

CITYWIDE ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND LEAGUE INFORMATION

MANAGERS' MEETING

(mandatory)

All teams must have a responsible representative attend the scheduled managers' meeting. Teams will receive important league information including rules, schedules and rosters at this meeting. Failure to attend the managers' meeting may result in forfeiture of the team's first game of the season.

The date, time and location for the Managers' Meeting can be found on the printed receipt from online registration, and is posted on the website www.phoenix.gov/parks

LEAGUE RULES

The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change any rule or regulation whenever due cause warrants, i.e. ASA/USSSA/NSA/ISA pertinent rule changes, safety factors, changes in costs, facility does not meet standards, etc. If a change is made, all team managers affected by the change will be notified by the League Director. The Sports Staff reserves the right to add any rule or regulation when the addition will benefit the program. Rules not covered within this booklet will be found in the current ASA/USSSA/NSA/ISA rule books. It is the manager's or coach's responsibility to know and understand all ASA/USSSA/NSA/ISA, City League rules. ASA/USSSA/NSA/ISA rule books can be purchased from most sporting goods stores.

TEAM ROSTER

Rosters are the private property of the City of Phoenix and the teams involved.

- Roster is limited to a maximum of:
 - 20 players (Men's or Women's leagues)
 - 24 players (CoRec leagues).
- Roster forms will be distributed to team representatives at the mandatory Managers' Meeting.
- Rosters are due to the onsite league director prior to the start of the first game.
- Player signatures are due prior to any player playing in the game. Falsification of signatures will result in the team being suspended from league and tournament play.
- Rosters are frozen by the 1st pitch of the 3rd game.
- If a player's eligibility is questioned while playing, he/she must produce photo identification and have their signature on file (*see Illegal Player Protest*).

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- All player's names and signatures must appear on the team roster.
- A player may be on only one roster in the same league.
- All players must be 18 years of age or older by the first scheduled league game.

SAFETY

- Players should participate in league and tournament play that is compatible to their skills and abilities.
- For personal safety, players should not play if they have an injury.
- No batting warm-ups are allowed against the backstop or any fencing.
- Each team should provide insurance coverage for its players.

The City of Phoenix does not carry insurance to cover players injured during practice, league, or tournament play. When all rules and regulations are strictly followed, the potential for injury still exists. Involvement in this activity is done at the participant's own risk.

SLIDE RULE

There is NO mandatory sliding rule. Sliding is done at the player's own risk.

RAIN-OUT PROCEDURE

Managers are responsible for calling the designated league rain-out numbers to find out the status of their games. If conditions change during the evening, league directors will make an effort to contact the team managers with scheduled games to notify them of the cancellation.

EQUIPMENT

The City of Phoenix, Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to withhold or withdraw approval of any equipment which significantly changes the character of the game, affects the safety of participants or spectators, or renders a player's performance more a product of his/her equipment than individual skill. Only bats that are ASA approved may be used in league and tournament play. The ASA banned bat list distributed at the managers' meeting will remain in effect for the entire season.

- ASA Rule Book, Rule 7, Sections 6B-C shall be in effect. Use of an altered or non-approved bat may also result in additional penalties being assessed under the Code of Conduct.

UNIFORMS

Team uniforms are not required. Players' attire should be appropriate to the safe play of the game.

SOFTBALLS

- Game balls will be provided for each game.
- CoRec teams will utilize a 12" ball for male batters and an 11" ball for female batters.
- HOME TEAM is responsible for providing the backup ball(s) equivalent to the game balls for each game.
- In order to facilitate game play, the offensive team is responsible for retrieving any ball hit out-of-play that cannot be quickly retrieved by the defensive players.

OFFICIAL GAME TIME

The umpire's time will be the official time for determining forfeits. It is the responsibility of the team manager to check with the umpire to confirm the official start time for their games. No new inning will begin after 55 minutes.

Game time is forfeit time for league and post season tournament games with the following exception:

- For the first game of each night, a 5-minute grace period will be extended for that game only.
- If a team is unable to field the minimum number of required players after 5 minutes the game will be declared a forfeit.
- The 5-minute grace period is included in the 55 minutes of playing time.

FORFEITS

- Four forfeits may cause a team to be dropped from the league. League fees will not be refunded under these circumstances.
- Teams should contact their league coordinator if they anticipate forfeiting their game(s).

SCORE KEEPING

- The HOME TEAM is designated as official scorekeeper.
- The HOME TEAM is responsible for reporting the official final score to the onsite league director immediately following the conclusion of the game.
- Both teams are responsible for keeping score. It is the responsibility of the VISITING TEAM to check the score at each 1/2 inning.
- The score of a forfeited game will be recorded as 7-0.

WARM-UPS

- No batted infield warm-ups will be allowed.
- The pitcher may have 5 warm-up pitches before the 1st inning and 3 warm-up pitches between innings.

LENGTH OF GAME

- A regulation game consists of 7 innings, with no new inning starting after 55 minutes. Umpires are the official time keepers.
- All batters begin each at-bat with a one (1) ball, one (1) strike count with one foul ball to waste after two (2) strikes.
- A game becomes official after 4 innings; or 3 1/2 innings if the Home Team is ahead. If a game does not reach 4 innings (or 3 1/2 innings, as noted above) due to undesirable playing conditions it will be replayed only if it effects the final standings in relation to the awards package.
- Post-season tournament championship game will play 7 innings with no new inning after 75 minutes. The run rule is in effect.

TIES

Ties will stand if game time runs out during league play. Ties will count as 1/2 win and 1/2 loss. If there is a tie in league standings, the following criteria, in the order listed, will be used to establish the final standings of the teams that are tied:

1. Who beat whom.
2. The run differential in league games between the teams who are tied.
3. The total run differential for the season for the teams who are tied.

RUN RULE

A run rule is in effect for all league and tournament games, 20 runs after 3 innings or 15 runs after 5 innings.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Teams must have a minimum of eight players to start or continue a game. Teams may play up to ten players defensively.

- If at any time there are less than eight players, the game is a forfeit.
- Acceptable player combinations for CoRec teams include:
 - 4 Men & 4 Women
 - 4 Men & 5 Women
 - 4 Men & 6 Women
 - 5 Men & 5 Women
- When a team begins play with less than 10 players, additional team players may be added to the lineup at any time by calling time-out and informing the official. The players will be added to the bottom of the lineup. Only up to 10 players allowed.

ADDITIONAL PLAYERS

- Team Managers have the option to bat their entire roster. To utilize this option the players must be present at game time and listed in the batting order. Players that arrive after the start of the game may only enter the game under ASA/USSSA substitution rules.
- A maximum of 10 players play the field defensively. Players included in the batting order may alternate in and out of defensive positions. CoRec teams may never have more men than women on the field defensively.

COURTESY RUNNER

Each team will be allowed to utilize a courtesy runner for one player (of each gender) for each inning.

- The courtesy runner will be a rostered non-player or the player who made the last out.
- If that player is on base, or if it is the 1st inning and no outs have been made, the courtesy runner will be determined by going backward in the batting lineup to the first available player (of the same gender.) If the courtesy runner is still on base when it is his/her turn to bat, that runner will go in to bat and the replacement runner will be the last player (of the same gender) to have crossed the plate.
- If an illegal runner takes the base, the defensive team may protest that runner. If this protest is made prior to the next pitch the illegal courtesy runner will be declared out. If the defensive team fails to protest prior to the next pitch it is no longer a protestable situation and the runner shall be considered legal.

BORROWED PLAYERS **(Men's & CoRec Leagues)**

Teams may borrow rostered players from another team in the same league.

- The onsite League Director must be notified prior to utilizing the borrowed player(s) to verify they are eligible, rostered players.
- A maximum of 2 players may be borrowed to bring the lineup up to a maximum of 10 players. However, the team may only borrow players to bring their lineup to an equal or lesser number than the team they are playing against.
- The borrowed players must bat in the last two places in the lineup, and must play catcher and right field on defense.
- When the teams actual rostered player(s) arrive, the team must immediately substitute their rostered player(s) for the borrowed player(s).

DEFENSIVE PLACEMENT **(CoRec)**

There are NO requirements for male/female combinations for defensive positioning.

ALTERNATING BATTING LINEUP **(CoRec)**

CoRec teams will utilize the True Alternating method for their batting lineups. There is one lineup for the female batters and one lineup for the male batters. The batting order for each gender is required to stay the same. Male and female batters will alternate at-bats while following their respective lineups.

WALK RULE **(CoRec)**

A walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) shall bat. EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. (ASA rule 8, section 1, article C -4)

PROTEST

To protest an umpire's call (rule interpretation only, not judgement calls), the team manager must inform the umpire prior to next pitch.

- A protest card must be completed and submitted with \$25.00 in the form of cash or money order by 5:00 pm the next working day after the game in question. This must be hand-carried to the Sports and Turf Management Division Office. A non-partisan protest committee will rule on the protest within one working week.
- If upheld, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the \$25.00 will be forfeited.
- During tournament play all protests will be resolved at the point of infraction by the umpire and onsite league director. Their decision is final.

ILLEGAL PLAYER PROTEST

A player protest is allowed at any time in a game. The player in question:

- must be listed on the roster.
- must have their signature on the roster.
- must produce photo identification which also verifies their age.

If the player is unable to meet all of these requirements, the player is automatically ineligible to play.

- The illegal player will be disqualified and be counted as an out each time their name comes up in the batting order.
- The team will not be allowed to substitute another player for the illegal player.

Systematic protests of players/rosters are not allowed. No more than two (2) players protested per team per game.

All Illegal Player protests will be resolved at the time of the protest by the onsite League Director. Their decision is final.

PARK REGULATIONS

It is the responsibility of the team manager, players and spectators to be familiar with all park regulations and related ordinances or stipulations of use. Related ordinances include, but are not limited to:

Off Road Vehicle Ordinance, 36-64B No vehicles are allowed on Park grounds outside of designated parking areas.

Glass Beverage Container Ordinance, #G2144. 23-28 No glass beverage containers of any type are allowed in City Parks.

Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance #G2145, 23-29 An alcoholic beverage permit is required if beer is to be consumed or possessed in City Parks. (All other alcoholic beverages are prohibited.)

FACILITY USE ELIGIBILITY

Failure to obtain all permits and licenses required by law, ordinance or Parks and Recreation Department rules and regulations and/or failure to comply with any law, city ordinance, park regulation, established stipulations of usage or reasonable request from an authorized staff person can result in immediate suspension of facility use privileges, and/or citation and/or loss of eligibility to utilize any city of Phoenix facilities on the part of the individual and/or the group.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

The City of Phoenix reserves the right to eject or cause to be ejected any person or persons considered by staff to be disorderly. Disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to, conduct committed with the intent to disturb the peace or quiet of a neighborhood, family or person by engaging in fighting or seriously disruptive behavior, or by making unreasonable noise; or by using abusive or offensive language with the likely result of provoking physical retaliation.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RESTRICTIONS

All teams and/or individuals must have valid beer permits, where allowed, to possess or consume beer at City facilities. All other alcoholic beverages are prohibited. This permit is available at Division Offices or the Department's Main Office (16th floor, City Hall) for a fee. Note: The Softball Complexes (Rose Mofford, Papago & Desert West) have an onsite concessionaire with a liquor license and serve beer; no beer permits will be issued and alcoholic beverages may not be brought to these facilities.

- For City sponsored leagues, teams may obtain a beer permit for the number of scheduled dates their team is playing in a calendar month.
- Team beer permits cover rostered team members only.
- Rostered players are not permitted to consume or possess beer or alcoholic beverages during their game play (See Code Of Conduct, category II.)
- **Consumption or possession of beer or any alcoholic beverage by players listed on the roster during an official game will result in immediate forfeiture of the game** (regardless of whether the rostered player is actively participating in the game).
- Additional penalties may be imposed on the player and/or team.
- **Spectators** must obtain their own beer permit. A permit is required for each date.
- No alcoholic beverages may be possessed or consumed in any City facility parking lot.
- **Violators may be cited; further team/individual penalties may be imposed**

CODE OF CONDUCT

DEFINITIONS

- The term "individual" includes: manager, player and spectator.
- The term "official" includes: umpire, league director and City Staff.
- The manager and entire team are responsible for the conduct of its individuals.
- Misconduct will result in penalizing an individual or a team with respect to the City of Phoenix leagues and tournaments.

INFRACTIONS AND PENALTIES

CATEGORY I:

Minimum Penalty: Warning.

Maximum Penalty: Banned from City of Phoenix Sports Programs.

NO INDIVIDUAL SHALL:

- A. Demonstrate dissent by throwing gloves, bats, balls or any other forceful action.
- B. Discuss with an official, in any manner, the decision reached by an official (except the team manager.)
- C. Use abusive language to attack any official or individual on or off the playing field.
- D. Use profane, obscene or vulgar language, in any manner, at any time, on or off the playing field.
- E. Appear on the field of play, at any time, in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of any other type of drug which might effect the individual's safety or the safety of others.
- F. Consume or possess beer or alcoholic beverages in any City facility parking lot. Alcoholic beverage permits are restricted. Permits are not issued for Rose Mofford, Desert West or Papago Softball Complexes (Ordinance #G2145-23-29).
- G. Use unnecessary rough tactics in the play of game.
- H. Leave behind excessive trash.
- I. Demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct.

CATEGORY II:

Minimum Penalty: Forfeit of game.

Maximum Penalty: Banned from City of Phoenix Sports Programs.

NO COACH, MANAGER OR PLAYER SHALL:

- A. Consume or possess beer or alcoholic beverages during the team's league or tournament games.
- B. Consume or possess beer or alcoholic beverages on park property without a permit.
- C. Demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct.

CATEGORY III:

Minimum Penalty: Suspension from league (team and/or individual) and probation for one year.

Maximum Penalty: Banned from City of Phoenix Sports Programs.

NO INDIVIDUAL SHALL:

- A. Lay a hand upon, shove, strike or threaten to strike an official or individual.
- B. Physically attack any official or individual.
- C. Damage, destroy or steal City property.
- D. Demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct.

Multiple violations of the Code of Conduct will result in an escalation of penalties.

TEAM CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

It is the intent of the City of Phoenix to make the softball program as enjoyable and as fair as possible. To achieve this goal, a team skill classification system has been developed.

1. Teams who played in the immediate preceding season are automatically classified; however, teams that alter their roster by 51% or more from the previous season must reclassify. Teams who did not play in the previous season must submit a classification application for rating. **No Exceptions!** (No team is allowed to register in a league without classifying).
2. All classification applications must be submitted by the established deadline, which is a minimum of three weeks prior to general registration. Teams that submit Classification applications after the deadline will need to register at late registration. The form is available online at www.phoenix.gov/parks
3. Teams will be classified by Sports Staff, and will be rated according to team history, skill levels and former classification. They will then be assigned a team classification level and will be allowed to register only in leagues designated for that particular level of play. Teams will be notified of their classification level by mail. Appeals to assigned team classification must be made in writing prior to Early registration to the Sports and Turf Management Division staff.
4. Teams that finished 1st and 2nd in the preceding season of play are eligible for Early Registration. Staff reserves the right to automatically reclassify these teams to the next higher level of play and to assign Early Registrants to specific leagues.
5. Teams in the last positions in league standings may be automatically reclassified to the next lower level of play. (No guaranteed status is given)
6. The City of Phoenix reserves the right to eject or ban any team from a specific league when it is determined they are participating out of classification. Entry fees will not be refunded.
7. Requests to register for a higher classification league will only be considered following general registration. Teams may never register down in classification.

TEAM CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS

Division "A": Teams with participants who are very talented and experienced softball players. Superior offensive and defensive skills required with good home-run power. Experience playing together as a team is helpful, but not essential at this level.

Division "B": Teams with experience playing together as well as individual experience. Very good offensive and defensive skills required with some home-run power.

Division "C": Teams with experience playing together as well as individual experience. Effective offensive and defensive skills required with 1-2 power hitters.

Division "D": Teams with little or no experience playing together and a combination of experienced and inexperienced players. Offensive and defensive skills vary among teammates.

Division "Novice": Teams with little or no experience playing together and little individual playing experience; generally comprised of a group of friends participating solely for recreation.

LEAGUE REGISTRATION FEES

The league fees are due in full at the time of registration, and cover the cost of one ball per game, umpire fee, field reservation fee, single elimination post season tournament and awards.

EARLY REGISTRATION: Teams that finished 1st and 2nd in the preceding season of play are eligible for Early Registration. Staff reserves the right to automatically reclassify these teams to the next higher level of play. These teams must register or their assigned league in order to utilize their option for early registration. Teams that are eligible for early registration but want to play in a league other than their assigned league, must go through General registration. Those teams who do not take advantage of their early registration option, may still register through the first-come, first-served General registration process; however, they forfeit their guaranteed league placement. Information regarding dates for online Early Registration will be specified in the team classification letter.

GENERAL REGISTRATION: General Registration is open to all classified teams on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is conducted online through our website at www.phoenix.gov/parks. Classified teams will be mailed their Classification Letter including their Login ID and PIN to access their account for online registration.

LATE REGISTRATION: This registration will be held after General Registration and is for all teams who did not register at General Registration or did not meet the classification deadline.

ONLINE REGISTRATION: To view league information on league offerings and registration information please visit: www.phoenix.gov/parks

TEAM MOVE-UP RULE

Based on the league standings, 1st and 2nd place teams can be automatically classified to the next higher level of play. These teams will be eligible for Early Registration for the upcoming season. (please see section on Early Registration)

Appeals to automatic changes in team classification must be made prior to Early Registration

LOCATIONS

PRACTICE FIELD RESERVATIONS

A team wanting to reserve a ball field for team practice may contact any Division Office to inquire as to availability and current rental fees. (Offices are closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.)

DIVISION OFFICE INFORMATION

Central Division

Norton House 2700 N. 15th Ave. 602-262-6412

Specialized Maintenance and Aquatics Division

Division Office 1802 W Encanto, 85007 602-262-6485

Northeast Division

Division Office 17642 N 40th Street, 85032 602-262-6696

Northwest Division

Division Office 3901 W Glendale Ave., 85051 602-262-6575

South Division

Division Office 1346 E So. Mountain, 85042 602-262-6111

Mt Vista Park Office 50th Street and Ray Road, 85044 602-262-4463

INSURANCE DISCLAIMER

The City of Phoenix does not carry accident insurance to cover participants. Involvement in any activity is done at the participant's own risk.

ADA

This publication can be provided in an alternate format upon request. Call 602-262-6862 (voice) or 602-262-6713 (TTY). 602-534-3787 (FAX). E-mail receptionist.pks@phoenix.gov

Non-Discrimination Notice

The City of Phoenix prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability in its services, programs and activities. Anyone who believes he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint with the City of Phoenix Equal Opportunity Department.



FALL 2008
RULE AMENDMENTS
CITYWIDE SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

The following changes or additions to the City of Phoenix Citywide Softball Rules of Play will be in effect beginning in the fall 2008 season. Rules not covered within the Citywide Softball League rules will be found in the current *ASA* rule book. It is the manager's or coach's responsibility to know and understand all *ASA* and City of Phoenix Citywide Softball League rules. Rules listed below will supercede any conflicting rules found in the Citywide Softball League Rules or *ASA* rule book.

RULE CLARIFICATION (September 16, 2008)

Disqualified Player is prohibited from playing in the game in which the disqualification occurs. The player can remain in the team area or serve as a coach/manager.

Ejected Participant must leave the grounds (Park) and have no contact with the umpires, staff or participants in the game.

If a player is disqualified

- The game may continue as long as the team has 8 or more players remaining. CoRec teams must maintain acceptable male/female combinations.
- Following the disqualification, the team may either enter a substitute into the lineup for the disqualified player OR collapse the batting line up, skipping that player without further penalty.
- If the disqualified player is a batter or base runner then they will be declared an out at the time they are disqualified.

If a player is ejected

- The game may continue as long as the team has 8 or more players remaining in their existing lineup. CoRec teams must maintain acceptable male/female combinations.
- The team will not be allowed to substitute another player into the lineup for the ejected player.
- If the ejected player is a batter or base runner then they will be declared an out at the time they are ejected.
- Following the ejection, the ejected player will be counted as an out each time their name comes up in the batting order. An inning or the game can end with an automatic out.

If a player is unable to continue playing the game due to injury or reasons other than disqualification or ejection:

- The game may continue as long as the team has 8 or more players remaining. CoRec teams must maintain acceptable male/female combinations.
- The team may either enter a substitute into the lineup for the injured/absent player OR collapse the batting line up, skipping that player without further penalty with the following EXCEPTIONS...
 - If the injured/absent player is the BATTER an out will be declared for that at-bat.

- If the injured/absent player is the BASE RUNNER and no eligible substitute is available, an additional courtesy runner can be allowed for the INJURED base runner to complete that inning. The ABSENT base runner will be declared an out for one time only.

EQUIPMENT (Non-Approved and Altered Bats)

The City of Phoenix, Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to withhold or withdraw approval of any equipment which significantly changes the character of the game, affects the safety of participants or spectators, or renders a player's performance more a product of his/her equipment than individual skill. Only bats that are ASA approved may be used in league and tournament play. The ASA non-approved bat list distributed at the managers' meeting will remain in effect for the entire season.

- ASA Rule Book, Rule 7, Sections 6B-C regarding altered, non-approved and illegal bats shall be in effect. *This rule reads in part, "When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an altered or non-approved bat the batter shall be ejected from the game..."*
- If a player is found in violation of the altered/non-approved bat rule additional TEAM penalties will be assessed under the Code of Conduct.

BANNED AND SUSPENDED PLAYERS

A list of Banned and Suspended Players is distributed to all team managers at the Managers' Meeting. Teams are responsible for ensuring that all of their rostered players are eligible to participate in City of Phoenix league play. Any team utilizing a banned or suspended player in their lineup will FORFEIT the game being played, and will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Additional TEAM penalties may be assessed under the Code of Conduct.

SOFTBALLS

Game balls will be provided for each game.

- a. CoRec teams will utilize a 12" ball for male batters and an 11" ball for female batters. The same game balls will be utilized for two games, then will be given to the home team of the second game.
- b. Men's teams will utilize a 12" ball, and Women's teams will utilize an 11" ball. The game balls will be given to the home team at the conclusion of each game.
- c. HOME TEAM is responsible for providing the backup ball(s) for each game. ONLY softballs equivalent in COR and Compression to the game balls may be utilized.
- d. In order to facilitate game play, the offensive team is responsible for retrieving any ball hit out-of-play that cannot be quickly retrieved by the defensive players.

CALLED STRIKES

Any legally pitched ball delivered with a perceptible arc at least 6 feet above the ground and not exceeding a maximum of 12 feet that is not struck and that lands on any part of the plate or strike mat will be ruled a strike.