

City of Aspen Recreation Department

Updated 6/9/10

Summer Softball League Rules 2010

The Current USSSA rules will govern play not covered by the City of Aspen League Rules. USSSA rules can be accessed at www.ussa.com

NEW RULES HIGHLIGHTED IN BOLD and Italic's.

A. General Information

1. The Aspen Recreation Department Softball League(s) is using USSSA rules and regulations as a **guideline** for our leagues.
2. If you would like more information on USSSA rules please contact Keith Bulicz for the information or go to www.ussa.com
3. **It is the duty of all coaches/managers to inform his/her players about all the league rules.**
4. We ask that all teams warm up in the outfield and NOT in the infield. Let's help keep the fields in good shape for the games.
5. Commissioner: Keith Bulicz 920-5140, 948-2192
6. Regarding Men's league play: Men can only play in Rec or Comp divisions, NOT BOTH. No exceptions are permitted without an appeal to the commissioner.
7. Only USSSA bats are approved for league play. A list has been provided for each team as well as each field. List is also available at www.USSSA.com
Managers are responsible for dispute legal bats. If bat is determined to be illegal, that individual will be ejected for remainder of season as well as team forfeit of that game.
8. Coed games: ONLY 3 out of the park home runs are permitted per game/per team. After a team hits 3 home runs all other out of the park home runs are considered an out.

9. **Batting Box**- No player is permitted to **“deliberately remove/wipe clean”** the batter’s box lines. If a player does do this then that player is immediately ejected from the game and may face possible suspension or expulsion from league play. That player is also counted as an automatic out.
10. **Batting**- ALL batters must begin and end their at bat while IN the batter’s box. If the pitch is in flight and batter is not in the batter’s box then that batter is considered out. Please ask team manager or league commissioner for clarification if needed.

B. Athletic Information and Weather Line- Softball Hotline 544-5834or 544-JUDI.

1. This number is for all participants in the Aspen Recreation Department Softball Leagues. This line will provide you and your players with rainouts, game times, and rescheduling.
2. Rainouts and conditions will not be updated until 4:00 P.M. each day.
3. If rainouts occur after 4:00 P.M. the recordings will be updated as soon as possible.

C. Players Eligibility

1. All players must be at least 16 years of age. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of games.
2. Before participation is allowed, all players must sign the roster. Failure to sign the roster will result in the player not being recorded as playing in a game. This could result in game forfeit and/or the player not being eligible to participate in the tournament at the end of the season.
3. Players are allowed to play on one team only in a league.
4. Men’sComp/Rec players CAN play in the Co-Ed League and vice versa.
5. ***Each player must play a minimum of 4 league games (Coed) or 5 (Men’s) to participate in the end of the season tournament. *Updated 2010***

D. Equipment

1. Uniforms/Jerseys are recommended.
2. Any exposed jewelry MAY NOT be worn. Players must take jewelry off before the game (example watches, earrings, rings, etc.).

- 3. No steel or metal cleats are allowed. Players caught wearing steel cleats will result in suspension.**

E. Rosters

1. Rosters/waivers will be completed on the field with new additions added as the season progresses.
2. The field commissioner has the right to question and check any player on the roster.

F. Forfeits

If a team forfeits three games within a season, they will be out the league until next year, then put on a waiting list to register for the next season. The only way they will be allowed back will be if the league doesn't fill.

G. Fake Tags

Players giving fake tags will be first warned, then ejected.

H. General Rules

1. Forfeit time is 15 minutes after game time. There will be a 15-minute grace period for the games. **If a team has a minimum number of eight players, they can start and finish the game.** Managers can negotiate this rule. *Commissioner note: Some teams will have to travel between Lower Moore and Iselin/Rotary fields, please be courteous and allow a few minutes for the transition.*
2. Home team will be declared by schedule. Tournament: Top seed will be home team and maintain home field advantage until removed from tournament.
3. All games will have a 55-minute time limit (umpires will keep the game clock). NO new innings will begin after 55 minutes. Time will begin once home team is declared.
4. COMPLETED GAMES. A game will be considered a complete game when:
 - The ten run rule is in effect after 4 1/2 or 5 innings or 35 minutes; whichever comes first.
 - At the completion of 55 minutes and the game is not tied.

5. Teams may start and finish with a minimum of eight players. They may bat all players. Any player can be added on to the bottom of the line up. Players may be added at any time throughout the game.
 - An ejection takes place and no legal substitutes are available to enter the game; the game will be a forfeit.
 - For injury reasons and voluntary removal of a player from a team's line-up the team may finish with as few as eight players and there will be no automatic out recorded, that player's spot in the line-up will be skipped. Teams must inform the scorekeepers of the change.
 - Coed must have 5 girls playing the field and alternate in the batting order regardless of guy to girl ratio.
6. Base Runner/Fielder collisions will not be tolerated if they are of obvious intent to harm or blatant ignorance of the rules. Violations will result in removal from league by commissioner discretion.
7. ***Team managers are responsible for informing all of their players and fans of the rules and guidelines of this league.***

I. Pitching rules

- At the beginning of the game a pitcher is awarded three warm-up pitches to the catcher, or to other teammate. Every subsequent inning the pitcher is awarded two warm-up pitches.
- Legal Position of the Pitcher's Feet:
 - Preliminary to the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with his/her pivot foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitching plate. The pivot foot must be in contact with the pitchers plate when the ball is released.
- Pitchers legal motions allowed in actual delivery of the pitch.
 - After assuming the pitch position, the pitcher must present the ball IN FRONT OF HIS/HER BODY (for at least one second) in either one or both hands, before starting the delivery motions.
 - The pitcher may hold or grip the ball in any manner before delivery.
 - Only a definite underhand motion is permitted in the delivery of the pitch.

- The pitcher may release the pitched ball in any manner, when delivering the pitch. This includes any and all types of delivery.
- After the pitcher presents the ball he/she may make any wind-up or arm motion desired, either in front of his/her body, above his/her head or behind his/her back including stops and pauses in these motions.
- Once the pitcher begins his/her delivery motion, the umpire shall not give a call or signal for 'time' unless an unusual happening occurs.
- The pitched ball must be released within five seconds from the time the pitcher has the ball and the batter has taken his position in the batters box.
- The pitcher must face home plate on the delivery of the pitch.
- Type of pitch permitted:
 - The pitched ball must arc SIX feet minimum to TEN feet maximum from the ground. Judging pitch height is not an exact science, therefore any harassment toward officials will not be tolerated.
 - A strike will hit any part of the plate or mat.
 - An illegal pitch will be called when the arc is below SIX feet or higher than TEN feet. (automatic ball)

J. Strike Zone

The strike zone is that space between the six and ten foot arc from the ground that hits any part of the plate or mat.

K. Batting

1. Batters will start with a one and one count.
2. Any player may be added to the batting order at any time during the game. Coach/Manager must inform the scorekeeper of the addition.
3. Batting out of order is an appeal play, by the defense.
 - If an incorrect batter is discovered before he completes a turn, and appealed, he/she is out.
 - If not discovered until a pitch is made to the next batter, the batter is then legal. The batter is out if:
 - He/she bats illegally and is discovered.
 - He/she hits the ball with an illegal or altered bat.

- He/she hits two foul balls on what would be the third strike.

L. Designated Runner

1. The last player making an out must be the designated runner.
2. The designated runner in the men's competitive league will start at first base, not home. The batter must make it to first base, and then can have a runner.
3. The designated runner in all other leagues will start at a spot well behind home plate generally determined by a continuous extension of the foul lines through and beyond the back side of home plate. The designated runner may not run until the batter strikes the ball with the bat.

M. Weather

If a game is called due to inclement weather or any other potentially hazardous conditions, the game shall be considered complete if five or more innings have been completed or 4^{1/2} innings if the home team is ahead or if 35 minutes are up. If the game is stopped because of dangerous conditions before the above happens, then game will resume from the point it left off.

N. Field Rules

1. Upper Moore Field and Rotary Field – The 3 home run rule comes first. If a ball does roll or bounce down the hill, the hit will be considered a ground rule double. To get a ground rule double, the outfielder closest to the ball must raise both hands as soon as the ball is no longer playable. The umpire has judgment on whether the ball was playable or not.
2. **Upper and Lower Moore Field- Alcohol and tobacco are not permitted on the school campus.**
3. Rotary Field- NO PARKING at Rotary field. You may park at Iselin field or at the Tiehack lot across the creek bridge. Vehicles parking at Rotary may be ticketed and/or towed or commissioner will take action.
4. Rotary Field- Only 3 out of the park home runs are permitted at Rotary Field, after that, that hit would be considered an automatic out. Base runners must go back to their original base.

O. Tie Game Rules

*Starting with the top of the 8th inning or after time has expired and each 1/2 inning thereafter the offensive team will begin its turn at bat **with the player who made the last out in the previous inning placed at second base with one out and the batter will begin with three balls and two strikes count.** The batter will be allowed to hit one foul ball.*

O. Unsportsmanlike Behavior

1. Use of profane or abusive language- any manner, coach, players or team members shall not, from any place:
 - Incite, or try to incite by words, or sign, or demonstration, either opponents and/or spectators.
 - Use of language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, umpires, spectators or COMMISSIONER.
2. Any player violating the above rules will be ejected from the game.

P. Blood Rule

A player / substitute, manager and/or coach or team member or umpire who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is covered. If treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is the umpire's decision.

Q. Protests-Follow these steps:

1. Notify the umpire you are protesting the game.
2. Game will be delayed until a ruling is made. (See below)
3. Inform the Commissioner, if commissioner is unavailable the game will be finished and a ruling will be made as soon as possible.
4. Pay a \$100 cash protest fee.
5. State your protest to the field commissioner and the umpire.
6. The Commissioner will make the ruling.

R. Ejections

Any player who is ejected from any game for any reason must do the following to get reinstated:

- ***Leave the premises entirely.*** Failure to do so will result in the whole team forfeiting and/or possible arrest of individual(s).
- Automatic two game suspension or the discretion of the commissioner
- Meet with League Commissioner prior to reinstatement.
- Any player/coach who is ejected from two games will be ejected from the league and will not be eligible to participate for the remainder of the season or longer.
- The Recreation director, Adult Recreational Commissioner and/or any duly appointed umpire in a scheduled game shall have the power to remove from the game any coach, manager, player or spectator who refuses to follow the rules and regulations of the leagues, or who engages in any un-sportsmanlike conduct between umpires, Aspen Recreation Staff, or any other players and/or spectators.
- Any player/coach who throws a bat, such that endangers other participants or spectators is subject to be ejected from the game/season. This includes damaging City of Aspen property.
- **NO PEPPER- Hitting a ball into the any fencing that is City of Aspen property shall warrant suspension and/or possible financial replacement responsibility.**
- Any player, coach, manager or bench player who assaults (verbally or physically) another participant, spectator, and/or official in any way will be ejected from all programs sponsored by the Aspen Recreation Department up to one year or longer.

S. Tie Breaker Rules- Newly updated 2010

Commissioner reserves right to have a play in game for teams that finish close in standings that have not played each other in regular season games and also have a close overall run differential.

- 1. Head to head competition***
- 2. Head to Head (RF) Runs For***
- 3. Head to Head (RA) Runs Against***
- 4. Coin Toss***

T. Elastic Power

The Commissioner shall have complete charge of all situations not covered in the rules. Rules shall be acted upon and all decisions are final.

U. Make-Up Games

Games will be made up as soon as possible. Make up games more than likely won't be made up on the same day as your regularly scheduled games. Teams will be given notice seven days in advance of the make up date and time except for the tournament teams, which will be made up as soon as possible. Check the hotline for updates. If we have too many rainouts then games may not be made up, but let's hope that does not happen 😊

If you have any questions/comments during the season about rules, umpires and score keepers please contact the Aspen Recreation Department at 920-5140.

***Please Read the Code of Conduct
On following page.***

City of Aspen Parks and Recreation Department

Adult Sports Player Code of Conduct

To ensure the integrity of our leagues and safety of officials and participants the Adult Sports Player Code of Conduct has been developed. Any questions of these guidelines can be brought to the attention of league commissioners or to the Adult Sports Coordinator.

1. Keep in mind that our leagues are focused on fun, safe, and fair play for all participants.
2. Respect toward other players is expected.
3. Respect towards all officials is expected. Understand that even professional officials cannot make all the right calls every time nor can they always see an infraction that takes place. Please understand that not every official is certified and will sometimes be in training. Hiring officials becomes a very difficult task when participants' comments take the fun out of the experience for the official. Officials are there to help maintain the rules of the game, not to be yelled at.
4. Teams are expected to inform their manager with any discrepancies regarding a questionable call made by an official. The manager can then approach the official for an explanation of his/her call. If further explanation is needed then the league commissioner or the Adult Sports Coordinator should be notified.
5. *Excessive verbal abuse towards a participant or league official will not be tolerated.* League commissioner and/or Adult Sports Coordinator will determine game suspensions, removal from league play, and/or ejection for one year of Adult Sports play.
6. *Any excessive physical contact (Unsportsmanlike Conduct) towards other participants or league officials may result in immediate police involvement.* "Excessive Physical contact" includes but is not limited to an attempt to push, head butt, kick, punch, spit, bite, etc. League commissioner and/or Adult Sports Coordinator will determine game suspensions, removal from league play, and/or ejection for one year of Adult Sports play.

Any questions regarding the Code of Conduct can be brought the attention of the Adult Sports Coordinator, Keith Bulicz, at the Aspen Parks & Recreation Department- Red Brick Office. 920-5140 or cell 948-2192.