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# Competitive Coed Softball League Rules

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## GAME & PLAYING TIME

1. All games will be played on a time limit: no new inning shall begin after 70.
2. No team may start or continue a game on *offense* or *defense* with less than 8 players, 4 of whom must be women. If 9 players are present, 4 must be women. If 10 players are present, 5 must be women. Less than 8 players at the field 10 minutes after the scheduled game time constitute a forfeit.
3. The scorekeeper will keep the official time and score.
4. In the event of a tie game, every effort must be made to continue the game until the tie is broken if daylight allows and *if another game is not scheduled for play*. Tie games will be recorded as a half point (better than a loss, not as good as a win).
5. No postponement of scheduled games will be allowed, other than for weather conditions or office needs. Rained-out games will be rescheduled at the end of the season.
6. Any time a team is 15 or more runs ahead after 5 innings, the game shall be declared complete.
7. A playoff series at the end of the season may be used to determine the league champions. The format will be printed on the league schedules; games will be played to completion with no time limit, however the 15-run rule will still be in effect. The determining criteria in the case of ties in the standings will be: (1) who beat whom, (2) points given up by the teams in their games against each other, (3) points given up by the teams in all their games.

## LEAGUE RULES

1. Unless otherwise stated, A.S.A. Official Softball Rules govern play.
2. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and may not be active in a college baseball/softball program at the time of registration.
3. The manager of each team must give his or her team's line-up to the scorekeeper at least 5 minutes before game time.
4. All players present at game time may bat and any 10 (five men and five women) can play defensively.
  - ❖ The basic line-up starts with 10 players, 5 of who must be women; and must alternate batting man, woman, man... Teams may bat as many players as the wish, so long as there are never two men in a row
  - ❖ If only 9 players are present with 4 women, only 8 players will bat at a time. The extra man will alternate with another man in the batting order. All nine players may play defensively.
  - ❖ Any number of women extra players may be added; if men are used, the extra players must alternate woman, man, etc.
  - ❖ Late-arriving players may be added to the bottom of the batting order until the team has batted around once. After this time, any additional late-arriving players will be used as substitutes only. Exception: If a team starts short, with 8 or 9 players, late-arriving players may be added to the bottom of the batting order at any time until the team is rounded out at 10.
5. The defensive setup consists of five men and five women; there are no restrictions on positioning. (If playing with nine, teams may use 5 men and 4 women).
6. If a team drops below the starting number of batters due to an ejection, that spot in the batting order will be an out when it comes up. In the case of an injury, or if a player has to leave early, there will be no penalty and that spot in the batting order will be skipped over, however teams may need to adjust to have the same number of men and women in the line-up.

## 7. Pitching Rules:

- ❖ If a pitcher walks a male batter, that batter automatically goes to second base. The next batter (a woman) has the option of going to first base automatically or of being pitched to *if there are two outs*.
  - ❖ The count will start as 1 balls and 1 strikes. If there are two strikes on a batter and s/he hits a ball foul, s/he is out. (NO courtesy foul).
  - ❖ Pitches must have an arc of 6' and be no higher than 12' for both male and female batters.
  - ❖ A strike is any pitch that crosses the plate between the batters front knee and back shoulder while in a "normal batting stance." The plate is a ball.
8. The *women's home run line* will be marked by a restraining line 185' from home plate. When a woman is at bat, the outfielders (including the rover, who should be considered an outfielder) must remain on this curved line until the ball has been hit. If a woman hits a ball past this line in the air, it will be ruled a home run regardless of whether it is caught. If a woman hits a ball past this line in the air in foul territory, and it is caught, it will be ruled a foul ball, unless it is the third strike.
9. No defensive player shall displace any other defensive player who has a clear opportunity to field the ball or make a play on a runner. This is *encroachment*, and the *call will be made at the conclusion of the play* at the discretion of the umpire. Penalty:
- ❖ Runners will be awarded the bases they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, had there been no encroachment. Other runners will advance if forced.
10. The use of a courtesy runner should be rare and only in case of a legit injury; not simply to "have more speed on the bases" (A courtesy runner is the last person out of the same sex).

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. Normally, one official will be present to officiate each game. If no officials are present, the game will be postponed and rescheduled at the end of the season.

## PLAYER CONDUCT

1. Managers and players are responsible for being familiar with League Rules and with the SANCRA Code of Conduct.
2. Team managers will be held responsible for the actions of their players and spectators.
3. Violations of League Rules or the Code of Conduct will result in appropriate penalties. Players who are suspended in the Capitola leagues will automatically be suspended in all other SANCRA member organizations, including Santa Cruz, Watsonville, the San Jose area, and the Hollister and Gilroy areas.
4. **Any player who is ejected from a game must leave the field within 2 minutes or his/her team will forfeit the game. That player will automatically be suspended for the next game.**
5. Alcohol is prohibited at all sites which Capitola Recreation league games are conducted. Failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate ejection of the offending player(s) and/or team, forfeiture of the game, and/or possible suspension from the league.

## FORFEITS/PLAYER LIST

1. If a team is aware they are going to forfeit a game, it is the manager's responsibility to notify the opposing team's manager and the Sports Coordinator 24 hours or more in advance. Teams that forfeit on game day are subject to a \$25 fine payable to the Capitola Recreation office prior to their next scheduled game.
  2. Teams may have as many players on the roster as they wish and use those players in any game throughout the regular season. Players must play in two regular season games to be eligible for the post season.
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