

POCATELLO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

2021 PLAYING RULES

05-06-21

The 2020 official USA Softball Guide and Playing Rules will govern all league play with the following league rule amendments. All page and rule references are to the USA Softball 2020 Guide and Playing Rules.

REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- Age Requirements.** Players must be **at least 16 years of age for Adult Softball** or at least **45 years of age** (Senior Softball) to participate in the league. Teams must be paid for before playing in any games. No exceptions will be made for anyone for any reason concerning eligibility. Teams playing ineligible players will forfeit the games in which they played.
- League Roster Requirements** Official league/USA Softball rosters are due Wednesday, April 7, 2021(Summer). Failure to turn in the completed USA Softball roster will make your team ineligible. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** According to USA Softball rule, as of July 1(Summer), your roster is final for championship play and cannot be changed. New players for the league can't be added after June 1. Player fees are not refundable or transferable to other players. Rosters are limited to 18 players* per team. *Exceptions can be made for teams with several shift workers.
- Player Fees/Waivers** Fees must be paid and waiver release forms signed before participating in any league games. **NO WALK-ONS!** Any team caught playing an ineligible player* will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player has been a participant and will be ruled ineligible for all league play and post-season tournament.
* An ineligible player is a player that has not: 1) been reported on a league roster/USA Softball roster and signed the waiver release form.
- Player Restrictions** Players may play on more than one team in the same division, if they so desire. Players may play on no more than three Coed teams and two Men's team. Players must sign on each roster on which they appear.
- Player Photo Identification** Players may have to show current photo identification at the game to match to their name on the team roster. Anyone refusing to show identification when asked or not having identification will not be permitted to play.
NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Player Eligibility** A player's eligibility may be protested at any time. Scorekeepers are required to notify the umpire if they know that there is an illegal player on the field. If it is proven that a player is not legal, the team with the illegal player will forfeit all games in which he/she has participated.

GAME TIMES AND PROCEDURES

2

1. Game length shall be seven innings or one hour and fifteen minutes (whichever comes first). No new inning will begin after one hour and five (65) minutes has elapsed from the scheduled starting time of each game. The time limit begins at each games scheduled starting time (even when using the grace period as in Rule 3).
A new inning must begin if the 65 minute game timer has any time remaining.
2. Four completed innings will constitute a legal game unless time limit is reached.
3. The 6:15 game will have a 10 minute grace period. The other starting times will have a 5 minute grace period. A grace period will be allowed for a team that does not have the minimum number of players (nine) to start the game. Grace time will not increase the length of a game. Timer clocks will start at the scheduled game time.
4. Umpires will not tolerate undue delays in an effort to prolong the game to reach the time limit. If in the opinion of the game officials, a team is making a travesty of the game, the game will be terminated and forfeited accordingly.
5. Games will only be postponed because of inclement weather. Games will not be switched or games postponed due to conflicts with other leagues or tournaments.
6. If a game is rained out or called off due to unplayable field conditions, teams are to follow the next scheduled league game and date listed on the schedule unless other arrangements are made. **Decisions on weather will not be made until 4:00pm** on the day of the scheduled game. We give the weather or field every opportunity to cooperate. In case of inclement weather or uncertain field conditions, it is the responsibility of the team manager to check their e-mail for field updates if there is a question about field conditions. The Recreation Department cannot contact team captains by phone concerning field conditions or rainouts.

MANAGER AND TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Official lineups must be turned into the scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. We appreciate your efforts in helping us to stay on schedule. Lineups should only include players that have registered with the Recreation Office by paying their player fee and signing the waiver form. Team captains are responsible to submit a reliable e-mail address to the Parks & Rec. Office for team contacts.
2. Managers are responsible for the behavior of their players and fans. Failure to control your players and fans can result in forfeiture of the game. Only the manager may approach the umpire for a clarification or to protest a call and this must be done in an appropriate manner.
3. Managers are urged to keep track of the players on their team. Knowingly using an illegal player may be grounds for the manager's dismissal from the league. If there is any question about a player on the team, the manager is urged to contact the Team Sports Office immediately.

PROTEST AND FORFEITS

3

1. Umpires **CANNOT** and **WILL NOT** officiate forfeited games. Please do not ask.
2. Protests will be handled as stated in your rulebook. Any protest must be received in writing at the Team Sports Department within 24 hours of the protested game's starting time. A protest for any reason will be accompanied by a \$25.00 **non-refundable** protest fee. All protests will be ruled on by the Umpire-In-Chief, the umpire of the protested game, and the Team Sports Department.
3. The Team Sports Department will only accept a written protest from the team's designated manager who is on file with the department and only he/she may follow up on a protest.
4. During tournament play all protests will be settled at the field during the scheduled game time. This way delays can be avoided in advancing the tournament. During a protest the game time will be stopped unless the teams agree to keep the time going. Using player protests as a way to run time off the game clock will not be tolerated. If it is determined that a team is guilty of this tactic, they will forfeit the game.

PLAYING RULES

1. The minimum number of players to start a game is nine. (9 men – **Men's and 45+**; 9 women – **Women's**; 5 women and 4 men or 4 women and 5 men- **Coed**) An entire game may be played with nine players. A late arriving tenth player must check with the scorekeeper and umpire before entering the game. The umpire will beckon the player onto the field during an appropriate dead ball situation. In the event the missing player comes to bat, their team will be charged with an out each time the missing player is scheduled to bat.
2. The extra player option (play 11 instead of 10 – **Men's, Women's and over 45+**; play 12 instead of 10 - **Coed**) is available to all teams. A team deciding to bat 11 or 12 players must notify the scorekeeper when submitting their lineup.
3. All players are required to have uniforms. All teams should have the same or a similar type uniform top. Uniforms must have contrasting numbers on the back of the uniform.
4. USA Softball certified umpires shall be provided by the Team Sports Department and shall have full authority over players and managers at all times.
5. The batter shall assume a one-ball, one-strike count upon entering the batter's box. **There is no courtesy fall ball. (2020) USA Softball Rule 7 Section 3 b.**
6. A walk to a male batter allows him to go to second base. When it occurs with less than two out, the next female batter must take her turn at bat. When it occurs with two outs, the female batter has the option of batting or taking first base. The male runner must touch first base before going to second or he would be out on appeal.

7. **Run Ahead Rule (All Divisions 2021)** Beginning with the 3rd inning of the game, the team behind 10 or more runs has the option to (losing team’s option only) place the last three batters of the previous at bat on base to start the inning. The inning would proceed normally from that point. If a team is behind by 15 or more runs, the losing team has the option to (losing team’s option only) place the last three batters on base and be would be granted an additional out. If the losing team is within 10 runs after the use of the enhanced at bat, the game would revert to regular playing rules. If the winning team subsequently pushes the score above 10 then the Run Ahead Rule would be in effect for the final inning(s). Run ahead rule can be used for a maximum of two (2) innings.

8. **Home Run Rule** – A progressive over the fence home run rule will be used for league play. No team may be more than a predetermined limit ahead of its opponent. In excess, a dead-ball single (runners advance only if forced). The home run rule only applies to male batters.

Men’s League

Men’s – 3

Coed

Level Upper – 3

Level Middle – 2

Level Lower – 1

Fall

Men’s - 3

Coed - 3

9. Steel cleats will only be allowed for Men’s League play. **STEEL CLEATS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN ANY COED GAMES. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

10. The batting order must alternate sexes in coed.

11. On any fair ball hit over the fence for a home run or on a four base award, the batter and runners are credited with a run. The batter and any runners on base are not required to run the bases. This eliminates any appeal play on runners. **USA Rule 8 Section 3 Exception**

12. If a game goes into extra innings, the following tiebreaker will be played to determine a winner. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning hereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the last completed batter. A substitute may be inserted for the runner. If a team is in a tiebreaker and the player to be on second is not available, you may place the player that made the second out on second base.

13. Unsportsmanlike Conduct (including “Casual Profanity”) **profanity, “trash talking”, inappropriate gestures or other forms of taunting and agitating of any kind directed towards any opponent or game officials will not be tolerated on or off the field by anyone. A warning may be issued to the offending player on the first occurrence (this is left to the discretion of the umpire). On the first or second occurrence, the player will be ejected from the game.**

Teams are responsible to control the behavior of their spectators. If a spectator acts in an inappropriate manner, the perpetrating individual will be asked to leave the park by the umpire. If they refuse to leave the park within two minutes of being asked to leave, the team they are watching will forfeit the game. The Pocatello Police Department will be called to handle any situation that is of a violent or dangerous nature.

PLAYING RULES (continued)

5

14. Players, coaches, managers or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, coaches, managers, umpires, or spectators. They will not use expletives (swearing) that may be heard by those in the stands and surrounding areas of the playing field, or commit other acts that are considered unsportsmanlike. These will be treated as an Unsportsmanlike Conduct violation as explained above.
15. Players, coaches, managers or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, coaches, managers, umpires, or spectators. They will not use expletives (swearing) that may be heard by those in the stands and surrounding areas of the playing field, or commit other acts that are considered unsportsmanlike. These will be treated as an Unsportsmanlike Conduct violation as explained above.
16. Both teams may be issued a warning on the first instance of an unsportsmanlike violation (**if the infraction is considered by the umpire to be of a serious nature, the umpire need not give a warning**). If a player is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct the game will be a forfeit at that point. If a player is ejected for “casual profanity” the game may continue at the umpire’s discretion.
17. When a batter enters the batter’s box with or is discovered using an altered bat the batter shall be declared out and ejected from the game and be suspended for the remainder of the season. Please refer to the banned bat list often to avoid any problems involving the use of illegal bats.

PENALTIES FOR BEING EJECTED FROM ANY GAME

- * If a player is thrown out by an umpire for any reason, there will be an automatic one game suspension starting with the next scheduled game (including tournament games).
- * If a player is thrown out for fighting, there will be an automatic two game minimum suspension.
- * If a player punches another player, he/she will be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season.
- * If thrown out for chasing, roughing, pushing an umpire or scorekeeper or other acts construed to be of such unsportsmanlike, or violent nature detrimental to the well being of the game and the league, the player(s) involved will be suspended for the remainder of all further league games, including tournament games his/her team may be involved in.
- * Violence of any kind will not be tolerated. If the scorekeeper perceives the situation on the field becoming violent they are instructed to call 911 and the police will handle the situation at that point.
- * All suspensions start with the next scheduled league or tournament game.

PENALTIES FOR BEING EJECTED FROM ANY GAME(continued) 6

- * When any player is suspended for the remainder of the season, they will receive written notice within one week of the incident at the address listed on the team roster, and upon request may ask for and receive a hearing from the Parks & Recreation Director.
- * The Team Sports Manager may add additional games to any suspension.
- * **Any player or coach who is ejected from a game twice within a season will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.**

GENERAL RULES

1. It is recommended that managers instruct their better players to allow other players to throw and catch the ball whenever the situation warrants and allow them to make plays and be an active participant.
2. Sliding is permissible for all players, but players must be aware of the fact that injuries may result if the slider uses excessive force against the fielder. If the act is considered flagrant, the offending player may be removed from the game.
3. Anyone on the field of play who appears to be impaired will be immediately removed and not be permitted to play.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

1. The City of Pocatello assumes no legal responsibility for personal injuries or theft of private properties while on or using city facilities. Each individual and/or group is encouraged to provide their own liability insurance for cases where injuries or theft may occur. The team manager is responsible for notifying the sponsor and all individual players on the team of this fact.