

COED OPEN SOFTBALL RULES

1. The league will play under the rules of the National Softball Association, except where amended by the following local rules. Consult your rulebook for 2010 rule changes.
2. Teams will provide and hit their own softballs. The ball must be a stamped ASA or NSA softball. Men will hit a .40 core and women will hit a .44 core. **Each batter will start his/her turn at bat with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count.**
3. There is a five (5) home-run limit per game. Excess home-runs will be a foul ball.
4. ROSTERS:
 - (a) Roster changes may be made in person or by telephone (631-0336 ext. 103). Players must be on the roster before playing. **THERE IS NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS ALLOWED ON A ROSTER.** (b) Players may change teams within the league once; they are not eligible to play for either team for eight days after the League Director is notified of the change.
5. ELIGIBILITY:
 - (a) **A PLAYER CAN PLAY FOR ONLY ONE TEAM WITHIN THE OPEN LEAGUE. A PLAYER CANNOT PLAY FOR TWO OPEN TEAMS EVEN IF THEY ARE IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS. IF A PLAYER IS CAUGHT PLAYING ILLEGALLY, THE ILLEGAL TEAM HAS TO FORFEIT ALL GAMES THAT PLAYER PLAYED IN AND THE ILLEGAL PLAYER WILL BE SUSPENDED 2 GAMES FOR THEIR "REAL TEAM".**
 - (b) All players must have reached the age of 16 before participating.
6. RUN RULE: "10 run rule" after 5 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 20 after 3 innings
7. TIME LIMIT: 1 hour time limit. No new inning may start after 60 minutes, unless the score is tied.
8. GAME TIME: Teams **MUST** start on time. There will be a "grace period" of ten minutes **ONLY** for the 6:00 game, and **ONLY** for teams with less than 8 players. Teams may start with 8 players (with no "automatic outs" for missing players), and additional players may be added to the **bottom** of the line-up when they arrive.
9. The number of players in the batting order may not be reduced without an "automatic out", **EXCEPT** in the case of **INJURY. IF A PLAYER IS INJURED AND CAN'T CONTINUE TO PLAY, EITHER THE PERSON IN FRONT OF THEM OR THE PERSON BEHIND THEM IN THE BATTING ORDER CAN'T BAT BUT ONLY PLAY DEFENSE. IF A PLAYER IS EJECTED FROM A GAME, A SUBSTITUTE PLAYER MUST BE AVAILABLE THAT IS NOT ALREADY IN THE BATTING ORDER. IF A TEAM DOES NOT HAVE A SUBSTITUTE, THE GAME WILL BE A FORFEIT.**
10. PROTESTS: Protest can be made only on **RULE INTERPRETATIONS, NOT ON JUDGEMENT CALLS.** Protest must be announced to the umpire at the time of the dispute, before the next pitch. Protest is invalid if the protesting team wins. Protests must be made, in writing, to the League Director within 48 hours of the game in question. Exception: Protest concerning player eligibility can be made at any time during the season.
11. Our league rule on "interference" will differ from standard NSA rules. On double play attempts, a runner who has been forced out must either slide or veer out of the way of the throw in order to avoid interference. Furthermore, any runner who, in the judgement of the umpire, collides with a defensive player by failing to slide on ANY close play **MAY** be called out, even if he would otherwise be safe on the play. Any action which, in the opinion of the umpire, increases the chance of injury, or is unsportsmanlike in nature will not be tolerated. The umpire can do whatever is necessary to stop or prevent such actions.
12. EJECTIONS: If a player is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, the player must sit out the following 2 games. If a player is ejected 2 times during the season, the player is suspended for the remainder of the season. If a team has 3 player ejections during the season, the entire team and its players will be suspended for the remainder of the season. **LEAGUE FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED**
13. No steel or steel-tipped cleats
14. IN CASE OF RAIN: **THE COACH SHOULD CALL THE ROGERS YOUTH CENTER AT 4:00 PM.**
15. HOME RUNS: On over-the-fence home runs, the batter and any baserunners may go directly to the dugout, and need not touch any base.
16. **ALIGNMENT:** Either the pitcher or catcher has to be a female, then half of the rest of the infield has to be female and half the outfield has to be female. **BATTING ORDER:** Has to alternate either male-female or female-male. **TEAMS MAY PLAY WITH MORE FEMALES THAN MALES, BUT CAN NOT PLAY WITH MORE MALES THAN FEMALES (EXCEPTION: IF A TEAM HAS 9 PLAYERS (4 FEMALES AND 5 MALES), 1 MALE CAN PLAY DEFENSE, BUT HE CANNOT BAT AND HE CANNOT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR ANOTHER MALE PLAYER WHO IS ALREADY IN THE BATTING LINEUP AT ANY TIME. IF A MALE PLAYER THAT IS IN THE BATTING LINEUP IS EJECTED, THE MALE PLAYER THAT IS JUST PLAYING DEFENSE CAN NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF THE EJECTED PLAYER. THE MALE PLAYER THAT IS DESIGNATED AS A DEFENSIVE PLAYER ONLY CAN NOT BAT AT ANY TIME IN ANOTHER MALE PLAYERS SPOT IN THE BATTING ORDER.**
17. If a male player is walked, intentionally or not, he is awarded second base and the female following has the option to bat or walk.

