



# **Adult Softball League Bylaws 2018**

City of Santa Rosa  
Recreation and Parks Department



# 2018 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS

## PREAMBLE

The City of Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department softball leagues are organized for the health and recreational benefits of the citizens of Santa Rosa.

## ARTICLE I - League Organization

1. League organization and operation will be the responsibility of the Recreation and Parks Department.
2. Teams must play all games as scheduled by the Recreation and Parks Department. Teams do not have the authority to reschedule games.

## ARTICLE II - Game Schedules

1. The home team for each game is the team listed second on the game schedule.
2. Starting times for all games will be as listed on schedules. Forfeit time is 5 minutes after game time for the first game with no less than eight players on defense. Forfeit time for second and third games is at game time.

## ARTICLE III - Game Rules

### 1. All Leagues

- 1.1. All leagues will play by the Official 2018 USA Rulebook and the City of Santa Rosa Bylaws.
- 1.2. All players listed on a team's lineup card in the batting order must be present at the time of submitting the lineup card to the scorekeeper. Any players not present may be added to the reserves list.
- 1.3. If a team starts a game with less than 10 players, additional players can be added to the bottom of the batting order up to 13 players for men's, women's and open leagues or 16 players for coed leagues, as they arrive. However, once the leadoff batter has started their second at-bat, any additional players may be added up to **only 10**, at any time.
- 1.4. If a team starts a game with 10 or less players, and a player is injured and unable to continue to play the team **will not** be assessed an automatic out if there are no substitute players available. If a player is ejected from a game, then the team **will** be assessed an automatic out in the ejected player's batting position if there are no substitute players available.
- 1.5. Any player playing defense must also be in the batting order and take their at-bats.
- 1.6. Courtesy runners are not allowed.
- 1.7. The time limit for all league games will be listed on each league's Game Schedule. Once the game has reached its time limit the current inning will continue until it is completed at which time the game will conclude unless there is a tie.
- 1.8. There are no tie games. All tie games will continue to be played out to a win. There is no Tie-Breaker Rule except in Fast Pitch leagues.
- 1.9. All games that are called because of rain, sprinklers, power outage, etc. and have not completed five full innings (four and one-half if the home team is ahead) will be replayed in its entirety at a later date.

### 2. Slow Pitch Rules

- 2.1. A pitch must reach a height of at least 6 feet and not exceed 12 feet from the ground.
- 2.2. If a pitch hits anywhere on the plate or the strike zone mat, it is considered a strike.

### **3. Open Slow Pitch Rules**

- 3.1. Open leagues will use standard Slow Pitch rules outlined in Article III - Sections 1 and 2.
- 3.2. Coed rules do not apply to Open leagues.
- 3.3. A 12-inch softball will be used for all batters.
- 3.4. There are no gender restrictions on any team. Teams may have as few or as many players of any gender while still following lineup limits outlined in Article III - Section 1 - Rule 1.3.

### **4. Fast Pitch Rules**

- 4.1. **Tie-Breaker Rule:** If a game is tied after seven innings, or if a time limit has expired, the visiting team will begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half of the inning being placed at second base. The home team will do the same in their half of the inning.

### **5. Coed Slow Pitch Rules**

- 5.1. All Coed leagues must have a minimum of 3 males ready to play at game time or the game will be a forfeit.
- 5.2. Only ten defensive players are allowed on the field, with a minimum number of eight players to start the game. At no time may there be more men than women players on the field on defense. A team may use a batting order of up to eight batters of each gender. If a team starts a game with less than ten players, as players arrive, they are put in the bottom of the batting order up to 16 players.
- 5.3. There are no restrictions to the defensive positions for males and females.
- 5.4. Males and females must bat in alternating order (male/female/male/female). Two females or two males can never bat back-to-back.
- 5.5. **ALL batters will be pitched the 12-inch ball.**
- 5.6. **Coed Walk Rule** - If a male walks, he will go to second base and if there are less than two outs in the inning the following female must bat. If there are two outs in the inning, the following female has the option of batting or walking, but must let the umpire know prior to stepping into the batter's box.
- 5.7. **Howarth Park & Franklin Park Wood Bat Rule** – At **only** these two parks men will be required to use wood softball bats in coed leagues. Men will not be allowed to use any metal softball or wood baseball bats. Women may use any bat found on the Legal Bat List.

### **6. Men's Masters Rules**

- 6.1. At-bats will start with a 0-0 count.
- 6.2. A pitcher may stand and pitch up to 6 feet behind the pitcher's rubber and does not have to touch the pitcher's rubber on the pitch delivery.
- 6.3. Force plays will be used at every base. There will be no tag plays. Sliding is not allowed. The force play will be at the base the runner is facing at the time of the play.
- 6.4. Players shall not make contact with a base if a defensive play to that base is imminent. 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate will have an over-run line, an extension of the front of the base. Runners must cross the line before ball arrives to be called safe.

- 6.5. Once a runner crosses the commit line from 3rd base to home plate, they must continue towards home plate. A runner must cross the home plate over run line at all times and **must never touch home plate except when the ball is dead** such as a walk, home run or ground rule double.
- 6.6. Courtesy runners are allowed. A courtesy runner shall be the player who was last out.
- 6.7. There is a limit of 5 runs per inning except for unlimited runs in the 7th inning. Once 5 runs have been reached the current half inning is over.
7. All forfeits will result in a game and a half loss (1½) for the league standings.
8. Rainout and makeup games will be played during the schedule break between the 1st and 2nd half of the season. Games lost after the break will be played at the end of the season. Please note: Based on the number of rainouts, your team's games could be any day that week and could play on more than one night.

#### **ARTICLE IV - Original Players Roster**

1. Each team will be allowed to carry a maximum of 20 players on the active roster. If a team comes in first place, it will receive 15 first-place awards. Roster information is for City use only. Information will not be given out.
2. Players may be rostered on as many teams as they wish, as long as they are not on the roster of two teams in the same league.
3. After the third game of the season, a player on the roster of one team will not be allowed to change to any other team within the same league.
4. All roster changes must be made by the date given on the game schedule. Add/Drop forms are available from the Scorekeeper at the field. All additions to the roster must be submitted to the Scorekeeper prior to a player participating. To **add** a player, both the manager **and** the player must sign the form. To **drop** a player either the manager **or** the player must sign the form.

#### **ARTICLE V - Player Eligibility**

1. All players must be 18 years of age and be out of high school.
2. An ineligible player in a game, or games, will cause his/her team to immediately forfeit all games in which the player participated.
3. A fast pitch pitcher that is classified by ASA as major will not be allowed to pitch in the Santa Rosa City Leagues. A pitcher classified by ASA as "A" or "B" will be allowed to pitch in Division I only.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Supervision**

1. The Recreation and Parks Department has the overall responsibility for managing this Adult Softball League and enforcing the various rules and bylaws. The Umpire's responsibilities will be the starting and play of the game, plus the conduct of players in the game or on the bench as stated in the Official Rule Book. Each team will be required to have a designated playing or non-playing manager at each game to assume the full responsibility for the conduct of the players on his/her team along with the fans of his/her team.

#### **ARTICLE VII - Equipment/Uniforms**

1. The Recreation and Parks Department will supply game balls. The league teams must each provide their own practice balls, bats, gloves, and uniforms. Game balls will be retained for game use only and will not be utilized for warm ups.
2. Standard and similar color and style of uniforms, with legal numbers a minimum of 6 inches in height are **required for the first game and all subsequent games**. Absolutely no numbers made from tape. Failure to comply will result in the player being declared illegal and unable to play in that contest. Officials have been instructed not to allow a player on the field if he or she does not comply.

3. If teams do not receive their uniforms in time for the first game of the season, sets of numbered jerseys are available to be checked out through the Sports Desk. A security deposit will be collected for the use of the jerseys.
4. Metal cleats are not allowed in slow pitch softball in Santa Rosa for safety reasons.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – Protests**

1. The only rule eligible for protest is illegal players: players whom you suspect are not on the opposing team's official roster. Judgment calls by officials during the game cannot be protested. Protests will not be decided on at the field except during playoffs. Protests will be settled by the Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department after review at a later date.
2. **To protest an illegal player you must complete all the steps as follows for the protest to be valid.**
  - 2.1. The manager of the protesting team must state the intent to protest an illegal player to both the umpire and scorekeeper at the field **during game time**. Protests are invalid if stated after the game has concluded. The game will be paused while the remainder of the protest procedure is completed, and will count against the current game's time limit.
  - 2.2. The protesting manager must identify the player(s) they question as illegal and have said player(s) sign the back of the score sheet of the game involved. If said player(s) fails to sign the score sheet they will be considered illegal.
  - 2.3. The protesting manager must state the exact reason why the player is thought to be illegal, in writing, on the Protest Form.
  - 2.4. Once the previous steps have been completed the game will resume. The suspected illegal player(s) may continue to play the remainder of the game with no penalties assessed at the field as a result of the protest.

#### **ARTICLE IX - Awards and Championship Play**

##### **1. Playoff Seeding:**

- 1.1. The four teams with the best overall won/loss record at the end of the regular season will proceed into the playoffs. Game 1 will be 3<sup>rd</sup> place vs 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Game 2 will be 4<sup>th</sup> place vs 1<sup>st</sup> place. The winners of Game 1 and Game 2 will play in the final game with the higher seed being home team.
2. **\*Championship Playoff Rule\***: If a player is ejected from the first or second game they are NOT permitted to play in the championship game.
3. Individual awards (15) will be given to the first place team of the regular season.

##### **4. Regular Season Standings Tie Criteria:**

- 4.1. In the event of a tie in the final standings, the following criteria will be used to decide the winner in the following order:
  - A. Best record head-to-head among tied teams.
  - B. Run differential head-to-head among tied teams.
  - C. Run differential in all league games.
  - D. Most runs scored in all league games.
  - E. Least runs allowed in all league games.

## **ARTICLE X – Conduct & Standards of Behavior**

1. Conduct Rules will be interpreted and enforced by the Recreation and Parks Department and all decisions will be final. Any decision concerning an exception or situation not covered by the rules below will be the responsibility of the Recreation and Parks Department.
2. For the enjoyment and safety of everyone, the Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks Department expects all participants to treat the people and facilities connected with the program with respect and abide by all rules and direction from staff. The Recreation & Parks Department and all of its staff reserves the right to refuse services to anyone for failure to abide by these standards, which will result in a single team or double team forfeit of the game.
  - 2.1. The following are examples of behavior that fail to meet the expectations of the Standards of Behavior Policy:
    - Disruptive, disrespectful, inappropriate behavior, acts of violent behavior or any behavior which interferes with the enjoyment or intent of the programs and facilities offered to the residents of Santa Rosa will not be tolerated.
    - Unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to: failure to abide by all the rules, forms of harassment, offensive language, disobedience, disruptive behavior, physical harm to others or property, or the threat of physical harm, lack of personal hygiene or any behavior which may impact the safety of any employee or participant of activities offered, or any demonstration of behavior which interferes with the smooth operation of programs and facilities.

### **3. Rules**

- 3.1.1. Smoking is not permitted in any City of Santa Rosa park.
- 3.1.2. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on or around the playing field.
- 3.1.3. City Ordinance 13-24.036:** Regulations for compliance with posted rules and orders of Recreation & Park employees. It is unlawful for any person to remain on a Recreation & Park facility after being requested to leave for violating any posted rule.

## **ARTICLE XI – Ejections**

1. Ejection from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a minimum one-game suspension (based on severity of actions and this will be reviewed by the staff.)
2. If a player is ejected from a game, he or she is required to vacate city property immediately.
3. On the third ejection for unsportsmanlike behavior of the season, a player will be suspended from the league for the balance of the season.
4. Any player ejected for drinking alcohol during a game, will be suspended for a minimum of four games.
5. Any player found using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game, and will have at least a two game suspension. (If the team does not have a substitute player to put in said players spot, then the team will be accessed an automatic out each time that players turn in the batting order comes up).
6. Any player that strikes another player will be removed from **ALL** League play indefinitely.

## **ARTICLE XII - City Regulations**

1. City Rules:
  - 1.1. Prohibition of Glass Beverage Containers: Ordinance #2204, Section 3-17.24, forbids the possession of glass beverage containers in any City park or playground.
  - 1.2. No smoking in City of Santa Rosa Parks: Ordinance #3793, Section 9-20.050.
  - 1.3. No abusive or profane language by players or spectators.
  - 1.4. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are prohibited. The penalty for anyone who consumes alcoholic beverages or illegal substances on the field, in the dugout, or all areas surrounding the playing field during the game will be suspended for a minimum of four games.
  - 1.5. The Santa Rosa Sports Department can confiscate any bat to have tested that we believe to be: shaved, rolled, or augmented in any fashion.
2. All rules set up by the City of Santa Rosa regarding conduct of participants while on City property will be strictly enforced. The League members will regard themselves as guests of the City. The above rules will be interpreted and enforced by the Recreation and Parks Department and all decisions will be final. Any decision concerning an exception, or a situation not covered by the above bylaws, will be the responsibility of the Recreation and Parks Department.