Co-Ed Softball League Bylaws

The Town of Windsor Parks and Recreation Department softball leagues are designed to strengthen community image, as well as promote health and wellness to the citizens of Windsor. The sole purpose of Town of Windsor softball leagues is to provide safe, fun, but still semi-competitive softball.

ARTICLE I – GENERAL LEAGUE INFORMATION

PLAYING FIELD – Games will be played at Keiser Park field A, and other park locations if needed. Keiser Park is located at 700 Windsor River Rd.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – Alcoholic beverages are PROHIBITED at all Town of Windsor Parks, dugouts, bleachers, general complex "area" and parking lots. Officials have the authority to remove any player or fan who is consuming or under the influence of alcohol. Suspension and/or forfeiture of game may result from violation.
NO ALCOHOL!

SUPERVISION - The Parks & Recreation Department has the overall responsibility for managing this Adult Softball League and enforcing the various rules and bylaws. The Umpire's responsibilities will be the starting and play of the game, plus the conduct of players in the game or on the bench. Each team will be required to have a designated playing or non-playing manager at each game to assume the full responsibility for the conduct and adherence to the bylaws of their players on his/her team along with the fans of his/her team

ARTICLE II – MANAGERS MEETING

Each team must have a representative attend the preseason managers meeting. If the manger him/herself cannot attend, they must designate another representative to attend the meeting. If a team fails to send a representative to the managers meeting that **team will be dropped from the league.**

ARTICLE III – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. AGE: All players must be at least 18 years of age.
    a. An illegal player in a game or games will cause his/her team to forfeit that game and all previous games in which that player participated. Players must be prepared to show ID when requested to do so by the umpire.
    b. If a similar incident by the same team occurs again during the season, that team will be removed immediately from the league, and barred from further competition.
B. Only players who have signed their team's roster, kept on file, will be considered eligible to play. If a non-signed player participates, the team which the player is on will forfeit the game automatically.
    a. **It is the responsibility of the player and manager to know who has signed the roster.**
C. Players must participate in **at least 50%** of the guaranteed league minimum games to be eligible for the playoffs. If the final guaranteed league game falls in the first round of the playoffs, it may be counted towards the 50% minimum. **Ex.** 8 game season, player must play in at least 4 games.
D. Players currently named on a college baseball and/or college softball roster are not eligible to participate in any league.
E. Players dropped from one roster cannot join the roster of another team without the written approval of both managers.

ARTICLE IV – TEAM ROSTERS

A. Team rosters will be handed out at Managers Meeting. Team rosters must be filled out and handed in to a Town of Windsor Parks and Recreation staff member on the 1st day of games. Team rosters must be filled out completely with player's signature. Failure to have completed rosters will result in ineligible players.
B. Players may be added and/or deleted through the 4th game of the season. Team rosters will be kept at playing field with a Town of Windsor Parks and Recreation staff member.
    a. **Ex.** No players may be added after the date of the 4th game played. After the 4th game of the season, rosters will be frozen for the remainder of the season.
    b. NOTE: only additions, not deletions, are considered roster changes. Teams whose roster drops below the minimum number of players may add back to the minimum at any time during the season with the league coordinator's approval and opposing managers' consent.
C. Roster Limits: Minimum 11 Players – Maximum 18 Players

ARTICLE VI – SCHEDULES

A. League schedules are posted on the Town of Windsor Adult Sports webpage and able to be printed. Schedules and standings can be found at:
    a. http://www.townofwindsor.com/adultsports.
B. RAIN-OUT PROCEDURE: The Town of Windsor operates on a 24 hour rain rule, meaning all fields will be closed and remain closed for no less than 24 hours after the last rainfall, giving Town Staff the ability to assess field conditions and determine the playability. Field hotline is updated by 3:00pm weekdays and 7:30am on weekends. Field Hotline number: (707) 838-5944
    a. Rained out games will be made up the first week after the regular season if they affect playoff standings and facility time and space allow it.
    b. If a game is called due to rain, sprinklers, power outage, etc. and has completed 5 full innings, then the team that is ahead at the moment of the game being called shall be declared the winner, unless the game has been called in the top-half of an inning in which the visiting team has scored "go-ahead" runs and retaken the lead, or the game is tied.

ARTICLE V – FORFEITURES, A FORFEIT WILL BE CALLED;

A. If a team fails to field the minimum of 8 players (4 males/4 females) when the umpire calls 'play ball' at the designated scheduled time.
B. If, in the opinion of the umpires, a manager does not have control over his/her team.
C. If there is continued delay of the game after the official has called 'play ball.'
D. If there is any harassment of officials, scorekeepers, players, coaches, or spectators.
E. If there are team and/or spectator violations of park rules and regulations.
F. If players are not properly in uniform.
G. If illegal players are used.
H. If a team drops below the minimum number of players during gameplay.
    a. A forfeit counts as a 1.5 game loss, unless a team is forced to forfeit due to injury after fielding the minimum number of players to begin the game. In that case, a 1.0 loss will be applied.

Please call Vannesa Camacho at (707) 836-2309 or email vcamacho@townofwindsor.ca.gov ahead of time if you know your team will have to forfeit.

ARTICLE VI – UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

A. Teams are required to have matching shirts with numbers on the back. Players without a matching shirt may not be allowed to play. The decisions on what is "matching" will be made by the umpires and/or scorekeeper.
    a. This will be considered a judgment call and cannot be protested.
B. Metal cleats are not allowed in slow-pitch softball.
C. All players will hit with a 12" ball.

a. Ball used is 375 lbs./.44 Core.

ARTICLE VII – BAT POLICY

A. Only bats that bear an ASA approval sticker or are on the Town of Windsor legal bat list are allowed.
B. **NO titanium, composite, double walled** bats are allowed in Town of Windsor Co-ed Softball Leagues.
C. If an illegal bat is used during play, the batter will be ruled out and runners (if any) will return to original base.
D. Any team that is deemed using an illegal bat will be recorded on the "Violation List."
    a. **First offense:** Batter is out, runners (if any) return to original base.
    b. **Second offense:** Game will be forfeited by team, and recorded as a 1.5 loss in the standings.

ARTICLE VIII – SCOREKEEPERS

A. Town of Windsor Parks and Recreation Department staff will keep official score book for league games.
B. Lineups are to be handed to scorekeeper at least 5 minutes prior to game time. Players FULL NAMES are to be given on lineup.
    a. Players who show up late to a game and his/her team has already batted through the line-up, that player may only bat if substituted with a player that is currently in the batting order.
        i. **Ex.** A team begins a game with 10 players and those 10 players bat through the line-up, an 11th player shows up. That player may only enter batting order if substituted in for player currently in line-up.
        ii. Once that player is substituted in for they cannot re-enter batting line-up.
    b. No free substitutions allowed in the batting order. Free substitutions are allowed defensively.

ARTICLE IX – PLAY REGULATIONS

A. GAME TIME – **Game time is forfeit time!** If teams are unable to field the minimum players required at the time scheduled for the game to start, it will be a forfeit and recorded as a 1.5 loss.
    a. *If a preceding game runs past the scheduled start time of the next game, a five (5) minute warm up period will be given following the final out of the preceding game. This will be the new game time and forfeit time.
B. TIME OF PLAY – All regular season games and playoffs will have a time limit of 1 hour and 10 minutes, or seven (7) innings, whichever comes first. No new inning will begin after 1:05 if the visiting team is behind by seven runs or more. If an inning is in progress at the end of time limit, the inning shall be completed.
    a. *Championship game will have a 1 hour and 45 minute time frame, or seven (7) innings, whichever comes first.
C. EXTRA INNINGS – Tied games will be played until the tie is broken. If a game is tied either after a full seven innings or the time limit has expired, one full normal inning will be played. If at the end of that extra inning a tie still exists, the following tie breaker will be in effect.
    a. Tie Breaker Rule: offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who was the last legal batter of the previous inning being placed at second base.
        i. **Ex.** number five batter is to lead off; number four in the batting order will be placed at second base.
        ii. No substitute running can be used for this person.
D. GENDER REQUIREMENTS – Teams must have a minimum of 8 players (4 males/4 females) to begin and finish a game. If at any time a team drops below the minimum number of players, that game will result in a forfeit and be deemed a 1.5 loss in the standings, unless as stated, a player is injured and cannot continue (1.0 loss).
    a. Teams must have 4 males and 4 females in the defensive lineup at all times.

b. Teams are allowed one more male player than female player in the defensive lineup, but teams may never have more than 5 males in the defensive field at one time.
    i. **Ex**. 5 males/4 females.
    ii. Teams may play with 6 females and 4 males in the defensive field.

E. COURTESY RUNNER – Teams will be allowed **one** courtesy runner per inning (1 total, either male or female) will be allowed. If an injured player is removed from the game, a courtesy runner will be use, but will not affect courtesy runner per inning rule.
    a. The courtesy runner must be the last out recorded of the same gender.
    b. *Additional/ongoing courtesy runner is allowed for a specific team member based on prior discussion with program coordinator.

F. SLIDING - Sliding is allowed in all leagues. Players must slide directly into the base or away from the defensive player. Sliding away from the base into a defensive player is an automatic out: two outs if this occurs on a double play attempt. If the act is flagrant in the umpire's judgment, the player will be ejected from the game.

G. HOME PLATE SAFETY LINE – For scoring purposes, a safety line in foul territory starting at the front corner of home plate closest to third base. The runner only needs to pass this line (not the plate) before the ball reaches the catcher in contact with the plate to be safe. Players are NOT allowed to slide at home plate. If home base is touched by the base runner, this will result in an automatic out.

H. COMMITMENT LINE: There will be a commit line on the 3rd base line 20 feet from home plate. If any player crosses the commit line with any part of their body, they must continue their run to home.

I. PITCHING HEIGHT - A pitch must reach a height of at least 6 feet and not exceed 12 feet from the ground.

J. WALK RULE - If a male is walked or is intentionally walked, he will go to second base. If there are less than two outs in the inning, the following female must bat. If there are two outs in the inning, the following female has the option of batting or walking, but must let the umpire know prior to stepping into the batter's box.

ARTICLE X – TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

A. In case of identical records, the following tie breaking procedures will be used in order to determine which team will qualify. Criteria will be applied in the following order until the tie has been broken.
    a. Best record head-to-head among tied teams.
    b. Run differential head-to-head among tied teams.
    c. Overall Run Differential
    d. Highest Runs Scored
    e. Fewest Runs Allowed

ARTICLE XI – PLAYOFF/CHAMPIONSHIP

A. Playoff format will be determined by league coordinator and reflected on schedule.

ARTICLE XII – PROTESTS

A. The Town of Windsor does not recognize protests regarding judgment calls by the officials. Only roster irregularities and rule interpretations are subject to protest. All protests must be submitted to the Town of Windsor no later than 4:30 p.m. the following day. Protest forms must be filled out clearly and completely (the scorekeeper will have this form available). A 25.00 CASH fee must be paid at the time the protest is filled. If the protest is upheld the fee shall be returned.

ARTICLE XIII – FINES

A. Teams forfeiting games will be required to pay $30.00 for each forfeit before they will be allowed to participate in the next league game**.**

B. All fines must be paid before the next scheduled league game.

C. Any team forfeiting two games will become subject to being dropped from the league and may forfeit all rights to participate in the playoffs.

D. Any games missed because of a fine-non-payment will be counted as a loss.

ARTICLE XIV – PLAYER CONDUCT

The team manager shall communicate all grievances. Any unusual tactic, profanity, or derogatory remarks made by a player or manager shall result in ejection from the game and the park. Ejected players must leave the park within one minute. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game and the player being suspended for the remainder of the season. A player who is ejected from the games will receive an automatic suspension for the following league game. If a player is ejected from a game twice in one season, the second ejection will result in removing the player's name from the team roster and from further competition for the remainder of the season. If, in the opinion of the league coordinator, stronger action is warranted after the first ejection, such action shall be taken. Any team guilty of badgering umpires or staff will be removed from the league and banned from further play in the Windsor softball leagues.

No player shall at any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike or threaten an official or staff.

Minimum Penalty: Suspension for two league games and probation for the remainder of the season.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension for the remainder of the season and any portion of the following year.

No player shall refuse to abide by the official's decision.

Minimum Penalty: Probation for the remainder of the season.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension for the remainder of the season and any portion of the following year.

No player shall appear upon the field of play at any time in an intoxicated condition. No player shall use any alcoholic beverages on the playing field, dugout or bleachers during the game.

Minimum Penalty: Suspension for two league games and probation for the remainder of the season.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension for the remainder of the season.

Officials are required to immediately suspend a player for play if this player violates any of the above rules. Officials are required to report this player to the league supervisor. The player shall remain suspended until the league coordinator and The Town of Windsor Programs Supervisor has considered his/her case.

ARTICLE XV – SPECIAL NOTE

A. Any player being placed on probation for the remainder of the season and reported again for violation of the Code of Conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the season and any portion of the following year.

ARTICLE XVI – REFUNDS

A. All payments for league participation are final. No refunds will be given to individuals or teams after registering for league play.

ARTICLE XVII – LIABILITY

A. The Town of Windsor does not assume any legal or moral obligation to care for a player who is injured while participating in the Town of Windsor softball programs. All players are required to sign their team roster, which includes a liability waiver for the Town of Windsor and its employees.

ARTICLE XVII – ACCIDENT REPORTS

A. Incase of an injury, immediately notify the scorekeeper or umpire. They will fill out an accident report. The report will be given to the league coordinator.

Co-Ed Softball Rules At A Glance
Coed Slow-pitch - played under the current ASA rules and local Town of Windsor Bylaws.

1. The home team is listed second on the schedule and takes the third base dugout.
2. Free substitutions are allowed as long as ASA Co-ed rules regarding male/female defensive alignment and batting order are followed.
3. The batting order must alternate male-female. If, at anytime, two men bat consecutively in the batting order, there will be an automatic out given.
4. The scorekeeper must be notified of any changes in the line-up.
5. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players (4 males/4 females) to begin and finish a game.
    a. Teams are allowed one more male player than female player in the defensive lineup, but teams may never have more than 5 males in the defensive field at one time.
        i. **Ex**. 5 males/4 females.
6. Defensively at least one female must be catcher or pitcher and at least half the infielders and outfielders must be female (Under the assumption that there are at least five women present).
    1. Pitcher and Catcher
    2. Infield – 1st base, 2nd base, Short Stop, 3rd base
    3. Outfield – Left Field, Left Center, Right Center, Right Field

    In each of these three areas, at least half of the positions must be fielded by a female. To break it down a step further you must have, in each area, at least:

    1. 1 female as pitcher or catcher
    2. Infield – 2 females in any of the 4 positions
    3. Outfield – 2 females in any of the 4 positions

    ***If team is playing with 5 males and 4 females:**
        1. 1 female as pitcher or catcher
        2. Infield – 2 females in any of the 4 positions
        3. Outfield – 1 female in any of the 4 positions

***If team is playing with 4 males and 6 females:**
        1. 1 female as pitcher or catcher
        2. Infield – 2 females in any of the 4 positions
        3. Outfield – 3 females in any of the 4 positions
7. One courtesy runner <u>per inning</u> (1 total, either male or female) will be allowed. The courtesy runner must be the last out recorded.
8. On 2 strikes, the batter has one foul to give before counting as the 3rd strike.
9. Any ball that reaches the side walk down the left field line at Hiram Lewis Park will be a home run regardless of if the ball got there on the fly, bounce, or roll.
10. Any ball hit in the air through the trees in center/right center field at Hiram Lewis Park is considered a home run.
11. Any ball that bounces over, rolls through, or is obstructed by any barrier in fair territory is a ground rule double.
12. All plays at home will be considered force plays. All runners must cross and make contact with the ground on any portion of the home base circle in order to score. The catcher must have a foot in the circle at the time the ball is caught and before the runner crosses the circle in order to get an out.
13. THE ALL BAT RULE IS IN EFFECT

    **All players present will bat. It is not necessary to play a defensive position in order to bat.

    **A team may have up to the roster maximum in the batting order.

    **Batters may be added to the line up until the team has batted through the order one time. Additional batters must then substitute for players already in the line up.

    **The umpire and or scorekeeper must be notified of all changes to line up.