



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS, AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
SPORTS SECTION**

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COED SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

Official Slow Pitch Rules, as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA), shall apply unless amended herein.

1. GENERAL

- A. Dogs **ARE NOT** permitted at city of Alexandria playing fields.
- B. The city of Alexandria **WILL NOT** tolerate the use of alcohol or drugs on city property. Violations will be reported to the proper authority.
- C. Metal spikes **ARE NOT** permitted.
- D. Children **ARE NOT** to be left unattended near the field or bench area.
- E. Fighting, acts of aggression, verbal abuse toward players and umpires, or other disturbances to department of recreation, parks and cultural activities programs will not be tolerated. Violations will result in player(s) and/or team(s) being suspended and/or terminated from league play losing all rights and moneys associated with the program.
- F. Teams will be dropped from further league play after three (3) individual games are forfeited and will lose all rights and moneys associated with the program. Final determination of removal from league play will be made by the program supervisor after evaluation of forfeits.
- G. Scores must be called in within 24 hours of game time. The adult sports office voice mail system is available 24 hours a day to report game scores.
- H. Players and managers are encouraged to call the coed sports hotline at 703-746-5595 before each scheduled game.

2. ROSTERS

- A. Is limited to a maximum of 13 men and 13 women, and a minimum of 7 each.
- B. Players must be at least 18 years of age to participate by the first scheduled game of the season.
- C. Roster changes may be made through May 31 for the spring/summer league, and through September 30 for the fall league. **Roster additions must be made in writing (and be accompanied by the nonresident fee, if applicable), before a player will be eligible to participate.**
- D. A player **CANNOT** be on more than one team's roster in Alexandria sponsored coed

softball leagues. Violation of this rule shall result in forfeiture of all games in which the player participated, and the penalty for managers and players are as follows:

Player: First Offense: Warning

Second Offense: Three (3) game suspension, including playoffs.

Third Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season.

Note: Players knowingly violating this rule will receive the three (3) game suspension on the first occurrence, followed by suspension for the remainder of the season on the second offense.

Manager: First Offense: One (1) game suspension from playing and managing.

Second Offense: Three (3) game suspension from playing and managing, including playoffs.

Third Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season from playing and managing.

- E. **Teams must have a complete, up-to-date, roster available at all games. If requested by a recreation official, players must provide a picture ID.**
- F. (New) Team Managers must have a copy of the final roster with full name, address, telephone number and jersey number available at each game. If requested, Managers must present an official final roster to the Umpire or Recreation Staff. Failure to provide the official roster as requested will result in automatic forfeiture of the game.
- G. (New!) Teams that do not cooperate with league officials (i.e., withholding information such as rosters, names of players, managers, or captains, etc.) will automatically forfeit games in progress, the manager and/or team captain will receive a one game suspension, and the team will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season. A second offense will result in team expulsion from the league.

3. THE GAME

- A. An inning consists of 10 players batting by both teams, regardless of the number of outs.
- B. A regulation game shall consist of 5 innings or one hour and fifteen minutes, except for ties.
- C. In case of a tied game at the end of 5 innings, the one-pitch format shall be used for all extra innings. If the score is still tied after 2 extra innings, it shall be recorded as an official tied game and not be replayed.
- D. There shall be a 15 minute grace period for the 6:30 game and a 5 minute A grace period@ for all other games. The grace period A may be used only if a team has less than 8 (four men & four female) players. The time limit will start at the scheduled start time of the game.
- E. A game will be stopped at the end of 4 innings or at any point thereafter when the losing team cannot possibly tie the score. However, at least 4 complete innings will be played regardless of the score.
- F. A game called off by the umpire because of rain, lightning, or field conditions shall be a regulation game if 3 or more complete innings have been played or if the losing team cannot tie the score by batting 3 innings. Otherwise, the game will be replayed from the start.

- G. In the event a game is cancelled by the umpire due to unsafe field conditions at or before the scheduled game time, the game will be considered a non-game, and the game will be rescheduled. Forfeits **WILL NOT** be awarded in the event either team does not have the required number of players present at game time. The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will make every attempt to update the Sport Hotline with game cancellation information.
- H. **(New)** There will be no base stealing in City of Alexandria league play.

4. PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

- A. **(New)** The lineup shall consist of a maximum of 10 players (5 males and 5 females). A team may play with a minimum of 8 players
1. 3 male & 5 females;
 2. 4 male & 4 females; or
 3. 5 male & 3 females

No other combinations of males and females are allowed when starting a game with 8. In any combination of players, a team must either start or maintain a minimum total number of 8 players and maintain a minimum of 3 men or 4 women. Teams may play with as many as 7 women in a lineup as long as a minimum of 3 men are present.

In any combination of players, two men cannot bat back-to-back except:

1. Where 5 male and 3 females are in the line-up, two men must bat in the 1 and 2 order.
 2. A team may play with 9 players (5 males & 4 females) This is the only combination that allows more males than females except for the 6:30pm game).
- B. **(New)** A player may be withdrawn from the game and must wait until the start of the next complete inning before reentering the game.
- C. When playing with fewer than 10 players, the team must announce it to the umpire before the first batter steps up to bat. If additional player(s) arrive later, such player(s) must wait until the start of the next complete inning before entering the game. The 8th or 9th batter must be announced as the 10th (final batter), and all 10th Batter rules will apply.

(NEW) All teams will have the right to bat a male in the last position in the batting order regardless of the composition of men and women in their lineup. If a team has more females than males in its lineup, the team can arrange its batting order so that women will be allowed to bat consecutively in the order to accommodate a male batting last in the order.

- D. Substitutions can be made only after each complete inning (not half inning). The same players must bat and play in the field for the entire inning.

Exception 1: The pitcher can be removed in the middle of an inning but must remain in the game at another position. The new pitcher must be a player already in the game (not from the bench). When making this change, no more than three players can switch positions.

Exception 2: In case of injury, a player from the bench may substitute for

the injured player. If a player is injured during a game, the player may be substituted as described in Ae@ below. The injured player must sit out the remainder of the inning plus one more complete inning before being allowed to re-enter the game.

- E. It will be at the discretion of the opposing team=s captain to furnish a player(s) to a team needing a player(s). When the player(s) missing from the lacking team arrives, the borrowed player may return to his own team and play. The arriving player must take the borrowed players spot in the batting order. **Players may only be borrowed from the opposing team for which you are scheduled to play and if the opposing team has more than 10 players present.**

5. EQUIPMENT

- A. (NEW) Bats used in league play must conform to the Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20. Multi-walled bats must have this rating stamped on the barrel. **All bats banned by ASA, including those listed with a BPF 1.20 rating, will be ruled illegal for all league, play-off and tournament games. The umpires decision is final. An updated list of banned bats may be found at: www.asasoftball.com**
- B. (NEW) All bats will be required to be inspected by the umpire prior to the start of all league games. Players arriving late to a game, and wish to use their bat may do so after the bat is certified by the umpire. The umpires decision is final. Teams substituting certified bats with a banned bat (see Section 5. A.), after the initial inspection, will be penalized as follows:
1. Automatic forfeiture of the game in progress, and the offending team will be placed under probation for the remainder of the season.
 2. A second violation of the league rule will result in the manager and offending player being suspended for one game, and the game in progress will be forfeited
 3. Third violation will result in team expulsion from the league, and the game in progress will be forfeited.
- C. Teams must furnish all of their own equipment including game balls.
- D. **Each team must give one new 12-inch Arestricted flight@ .52 core softball to the umpire prior to each game (including playoffs) NO White balls**
- E. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will furnish the game bases. Teams in the first game install the bases, teams in the last game return the bases to their storage area.
- F. Only athletic footwear is allowed. No Aspikes@, metal cleated shoes, or Astreet shoes@ are allowed. Umpire=s decision shall be final.
- G. Uniforms are not required for league play.
- H. (NEW) The use of donuts, sleeves, or weights of any kind on bats is prohibited. Players found using such equipment will be automatically ejected.

6. PITCHING REGULATIONS

- A. the Strike Zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter=s back shoulder and his/her front knees when he/she assumes a natural batting

- stance.
- B. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc, and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground.
 - C. At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than three warm-up pitches to the catcher or other teammate.
 - D. **(New) "Each team will hit the balls they supply to the umpire." .**

7. BATTING

- A. The batter shall start with a one ball and one strike count.
- B. The batting order must alternate female-male or vice-versa.
- C. A woman shall not receive an automatic walk if the man batting in front of her is walked.
- D. **Foul Out Rule:** Batter is out on the second foul ball after accumulating 2 strikes (including the automatic first strike).
- E. A player's position in the batting order may be changed each inning.
- F. 2 home run maximum and all other home runs ruled an out. **Exception:** When both teams have reached the 2 home run limit, each team may hit one additional home run. Each subsequent home run will be ruled an out until the opposing team hits an additional home run. Teams will be allowed to continue hitting one additional home run, not resulting in an out, each time home runs are equal for each team. **The plus one will apply in the bottom half of the final and extra innings.**

8. 10th BATTER RULES

- A. The side is retired when the 10th batter flies out or when someone touches home plate with the ball in hand. Also, if a batted ball hits a base runner in fair territory, the side is out and no runs score on the play.
- B. The tenth batter must announce his/her position in the batting order to the umpire and opposing catcher when stepping up to bat.
Penalty: If the batter has completed his/her turn at bat, the opposing team has the choice of making the batter bat again or accepting the result of the at bat. The failure of the 10th batter to announce must be Appealed for this rule to be enforced. The 10th batter may still announce without penalty if it is done before hitting a fair ball or drawing a walk.
- C. If the 10th batter hits a fair ball that ends up out-of-play (either batted or thrown), the ball is dead and all runners score.
- D. If the 10th batter draws a walk, a new count is started and all base runners advance one base, whether forced or not.
- E. When playing with eight or nine players, all 10th Batter rules shall apply to the 8th or 9th batter.

9. FIELDING

- A. Infielders must remain in the infield and outfielders in the outfield until the ball is

- hit. The outfield begins at the outfield grass.
- B. A player must play the same position for an entire inning.
Exception: The pitcher may switch with another player already in the game, not from the bench (See Rule 4. D).
- C. The four outfield positions are: LF, LCF, RCF and RF. Players may not switch these positions during the same inning.
- D. When playing with 9 players, a team may play with either three or four outfielders. However, whichever alignment a team uses at the start of an inning must be maintained for the entire inning.
- E. The infield fly rule shall not be in effect.
- F. If a fielder intentionally drops or lets drop a fair fly ball, including a line driver, which can be caught by an infielder or pitcher with ordinary effort, with first base occupied, the batter is out, the ball is dead, and each base runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the pitch.
- G. Infielders, with the exception of the pitcher, must remain even with or behind all base paths until the softball is hit by the opposing batter. Infielders encroaching towards home base prior to the softball being hit will result in the batter being awarded first base and all other batters will advance one base, whether forced or not. If encroachment occurs on the 10th batter, the pitch will be declared a ball and all other runners will advance one base, whether forced or not. If such pitch results in a walk, a new count is started and all base runners advance one base, whether forced or not (See Rule 8D.).

10. RAIN-OUTS/RESCHEDULING:

- A. A game called off by the umpire because of rain, lightning, or field conditions shall be a regulation game if 3 or more complete innings have been played or if the losing team cannot tie the score by batting 3 innings. Otherwise, the game will be replayed from the start.
- B. Weather cancellations or other information can be received 24 hours a day on the Coed Sports Hotline at 703-746.5595.
- C. Team managers are to call the Sports Hotline Number to receive game rescheduling information. Rescheduled information not available the evening of the canceled games will be available by calling the sports office between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. the next business day.
- D. In the event play-off games are canceled due to inclement weather, all play-off games will be rescheduled for the next available business day.

11. PLAYOFFS

- A. A minimum of the top four (4) teams in each division per night will advance to single elimination playoff tournament. The total number of teams advancing to the league playoff tournament will be determined by the program supervisor.
- B. In the event there are tied teams in the final standings, the tie breaker is as follows:
1. Head to head record.
 2. Record versus common opponents.

3. A coin toss or lottery drawing will be used to determine final seeding.

12. AWARDS

- A. A team trophy will be awarded to the season champion and runner-up for each division.
- B. A team trophy and individual awards will be awarded to the playoff champion and a team trophy will be awarded to the play-off runner-up. Individual awards will be limited to 18.

13. MISCELLANEOUS

Any situation not covered by these rules, or by the general rules will be brought to the attention of the adult sports supervisor. These rules may be revised by the department of recreation, parks and cultural activities as deemed necessary

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