



PARKS AND RECREATION

Softball Rules

Updated 3/12/2026

Contact Information

League Coordinator Kelsey Albair (208)-608-7653, kalbair@cityofboise.org
Rec Specialist Dan Goodale (208)-608-7654, dgoodale@cityofboise.org
Customer Service (208)-608-7680, Sports@cityofboise.org

Websites:

Boise Parks & Recreation Team sideline: [Boise Parks & Recreation](#)

Softball of Idaho website: <https://idahosoftball.com/pages/home>

USSSA website: www.ussa.com

USA Softball Rulebook: <https://www.usasoftball.com/official-rulebook/>

Softball Player Advisory Board:

Board President

Dave Kaufman

Board Vice President

Aubrey Cheney

Women's Gold

Hunter Thompson- Women's D

Vacant- Women's E

Vacant-Women's E/Rec

Julie Benintendi-Women's 38+

Men's Gold

Chase Uhrig-Open-D2

Brock Minor-E1-E4

Russell Baker-E/Rec 1-3

Gary Adams-Men's Senior

Coed Gold

Zach Monroe-Open-D2

Aubrey Cheney- E1-E3

Josh Warnke-E/Rec1-E/Rec3

Sunday Coed

Vacant-A-C

Thomas Holcomb-D-E

Vacant-F-G

Other Members

Vacant- Member at Large

Facilities Use/Regulations:

1. Hitting into the fences is not allowed at any time due to extensive damage it causes.
2. No children will be allowed in the dugouts or playing area. Only the players, coaches, and scorekeepers will be allowed in the dugouts (liability and safety reasons).
3. No pets are allowed in the softball playing area of Willow Lane. This includes warm-up areas and spectator areas due to safety and sanitary reasons. Violators will be required to put the pet in their car or remove it from the park.
4. Problems that occur with teams that practice at schools or private facilities may result in a possible suspension from the league. No alcohol is permitted on school grounds.
5. Please use trash and recycling receptacles.
6. No glass containers are allowed at any park or school facility.
7. Field lighting will be turned off no later than 10:55 p.m. due to City Ordinance.
8. No non-motorized scooters, skateboards, bicycles or roller blades are allowed at Willow Lane Athletic Complex due to safety concerns.
9. Do not park in the No Parking zones. Cars will be towed at the owner's expense.
10. Music played in the dugout or the vicinity of playing fields must be played a reasonable volume and may not disturb the surrounding community members.
11. Smoking is prohibited, except in specified areas.

League Structure:

1. The Gold, Sunday, and Coed leagues are sanctioned by Softball of Idaho. The top men's division(M1-2) is sanctioned by USSSA.
2. The league fee covers the officials, field equipment, facilities, maintenance and operation costs, administrative costs, and awards. Gold and Sunday Coed league player fees are deposited into a capital fund for facility improvements and acquisitions.
3. The Softball of Idaho and USSSA sanctioning fee provides the City with field liability insurance and allows teams to play in sanctioned tournaments, among other benefits. Softball of Idaho and USSSA offer optional insurance that covers all players and coaches. Teams are encouraged to check into the insurance and other benefits on each respective website.
4. By participating, all players agree to release Boise Parks & Recreation, the Softball Advisory Board and all cooperating agencies, employees, officials, or managers thereof from all liability for damages to persons or property that may be sustained as a result of participation in the program.
5. Payments returned due to insufficient funds are the entire team's responsibility. Team and players will be suspended from further participation in all Boise Parks & Recreation Programs until all fees are paid.

REFUND POLICY

1. Team and player fees will not be refunded to teams which drop from the league after the registration deadline. A full refund will be given to teams who drop out of the league prior to the completion of registration, minus a \$15.00 processing fee.
2. Player fees are non-refundable after the registration deadline.
3. Players may transfer teams up until the second Monday of league play without an additional fee being assessed.
4. If a team disbands during the season, the players may move to other teams without a fee being assessed.

LEAGUE CLASSIFICATION

1. Teams are classified by the Program Coordinators and the Softball Advisory Board. Classifications are based on the following criteria: League standings from previous years, teams registering in each division, number of teams returning and the caliber of the players on the team. Mid - lower teams that have upper division men on their roster may be moved up one or more divisions. **Teams are not guaranteed the division they request.**

2. Changing divisions after league begins can only be done by switching with another team. Boise Parks and Recreation will work with the manager to find a team that is willing to switch. Teams with a winning record may be moved up at the discretion of the Softball Advisory Board.

3. Classification Divisions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men’s Open(USSSA) • Men’s D1 • Men’s D2 • Men’s E1 • Men’s E2 • Men’s E3 • Men’s E4 • Men’s E-Rec 1 • Men’s E-Rec 2 • Men’s E-Rec 3 • Men’s Friday E 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s E-Rec • Women’s E • Women’s D • Coed Open • Coed D1 • Coed D2 • Coed E1 • Coed E2 • Coed E3 • Coed E-Rec 1 • Coed E-Rec 2
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RESCHEDULED/CANCELED/RAINOUT GAMES

1. If no official umpire arrives for a game, the game may be played if both managers agree and there is a volunteer to umpire the game, or it will be rescheduled. If the game is started with a volunteer umpire, it must be completed. Both coaches are required to sign the score book as proof of agreement. (Refunds will not be given.) Complaints against a volunteer umpire will not be considered. Home team is responsible to call the score into the Boise Parks & Recreation Center the next day.

2. All games which are declared a no game because of poor weather conditions, unplayable field (umpire’s decision), or umpires not showing up will be rescheduled the next working day. Teams must notify the sports teams– 208-608-7651 or e-mail sports@cityofboise.org before 10:00 a.m. the next working day as to any dates that could be a conflict for future reschedule dates. The league coordinator may cancel games at his/her discretion. Messages can be left at 208-608-7653 or 208-608-7654.

3. Rained out games will be replayed the next available day and time. Teams should be prepared to play that same week.

4. If it has been raining for a few days prior but has stopped, be sure to check rainout line and double-check that the fields are playable.

5. A decision will be made at 3:00 p.m. as to whether the games will be canceled. It is the team manager’s responsibility to check the rainout line for cancellation information.

6. If rain occurs after 3:00 p.m. and the games are canceled, our rainout app will have the updated information and will notify you if you have selected that option. Game cancellations after 5pm will be at the umpire’s discretion.

OPTIONS FOR RESCHEDULING GAMES (NOT WEATHER RELATED)

1. Teams must notify program coordinators of their intent to re-schedule a game (3) three days prior to game date. Program coordinators will work on a new date/time with team captains involved in the reschedule to get their approval. Each team must verify with the Boise Parks & Recreation officials and confirm that they have received the correct information.
2. Day-of cancellations: Teams must notify program coordinators and captains of opposing team by phone if they are unable to field a team for a scheduled game. Day-of cancellations are not eligible for a reschedule.
3. Each team will be allowed only one (1) emergency reschedules during the season. Notice that a game needs to be rescheduled must be given to Boise Parks and Recreation officials at least (3) three business days in advance of the game that is to be rescheduled. Any reschedule request that does not meet the deadline will result in a forfeit. If a team has already used its emergency reschedule, any additional games that are rescheduled will result in a \$35 charge to the team per game. Reschedules are subject to field availability. Note: Changes not only affect your team, but your opponents, spectators, and the umpires scheduled to work the game.

LEAGUE STANDINGS AND AWARDS

1. League standings are posted on the website.
2. Awards will be given for 1st place in league play. The contact person listed on the registration form will be notified of the awards pick-up date.
3. League standings will be determined in the following manner:
 - a. Total win percentage
 - b. Head-to-head record
 - c. Head-to-head differential
 - d. Total points for
 - e. Total points against
 - f. Total points differential
 - g. Lowest number of forfeits
 - h. Coin toss

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

The last day to add players to league rosters is the final league game. Invitational Tournament registration deadlines are 7 days prior to the tournament start date, unless otherwise stated.

Player Eligibility:

1. **MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT:**
 - a. Gold leagues – 16 years of age (By registration date)
 - b. Sunday and Coed leagues – 14 years of age (By registration date)
2. **ELIGIBILITY**
 - a) All players' names and signatures must be on the roster before they play their first game. Players can only switch teams one time during the season. There is no maximum for the number of players on a league roster.
 - b) Rosters will remain open for player additions for league until the last league game.

All additions to the roster must be made online by using the Add/Drop Player form. It is the manager's responsibility to make sure the roster addition has been made. No player additions may be made by phone or in person. Only the manager or departing player may remove a name from the roster.

- c) Teams SHOULD carry an updated copy of their roster to each game. Players should have photo IDs available at the game.
- d) A player may be on more than one team's roster in league only, with the following requirements:
 - i. Players must be signed on each team's roster and have paid their player fees for each team.
 - ii. Players must not play more than two divisions below their highest level of play. For example, an D1 player may participate on teams in D2, E1 leagues only.

ILLEGAL PLAYER PENALTIES

- 1. Team forfeits the game.
- 2. Team suspended from tournament where applicable.
- 3. Player is ineligible to play in their next scheduled league game. (This affects any team the player is registered on if they play on more than one team.)

LEAGUE PICK-UP PLAYER GUIDELINES

- 1. Pick-Up Player Cards: Teams can pick up player cards on site from the site supervisor or score keeper. **A team can pick up a maximum of three players for a game.** The pick-up player must be on a registered, signed Boise Parks & Recreation roster and must be a caliber equal to or lower than the team they are being picked up by. Pick-up player cards should be used for hardship only. Players must list their highest level of play/participation on the card.
- 2. Any legal pick-up player must bat at the last batting position (see #4 for exceptions).
- 3. GAME PROCEDURES: The manager will report to the umpire and the opposing manager that a pick-up player(s) will be used. At the pre-game meeting, the manager must present the pick-up player card/waiver. The player must have signed the waiver. The waiver then remains in the possession of the umpire and will be turned in with the game score card.
- 4. In case of hardship (injury, emergency, or unavailable players at game time for pick up, etc.) a pick-up player maybe obtained after the start of the game. This player would bat in the place of the hardship player.

Equipment/Uniforms:

- 1. No metal cleats are allowed, including hard plastic or polyurethane spikes like metal or sole & heel plates, in any league or invitational tournaments.
- 2. Softballs must be Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA certified and yellow optic in color.
- 3. The 11 & 12-inch ball must have a Ball COR of .52 and a Ball Compression of 300 lbs., Senior leagues use a Ball COR of .44 and compression of 375 lbs.
- 4. Game balls will be provided by Boise Parks and Recreation.
- 5. Uniforms are not required for league play or league tournaments.
 - A. **Official Approved Bats for Boise Parks & Recreation League & USA**

Championship Play

1. If a bat is not marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL but has an ASA Certification Mark, meets Rule 3 Section 1 of the ASA Rules, is included on a list of approved models published by the ASA, and is not listed on the Non-Approved Bat List then it is allowed in ASA Championship Play and League/Tournament play.



B. Non-Approved Bats

1. The official reference will be lists of approved and non-approved bats on the Softball of Idaho, USA and USSSA websites. ASA's lists will be printed and kept for reference at the Boise Parks & Recreation Dick Eardley Senior Center one month prior to the start of each annual softball season and will serve as the official reference until the start of the next annual season. For updated lists of illegal bats, use the Softball of Idaho, USA and USSSA websites. The lists may change.
2. A player who enters the batter's box with a non-approved bat will immediately be called out and subject to a "Level Two Violation" penalty. Ownership of the bat is irrelevant.
3. A second offense of using a non-approved bat will result in indefinite suspension from Boise City softball leagues. The player may request reinstatement by appearing in front of the Softball Advisory Board or at the discretion of the director. The Softball Advisory Board and/or the director will determine what, if any, further suspension may be merited for second offenses.

C. Altered/Doctored Bats

1. Umpires may examine a bat at any time if they have reasonable suspicion to believe the bat to be altered, based on appearance or performance.
2. If, upon examination, the bat is suspected to have been modified, the umpire shall identify both the user and the owner of the bat. Umpires have the authority to immediately take the bat into their possession for testing.

D. Testing Process

1. The umpire will turn the bat into Boise Parks & Recreation Staff for testing. If the bat passes Boise City's test, it will be made available to the player within two (2) business days.
2. If the bat fails Boise Parks & Recreation testing, it will be sent to the USA Office to undergo further testing.
3. A player who refuses to submit a bat to the umpire for examination and/or testing will be immediately called out, ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of 1 year.
4. Article 510 N 06 Altered Bat. Any person discovered in possession of an altered bat at or near the facility or grounds of a softball competition in which such equipment is not permitted to be used shall be subject to discipline pursuant to Article 505. Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA shall have the right to take possession of a bat that is, in the sole discretion of the official, reasonably suspected to be an altered bat. In the event the suspected altered bat is tested and determined to be an altered bat, then the person shall surrender ownership of the altered bat to

Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA. If the bat is found not to be altered, a bat of equal or greater value, or a monetary equivalent, in the sole discretion of Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA, shall be returned to the owner of the subject bat. In addition, a player found in possession of an Altered Bat and found guilty according to Article 505 shall be suspended from Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA play for a minimum of five (5) years. A team that is discovered to have within its possession or control an Altered Bat maybe 6 suspended from further tournament competition and from Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA play.

5. Players can have their bats examined and tested upon appointment Monday - Friday at the Boise Parks & Recreation Office located behind Fort Boise softball field # 1. Additionally, umpires can be asked to examine bats prior to the start of a game. Buying used bats or bats from unknown vendors (especially web-based) presents a risk to the buyer – the bat may have been modified or altered. Play it safe - if you're unsure, have your bat tested!

Rules of the Game:

PLAYER CONDUCT

1. Teams and team managers will be held responsible for the action of their players and spectators.
2. If team managers are dissatisfied with the performance of an umpire, the manager is requested to file, in writing, complaints or suggestions to the sports@cityofboise.org. These comments will then be reviewed by the Recreation Program Coordinator and the Softball Advisory Board. If the comments require review, such actions as needed will be taken by the Recreation Program Coordinator, Boise Softball Umpire Association, and the Softball Advisory Board. Concerns not put in writing will not be addressed.
3. If, in the opinion of the umpire(s), the game cannot be continued in a sportsmanlike manner, the game shall be forfeited by the offending team.
4. Only the team manager, determined by the person who represents the team at the pre-game meeting, may speak to the umpire. The umpire will direct all conduct warnings to the managers and/or players in question. It is the manager's responsibility to control all player conduct.
5. Officials are not required to warn a player or manager prior to ejection. When a player is ejected from a game, if asked, he/she must leave the park immediately or the team will forfeit the game, and the police may be called.

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

1. Any violation not included below shall be at the discretion of the League Coordinator and/or Softball Advisory Board.
2. The following penalties will be assessed for each specific act that occurs before, during or after a game. Automatic penalties may be increased based on severity.
3. Any Boise Parks & Recreation sports program participant who is suspended or placed on probation for conduct violation shall serve the same penalty in all Boise Parks & Recreation sports programs they may be participating in, or registered for, during the specified time.
4. Once a player has been suspended, they are not allowed to coach or be engaged in play, be near the dugout, or be present inside the fence lines. When a player is

serving a suspension, the player will be notified they are not to be involved in play with any recreational team, regardless of multiple rosters and teams. All affected team managers will also be notified. This rule applies to ALL Player Conduct – Level 1, 2, and 3 Violations.

Minimal Violation

1. Possession or consumption of alcohol on the field or in the dugout.
2. Casual profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct rule: Any team member in a game using profanity or unsportsmanlike language, expletives not directed at umpires or opposing players, and loud enough to be heard by spectators will result in an out being called against the offending team.
 - a) If a team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter will be declared out.
 - b) If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat, that player will be called out.
 - c) If the act is committed by the defensive team, then their first batter up once they are on offense will be declared out.
 - d) The outs will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation.
 - e) If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning, where the fielding team may not bat again, the ejection rule will apply. If the team goes below eight (8) players, it will constitute a forfeit.
3. Continued hitting of balls against the fence after a warning. Minimum automatic penalty: Player will accrue an (out) or an (out) will be given to the team in which the violation occurs.

Level One Violation

1. Possession or consumption of alcohol on the field or in the dugout. (After minimal out.)
2. Intentional throwing of bat (not directed at an individual).
3. Excessive disrespectful behavior directed at another player, umpire, spectator, or Recreation staff. Abusive language, continued swearing, taunting, or using gestures to provoke another player, umpire, spectator, or Recreation staff.
4. Attempting to arouse spectators against an official.
5. Not leaving the park when asked to by the umpire or Recreation staff.
6. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
7. Kicking or throwing dirt at an umpire.
8. Harassing players, spectators, or Recreation staff. Minimum automatic penalty: Ejection from the game and suspension for all other league games for 7 days, to include a minimum of one game, as well as probation for the remainder of the year.

Level Two Violation (Police may be called.)

1. Verbal or physical threats to a player, umpire, spectator, or Recreation staff.
2. Fighting, whether initiated or done in retaliation.
3. Making physical contact with the intent to do harm to a player, umpire, spectator, or Recreation staff.
4. Throwing or kicking an object at a player, umpire, spectator, or Recreation staff with intent to do harm.
5. Causing, aiding, or assisting to the damage or destruction of property of Boise

Parks & Recreation or individuals associated with the program.

6. Approaching or following an umpire or staff member off the field after the game is complete with the intent of verbal harassment or physical harm.

7. Any photographing and video recording of an umpire with intent to disseminate publicly (including social media) in an attempt shame, ridicule, or defame an umpire. Minimum Automatic Penalty: Ejection from that game, suspension from the next four weeks of league play, and player probation for two years from the date of the incident. If there are fewer than four league games remaining in the season, the suspension will be extended to the league tournament and/or the next softball season. This includes all league teams the player is registered on. (Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA & USSSA sanctioned tournaments are at the discretion of each respective Commissioner/Director.)

Probation

A player that has been placed on probation and then is ejected from a game will be given an automatic suspension without the right to appeal. The suspension will be based on a repeat offense and the severity of the violation.

ALL PENALTIES At the discretion of the Program Coordinator and/or Softball Advisory Board, a hearing may be held to increase or decrease the penalty according to the degree of the violations. A player appealing a conduct penalty will be suspended from play until a formal hearing. FOR APPEALS SEE APPLICABLE CITY CODE

Standard Gold Regulations

1. GOLD LEAGUES

- a) A team may start and finish the game with a minimum of eight players. The missing players will be listed in the lowest possible position(s) in the batting order. An out will result in all missing player's batting positions. If additional players arrive after the game has started, the short team may add players up to a maximum of ten. The added players will bat in the appropriate batting order. A team can play shorthanded in any position they choose, other than pitcher and catcher. Teams starting with nine or more players will not forfeit if they drop to eight players due to an ejection or other circumstances. A team not having a minimum of eight players on or within sight of the field at game time, or anytime during the game will forfeit the game.
- b) Games forfeited at game time will still be played and officiated as a practice game if both managers agree, provided there are eight players or more for each team. (A team will have 10 minutes from game time to put a team together. Players must be on a League roster). The same rules as an official game apply to the practice game.
- c) Substitutes will follow the Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA Rules, except that a player may re-enter as many times as he/she wishes in the same place in the batting order. All teams may bat the entire league roster; however, Coed teams must bat an equal number of male and female players.

2. Teams with fewer than eight (8) players at game time automatically become the visiting team. If they do not get their 8th player there before they go on defense, they will forfeit the game, or they may choose to use a 10-minute grace period to get their 8th person there. The team will then be penalized 2 runs. The 10-minute grace period will not

be added on to the end of the game.

3. No new inning will start after 1 hour 10 minutes or 7 completed innings. Exception: If the game is tied after 7 innings and there is time remaining in the game, the game will continue using the Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA tie breaker rule. If the time limit is up and the game is tied, it will not be played out. All started innings must be completed. It is the manager's responsibility to note the starting time with the official.

a. Game start time will be announced by the umpire at the conclusion of the pregame meeting UNLESS scheduled game time is later (i.e., scheduled game time is 6:30 p.m. and the pre-game meeting is occurring at 6:15 p.m., game time will be 6:30 p.m.)

4. Batters will start with a 1-1 ball-strike count with one courtesy foul ball allowed for all leagues: Men's, Women's, Coed, and Senior Leagues. Prior to the pitch, the batter must have both feet completely within the lines of the batter's box. The batter may touch the lines, but no part of the foot may be outside the lines prior to the pitch.

5. Pitching Regulations

- A) The pitcher shall take a position from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to 6 feet behind the pitcher's plate with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet within 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
- B) (Seniors) The pitcher may take position from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to ten Feet behind the pitcher's plate within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate with both Feet firmly on the ground.
- C) The pitcher must come to a full and complete stop with the ball in front of the body. The front of the body must face the batter. This position must be maintained at least one second before the start of the delivery.
- D) The pitcher shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in the Position to receive the pitch.

6. One courtesy runner (per sex) per inning is allowed for each team. The runner must be the same gender in Coed. The courtesy runner can be ANY player not currently at bat. If a courtesy runner that is on base is due up to bat while still on the base path, the runner will be deemed out and the player due up to bat will take his turn at bat. If there are two outs and the courtesy runner is on base when it is their turn to bat, the inning will end, and that batter will take his turn at bat to start the next inning of play.

7. ADA runners from home plate are allowed for players requesting ADA accommodation. This ADA runner does not count towards a team's general courtesy runner in that inning. The ADA runner will start from the point established by extending a line from 3rd base line through home plate as close to the backstop as possible without interfering with the umpire. The ADA runner must be the player, of the same gender, who most recently finished their turn at bat. The ADA runner may advance toward 1st base once the bat contacts the ball. The ADA runner is **NOT** required to stop at first base. In the event the batter making the last out also required an ADA runner, the ADA runner duties then fall to the next player who most recently finished their turn at bat. Note: Courtesy/ADA runner violations will result in an out and the courtesy/ADA runner is removed from the bases.

8. To speed up the game so that a full seven innings can be completed, no warm-up pitches or infield practice will be allowed after the first inning. A new pitcher coming into the game will be allowed to warmup.

9. Base stealing is not allowed in any league.

10. Completed games:

- a. 7 innings, or 6½ if the home team is ahead.
- b. Weather Related - 5 innings, or 4½ if the home team is ahead.
- c. Time Limit - there will be no minimum inning requirement, although an inning must be completed unless the home team is ahead.
- d. Run Rule - If a team is ahead by 12 runs after 5 innings of play, it

- will constitute an official game.
- e. Flip Rule – If the home team is behind by 12 runs or more when entering the 5th inning, they will bat first, and the visiting team will become home team.
 - f. Games not declared official (not completing 5 innings or not meeting the time limit) will be continued later from the exact point where they left off. Roster substitutions may be used.

11.Home Run Rule:(Over the fence home run, the batter has the option to run the bases)

Men's Open(USSSA) 5 total HR

Men's D1 3 total HR

Men's D2 3 total HR

Men's E1 progressive*

Men's E2 progressive*

Men's E3 progressive*

Men's E4 progressive*

Men's E-Rec 1 progressive*

Men's E-Rec 2 progressive*

Men's E-Rec 3 progressive*

Men's Friday E progressive*

Monday 50+:3,then progressive*

50+ Draft: 3,then progressive*

60+ Draft: 3,then progressive*

65+ Draft: 3,then progressive*

70+ Draft: 3,then progressive*

Coed Open 5 total HR

Coed D1 3 total HR

Coed D2 3 total HR

Coed E1 progressive*

Coed E2 progressive*

Coed E3 progressive*

Coed E-Rec 1 progressive*

Coed E-Rec 2 progressive*

Women's D 3 total HR

Women's Senior progressive*

Women's E progressive*

Women's E-Rec progressive*

Sunday Leagues(A-H) progressive*

Notes: *Progressive indicates a team's HR total can only be 1 greater than the opponents HR total.

- **Home runs in excess will be an out**
- For Combined divisions/crossover play, the lower division home run rule will be applied

PROTESTING A GAME OR PLAYER

1. Decisions involving an umpire's judgment may NOT be protested.
2. Illegal Player: The protest must be made before the umpires leave the playing field after the game is completed. If the player's name is in the book and the first pitch has been thrown, a player can be protested. It is strongly recommended that protests be made at this time instead of waiting until after part of the game has been played. Please do not allow the outcome of the game to influence your decision to protest.
3. Rule Protest: If a team feels a rule was misinterpreted, the team must use the word "Protest" before the next pitch for the protest to be valid. When the protest of a game is upheld, the game shall be resumed from the point at 8 which it was protested.
4. The manager, acting manager or coach of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper. The umpire must make a notation of the protest and/or illegal player in the home team score book, on the score sheet, and sign both. The protesting manager must make sure these procedures are followed.
 - a. The game will be completed. The protesting team must verbally notify the Boise Parks & Recreation Officials within 24 hours from the time of the game. The protest must also be put in writing to the Boise Parks & Recreation Officials no later than two working days from the day of the game protested.
5. The protest must contain the following information:

- a. The date, time, and place of the game.
- b. The names of the umpires.
- c. The rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is made and/or the names of the illegal players.
- d. The information, details, and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest. The protest will be reviewed and determined if valid or if a hearing needs to be held.
- e. The situation of the game (inning, outs, team at bat, runners on base, etc.).

Note: If proper procedures are not followed or the protest does not include the above information, it will not be considered and will be invalid. Umpires do not make the final ruling on protests. League coordinators will rule on protests once all the appropriate information has been reviewed.

Coed League Regulations

1. COED REGULATIONS

- a) Playing with ten (10) players, teams must have 2 males and 2 females in the outfield, and 3 males and 3 females in the infield, with a pitcher/catcher combination of male/female.
- b) Coed teams playing short can have no more than 5 players of one gender on the field. No more than 3 players of one gender shall be in the infield and no more than 2 players of one gender in the outfield. The catcher/pitcher must be male/female combination.
- c) Player positioning: The player's defensive position on the field is determined by their position when they take the field. Infielders generally play on the dirt part of the field although they may be allowed to move into the grass area of the field to take a defensive position. Infielders cannot be even with or behind any of the outfielders before the ball is hit.
- d) There must be a visual separation between the players in the infield and those in the outfield. Outfielders generally play on the grass area of the field although they may be allowed to move onto the dirt area provided, they are not even with or in front of any infielder when the ball is hit.
- e) The batting order must alternate between male and female batters throughout. Teams can bat an unlimited number of players, but the number of male and female batters must be equal. An out will be assessed for any missed gender in a batting order.
- f) Any walk to a male player sends the male batter to 2nd base and the female batter hits. Exception: If there are 2 outs the female has her choice to hit or walk to 1st base (See Softball of Idaho/USA/ASA Rules).
- g) Lowest Coed Division (LC) and Sunday Coed Only: A scoring line that is offset from home plate shall be used by base runners to score runs. Home plate is to be used only by the defense in making a force out. The runner who touches home plate will be called out. The runner cannot be tagged out, only forced out. The ball remains live. A commitment line is to be drawn perpendicular to the 3rd base line, 30 feet from 3rd base. Once runners from 3rd base touch or cross the commitment line, they cannot return safely to 3rd base. The ball remains live. Sliding is legal in all normal respects, except at the scoring line. Sliding into the scoring line will be an out.
- h) Lowest Coed Division/Sunday League: A strike mat is used at home plate, along with an offset scoring line for base runners.
 - a. The rectangular strike mat covers home plate. Any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on (first touches) any part of the mat will be ruled a strike. The

- shoulder to knee strike zone has been eliminated.
- b. The scoring line is used only by base runners. A runner who touches the strike mat will be called out. The strike mat is used only by the defense in making a force out. Runners coming home cannot be tagged out, only forced out.
- c. A commitment line is to be drawn perpendicular to the 3rd base line, 40 feet from 3rd base. Once runners from 3rd base touch or cross the commitment line, they cannot return safely to 3rd base. The ball remains live.

Women's League Regulations

Women's Softball Upper Gold Team versus Mid Gold Team Equalizer Guidelines and Rules: The upper-level offensive team can score a maximum of 5 runs per inning except for the last inning which is unlimited. The lower-level team can score an unlimited number of runs every inning. The higher-level team is automatically the home team. The umpire must notify both teams of the last/unlimited inning. The last inning is determined by the following:

- a. After completion of the sixth inning
- b. Once 60 minutes have elapsed from the start of the game according to the umpire's official time, then the current inning will be completed, and the unlimited inning will be played. There must be an unlimited inning.
- c. If the home team is trailing by 8 or more runs, the teams will "flip" and the visiting team will become the home team and the home team will bat first in the unlimited inning. The bottom half will only be played if there is a tie or lead change.

If the game is tied after the open inning, the game shall be declared a tie. If there is still game time left, a new unlimited inning can be played. Once the time limit is reached, the game is final and may end in a tie.

SENIOR REGULATIONS: Women's 38+

To follow "Softball League Rules and Regulations" for Gold Division with the following exceptions:

THE GAME:

1. The offensive team can score a limit of 5 runs in its half inning, except for the last inning. In the last inning, as determined and announced by the umpire, an unlimited number of runs can be scored by either team.
2. The umpire must announce the last inning to both team managers and/or benches before play continues. The last inning is determined as follows:
 - a. At the completion of the 6th inning, OR
 - b. Once 60 minutes (Women's Seniors) have elapsed from the start of the game, the current inning in progress shall be completed and then one additional (last) inning will be played.

Notes: For the last inning, if a team is trailing by 8 or more runs when entering the inning they will bat first. If the trailing team fails to tie or go ahead, the game is over. The

bottom half will be played only if there is a tie or lead change. If the game is tied after the bottom half of the last inning, the game shall be declared a tie unless the 1-hour 10-minute time limit has not passed. Any extra innings will be unlimited runs.

3. A game cannot be completed without allowing for an unlimited-run inning.

4. Batters will start with a 1-1 ball-strike count in men's and women's senior divisions, with a courtesy foul ball. Prior to the pitch, the batter must have both feet completely within the lines of the batter's box. The batter may touch the lines, but no part of the foot may be outside the lines prior to the pitch.

5. A strike mat is used at home plate, along with an offset scoring line for base runners.

- a. The rectangular strike mat covers home plate. Any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on (first touches) any part of the mat will be ruled a strike. The shoulder to knee strike zone has been eliminated.
- b. The scoring line is used only by base runners. A runner who touches the strike mat will be called out. The strike mat is used only by the defense in making a force out. Runners coming home cannot be tagged out, only forced out.
- c. A commitment line is to be drawn perpendicular to the 3rd base line, 40 feet from 3rd base. Once runners from 3rd base touch or cross the commitment line, they cannot return safely to 3rd base. The ball remains live.

6. Sliding is legal in all normal respects, except at the scoring line. Sliding into the scoring line will be an out.

7. Pitching Arc is 6-12 feet.

8. **Home Run Policy:** Senior Women's home runs are **progressive**. A team's home run total must always be within 1 of the opponent's home run total. (Once a team hits the 1st home run, the opponent would be allowed to hit 2.)

Notes: Home runs in excess will result in an out. A home run will be charged for any ball hit over the fence whether a run scores or not. This will be used in conjunction with the 5-run limit.

9. To speed up the game so that a full 7 innings can be completed, no warm-up pitches or infield practice will be allowed after the 1st inning. **Exception:** A new pitcher coming into the game will be allowed to warmup.

10. Teams shall be allowed to have an unlimited number of players in the batting lineup.

11. Base stealing is not allowed.

OFFICIAL SOFTBALL:

1. Senior Women's will use the 11-inch ball and must have a Ball COR of .44 and a Ball Compression of 375lbs. and be yellow optic in color.

PITCHERS MANDATED SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

1. Pitchers in the Senior Women's League, though not required, are also strongly encouraged to comply with this rule.

BATS:

All bats must meet one of the following requirements:

- 1) Meet the Official Approved Bats for Boise Parks & Recreation League & USA Championship Play as stated under general League Equipment/Uniform rules.
- 2) Be marked with the new SSUSA/NTS (National Testing and Simulation) logo. Older Senior Softball bats must be marked with the SSUSA (Senior Softball USA) stamp. These bats need to be stamped with a Bat Performance Factor of 1.21 BPF or less.
 - All bats marked "Exceeds 1.21 BPF" are strictly illegal.
 - All bats must be from the manufacturer lists approved by SSUSA and free of dents, cracks, rattles, or excessive wear.
 - Below are the approved stamps for SSUSA bats:



SENIOR COURTESY RUNNER:

1. An unlimited number of courtesy runners are allowed each inning.
2. A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at any time.
3. A courtesy runner is announced by the offensive team representative.
4. A courtesy runner is officially in the game after a pitch, legal or illegal, or a play is made.
5. A courtesy runner whose turn at bat comes while on base will be called out and will then bat.
6. A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner, except for an injury.
7. A runner who is replaced with a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.

AGE REQUIREMENTS:

1. All Senior Women's teams will not be allowed to have players under the age of 38 on the roster or on the field.
2. The age a player attains on her birthday during the calendar year is considered league age for that entire year.

AGE VERIFICATION POLICY:

1. The team manager shall be responsible for ensuring each player is age compliant.

AGE IDENTIFICATION CHECK:

A manager may request a player age identification check before or during any Senior game. A player who cannot provide age identification will be allowed to play or continue to play in the game. However, the player must provide age identification to the Senior Softball Board the next working day. If the player does not produce the necessary age confirmation, the Senior Softball Board will notify the Parks & Recreation Coordinator that the game should be forfeited.

SENIOR SHORTHAND RULE:

Senior Women's League Only: A shorthanded player may be recruited before or during a game and may play defense in any position. The player does not have to be from the same league if age requirements are met. Batting at the end of the batting order is still required. The batting lineup is not limited to 10 batters.

1. Outs **will not be assessed** if a team becomes short of player(s) after the game begins. The team may close the batting order and bat with as few as 8 batters. If a roster player arrives after the game begins, the player must bat at the end of the batting order.
2. The team manager will inform the other team manager and the umpire before the game begins when a team plans to use a player from another Senior roster to field 10 players or plans to start the game with less than 10 players.
3. A player may not fill in as a shorthanded player for more than one game per evening. **Exception:** In the last game of the evening if no other players are available to play and if the opposing team manager agrees, playing a second game as a fill-in shall be allowed.
4. In case of hardship (injury, emergency, or unavailable players at game time for pick up, etc.) a pick-up player maybe obtained after the start of the game. This player would bat in the place of the hardship player.

ILLEGAL PLAYER PENALTIES

1. Teams will forfeit all games in which an illegal player participated.
2. Illegal, underage players may not participate in any Senior game for the remainder of the season.
3. The Senior Softball Board must approve an illegal player's reinstatement. The Senior Softball Board shall reserve judgment over the involvement or non-involvement of the manager.

Women's League:

1. When a higher-level team plays against a lower-level team, the 5-run limit per inning shall apply only to the higher-level team. The lower-level team is allowed to score unlimited runs every inning. In the last inning, an unlimited number of runs can be scored by both teams.
2. The higher-level team automatically becomes the home team.

SENIOR REGULATIONS: Men's 50+

To follow "Softball League Rules and Regulations" for Gold Division with the following exceptions:

THE GAME:

1. The offensive team can score a limit of 5 runs in its half inning, except for the last inning. In the last inning, as determined and announced by the umpire, an unlimited number of runs can be scored by either team.

2. The umpire must announce the last inning to both team managers and/or benches before play continues. The last inning is determined as follows:
- At the completion of the 6th inning, OR
 - Once 55 minutes (70 Minutes for the 70+ League) have elapsed from the start of the game, the current inning in progress shall be completed and then one additional (last) inning will be played.

Notes: For the last inning, the team trailing by 8 runs or more will bat first. If the trailing team fails to tie or go ahead, the game is over. The bottom half will be played only if there is a tie or lead change. If the game is tied after the bottom half of the last inning, the game shall be declared a tie unless the 1-hour, 10-minute time limit has not passed. Any extra innings will be unlimited runs.

3. A game cannot be completed without allowing for an unlimited-run inning.
4. Batters will start with a 1-1 ball-strike count in men's and women's senior divisions, with a courtesy foul ball. Prior to the pitch and upon contact, the batter must have both feet completely within the lines of the batter's box. The batter may touch the lines, but no part of the foot may be outside the lines prior to the pitch.
5. A strike mat is used at home plate, along with an offset scoring line for base runners.
- The rectangular strike mat covers home plate. Any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on (first touches) any part of the mat will be ruled a strike. The shoulder to knee strike zone has been eliminated.
 - The scoring line is used only by base runners. A runner who touches the strike mat will be called out. The strike mat is used only by the defense in making a force out. Runners coming home cannot be tagged out, only forced out.
 - A commitment line is to be drawn perpendicular to the 3rd base line, 40 feet from 3rd base. Once runners from 3rd base touch or cross the commitment line, they cannot return safely to 3rd base. The ball remains live.
6. Sliding is legal in all normal respects, except at the scoring line. Sliding into the scoring line will be an out.
7. Pitching Arc is 6-12 feet.
8. **Home Run Policy:** Senior Men's home runs have a limit of **3 home runs and then progressive**. Batting team is responsible for retrieving any home run ball hit.

Notes: Home runs in excess will result in an out. A home run will be charged for any ball hit over the fence whether a run scores or not. This will be used in conjunction with the 5-run limit.

9. To speed up the game so that a full 7 innings can be completed, no warm-up pitches or infield practice will be allowed after the 1st inning. **Exception:** A new pitcher coming into the game will be allowed to warm up.
10. Teams shall be allowed to have an unlimited number of players in the batting lineup.
11. Base stealing is not allowed.
12. In the 70+ League, each team will bat two consecutive innings (6 outs) before switching from offense to defense for innings 1-4. Bases are to be cleared after 3 outs, or 5 runs are obtained before starting the next inning. Innings 5-7 will be played as conventional 3-out innings.

OFFICIAL SOFTBALL:

2. All Senior Softball games will be played utilizing a ball COR of .44 and ball compression of 375lbs. There will be no exceptions. All game balls will be provided by Boise Parks and Recreation. Use of your own team ball is permitted if the softball meets Softball of Idaho and Senior Softball standards. Any balls supplied by either team will be available and can be used by the opposing team.
3. Senior Men's will use the 12-inch ball and must have a Ball COR of .44 or under and a Ball Compression of 375 lbs. and be yellow optic in color. Any association stamp or lack of is acceptable. Cor and compression of .44 and 375 lbs. must be visible.

PITCHERS MANDATED SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

2. All Senior Men's 50+ (league), Silver, Bronze, Gold and Copper League: pitchers SHALL wear a protective face mask to pitch in league games. Monday League pitchers are strongly encouraged for their safety, but not required, to also wear protective safety equipment to protect the head, chest/heart and shins. There are no exceptions to this SAFETY rule which is adopted to protect pitchers and to bring the league in compliance with Senior Softball USA safety rules.

PITCHER'S BOX:

2. For the safety of the pitcher, a pitcher's box is part of the playing field. The box should be 2 x 10 feet starting at the front edge of the pitcher's plate and extending back toward 2nd base 10 feet.
3. At the beginning and end of all pitches, the pitcher must have both feet firmly on the ground and one or both feet must be within the pitcher's box or in contact with the boundary lines of the pitcher's box.

PITCHERS OPTIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT (65/70+ LEAGUES ONLY):

A pitching screen will be provided by BSSA for each game played. The use of the screen is **OPTIONAL** for each pitcher. Whenever a pitching screen is used on the field, the following rules are in effect:

Pitching screen use:

- Each pitcher (starting or replacement) may decide if they want to use the screen or not upon taking the position as pitcher.
- Leaving the pitching position and then returning to it later in the game does **NOT** afford the pitcher a new decision regarding use of the screen.
- Once a pitcher decides to use the screen, he must continue to use the screen for the remainder of the game. There is no "carry over" effect from one game to another.
- Because a pitcher used (or didn't use) the screen in a previous game, he is not required to use (or not use) it in the next or any subsequent game.
- If a pitcher chooses not to use the screen, he may **AT ANY TIME** change his mind and begin using the screen. Once the change is made, he **MUST** use the screen for the **remainder of the game.**

Pitcher and screen position:

Note: For this rule all portions of the pitching screen, including the legs and feet, are defined as the pitching screen.

- The side of the pitching screen, from which the pitcher is delivering the ball, can be no more than 1 foot (12") from the pitching rubber.
- Violation will result in instruction given to the pitcher to move the screen to a legal

position. If the pitcher refuses to place the screen to a legal position the umpire will notify the player's manager and remove the player **from the pitching position** for the remainder of the game.

- Pitchers must have a portion of their body behind the screen while delivering a pitch. *Note: Use of the Screen does not allow for violation of other stated rules regarding pitching.*
- Violation will result in a "no pitch" and a warning given. A third violation will result in the player being removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- If a "no pitch" is called and the ball is put into play the results of the play will stand.
- Pitchers must deliver the ball from the side of the screen and may not deliver the ball over the top of the screen.
- Violation will result in a "no pitch" and a warning given to the pitcher. A second violation will result in the player being removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- If a "no pitch" is called and the ball is put into play the results of the play will stand.
- The Screen may **not** be moved once put in place during each ½ inning (except when changing pitchers). *NOTE: a pitch does not have to be delivered for this to be a violation.*
- If, in the umpire's judgment, the screen is moved by incidental or accidental contact it is not a violation and will result in the screen being placed back to the original position with no warning given.
- Violation will result in a "no pitch" IF a pitch has been delivered, the screen moved back to the original position and a warning given to the pitcher. A second violation will result in the player being removed from pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- If a "no pitch" is called and the ball is put into play the results of the play will stand with the screen being put back to original position after completion of the play.
- If only one pitcher elects to use the screen, his team will be responsible for bringing the screen to the field and remove it from the field at the start and end of each defensive inning.
- If, in the umpire's judgement, a team or pitcher is intentionally delaying the game by taking excessive time to reset the screen he/she may start calling "balls" for the opposing batter until the screen is in place and the pitcher is ready to deliver a pitch.

Batted ball hitting the screen:

- Any batted ball hitting the screen will be called a "dead ball" and considered as a foul ball.
- The batter will be called out if the curtesy foul has already been used.

Pitcher as defensive player:

- The pitcher may NOT make contact, with a batted ball, before another fielder touches it, doing so will result in a "dead ball" call ending the play with the batter awarded 1st base and all runners advancing one base.
- The pitcher MAY make a play on the ball once **touched by another fielder. Ball hitting the screen during defensive play:**
- If in the completion of a defensive play the ball hits the screen the ball remains in play and "live".
- If in the completion of a defensive play the ball becomes entangled in the net and/or frame, then it will be called a "dead ball" ending the play and runners advance to the base they were headed – umpire judgement.
- While the ball is in play the screen may **NOT** be intentionally (umpire judgement) knocked over or moved by defensive players for any reason.
- If the ball is in the infield at the time of the violation the umpire will call a "dead ball" ending the play with all runners advancing a **minimum of one** base, with additional bases being awarded by umpire judgement based on ball and runner locations at the time the screen is knocked over.

- If the ball is in the outfield at the time of the violation the umpire will call a "dead ball" ending the play with all runners advancing a **minimum of two** bases, with additional bases being awarded by umpire judgement based on ball and runner locations at the time the screen is knocked over.
- Obvious incidental contact resulting in the screen being knocked over does not count as a violation – umpire judgement.

BATS:

All **Senior Men's Leagues** (Gold, Silver, Bronze, Copper, Monday 50+) must use official softball bats certified by all associations, including SSUSA BPF 1.21. Bats must have their original paint markings for complete identification. These bats must meet all other provisions of Rule 3, Section 1 of the Softball of Idaho Rules, and pass all bat inspections performed by the National Championship Finals Tournament Official. The Miken Ultra is not allowed. The Miken Ultra II and other so called "hot bats" are allowed. These Senior Softball of Idaho -approved bats must also meet the rest of the Softball of Idaho bat standards –no cracks, dents, or rattles.

FIELDERS (65/70+ LEAGUES ONLY)

175 ft. outfield arc will be used in the Bronze (65+) and Copper (70+) leagues. Outfield players must stay behind the line until the ball is hit. There will be no use of rovers. Defensive players must be an infielder or an outfielder.

- a) Minimum of 3 outfielders starting behind the established line.
- b) Maximum (Not including pitcher and catcher) of 5 infielders. Infielders must have both feet on the infield dirt prior to the batter contacting the ball.

SENIOR COURTESY RUNNER:

1. An unlimited number of courtesy runners are allowed each inning.
2. A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at any time.
3. A courtesy runner is announced by the offensive team representative.
4. A courtesy runner is officially in the game after a pitch, legal or illegal, or a play is made.
5. A courtesy runner whose turn at bat comes while on base will be called out and will then bat.
6. A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner, except for an injury.
7. A runner who is replaced with a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.
8. Any player in the batting order may be a courtesy runner from home plate in the Senior Men's Draft Leagues. The courtesy runner will start from the point established by extending a line from 3rd base line through home plate as close to the backstop as possible without interfering with the umpire. The courtesy runner may advance toward 1st base once the bat contacts the ball but cannot advance beyond 1st base until the next batter. Other runners may advance as normal.
9. Courtesy runner violations will result in an out and the courtesy runner is removed from the bases. A Courtesy runner from home plate may not be replaced by another courtesy runner once reaching base, except for an injury.

AGE REQUIREMENTS:

1. All Senior Men's teams will not be allowed to have players under the age of 50, 60, 65, and 70 on the roster or on the field for each respective league.

2. The age a player attains on his or her birthday during the calendar year is considered league age for that entire year.

AGE VERIFICATION POLICY:

1. The team manager shall be responsible for ensuring each player is age compliant.
2. Each season the managers will provide a list of players and a copy of their driver's licenses, or any other legal proof of age, to the Senior Softball Board.
3. The Senior Softball Board is responsible for age verification of all players and will sign and verify all rosters in the Senior Softball League.
4. The Senior Softball Board will maintain current signed rosters.

AGE IDENTIFICATION CHECK:

A manager may request a player age identification check before or during any Senior game. A player who cannot provide age identification will be allowed to play or continue to play in the game. However, the player must provide age identification to the Senior Softball Board the next working day. If the player does not produce the necessary age confirmation, the Senior Softball Board will notify the Parks & Recreation Coordinator that the game should be forfeited.

SENIOR SHORTHAND RULE:

5. The intent of the Shorthand Rule is to allow teams to adjust for temporary roster player shortages. Teams should use the Shorthand Rule only in emergencies. Constant use of the rule will be considered abuse of the rule and will be addressed by the Senior Softball Board and Boise Parks & Recreation.
6. If a team has less than 10 defensive players available for a league game, the manager may recruit up to 2 players from any team within the same league. The added player(s) may only play the catcher and/or right field positions and must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Pickup player cards will not be used.

Exception: Senior Men's 50+ League (Monday) may play any position in the field and bat at the bottom of the lineup.

Or, as an alternative, the team may play shorthanded and may bat a minimum of 8 batters. Outs will not be assessed for the missing batters.

7. Outs **will not be assessed** if a team becomes short of player(s) after the game begins. The team may close the batting order and bat with as few as 8 batters. If a roster player arrives after the game begins, the player must bat at the end of the batting order.
8. The team manager will inform the other team manager and the umpire before the game begins when a team plans to use a player from another Senior roster to field 10 players or plans to start the game with less than 10 players.
9. A player may not fill in as a shorthanded player for more than one game per evening. **Exception:** In the last game of the evening if no other players are available to play and if the opposing team manager agrees, playing a second game as a fill-in shall be

allowed.

10. In case of hardship (injury, emergency, or unavailable players at game time for pick up, etc.) a pick-up player maybe obtained after the start of the game. This player would bat in the place of the hardship player.

ILLEGAL PLAYER PENALTIES

4. Teams will forfeit all games in which an illegal player participated.
5. Illegal, underage players may not participate in any Senior game for the remainder of the season.
6. The Senior Softball Board must approve an illegal player's reinstatement. The Senior Softball Board shall reserve judgment over the involvement or non- involvement of the manager.

Men's USSSA Uppers League

To follow "USSSA Softball League Rules and Regulations" with the following exceptions:

A team may start and finish the game with a minimum of eight players. The missing players will be listed in the lowest possible position(s) in the batting order. An out will result in all missing player's batting positions. If additional players arrive after the game has started, the short team may add players up to a maximum of ten. The added players will bat in the appropriate batting order. A team can play shorthanded in any position they choose, other than pitcher and catcher. Teams starting with nine or more players will not forfeit if they drop to eight players due to an ejection or other circumstances. A team not having a minimum of eight players on or within sight of the field at game time, or anytime during the game will forfeit the game.

- i. Games forfeited at game time will still be played and officiated as a practice game if both managers agree, provided there are eight players or more for each team. (A team will have 10 minutes from game time to put a team together. Players must be on a League roster). The same rules as an official game apply to the practice game.
- ii. Substitutes will follow the USSSA Rules, except that a player may re-enter as many times as he/she wishes in the same place in the batting order. All teams may bat the entire league roster.

2. Teams with fewer than eight (8) players at game time automatically become the visiting team. If they do not get their 8th player there before they go on defense, they will forfeit the game, or they may choose to use a 10-minute grace period to get their 8th person there. The team will then be penalized 2 runs. The 10-minute grace period will not be added on to the end of the game.

3. No new inning will start after 1 hour 10 minutes or 7 completed innings. Exception: If the game is tied after 7 innings and there is time remaining in the game, the game will continue using the USSSA tie breaker rule. If the time limit is up and the game is tied, it will not be played out. All started innings must be completed. It is the manager's responsibility to note the starting time with the official.

- a. Game start time will be announced by the umpire at the conclusion of the pre- game meeting which will be current time plus 2 minutes, UNLESS

scheduled game time is later (i.e., scheduled game time is 6:30 p.m. and the pre-game meeting is occurring at 6:15 p.m., game time will be 6:30 p.m.).

4. Batters will start with a 1-1 ball-strike count with **NO courtesy foul ball** allowed for this league.

5. Pitching Arc follows the USSSA National Rule: 6-10 feet.

6. There is no pitcher's box. Pitchers must toe the rubber before throwing a pitch.

7. One courtesy runner (per sex) per inning is allowed for each team. The courtesy runner can be ANY player not currently at bat. If a courtesy runner that is on base is due up to bat while still on the base path, the runner will be deemed out and the player due up to bat will take his turn at bat. If there are two outs and the courtesy runner is on base when it is their turn to bat, the inning will end, and that batter will take his turn at bat to start the next inning of play.

8. Courtesy runners from home plate are allowed for players requesting ADA accommodation. This courtesy runner does not count towards a team's general courtesy runner in that inning. The courtesy runner will start from the point established by extending a line from 3rd base line through home plate as close to the backstop as possible without interfering with the umpire. The courtesy runner must be the player, of the same gender, who most recently finished their turn at bat. The courtesy runner may advance toward 1st base once the bat contacts the ball. In the event the batter making the last out also required a courtesy runner, the courtesy runner duties then fall to the next player who most recently finished their turn at bat. Note: Courtesy runner violations will result in an out and the courtesy runner is removed from the bases.

8. To speed up the game so that a full seven innings can be completed, no warm-up pitches or infield practice will be allowed after the first inning. A new pitcher coming into the game will be allowed to warmup.

9. Base stealing is not allowed in any league.

10. Completed games:

- a. 7 innings, or 6½ if the home team is ahead.
- b. Weather Related - 5 innings, or 4½ if the home team is ahead. 7
- c. Time Limit - there will be no minimum inning requirement, although an inning must be completed unless the home team is ahead.
- d. Run Rule - If a team is ahead by 12 runs after 5 innings of play, it will constitute an official game.
- e. Flip Rule - If the home team is behind by 12 runs or more when entering the 5th inning, they will bat first, and the visiting team will become home team.
- f. Games not declared official (not completing 5 innings or not meeting the time limit) will be continued later from the exact point where they left off. Roster substitutions may be used.

11. Home run rule: (Over the fence home run, the batter has the option to run the bases)

b. **Men's USSSA are allowed 5 homeruns anytime**

c. Home runs in excess will result in an out.

PROTESTING A GAME OR PLAYER

1. Decisions involving an umpire's judgment may NOT be protested.

2. Illegal Player: The protest must be made before the umpires leave the playing field after the game is completed. If the player's name is in the book and the first pitch has been thrown, a player can be protested. It is strongly recommended that protests be made at this time instead of waiting until after part of the game has been played. Please do not allow the outcome of the game to influence your decision to protest.

3. Rule Protest: If a team feels a rule was misinterpreted, the team must use the word "Protest" before the next pitch for the protest to be valid. When the protest of a game is upheld, the game shall be resumed from the point at 8 which it was protested.

4. The manager, acting manager or coach of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper. The umpire must make a notation of the protest and/or illegal player in the home team score book, on the score sheet, and sign both. The protesting manager must make sure these procedures are followed.

- d. The game will be completed. The protesting team must verbally notify the Boise Parks & Recreation Officials within 24 hours from the time of the game. The protest must also be put in writing to the Boise Parks & Recreation Officials no later than two working days from the day of the game protested.

5. The protest must contain the following information:

- a. The date, time, and place of the game.
- b. The names of the umpires.
- c. The rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is made and/or the names of the illegal players.
- d. The information, details, and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest. The protest will be reviewed and determined if valid or if a hearing needs to be held.
- e. The situation of the game (inning, outs, team at bat, runners on base, etc.).

Note: If proper procedures are not followed or the protest does not include the above information, it will not be considered and will be invalid.

BATS:

All bats used in this league will follow USSSA requirements.

Bats will be legal for USSSA sanctioned play only if the bat is manufactured by an approved USSSA bat manufacturer on the USSSA approved bat manufacturer list (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website) and has the new 2020 USSSA Certification Mark. The previous 2014 USSSA Certification Mark as of January 1, 2023, is ineligible for USSSA Sanctioned events, but is eligible for use in USSSA league play (pictured below) on the taper of the bat. Wood bats made on the approved USSSA bat manufacturer list shall be legal without regard to this section.



THE OFFICIAL BALL to be used shall be of a spherical design with a smooth surface. The center or core of the ball shall be of a material and design traditionally used to make softballs or other materials or design as approved by the USSSA. The cover shall be of horsehide, cowhide or other material approved by the USSSA and shall be cemented to the core and stitched with cotton, linen or nylon or any other material approved by the USSSA. A molded cover ball or a molded ball without a separate cover, or a multiple layer core design or multiple material core design, may be

approved by the discretion of the USSSA on a case-by-case basis. The thread shall be in either flat seam or concealed stitch type which gives a flat surface. The stitch color must be blue. The internal composition of the core and the material of the cover must be clearly printed on the ball and the words "Official Slow Pitch Softball" must be clearly printed on the ball. All USSSA balls shall have the lettering and logo applied to be indelible. Note: The performance of a softball by reducing the temperature below that of game conditions is unsportsmanlike conduct.

12" Classic Plus Ball:

- shall have an optic yellow cover
 - shall have "USSSA Classic Plus" in 1/8" letters and the USSSA logo with a 7/8" diameter
 - shall have lettering and logo in red and the stitching shall be blue, and logo shall be applied to be indelible.
 - shall have a COR up to .52 or less under the ASTM test used under the USSSA Softball License Agreement and
 - shall have a compression of not more than 300 pounds under the ASTM test used under the USSSA Softball Ball License Agreement.
- 12" Pro M Ball:
- shall have an optic yellow cover
 - shall have "USSSA Pro M" in 1/8" letters and USSSA logo with a 7/8" diameter
 - shall have lettering and new USSSA word logo in black and the stitching shall be blue and the logo shall be applied to be indelible
 - shall have a COR up to .44 or less under the ATSM test used under the USSSA Softball License Agreement and
 - shall have a compression of not more than 400 pounds under the ATSM test used under the USSSA Softball Ball License Agreement.

Important highlighted rules for league:

- Rule 1. [THE PLAYING FIELD](#) Page 8
- Rule 2. [EQUIPMENT](#) Page 9
- Rule 6. [PITCHING](#) Page 34
- Rule 7. [BATTING](#) Page 37

For further clarification, please review: <https://cms.ussa.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/12/ussa-slowpitch-2026-rulebook-final.pdf>

Note: Boise Parks and Recreation have the right to supersede USSSA Rule Book and can alter rules like HR allowance, run rule, rosters, etc. if applicable to the league.