of these softball leagues is to provide the adult citizens of Victorville with an opportunity to play recreational softball in a variety of different leagues in a controlled, safe environment.

GOVERNING RULES

The City of Victorville softball leagues are governed by the current year's SCMAF rules, except as specified herein. NOTE: The Recreation Division reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary to insure the safety of the participants and/or operation of the league. All Code of Conduct and league rules will apply to all players any time you are in the park for scheduled games, and stay in effect until you leave the vicinity of the park. Any player may be declared ineligible by the league director for Code of Conduct violations, rules violations, or in the best interest of the league.

GAME

- A. The game will be seven (7) innings; however, no new inning may be started after 70 minutes (1 hour, 10 min.). In case of a tie, the game could go into extra innings as long as there is time left. If not, the game will end in a tie.
- B. Any new inning started will be completed.
- C. A ten (10) minute grace period will be allowed for the first scheduled game only. Otherwise, the officially designated starting time is when forfeits will be recorded. If a team has not fielded at least eight (8) players by the scheduled game time, the game will be forfeited (this means that eight (8) players must be ready to take the field or bat). (A team may be switched to visitor and start batting, players must arrive when they take their defensive positions.

STANDINGS AND TROPHIES

- A. In the event of a tie, standings will be determined using the win/loss percentage method. All ties within the win/loss method will be decided by head-to-head competition (against each other) followed by runs against (RA) during head-to-head to determine final standings, then (RA) in the entire league.
- B. Awards
 - a. Upper Divisions: Awards given to 1st and 2nd place teams, based on number of teams in league
 - b. Middle Divisions: Awards given to 1st and 2nd place teams, based on number of teams in league
 - c. Lower Divisions: Upper Divisions: Awards given to 1st place teams, sometimes 2nd.

ROSTERS

- A. Rosters are limited to sixteen players (unless special permission is granted by the Recreation Division). COMPLETED ROSTERS (WITH ALL PLAYERS ADDRESSES & SIGNATURES) MUST BE TO THE RECREATION OFFICE OR GIVEN TO STAFF AT THE MANAGER'S MEETING BEFORE ANY PLAY IS ALLOWED.

- B. Teams may add or drop players at anytime during the first half of the season (deadline date is indicated on the game schedule). Any addition or deletions to roster must be done on a "Player Addition/Deletion" form and delivered to the umpire or Recreation Office BEFORE a new player participates. "Player Addition/Deletion" forms are available for this purpose at the Recreation Office or from officials at the ballfields. All players MUST be legally added or dropped or they will be declared ineligible by the league director. Added players must sign the "Player Addition/Deletion" form prior to taking the field. NOTE: If a player is found to be ineligible during or after the game, the game will be noted as a forfeit for the team with the ineligible player. At the conclusion of the first half of the season, NO ADDITIONAL PLAYERS may be added (unless special permission is obtained from the Recreation Office).
- C. A player may not play for more than one team in the same league.
- D. A team may not have more than two players from any division higher than their own on their roster. (Example: "Lower" Division - no more than two "Middle or Upper" Division players.) Exceptions may be made by the League Director for teams who are moved after the League starts in an attempt to obtain parity among teams (see Item "D" under "Miscellaneous").

POSTPONEMENTS

THE ONLY POSTPONEMENTS WILL BE THOSE MADE BY THE RECREATION DIVISION. If a team cannot make a game for any reason, they will forfeit that game. In the event a team has two unexcused forfeits in one scheduled session, the team will be removed from the schedule and entry fee forfeited. If a team cannot make a scheduled game, they must call the Recreation Office a minimum of 24 hours in advance. An excused forfeited game will not count against a team for being removed from the schedule; however, the excused game will not be made up and it will count as a loss.

SCORE KEEPING

The umpire will keep the official score on the Umpire Report Card. After each half inning, the coach of the team who just batted is responsible for verifying the number of runs scored with the umpire. Games are not to be delayed by discrepancies in score, nor is it grounds for protest; the umpire's score is final, and will be verified during each inning.

WARM-UPS

- A. Teams are asked to refrain from using the "dirt" portion of the infield when warming up (playing catch). Infield practice prior to the start of any game is NOT allowed.
- B. Pitchers will be allowed five (5) warm-up pitches before the game and one (1) pitch between innings.

PITCHING RULES

The pitcher shall conform to all regulations as listed in the current SCMAF rule book except; "Pitcher will be permitted to use **unlimited arc** to male batters. A 12-foot limited arc will be used when pitching to women." (Note: The City's Recreation Services may offer a limited arc division for men and/or coed on a season-to-season basis based upon interest, but where not highlighted, pitching follows the unlimited arc rules. Legal deliveries are solely the judgment of the umpire AND ARE NOT PROTESTABLE. All batters will begin with a one-ball and one-strike count.

BATTING ORDER

A batting order must be submitted prior to the game and followed during the game. The batting order may not exceed 16 players and must list men and women separately and followed alternately such that two batters of the same sex may never bat consecutively. Exception will be made if a team has 6 women and 4 men, then 2 women may bat consecutively.

HOMERUN RULE

All games played at Eva Dell Park and Hook Park will have a one-up/one-out (over the fence) homerun rule in effect. A team may only hit one homerun more than the opponent, each additional homerun will be counted as an out (runners may not advance). (Hook Field #1 will have a No Homerun Rule for Coed (an over the fence homerun is an out) and one-up/one-out for Women's.

PROTESTS

All protests must be filed in writing with the Recreation Office with a \$25.00 Protest Fee by 5:00 pm the next workday. This fee is refundable if the protest is upheld.

- A. Protests can be made on two items only: Ineligible players and/or rule interpretations. (SCMAF Rule Book, Appendix A).
- B. Protests on rule interpretations must be registered with the umpire AND scorekeeper BEFORE the next pitch. Protest on ineligible players must be made known to the umpire AND scorekeeper BEFORE the last out of the

game. The umpire cannot rule on a protest, only record it on the scorecard. However, any under-age player will be ruled upon immediately once referred to the umpire by asking for a valid picture I.D. Failure to provide I.D. disqualifies a player from further play and referred to the League Director. For the under-age player, the opposing team may protest before the next pitch to end the game in their favor; if there is no immediate protest, then the game resumes and the outcome stands with the final score.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. When AFTER having two strikes, the batter hits a second foul ball, the batter shall be declared out. (See Rule 6, Sec. 9c).
- B. Teams may play a legal game with only eight (8) players (4 men and 4 woman) if necessary or 4 men and 6 women. 5 men and 4 women will be allowed, the fifth man can only play catcher while on the field. Late arriving players may be inserted into the line-up; by adding their names to the bottom of the line-up. Late arriving players must also sign the "umpire's scorecard".
- C. All players must print and sign their name on the "Softball Umpire's Report Card". Players must have a pictured I.D. in their possession which must be shown if challenged by the opposing coach. If the eligibility of a player is challenged, then the umpire will note the player's name (from I.D.) on scorecard. Player's name will be checked against the team roster by the next game.
- D. Teams are subject to being moved from a lower league to an upper league or an upper league to a lower league depending on the league record and point spread of all the leagues playing on that night, at the half-way point of the season. This decision will be made by the league director to attempt to provide parity among teams.
- E. A manager may use only one courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner is to be of the same gender as the original base runner who was the last official out in the inning, or if no outs, the last official out in the prior inning, or if in the first inning with no outs, the batter listed last in batting order. In coed play, two courtesy runners may be used per inning, one male and one female only.
- F. All players play at their own risk and are responsible for any and all damage to private property (garage doors, windows, automobiles, etc.) or bodily injury as a result of the bat, ball glove, or other softball equipment leaving the field of play.
- G. When a team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs after 5 innings, the game will be called.
- H. All items on the player/spectator code of conduct including minimum and maximum penalties will be strictly enforced.
- I. For the safety and enjoyment of everyone, all youth who attend the adult softball games must remain off the playing fields.
- J. Any bat that does not exceed the 1.20 BPF and is approved for use by the ASA (American Softball Association) is allowed for use in all City of Victorville leagues, male or female batters included. The type and/or number of walls a bat contains is no longer a determination for use. (For a list of approved bats, go to ASA Website: www.softball.org) The umpire may decide to throw out any bat at any time.
- K. Coed Lower leagues shall use a scoring line and commitment line. To score, the runner's foot must be on the ground, on or beyond the line before the defensive player touches home plate with the ball in possession. Any player stopping on or beyond the commitment line must commit to the scoring line. (See rule "Senior Softball SCMAF Rules" # 7, 8 & 9)
- L. Coed uses an arc line that is in the outfield. The arc shall be 180 feet away from home plate and extends from foul line to foul line. Three players must be behind the line until the ball is hit by the batter.
- M. Metal Spikes are not allowed.