

ADULT SOFTBALL Rulebook

Games will be governed by official ASA rules unless otherwise stated.

All players/coaches must have proper photo ID with them while at the park.

Pitching - 6ft to 12ft in height

All batters will start with a 1-1 count : After the batter has 2 strikes, then he/she will be allowed a foul ball without being called out, on the second foul ball with two strikes the batter is out.

Teams may bat 12 players in the lineup – any 10 can play defense (mens league)
(coed = 5 men/5 women).

Players may play multiple nights of men and coed.

No stealing in any leagues.

Must be 16 years old to play. Any 16 or 17 year olds must have parent approval.

Uniforms must have matching shirts (same body color shirt) with permanent numbers – There will be a one-week grace period on uniform requirements. Rule will be enforced beginning the second week of the season. Players on the same team may not have the same number. Different digits (01 and 1 are both legal numbers) **Coed - male and female may have the same number**

Rosters are due before you play your second night of the season – If a roster is not received in the office, all games will be forfeited until a roster is received.

Flip for home team – winner gets the choice of being home team first or second game. Home team will keep official book.

Score sheets are to be turned in by 9am the following day after the game – email jbiggerstaff@hvilletn.org or call 822-3898. Winning team is responsible for turning in the scoresheets. If no scoresheet is turned in, it will count as a loss for both teams.

20 run lead at end of 3 innings, 15 run lead at end of 4 innings or a 10 run lead after 5 innings will complete a game. A game shall also be called at the end of 1 hour or at the end of the inning following the time limit. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit or at the end of 7 innings the International tiebreaker will be in effect.

Only one courtesy runner per inning.

No more than 2 coaches per team shall be on the field and only the designated team captain (or 1 player if team captain is not there) may confer with the umpire.

Any other player involvement will result in that person's dismissal from the game in progress. Players must remain in the dugout when not actively playing or coaching.

A ball bouncing over, through or under a fence on any field will be considered a ground rule double.

For the 6:30pm game ONLY – there will be a 15 minute grace period to start the game – the time will be taken off the game time but will not be considered a forfeit until 6:45pm.

All games 7:30pm or later - no grace period. A team may start and finish a game with 9 players. If and when the 10th player arrives at the game, he/she must be put in as 10th batter in the line-up. Until the player arrives the number 10 spot in the batting order will be declared an out. NOTE: On double-header games, if the first game is forfeited the second game will be played or forfeited 30 minutes after the first. Example: If the 6:30 game is a forfeit, then at 7:00 the second game will be played or forfeited.

Teams must report to the field for scheduled games with the exception of the “Call in Forfeit Rule”. If a team calls into the office and forfeits in advance, a representative of the parks department will contact a coach for the opposing team to inform them that they do not need to show up at the field. If a team forfeits in advance and the games are rained out then they will not count as losses and be rescheduled with the rest of the rained out games that evening.

Teams must have 9 to start a game. Teams that begin with 10 to 12 players may go down to 9 players. Whether a player is ejected or hurt, their batting spot will be considered an out.

Steel spikes will not be allowed in league play. Penalty – ejected from game in progress.

Each team will hit their own YELLOW softballs. The men will use the 12in. MSP-44 ball (44 core/375 compression) or (.52core/300compression). Women will use the 11in. GWSP -44 ball (44 core/375 compression). (Any ball approved by the ASA). All softballs must have the ASA stamp. A new or playable ball will be acceptable (umpire approved). If an illegal ball is used the batter will be declared out. If it is discovered a second time the coach will be ejected.

Bats –See attached list for banned bats. If an illegal/altered/non approved bat is in the batters box and/or used the batter will be declared out and ejected from the game in progress plus one game.

If games are delayed for rain they will restart at point of rain delay and/or 4 inning or 45 minutes will be a completed game. If the fifth inning has started and rain occurs before the fifth inning is complete and the game has gone 45 minutes, the score will revert back to the fourth inning.

Final standing from the regular season will indicate seeding and HOME team for the tournament. Higher seed will be the home team.

Home Run Rule - Men’s Open “A” Division - 6 Home Runs per game
 Men’s Open “B” Division – 3 Home Runs per game
 (After the home runs limit all other are dead ball outs for the above leagues)

All leagues will play “one-up ruling” on home runs – If both teams have reached the limit of home runs, either team is allowed to hit an additional home run to go one home run ahead of the opposing team – in innings one through 6th – (can’t go up in the bottom of the 7th inning/an any extra innings)

Note: In any inning 1st through 6th as soon as time has expired then the home team can’t go up if both teams have reached the limit of home runs.

Double first bases will be used this season.

-A batted ball hitting or bounding over the inside portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting or bounding over the outside portion is declared foul.

-Base runner may be standing on the orange/outside base when the ball is pitched.

-Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the inside portion and the batter-runner must use the outside portion. The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the inside portion.

-On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, or an errant throw pulling the defense off the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the inside or the outside portion.

-On extra base hits and balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter-runner may touch the inside or outside portion.

-When tagging up on a fly ball, the inside portion must be used.

-If, when using the double base, and there is a force play by an infielder on the batter-runner, who touches only the inside portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the inside portion. Interference is ruled, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out, and all other runners are returned to the bases last occupied at the time of interference.

Starting with the Spring 2002 season, the Parks Department reserves the right to adjust team divisions in any leagues. Depending on the quality of teams in each league, teams may be placed in a division according to ability and prior playing history.

Tie Breakers:

Two-teams:

First – Head to Head

Second – Which team beat the highest seed in the league

Third – Coin toss

Three or more teams: (Once it gets to two teams then goes to two team tie breaker)

First – Head to head among the teams tied.

Second – Which team beat the highest seed in the league

Third – Coin toss

(Note: To deter running up the score, run differential will NOT be considered.)

Any and all rules not covered in the athletic manual will be decided upon by the Parks Department.

Pitcher's Safety Zone/Pitcher's Box (NEW): There will be two chalk lines drawn 12-inches on both sides of the pitching rubber (6ft. in length). This will be the safety zone.

IF a batter hits the ball inside this zone, this will result in a DELAYED dead ball out for the hitting team (unless the ball is outside of playable reach i.e. well over the pitcher's head. Playable reach will be depicted by the umpire's judgment & WILL NOT BE ARGUED). The defensive team can take the automatic out or take the result of the play.

If your pitcher steps outside of the safety zone and is hit with the ball, he will not be protected under any ruling.

In addition to a delayed dead ball out, if a player is caught targeting a pitcher, there will be a warning assessed on the first offense. Then on the player's second offense, they will be ejected from the game.

COED SOFTBALL

Teams may begin play with either 10 or 12 players. If there is an injury to a player and the team has no legal, same sex substitute, there will be an out recorded each time the injured player's spot comes up. Teams may use the EP rule: Bat 12 players (6 male and 6 female), but play 10 on defense. (Decision must be made before the first pitch whether to bat 10 or 12)

Teams may play with 9 players (either 4 females/5 males or 5 females/4 males) and the 10 position in the batting line-up is an out. Teams can never go below 9 players to start/finish a game.

Pitchers/umpires will alternate softballs on every batter. Men hit the Men's, Women hit the Women's. Each team will hit their own balls. If the wrong size softball is used the offensive team has the decision to take the play or hit again with the same count as before the violation occurred.

Line-ups: Must alternate sexes in batting order. Of the 10 people on the playing field, 5 must be men and 5 must be women.

Defense: Shall include 2 males and 2 females in the outfield, 2 males and 2 females in the infield positions, and 1 male and 1 female in the pitcher/catcher positions.

Walking a batter: On any walk to a male batter, the next batter (A female) has her choice of walking or hitting. The male batter must touch first on the walk to second. The decision must be made before she steps into the batters' box with a bat. Once she steps into the batter's box, she must hit. If the female batter does hit then the male batter still GOES TO SECOND BASE.

Line in the outfield: Outfielders must stay behind the line until the ball is hit. If violated the offense has the option to take the play or hit again with the same count as before the violation occurred.

During the regular season, if players choose to play both coed and men on the same night, be aware that men's games on one field will not be held up for players coming from another field of coed.

Tournament games of men and coed could be played at the same times.