

City of Renton Community Services Department - Recreation Division
Co-Ed Softball Supplemental Softball Rules and Regulations

Coaches and managers are responsible for ensuring that all players understand and abide by league rules and regulations.

1. Player Registration and Eligibility

- a. All roster information must be completed and all players must sign the electronic roster to be eligible to play. Any falsification of player information may result in disqualification from the league. All players must be able to provide picture identification at game site.
- b. All rosters must be received by the City of Renton Recreation Division before the date of the first scheduled league game.
- c. Any team that does not submit a roster prior to the date of the first scheduled league game will forfeit all games until a roster is received by the City of Renton Recreation Division.
- d. Rosters will be frozen for the entire season on the Friday of the third week of scheduled league games. After such time, no players may be added to a team.
- e. All players must be 18 years of age to participate.
- f. Players may only participate on one City of Renton co-ed softball team per season.
 1. Teams may use a maximum of two "pick-up" players a game to make their team legal (i.e.: 4 female/4 male). Teams using "pick-up players" are only allowed to play with 8 players total. The player(s) must be on a currently City of Renton softball roster, and the opposing coach must agree. "Pick-up" players are only allowed in regular season games (no post season playoffs or championships).
- g. Coaches and managers are responsible for ensuring that all players understand and abide by league rules and regulations.

2. League Play

Official USA Softball Rules shall govern league play, with the following exceptions stated in the "City of Renton Supplemental Softball Rules and Regulations".

- a. Home team is responsible for the official scorebook and must provide new 11" and 12" balls to the umpire. The visiting team must provide good, usable 11" and 12" back-up balls.
- b. A game will be considered complete if one team leads by ten (10) runs after five complete innings (4 ½ innings if home team leads).
- c. Teams must start and finish a game with a minimum of eight players (minimum of four males and four females). If at any time during a game a team has fewer than 8 players participating, the game will be considered a forfeit.
- d. Only legal defensive roster combinations: 4m & 4f / 4m & 5f / 4m & 6f / 5m & 4f / 5m & 5f.
- e. There will be unlimited substitution of all players listed in the batting order (up to 20). The batting order must alternate between man and woman. If team does not alternate batters, men and women, an automatic out will be taken every time same sex players bat consecutively. Players arriving before the first pitch of the third inning may be added to the bottom of the batting order. Players arriving after the first pitch of the third inning may be substituted per USA substitution rules.
- f. A player will start their turn at bat with 0 balls and 0 strikes. No courtesy foul; if a player has two strikes and hits a foul ball, he or she is out.
- g. If a male batter is walked without receiving a strike (he will automatically be awarded a double and must go to second base), the female batter following him will have the option to walk or bat.
- h. Each team may use one courtesy runner per gender. The courtesy runner must be the last same-sex out. If more than one courtesy per gender is needed, the opposing team must agree, otherwise it reverts back to the rule above. Courtesy runners should be disclosed at the pre-game meeting. Injuries that occur during the game may require additional discussions for approval.
- i. A game cut short for any reason will be considered a complete game if five (5) innings have been completed.
- j. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 5 minutes of play, determined by the umpire. A game may be considered official if less than 5 complete innings; if the run rule is not applied and you have reached the time limit.
- k. Games cannot end in a tie. If the game is tied at the end of the time limit and/or at the end of 7 innings we will play out the tie by applying the International Tiebreaker Rule. Start the inning with no outs and the batter scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.
- l. Metal cleats are not allowed in any City of Renton softball league.
- m. A team shall not have more than twenty (20) players registered on the official roster.
- n. A ten (10) minute grace period will be allowed for the first scheduled game. For double headers: A twenty (20) minute grace period will be allowed for the second game of the double header from the scheduled start time of the first game of the double header.

City of Renton Community Services Department - Recreation Division
Co-Ed Softball Supplemental Softball Rules and Regulations(continued)

- o. Progressive home run rule is in effect. One (1) progressive for all leagues, applies to balls hit untouched over the fence in addition to home runs identified in the ground rules. An out will be the penalty for each home run that places a team two (2) home runs ahead of their opponent.
- p. "Casual Profanity Rule" pertains to expletives and verbal unsporting language which is not directed at umpires or opposing players, but rather is being uttered by a player out of frustration. This type of behavior is penalized by "outs" being declared against the offending team.
- q. Stepping into a batter's box with an illegal bat will be an out. The player is not ejected. Refer to USA Softball illegal/banned bat list.
- r. Stealing will not be permitted.
- s. USA Softball encroachment rules do not apply. Players (men or women) may encroach or field balls within another player's defensive position. USA Softball defensive positioning rules do not apply. There are no defensive position restrictions or requirements for men and women playing in the field.

3. Rain outs

In case of inclement weather, the decision on field playability will be made by 4:00pm Monday-Friday, 8:00am on Saturdays, and 12:00pm on Sundays. Managers are responsible for calling the inclement weather line at (425) 430-6719. If fields are playable at time of the recorded message, teams must show up for games. Field playability at game time will be at the umpire's discretion. In the event that a game is postponed due to weather, practice games will not be allowed. Further use of the field may result in damage to the field, making rehabilitation of the field more difficult. This could postpone play longer than required. Cooperation of all teams in this manner is required.

4. Player & Team Suspension

- a. Any player ejected from the game will face a minimum suspension of the next two consecutive games from any City of Renton sponsored league or tournament. The suspension is effective immediately (i.e. ejection occurs the first game of the doubleheader; the player must sit out the second game and the next league game).
- b. Any player or coach who is ejected from a game for physically abusing an official or player will be suspended from all City of Renton sponsored activities for a minimum of one year.
- c. The Recreation Supervisor may determine any additional suspension for player misconduct.
- d. Any player who is ejected for the second time in one season will be suspended for a minimum of 30 days.
- e. A suspended player must leave the park immediately. The game will not continue until a suspended player has left the grounds. He/she may not become a spectator.
- f. A team playing a suspended player will forfeit all games in which the suspended player participated during the suspension.
- g. Failure to supply the umpire with the name of the ejected player will result in game forfeiture. Coaches are responsible for players and spectators actions. Failure to assist in calming players after a request from the umpire or City staff can result in the coach's ejection and team suspension.
- h. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. Anyone violating this rule (player or spectator) is subject to a fine under City Ordinance #4419. Game forfeiture and player suspension may result.
- i. To file a protest, the coach must inform the umpire that a protest is being filed and the reason. The umpire must sign the official scorebook and record the incident. A protest game must be declared before the next pitch following the incident. Rules interpretations are determined by the umpire's judgment and cannot be protested. The City of Renton Recreation Division must receive a formal protest and a \$100 deposit within 24 hours. If not received within 24 hours, cancellation of any protest filed at the game site will result. If a protest occurs on a weekend or holiday and cannot be delivered within the 24-hour period, the protest must be received by 5:00pm of the next business day. If the protest is granted or declared valid, the \$100 will be refunded. Should the protest be rejected, the \$100 is automatically forfeited.

5. Playoffs & League Standings

- a. The following methods will be used to determine final league standings:
 - 1. Teams with the best league record will advance to playoffs.
 - 2. Between tied teams, the following criteria will be used:
 - Head to head competition in league play
 - Run differential between tied teams if teams played each other more than once.
 - Coin flip.
- b. The first place team from each division may be required to move up a division the next season. The last place team has the option to move down.
- c. Team with the higher seed at the end of the regular season will be awarded home team throughout the league championship tournament.