



Adult
SOFTBALL
Rulebook

2026

**City of Escalon
Recreation Department
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1. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

1. The City of Escalon Recreation Department is responsible for organizing and operating the Adult Coed Softball League.
2. This league operates under **NSA rules with local modifications** adopted by the City of Escalon Recreation Department.
3. Teams must play all games as scheduled. Rescheduling is not permitted by teams.

2. REGISTRATION

1. Registration is available in person at City Hall on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. All fees must be paid in full at the time of registration.
3. A completed team roster and signed waivers for each player must be submitted with payment. Incomplete packets will not be accepted.
4. Registration does **not** include team medical or liability insurance.
5. All teams must be coed. Players must be at least 16 years old by the first game of the season.
6. Participation is at each player's own risk. The City of Escalon is not responsible for injuries beyond coverage provided under signed waiver.

3. LEAGUE FEES

1. Fees are based on the City's Master Fee Schedule and announced prior to registration.
2. Fees are subject to change.
3. Fees are **non-refundable** after the registration deadline, unless the league is canceled.

4. PLAYER IDENTIFICATION & ID CARDS

1. **Player Identification:** All registered players are required to upload a clear headshot photo during registration for the issuance of an official Adult League ID Card. Players must present their ID card upon request. Players without a valid league ID card may be deemed ineligible to participate.

5. MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Serve as the main point of contact with the Recreation Department.
2. Read and understand all league rules.
3. Lineups must be submitted to the umpire at least 10 minutes before game time.
4. Ensure all players are on the verified roster before playing.
5. Update contact info in their online account when changes occur.
6. Complete the registration process, including fees, rosters, and player adds.
7. Submit game scores via TeamSideline.
8. Maintain the **official team scorebook** each game. Inaccurate records may result in forfeits or score disputes.
9. Be responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators.
10. Communicate with umpires on behalf of their team during disputes.
11. Rosters will lock at 11:59 PM following each team's first scheduled game. No player additions will be allowed after this deadline.
12. Managers are responsible for ensuring all players have a valid league ID card prior to participation.

6. GAME RULES

This league operates under **NSA rules with local modifications** adopted by the City of Escalon Recreation Department.

The Recreation Department reserves the right to interpret and enforce all league rules. Decisions are final.

General Play

1. **Game Duration:** 7 innings or 60 minutes, whichever comes first. No new inning after the **57-minute mark**. Playoff games will follow regular game rules unless otherwise specified below.
2. **Run Rule:** Game ends if a team is ahead by 10+ runs after 5 innings.
3. **Start Count:** All batters start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count. One foul after two strikes is allowed. A second foul = out.
4. **Pitching:** A strike mat will be used. Pitches must be between **6–12 feet** in arc.
5. **Game Ball:** Men will use a **12-inch Incredible® softball**, and women will use an **11-inch hard softball** for all games.
6. **Sliding:** Sliding is allowed at all bases. Malicious or dangerous contact will result in an automatic out and possible ejection at the umpire's discretion.
7. **Minimum Players:** A team must start and finish with at least 7 players, including a minimum of 3 females. Teams may bat up to 12 players, following coed batting order rules. If a team does not have enough female players to maintain alternating male/female batting order, an automatic out will be recorded each time a female batting position is due.
8. **Fake Tags:** Fake tags that cause contact or injury may result in immediate ejection.
9. **Outfielders** must remain 30 feet beyond infield dirt until the ball is hit. Umpires have final judgment.
10. **Lineups:** May include all rostered players but must follow coed batting rules (see below).
11. **Courtesy Runners:** One male and one female courtesy runner allowed per inning. Must match the gender of the player replaced. If the courtesy runner's at-bat comes up while on base, they are out.

12. **Tiebreaker Rule (Regular season only):** If the game is tied at the end of regulation (7 innings or when the 60-minute limit is reached), the game will **end in a tie. No extra innings** will be played, including tiebreaker formats. This rule ensures games remain on schedule.

6. GAME RULES (CONT.)

Scoring & Coed-Specific Rules

1. Teams may bat 10 or 12 players.
2. Batting order must alternate male/female.
3. Two or more **females** may bat consecutively. **Men may not bat back-to-back.**
4. You may **not** have more men than women in the infield.
5. To score, runners must cross the **scoring line** in foul territory and **must not touch home plate**. Doing so results in an out.
6. Once a runner crosses the **commitment line**, they may not return to third (except to tag up on a caught fly ball).
7. The defense must touch **home plate with the ball** to record an out at the plate. Tagging the runner after the commitment line results in the runner being safe.
8. If a male batter is walked, the female following him must still hit. No automatic walk is awarded.

7. PLAYOFFS

1. Players must have participated in at least four (4) regular-season games to be eligible for playoffs. To count toward eligibility, a player must be present and listed in the official scorebook for that game.
2. The **top 4 teams** qualify for playoffs.
3. Tiebreaker Procedures:
 - **Head-to-Head Record**
 - The team with the better win-loss record in games played between the tied teams will be ranked higher.
 - **Head-to-Head Run Differential**
 - The team with the greater run differential (runs scored minus runs allowed) in games played between the tied teams will advance.
 - **Total Run Differential**
 - The team with the greater overall run differential (runs scored minus runs allowed) across all games played during the season will be ranked higher.
 - **Winning Percentage**
 - The team with the higher winning percentage (wins divided by total games played) will advance.
 - **Coin Toss**
 - If all other tiebreakers result in a tie, a coin toss will be used to determine final placement.

Playoff Format:

1. **Game 1:** 1st place vs. 4th place – Field A, 6:00 p.m. (7 innings or 65 minutes)
2. **Game 2:** 2nd place vs. 3rd place – Field B, 6:00 p.m. (7 innings or 65 minutes)
3. **Championship Game:** Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2 – Field A, 7:30 p.m. (7 innings, no time limit)

8. PLAYER EJECTION

1. Umpires may eject players under NSA rules. Not all ejections lead to suspension.
2. A **minimum one-game suspension** is typically applied for:
 1. Fighting
 2. Excessive foul language
 3. Verbal abuse of players, umpires, or spectators
 4. Dangerous play or unsportsmanlike conduct
 5. Any violent act toward another participant
 6. Serious infractions may result in league-wide suspension.
3. Ejected players must **leave the playing area within 60 seconds**. Umpires may allow them to remain in the spectator area, unless misconduct continues.
4. If a player refuses to leave, the game is forfeited by their team and further suspension may follow.
5. If an ejected player or one who leaves the game (due to injury or other reason) cannot be legally replaced, each time their at-bat comes up it will count as an **out**.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

The City of Escalon Adult Softball League is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and sportsmanlike environment for all participants, officials, and spectators.

All players and team managers are expected to uphold the standards outlined below.

Participant Expectations

All participants must:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- Treat teammates, opponents, umpires, staff, and spectators with respect.
- Abide by all umpire decisions.
- Refrain from using abusive language, threats, or confrontational behavior.
- Avoid dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Comply with all City facility policies, including the prohibition of alcohol and illegal substances at league activities.
- Respect park property and City facilities.

Umpire Interaction Policy

- Umpire decisions are final.
- Judgment calls are not subject to protest.
- Only the team manager may respectfully request clarification on rule interpretations.
- Prolonged arguing, intimidation, or unsportsmanlike conduct toward officials may result in immediate ejection.

Spectator Conduct

Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.

Spectators must:

- Refrain from interfering with gameplay.
- Avoid abusive or confrontational behavior toward officials or players.
- Comply with all City facility rules.

Failure to control spectator behavior may result in warnings, ejection, or team forfeiture.

Disciplinary Action

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in:

- Verbal warning
- Ejection from a game
- Suspension (minimum one game)
- Team forfeiture
- Removal from the league
- League-wide suspension for serious misconduct

The Recreation Department reserves the right to interpret, enforce, and modify league rules as necessary to maintain safety and fairness. All decisions are final.

10. WEATHER POLICY

- The Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel games due to weather or field conditions. Rescheduling and cancellation decisions are final and at the sole discretion of the Recreation Department.
- All players and team managers are strongly encouraged to register for TeamSideline text alerts to receive real-time updates regarding weather cancellations and schedule changes.

Adult **SOFTBALL** *Rulebook*

Governing Rules:

Games will be played according to NSA (National Softball Association) rules, except where modified by the City of Escalon Recreation Department.

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RULEBOOK HERE:

