

CRAVEN COUNTY CO-ED PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

Southern Softball Rules will be used unless otherwise stated in the following rules.

Section 1. League Format. If there are 9 teams or fewer registered for the season (and there is not a need for more than two games per field, per night), games will begin at 7:00pm and 8:10pm. If there are more than 9 teams, games will begin at 6:30pm, 7:40pm and 8:50pm. All games will start at the assigned game time; there will be no grace period. A team that is not ready to begin at game time will forfeit. Teams are guaranteed to be scheduled for a minimum of eight regular season games and one tournament game, plus any additional tournament games based on performance. Tournament winners will receive a plaque, championship t-shirts, and bragging rights.

Note: A-League and a B-League will only be offered if there are 10 or more teams registered for the season. At least 5 teams must request A-League and at least 5 teams must request B-League for them to be offered. If A-League and B-League are offered, teams will be divided evenly and will only play the teams within their division (regular season and tournament). A-League will be considered the 'Open League' and B-League will be considered the 'Recreational League'.

Note: If there are 9 or fewer teams registered for a season, everyone will compete in the same regular season and tournament. Individual A-League and B-League tournaments will not be offered.

Section 2. Roster. Team rosters will be accessible through RecDesk as well as the Craven County Recreation & Parks website. To appear on the team roster, players must register through RecDesk by visiting cravencounty.recdesk.com. Players may be added to the team roster at any point during the regular season; however, they must participate in a minimum of two regular season games to have tournament eligibility. Any player who is not registered through RecDesk and/or does not participate in two regular season games will not have tournament eligibility. The roster is limited to 20 players per team.

Section 3. Minimum Age. Players must be at least 16 years of age by the first scheduled game.

Section 4. Ball. Teams will hit their own balls (12" balls for everyone). The pitcher is responsible for pitching the correct size ball. 44 Cor. 375 compression or less balls will be used.

Effect Sec. 4. If the wrong ball is used, all play stands.

Section 5. Players. A team may start the game with a minimum of 4 players and a maximum of 10 players. There will be an out recorded for each position in the lineup that has less than 9 players. (Example: A team with 8 players will have one automatic out.)

Comment: At least 4 females must be on the playing field at all times. A team may play with less than 4 females, but an out will be recorded each time her position comes to bat. The can be no more than 6 males on the field at one time.

Note: Teams must still have 4 females in the lineup or an out will be recorded in their position also. Any time a team starts with less than 9 players, a 10 run rule is in effect at any time after a complete inning.

Note: If a team starts a game with 9 or more players, they are not subject to this run rule. If both teams start with less than 9 players, the 10 run rule is in effect for both teams.

Effect Sec. 5. If a team starts with 8 players, they must add a man and a woman at the same time at the end of the line-up. At no time will the eleventh and twelfth player be added once the game has started.

Section 6. Altered Bat Director Inspection and Suspension. The league director may at any time ask to inspect a bat that is believed to be illegal and has been brought to their attention. The owner and/or user may either:

- A. Withhold the bat from inspection and accept an immediate one-year suspension from Craven County Recreation and Parks league play with no right to appeal; or,
- B. Allow the league director to inspect the bat and reach a conclusion as to whether or not the bat might be altered. If the bat is thought to be altered, the bat will be ineligible for the rest of the game. League administration will review the next business day and could require the bat be sent to the manufacturer for testing.

Note: If a player is found to be using an illegal, altered bat, they will be suspended from league play. A first-time offender will be suspended from league play for one year. A second time offender will receive a permanent suspension.

Section 7. Batting. Men and women will alternate positions in the line-up when possible. The team will bat 12 players; thus 7 males and 5 females for the batting lineup. If teams start with 12, they must finish with 12, or an out will be recorded for each position dropped from the lineup. Men will not be walked.

Effect Sec. 7:

- A. If a man is walked, intentionally or unintentionally, the woman (her option) may be awarded first base. Other base runners will advance if forced. If the female decides to take her at bat instead of advancing to first base, the male will still be awarded second base. The male is not required to touch first base.
- B. If a player is removed from the game for any reason and a substitute is not available, then an additional male or female player must be removed to maintain an equal number of male and female players. A player in any position of the line-up may be removed. If this leaves less than 8 players, the game will be forfeited.
- C. When the removed player's position comes to bat an out will be recorded, (Rule 3, Sec. 3, Effect).

Section 8. Female Batters.

- A. A line will be placed at 180 feet along the outfield.
- B. When females are at bat, all outfielders must stand behind this line until the ball is hit.
- C. When females are at bat, all infielders must remain in the infield (dirt).
- D. If a team has 10 players, 4 of the players must stand behind the line. If a team has 9 players, 3 of the players must stand behind the line. If a team has less than 8 players, the team will not have outfielders behind the line.
- E. Outfielders may cross the line once the ball has been hit, regardless of where the ball is hit.
- F. The player at bat will be awarded first base if the outfielders cross the line before the ball is hit.

Section 9. Additional hitter. If an additional hitter is used, there must be one man and one woman.

Note: Teams may use a female additional hitter without a male additional hitter.

Effect Sec. 9. Additional hitters will not be added to the roster once the game has started.

Section 10. Run Rule. 10 runs after 4.5 or 5 innings, 15 after 3.5 or 4, and 20 after 2.5 or 3 innings. This applies for all games.

Section 11. Home Run Rule. Teams are allowed 5 home runs per game. All home runs after 5 will be counted as outs. Home runs can be hit by 5 different players or any combination. This rule applies for all games, regular season or tournament.

Section 12. Time Limit. All Craven County Recreation Adult Co-Ed Softball games have a time limit of one hour and ten minutes. No new inning will begin after the one hour and ten minute mark has been reached. The inning that is being played at one hour and ten minutes will be completed. If there is a tie at the end of the inning being played after the one hour and ten minute mark has been reached, the game will end in a tie. Only the championship game will not have a time limit.

Section 13. Pitchers. A woman or man may pitch.

Effect Sec. 13. If a woman pitches, then a man must catch. If a man pitches then a woman must catch.

Comment: No "fake pitching" is allowed from the pitcher.

Note: The Pitching Strike Zone Mat will be used. The ball must be pitched underhanded at a slow speed. The pitched ball must arch three feet after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of home plate. The pitched ball shall not rise more than ten feet above the ground. A pitch will be ruled a strike when the ball lands touching any part of the strike zone mat and meets the arch/height requirement. Home plate is not considered part of the strike zone mat. Any pitch that lands solely touching home plate will be ruled a ball. Pitching Strike Zone Mat dimensions will be 32in. x 19in.

Section 14. Intentional & Unintentional Walk Rule. If a male is walked and there is a female behind him in the lineup, the male will be awarded second base and the female will be awarded first base (optional). If the female decides to take her at bat instead of advancing to first base, the male will still be awarded second base. The male is not required to touch first base on his way to second base.

Section 15. Defensive players. There are no restrictions for placing players in the field or positions other than the pitcher and catcher, (Rule 13, Sec. 5, Effect).

Section 16. Courtesy Runners. Only one male and female courtesy runner will be allowed per inning. A male courtesy runner must be for a male and a female courtesy runner must be for a female. Teams may use any player to run; however, if their position comes up to bat and they are on base, it is an automatic out. Teams may not use a second courtesy runner. A second courtesy runner would only be allowed in the event that there is an injury and both coaches agree on the matter. Teams may not substitute the role of courtesy runner.

Section 17. Protest. An official protest must be made to the plate umpire so that he can inform both team captains that the game is playing under protest. The scorekeeper must mark the book at the point the protest begins. A protest fee of \$20.00 must be paid to the Recreation Department within 24 hours, along with a written statement about the protest. If the protest is won, the fee will be returned and the game will be resumed at that point at a later date. If the protest is lost, the fee will be kept by the Recreation Department. All protests during tournament games must be resolved before the next pitch is thrown.

Section 18. Ties & Tiebreakers (Tournament Seeding). A tie for first place will be broken by head to head competition first, then fewest points allowed throughout the season, then a coin toss. Players must compete in a minimum of two regular season games to be eligible for tournament play. Anyone who has not competed in at least two regular season games will be considered ineligible to participate in the league tournament. Anyone who chooses to compete in the tournament, but does not have eligibility, will be considered an illegal player.

Effect Sec. 18. The team with the higher seed will be designated as the home team and the team with the lower seed will be designated as the away team (Ex. The 1 seed will be the home team and the 4 seed will be the away team).

Section 19. Illegal Players. When an illegal player is discovered, they are ejected from the game. If the ejected player refuses to leave the property, their team will forfeit the game.

Effect Sec. 19. If an illegal player is discovered during a game, the illegal player will be ejected for the remainder of the competition. That player's position will remain empty in the lineup and will count as an automatic out each at bat. You may not substitute for an ejected player. If an illegal player is discovered after a completed game (regular season OR tournament), the results of the game will stand – win or loss.

Section 20. Double First Base. All runners should use the orange bag if there is a play at first base and the fielder should use the white bag. If on a play to first, and the runner collides with the first baseman on the white bag, interference will be called and the runner will be out. All other base runners will return to their original bag.

Section 21. Injury Time. In the case of serious injury that stops play for 5 minutes or more, the umpire will be responsible for recording and adding lost time back to the game. Any stopping of play for less than 5 minutes will not be added back.

Section 22. Rain and Make-Up Games. Make-up games will be played the following Monday or at the end of the season. Any game suspended with less than 4 complete innings played will be resumed at the same point where it stopped. A team must resume with the same players or substitute for players that do not return. There will be no penalty for teams returning at least 10 players (Ex: If a team was playing with 12 and only had 10 for the make-up, there would not be two automatic outs). Any game that is suspended with 4 or more completed innings will not be resumed at a later time (the game will be considered finished and the results will be recorded).

Section 23. Forfeit Notification. If you know in advance that your team is going to forfeit a game, you MUST contact the Recreation Department by 4:00pm on the day of the game. If a team does not forfeit by 4:00pm, your team will be penalized with a \$35.00 forfeit fee. The forfeit fee will have to be paid before the team plays their next scheduled game.

- A. If a team forfeits a night that is rained out, then that forfeit carries over to the makeup date.
- B. Any team that forfeits 3 games will be dropped from the schedule.