

RECREATIONAL COED SOFTBALL RULES

The United States Slowpitch Softball Association shall govern all play, with the following exceptions and clarifications. These rules will be in effect from the beginning of Summer Session 2018 till the end of Spring Session 2019.

- **TEAMS AND PLAYERS**

- A) A team is allowed 10 positions players, 5 men and 5 women. A team must have at least 8 players(4 men, 4 women) to begin a game and 9 players to end a game or a forfeit will be called. There are no automatic outs. **You may play with 9 players (5 men, 4 women or vice versa) the extra sex must start and end the batting order.**
- B) A roster **MUST** be filled with the diamond manager, with no more than 20 players. A player **MUST** be put on the roster before the start of the game, to be eligible to play that evening
- C) There is **NO LIMIT** on the number of teams on which a player may participate; however, players **MAY NOT PARTICIPATE** on more than one team in the same league on a permanent basis.(4 temp subs maximum unless the opposing team approves the substitutions) Games will **NOT** be contingent upon teammates finishing on another field that they are subbing in on.
- D) If a player is injured, any player who is not in the game may re-enter for the injured player. Injury time is added to the game time.
- E) Players **MUST** be 18 years of age or older to participate in the ERC Adult Summer Softball Leagues. **THIS RULE WILL STRICTLY BE ENFORCED.**
- F) Due to the number of teams anticipated, the Emporia Recreation Commission **WILL NOT** be in the position to take personal requests when scheduling games.

- **PLAYER CONDUCT**

- A) **NO PROTESTS ARE ALLOWED.**
- B) All players and team officials **MUST BE** careful of their conduct. Do not embarrass yourselves, family or sponsors.
- C) Any player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the next scheduled game. If any player receives a second ejection they will be suspended for the remainder of the session. If same player receives one ejection during the second session/season they will automatically be suspended for the rest of the season.
- D) **Any player, coach or spectator who makes physical contact with an umpire/official or any ERC personnel, will be suspended from the league. Anyone removed from ERC leagues will need to apply to the Sports Supervisor for re-instatement into ERC leagues.**
- E) **NO SMOKING IN THE DUGOUT, STANDS OR AROUND CONCESSION AREA.** Please be mindful and take it down the base lines on the sidewalk or out in the parking lot away from others.
- F) **SOUTH AVENUE: NO SMOKING IN THE DUGOUT OR STANDS.** Please be mindful and take it toward the light poles/parking lot away from others.

- G) **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are to be consumed by any player playing during a league game. **ALCOHOL WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE COMPLEX.** Any player/spectator found with alcohol will be asked to leave the complex.
- H) **SOUTH AVENUE: ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are to be outside of the dugout. **NO GLASS BEVERAGES ALLOWED.** Teams are responsible for cleaning up the area in and around their dugout. **ANY** trash left will result in a warning to the team. If the incident occurs again, the team will be suspended from the next scheduled game. **PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES!!!!**
- I) **NO PROFANITY IS ALLOWED.**
- J) **TRUSLER:** Music players are **NOT** allowed. As long as the sound system is functioning the diamond manager/scorekeepers will monitor the music through it. **SOUTH AVENUE:** Music players are allowed but **NO PROFANITY** and volume is at the discretion of the umpire. Teams will be given one warning about the music before being asked to remove the player from the ball park.
- K) **ALL PLAYERS** except the batter and the batter on deck must remain in the dugout. One coach on first base and on third. Only eligible team personnel are allowed in the dugout or on the bench.
- L) If in the judgment of the umpire, a runner is **INTERFERING OR TACKLING** a positioned player, then the runner is automatically out and may be ejected from the game.

- **THE GAME**

- A) First team listed is the **HOME TEAM.** Line-ups must be given to the scorekeepers at least 15 minutes before game, via call/text/walk-up.
- B) The **START** of each game and **ENDING TIME** should be recorded in the scorebook.
- C) **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME.**
- D) A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings (6 ½ if the Home team is ahead). Five (5) innings will constitute a legal game if stopped due to rain, lightning, or other causes, which in the umpire/diamond manager's judgment interferes with further play.
- E) Games that have not completed 5 innings will be rescheduled and begin from the start.
- F) If the game is tied after 7 innings, the game will go into extra innings until one team has scored more runs than the other team at the conclusion of the inning.
- G) No new inning shall begin after 50 minutes from the start of the game. Umpires will keep the official time.
- H) All players at bat start with a 1-1 count. (Players will receive 3 balls and 2 strikes).
- I) **RUN RULE**-15 runs after 3 innings-10 runs after 5 innings.
- J) The **Flip/Flop** rule will be in effect. In the inning when the run rule is exceeded and the home team is losing, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If the new visiting team(old home team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the run rule, the game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below the run rule, then the new home team (old visiting team) will bat. If they subsequently score enough runs to exceed the run rule the game is over, if they do not the game will continue under that format. If the situation reverses, the teams would flip/flop again.

- K) Two (2) **HOME RUN RULE PER TEAM THEN 1-UP RULE**. (This rule is defined as each team is allowed two home runs. After the second home run each team is allowed one home run as long as the opposing team gets a home run also. If the first team that gets a home run; gets another before the opposing team it is an automatic out.)
 - L) The batter is out if they hit a second foul ball after two strikes and the ball will automatically be dead. (This is a courtesy foul.)
 - M) A balanced batting line-up of women and men must be used. A team may insert two **ADDITIONAL HITTERS** into its line-up. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 of 12 played can take a defensive position throughout the game. **IT IS NOT MANDATORY THAT A TEAM USE an AH** but failure to declare such hitter prior to the game, precludes the use of an AH in that game. There will be no forfeit if a team loses it's AH prior to the game.
 - N) **WHEN A MALE BATTER** receives a base on ball or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat. She must decide before entering the batter's box. Once in the box, she must bat.
 - O) If in the judgment of the umpire a player is intentionally "HOGGING" on the initial play, of a batted ball, during a defensive play (stepping in front of another player to make a catch), the next time that team comes up to bat they start with an automatic out.
 - P) The only exception to the "HOGGING" rule is in the last inning. If a team is tied or ahead in the last inning and is guilty of "HOGGING" on a fly ball or force out, the batter is awarded first base. If the play is made on a tag play, the out is disallowed and the runner is awarded the base where the penalty occurred.
 - Q) Equal number of men and women in the infield and outfield, unless playing with 9 players and the pitcher and catcher must be of the opposite gender (i.e. male pitcher/female catcher).
 - R) USSA pitching rules: 3-10 foot from the release with a height of 10 foot, anything else is a ball.
 - S) **TOURNAMENT PLAY:** In case of a tie, based on the season standings, the teams will go head to head looking at number of runs allowed. The higher seed is the home team. This is in effect for the entire tournament night. The lower bracket is **NOT** a loser bracket but a guaranteed consolation game, to ensure you get your proper number of games.
- **EQUIPMENT**
 - A) Shoes **MUST** be worn. All-purpose shoes are recommended. Track and football shoes are illegal and will be barred. **METAL SPIKES ARE PROHIBITED. ANY PLAYER USING THESE TYPES OF SHOES WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE GAME.**
 - B) **ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR SHIRTS.**
 - C) Masks are optional for all pitchers but are recommended.
 - D) USSSA approved bats are appropriate in this league. **DO NOT ALTER BATS.**
 - E) Men must use an official USSSA (12") softball, stamped Classic M with the USSA stamp and logo. Women must use a USSSA official (11") softball, stamped Classic W with the USSA stamp and logo.

**THE EMPORIA RECREATION COMMISSION DOES NOT PROVIDE INSURANCE FOR
SUMMER LEAGUES.**