

# City of Ukiah Adult Softball League Rules

## 2025 Adult Softball

*USA Rules are in effect for all games along with the following supplements:*

### 1. Team Manager's Responsibilities

- a. Managers are responsible for informing all members of their team of the Rules and Regulations.
- b. Managers are responsible for the actions of team players and fans.
- c. Managers are responsible for contacting team players in the event of a game cancellation or schedule change. **For rainouts/field conditions: (707) 463-6713**
- d. Managers are responsible for ensuring that all team equipment is legal and within the guidelines of USA and the City of Ukiah.
- e. Managers are responsible for making sure all of their players have signed the roster and paid their player fee.
- f. Managers are responsible for making sure all players are legal
  - i. Players must be 18 years or older at the time of registration
  - ii. Players must have photo ID at all times
  - iii. Players are not playing under another player's name
  - iv. Players are not playing on more than 1 team per division/league

### 2. League Philosophy

- a. Have fun while showing outstanding sportsmanship and courtesy to other players, officials and spectators. Sportsmanship, proper language and refraining from taunting are expected from every player and spectator.

### 3. Teams

- a. A player may only play for one slow pitch team per league/division
- b. Sponsor fees (\$500) must be paid by the advertised deadline and players must pay the \$50 player fee for each team they play on. Once registered on a roster, the player cannot request a refund or transfer. No refunds for sponsor fees after the advertised registration deadline.
- c. All *non-playing* coaches' names must be on the roster and identified as coaches (no fee).
- d. All players must bring a photo ID to each game. A player who does not present a valid ID upon request of an official will be deemed ineligible. City of Ukiah staff and officials reserve the right to conduct random ID checks. **No ID, not on the roster, no pay, no play.**
- e. **All individuals entering the Softball Complex will be subject to bag checks including, but not limited to, backpacks, strollers and purses. Failure to comply will result in refusal of admittance and possible player ejection.**
  - i. Allowed: Water bottles, *empty* mugs to be filled at snack shack, sealed energy drinks, kids snack (i.e. bag of crackers), sunflower seeds
  - ii. Not Allowed: Alcohol, open drinks, full meals (Subway, McDonalds, pizza, etc.)
- f. Rosters are "frozen" after the **7<sup>th</sup> game** of the season. A player must play in at least **three regular season games** to be eligible for post-season play.
- g. For Men's & Women's Divisions, you must have a minimum of 8 players to begin a game (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> player is not an out). If the 9<sup>th</sup>/ 10<sup>th</sup> player arrives during the game, they must bat in the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> spot.
- h. For Co-Ed Divisions, teams consist of 5 females and 5 males. A team may begin a game with 9 players, but the vacant position must be listed last in the batting order and an out will be recorded when the vacant position is scheduled at bat.
- i. USA Shorthanded Rule: If a team is playing shorthanded with either three players in the infield or outfield, at least one must be male and at least one must be female (Co-Ed Recreation only). If another player of the correct sex arrives, that player must be inserted into the line-up in the vacant spot by alternating sexes.

- j. Lineups may have a maximum of 12 batters. For Co-Ed Divisions, extra batters must consist of a lineup with 12 batters (6 females & 6 males). It is not permissible to use 11 players because of alternating gender.
- k. No one other than players or coaches are allowed on the field of play during a game. This includes batboys/girls, scorekeepers, friends, family members, players from other teams, etc.

#### 4. Games

- a. Lineups with names and jersey numbers must be turned into scorekeeper **5 minutes prior** to start of game.
- b. Late arriving players can only join their team between inning or when their team is at bat. Late arriving players cannot enter the game while their team is on the field.
- c. Game length: All games are 7 innings with no inning beginning after 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- d. Run Rule: Game is over if a team is ahead by twenty (20) runs after 4 innings or twelve (12) runs after 5 innings. USA rules apply for tie breakers.
- e. There is a **5 run per inning limit** except in the designated last inning, which is then open. (Only for Co-Ed Recreation & **Women's League**)
- f. Re Entry: Any player may be substituted and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up. Players may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time. If a player re-enters the game a second time or a player re-enters the game in a position in the batting order other than their original starting or substitute position, this is considered an illegal re-entry resulting in a forfeit.
- g. Forfeits: A team forfeits the game if they cannot field a team *5 minutes* after the official start of a game. That team must pay a **forfeit fee of \$50** to the league prior to playing another scheduled game. **Forfeits count as a 1.5 loss.** *Note: In the case of a "double forfeit," both teams get 1.5 losses.*
  - i. Two (2) forfeits will eliminate teams from consideration for playoffs.
  - ii. Three (3) forfeits will remove a team from the league immediately.

#### 5. Game Play

- a. The batting order for Co-Ed Divisions shall alternate (female, male, female, male, etc.). There are no exceptions to this rule. If a team is shorthanded, the missing player will result as an out when their batting position comes up.
- b. Courtesy runners are allowed if an injury is involved. The substitute runner must be the last out of the same gender being replaced. Courtesy runners may only be used for two (2) players during the course of a game (use wisely).
- c. Co-Ed defensive positions shall include 2 females and 2 males in the outfield, with the positions alternating (i.e. male, female, male, female). There shall be 1 female and 1 male in the pitcher-catcher positions, and the infield requiring only 2 females and 2 males in the 4 positions (does not have to alternate). There is a 170' encroachment line in the outfield. Players may not cross this line until the ball is batted. *This rule only applies for the Co-Ed Recreation Division.*
- d. There is an implied **one-and-one count** on the batter.
- e. The first foul ball with two strikes on the batter will not be an automatic out. The second foul ball with two strikes will be an automatic out.
- f. No intentional bunting is allowed; a bunt will be called an automatic strike.
- g. For Co-Ed Divisions: if a male batter is walked, he takes second base. The next batter (female) has the option to bat or take first base. This decision must be made before the female player bats.
- h. There is no stealing. Contact with the ball must be made before the runner can leave their base. A player leaving a base prior to the batter making contact will be called out.
- i. Tagging up on fly balls is permitted.
- j. On overthrows, the runner is awarded the base they were proceeding to, plus one more.
- k. The infield fly rule will apply.
- l. USA Blood Rule will be in effect.
- m. Home Runs: The league will play with the "one-up" rule. If a player on team 'A' hits a home run, team 'A' cannot hit another home run until team 'B' hits one. If team 'A' does hit one, it will be an automatic out. There will be unlimited home runs as long as the team is only one up at a time. The Home Run Rule

does not apply to female batters. *All home runs will be walked off the field including players currently on the bases.*

## 6. Base Running

- a. Sliding at all bases is permitted, as it is the base-runners responsibility to avoid collision.
- b. Runners must get down or out of the way on potential double plays, at any base or the plate. If the player fails to do so, the player failing to slide is charged with an out and the batter shall be declared out as well. In addition, all runners not declared out, shall return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- c. Players shall not intentionally collide with any other players. In the case of a runner intentionally colliding with a fielder, the runner will be called out and may, at the umpire's discretion, be ejected from the game.
  - i. All base runners must either slide or give up their right to a base (avoid a collision by stopping or leaving a base path) if the defensive player (i.e. catcher) has possession of the ball and able to make an apparent play on the base runner.
- d. If a defensive player is not in possession of the ball, so that they are able to record an out (apparent play at any base), they cannot block the base (i.e. home plate) or be in the base path so as to impede (obstruct) the base runner's right to that base.
  - i. Under such circumstances, the defensive player shall be responsible in avoiding a collision. If a collision does occur under these circumstances, the runner will always be considered safe and the obstruction rule shall be enforced.
- e. Base runners must use the orange 'Safety Bag' at 1<sup>st</sup> base while defensive players use the white bag.
- f. Commit Line: The commit line is the line perpendicular to the third base line, half way between third and home plate. Once the line is crossed, the player cannot go back to third base and must run towards the home plate line.
- g. Home Plate Line: Base runner must cross the home plate line before catcher receives ball in order to be safe and score a run. If home base is touched by base runner this will result in an automatic out.

## 7. Pitching

- a. There is an implied **one-and-one count** on the batter.
- b. Pitches must have a maximum **arc of 6-12 feet** for both men and women. The pitch must be discernibly on its way down as it crosses the plate. Pitches not meeting these criteria will be deemed "illegal."
- c. When the umpire shouts "illegal pitch," the batter has the option of taking the ball or swinging at the pitch.
- d. No more than three (3) warm-up pitches or one minute between innings. Both the mat and the plate will be used for calling strikes (the black portion around the plate is considered part of the plate).

## 8. Fields & Equipment

- a. Bases are 65 feet; pitcher's mound is 50 feet.
- b. The league will provide softballs for games. Men will use a 12-inch; .52 COR-Max 300 softball. Women will use an 11-inch; .44 COR-Max 375 softball.
- c. All players must have a visible number on their jersey/shirt.
- d. No metal cleats are allowed.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate Ejection
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: One year suspension
- e. USA double (1<sup>st</sup>) base rules are in effect.
- f. **Men may not use composite barreled bats in Co-Ed Leagues.**
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Male batters will be immediately called out for use of a composite bat.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Male batter will be immediately ejected from the game.
- g. Players are responsible for what bat they bring to the plate. Men are not allowed to swing Easton bats labeled "IMX" or "IMX Inner Core" as IMX is composite (Co-Ed Recreation Division only).
- h. All bats used must bear the USA/ASA 2000, 2004, or 2008 certification mark and must not be listed on a USA non-approved bat list, or must be included on a list of approved models published by USA/ASA.
  - i. Umpires will be inspecting bats prior to, and during games, to ensure the legality of all bat used during the contest. If an Umpire finds an illegal bat, it will result in an immediate forfeit. Use of an illegal bat will result in a 2 year suspension.
- i. Wood Bats must be labeled "Official Softball" or must be deemed to be a softball bat in the judgment of

## 9. Officials

- a. The City of Ukiah Recreation Department “Players Code of Conduct” will be strictly enforced.
- b. Sportsmanship, proper language, no physical/verbal abuse, and refraining from taunting are expected from every player and spectator. Some actions may justify immediate ejection from the game and/or league/facility.
- c. **No smoking** (including vape, ecigs, etc.) is allowed within the facility.
- d. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the playing field.** No player or manager may be intoxicated just prior to or during a game. Umpires and/or league officials have the authority to make these determinations. **No outside Alcohol (Immediate Forfeit).**
- e. Umpires may, at their discretion, eject a player or spectator. Refer to the City of Ukiah “Players Code of Conduct” for specific violations and penalties.
- f. When a player is ejected, he/she has *5 minutes* to leave the Softball Complex (parking lot OK) or their team will forfeit the game.
- g. Use of an illegal player (not on the roster, underage, on another team, etc.) will result in an immediate forfeit, the suspension of the illegal player for the remainder of the season (all leagues/divisions), and at least a 1 game suspension for the team manager.
- h. All Protests must be stated to the home plate umpire and scorekeeper at the field and must be submitted in writing with a **\$20.00 protest fee** to the Recreation Department within 24 hours after the completion of the game in question. The \$20.00 protest fee will be returned only if the protest is upheld. *Judgment calls by officials during the game cannot be protested.* Protests will be settled by the Ukiah Recreation Department.
- i. Protests of ineligible players must be made when the player is discovered.

## 10. Methodology Used to Determine League Standings

- a. In the event of a tie in the final standings, the following criteria will be used to decide the winner in the following order:
  - i. Head-to-head record
  - ii. Least amount of runs allowed head-to-head (if more than one game played)
  - iii. Best record head-to-head among tied teams (if more than two teams tied)
  - iv. Least runs allowed in all league games
  - v. Most runs scored in all league games
  - vi. Coin flip

## 11. Playoff Rules

- a. No time limit for playoffs.
- b. As used in the regular season, the run rules will be applied.
- c. Home/Visitor will be determined by seeding (higher seed is home team). In case of same seeds, Coin Flip.
- d. Sportsmanship, proper language and refraining from taunting are expected from every player and spectator. Some actions may justify immediate ejection from the game and/or league.
- e. League Awards: Championship team receives 15 T-shirts, Champions trophy/plaque and MVP (Co-Ed received 2 MVPs). Second place team receives trophy/plaque. **No 3<sup>rd</sup> place game.**
- f. Teams that win their league and/or league championship must move up to the next highest level of play in the next season (if returning at least 50% of their roster).
  - i. “Move up or break up.”