

# City of Tiffin, Iowa Recreation

## Adult Softball Rules

### I. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the program shall be to promote slow pitch softball under the condition favorable to the enjoyment of the game, to the development of good citizenship, worthy use of leisure and a spirit of cooperation among the players, game officials, community and teams. Each manager will be given a copy of these rules and must familiarize themselves and their players with their contents. Ignorance of the rules shall not constitute an excuse for violation and all decisions by the umpire during the game are final.

### II. ELIGIBILITY AND GENERAL RULES

- A. Each team shall be allowed sixteen (16) rostered players.
- B. Players are eligible to participate in the league if they:
  - 1. Have been entered on the team roster, which has been properly submitted on or before the first game.
  - 2. Has reached the age of eighteen (18) and be graduated from High School, by the first date of the start of the league. No exceptions.
- C. Any form of flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a player, captain, coach, or manager will automatically suspend the offending person(s) from the league for the remainder of the game, and/or for any period thereafter comparable with the violation. "Flagrant Conduct" shall be construed to include personal or physical contact with an umpire, other player(s), coaches or managers. Anyone who has been suspended from a game, or any part of a game, will be suspended until the Parks and Recreation Director determines reinstatement. Any profanity by any player, manager or coach will mean an automatic ejection for the remainder of the current game and be subject to further disciplinary action.
- D. A player can only appear on one team's roster in the league. Teams may have 1 non-roster substitution per game ONLY if it's to meet the minimum number of players (8) required for an official game AND the opposing team grants permission. Otherwise, subs from other teams are not allowed.
- E. Teams may add/remove players to their roster at any time during the regular season. Any player that plays in the playoffs must have played in AT LEAST ONE regular season game.
- F. No more than ten (10) players may be used in the field at any given time. Batting order shall alternate between sexes, except for occasions when females or males bat back-to-back when there are only nine players.
- G. A team may begin the game with a minimum of eight (8) players-four (4) men and four (4) women. If a team has nine (9) players, a combination of five (5) women and four (4) men, or five (5) men and (4) women must be used.
- H. A team starting a game with (8) eight players will not be charged automatic outs in the 9th and 10th positions in the batting order. If a team starts the game with nine (9) players an automatic out will be given in the 10th position if the extra player is a male. There is no penalty for batting back to back females. Once a game begins, automatic outs will be assessed for missing players in the batting order (ejected players will not cause a forfeit unless he or she takes the team below eight players and blood rule players will not be automatic out.)
- I. Defensive positioning must include two (2) males and two (2) females in the outfield; two (2) males and two (2) females in the infield; and one (1) male and one (1) female in pitcher and catcher positions.

- J. Walk Rule: When three balls have been called by the umpire, the ball is dead and a walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. Exception: with 2 outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
- K. Time limit: Games are 60 minutes in length or 7 innings, whichever comes first. **Game time is forfeit time.** There is no grace period. No new inning will begin after 55 minutes from the first pitch of the game.
- L. Run rules: At the end of three (3) complete innings of play (2 ½, if the home team is ahead), the 20 run rule is in effect, the 15 run rule is in effect after four (4) innings (3 ½, if the home team is ahead), the 10 run rule is in effect after five (5) innings (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead). No more than 10 runs can be scored in any inning EXCEPT last inning if needed.
- M. An oversized 3' x 2' carpet/mat will be used to determine balls and strikes. A strike will be called when any part of the ball hits any area of the mat or plate. **The pitch height limit will be at 6' and 12'.** Any ball throw over/under will be called a ball.
- N. A pitcher is allowed three warm up pitches the first inning and one warm up pitch each succeeding inning.
- O. Batters will start with a one ball, one strike count. A batter shall walk after three (3) balls and is out after two (2) strikes. A batter is also out if the second strike is a foul ball, there is no courtesy.
- P. A batter is called out if his entire foot touching the ground is completely outside the lines of the batter's box, or any part of his foot touches home plate when the ball is hit. The ball is dead immediately, and all runners must return to their bases.
- Q. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning. Exception: A courtesy runner is allowed at any time for a player that is injured during the play. -If a courtesy runner's time at bat comes up while they are on base, the runner is out, the base is vacated, and the person will come to bat. Courtesy runner will be last out of that gender.
- R. Home run limit is 3 per team, per game. Any HR after that will be an out.
- S. **Balls: Women hit 11inch, Men 12 inch. The balls must be .440/.520 COR and 375/300 lbs for 11inch and .520 COR and 300 lbs for 12 inch. (TEAMS PROVIDE OWN BALLS, PITCH YOUR OWN).**
- T. Bats: We ban the same bats that USA Softball bans. You can find the list of banned bats by going to [www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com) and clicking on Certified Equipment in the upper right-hand corner. You then choose bats (Go) and it will take you to Click here for USA Softball non-approved bats listed. You can check your personal bat by clicking the arrow on Display All.
- U. Pitching Rubber will be at 50' and bases will be at 70'.
- V. Umpire communication. Only the team manager may address the umpire by calling "time" and the walking out to have a normal business like conversation about the situation. Any yelling, berating or other disrespectful behavior towards any umpire or recreation staff by team members/fans will be an immediate ejection of that player/fan from the game and park. The game will not continue until the person has left the park. At a minimum that person will not be allowed back to play/cheer in that league for that season.
- W. A pitcher being struck by a hit is an out.