

CRAVEN COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS 2011 Fall Co-ed Softball Rules

1. **Southern Softball Rules** will be used unless otherwise stated in the following rules.
2. **Roster** : initial roster is due by the first game. The final roster is due by **September 1st** by 5:00 p.m. ** Teams may add females throughout the regular season, but **no males** can be added past **September 1st!**
3. **Player Contracts** must be completed, signed and returned to the Recreation Department before 5:00 p.m. prior to the players' 1st game. Any player who has not completed and turned in a contract will be considered ineligible. Any team playing with an ineligible player will result in forfeit.
4. **Tournament Eligibility** Any player listed on the initial roster, or added by the deadline, is eligible for the tournament regardless of games played during the regular season.
5. **Minimum Age must** be at least 16 years of age by the first scheduled game.

The Game

1. **Batters** will have **one ball and one strike when they come to the plate. 6 Males – 4 Females.** At least (4) females must be on the playing field at all times. *A team may play with less than 4 females, but an out will be recorded each time her position comes to bat. There can be **no more than 6 males** on the field at one time. A team may use another male as an additional hitter (ah), but must also use an additional female hitter. **(Can use a female ah without the male)** Thus 7 males, 5 females for the batting line-up. *Note: If a team starts with 12 they must finish with 12, or an out will be recorded for each position dropped from the line-up.
2. **Game Time** All games will start at the assigned game time. (No Grace Period!) Teams may start with a minimum of 4 players and may add up to 10 players. There will be an **out** recorded for each position in the line up that has **less than 9 players**. (Example: A team with 8 players will have one automatic out .) * Note: Teams must still have 4 females in the line up or an out will be recorded in their position also. Any time a team starts with less than **9 players**, a 10 run rule is in effect at any time after a complete inning. Note: If a team starts a game with 9 or more players they are not subject to this run rule. If both teams start with less than 9 players, the **10 run rule** is in effect for both teams.
3. **Balls** Teams will hit their own balls (**12" balls for Everyone**). Pitcher is responsible for pitching the correct size ball. If a male hits the wrong size ball, play it as is. 44 Cor. or less balls will be used.
4. **Run Rule** 10 runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings, 15 after 3 ½ or 4, and 20 after 2 ½ or 3 innings. (Applies for all games)
5. **Home Run Rule** each team is allowed 5 home runs, every one after that is an out! You can have 5 different home run hitters or any combination of home run hitters.
6. **Time Limit** 1 hour 10 minutes on regular season, tiebreaker and tournament games. Only the championship game will not have a time limit.
7. **Intentional/Unintentional Walk Rule** If a male is walked in front of a female, the female has her choice of either walking or hitting.

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8. **Courtesy Runners** Only one male & one female per inning. Must be male for male or female for female. May use any player to run, but if their position comes up to bat and they are on base, it is an automatic out. May use a second courtesy runner (incase of injury) if both coaches agree.
9. **Protest** An official protest must be made to the plate umpire so he can inform both managers that the game is being played under protest. The scorekeeper must mark the book at the point the protest begins. A protest fee of \$20.00 must be paid to the Recreation Department within 24 hours, along with a written statement about the protest. If the protest is won, the fee will be returned and the game will be resumed at that point at a later date; however, if the protest is lost, the fee will be kept by the Recreation Department. (All protests during tournament games must be settled before the next pitch!)
10. **A Tie** for first place will be broken by head to head competition first. Any other ties will be broken by a draw or coin toss.
11. **Rain / Make-up games** will be played at the end of the season. Any game suspended with less than 4 complete innings will be resumed at the same point where it stopped. A team must resume with the same players or substitute for players that do not return. There will be **no penalty** for teams returning at least 10 players. (Ex: If a team was playing with 12 and only had 10 for the make-up, there would not be 2 automatic outs.)
12. **Any team that forfeits 3 games will be dropped from the schedule!**
13. **Double first base All** runners should use the orange bag if there is a play at first base and the fielder should use the white bag. If on a **play to first**, and the runner **collides** with the first baseman on the **white bag**, interference will be called and the **runner will be out**. All other base runners will return to their original bag.
14. **Injury Time** In the case of a serious injury that stops play for 5 minutes or more, the umpire will be responsible for recording and adding lost time back to the game. Any stopping of play for less than 5 minutes will not be added back.

Player Conduct

1. There will be **NO** profanity or **smoking on or around the playing field**. Smoking is allowed in the parking lots only!
2. A player or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct will be **suspended for that game plus the next two games. (Minimum)**, or up to suspension for the season or life. Suspension will be determined by the Recreation Department. Players ejected from the game must leave the property. **If the ejected person(s) does not leave, the team will forfeit the game in progress.**
3. Any player or coach who physically hits another player, coach, umpire or any other person involved in the league will automatically be suspended for (1) year from the date the incident occurs (minimum) or up to life.
4. **Metal cleats** are not allowed! 1st offence will result in a 2 game suspension. 2nd offence, player will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED. Anyone caught with an open container of alcohol will be automatically suspended for 2 games – second offense will result in suspension for the season.