

## **Adult Softball Rules – Slow Pitch**

Revised 6/29/16

### **Objective**

The primary purpose of the Adult Slow Pitch Softball program is to provide an opportunity for residents of the Vacaville community, and especially those interested in a common sport, to participate and enjoy the game of softball in an organized program. It is designed by skill levels so each player might have the opportunity to compete at his/her own level.

**TEAM PLACEMENT:** The Community Services Department will make every attempt to place teams in divisions based on player (and overall team) skill level. Division requests are welcomed but not guaranteed. The department will strive to accommodate request, but reserves the right to place teams in divisions according to talent and skill level to ensure we are providing a fun and safe environment for all.

### **A. GENERAL RULES**

1. Rulings not covered by these league rules shall be covered by the official ASA rules. It is the responsibility of each manager to inform his/her own players of the established rules.
2. All players play at their own risk and must complete a liability release form prior to participation.
3. There are no radios or boom boxes allowed in or around the fields projecting music toward the field or stands.
4. No alcohol permitted in the park or parking lot at any time
5. No smoking in the parks. Smoking is only designated in certain areas (between the outfield fences near the parking lot).
6. No foul or abusive language by or toward players, officials, staff, or spectators
7. No children allowed on fields at any time
8. Dogs must be kept on a leash and attended to at all times.

### **B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. All players must be 18 years or older.
2. Each player is required to sign a release of liability form provided by the Community Services Department before he/she is considered eligible to Participate in the program.
3. Players playing on High School and College teams are considered eligible to

play after his/her school league has ended.

4. Any teams playing an ineligible player and/or under an assumed name will forfeit all games played with that player.
5. The manager of any team who uses ineligible players may be suspended from the Adult Sports Program for a period of one year beginning from the date of infraction.
6. The Community Services Department has full authority to suspend or take away any game won while a team used an ineligible player.
7. First Division players may only play in the first or second division. Second Division players may play in either the first or third division. **Participation in an upper division game effectively classifies said player as an upper division player.**
1. Players are considered on any team in which they appear in two (2) games.

### **C. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY- PLAYOFFS**

1. Players must participate in a minimum of two regular season games to be eligible for the playoff roster. The scorekeeper will be issued a playoff roster and this can be used by either manager to determine player eligibility.
2. Only players on playoff eligible rosters are allowed to play in playoff and championship games. Eligible players that show up after the game has begun must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
3. Players may only play on one team per division per night in the playoffs. If a player is eligible for more than 1 team in the same division the player must pick which team to play on. If a player plays on 2 teams in the same division in the playoffs, both teams will forfeit their games.

### **D. ROSTERS**

1. The manager shall be held responsible for his/her roster at all times during league play. He/she will be the only person allowed to make changes to the roster.
2. Team rosters must be filled out completely (players' names, addresses and phone numbers), signed by each member of the team, and turned into the scorekeeper prior to the first game beginning. Incomplete rosters will not be accepted and game play will not begin until all information is filled out and turned in.
3. Eligible players can be added to a team's roster at any time throughout the season. It is the managers responsibility to have the player fill out and sign the roster add sheet and turn it into the scorekeeper prior to the game beginning. Failure to do this will result in the manager allowing an ineligible player to participate and could result in manager suspension (See Section B, Rule 5)
4. It is the manager's responsibility to turn in a batting order, complete with all players first and last names, to the scorekeeper prior to the game beginning. Any player showing up after the game has started will be placed at the bottom of the

batting order. It is the managers responsibility to make sure the batting order is complete.

## **E. ROSTERS- PLAYOFFS**

1. Playoff eligibility rosters will reflect all players who have played in two or more regular season games in the current season based on the batting orders submitted by the manager prior to each game. These playoff eligibility rosters will be emailed to the managers prior to the playoff games beginning. Any questions regarding playoff eligibility rosters should be directed to the Adult Sports office. 469-4029 prior to the playoff games beginning.
2. If an ineligible player participates in any way during a playoff game, the game will be immediately forfeit by the team using the ineligible player and the game will be over.
3. Players may be asked to present their ID or Drivers License prior to or during playoff games to ensure their eligibility.

## **F. THE GAME**

1. Teams will field ten (10) players. However, there will be a minimum requirement of six (6) players to begin a game. If a team has less than six (6) players, it will be considered a forfeit. A ten (10) minute grace period from the official scheduled start time of the **first** game will be granted (official start time will be the time noted on the game schedule). A maximum of fifteen (15) players may appear on the batting order.
2. No new inning will start after one hour of game time.
3. If there is no scoreboard the home plate umpire will keep the official time.
4. A game shall consist of seven (7) innings, 15-run margin, and/or time limit of one hour from game time.

In the event of a tie after seven innings or the one hour time limit, the international tie breaker will be used.

The international tie breaker works as follows: Starting with the top half of the next full inning, the last player scheduled to bat that inning starts at second base.

5. Any team ahead by 15 runs after 4, 5 or 6 innings will be declared the winner. All innings must be completed unless the home team is ahead.
6. Umpires will be assigned by the city of Vacaville. There will be **two** umpires per game. However, if only one umpire is present, the game will be played providing both managers agree prior to the game and **both sign the Supervisor's Report before the start of play.**
7. All leagues will utilize the A.S.A. Strike Zone. The umpire will call balls and strikes. The strike zone is defined as the area over any part of home plate between the batter's front knee and the back shoulder when he assumes natural batting stance.

8. All plays at home plate are force outs. There will be an imaginary line the width of the plate that extends **24 inches in front of (for plays from fair territory) and behind (for plays made from foul territory)** the plate. The catcher must be in the imaginary box when a play at the plate is being made. The catcher may not be on top of home plate. It is the umpire's decision/judgment whether the catcher is in or on the force out area. The catcher cannot impede the runner or touch the runner in any way once the runner has crossed the commit line or the runner will be called safe.

Intentional sliding into home plate is not allowed. Sliding will only be permitted if the player is trying to avoid an errant ball or avoid a collision. It is the umpires judgment whether the slide was intentional or to avoid injury/contact. This rule is put into play to try to prevent collisions at home plate.

9. The commitment line is perpendicular to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line, twenty (20) feet from home plate. If the runner steps on or passes the line he/she will be considered committed to home plate and the runner must proceed to home plate. If the ball beats the runner and is caught by the catcher (and/or any player) while in the imaginary box formed by the width of the plate, and extending 24 inches in front and behind the plate, the runner will be called out. It is a **FORCE OUT**. A tag is not necessary.
10. **NO** designated bat boys or girls!
11. All bats must be ASA approved
12. Infield practice will **not be allowed after the first inning.**
13. All leagues shall use the double first base. A runner attempting to beat out a grounder, **must touch** the orange base in foul territory.
14. **All games will be played with bases 70 feet apart.**
15. No watches, jewelry, or foreign objects may be worn during the games. Umpire's judgment and decisions are final.
16. No metal cleats may be worn at any time.
17. When playing at Nelson Park, each team will be allowed to hit 3 homeruns. After that the equalizer rule will be in effect. Any other homeruns will be considered an out.
18. **Courtesy Runner** – The offensive team can request one (1) courtesy runner per inning. If no outs in the current inning the courtesy runner must be the last batter from the previous inning. If there are outs in the current inning the courtesy runner must be the player who made the last offensive out.

## **G. COED SPECIFIC RULES**

1. **Batting order must alternate every batter between male and female. However, 2 females may bat back to back, but 2 males cannot bat back to back.**
2. **Batting order cannot have more males than females. However, it can have more females than males.**

3. Outfielders must stay behind the 120 foot halo in the outfield until the ball crosses the plate or is hit.

## H. APPEALING A PLAY

1. An appeal is a play upon which an umpire cannot make a decision until requested by a player or coach.
2. There are three major appeal plays:
  1. Missing a base
  2. Leaving a base
  3. Batting out of order
3. Appeals must be made:
  1. Before the next pitch-Legal or Illegal; or
  2. Before all infielders have left their normal position (crossed the foul lines).
4. Any infielder may make an appeal during any dead ball or time-out.

## I. LEAGUE STANDINGS AND PLAYOFFS

1. The number of teams making the playoffs will be determined by size of each division and length of the league. Head to Head record will decide all two-way ties.

If three or more teams are tied, the following criteria will be used:

- a. Head to head record
  - b. Lowest number of forfeits
  - c. Greatest point differential between the teams involved
  - d. Total points scored against the teams involved
  - e. Total points scored all season
2. In the championship round (final 4 teams) the top seeded team has the choice of choosing their game time.
  3. There will be no time limit in CHAMPIONSHIP games. However, the run rule will still be in effect. Time limit and run rule will always be in effect for all other games, both regular season and playoff.

## J. PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The Community Services Department shall suspend any participant which displays conduct that is considered not in the best interest of the Department's Adult Sports Program. The length of any suspension shall be determined by the Community Services Department depending on the degree of any code of conduct violation.
2. Any team displaying unsportsmanlike conduct during a game will be warned of conduct violations and if continued, may be disqualified from further participation in the league. It will be the responsibility of all team managers to control team members. The **decision** for all team disqualifications will be the responsibility of the Community Services Department.

3. Any player displaying unsportsmanlike conduct before and/or after any game will be suspended from the current season and if considered flagrant and not in the best interest of the league, the player(s) will be removed from the game and, if flagrant, from the league.
4. Any player guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics which may do bodily harm to another person(s) will be suspended for a one year period from all adult sports.
5. Any player who physically contacts an official or staff member in any manner will be removed from the game and league. A minimum one year suspension will be imposed.
6. Any player who approaches an official or staff member in a threatening or aggressive manner will be removed from the game and league. A minimum ten (10) week suspension will be imposed.
7. Any player directing verbal abuse towards an official, staff member, or another participant before, during and/or after a game, shall be removed from the league. Suspension determined based on the severity of the infraction.
8. Any player physically attacking/fighting another participant will be suspended from the league, and a minimum one year suspension will be imposed. The team of the player(s) initiating the attack/fight may also forfeit the game based on the severity of the attack/fight.
9. Any player using profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner will be removed from the game. Suspension duration will be determined on the severity of the infraction.
10. Any player ejected from a game has two (2) minutes to leave the park or the game is forfeit and that player's team loses.
11. Any player ejected from a game will be considered ineligible to participate in the next regular scheduled game in any manner (including playoffs and championships).
12. Any player ejected from two (2) games during the season, will be suspended from further league play, and if flagrant, one year.

## **K. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO**

1. Any player, coach, or manager who shows up to a game with the presence of alcohol on his breath will be removed from the game. Any player caught drinking alcohol during a game will be suspended and the game will be forfeited.

**According to the Vacaville Municipal Code, it is unlawful for any person to consume, drink, ingest, exhibit, display or possess an open container of any alcoholic or intoxicating beverage in any public place or off-street parking facility in the city. (Ord. 1510 §1, 1994: Ord. 1336 §1(part), 1988: Ord. 1108 §1(part), 1981).**

Any participant drinking alcohol on City property is subject to citation and their team being suspended from the league.

2. Smoking in the park is prohibited. The designated smoking area at Al Patch is between the outfield fences of fields 1 and 3 next to the parking lot. The designated smoking area at Nelson is outside the main gate of the park.

## **L. PROTEST**

1. Teams may protest for the following reasons: if you feel the score is wrong, or if you feel a rule was improperly cited in a ruling
2. The notification of intent to protest must be submitted to the scorekeeper before the game is over, and, in turn, to the league coordinator no later than **48 hours** after the supposed infraction.
3. All protests must be submitted in writing and include name of player(s), manager name, team, and league.
4. Protests shall not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire.