

CITY OF NORTHGLENN
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS
Rules Revised 04/10

Managers are responsible for notifying all players of these rules and those policies contained in the, "Code of Conduct".

I. UNIFORMS / EQUIPMENT

- a. Uniforms are not required, but teams **SHOULD** wear like-colored shirts with numbers on the back. Numbers should not be duplicated.
- b. No steel cleats or hard rubber cleats. It is up to the umpires' discretion as to whether shoes are acceptable. We recommend turf shoes.
- c. **No jewelry (Necklaces, Earrings, Rings)**. Managers will have one warning at the beginning of the game. Any player wearing jewelry at the plate will be given a strike until the item(s) is removed (not taped).
- d. *****NEW BAT AND SAFETY RULES*** - Effective immediately, we are conforming to A.S.A. rules regarding the legality of specific bats. Any bat, which is on the A.S.A. non-approved list or which does not meet other A.S.A. specifications will be considered an illegal bat. The umpire will have complete authority in decisions regarding bat legality. A.S.A.'s official web site, www.softball.org, will have a list of non-approved bats.**

Bases and Pitching Plate – The pitching plate distance will continue to be 55 feet. The bases will continue to be 70 feet apart.

The Ball - We will continue to use a .44 core ball.

II. GAME TIME / GAME PLAY

- a. **FORFEIT TIME IS GAME TIME.** A 10 minute grace period is allowed for the 6:00 game only. *****Even under this situation, the one hour time limit will begin at 6:00.***** If, the minimal number of 8 players is in attendance, then the game must start immediately. If 8 players are not in attendance by 6:10 then a forfeit is called.
- b. Line-ups should be turned in to the scorekeepers at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of each game. Please include player's numbers.
- c. The time limit for each game is **60 minutes** of play. No new inning starts after one hour unless the game is tied.
- d. A game shall be considered complete and no new inning shall be started if:
 1. At the completion of 7 innings, the score is not tied.
 2. At the end of the **one hour time limit**, the score is not tied.
 3. At the end of one hour, **the inning in progress must be completed before the game is officially over** (unless the home team is ahead).
 4. One team leads by **10 or more runs** after the team trailing has had at least **5 innings at bat**.

5. One team leads by **15 or more runs** after the team trailing has had at least **4 innings at bat** OR **45 minutes of game time have elapsed.**
 6. The Championship Gold Division game (1st place in fall), will consist of 7 innings and no time limit, although, the 10, 15 and 20 run rules will be in effect. No extra inning one pitch rule. Play regular extra innings if needed.
- e. **Extra Inning Play** – All extra inning games and games tied after the time limit will go to one pitch; you either, walk, strike out, or take the result of the play (NO EXCEPTIONS). A foul ball is an out. Each team will start the first extra inning with the last batter in the previous inning on 2nd base with no outs. In all subsequent extra innings, if the score remains tied, the last batter in the previous inning will start at 3rd base with no outs. The game continues until the tie is broken. The exception to this rule is the Gold Division Championship game or Fall League Championship game. Regular extra innings are played in those situations.
 - f. If the game is called due to unplayable conditions, the game is complete if the team trailing has batted **4 innings**. If, however, the game has not reached that point, it will be rescheduled and **completed from that point**. The same batting order will be used and can only be changed by subbing (pinch hitting) players in the batting order that did not play previously.

III. TEAM AND PLAYERS

- a. A team shall consist of:
- b. 10 defensive players (both Men's and Coed) with a minimum of 8 players.
- c. Up to and including **14 batters** may be in the line-up. **NOTE: In Coed the number of females must be equal to or exceed the number of males.**
- d. A team must finish the game with the same number that it started with. As an example: If a team starts with 13 players and one is ejected, then there must be a sub (14th player) or the game is forfeited. An **exception to this rule** will be made in the event of an injury. **ONLY** in injury situations, will teams be allowed to finish with fewer players. **No** out will be charged in the situation when that player is scheduled to bat.
- e. Teams may start a game with:
- f. **8 players (Coed and Men's)** – Coed must have number of females equal to or exceed the number of men.
- g. The 9th and or 10th missing batters will not be charged with an out.
- h. At no time, may a team play with less than 8 players. A forfeit will be called. ****A 9th or 10th player arriving late may play immediately. He/she will be added to the end of the batting order. ****
- i. Ejection – If a player is ejected from a game, he/she will be automatically suspended for the following game also. If that player feels that there are extenuating circumstances, regarding the matter, he/she must submit a written statement to the Recreation Supervisor, within 48 hours.

IV. INDIVIDUAL PLAYER PERFORMANCE

- a. **Courtesy Foul Ball:** each batter will receive a courtesy foul ball on a 3rd strike foul tip. Any foul tip hit after this point will be considered out.
 - b. A pitcher may have 3 warm up pitches to start the game. Thereafter, one pitch is allowed at the start of each inning.
 - c. *****All batters start with a 1-1 count (1 ball and 1 strike).** 3rd strike foul ball rule still applies. (Rule IV-a.)***
 - d. Any legally pitched ball **which hits any part of home plate is a STRIKE.** The double safety base is used in our leagues. Runners use the orange side (right) and fielders use the white side (left). If a defensive player is making a play at the base, the runner must go to the orange side of the base or be called, "out". The fielder must remain on the white side of the base or the runner is declared, "safe".
 - e. Courtesy Runner – If a player has a minor injury or a physical disability, and is capable of playing but has difficulty running the bases, a **courtesy runner**, may be used, if the runner reaches a base safely. The player making the last out prior to the replacement will be the courtesy runner. In coed, a female is replaced by a female and a male by a male. It is up to the umpire's discretion as to whether a courtesy runner is warranted. There is no limit to the number of courtesy runners in a game.
 - f. Reentry Rule - A starting player may be withdrawn from the game and reenter **once**. When he/she does reenter the game, it must be in the identical batting position that he/she held in the original line-up. The player replaced on the reentry is now finished for the game and cannot replace any other player.
 - g. ***HOME RUN RULE-** A maximum of 5 home runs may be hit over the fence in any game. Any home runs hit over the fence in excess of 5 will be ruled an out and runners may not advance. The hitters has the option of running the bases without the threat of being put out or forfeit running the bases and take the run.
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V. COED SOFTBALL

- a. Teams may start with 8 players. **The number of females must be equal to or exceed the number of males.**
- b. Up to 14 players may bat, but only 10 of those may play defense. Free substitution is allowed on defense. **THE BATTING ORDER DOES NOT CHANGE WHEN A DEFENSIVE CHANGE IS MADE!** The only time the batting order changes, is when a pinch hitter, or new player comes in the game.
- c. *****If a male batter is walked, the following female batter has the options to either bat or take 1st base. The male batter will take 2nd base when walked. All runners may advance one base if forced.**
- d. Defensively, any combination of males or females may play infield or outfield. Pitchers and catchers may also be of the same gender.
- e. Batting order must alternate female-male or male-female until you run out of males. You cannot have two males batting back to back. You can have two females batting back to back.

- f. All outfielders must remain behind the **175 foot restraining line** in coed, when a female is batting, until the ball is struck. If a fielder is in front of the line, before the ball is struck, the batter has the option of taking the result of the play, or she may be awarded 1st base.
- g. ***** HOME PLATE RULE*** - All plays at home plate will be played as a force out. The runner coming home must not step on home plate. An out will be recorded if a runner steps on the plate and play continues until the umpire calls the play dead. The runner must cross a line (break the plane) which runs perpendicular to the 3rd base line, extending from home plate to the backstop. The defensive player must have possession of the ball and be touching home plate before the runner from 3rd base crosses the line at home plate for that runner to be declared, "out". If any defensive player attempts to tag the runner coming home it will result in the runner being declared, "safe". A chalked line 25 feet from home plate is the, "line of no return". A runner coming home from 3rd base may not return to 3rd once he/she has crossed that line or an, "out", will be declared (play continues until the umpire calls the play dead).**

VI. ROSTERS

- a. Rosters must be filled out completely before the start of the season. It must be complete with **names, addresses, and phone numbers** of all players.
- b. **Teams are allowed up to and including 18 players on their roster.**
- c. No player may play on more than one men's team or one coed team without the approval of the softball coordinator. A player may play on one men's and one coed team without approval.
- d. *****All players must be added to or dropped from the roster prior to the 7th game of the season for 10 week leagues and prior to the 6th game for 8 game leagues, in order to participate in regular season or post-season play.**
- e. Player Adds/Drops – A Player Add/Drop Form must be filled out, in person, at the Northglenn Recreation Center prior to play. **No adds will be taken over the phone or at the field. DO NOT exceed the 18 player limit. All player adds and drops must be done in conformance with (D) above.**
- f. Any team using an **illegal player** will forfeit that game. Teams **may not borrow** a player from any other team. If there is a question about a player's eligibility, he/she must provide **adequate picture identification** before the game continues (no time will be added to game). *****If a team is questioning the eligibility of a player on another team, IT MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UMPIRE AND SCOREKEEPERS before the first pitch of the game is thrown.** The field staff will have final authority in the decision of the eligibility of a player.
- g. ***** We reserve the right to disqualify any team or players from further participation, if we deem those players or the team to exceed the qualifications and ability level of a particular league.*****
- h. A waiver form must be filled out before a player may participate.
- i. All player and team fees must be paid at the Northglenn Rec. Center prior to the first week of play.

VII. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- a. **Summer Leagues** are run in a two division system (Gold and Silver) as described below unless there are not enough teams to accommodate this system. (See VII-B for Fall League format).
- b. At the end of the regular season round robin play (7 games); the league will be split into two divisions based on win/loss records. The upper division will be the Gold Division and the lower will be the Silver Division.
- c. Those teams will again compete in another round robin within their division (3 games), thus completing the regular season.
- d. The playoffs will then be run in a two division format with both Gold and Silver Division Champions and a Gold Division 2nd Place.
- e. The format for each division playoff will be as follows:
 - 1st seed vs. 4th seed
 - 2nd seed vs. 3rd seed
 - Winners play for championship
- f. First and second place team trophies will be awarded in the Gold Division. Only a first place trophy will be awarded in the Silver Division.
- g. Individual awards: will be awarded only in the Gold Division. These individual awards will be given only to those on the roster (up to 15 participants).
- h. Individual awards are given only to **Regular Season** winners_(Gold Division team members seeded highest for playoffs). Team Trophies go to playoff winners.

***Fall Leagues** are run on a single division system with only the top four teams advancing to the playoffs. Playoffs will be run the same as in, VII-A-4, above. Team Trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place playoff winners and individual awards to 1st place Regular Season winners (1st seeded team).

VIII. TIE BREAKERS – If two or more teams have tied with identical records at the end of regular league play, the following method shall be used to determine seeding positions for playoffs. This method will also be used to determine Gold and Silver Divisions at the end of the 1st round when 2 or more teams have identical records.

- a. **Forfeits** – A forfeit will automatically drop a team to the next lower position.
- b. **Head to Head** – Consists of the winner of the most games between the two teams when they played each other.
- c. **Run spread** – Differential of runs scored when the two teams played each other.
- d. **Run spread in all games** – Run differential in all games played.
- e. **Coin Flip** – If none of the above conditions break the tie then a coin flip is required.
- f. **Three or more teams tied** – Go through the same sequence as above using the results of all the teams tied. NOTE: When three teams are tied, head to head only work when one team has beaten all others tied.

IX. LEAGUE CLASSIFICATIONS

These classifications are in accordance with C.A.R.A Softball Guidelines. Not all levels are offered in every season.

- a. **Men's "C" Slow** – Good players, average defensive and offensive skills, plays 3 or 4 tourneys per season.
- b. **Men's "D" Slow** – Average skill, may be lacking in either offensive or defensive skills, plays 2 or 3 tourneys per year
- c. **Men's "D" Rec.** – Inexperienced or end of playing career type players, lack power, may play 1 or 2 tourneys per year.
- d. **Men's "E" Slow** – Teams composed of employees, club members, friends, play in C.A.R.A. tourney if any.
- e. **Coed "C"** – Men and Women of "C" level or upper "D" ability
- f. **Coed "D" Rec.** – Lower "D", "E", and some leisure play.
- g. **Coed "E"** – Leisure players, employees, friends, etc.

X. PROTESTS / FORFEITS

- a. All protests must be in writing, legal in nature, and submitted to the league supervisor within **24 hours** after completion of the game being protested. Protest fee will be **\$20.00**. If the protest is granted, the fee will be returned. **Protests will not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy or judgment, on the part of an umpire.**
- b. Any team forfeiting their second game will be required to pay a reinstatement fee of **\$15.00**, to the City of Northglenn at least **24 hours prior to your next game**. Any team forfeiting 3 games during the season, whether consecutive or not, shall be ineligible to continue in league play.

XI. ELASTIC POWER

Any or all situations, not covered specifically in the league rules, shall be acted on by the League supervisor. All such action shall be the basis for similar situations and such rulings shall be final and become part of the league rules.

XII. PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Player or team action not covered by the above rules shall be covered by the Northglenn Parks and Recreation, "Player Code of Conduct". It will be enforced by the League Supervisor.

XIII. RAIN OUT PROCEDURE

- a. Call the **City of Northglenn Sports Hotline at 303-304-8886 after 4:00p.m.** or the Recreation Center at **303-450-8800** for rainout information.
- b. Managers will be called as soon as a decision on playing conditions is made. Managers should notify players.

XIV. MAKE UP POLICY

We have found that there is no good time to make up games but we follow this procedure.

- a. Make up games the same night on a different week by filling open time slots OR
- b. Make up games the same night on a different week and add a week to the season by extending it OR
- c. Playing on a different week night if an opening occurs OR
- d. Playing on a weekend.
- e. **NOTE: We cannot guarantee all games will be played on the night you register for. We cannot guarantee that you will NOT be required to play on weekends!**

XV. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at the park, stands or parking lot as specified by Northglenn City Ordinance. **Players or teams that drink alcoholic beverages will be dismissed from further league play.**

XVI. TOURNAMENTS

Teams wishing to participate in tourneys should get the information from the Scorers. For C.A.R.A. tourneys, a verification of roster must be obtained from the Recreation Center. A.S.A. tourneys require A.S.A. membership fee.

*****A.S.A. Rules are in effect except with those exceptions noted above*****

If you have questions regarding these rules please do not hesitate to talk with a field representative or call the Northglenn Recreation Center at 303-450-8928.

WEATHER HOTLINE: 303-304-8886

LEAGUE UPDATES: www.northglenn.org/sports