

COED SOFTBALL RULES

Playing Rules: Play will be in accordance with the ABA Softball Rules with the following additions and emphasis:

DISORDERLY CONDUCT BY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS OR THEIR FANS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. EXCESSIVE LANGUAGE, VERBAL ASSAULT ON OFFICIALS, AND ALL OTHER DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR WILL RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE LEAGUE.

Rosters

A player is eligible if they have read the rules and signed the Roster form. Player(s) can be added to the roster up to the 3rd week of the season. (Not the team's third game). Players can only play on one team, make sure you have a full team by the 3rd week. Rosters must be submitted before the first game of the season.

Base runner Interference

Base runners may not interfere with a defensive player making a play, except when sliding into a base. Baserunners interfering with a defensive player will be called out.

Bats

Must be a single-wall bat approved by the ASA.

Composite barrel bats are **banned** as well as any bat not approved by the ASA.

Legal Bats: A single-wall bat is to be composed of one continuous, single shell or layer composed entirely of the same material without the use of any type of glue or bonding system with a BPF no greater than 1.20. Any bat that is more complicated than this definition is considered a multi-wall bat. All current composite bats are constructed using multiple layers and therefore considered multi-wall bats

Any equipment in question should be brought to the attention of the umpire. The umpire and/or Commissioner will make all final decisions regarding equipment discrepancies.

Batter's Count

All at-bats begin with a one ball, one strike count. A batter is allowed one foul ball after his/her second strike has been called. The batter is out on strikes upon his/her second foul ball following his/her second strike.

Batting Order

A team may bat as many players as it wishes, in any order it wishes. However, there must be at 3 females that bat in any given rotation. If a team does not have enough females, one or more females must bat twice in the batting order. If a team member arrives after the start of the game, he or she should be added to the end of the batting order. *Exception:* If the first rotation has not yet been completed and that player's spot in the rotation is still due up, then he or she may play in their originally assigned spot.

Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners are permitted for injured baserunners, but must be approved by the opposing team and umpire (female for female and male for male). The umpire's decision is final.

Game Length

All games are seven innings or one hour 15 minutes in length (whichever one comes first). The last inning will be called within 10 minutes of the scheduled end time. The umpire is instructed to keep all games on time in fairness to all teams participating.

Ground Rules

The umpire and both team captains prior to the start of each game will agree upon ground rules. All ground rules calls made by the umpire are final.

Intentional Walks

Intentional walks are permitted. However, if a female player follows a male player in the batting order, the female player has the option of taking a base-on-balls if the male player is walked intentionally. This rule does not apply if the male batter draws a walk with the bases loaded.

Leading

Leading off bases and stealing bases is not permitted. Runners may leave the base once a pitched ball crosses the plane of the plate or is hit by the batter. If a runner leaves early, the umpire may call the ball dead and the runner is declared out. If the called out is the third of the inning, the batter will be the first batter to the plate the following inning.

Line-up/Male:Female Ratio

A maximum of 10-players, no more than seven males may play in the field at one time and you must always have three females. A game can be played with only two females, but you can only play with seven males, nine players total. A minimum of 8-players must be in the field to play an official game. There are NO position requirements. If a team does not have enough players to begin a game within 15 minutes following the scheduled game time, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team.

Mercy Rule

The Mercy Rule will be enforced. A team will be awarded a victory if it leads by 10 or more runs after the completion of five full innings.

No more than six runs may be scored per inning within the first six innings. If the offensive team scores six runs in an inning before three outs are recorded - the inning ends and the teams switch sides.

The offensive team may score as many runs as it can per inning after the sixth inning.

Pitch Height Requirements

A legal pitch must have an arc of 6' - 12'. Any pitch that is not deemed legal by the umpire will be called an automatic ball. An illegal pitch may be hit at the batter's peril.

Player Eligibility

Teams will be comprised of males and females, 18-years old and older. There is no limit to the number of players on a team's roster.

Run Limit

An inning rule limit applies to all games. There will be a 6-run limit per inning for innings 1-6, unless one of the innings is declared the final inning. An unlimited number of runs may be scored after the sixth inning.

Shoes

No Metal Spikes Permitted (no exceptions).

Sliding

Sliding is permitted. However, contact between baserunners and defensive players will be closely watched. Any excessive contact or unnecessary collision, as deemed by the umpire, will result in the baserunner being called out and/or ejected from the game.

Playoffs

Eight teams will advance to a single elimination play-off tournament at the end of the season. The division winners will receive the 1st and 2nd seeds for the playoffs; the team with the best overall record will receive the 1 seed. Seeds 3-8 will be based on overall record. If a tie occurs, the following criteria will be used to determine who participates in the play-offs:

- a. total head to head games won
- b. total points scored
- c. total points allowed
- d. a coin toss

In the case of multiple team (3 or more) ties, the team with the best head to head record among the tied teams will receive the higher position. Highest winning percentage will be used if necessary.

A player must play in at least three games in the regular season in order to qualify to play in the play-offs. Rosters will be checked before play-offs.

Commissioner

The commissioner of the league holds the right to override any and all league rules if he/she deems it necessary to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of league participants and the league itself.

Miscellaneous

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GRANTED ONCE THE SCHEDULE IS MAILED OUT.

A team will be eliminated for the league if they forfeit 2 games during the season.

Team captains are responsible for informing their teammates about the game times, changes in schedules, notices, cancellations, rules and regulations of the league, etc.

Team captains need to give **daytime** and evening **phone numbers** so that we can contact you in case of a forfeit or last minute change. Or, have a second person as the contact person.

Depending on the number of teams in the league, each team may play some teams two times in the season. Each team is guaranteed to play at least ten games.

Team Names: when choosing a name for your team, please remember this is a family oriented community center. Plymouth Township reserves the right to ask you to change your team name if it has a derogatory connotation. Those teams with sponsors usually use their sponsor's name.

Blood: Any blood flowing from the body, no matter what the amount, must be cleaned up and the cut must be covered.

Snow and/or weather cancellations are **not** called to you. On questionable days, you need to call the Community Center at (610) 277 – 4312. We suggest that the captain call us and have the team members call the captain or set up a chain for calls.

No jewelry allowed. Alert ref if someone is wearing a ring, long necklace, bracelets, and/or dangling or loopy earrings.

No alcohol, no tobacco chewing, no smoking, no profanity on Township property.

Children: due to their short attention span, we ask that all children sit next to parents and be under supervision at all times. This would help prevent any accident or interference with the games. If the only parent attending is playing, that parent is responsible to have a friend in charge of his/her children during the game. Please keep children off the track that encircles the courts.

Alcohol & Drug Policy: Per Plymouth Township ordinance, no alcohol or drug use will be tolerated in the GPCC or its property. No player shall appear under the influence of alcohol or drugs in such a manner as to not have control of his/her faculties to the extent that there is a chance of physical injury to him/her or others (police will be involved). Minimum penalty, ejection from the game and/or suspension from team's next scheduled game.

Missing Items: Plymouth Township assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen property. If something is missing, check with the front desk lost and found. Valuable items should be left home or locked up.

Plymouth Township has no provision for accident insurance for players or spectators, nor will it assume any responsibility for accident or injury in conjunction with this program for its players and spectators.

Weekly standings will be posted online at Plymouth Township's web site: www.plymouthtownship.org (click on the community center and go to leagues). All discrepancies need to be brought to the attention of the league coordinator immediately.

Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the league should be directed to the League Commissioner, Lucas McCarty at 610-313-8680 or by email at lmccarty@plymouthtownship.org

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