



City of Burbank  
Parks and Recreation Department

## **ADULT SPORTS SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The rules of the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) shall be enforced in the Burbank Parks and Recreation Department Slow Pitch Softball program, except as amended below:

### **I. GENERAL RULES**

- 1) League open to all players over 50 years of age or older.
- 2) Teams will be allowed to have a maximum of 3 players under the age of 50 on the roster, but no younger than 45. Age is determined by their age on the first day of the season.
- 3) Rostered players must play in 3 or more league games to be eligible for tournament play.

### **II. PRE-GAME PLATE MEETING**

- 1) At the start of the game, each team shall designate their Head Coach.
- 2) The Head Coach shall meet with the umpires prior to the start of the game to discuss ground rules, official start time, any special rules that are pertinent to the game.
- 3) Plate Umpire shall announce game time after the pre-game meeting.
- 4) The Coach, who attended the plate meeting, will be the only individual to enter the playing field for the purpose of necessary time outs, rules interpretations by the Umpires or to attend an injured player.

### **III. EQUIPMENT**

#### **1) Balls**

- i. Diamond .44 core, .375 Compression balls will be furnished for each game. The umpire will have backup balls when they go out of play.

#### **2) Shoes**

- i. Players must wear appropriate athletic shoes while playing. Rubber cleats are acceptable. Metal cleats of any kind are not acceptable.

#### **3) Bats**

- i. Prior to being used in a game, all bats must be checked and approved by Sports Office staff and validated for use with the current season sticker.
- ii. Bats shall be made of wood or metal, **no composite bats** – (handles may be composite, barrels can only contain metal or wood).
- iii. Bats must be a USA Softball certified single wall (which includes Fast Pitch) or a wood bat designated as “Official Softball”.
- iv. Bats prior to 2000 can be used if the umpire deems it legal.
- v. A list of currently unacceptable bats will be available at the Sports Office upon the request of the teams, or online through <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment/Certified-Equipment-Bats>
- vi. **Altered/Illegal Bat Policy**
  1. Umpires will inspect all bats prior to the start of the game to check for validity and approval sticker.

2. The umpire will remove non-approved, illegal, or altered bat(s) from the game and inform the manager.
- vii. Entering the batter's box with an illegal, non-approved or altered bat will result in the following penalty.
  1. **EFFECT:** The ball is dead, the batter will be called out and if a pitch was thrown and contact made, all runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of pitch. The bat will be removed, the manager will be warned, and the player disqualified from the remainder of the game.
- viii. When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using a non-approved, illegal, or altered bat previously identified by the umpire during the pre-game conference or used by a prior batter (whether a pitch is thrown, or contact is made or not)
  1. **EFFECT:** The manager and the player are ejected from the game and will serve a one-game suspension, and the team shall forfeit the game. The score will stand as long as the team receiving the forfeit is ahead by more than 15 runs, otherwise, the score will reflect 15-0.

#### IV. REGULATION GAME

- 1) **A 5-run per-inning** rule will be in effect. At the completion of an inning and one hour of game time the umpire will declare the following inning an open inning, which will be the last inning. The team at bat is not limited to the number of runs that it may score.
- 2) All games will be scheduled for 7 innings or a time limit of 1 hour 10 minutes and if the home team is losing, the inning must be completed if the time limit has expired.
- 3) No new inning will be started after 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- 4) **Playoffs:**
  - i. Semi-final and championship games will be seven innings regardless of the time limit; however, the mercy rule is still in effect.
  - ii. For playoffs or championship games, the game will end after 5 innings or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 14 runs.
- 5) **Radical Run Rule:**
  - i. A 14-run lead will constitute a radical score. Any game with a 14-run lead after 5 innings or 1 hour may be called with the consent of the losing manager. If the losing manager wishes to continue, the game will stop at 1 hour and 10 minutes without completing the inning regardless of which team is at bat.

V. INFIELD PRACTICE - There is no infield practice. Games will begin on time.

#### VI. DUGOUTS

- 1) Home team will occupy the bench on the third base side of the field.
- 2) The team listed on the right-hand side of the schedule will be the Home Team.
- 3) Visitors will occupy the first base side.
- 4) Substitution:
  - i. Teams have the option to use Straight Substitution or Free Substitution during the game. The team manager must declare at the pre-game meeting, which type of batting order will be used for the game.
    1. Free Substitution:
      - a. If a team used free substitution, they must list all their players on the lineup card and maintain the same batting order for the entire game. Players may play any position defensively and enter or re-enter the game as often as necessary without penalty.
    2. Straight Substitution:
      - a. If a team wishes to bat only 10 players, they must list the 10 players as batters on

the line-up card. The remainder of the players must be listed as substitutes and the team does not have the ability to use the Free Substitution rule once the line-up card is official. The line-up card is considered official when accepted by the plate umpire. Any changes after that point will be considered a substitution. All starters may re-enter the game 1 time without penalty during the game.

VII. **CONFERENCES**

- 1) Defensive: There will be one (1) charged conference between the Manager or other team representative with each pitcher in an inning. The second charged conference shall result in the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- 2) Offensive: Shall not be allowed more than one (1) offensive conference each half inning. Additional requests in the same inning shall be denied by the umpire.

VIII. **BATTING**

- 1) Batters will begin with a 1 and 1 count.
- 2) No bunting is allowed.
- 3) No chop hitting or slap hitting is allowed. (Umpire's Judgment).
  - i. **Penalty:** Batter will be called out.
- 4) When the count contains 2 strikes, batters will be able to foul off one more pitch. The Batter will be called out if they foul off any additional pitch.
- 5) The opposing manager can request the Umpire to have any batter given an intentional walk without having to pitch 3 straight balls to the Batter.
  - i. **The Batter will be called out under the following circumstances:**
    1. If he/she steps on or in front of the home plate or steps outside the Batter's box dimensions and makes contact with the ball. Dimensions are 7 feet long and measure 4 feet up from the center of the plate and 3 feet back from the center of the plate.
    2. Takes a running start from behind the plate to contact the ball. No pitch will be called, and a warning will be given to the Batter. If the Batter continues to take a running start, they will be called out.

IX. **BASES**

- 1) The double base will be used at first base. On all plays being made on the batter-runner going to first base, the batter-runner must use the outside base and the fielder must use the inside base.
- 2) If the batter-runner does not touch the outside base, they will be considered to have missed the base and subject to being put out on appeal, unless they re-touch the base before a play is made on them.
  - i. **Exceptions:**
    1. If the ball is thrown from the foul side of the first baseline.
    2. When an errant or missed throw pulls the defensive player into foul ground
    3. If when using the double base, and there is a force play by an infielder on the batter-runner, the batter-runner, in any way, interferes with the fielder's ability to make the play while on the inside base, interference will be ruled on the batter-runner and all other runners will be returned to the base last occupied at the time of interference.

X. **BASE RUNNING**

- 1) A base runner may leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball.
- 2) No stealing is allowed.
- 3) The catcher may pick off runners. This is considered a force out. No tag is required.
- 4) Runners may advance at their own risk if a play is made on another runner, not on a battery error.

5) **FIRST AND THIRD BASE SAFETY LINES:**

- i. Runners may lead off from first base and third base into foul territory after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand to avoid being hit by a pull hitter. A line will be drawn on the third base side toward the dugout. Must remain behind line until ball leaves pitcher's hand.
- ii. Plays at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base will be ruled force outs when the play is at the base. A 3' line will be drawn at the front of second and third base extending on both sides of the base. Runners may choose to cross the lines instead of touching the base to avoid collisions. Runners may overrun the lines and continue to be safe. If a player chooses to go to the base, then he will not be allowed to run through the bag safely, and will be called out if tagged out if he leaves the bag.
- iii. If a runner gets into a run down between bases, the offense must tag the runner for an out.
- iv. If a runner attempts to advance on an overrun of the base, he may be put out. On an overrun, except for first base, the runner must retouch the base before advancing. This is an appeal play.
- v. No sliding or diving into or back to any base. If a player trips or falls, they may reach back to the bag with their hand. This is a judgment call by the umpire on whether the runner fell or is diving to the base.

**6) COMMITMENT LINE:**

- i. A commitment line of twenty feet prior to home plate will be drawn on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of the diamond.
- ii. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past the line, the player may not re-cross in the direction of 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- iii. The runner must continue toward the scoring line towards home plate.
- iv. Violation of the rule will result in the runner being called out.

**7) SCORING LINE:**

- i. A ten-foot scoring line shall extend from the corner of home plate at a 90-degree angle to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base foul line, starting at the batter's box.
- ii. To score, the player's foot must be on the ground (touching line the scoring line) and is considered on or beyond the line before the defensive player touches home plate with the ball in possession.
- iii. No tagging of the player will be allowed. All plays at home plate are a force play only.
- iv. If a player runs between the foul line and the diagonal line from the commitment line to scoring line, the player will be called out.
- v. If the player creates contact with the defensive player between the scoring line and home plate, the player will be called out and ejected from the game, unless the collision is caused by an errant throw.

**8) COURTESY RUNNERS:**

- i. Each team will be allowed unlimited courtesy runners, but no player may be a courtesy runner more than once per inning.
- ii. A courtesy runner may not be replaced, except in the case of an injury, causing the removal of the original courtesy runner permanently from the game. The injured player may not return to the game.
- iii. A courtesy runner on base, when it is their turn to bat, will be declared out.

**XI. DEFENSIVE TEAM**

- 1) A defensive team shall consist of 10 players. A game may be played with as few as 8 players.
- 2) All outfielders must be on the grass when the batter hits the pitch.
  - i. **EFFECT:** Batter will be awarded first base unless they reach the base safely.
- 3) All infielders must be on the infield dirt when the batter contacts the pitch.

- i. **EFFECT:** Batter will be awarded first base unless they reached the base safely.
- 4) Infield/Outfield must have a minimum of 2 players and a maximum of 4 players excluding the battery.
- 5) An outfielder cannot directly throw the batter-runner out at first base. If the batter-runner attempts 2<sup>nd</sup> base or further, the outfielder may throw out the batter-runner.
- 6) An outfielder may throw the ball to any infielder who in turn throws to first base to compete the force out on the batter-runner.

## XII. **BORROWING PLAYERS**

- 1) A borrowed player must be an eligible rostered player from another Senior Team from the current season.
- 2) A team may borrow a maximum of two players from another team for a total of no more than 10 players.
- 3) After the start of the game, they only can pick up 1 player so they will not have to forfeit.
- 4) Borrowed players may only play catcher or right field.
- 5) They must be listed on the line-up and the team they are legally registered on will be listed next to their name. **No Exceptions.**
- 6) The teams cannot borrow a player if they have enough eligible players present nor can the borrowed player be used to sit on the bench. They will be considered ineligible for the game.
- 7) If an eligible team member shows up late, they must replace a borrowed player if the borrowed player makes up the 10<sup>th</sup> player. They will be placed at the bottom of the line up, and the borrowed player will be taken out of the line up without penalty.
- 8) If an eligible player shows up late, and the team still has less than 10 players, the player may be added to the lineup without dropping the borrowed player.
- 9) **Teams may NOT borrow players during playoffs or tournament play.**

## XIII. **PITCHING**

- 1) No more than two warmup pitches are allowed between innings.
- 2) Pitching height is from 6 to 16 feet.
- 3) Pitching distance is 50 feet.
- 4) A line will be drawn at 56 feet; the pitcher may start their delivery with one foot anywhere between the 50 and 56-foot line.

## XIV. **JEWELRY RULE**

- 1) The following will apply:
  - i. Exposed jewelry such as wristwatches, bracelets, large or hoop-type earrings, and neck chains may not be worn during the game. **Medical Alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry, but if worn, they must be taped to the body.**
- 2) Cast may not be worn during the game under any circumstances.

## XV. **TOURNAMENT RULES & AWARDS**

- 1) T-shirts will be given to the Major and Minor division Tournament Champions and runners-up.
- 2) All games prior to the semi-final games will be 1 hour 10 minutes or 7 innings whichever comes first.
- 3) No borrowing or adding players during tournament play.
- 4) The mercy rules are in effect for all games.
- 5) The California Tie Breaker rule will be used for all games prior to the semi-final games.
  - i. **CALIFORNIA TIEBREAKER:** If a league game is tied after the time limit of 7 innings, the following tiebreaker will be used.
    - a. Each team will designate 3 hitters. The visiting team will bat first, home team will bat second.
    - b. The team will bat their 3 hitters. If a batter reaches first base safely, he/she becomes a base runner.

- c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> batter will be considered at-bat with a two-out situation.
  - d. All batters must complete their turn at bat.
  - e. Base on balls may be accepted or declined by the offensive manager. If declined, the batter will bat again at the end of the 3-person order.
  - f. The total number of bases accumulated by the three hitters will determine the winner.
- 6) Ties in the semi-final and championship games will be played with extra innings.

XVI. **FORFEITS**

- 1) Teams will be responsible for all forfeits regardless of when the Sports Office is informed by the teams.
- 2) Teams consist of 10 players, (8 are needed to start and complete a game.)
- 3) In the event a team does not have the minimum number of players to start the game, if they have 7 present, they will automatically become the visiting team and bat first. If by the end of their turn at bat, they do not have the minimum numbers of players required (8), they will forfeit the game. If both teams do not have the minimum numbers of players to start the game, it will be a double forfeit.
- 4) When a team forfeits, their scheduled game, it will be recorded with a score of 15-0 against the forfeiting team.

XVII. **PROTEST AND PROCEDURES**

- 1) Eligibility protest for players may occur at any game during the season.
- 2) When a player's eligibility is in question, the following procedures will be followed:
  - i. The staff will request the player in question to sign the scorecard and produce a valid picture ID.
  - ii. If it is found the player is ineligible, or the requirements listed above are not met:

**EFFECT:**

1. Forfeiture of the game(s) the player has participated in for the season.
2. Suspension of the player for the remainder of the season
3. Minimum two game suspension of the manager of the team(s) involved.
4. **All rule interpretations (Protest) must be ruled on at the field with the umpires and staff before the next legal or illegal pitch.** No formal protest may be filed with the Sports Office.

XVIII. **WEATHER/RAINOUTS/LOSS OF LIGHTS POLICY**

- 1) In the event of rain, the decision to cancel games will not be made until after 3:30 PM Monday- Friday or two hours prior to game time on weekends. Senior games will be updated at 6:30 am.
- 2) Managers, Players may call the "Field Conditions Hotline"- 818-238-1970
- 3) When a determination cannot be made by this time, the call will be made on the field by the staff and umpires.
- 4) In the event games are canceled, they will be rescheduled at the end of league play, if time permits.
- 5) In the event of lightening, teams will clear the field for 20 minutes. If the weather clears the game will continue or resume from the point of suspension.
- 6) The game will be considered a complete game if 1 hour or 4 innings have been completed or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead. If the game has not reached this point, no game will be declared.