

2024 Co-Ed Softball Rules

Equipment and Facilities

1. An 11”and 12” limited flight softball will be used. All Coed Softball games will be played with the current USA Softball Rules.
2. Parks and Recreation will furnish the softballs (women’s 11” .52 core 300, men’s 12” .52 core 300 ball). The first one listed on the schedule determines the home team. Balls subject to change based on USA Softball rules.
3. Only USA Softball regulation bats may be used.
4. Soft molded rubber cleats or tennis shoes are the only accepted footwear. Metal spikes are not allowed.
5. All Games will be played on Sunday evenings at Sertoma Park. There will be no rescheduled games except those canceled by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
6. **NO** alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the playing field.
7. City of Yankton Parks are tobacco free areas and facilities.
8. All teams are asked to pick up all trash in and around their dugouts after their games.

Rosters

1. All players must be listed on the official roster before playing a game.
2. A player must play in at least 3 regular season games to qualify to participate in the tournament.
3. Player’s may be added to vacant spots on your roster through out the season, however, remember the 3 game requirements for tournament play.
4. No player is allowed on more than one roster. Players are only allowed to play on one team and in one division during the entire duration of the season. Any team found playing with an illegal player shall forfeit the game.
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Participants

1. Must wear a helmet when batting, on base, and coaching 1st and 3rd base. If catching, they must wear helmet and face mask.
2. Players must be 18 years of age and up, not enrolled in high school, and not participating in college athletics of the particular league.

Sportsmanship

1. This is a **RECREATIONAL LEAGUE**—All calls by the umpire are **FINAL**.
2. Sportsmanship is expected of all players. One warning will be issued in case of unsportsmanlike conduct. The second instance will result in immediate ejection from the game. If a player is ejected from the game, the team may continue to play if they have enough men and women.
3. The team captain may discuss rule interpretations with the umpire provided a sportsmanlike manner is evident and the discussion does not hold up the game. Flagrantly criticizing a call or seeking reversal of a call will be considered unsportsmanlike.

4. **NO** protest of any nature will be accepted.
5. In case of extreme, unsportsmanlike behavior, a player will lose their recreation privileges for the season. The Department of Parks and Recreation shall notify team captains.
6. No taunting of players will be allowed by individuals on the opposing team or spectators in the bleachers. Individuals will receive one warning and then will be disqualified for that game or ejected from the facility for the evening.
7. No profanity of players will be allowed. The first warning of a team in the field will result in 1 out when they come to the plate. If it is the team at bat, they will receive 1 out even if it is their 3rd out. The second warning will have the same punishments except with 2 outs awarded. The third warning will be a forfeited game.
8. Teams may only use players listed on their roster as base coaches.
9. Adult rec leagues are to be centered around fun and recreation for individuals ages 18 and up. As you participate in rec leagues, please be mindful of the purpose of leagues; FUN and RECREATION. These leagues are not a Final Four, World Series, Super Bowl, or Olympic event, and have no monetary or life altering after effects for you or your team whether you win or lose, so enjoy the sport and please keep perspective. Our part time refs/umps ARE doing their best job, so please understand things will not be called perfectly all the time, which is no different than professional athletics. Finding refs is not an easy task, so please do not harass, condemn, or argue with them. Engaging in these behaviors will impact you and your teams participation in leagues moving forward. The City of Yankton is happy to provide adult league opportunities, and will continue to do so as long as the leagues are successful.

Starting the Game

1. Teams may start the game with eight players, 4 men and 4 women, but will receive an automatic out. An odd number of players will cause the teams to receive an automatic out. If the tenth player comes, he/she may start immediately.
2. Teams cannot play with more men than women on a team in any combination – it is a forfeit. (Unless approved by the opposing team and agreement with the umpire - if the opposing team agrees to play, the results of the game will count as on official game).
2. If a team is not present at starting time, ten minutes will be granted before the umpire awards a forfeit

Batting Order

1. Men and women must alternate in batting order.
2. Teams may bat 12 batters. Players arriving late may be added to the batting order through the fourth inning.
3. Batting out of order—see appeal section of the rule.

Pitching

1. The ball must be delivered at a moderate speed underhand, below the hip with a perceptible arch at least 6 feet from the ground and no more than 10 feet from the ground before it reaches home plate. The carpet will be used for all leagues.
2. Pitcher may not hesitate on the delivery. A hesitation will result in a ball being called.
3. The catcher must return each pitch not hit immediately to the pitcher.

Batting and Base Running

1. No stealing of bases is allowed.
2. You may not lead off. If you are caught leading off the runner is out. You must wait until the ball has been contacted before leaving the base.
3. USA Softball slide rule is in effect. This rule applies to 2nd base, 3rd base and home plate on any close plays. Any effort by the base runner to avoid contact with fielder will be adequate.
4. Intentionally running into or over a fielder will be called an out.
5. The batter is out if he/she intentionally bunts or chops the ball downward.
6. Players will be awarded one base, if the overthrow goes into the dugout, 2 bases will be awarded if the overthrow leaves the playing area. Bases are awarded due to the runner's position at the point of the throw.
7. Batters will begin with a 1 and 1 count. Games will be scheduled 7 complete innings or 1 hour, whichever comes first.
8. Fields A and B will have a **ONE** home run limit per team, per game and then ruled a dead ball single! Fields C and D will be unlimited.
9. When a male is awarded a walk, he will automatically be awarded second base. If a team has less than two outs, a female must bat after a male walks unless there is two outs. Then the female batter has the option to bat or take the walk.
10. If a male batter would hit an 11" ball he must re-bat with the 12" ball. If a female batter would hit a 12" ball, then she would have the option to take the result of the play or re-bat using an 11" ball.

Playing the Field

1. Free substitution will be allowed for field positions.
2. An infielder may not block the runner's lane without the ball. If this happens the runner will be declared safe.
3. The infield fly rule applies to this league.
4. There must be an even number of each sex in the outfield and infield. Pitcher and catcher must be of opposite sex.

Injuries

1. Field Supervisor is equipped with a first aid kit for minor injuries.
2. Teams may continue to play a game with eight players if a player is injured during the game or is called away for an emergency.
3. If a player is injured while batting or base running, a sub runner may be put in for him/her. If he/she cannot do their own running after that time, they must be removed from the game. A player may not bat and have someone else run for them. Re-entry rule is in effect.

Scoring

1. A team leading by 20 runs after 3 complete innings, 15 runs after 4 or 10 runs or more after 5 complete innings will be declared the winner.

Tie Breaker:

1. If there is a tie after 7 completed innings or after the last completed inning after the one hour time limit is reached, whichever comes first, one additional full inning will be played to break the tie. If after the extra full inning is completed and the game is still a tie, then an international tie breaker inning will be played. This will be a full 3 out inning with each team starting with a runner on second base, the runner being the last player who completed their turn at bat in the previous inning. If the game is still in a tie after this inning, a coin flip will be used to decide the winner of the game.

Cancellations

1. League play may be canceled if the playing fields are too wet as to cause safety hazards. Cancellations will be made on our Facebook page at least one hour prior to the first game time.

Forfeits

1. If you must forfeit a game. Please call the opposing team and then notify the Department of Parks and Recreation by noon on Friday.
2. **Teams that forfeit three or more games may not be placed in the post season tournament.**

Appeal Plays

An appeal play is a play upon which an umpire cannot make a decision until requested by a player. Listed below are the appeal plays that apply to this league.

1. A base runner not tagging up after a fly ball is caught or missing the bases when running the bases. In this case, any player on the field can appeal to the umpire by letting him know which base the runner left early or missed. The umpire is asked for the decision. This must be done before the next pitch.
2. Batting out of order:
 - a. If discovered while the wrong batter is up to bat, the correct batter takes their place and assumes any ball and strikes already called.
 - b. If discovered after the incorrect batter has completed their turn at bat, the correct batter is called out. The next batter is the one whose name followed the correct batter.
 - c. If discovered after the first pitch to the next batter, his/her turn was legal, no one was called out. The next batter in order is the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter. Others lose their turn.
3. Illegal players are those not listed on the official roster. Players are only allowed to play on one team and in one division during the entire duration of the season. The opposing team notifies the umpire, who then checks the official roster and if the player is illegal the offending team forfeits.

Tournament Play

Tournament games will be scheduled for the Saturday and/or Sunday following the completion of the regular season. In case of inclement weather on the weekend that the tournament is scheduled, it will be pushed back to the following weekend.

Umpires

There will be one umpire scheduled for each game. Teams are no longer required to supply a “volunteer” umpire.