



### 2023 Summer Softball Season League Rules

Updated: April 20, 2023

1. League game times will be 6:30, 7:35, 8:40.
2. Game duration: There is a one-hour time limit on all league games. All games officially begin when the first pitch is delivered. A five-minute grace period may be given to a team without enough players to start a game, providing the other team agrees. The five minutes will come off the front end of the time limit. Umpires must tell both team managers the starting time of the game and show their watch to both managers. It is the manager's responsibility to get the starting time.
3. Number of players: All teams may start with eight (8) players and finish with eight (8) players. If eight (8) players are used in coed play, no more than four (4) may be men. In Men's and Women's Divisions, if an EP is used, teams must start and finish with eleven (11) players. In the case of an injury, teams may finish with ten (10) players. A game may continue as long as a player vacancy is not created by an ejection. If playing with eight (8) players in any division, the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) and tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) batting position will be an automatic out. If extra players arrive, he or she must be immediately inserted in the appropriate spot. When teams elect to play with eight (8) players and the other team has nine (9) or ten (10) players, the team with eight (8) players **must** become the visiting team and start the game at bat. They still are required to provide new softballs to start the game. If a coed team has less than the required amount of players, it may play more female than male players to reach the required minimum of 10 players. When playing defense, the team must follow the same rules used for coed play – no more than 2 men may be in the infield or outfield. On offense, no 2 men may ever bat back to back in the batting order. The team will follow the coed procedure of man, woman until there are no more men available. At that time, females may bat back to back until they reach the end of their lineup at which time they would start at the beginning.
4. League pick-up player rule: To prevent forfeits in league play, a team may borrow up to three players from the opposing team, or from anyone rostered on a team within their own division of play who is scheduled to play that evening. "Borrowed" players may only be used if the team has at least six (6) players present. Teams that "Borrow" may not end up with more than 10 players to participate. If a late player from the team that has borrowed players arrives, they must be immediately inserted into the lineup as a substitute for one or both of the borrowed players. The borrowed players may return to their own team and will be considered as eligible substitutes.



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5. In Coed play, if a team elects to use the extra player, they must use both a male and a female.
6. Picture ID will be required to settle player eligibility questions. Only players listed on their team roster are eligible for play, with the exception of pick-up players as outlined in #4.
7. Team lineups will be turned in to the plate umpire at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the game.

**Lineups should be legible and should contain each starting player's last and first name along with the players game jersey number.** The listing of substitutes is encouraged as this will speed up player substitutions during the games.

**NEW 2023:** All restricted players must be clearly identified on the lineup prior to the start of the game. Only restricted players present on the lineup will be counted toward a run-spot. Any restricted players on the team roster that are not listed on the lineup will be ineligible to participate in that game, but will not be counted toward the runs spotted. If no restricted players are identified on the lineup, all rostered restricted players will be counted toward the run spot.

8. **In all league play, players are required to wear a shirt with a number on the back.** Teams that play in State Tournaments will be required to have matching jerseys with a minimum 6-inch number on the back.
9. Softballs: Women will bat the 11-inch ball and men will bat the 12-inch softball. All players will hit a 52/300 ball with the exception of the 50+ players who will hit a 44/375 ball. The Worth Sports ball will be the official ball allowed in all Anchorage Sports Association league and tournaments. The ball must be optic yellow for all league and tournament play.
10. Caps, visors and headbands are optional for all players and may be mixed, but if hats are worn, they must be baseball hats, sun hats, or bucket hats, and worn properly. Handkerchiefs do not count as headbands and cannot be worn, either around the head or neck. No plastic visors will be allowed.
11. All players must have completed their player registration and paid in full their player's fees prior to playing a game. Any player caught participating in an ineligible status will result in a forfeit for that game. The player and manager will be held responsible and disciplinary action against both of them will occur. Rosters will be posted on the website and checked periodically by a member of the Anchorage Sports Association. A player's name will not appear on the roster



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until they have completed the player registration and paid the player's fee.

12. Age Rule: a player must be 18 years of age to participate in any state-sanctioned tournament. For ASA league games, the age requirement remains 13.
13. **Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the dugout or on the playing field per MoA.** Glass containers are not allowed at any of the fields.
14. In accordance with Municipal Code: "It is unlawful for any person to knowingly consume marijuana when the person is: 1. On, in, or upon any public place, except as permitted by ordinance, regulation, statute or permit; or 2. Outdoors on property adjacent to a public place, and without consent of the owner or person in control thereof." Marijuana use will not be permitted in the Cartee Complex, The Albrecht Complex, or at the Russian Jack Fields.
15. Keep your dugout area clean. Pick up trash immediately after your game is completed and place it in the receptacles located near all playing areas.
16. Any player who assaults or verbally abuses an umpire or association official before, during or after a game is subject to suspension. (Article 13, ASA Code, ASA Guide and Playing Rules). In addition, players who verbally or physically assault anyone are subject to penalties through the legal system.
17. Courtesy Runner rule (USA Softball Rule 8, Section 9, Letter B, Number 2): Any eligible player on the official line-up, including available substitutes, may be used as a courtesy runner. One courtesy runner only may be used per inning. For Coed teams, one male and one female runner may be used per inning as substitutes for players of the same gender.
18. Any arguing on the judgment of balls and strikes will constitute a team warning. Any repeat offense will result in the ejection of that team member.
19. During league play, if a team personnel is ejected for any reason, that person would sit the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game. If that individual is ejected from a second game, they would sit that game and the next two scheduled games. If the same individual is ejected a third time, they would automatically be disqualified from all ASA play for the remainder of the season. The only offense that could be appealed is the third offense. If this behavior occurs during tournaments, the tournament director has the authority to disqualify the individual for the remainder of the tournament if they feel the ejections so warrants that punishment and the offense would count as a league game which would then fall into one of the three suspensions.



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20. Anchorage Sports Association has implemented a no profanity rule. When an official hears profanity from either team, they will approach both managers and issue an immediate warning that the next offense will result in an ejection for that person. This would fall in line with the above ejection rule.
21. Protests: In any protest, the umpire must be notified before the next pitch, legal or illegal. Protests must be filed in writing with the softball director within 24 hours.
22. Games may be played in inclement weather. A determination of games being played in inclement weather will be made by 3:00 p.m. on the playing day in question. Managers will be notified if any games are cancelled. Notification will also be posted on the ASA web page and social media. Games played on the turf fields, Cartee 1-4 will almost never be cancelled due to rain.
23. No metal cleats may be worn for slow-pitch in the Anchorage Sports Association.
24. Members with an outstanding debt from previous years will not be able to sign up or play until Anchorage Sports Association has received payment of the debt in full.
25. People with children under their supervision; please make certain that the children are on their best behavior so that we have a safe and fun environment for everyone.
26. Combined League games will utilize a 6-run spot for each division level difference (up to a max of 10-runs).
27. As the batter enters the batting box, they have a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count on them.
28. In all leagues of play, the pitcher may, if they so decide, start their pitching motion at any distance from the planted rubber to a spot marked on the field six (6) feet behind the rubber. This area will be marked on the field with a rectangular box, the width of the current planted rubber to a distance of six feet toward second base.
29. In all leagues of play, Men's, Women's and Coed at the "D" level and above (with the exception of Women's D), players must have their bat certified by an Anchorage Sports Association Representative. Once the bat is approved, it will have a sticker placed on it that says it is in compliance with ASA standards. Only approved bats may be used in Anchorage Sports league play and tournaments.



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The bat will only need to be approved one time during the season. Bats will be retested before the State Tournaments by the Umpire's Association at the tournament site. If a player is caught using a non-approved bat, the player and manager could be suspended for one calendar year from the date of the offense

30. Sunflower seeds and shelled nuts are not allowed anywhere inside the Cartee Complex (Cartee 1-4). If a player or manager is caught with these, they will be immediately ejected from the game. If the person is caught a second time during the season, they will be suspended for the remainder of that season.

31. Anchorage Sports Association Tie Breaker Rule:

If, after the completion of allotted time or seven (7) innings of play, the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:

Starting with the top of the next inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (if the number five batter is the leadoff batter, the number four batter in the lineup will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner).

Additionally, during league play only, the remainder of the game will be played as a one-pitch game where each batter will step to the plate with a 3 ball and 2 strike count.

32. HOME RUN RULE: LEAGUE PLAY ONLY

**Home run rules will be applied to men and women separately in coed leagues.**

Men's C	Two (2) and progressive
Men's D	One (1) no progressive
Men's E	Zero (0)
Men's 50+	Unlimited
Men's 40+	Two (2) and progressive
Coed C	Two (2) and progressive
Coed D	One (1) and no progressive
Coed E	Zero (0)
Coed Recreational	Zero (0)
Coed Church/Faith	One (1) no progressive
Women's C	One (1) and progressive
Women's D	One (1)



## **LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES**

### **Coed Faith Rules**

The following applies specifically to the Coed Faith League:

When teams have more than the required amount of players for the game, in their batting order, teams may list and bat any number of players as long as it is an even number of men and women. Of these listed players, any 5 men and 5 women may play defense.

In the event that a person is removed from the lineup, a substitute must enter the game or an out will be issued for that batting spot.

No team may score more than 10 runs in an inning. After the tenth run has scored, there will be a half inning ending out called. As an umpire starts what they perceive to be the last inning to be played, they will notify the coaches that the inning about to begin is considered an "OPEN" inning which allows the teams to score as many runs as possible. If a team trails by more than 10 runs, they will automatically become the visiting team to start the last scheduled inning.

### **Coed Recreational 6-4 Rules**

The following applies specifically to the Coed Rec League:

The batting order consists of a minimum of 10 players (*minimum of 4 females*). Any 10 (*maximum 6 males and minimum of 4 females*) may play defense. The batting order must alternate sexes with the exception that no more than 2 males may ever bat back to back. This will happen twice in the order for teams playing with 6 males. In the event of a team playing 5 males and 5 females, the batting order will alternate sexes.

Additional players, up to the number of players on the team's legal roster (*maximum 20*), may be used. They must be added in pairs, one male and one female. (Teams must be 6/4, 7/5, 8/6, etc.) If more than 10 players are on the batting order, any 10 (*minimum 4 females*) may play defense.

In the event that a person is removed from the lineup, a substitute must enter the game or an out will be issued for that batting spot.

Any 10 players may play in the field, with a minimum of 2 females in the outfield and 2 females in the infield. Infield positions include the pitcher and the catcher.

No team may score more than 10 runs in an inning. After the tenth run has scored, there will be a half inning ending out called. As an umpire starts what they perceive to



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be the last inning to be played, they will notify the coaches that the inning about to begin is considered an “OPEN” inning which allows the teams to score as many runs as possible. If a team trails by more than 10 runs, they will automatically become the visiting team to start the last scheduled inning.

Any players in Men’s C or above are not allowed to play in the Coed Rec 6-4 league.

### **Women’s D**

Stealing bases is not allowed in Women’s D.

### **Men’s Masters 50+ League Rules**

All persons who are age fifty (50) or more as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current softball season are eligible to play.

Teams that are designated as 65+ will receive one run spot per inning played.

Teams designated as 65+ are allowed to pick up to 3 players from 50+ teams and still be considered a 65+ team.

Teams may start and finish a game with as few as nine (9) players. However, an out will be taken in the empty spot for the first time only that the missing player would come to bat. If an additional player shows up and is eligible to play, they may join the team in the missing position in the batting order.

Teams may bat an unlimited number of players as long as each player is legally on that team’s roster.

All games have a fifty (50) minute clock. The umpire will notify both teams when time has expired. Upon completion of time, the current inning will be completed and the following inning will be a final inning unless the game is tied. This final inning will be an open scoring inning.

The Senior League has an unlimited home run rule.

A five (5) run rule will be used each inning except when a final inning is declared an open inning by the umpire. If a team is about to be “mercy ruled”, the five (5) run rule would be extended to allow the team to get one (1) run under the mercy rule. Example: fifth inning, team is losing 24 to 5, the team that is losing would be allowed to score eight (8) runs and then that half inning would end.

At the beginning of the open inning, if the run differential is ten (10) or more runs, we will implement the flip flop rule where the team trailing will bat to start the inning.



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A mercy rule of twelve (12) runs after five innings will apply to all games played.

The USA international tie breaker will be used in extra-inning games.

A strike zone mat, nineteen inches by thirty four (34) and a half inches, will be used. All pitched balls that strike any part of the mat will be considered strikes. This league will play with a one (1) ball and one(1) strike count to start the batters at bat. Batters are allowed one (1) courtesy foul ball once they have reached two (2) strikes. Foul balls after the courtesy foul will be considered outs.

Players will start their at bat in the batter's box at the original home plate. Once they are on base they will continue around the bases and score at the "run through" line which is located to the side of the original home plate. The runner must touch the "run through" line or the ground beyond the line before the catcher has possession of the ball at the original home plate mat. The path of third base to the "run through line" will have a commitment line marked at forty (40) feet from third base. If the runner touches or crosses the commitment line, they must continue to the run through the line and are not allowed to return to third base. A runner is not allowed to be "tagged out" on a defensive play when they are between the commitment line and the run through line. In this situation, the out must occur with the catcher possessing the ball while they are on the home plate mat.

The pitching arc shall be six (6) to twelve (12) feet. The pitching box will be used for this league. A pitcher may deliver the ball from anywhere in the pitching box, (at least one (1) foot must be in the box or on the line).

A "no collision" rule will be used. A runner will be called out for contact with a defensive player if, in the umpire's judgment, the contact was deliberant or the runner could have been expected to avoid contact.

Players may run as courtesy runners once per inning. Once a courtesy runner touches a base where he is to become the replacement runner, he is deemed to be in the game and normal substitution rules apply. Courtesy runners may not run for courtesy runners. If a courtesy runner is on base when his turn to bat occurs, the runner on base will be called out and that player will assume his rightful turn at bat.

All bats stamped by the manufacturer and meeting the 1.20 or 1.21 bpf standard will be considered legal bats with the exception of the Miken Ultra II which is not considered legal for play.