



2017 Summer Adult Softball League Rules

Rev. 5/10/17

League Overview

The Adirondack Sports Complex (ADKSC) Adult Softball League has been formed to offer men and women from the surrounding communities and its businesses the opportunity to play throughout the summer. The league is considered recreational and social, yet competitive. Rules have been designed and constructed with the goals of promoting safe and fair play built on the foundation of good sportsmanship. This consists of exercising respect, fairness, honesty, responsibility and positive behavior.

Complex Rules

1. Absolutely **NO alcoholic beverages** on OR around the fields at any time.
2. No animals or pets are allowed at or on any part of the Facility at any time.
3. ADKSC is a Non-smoking facility for all activities, whether inside and outside.
4. All players, spectators and fans will conduct themselves in a responsible, positive manner. The team manager/captain will be responsible to control their players and fan.
5. Parents are required to be in charge of and in control of their children at all times.
6. No soft-toss or hitting into any fencing.
7. All garbage should be disposed of in the supplied garbage barrels.
8. No parking or pulling off on to grass or along driveway or entrance road.

Official Rules

The current ASA (Amateur Softball Association) rules will apply, with the understanding that ADKSC-specific rules listed throughout this rules packet supersede the specific ASA rule. These rules should be followed for all game play. Anything not specifically mentioned should be played out according to common sense and safety, and reported to ADKSC representative for clarification.

Eligibility

1. Payment, in full, must be made to the ADKSC one week prior to the teams first game.
2. **All** league participants must have a current ADKSC DASH Waiver, Membership, and ID Photo **prior to** playing in their first game, and these must remain current throughout the entire season.
3. Players not on your team's official DASH roster, and having a current Waive and Membership are **not eligible** to participate.
4. The penalty for use of a non-rostered or ineligible player is game forfeiture for any games involving the non-rostered or ineligible player(s).
5. Players may not be on more than one roster in the same division.
6. Team Rosters are limited to a maximum of 24 players.
7. Team Rosters will be "locked" following the fourth (4th) game.
8. The only way for a team to alter their roster after their fourth (4th) game is by use of the ADKSC Player Drop / Add Form. These forms will be available at the Dome office. **IMPORTANT:** When a player is "Dropped" he/she can NOT be added back roster for the remainder of the season.
9. Minimum age requirement is 17 years of age.
10. To be eligible to participate in Playoffs, male players must have participated in three (3) regular season games and females must have participated in two (2) regular season games. Any team using a player found to be not eligible will forfeit any and all games that the ineligible player participated in.

Player Conduct

1. All players on all teams are required to exercise good sportsmanship in this league. This consists of exercising respect, fairness, honesty, responsibility and positive behavior.
2. Any unsportsmanlike conduct, including the use of profane, insulting or abusive language, may result in ejection from the game, and possible game forfeiture(s) and/or league suspension(s).
3. No one is allowed to smoke on the grounds of the Adirondack Sports Complex.
4. There are absolutely no alcoholic beverages on the fields at any time.
5. Only the manager and or team captain will be allowed to question the decision of the umpire. Any act of unsportsmanlike behavior, including the use of profane, abusive or insulting language, may result in a player or players being ejected from the game.
 - a. If a player is ejected, the player must leave the facility immediately. If the player does not leave the facility immediately, additional penalties will be imposed to the player and/or team, which may include game forfeiture(s) and/or league suspension(s).
6. All players must remain in or behind the dugout with the exception of the player up or on deck.

Divisions

1. Typically, a Division will have six teams. The number of teams per Division may be increased or decreased, and/or a Division may be added or dropped based upon final registration numbers.
2. Occasionally there will be the need to move team or teams from one Division to another in an effort to more equitably balance out the League. Such adjustment could occur up through the first couple of weeks of league play. Any and all game results will follow any team that has a Division change.

Games

1. Bad Weather, Rainouts or Unplayable Fields – Team Captains are responsible for monitoring the weather throughout the afternoon and keeping their team informed. In the event of possible rain
 - a. Check the homepage of the ADKSC website
 - b. Manager/Captain may call the ADKSC.
 - c. Check the website (www.adksc.com): should weather conditions cause the need to postpone any games, we will place an announcement of the postponement on the Home Page of the Dome's website (www.adksc.com) as soon as the decision to postpone is made.
 - d. Make-up games will be rescheduled as soon as we can reach a consensus will both coaches.
2. Games start at the times listed in the online schedule.
 - a. Forfeit time is 5 minutes past the scheduled game. Forfeit score is 7-0.
3. No new inning may begin 1 hour, 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game, unless five (5) have not been completed (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).
4. Regulation Game – A game shall consist of 7 innings.
 - a. Exceptions:
 - i. In the case of time limit, inclement weather or darkness, a game is considered officially complete if 5 full innings have been played (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning).
 - ii. In the case of a tie, at the end of 7 innings, and additional time being available within the time limit, additional innings may be played until a winner is determined.
 - iii. Mercy Rule - A team leading by 20+ runs after 4 innings, or by 12+ after 5 innings, at the end of a complete innings, is declared the winner.
5. Dugouts: typically the Home team – first base side, Visiting team – third base side.
6. Two (2) lineup cards must be filled out completely for both teams, clearly listing all players, including both First and Last names, and including subs. Before the start of each game, one lineup card will be given to both the umpire and the opposing team. The lineup cards will be used to determine each player's minimum game requirements for Playoffs.
7. Teams may have up to 10 defensive players in the field.
 - a. Teams must have at least 8 players in the field to start or continue game. Otherwise, the team must forfeit the game.

- b. For Co-Ed play, there must be a minimum at least 3 females on the field and a maximum of 6 males to start or continue a game.
8. A Co-Ed team may start a game with 8 players if no other players are present, but at least three (3) must be female. At no time will there be more than six (6) male players in the field. A position, within the first ten (10) positions in the batting order, must be identified for the fourth (4th) female, which will be an automatic out until, and if, the fourth (4th) female player arrives to fill that position. With eight players, the ninth and tenth spots in the batting order become automatic outs, unless four females are in the line-up. A ninth and tenth player may be added to the bottom of the order at any time during the game, provided four (4) females are in the line-up.
 9. In the Men's and Women's Divisions, teams may use one Extra Hitter (EH) in their batting order. If used, the EH would be in the eleventh (11) spot in the batting order and would be identified on the Line-Up card as the "EH".
 10. In the Co-Ed Divisions, the first ten spots in the batting order can be put together in any gender order, except that the initial four (4) females must be placed within the first 10 spots in the batting order. Co-Ed teams using EH's must alternate their EH's male/female or female/male, with the first EH being either a male or a female. Teams will be allowed to bat their entire line up (if they so choose), provided they alternate male/female or female/male after the 10th batter. Once a team reaches the point with their EH's where they can no longer alternate male/female or female/male, they will not be able to add any additional EHs. For clarification, the Co-Ed team's four (4) originally required females must be placed within the first 10 positions in the batting order. Players may show up late and join a game in progress, but they must be added to the end of the batting order.
 11. Defensively, any ten players may be in the field at any one time, provided that for the Co-Ed divisions there are at least four (4) females in the field and never more than six (6) males.
 12. Teams will be allowed unlimited substitutions.
 13. For Co-Ed play, when a female is up to bat, at the time of the pitch, all defensive outfielders must be on the outfield grass on field 1 and behind the cones on fields 2 and 4.
 14. In Co-Ed play, when in the opinion of the umpire, a male batter is intentionally walked, he will be awarded first and second base, with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat.
 15. All pitch heights must be: co-ed: 6'-15' arc, men: 6' – unlimited arc, women: 6' minimum.
 16. Pitchers are allowed 5 warm-up pitches in the 1st inning with 2 warm-up pitches every inning thereafter.
 17. The strike-zone mat at home plate will lay directly behind the plate. If the pitched ball hits any part of the plate or the mat, it is a strike. If it does not, it is a ball.
 18. A foul, on a 3rd strike is out. Runners may advance at their own risk on a foul 3rd strike, which is caught.
 19. Bunting or chopping down on the ball is illegal. The application of this rule is a judgment decision by the umpire. By definition, a bunt is a tapped ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly within the infield. A chopped ball is one at which the batter strikes downward with a chopping motion of the bat. A bunt or chop will result in an out.
 20. No Leading/Stealing, no advance on a passed ball and no award of a base for a hit batsman.
 21. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball has been hit ("**Contact Rule**").
 22. Home Run Rule: six (6) "over the fence" home runs will be allowed per game, any "over the fence" home runs after the first six will be an "out."
 23. Pinch runners will be allowed for injured players who have already reached first base. The pinch runner must be of the same gender as the player replaced and must be the last available person of that gender to have batted.
 24. Injury/Emergency Situation – if due to an injury, or in an emergency situation, a team may continue a game with fewer players than it began the game. However, no team may play with less than 8 rostered players.
 25. **Sliding is allowed.** Sliding is recommended when going into any base on a close play. If there is a close play at any base, YOU MUST SLIDE IN AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH THE FIELDER. If in the judgment of the umpire, the runner did not attempt to avoid contact with the fielder, the runner will be called out. Please slide, this is a safety rule.
 26. Though it is not mandatory, for the purpose of safety, the Adirondack Sports Complex strongly

suggests and recommends that all catchers wear a catcher's mask.

27. If field conditions are bad at any time, players must not play, risking injury or field damage. Games called due to weather may be rescheduled at a later date, most often, when possible, using double-headers.
28. The team manager or captain must sign the umpires score sheet immediately following the game.
29. Point system for standings: Win = 3 pts., Tie = 1 pt., Loss = 0 pts.
30. Regular season standings are determined by:
 - a. Record
 - b. Head to head (provided each of the tied teams have played each other)
 - c. Least runs allowed
 - d. Most runs scored
 - e. Coin toss

Equipment

1. Game balls will be supplied by the ADKSC.
2. Only the currently ASA approved bats will be allowed during game play. All bats should be inspected by the opposing team's captain or umpire prior to game time.
3. There will be a double first base. One traditional (white) base in the usual spot for the fielder and a second (orange) base next to it in foul ground, for the batter. The batter is the only person that uses the orange side (when trying to beat out a grounder). Once the batter has reached safely, or if rounding first, the batter/runner would use the traditional base.
4. Though it is not mandatory, for the purpose of safety, the Adirondack Sports Complex strongly suggests/recommends that all catchers wear a catcher's mask.
5. **No metal spikes are allowed.**
6. Teams are recommended to provide players with like colored shirts with numbers on the back.
7. All equipment must be kept in or behind the dugout.

Weather Related Postponements & Rescheduling

1. If rescheduling due weather is necessary, whenever possible, games will be rescheduled on their original game night. However, if necessary (due to time constraints) games may be rescheduled to an alternate night. A rescheduled game on a different night is not a basis for a protest

Playoffs:

1. League playoffs will be determined based upon the final number of registered teams in the league. Usually, if there are eight (8) or fewer teams in a division, all teams will advance to the playoffs, otherwise, the top eight (8) teams from the regular season will advance.
2. Playoff format will consist of a seeded single elimination bracket.
3. Only those male players that have played in three (3) regular season games for their team and those female players that have played in two (2) regular season games for their team will be eligible to participate in the Playoffs.
4. Games start at times as listed on the Playoff schedule.
 - a. Forfeit time is 5 minutes past the scheduled game. Forfeit score is 7-0.
5. No new inning may begin 1 hour after the scheduled start time of the game, unless five (5) have not been completed (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).
6. Regulation Game – A game shall consist of 7 innings.
 - a. Exceptions:
 - i. In the case of time limit, inclement weather or darkness, games may utilize a 1-1 count for all batters. Games are considered officially complete if 5 full innings have been played (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning).
 - ii. In the case of a tie at the end of 7 innings, the game will continue until a winner is determined.
 - iii. Mercy Rule - A team leading by 20+ runs after 4 innings, or by 12+ after 5 innings, at the end of a complete innings, is declared the winner.