

**2019 Coed Softball Policies and Regulations
(Revised 10/2018)**

The following rules will be in effect for the current coed softball season. Any rules not covered here will be governed by current NSA rules and/or the LaPorte Park and Recreation Department Adult Softball Program Policies and Regulations.

PLAYERS

1) You may start a game with eight or nine players provided there are an equal number of male players or more female players, and a male and a female in the pitcher/catcher position. When the ninth and tenth players arrive, they can be put into the game together and inserted at the end of the batting order. The batting order must always alternate between males and females. A female may bat next to another female in cases of being short on male players. There is no out penalty for playing with eight or nine players. The short-handed rule will not apply to teams playing with only eight players. If any player must leave the game, when playing with 8 players (for any reason) the game will be a forfeit. The game will be awarded to the opposing team by the score of 7-0.

2) In regard to the shorthanded rule, if a team starts with ten to twelve players and a male or female must leave (injury or ejection) an out will be assessed for the vacated position. If a female player is lost, a male player must be removed at no additional penalty. The team may play with an odd number if there are more female players. A team may not walk preceding players (intentionally or unintentionally) to get the 3rd out of an inning. If the preceding batter walks, the out is skipped for that round of the batting order.

3) Teams may use the EP rule (i.e. 6 male batters and 6 female batters). Any ten players may play defense if there are five males and five females on defense. Any team that has ten or more players must have two male and two female infielders, two male and two female outfielders, and a male or female catcher and pitcher. Outfielders are not permitted to play on the infield and infielders are not allowed to play in the grass. Penalty will award batter choice of play or re hit with count before that pitch. A team may not play more than ten (10) players if they are short on male or female players.

4) You do not have to slide, but malicious contact will not be tolerated. Violators will be ejected immediately.

5) Additional players may be added, free of charge, before the first game. After the first game no additional players will be allowed unless approved by the League Supervisor. **Absolutely no approvals for additional players will happen the final week prior to tournament.** Add-on forms are available at the Park Office.

EQUIPMENT

- 1) Males must use an official 28" softball bat approved by the umpire. Any violation and/or use of an illegal bat by the male batter will result in said batter being declared out, and all runners will be returned to the base they occupied prior to the infraction. Altered bats are grounds for immediate ejection. Females may use approved bats under Rule 3, Section 1 of the NSA Rules of Softball. It is the defensive team's responsibility to identify the illegal bat and present it to the umpire. The Park and Recreation Department will no longer supply bats for Coed leagues.
- 2) Steel cleats are not legal for coed play.
- 3) An 11" ball will be used when female bats and a 12" ball when male bats. If the wrong ball is used in coed play, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter re-bat and assume the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered. It is the defensive team's responsibility to ensure the correct ball is in play. Teams will be issued 12 men's and 12 women's softballs. The league will be a hit your own ball league. Once your allotment of softballs is depleted, it is your team's responsibility to provide optic yellow Dudley Brand .44 core (Men's), and .47 core (Women's), 275lb. compression. All softballs must clearly have core and compression printed on them. It is the defensive team's responsibility to ensure a legal ball is provided by the offensive team. Teams purchasing additional balls "MUST" purchase the same "Dudley" brand and make of balls provided by the Park Department at the beginning of the season. All other balls will be deemed illegal.
- 4) The uniform rule will be enforced. Teams must have identical shirts (color, design, and numbers) or the violating team must forfeit the game. A one-week grace period will be allowed to obtain matching uniforms.

GAME RULES

- 1) The run rules are as follows; 15 in 2 or 3, 12 in 4, and 10 in 5.
- 2) A one-hour time limit will be imposed. No new inning will start after the time limit has been reached, unless there is a tie score.
- 3) All games will start on the scheduled start time. There will be no grace period for any game. In case the first game runs a few minutes late, the next game will start immediately following the conclusion of the prior game, and the time limit will start from the time the game starts, not the scheduled time.
- 4) A batter will enter the box with a 1-1 with the 1/2 count.
- 5) When a male batter is walked, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. The male batter is automatically awarded 2nd base. He must first touch first base. However, if a male batter has a strike in the count, rule #5 DOES NOT apply.
- 6) The LaPorte Park and Recreation Department rules and policies followed during the summer League, are also in force for the coed league.
- 7) Home run limits are three a piece (male/female) and then the one up rule. The home team is not allowed to go one up in the bottom of the seventh innings or later innings.
- 8) All rain make-ups will be played the next available night as determined by the league supervisor. As often as possible, we will use the next night and teams should be ready to play on short notice.
- 7) **For rain out information, refer to the website quickscores.com/laporte. Text messaging and email notifications are available when a manager/coach signs up through the Quickscores website. When the games are cancelled due to field conditions during Park Office hours, the Department's Facebook page will provide information as soon as it is determined. DO NOT CALL League Supervisor.**
- 8) Alcohol consumption during your scheduled game is prohibited and will result in immediate ejection and a team forfeit. Player will be suspended from next scheduled game and team will be required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next scheduled game.
- 9) No tobacco use allowed in playing field area. 1st offense will result in verbal warning. 2nd offense will result in ejection.
- 10) **Zero tolerance** will be enforced regarding swearing, arguing, or verbal confrontation/enticing with umpires and/or opposing team's players. Result will be immediate ejection, and possible suspension, to be determined by League Supervisor.
- 11) All players in field area playing, coaching, managing or otherwise are required to wear a matching team shirt, i.e..... same color and style with a number on back of shirt. Players with inappropriate wording or messages on their person or attire will not be allowed to play until inappropriate wording is covered or removed. **(There is a two-week grace period for uniforms) All teams must be in compliance for week 3 of season or face the following penalty: Managers can appeal any opposing player who is out of uniform. Managers must make the appeal the first time the player in question comes to bat. If the appeal is upheld, that player will be automatically out. That player may then complete the game without further penalty for being out of uniform.**
- 12) All games will start with a coin flip to determine home and visitors.
- 13) If an illegal player is used and opposing team protests and it's determined by League Supervisor that incident occurred, player is immediately ejected from game and suspended for remainder of season from all 2019 coed play. The team he was playing for forfeits game and will be required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next game. Further action may take place if so determined by League Supervisor.