

MEDFORD PARKS & RECREATION
Adult Softball Tournament Rules, Regulations & Procedures
(Revised Oct. 21, 2017)

Current Amateur Softball Association (USA) rules govern play except the variations denoted here. The Medford Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) reserves the right to modify rules, regulations and policies whenever due cause warrants a change.

1..... MANAGEMENT

- A. Tournament Director has final authority to make decisions pertaining to all softball league rules, regulations and schedules; to act in the best interest of the City of Medford; and to make decisions in the spirit of competitive balance and fair play.

- B. Upon registering, each team and all participants agree to abide by MPRD rules and regulations.

- C. MPRD officials and umpires may stop, postpone or cancel any game due to weather, darkness, unsafe conditions or other circumstances that may jeopardize participant safety in any way, including games in which player behavior is deemed out of control.

2..... ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

- A. To be eligible, players must have personally signed the official team roster or a liability waiver prior to participation. Failure to comply subjects a team to forfeiture of games in which ineligible player(s) participated, and sanctions for the illegal participant and team captain.
 - 1) An official City of Medford team roster must be submitted prior to Game 1.
 - 2) Rosters are not limited to a maximum number.
 - 3) Rosters are available for additions and deletions prior to each game.
 - 4) **Each team may make unlimited roster additions until the start of bracket play games.** Players from teams eliminated from the tournament may not join another team. Roster additions after the cutoff must be approved by the Tournament Director.
 - 5) All participants must be prepared to present a picture ID, upon request, as proof of identity. Participants who refuse to produce a picture ID when requested are subject to ejection and additional sanctions.
 - 6) Participants who misrepresent their identity for participation purposes and/or team captains who falsify player identities will be ejected and barred from MPRD tournaments for up to one year.
 - 7) Illegal participation/eligibility inquiries are to be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director/site supervisor by the team captain prior to the conclusion of the game.

- B. Teams may have up to two players age 16 or 17 participate in a game if a parent/guardian signs the official roster prior to participation.

- C. A player may not compete on multiple teams in the same division.

- D. Not more than one female player may compete on a men's division team.

3.**GAME PROTOCOL, FORFEITS, TIME LIMITS**

A. In pool play a coin-flip determines home team. In ranked bracket play home team is decided by the higher seed. If 2 teams with the same seed play each other than a coin-flip determines home team. In unranked bracket play, such as the triple elimination format, a coin-flip determines home team throughout the entire tournament, regardless of win-loss record.

B. A regulation game is seven innings or 65 minutes of play, whichever comes first.

C. No new innings begin after 65 minutes of elapsed game time. All new innings starting prior to the 65-minute limit are completed (unless weather or other unforeseen circumstances force a game to be called early). A new inning starts when the third out is recorded in the bottom half of the inning.

1) If a game is called prior to the completion of seven innings, 65 minutes or the mercy rule, a game will be considered "official" upon completion of four full innings, or 3 ½ innings if the home team is leading.

2) If a game is tied after seven innings and time remains on the clock, an additional inning(s) may be played using USA tie-break procedure (USA Rule 5, Section 11).

D. A team must field eight players at all times, otherwise a forfeit is declared.

1) Late-arriving players included in the original batting order are not considered an "out". Players arriving late are entered at the bottom of the lineup.

E. If a game is called before the end of an inning due to weather, time constraints or unforeseen circumstances, the final score will be taken from the last completed full inning, or if the home team is ahead when the game is called. The last full inning completed determines whether the game is considered "official" (4 innings).

F. **Run Ahead Rule.** The game is considered complete and over when a team leads by at least 20 runs after four innings (3 ½ if the home team leads), by at least 15 runs after five innings (4 ½ if the home team leads).

H. Pre-game infield batting practice is not permitted.

4.**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

A. Always assume games will be played as scheduled. Decisions regarding weather-related postponements are not made until game time.

1) Games are played rain or shine unless there is a safety risk, such as lightning, icy conditions or dense fog. In the event of lightning, games may be delayed until the threat passes.

5.**SCOREKEEPING**

A. Home team is responsible for keeping an official scorebook for both teams. If the home team elects not to keep the book, the visiting team has this option. If neither team keeps a "book", the run tally maintained by the umpire is the official score.

1) The official lineup card (containing complete information) is due to the umpire prior to the designated game time. Failure to comply will result in an out assessed at the start of the game for the offending team. Lineup cards can be obtained from the site supervisor.

6.**UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

A. Umpires and City staff are given full authority to take prudent actions necessary to maintain proper and safe playing conditions.

B. The umpire and City staff may inspect team equipment for safety.

C. MPRD issues up to 3 softballs for each contest. Additional softballs are provided only if used softballs are available.

- 1) Teams must retrieve their own softballs, and the game clock will not stop.
- 2) Game balls issued by MPRD remain City property upon conclusion of the game.

D. Teams supply their own equipment except the game ball.

C. Metal or ceramic cleats are not permitted at any time. Turf shoes are recommended. Umpires will determine if a shoe is a potential safety hazard.

E. Each player must have a legible number on the back of his or her shirt/uniform. In the event of cold or inclement weather, players may wear jackets or sweaters over their uniforms but are requested to notify the umpire or scorekeeper of their uniform number prior to stepping into the batter box.

1) Exception: One person on each team may assume the number "00" or no number. Co-ed teams are allowed one player per gender without a number.

2) If more than one player does not have a legible number, he or she will automatically be considered out each time at bat.

3) Duplicate numbers are not allowed.

4) The minimum number height is 6 inches, but 8-inch numbers are preferred.

5) Shirts with marker-drawn or taped numbers are permitted.

7.....BATS/CONFISCATION POLICY

A. All bat usage must conform to the following standards:

1) To be legal, all bats must have a USSSA 1.20 imprint, an USA approval logo or be listed on the online USA Certified Equipment list. Any bat on the [USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List](http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp) will be considered illegal. (<http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp>)

2) Umpires and City staff may inspect bats and player equipment at any time.

3) The bat shall be free of dents and visible cracks. MPRD may take a damaged bat out of play at any time.

4) Any bat with physical characteristics and/or properties that have been intentionally altered or modified for the purpose of enhancing performance is prohibited at U.S. Cellular Community Park. MPRD adheres to the USA Altered Bat Policy.

5) All bats must have a safety grip.

6) Donuts are not allowed, except for warm-up.

7) Bat warming sleeves are permitted.

B. All bats are subject to random bat testing by City staff using USA-certified bat-testing equipment.

- 1) If a bat fails a pre-game bat test as well as a secondary test administered by City staff, the bat is deemed illegal for use at USCCP and may be impounded for further analysis.
- 2) If an illegal bat is discovered through random bat testing during a game, the bat owner and participants using the bat are subject to ejection and suspension outlined below. The game is subject to forfeiture based on the outcome of an investigation by the Tournament Director.
- 3) The bat owner and City staff reserve the right to submit the presumed illegal bat to the USA National Equipment Testing Center for verification at the bat owner's expense. If the USA determines the bat is legal, it will be returned to its owner. If the USA determines the bat is illegal, the bat owner and participants who used the bat are subject to a one-year suspension from USCCP softball league and softball tournament participation.
- 4) Those who refuse to cooperate with bat-testing protocols or attempt to conceal bats from inspection will be ejected and subject to sanctions outlined in Section 7-C.
- 5) Participants are encouraged to have their bat tested before competing in a game. Individuals whose bat fails a pre-game test are not subject to sanctions, but the illegal bat may not be taken into the team area or used in a game.

C. Participant(s) or team who conspire to introduce illegal, altered or non-approved equipment into a game(s) shall be suspended from softball participation at U.S. Cellular Community Park softball tournament participation for up to 3 years. Whenever a batted ball injures a participant, the bat will be impounded for inspection by MPRD staff. The site supervisor shall provide the bat owner with a property tag that serves as proof of ownership. Failure of any participant to fully and immediately cooperate with the umpire and City staff will result in the ejection of the player and team captain and forfeiture of the game.

- 2) The site supervisor or tournament director will examine the confiscated bat, review the accident report and discuss the incident with the umpire, City staff and the injured participant to determine whether the confiscated equipment will be submitted to the USA National Equipment Testing Center. This process shall be completed within 14 days of the incident.
- 3) If the equipment is submitted to the USA National Equipment Testing Center and the bat is determined to be legal, will return the bat to its owner. If the bat is determined to be legal but is destroyed during the testing process, MPRD shall reimburse the bat owner for the cost of a reasonable replacement bat, as determined by the Tournament Director. If the bat is determined to be illegal, altered or non-approved, the participant(s) shall be suspended as outlined above and the results shall be shared with the injured participant and his or her legal representative

8.BATting ORDER/BATting

A. Prior to the start of the game each team may elect to use the USA batting order rules or it may elect to use a modified free-substitution rule that mandates each team member in uniform be placed in the batting lineup in whatever sequence the team captain chooses. Players using the modified rule may be substituted freely and are not bound to the USA re-entry rule.

- 1) Teams must report their choice of play prior to the start of the game to the umpire, scorekeeper and opposing team captain. Once a decision is made, it must play the entire game under the batting rule they chose.

2) Captains do not have to agree to utilize the same rule.

3) In case of free substitution, players arriving late may be included on the bottom of the batting order list upon arriving at the game and players may leave early and be removed from the batting order or base path without penalty.

B. If a player is injured during the game or has to leave early, he or she may be removed from the batting order without penalty (unless the team drops below the 8-player minimum).

C. The batting order may contain up to 14 players. Additional batters must be entered as substitutes.

D. Each batter begins an at-bat with a 1-and-1 count.

E. There will be no courtesy fouls given. If a batter hits a foul ball after 2 strikes then the player will be out.

F. If batter hits an over-the-fence home run, the batter is not required to touch the bases or home plate.

G. HOME RUN RULE. Neither team shall have more than two over-the-fence home runs greater than the opposing team at any time during the game. If an over-the-fence home run puts a team three home runs ahead of the opposing team's home run count, the at-bat is considered a dead-ball out, and baserunners may not advance.

HI. When a team is on offense, only the batter, the on-deck batter and base coaches are permitted outside the team area ("dugout"). Only one 1st or 3rd base coach is permitted.

9.....PITCHING

A. Pitching arc is 5 feet (minimum) and 12 feet (maximum).

B. Minimum pitching distance is 50 feet, which is the front of a six-foot-long pitching area. One foot must be inside the pitching area when the throwing motion is initiated.

C. Pitchers must come set for at least one second prior to releasing the ball.

D. Any underhand pitching motion is permitted, including fakes, behind the back and between the legs.

E. Pitchers must use the 11-inch softball for female batters and the 12-inch softball for male batters. If the batter hits the wrong size ball and the mistake is immediately discovered, the batter may choose to re-do the at-bat.

F. If permitted by the umpire due to time considerations, a pitcher may throw a maximum of three warm-up pitches each inning or upon entering the game in relief.

G. If a pitcher decides to intentionally walk a batter, he or she should notify the umpire. In order to save time, the batter is automatically awarded first base.

H. Underhand fastpitch-style warm-up pitches are prohibited.

10.....BASERUNNING/COURTESY RUNNERS

A. Teams may request a courtesy runner for one batter per inning. If said batter acquires another at-bat in the same inning he/she will be granted a courtesy runner for each additional at bat. The same courtesy runner may run for the batter each time but is not required to. (Co-ed teams are allowed one courtesy runner per gender per inning).

- B. A courtesy runner must be requested at the completion of the batter's at bat, and before the first pitch to the following batter. The first person to acquire the base vacated by the batter requesting a courtesy runner will be the courtesy runner for that at bat.
- C. Teams are not required to designate a player in need of a courtesy runner.
- D. The last out is not required to be the courtesy runner. If the courtesy runner is on base and his/her spot in the batting order comes up, the at-bat is considered an out.
- E. Stealing is not permitted.
- F. Players are required to slide or give themselves up in order to avoid contact with a defensive player or interfering with an attempt with or on the ball. Violations are subject to umpire discretion.
- G. In the event of cold weather or slick conditions, the umpire may announce to both teams that baserunners are permitted to step over and cut the inside corner of a base. Baserunners must be in contact with a base when the pitch is thrown.

11..... DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

A. The captain is the official representative of his/her team unless another player designates him/herself as team captain to the umpire and/or scorekeeper prior to the game. The captain is responsible for his or her team (and spectators associated with the team) abiding by rules, procedures and regulations.

- 1) The team captain is defined as:
 - a. The individual who registered the team.
 - b. The individual who submitted the lineup to the umpire.
 - c. The individual who represented the team during the pre-game plate conference with the umpire.

B. All players are expected to know Medford tournament rules, regulations and expectations.

C. The following are examples of unacceptable conduct that are subject individual or team sanctions:

- 1) Verbal abuse, profanity, sarcasm directed toward the umpire, City staff or the opposing team, racist remarks and belligerent/unsporting behavior.
- 2) Unnecessary rough tactics with the intent or potential to do bodily harm.
- 3) Throwing a bat out of anger or disgust.
- 4) Refusing to abide by an umpire's decision.
- 5) Not having control of his/her faculties to the extent that there is a chance of physical harm to the player or others.
- 6) Violations of facility rules and municipal codes.
- 7) Destruction of property.
- 8) Playing under an assumed name and illegal participation.
- 9) Failure to cooperate in a timely manner.

D. Any player physically attacking or striking an umpire, scorekeeper/supervisor, player or spectator before, during or after games shall face expulsion from the league and criminal charges.

E. Destruction of property, theft or assault before, during or after activity will be handled by law enforcement. Individuals and teams will be held responsible for any damage or theft stemming from their use of the facility.

F. If ejected, participants or spectators must depart the softball complex within three minutes, or the team associated with the offending individual will forfeit the game. The game will not resume until the ejected player has departed the complex, and the countdown clock will not stop unless the umpire or scorekeeper deems the ejection is a delay tactic.

1) Any person ejected must divulge his or her name and phone number prior to departing.

2) Suspensions may be increased/changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director based on circumstances. The Tournament Director may choose to also prohibit the individual from spectating for the duration of the tournament.

G. A player or team expelled from a league will not receive a refund.

12.....GAME PROTESTS

A. Game protests are to help clarify and interpret rules, not to question the judgment of officials. Protests are to help prevent similar occurrences and to better the league.

B. Protests must be stated at the point of contention and comply with USA Rule 9. The umpire, opposing team captain, tournament director, UIC and/or site supervisor must be notified regarding the rule/procedure being protested.

C. If the protest is deemed valid, the game and time clock will be stopped until the protest is resolved. Tournament format does not allow for entire games to be replayed.

D. If the protest is deemed invalid, extraneous, or as a delay tactic, then the protesting team may be assessed one out during their next at bat.

13.....PARK RULES/FIELD USAGE

A. Teams using City of Medford park facilities must abide by City codes, ordinances and posted park rules, including prohibitions of:

1) Smoking or tobacco products (including vapor cigarettes)

2) Outside alcohol will not be allowed into the complex

3) Sunflower seeds

4) Gum

5) Pets (except service animals)

6) Metal cleats

7) Parking in designated no-parking areas (e.g. along yellow curb paint)

14.....MISCELLANEOUS

A. Notify the League Director of any potential scheduling errors. MPRD will make every effort to resolve logistical issues.

B. Blood Rule. When blood is visible, the game will be stopped to allow for quick dressing of wounds.

1) Any visible blood stains on clothing must be taped over or removed entirely. Numbers are not required for those needing to change shirts due to blood stains.

2) Skin wounds/abrasions must be bandaged with no visible blood leakage.

3) Each team should have a supply of athletic tape and bring spare shirts.

C. Wearing jewelry is discouraged for safety reasons.

1) Players must tape, cover or remove jewelry during active participation if the umpire identifies a safety hazard.

2) Casts (plaster, metal or other hard substance or any other item deemed dangerous by the umpire) may not be worn during the game.

D. Play at your own risk. All players are responsible for their own insurance coverage. The City of Medford does not provide accident insurance for league participants or spectators.

E. Tournament seeding is determined by pool play win-loss records. Ties are broken using the following criteria:

- 1) Winning percentage
- 2) Head-to-head outcome
- 3) Total runs allowed
- 4) Coin flip

F. One heater is allowed in the team area ("dugout") if:

- 1) The heater is located in the far-back corner of the team area, farthest from the entrance.
- 2) The heater does not produce open flames.
- 3) Bats and equipment may not be placed near the heater.

G. Unsupervised children and their parents may be asked to leave the facility by the site supervisor. Children are permitted in team areas ("dugouts") but must remain seated and be supervised at all times.

Co-Ed Softball League Rules & Procedures

These softball rules are used for Medford Parks & Recreation adult co-ed softball tournament games in conjunction with normal City and USA rules, regulations and procedures listed above.

1. **BATTING ORDER.** The batting order must alternate male/female or vice-versa. If a team fails to alternate batting order, an out will be recorded.

a. Each team has the option of batting all available players or just those who play in a defensive position. The batting option must be determined at the start of the game and cannot be changed once the lineup has been submitted to the scorekeeper.

b. If teams choose to bat through its entire lineup, the captain must submit a list of female batters in priority batting order, and a list of male batters in priority batting order. Otherwise, teams must adhere to the USA re-entry rule and bat only 10 players or less, and substitute according to the USA re-entry rule.

2. Males and females may play any defensive position. With the exception of a pitching change or an injury, players may not switch defensive positions until the start of a new inning. Teams may substitute freely on defense.

3. On defense, a team's male-to-female ratio may not be greater than 1 male (i.e. 5 Men, 4 Women). Teams may not have more than five males on defense.

4. **WALK RULE.** The USA co-ed walk rule will be used. If a male batter is walked, he automatically is awarded second base. The next female batter will have the choice to walk or hit.

5. **PITCHING.** The pitcher must use the 11-inch women's softball when pitching to female batters. Conversely, all men's players will hit the 12-inch men's softball.