



TOWN OF SNOWMASS VILLAGE RECREATION COED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

Updated May 2021

The Town of Snowmass Village offers a non-sanctioned softball league for the recreational enjoyment of the participants. The Town of Snowmass Village Parks & Recreation Department is the sole governing body of these leagues. The softball league shall follow the softball rules and code of conduct described in the A.S.A. & U.S.S.S.A. rule book. **All players participating in this program assume the liability of the inherent risks involved in this physical activity.**

PAYMENT: 100% of payment must be received by the first week of games

RULES AND UMPIRE'S DISCRETION: The league umpire will have the final say on all rule determinations. It is the team managers' responsibility to respect and abide by these decisions on their own behalf, as well as the behalf of all team members. Anyone not respecting these decisions may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Program Coordinator.

GAME RULES

BALLS/STRIKES: All balls and strikes will be called at the umpire's discretion. This league requires that any legal pitch must be above 6 feet and below 12 feet. Any pitches that do not meet these criteria will be called illegal by the umpire and counted as a ball. Strikes must be within these limits and contact home plate or the mat behind home plate without a swing by the batter, a swing and a miss by the batter, or foul ball.

COUNT: Every batter will start with a one ball and one strike count during their at bat. One courtesy foul ball will be awarded for each at bat.

PICK-UP PLAYERS: Teams may pick up players during regular season games. (Must be approved by both teams before game begins.) No pick-up players will be allowed during tournament games

TIME LIMIT: All games will consist of seven innings or a time limit of one hour (unless the score is tied at the end of seven innings.) The umpire will not start a new inning after 50 minutes have been played.

LINEUP: Lineups and batting order must be set by each team prior to starting the game. Any player that arrives after a team has cycled through their entire batting order must be slotted before the next batter. Example: if the next batter for a team is the 3rd batter in the order, the late arrival must be the 2nd batter in the order, gender dependent.

SCOREKEEPING: Each team will be required to keep their own scorebook for when they are batting. The number of runs scored each half inning will be relayed and checked with the umpire's records. *Teams are recommended to keep score for the other team's runs scored as well to prevent score discrepancies.

10-RUN RULE: If at the completion of five (5) innings, one team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs, the game is officially over.

20-RUN RULE: If at the completion of three (3) innings, one team is ahead by twenty (20) or more runs, the game is officially over.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: If an in-progress game is cancelled due to weather, the winner will be the team leading after five (5) full innings of play, or if the leading team is ahead by 20 runs prior to five full innings of play. Any in-progress games cancelled that do not meet this criterion will not count.

MAXIMUM PLAYERS: There is no maximum of players in a given game. This includes batters and fielders for a team.

EXTRA INNINGS: In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time, the game will be played to its conclusion. (Starting with the top of the 8th inning or after time has expired, and each ½ inning thereafter, the offensive team will begin its turn at bat with the player who made the last out in the previous inning placed at second base with one out and the batter will begin with a 2 balls and 2 strikes count.) The batter will be allowed one courtesy foul ball.

RUNS: A run will not be scored if the third out of the inning is a result of: 1. The batter-runner being put out before legally touching first base. 2. A runner being forced out due to the batter becoming a batter-runner. NOTE: If there is no force out and run scores prior to a runner being called out on a time play, the run will count. 3. A runner-leaving base before the pitched ball reaches home plate or before the pitched ball is batted.

INFIELD FLY RULE: The infield fly rule will apply at the umpire's discretion. All players must understand that there is only one umpire positioned behind home plate, so determining if a fly ball is within the infield may be difficult.

HOME RUNS: The Snowmass Village Coed Softball League will utilize a 300 foot outfield fence for 2021. These Home Run rules apply for Co-ed leagues:

1. Each team is allowed three (3) home runs per game.
 - a. This does not include inside the park home runs
2. Any home runs hit after the limit are considered outs.
3. There is no "one up" rule for home runs.

THE BATTER: Batters will start with a one and one count and will be awarded one courtesy foul. Teams will be given one warning and on the second offense the batter will be called OUT.

1. **THE BASES:** A safety (double) first base will be used in all games. The safe base will be positioned so that the white portion is where first base would normally be (in fair territory) and the colored (red or orange) should be in foul territory. Any batted ball hitting the white portion should be fair and any ball hitting the red or orange part should be foul. On the initial throw to first base from the infield or outfield, the batter runner MUST touch the red or orange portion of the base. The defensive player MUST always touch the white portion. This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base which does not include:
 - a. Returning to the base after over running.
 - b. Running to second base when the ball is hit to the outfield.
 - c. Re-tag to advance on a fly ball.

COURTESY RUNNER: The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out and must be entered prior to the first pitch to the next batter. The use of an ineligible courtesy runner will result in the removal of the runner from the base and an out being recorded on the player whom he or she replaced. A courtesy runner whose turn at bat comes while he or she is on base will be out. He or she will be removed from the base and come to bat. A second courtesy runner cannot be substituted at this time. A courtesy runner must be replaced by a runner of same gender.

FOUL BALL OUTS: In order for a foul to be caught by the fielding team for an out, the ball must arch higher than six (6) feet after being hit. This call is at the umpire's discretion.

SLIDING: Sliding is not required at any base and will be the choice of the baserunner. Any overly excessive or dangerous play will result in the runner being called out regardless of play outcome at the discretion of the umpire.

COED RULES:

1. Teams must start and finish the game with a minimum of three (3) men and three (3) women.
2. There is NO male dominance rule. A male or female may handle any play. Fielding positions will consist of a minimum of one man and one woman in the infield and outfield and one each pitching or catching.
3. Batting orders must alternate Male and Female batters for each at bat

COED LINE: The coed line is the painted arch in the outfield located past the infield dirt. Only one of the four outfielders may be stationed inside of prior to a pitch being hit. After the ball is put into play by being hit by the batter, other outfielders may advance in front of the coed line. An outfielder is not ever required to be inside of this line.

MALE WALK RULE: Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next female batter will have the opportunity to advance to first base without batting if she chooses. The female batter can elect to bat. If the female batter chooses to bat, the prior male will stay at first base.

THIS IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE: If for any reason a team is disadvantaged by players absent, teams can agree to any substitutions before the game. However, the opposing team has option to take the forfeit or play for the win. THIS MUST BE DECIDED WITH UMPIRE PRIOR TO THE START OF GAME.

LEAGUE RULES

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. All players must be at least 16 years of age to be eligible to participate.
2. Players may play on only one team in each league unless approved by Parks and Recreation staff. Violations of this rule will result in forfeiture of all games in which said player participated.
3. All players on your team must play in (2) regular season games to be eligible to play in the tournament. Score sheets may be required to prove number of games played.

UNIFORM CODE: No jewelry will be allowed on the field except for medically related items, which must be taped to the body. No steel cleats, or shoes with screw-on type cleats, will be allowed. No one will be allowed to participate with bare feet. A catcher's mask is highly recommended for all leagues.

WOUNDS / BLOOD: The umpire may remove a player from the game if it is believed that an open wound or blood-stained jersey poses a health / safety risk to other participants.

UMPIRE'S/SCOREKEEPER'S AUTHORITY: The Parks and Recreation Department will provide one (1) umpire for the league. The umpire will keep the official time and score. The Parks and Recreation Department will keep official team standings and records. Officials will be authorized to recommend suspension of players to the Parks and Recreation Department. If teams are not ready to accept officials' decisions, they should not enter this league. Sportsmanship, control of emotions and maturity are mandatory.

SUPERVISOR'S AUTHORITY: If an incident needs immediate attention, the Recreation Coordinator and/or Umpire will have the authority to take action immediately. IF YOU RECEIVE THREE OR MORE WRITE UPS DUE TO COMPLAINT FROM THE UMPIRES FOR MISBEHAVIOR, FOUL LANGUAGE OR INABILITY TO FOLLOW THE RULES YOU WILL BE REMOVED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.

STOPPAGE OF PLAY: In cases of inclement weather, the Recreation Department will make the decision to start or stop the game. After the first pitch of the game, the umpires will have full authority to discontinue play should they feel necessary. All teams and players are to report to the field, unless otherwise advised or until the umpire makes the decision.

CRITERIA FOR GAME CANCELLATIONS OR STOPPAGE OF PLAY: Games will be called due to sight of lightning during play. Games will be cancelled prior to scheduled due to lightning/thunder (forecasted or present), or unplayable/unsafe field conditions due to weather (ex. Excessively wet fields).

FORFEIT TIME: The first game of the evening is fifteen (15) minutes after scheduled game time; however, please make every effort to be ready to play at the scheduled game time. If a team has the minimum number of players present required to start a game, the game will begin. Forfeit time for the remaining games of the evening is game time. NOTE: IF GRACE PERIOD IS USED, THE GAME TIME WILL BE SHORTENED ACCORDINGLY.

MINIMUM PLAYERS: A minimum of eight properly dressed players will comprise a team on the field. A minimum of eight players must be at the field and ready to play at game time or a forfeit will be declared. Teams may "pick up" players who are not originally on their roster, but this must be discussed and okayed with the opposing team manager. The opposing team and manager may choose to decline a team picking up additional players.

FINISHING WITH LESS: In case of injury only, a team may finish with less than the starting number of players (8-players).

EXCESSIVE FORFEITS: Teams forfeiting three games during the season will be removed from the league and will not be eligible for next year's returning league priority. The score of a forfeited game will be recorded as 7 - 0 in favor of the team not at fault.

EXHIBITION GAME: If a forfeit exists; an exhibition game may be played among the remaining players. There will be no umpires or scorers and the time limit will be 45 minutes.

MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

ROSTERS: Managers are responsible for rosters containing correct and complete information. Any falsified information listed on a roster is grounds for team suspension from the league. Before participation is allowed, all players must sign the roster. Failure to sign the roster will result in that player not being recorded as playing in the game(s). This could result in that player not being eligible to participate in the tournament at the end of the season.

PLAYERS' CONDUCT: Team managers will be responsible for the conduct of the players on that team and the spectators in the stands favoring their team. NOTE: NO PLAYER SHALL TAUNT ANOTHER PLAYER FROM THE OPPOSITE TEAM FOR ANY REASON; IF BEHAVIOR LIKE THIS PERSISTS YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LEAGUE.

UMPIRES: Only the manager should handle any discussions with umpires.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE: Managers are also responsible for calling the Program Coordinator to gather rescheduling information. If your team assigns a new manager, the Recreation Department must be notified immediately for mailing lists and for alerting the team of any changes.

RULE AWARENESS: Managers are responsible to make sure all the players on their roster are aware of the official softball rules and player code of conduct.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITY

EJECTED PLAYERS: Any player or coach who is ejected from one game is automatically ineligible for at least that team's next scheduled game, and if the situation warrants, multiple games may be included. Any player or coach who is ejected from two games will be suspended from all league competition unless reinstated by the league supervisor. Any player or coach, who, in the opinion of the league supervisor, is detrimental to the function of the league, will be barred from the league. Teams unable to accept rules, may result in the entire team being dismissed from the league for one year.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of every member of the team to control the actions of everyone on the team, as well as that team's spectators.

1. Any team member who strikes (or makes any physical contact with an umpire), any team member, spectator, or a recreation employee will be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and may be ineligible to play in following seasons. His/her team will forfeit the game.
2. Any player ejected for any reason may be suspended or ejected from the league. This includes any incident before, during, or after games. The end of a game will not protect players or coaches from discipline and penalties.
3. The ejected player must leave the playing facility immediately (gymnasium, softball complex or other recreation facility.) If an ejected player continues to disrupt a game in any way, he or she will be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and his/her team will forfeit the game.

INTOXICATED PLAYERS: No player shall enter a game or appear on the field to play under the influence of alcohol in such a manner as to not have complete control of his/her faculties to the extent that he or is inclined to hurt himself or another player.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION: No alcohol consumption allowed in the field of play during a ballgame. Glass is prohibited.

PROFANITY: Players, managers, and fans are asked to avoid the use of profanity at games. Excessive use of profanity may be grounds for a player/manager/fans expulsion from the game and/or ballpark.

RESCHEDULE POLICY/INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: No decision will be made on the status of the games until 4:00 p.m. In some cases, it is impossible to make a decision by the times stated here, and a decision may not be made until game time. Your patience and understanding will be appreciated in these instances.

TEXT/EMAIL NOTIFICATION: Managers will receive a text and email notification, once games have been officially cancelled, please do not call the front desk.

REPLAYED GAMES: IN THE CASE OF CONTINUING INCLEMENT WEATHER WEEK AFTER WEEK - These times and days will be outlined within the league schedule. Any postponed game may or may not be replayed. This would depend on whether the game has a direct bearing on the outcome of the league championship. The Recreation Department also reserves the right to shorten any league's season should prolonged inclement weather, unsafe conditions, or other factors jeopardize the use of the facilities, officials, or the score keeping staff. In such circumstances the existing standings will be used to determine the 1st and 2nd place winners.

TIE BREAKING RULES: Playoff seeding considerations will be based on overall win/loss percentage. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be determined by the following criteria, in the following order:

1. Head-to-head record.
2. Runs scored
3. Runs allowed
4. If all of the above criteria match between two teams and does not break the tie, a coin flip will be used to determine the tiebreaker. The tosser will determine heads for one team and tails for the other team. The respected assignment landing facing up will determine the tiebreaker winner.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The Town of Snowmass Village Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change any and all rules. The league supervisor, umpires and scorekeepers, will enforce all rules, regulations and policies.
2. The Recreation Department also reserves the right to shorten any league's season should prolonged inclement weather, unsafe conditions, or other factors jeopardize the use of the facilities, officials, or the score keeping staff. In such circumstances, the existing standings will be used to determine the 1st and 2nd place winners.
3. Any situations that may not be outlined in the aforementioned rules will be discussed and determined by team managers and the Recreation Coordinator.