Collier County
Parks & Recreation

Adult Softball League Rules

REVISED IN October 2026

LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Collier County Parks and Recreation reserve the right to change any rules or regulations where due cause warrants to change. If a change is made, all team managers will be notified. In addition, Collier County Parks and Recreation reserves the right to add additional rules and regulations when they will benefit the program.

The National Softball Association (NSA) Rules on Slow-Pitch Softball will apply to all leagues and tournament situations not covered in the Collier County Parks and Recreation League Rules and Regulations. For equipment and safety concerns Collier County Parks and Recreation may refer to one or more, but not limited to the following softball associations: Amateur Softball Association (ASA), United States Sports Specialty Association (USSSA), Independent Softball Association (ISA), Senior Softball USA, Softball Players Association (SPA), National Softball Association (NSA), etc.

A. ELIGIBILITY & PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1. All players must be 18 years of age or older prior to participation.
2. Players must carry a government-issued photo ID to all games. If challenged, proof of age must be provided.
3. A player may only be rostered on one team per league night.

B. ROSTERS & PARTICIPATION

1. Team captains (or a designated representative) must attend the preseason captains' meeting.
2. All players must be listed on the team Waiver/Roster form on www.collierathletics.com
3. Rosters may be edited until the roster lock at the end of Week 4.
4. Captains may request team's roster/waiver from county staff
5. After roster lock:
    - Any un rostered player is considered illegal
    - Illegal players are not eligible to play
    - This is the responsibility of the team captain
6. Anyone playing or batting must be listed on the roster.
7. Official rosters are maintained by Collier County Parks & Recreation staff.

C. UNIFORMS & LINEUPS

Uniforms

1. Teams must wear matching uniforms or matching colored shirts with numbers.
2. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.
3. All players must be in uniform by Week 4.

4. Pickup players:
    - Must bat at the bottom of the lineup
    - May not wear the team's matching uniform

Penalty for Subs/Pickup

- 1st offense: Warning and lineup correction
- 2nd offense: Player ejected and an automatic out recorded each time that lineup spot bats

Lineups

1. Lineup cards must be submitted to the home plate umpire before first pitch.
2. Lineups must include first and last names and jersey numbers.
3. All players listed must be present in the dugout.
4. Games will not begin until both lineup cards are submitted.
5. Games can start with 9 players

D. GAME TIMES & FORMAT

1. Games are scheduled for one-hour time slots (6:30 / 7:30 / 8:30).
2. The game clock begins immediately after the plate meeting.
3. A 10-minute forfeit grace period is allowed.
4. Forfeit score: 7–0.

Game Length

- Regular Season: 7 innings or 60 minutes (no new inning after 55)
- Playoffs: 7 innings or 65 minutes (no new inning after 60)
- Championship: 7 innings, no time limit

Ties

- Regular season games will end in a tie
- Playoff ties use the Texas Tiebreaker

E. MERCY RULE (ALL GAMES)

- 15 runs after 4 complete innings
- 12 runs after 5 complete innings
- 10 runs after 6 complete innings

F. TEXAS TIEBREAKER (PLAYOFFS ONLY)

1. The last batter from the previous inning starts at second base.
2. Count begins with 1 ball, 1 strike.
3. If still tied:
    - One-pitch round:
        - Ball = walk
        - Strike = out

G. EQUIPMENT RULES

Bats

1. All bats must be NSA-approved with an official NSA stamp.
2. No approved bat list exists — stamp required.
3. Random bat testing may occur.
4. Illegal bat penalties:
    - Immediate ejection
    - Minimum 5-game suspension
    - Second offense = league ban

Cleats

- Metal cleats are prohibited.

Softballs

- Teams provide their own game balls.
- Marking softballs is strongly recommended**.**

H. PITCHING RULES

1. Pitch height: 6 to 10 feet.
2. Strike: Ball contacts the black mat.
3. Ball: Misses the mat.

Ball Specifications

- Men: 12" .44 CORE, 375/400 compression (NSA stamp)
- Women: 11" .44 CORE, approved compression

I. PITCHING SCREEN RULES

1. Screen placement must align with the pitching rubber.
2. Pitchers without a protective mask:
    - Must remain behind the screen until contact
    - Cannot field the ball first
3. Pitchers wearing a mask may field freely.
4. Ball hitting screen:
    - 1st time = strike
    - 2nd time = out
5. Ball contacting a fielder before the screen = live ball.
6. A Thrown ball into screen = live ball.

J. BASE RUNNING & SAFETY

1. On double plays at second base, runners must slide or avoid contact.
2. All such plays are judgment calls by the umpire.
3. No collisions permitted.
4. Gate Rule:
    - Offensive gate open → no extra base
    - Defensive gate open → extra base awarded

K. HOME PLATE RULES

Coed & Church Leagues

- Safety home plate in use
- No tagging at home
- 30-foot commitment line
- Sliding at home = out
- If a runner enters the batter box while trying to score and doesn't go to the safety plate. The runner will be called out.
- Church league only can have 11 players in the field

Men's Leagues

- Standard home plate rules apply
- Can play 11 players in the field

L. HOME RUN LIMITS

- Coed / Men's Thursday / Church: 4 per game

- Excess home runs are inning-ending

M. PICKUP PLAYERS

1. Maximum 2 pickup players.
2. Only allowed if fewer than 10 rostered players are present.
3. Pickup players must bat last.

N. COURTESY RUNNERS

1. One courtesy runner per inning per gender.
2. Runners must be of the same gender.
3. A runner on base during their batting turn is out.

O. COED-SPECIFIC RULES

Batting Order

- Alternate male/female (5/5,6/6)

- No more than two men batting consecutively (only if playing 6/5)
- If playing 5/4 the 10th batter is out when they are due in the lineup

- Walk advancement rules apply

Defensive Alignment

- Outfield: 2 men and 2 women
- Infield: remaining female players
- 180-foot rule applies when women bat

P. UMPIRES & PROTESTS

1. Umpires are provided by CCPRD and registered with NSA.
2. Only captains may address rule interpretations.
3. Judgment calls cannot be protested.
4. Roster protests must occur before the game begins.

Q. CONDUCT, ALCOHOL & DISCIPLINE

1. Zero tolerance for physical or verbal abuse.
2. Dogs permitted on leash only; not allowed on fields or in dugouts.
3. Alcohol is strictly prohibited on all county property and during any league games, practices, or events.
4. If alcohol is found to be present or being consumed, county staff or league officials will require the alcohol to be immediately disposed of.
5. If alcohol use continues in dugouts, on fields, in bleachers, or in surrounding areas after being addressed, the individual(s) involved will be required to leave the premises and be subjected to further disciplinary actions as stated below.

Discipline for Players – Reoccurring Conduct/Alcohol Infractions

Players with repeated conduct/alcohol-related violations will be disciplined as follows:

1. **First Offense:**
   A **one (1) week suspension** from all league activities at the Softball Complex, including participation as a player or spectator.

2. **Second Offense:**
   A **three (3) week suspension** from all league activities at the Softball Complex, including participation as a player or spectator.

3. **Third Offense:**
   Suspension for the remainder of the season. Suspensions may carry over into subsequent seasons if applicable. A mandatory meeting with the Park Supervisor will be required before the player may resume league activities.

Discipline for Teams – Reoccurring Alcohol Infractions

Teams associated with repeated conduct/ alcohol-related violations will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

1. **First Offense:**
   The individual involved will receive a **one (1) week suspension** from all league activities at the Softball Complex, including participation as a player or spectator.

2. **Second Offense:**
   A **one (1) week suspension** will be issued to both the individual involved **and** the team captain or coach from all league activities at the Softball Complex, including participation as a player or spectator.

   If, a player in this scenario is on their second or third offense, discipline actions will revert to the "Discipline for Players" section above.

3. **Third Offense:**
   The **entire team** will receive a **one (1) week suspension** from league play. A mandatory meeting with the Park Supervisor will be required before the team is permitted to resume league activities.

R. FINAL AUTHORITY

Collier County Parks & Recreation reserves the right to modify, change, or add rules at any time.