

# **2017 Fall Fest Co-ed Adult Softball Tournament Rules and Regulations**

## **I. Equipment/Attire**

- 1A. Athletic shoes are required. **Metal cleats are not allowed.**
- 1B. Players may wear protective equipment providing it does not offer the wearer an unfair performance advantage.
- 1C. Each team shall furnish all team equipment necessary for each game.
- 1D. Players are required to wear same-color jerseys.

## **II. Officials**

- 2A. Games must be officiated by at least one umpire. The Head Umpire governs all game play and issues all final rulings. Other officials may assist when available.

## **III. Player Eligibility**

- 3A. All participants must have filled out the waiver.
- 3B. All participants must be on the team's roster.

## **IV. Team Rosters**

- 4A. Each team roster must consist of a minimum of nine (9) and no more than fourteen (14) players.
- 4B. Each team shall consist of males and females. The roster must be distributed to where no more than two males will bat in a row. The minimum ratios are:
  - a. 9 players – 6 males, 3 females
  - b. 10 players – 6 males, 4 females
  - c. 11 players – 7 males, 4 females
  - d. 12 players – 8 males, 4 females
  - e. 13 players – 8 males, 5 females
  - f. 14 players – 9 males, 5 females

There may be more females on a team than the minimum requires but never more males.

- 4C. Each team shall have one Team Captain; the captain will be responsible for the team.

The Team Captains must ensure that:

- a. All team players must bat in the same order.
- b. Only the Captain may request a conference with the umpire to dispute calls.

## **V. LINE-UPS / GAME TIME**

- 5A. The second team named on the schedule designates the home team that will occupy the 1st base bench and be out in the field first.
- 5B. Line-ups: Teams must field at least eight players and no more than ten.

Everyone on the roster must bat. Teams can field 10 players (minimum 4 females), 9 players (minimum 3 females), or 8 players (minimum 2 females, taking an extra out for the missing 3<sup>rd</sup> female).

5C. Batting Order: Teams must field at least eight (8) players and no more than ten (10). Everyone present at the game may bat as long as no more than 2 males bat in a row (i.e. 2 males, 1 female, 2 males, 1 female, etc. or vice versa). If a team's line-up is reduced due to injury, there is no penalty as long as the batting order rule is still followed. However, if the injury breaks the in a row rule, the team must take an out for the missing player each time that position comes up in the batting order. If a team's line-up is reduced for any reason other than injury, the team must take an out each time that position comes up in the batting order (if no legal subs are available).

5D. All team players must bat in the same order each time through the line-up. If substitutions must be made offensively when batting all present players would violate the batting order rules, players may only re-enter in the same spot in the order. (i.e. If a team has too many males, one or more can take turns batting each time through the line-up, both are allowed to play defense). In this case, the line-up would look something like this:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> time through: M1, M2, F1, M3, M4, F2, M5, M6, F3, M7, M8, F4

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> time through: M1, M2, F1, M3, M4, F2, M5, M6, F3, M9, M10, F4

Males taking turns in the line-up must hit in the same spot in the line-up and cannot later substitute for other males.

5E. A team having eight (8) players present at game time prior to the first pitch must begin play immediately or the umpire, after a two-minute fair warning, will forfeit the game. Teams may start with 8 players (minimum 3 females) without charged out penalties for missing players. Teams having 8 players with only 2 females can still play, but must take an out for the missing 3<sup>rd</sup> female.

5F. The game time is indicated on the schedule. Incomplete innings and tie-games are to be played to completion; otherwise no new innings shall be started after **55** minutes of playing time. The umpire's watch shall be the official time. Teams may ask the umpire the start time.

**EXCEPTION:** If both captains agree, game may be started before scheduled game time.

5G. Mercy Rule: If five (5) innings have been played (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) and one team is leading by ten (10) runs or more, the game shall be called; also 15 runs after 4 innings, and 20 runs after 3 innings.

5H. A team failing to place at least eight (8) eligible players on the field at game time will forfeit the game. Late players may enter the game at the bottom of the line-up as long as batting order rules are still followed.

5I. All batters shall assume a one-ball, one-strike count when beginning an at-bat.

## **VI. Defensive Positions**

6A. Males and females do not have to alternate defensively in the infield, outfield, or at pitcher/catcher. However, there must be at least one (1) female in the outfield and at least one (1) female in the infield (pitcher and catcher count as infield in regards to this rule).

6B. All infielders must remain in the infield and all outfielders must remain in the outfield until the ball is hit.

## **VII. Substitutions**

7A. A female may only substitute for a female in the batting order, a male for a male.

7B. Teams may substitute freely on defense each inning.

## **VIII. Regulation Games**

8A. Regulation games last 7 full innings or 55 minutes (see rule 5F) whichever comes first.

8B. A game that is called off by the umpire for a safety reason after 4 full innings of play shall be considered a regulation game. The game score at end of the last full inning shall determine the winner.

8C. In the event of a tie score at the end of the 7th inning or 55 minutes (whichever comes first), extra full innings shall commence until a winner is determined. In the event a game goes into extra innings, each team will begin their half inning with a runner on second. This runner must be the last person who batted in the prior inning.

8D. A Team Captain may raise protest with the umpire for blatant rule infraction, but will accept the umpire's final ruling.

## **IX. Running**

9A. Runners must stay within the base line. Fielders must stay out of the base line. Fielders trying to make an out on base may have their foot on base, but must lean out of the baseline. Runners hindered by any fielder within the base line shall be safe at the base to which they were running.

9B. Leading off base and stealing are not allowed. A runner off of his/her base when the ball is pitched is out.

9C. After a batted ball is caught, runners must tag their originating base before running to the next base. Runners may overrun first base only.

9D. In the case of a batter hitting an over-the-fence home run, drawing a walk, or advancing freely on a teammate's over-the-fence home run or walk, all bases must be touched in order. If not, the opposing team may appeal to the umpire that the player missed a base and the player will be declared out. If that player scored on the play, that player's run will not count. If that is the third out of the inning, all other runs scored by players touching all bases in order will still count.

9E. No blocking the plate (runner gets priority)

## **X. Fouls**

10A. A foul counts as a strike.

10B. A foul on the third strike is an out. No courtesy foul.

## **XI. Outs**

11A. A count of three outs by a team completes the team's half of the inning.

11B. An out is:

1 A runner tagged by the ball in fielder's hand or glove at ANY time while not on base;

2 Any batted ball (fair or foul) that is caught;

3 A fielder catching the ball with their foot on the base to which a runner is forced to run.

4 A runner off of his/her base when the ball is pitched.

5 A ball hit when the batter steps out of the batter's box.

6 An intentionally bunted ball.

## **XII. Ball in Play**

12A. Ball is in play until the umpire declares the play is dead and will call "time"

## **XIII. Designated Runner/Player Positions**

13A. In cases of injury or illness, a time-out may be requested for participant removal and replacement with a substitute of the same sex. If the participant later returns to play, the participant must be inserted in the same batting order position previously held.

13B. If a player is ejected, injured, or becomes ill and cannot continue, and a substitute is not available, the lineup will continue in the same formation, less the removed player (see rule 6C for applicable penalties).

13C. The pitcher may be replaced on the mound once per inning.

13D. There is no courtesy runner. A player CANNOT remain in the line-up and get a courtesy runner every time they reach base.

## **XIV. Pitching**

14A. The height of the arc of a pitch must be at least 6' high and no higher than 10'.

14B. The determination of a pitch meeting the standards for speed and height is left to the judgment of the umpire.

14C. Only a definite underhand motion is acceptable for the delivery of a pitch. If the pitcher pauses, fakes, jukes, throws overhand, sidearm, behind the back, or any type of pitch that is not a deliberate underhanded motion in front of the body will be called illegal and will be a ball if the batter does not swing at the pitch. If the batter swings at the pitch, it is a live ball.

14D. Illegal pitcher's actions include:

- a. Holding the ball by the pitcher longer than 5 seconds.
- b. Throwing the ball by the pitcher to any fielder, unless making preliminary warm-up pitches or making an effort to complete an appeal play, or while the ball is dead.
- c. Throws a pitch that doesn't meet the minimum height requirements.
- d. Throws a pitch that exceeds the maximum height requirement.
- e. Excessive Speed
- f. Faking/Juking
- g. Any throwing motion that is not in front of the body
- h. Any thrown pitch that is not a deliberate underhand motion.

### **XV. Home Runs**

15A. The home run limit is 2 per game. Every home run clearing the outfield fence after 2 prior home runs will be considered an out.

### **XVI. Forfeits**

16A. Forfeits: Using illegal players and or not enough players. Participants are only allowed to play and appear on one team roster for the tournament.