



Tahoe Sports & Social Adult Recreational Softball League Rules

These rules are subject to change at any time and will be updated on the league website. League Rules are based on the USA Softball Rule Book with this book including rules that are either modified / unique for our league or ones to be highlighted.

REGULAR SEASON / GENERAL

Regular Game Start Times / Grace Period

Always check the online schedule to confirm, as game times may change.

3-game sets:

6:00PM
7:20PM
8:40PM

4-game sets:

5:40PM
6:45PM
7:50PM
8:55PM

There is a 10-minute grace period given to each team after the designated start time (factoring in delays, etc.).

If a team does not have a qualified roster within 10-minutes of designated start time, the opposing manager can give additional time (which comes out of game clock), accept a forfeit, lend players, or play against at an advantage.

Innings, Time Limit, and Ties

3 game sets: Regular season games are 70-min max and 7 innings. No new inning after 70 minutes.

4 game sets: Regular season games are 60 minutes, 7 innings, no new inning after 55 minutes if home team is ahead.

If tied, there will be an additional inning where each team starts with a runner on 2nd, and 1 out. This runner can be any player but if they are on base and are up to bat, it's an out. Teams may sub that runner after 1 at bat.

Mercy Rule (regular season)

3 game set: 20 after 4, 15 and 5.

4 game set: 12 after 5, 10 after 6.

Pitching Arc Limits

Men's: batter head height to unlimited height (it's been this way since the 70's)

Co-Ed: batter head height to 15-feet (about the height of 3rd highest cross-piece of fence)

Strike Zone

Ball must meet pitch loft requirement and land on home plate or rubber extension-plate behind it.

Loaded Count and Foul Ball Rule

Each batter starts with 1 ball, 1 strike and is allowed 2 foul balls, 3rd must be fair.

Home Run Rule

A team can be up TWO home runs on its opponent. Any thereafter is a 2-strike error. If there was a strike / foul to give, the next must be fair and in play. If there was none to give, the batter is out.

In Field Fly Rule

Infield **Fly** as, "a fair **fly** ball (not including a line drive or a bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second, and third bases

are occupied before two are out. In such case the batter is out and if the fielder drops the ball, batters can advance at their own risk.

Pinch Runner

Each team is allowed 1-pinch runner, per gender, per inning. If a team goes thru lineup, each team can have pinch runner again (it resets). Pinch runner can be anyone, but if they are on base when up to bat, it's an out.

Home vs. Away

Generally, teams have equal number of home and away. In case where some teams play each other more than others (even number leagues), the 3rd match up Home / Away will be determined by record, head-to-head, head-to-head differential, runs against, runs for. This makes each regular season game matter more.

ROSTERS / LINEUPS

****Opposing manager can allow any exception to the below rules in a game, but this should not be expected. Umpire / league official has final say in any dispute****

A fully fielded team is 10-players. Catcher, Pitcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Short Stop, and 4 outfielders.

Minimum Players Required

Any team needs 8 players to play. If a team does not have 8 eligible players within 10 minutes of start time, opposing team can accept forfeit, lend a player, or play at an advantage.

Maximum Allowed Roster: 18-players

Fielders Must Bat

Any fielder must be in the hitting lineup. A team cannot have a designated fielder.

Extra Hitter / Designated Hitter

Each team is allowed 6 EH / DH (assuming 10 fielding)

Lineup at Game Time

Lineup must be submitted to umpire 5-minutes before start of game using League Scorecard and any non-waivered players and substitutes need to be announced. It is manager responsibility to ensure all players have signed waiver and are in compliance with league policies.

Batting Lineup

No more than 16 in batting lineup (including manager)

Substitutes

- Subs must be announced ahead of game and identified on roster
- Subs must sign waiver if not already registered, and is manager responsibility
- Subs must play following defensive positions in any order (catcher, first, right outfield, center outfield)
- Subs must bat last
- Subs are not allowed in playoffs (see Playoff Eligibility below)
- If a player aims to establish game eligibility for playoffs, they should be formally added to the team roster via Team Site).

CO-ED RULE SPECIFICS

Co-Ed Roster / Lineup Requirements

- Each team must have 4 women, they can play whatever position they want.
- No more than 5 men in the field allowed at a time
- Must alternate gender in batting order
- Teams can bat as many men and women in lineup, up to 16 total.

Co-Ed Batting Order

If different number of men than women in order, two separate batting line-ups will be used, one for females and the other for males. The manager shall indicate which gender will lead off the game and the gender shall alternate from that point. Two players of the same gender may never bat in consecutive order unless a rule violation or automatic out is being enforced.

Co-Ed Walks

A male that is walked on a count of three (3) balls, (Ball 4) shall be awarded second base. The next female batter can take first base, or bat.

Outfield Requirement

A minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind the outfield restriction line (180 feet from home plate) until the batter hits the pitch - with four outfielders your rover can come in front of the line (rover may be male or female). If this rule is violated, the batter will be awarded first base unless his/her batted ball results in their safe advance past first base.

Balls

Coed play will use 12" Ball for Men and 11" ball for Women. Female batters have the option of using either ball.

EQUIPMENT

Official Bat Guidance

The bat shall be a smooth cylinder with a knob. Only bats that pass through a 2-1/4-inch (5.7150 cm) diameter bat ring are legal. Each bat shall be no more than 2-1/4 inches (5.7150 cm) in diameter at its thickest part, no more than 34 inches (86.360 cm) in length, and not exceed 38 ounces (1077.30 g) in weight. There shall be no devices, attachments, or wrappings that cause the handle to become flush with the knob. All bats shall meet the USA/ASA bat performance standard. Laser etching, other than on the barrel is permissible.

- a. All bats must bear the USA/ASA approved certification mark and must not be listed on an USA/ASA Banned Bat list unless it bears the USA/ASA approved recertification mark; or
- b. Must be included on a list of approved bat models published by USA/ASA; or
- c. Must be in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and, if tested, would comply with the USA/ASA bat performance standards then in effect.
- d. Safety grip or cork, tape (no smooth plastic tape) or composition material, may not exceed two layers of tape and must be a continuous spiral. Any resin or pine tar is permissible on this part of the bat. Tape must be at least 10 inches long and not more than 15 inches.
- e. The bat's knob may be solid or hollowed out to house an embedded metric sensor. If a sensor is used, it shall
 - (1) Not affect performance

- (2) Be secured by a locking mechanism and a back-up mechanism to keep it in place.
- (3) Have a distinguishing “off line” mode to prevent data from being accessed during a game.

Bat Penalties

Each Manager is responsible for inspecting their players' bats. Umpire is to keep eye on bats in play.

First Offense: Official warning is issued to player and manager

Second Offense: Batter is out

Third Offense: Batter is ejected from game

Cleats

No metal cleats / spikes are allowed in softball.

PLAYOFF RULES

Playoff Eligibility

- A player must play 2 of 10 regular season games to be eligible to play for that respective team in playoffs.
- A player can only play on one playoff team in the same league division.
- Rosters are locked after the 8th week (or whatever is announced by league) of regular season and teams and players must finalize their Playoff Team at this time).
- Playoff Rosters need to be submitted at least 48-hours before the first Playoff Game (or whatever is announced by league) so the players can be vetted for eligibility.

Qualifying for Playoffs and Tie Breaker

Top 4 teams make playoffs, though there may be 6 depending on number of teams. This is measured by record and tie breaker calculated by head-to-head, head-to-head differential, runs against, then runs for.

Playoff Mercy Rule

20 after 5th inning

Playoff Time Limit

Time limit extended from 60 minutes to 80 minutes for playoff games.

Championship game(s) have NO TIME LIMIT.

PLAYER AND TEAM CONDUCT, SUSPENSIONS, AND EJECTIONS

This league is run in good faith for the community and all participants and spectators are expected to carry themselves in a mature and respectful capacity and to comply with USA Softball Code of Conduct.

There is zero tolerance for physical escalation, harassment, or threats of any kind. League official and umpire reserve right to eject, suspend, ban, and even file criminal charges depending on severity of infraction. Be kind. Be respectful. Playing in this league is a privilege, not a right.

Alcohol

Unless otherwise stated, alcohol is not allowed at school district properties in CA.

Property Damage

Any player who damages property is responsible for such repairs whether by accident or not. This includes balls breaking windows, etc. Related though, participant and spectator cars are parked at owner's risk.

Tahoe Sports & Social

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