



2021 Softball Rules

The 2018 ASA Rule Book governs all league games with the exception of local league rules.

Please see website or refer to Manager E-mail for COVID Rules and Policies

TEAM RULES:

1. All Leagues:
 - A. Teams are made up of 10 starting players. Additional players are substitutes for starting players.
 - B. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to start play and to continue play. Failure to have 8 players at game time results in a Forfeit.
 - C. A team can finish a game with fewer players than they started with, provided the team continues to field the minimum number of 8 players at all times.
 - D. Before the start of each game, the team managers must meet with the Umpire to discuss rules and player conduct.
 - E. It is highly recommended that teams exchange lineups before the start of the game and keep their own score book. This will help teams self-police illegal players, enforce line ups, and aid in providing information regarding Protests. (See PLAYING RULES #18)
2. Coed Leagues:
 - A. Teams are made up of 5 men and 5 women starting players.
 - B. Teams must have 2 men and 2 women in the outfield and 2 men and 2 women in the infield and opposite genders for the pitcher and catcher positions. Infielders must be positioned on the dirt of the infield diamond. Outfielders must be positioned on the grass of the outfield.
 - C. Teams may play with combinations of 5 men/4 women or 4 men/5 women.
 - D. Teams may play with a minimum combination of 4 men and 4 women. In this configuration, the pitcher/catcher must be opposite gender, and at least one man and one woman must play in both the infield and outfield.
3. Limited Gender Restriction (LGR) League:
 - A. Teams may play with as few as 2 women or 2 men on the field at a time so long as they have at least 8 players on the field at all times.
4. Women Players in Men's Leagues:
 - A. Women may only play on Men's teams in leagues where the City of Boulder does not offer an equivalent level Coed league (e.g. Men's D Rec and D Comp leagues).
5. Team Rosters:
 - A. Every player must sign a City of Boulder Team Roster for each team they play on before they can participate.
 - B. Players are considered ineligible if they have not signed a Team Roster.
 - C. Team Rosters are collected by the Field Supervisor the night of your first game.
 - D. Players can be added to a Team Roster during the season. Rosters are kept on file at each team's respective field complex. See the Field Supervisor to add players to your Team Roster.
 - E. Players must be 18 years old to sign a Team Roster and play in Boulder Adult Softball Leagues.
 - F. Team Roster Freeze goes into effect after the last regular season game.
 - G. For Playoff Championships, Team Rosters may be checked along with player IDs before games. Players must pick one team to play on for the duration of the playoffs and cannot play for more than one team in the same league.

6. Pick-up Players:
 - A. In order for teams to have enough players to start or continue a game, a team may “pick-up” players for a single night’s games. The “pick-up” player must have signed some team’s Team Roster in order to play (i.e. - they must already be a player “in the league”).
7. Team Conduct:
 - A. Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their team while in the dugout and on the playing field. The Umpire or the Field Supervisor will direct conduct violations to the Team Manager to be corrected before play resumes.
 - B. Teams must remain inside the dugout while at bat with the exception of the base coaches, the batter and the on-deck batter.
 - C. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the field at any time.
 - D. No animals are allowed inside either Stazio Fields complex. No animals are allowed in the dugouts or on the fields at any time at Mapleton Fields complex
 - E. It is each team’s responsibility to clean up after themselves after each game. All trash should be thrown away and all cans recycled. Teams that don’t pick up after themselves will be warned once and then fined \$50.00. The fine must be paid before the team’s next game, or the game will be a Forfeit.

PLAYING RULES

1. Game Timing: All games start with 55 minutes on the clock, and counts down to zero. The Umpire will start the game clock immediately after meeting with the Team Managers before the game.
2. Games scheduled for 6:00pm only: If one team does not have the minimum 8 players to start the game, and the opposing team has 8 or more players, the opposing team has the option of accepting an immediate Forfeit. Alternatively, the game clock will start and a 10-minute grace period will be allowed to field enough players. Failure to field 8 players within the 10 minutes results in a Forfeit.
3. The Field Supervisor may move a game to a different field, or may switch Home and Away teams, or switch Umpire assignments, in order to help keep scheduled games on time.
4. Pitch Count:
 - A. All batters start with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike.
 - B. On the 3rd strike, the batter is allowed 1 foul ball. The next foul ball is an out. (Courtesy Foul Rule)
5. Substitutes for Starting Players:
 - A. Additional players over the starting 10 players may hit anywhere in the batting order.
 - B. Additional players over the starting 10 players may substitute freely into defensive positions at any time in the game.
 - C. If a player takes a defensive position in the field, they must hit in the batting order.
 - D. If a player must leave the game, no automatic out is called for their position in the batting order.
6. Courtesy (Pinch) Runners:
 - A. The Courtesy Runner must be the most recent batter of the same gender in the batting order who is not on base when the substitute is requested.
 - B. A Courtesy Runner must report to the Umpire.
 - C. D Leagues: One Courtesy Runner allowed per inning.
 - D. E Leagues: Unlimited Courtesy Runners are allowed.

E. LR Leagues: If all players of one gender are on base, and no teammate of same gender is available and a pinch runner is needed, the pinch runner may be of the opposite gender.

7. Catchers box: No chalked catcher's box will be drawn on the field.
- A. The catcher must be positioned behind the strike mat and within the outer boundaries of the batter's boxes before a legal pitch can be delivered.
 - B. The catcher shall not reach over the strike mat with either their glove or hand.
 - C. A catcher's putout may be made by fielding a foul fly hit by a batter. The foul fly must have "a perceptible arc", but there is no restriction on the height or direction of the foul fly.

8. Home Run Limit Rule (per team)

	<u>Stazio</u>	<u>East Mapleton</u>
Men's D Comp	4 Homeruns per game	
Men's D Rec	3 Homeruns per game.	
Men's E Comp	2 Homeruns per game.	
Men's E Rec	1 Homeruns per game.	
Women's	Unlimited	Unlimited
Coed/LGR D Rec	3 Homeruns per game.	4 Homeruns per game.
Coed/LGR E Comp	2 Homeruns per game.	3 Homeruns per game.
Coed/LGR E Rec	1 Homeruns per game.	2 Homeruns per game

- A. Any player who hits a Home Run over the fence after their team has reached the designated Home Run limit will be awarded an out. The ball is dead and no runners may advance.

9. Complete Game:

- A. A game is complete when 7 innings have been played, or at the end of the inning when the game clock time expires.
- B. During severe weather, the Field Supervisor may shorten a Complete Games to 5 innings.
- C. Incomplete games (those under 5 completed innings) will start over when rescheduled.

10. Run Ahead (Mercy) Rule: Games will be considered complete if the run spread is:

- A. 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings.
- B. The Umpire has the right to call the game, if either team intentionally hastens or delays the game to avoid the Run Ahead rule. The team that hastens/delays is charged with a Forfeit of the game.

11. Extra Inning Rule: For games tied after the game clock expires and games tied after 7 innings:

- A. Batters begin with a 2 ball - 2 strike count, with one courtesy foul allowed.
- B. The first extra inning begins with the last player who batted in the previous inning on 2nd base with no outs.
- C. Subsequent extra innings begin with the last player who batted in the previous inning on 3rd base with no outs.

12. **The winning Team Manager must sign the Umpire's game card at the completion of each game at all fields.**

13. Women's League Rules: Women's leagues use a smaller 11" ball with a .52COR/300lb comp.

14. Coed League Rules:

- A. The team Batting Order always alternates female batters and male batters. Either gender may bat first.
- B. All females batters bat in a set order. All male batters bat in their set order. The female batting order and the male batting order alternate to form the team Batting Order.

- C. A walk to a male batter results in a two-base award. The next batter, a female will bat. If there are 2 outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
 - D. When a female is at bat, all outfielders must stand behind the outfield restriction line until contact is made with the pitch.
 - i) First violation results in a warning; an additional violation by the same player results in a one base award or the result of the play, whichever is greater.
15. Limited Gender Restriction (LGR) League Rules:
- A. The team batting order must remain constant and does not need to alternate sexes.
 - B. Walks are always one base.
16. The following are ASA Rules that Umpires have been instructed to pay close attention to:
- A. Rule 8, Section 2, M: Batter-runners must use the 1st base orange safety bag
 - B. Rule 4, Section 9: Any player actively bleeding must leave the field until it is stopped.
 - C. Rule 8, Section 7, Q and Rules Supplement 13: Defensive players may not block a base or home plate while waiting for possession of a throw. Runners must avoid collisions whether the defensive player has possession of the ball or not.
17. Protests: **Protests are not allowed on judgment calls.** If protesting a game, all of the following must be completed:
- A. The Team Manager must notify the Umpire at the time of the protested rule enforcement. Protests are not valid if play continues past the enforcement of the rule in question.
 - B. The following information must be recorded: the score, inning, outs, players on base, batter gender, and the count on the batter.
 - C. Submit a typed (or e-mailed) protest explanation of the protest and the specific rule in question and submit to the Sports Office by 5:00 pm the next working day.
 - D. A \$25.00 protest fee must accompany the typed protest. If the protest is upheld, the \$25.00 fee will be refunded. If the protest is denied, the \$25.00 fee is deposited in the general fund.
 - E. The protest will be ruled on as soon as possible.
18. Forfeits:
- A. Non-appearance Forfeit: When a team fails to show up for their assigned game without notification. The team must pay a \$25.00 fee prior to participating in their next scheduled game. Exception: If a team has to Forfeit, the team **MUST** contact the Sports Office at 303-413-7465 AND the opposing Team Manager by 4:00 pm the day of the game or by 2:00 pm on Friday for games played on the weekend. If notified properly, there will be no forfeit fee charged.
 - B. If a team has 3 Forfeits, that team is dropped from the league and opponents' remaining games will be rescheduled.
 - C. All fines can be paid by calling the Program Coordinator.
 - D. Forfeited games that are later canceled due to weather will be rescheduled rather than Forfeited.
19. Ejections:
- A. Foul or abusive speech, objectionable music, excessive or dangerous behavior, including excessive intoxication, or abuse of the facilities may result in removal from the City of Boulder facilities.
 - B. Upon notification of ejection from a game for any reason, the following procedure will be followed:
 - i) The game will be interrupted; the game clock will continue to count down the game time.
 - ii) The ejected participant will gather their equipment from the dugout and leave the facility.
 - (1) At the Stazio Field complexes, this requires the participant to be in the parking lot, beyond the complex's main entry fences.

- (2) At the Mapleton Field complex, this requires the participant to be outside the sidewalks surrounding the facility.
- iii) The participant's Team Manager will meet with the Umpire while the participant is exiting the facility.
- iv) The Umpire is required to record the ejected participant's name on the game card and have the Team Manager sign it.
- C. The ejected participant must not have any further interaction with the game from which they were ejected.
 - i) A violation may result in either the Umpire or the Field Supervisor declaring a Forfeit for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- D. Failure to comply with an ejection can result in suspension for the remainder of the season. Further penalties can include, but are not limited to, fines, suspensions, or removal from the league.

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORM RULES

1. Bats:
 - A. All bats allowed in City of Boulder league play MUST bear a legible ASA certification mark AND must not appear ASA's Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks list.
 - i) The Non-Approved Bats lists can be found at the following link (click red "go" button, scroll down to gray section labeled "Non-Approved Bats: 2004 and Beyond"):
<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-USA-Softball/Certified-USA-Softball-Equipment>
 - ii) Bats on the Non-Approved Bat list are not allowed in any City of Boulder league play.
 - iii) NOTE: The Non-Approved Bat list is updated by USA Softball regularly. Sometimes bats that were legal for use in prior seasons are later added to the Non-Approved list and are no longer legal.
 - B. Wooden softball bats are permitted in all leagues. Wooden softball bats must display a legible ASA Certification Mark.
 - C. Coed E Rec leagues are **RESTRICTED BAT LEAGUES**. Only wooden and single-wall metal bats may be used in league play.
 - i) Bats with composite materials are not permitted.
 - ii) Two-piece bats, that have a handle and a barrel of dissimilar material, are not permitted.
 - iii) Multi-wall bats are not permitted.
 - iv) Bats that have inserts, or cores, are not permitted.
 - v) NOTE: In addition to the Non-Approved Bat List, there is also a way to ensure your bat is permitted in Coed E Rec leagues. Please follow this link: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-USA-Softball/Certified-USA-Softball-Equipment>
 - vi) Once there, click the red "go" button, find your bat brand in the second drop down menu, and click red "go" button below that brand.
 - vii) Only bats with the Sw logo (stands for single-walled) are permitted in Coed E Rec Leagues.
 - viii) Additionally, this field-tested list does not specify two-piece bats. Some two-piece bats are included in the Sw list, but are not permitted in Coed E Rec leagues.
 - D. The Umpire, either Team Manager, or the Field Supervisor may inspect and photograph any bat before and during the game.
 - i) The Umpire may remove from use any bat that the Umpire reasonably suspects is not legal for league play.
 - ii) After inspection, all approved bats must be placed in team bucket on the field outside of the dugout. Team members may only use bats from this bucket during the game.
 - iii) Any new bats requested to be added to the bucket during the game must be inspected by the umpire to ensure that it is deemed legal.
 - E. All Non-Approved bats will be removed from play when discovered.
 - i) If a pitch is hit with a Non-Approved bat, the batter will be called out

- ii) The ball is dead and base runners must return to the last base occupied.
 - iii) The Umpire will record its brand/model on the game card.
 - iv) Repeated offenses of illegal bat use by a team may result in fines or game Forfeits levied by the Program Coordinator.
2. Uniforms: Uniforms are strongly encouraged. See ASA rule 3, section 6.
- A. It is asked that teams dress in similar colored shirts with numbers.
 - B. All players must wear a shirt, closed-toe athletic shoes, and shorts or pants.
 - C. Metal cleats, or screw-in style plastic cleats, are not allowed in City of Boulder leagues.
 - D. Midriff baring clothes are not allowed in City of Boulder leagues
 - E. Costumes are permitted, but must not cause any hindrance in play or danger to any participant or the Umpire.

LEAGUE STANDING RULES

1. Tiebreaker Rule: When 2 or more teams have identical win-loss records at the end of league play, the following method will be used to determine league standings.
- A. Fewest number of forfeits
(If a team has more forfeits than another team it is tied with, that team is eliminated from the tiebreaking)
 - B. Head to head (or group)
(The head to head standings of the tied team, when the teams remaining in the tie have played each other equal number of times.)
 - C. Head to head (or group) run differential
(in games played against each other, the team with the biggest runs for/against difference wins the tiebreaking)
 - D. Head to head (or group) runs against
(in games played against each other, the team with the fewest runs allowed wins the tiebreaking)
 - E. Total season runs for
(the team that has scored the most runs in the season wins the tiebreaking)
 - F. Coin toss if two teams remain in the tie, a draw by lot if more than two team remain in the tie.
 - i) If a tiebreaker cannot be determined at one level based on teams not playing one another an equal number of times, the tiebreaker moves to the next level.
 - ii) If, in the case of a three team tie, and one team loses a tiebreaker, the team remaining in the tiebreaker move to the next level, not back to the start.
2. Final standings will be posted within 24 hours of your last regular season game; any protest of standings must be made within 24 hours of posting. After 24 hours, standings are final.
3. Championships:
- A. The League Championship is awarded to the winning team of the final playoff game, 1st seed versus 2nd seed. Overall record will not count in the final game. It is winner take all.
 - B. In the event there is a league with an odd number of teams, there will be a 'play in' for the championship game. The winner of the 2nd vs. 3rd seed game will play the 1st seed for winner takes all Championship.
4. Competitive Parity:
- A. The Program Coordinator has the right to place teams appropriately to preserve competitive parity within the leagues
 - B. Teams that win their league with 0 or 1 loss may be required to move up to a higher division the following season, or at the Program Coordinator's discretion. This move may be waived if the roster changes by 5 or more players.

SCHEDULING

1. All games are scheduled by the Program Coordinator.
 - A. Games are not rescheduled except for adverse weather conditions or unplayable fields.
 - B. Games will be played if at all possible. Games may be played in weather conditions that are not ideal.

2. Inclement Weather:
 - A. When games must be canceled because of unplayable field conditions, that information will be posted on the rainout line and Twitter.
 - i) **Weather Line: 303-441-3410, press 1**
 - ii) **Twitter: #BPRsports**
 - B. NOTICE: Games may be canceled at any time due to weather or field conditions.
 - i) If field conditions are deemed unplayable during the day, that decision will be posted no later than 4:00pm Monday through Friday, or by 2 hours prior to the first game on weekends.
 - (1) After these deadline times, field conditions will be determined by the Field Supervisor at the scheduled game time.
 - ii) If field conditions deteriorate and become unplayable, the Field Supervisor will post the cancellation decision to the Weather Line and Twitter immediately.
 - C. Please note that games will often be played in inconvenient conditions: games will not be called unless field conditions are deemed unplayable.

3. Rescheduling of Games
 - A. Make-up game schedules will be posted within 2 business days after the rain out. Once a game has been rescheduled, the make-up date will not be rescheduled for any reason unless the game is rained out again.
 - B. In case of a rain out, it is the Team Manager's responsibility to locate the make-up game, day, time and location. Makeup games will be added into your game schedules posted on www.teamsideline.com
 - C. If a team knows of a scheduling conflict (e.g. - they play on another team, cannot play a certain night), please notify the Program Coordinator at 303-413-7465 by 10am the day following the cancellation.
 - D. Make up games are scheduled according to field availability. The following priority is used:
 - i) The same night as the teams regularly plays (very hard to accommodate).
 - ii) Monday through Thursday, if available.
 - iii) Weekends.
 - E. Canceled or rescheduled games may be scheduled as doubleheaders.
 - F. It is the team manager's responsibility to notify team members of makeup game times.
 - G. All teams will get the amount of games that they paid for regardless of weather. If we need to extend the season or play multiple games in the last week of the season we will do so to get games in.

4. Location of Fields:

Stazio Fields 1,2,3,4	63rd and Arapahoe (complex with white tent)
Stazio Fields 5, 6, 7	63rd and Arapahoe (complex north of white tent)
East Mapleton Fields	30th and Mapleton

CITY OF BOULDER PARKS AND RECREATION-SPORTS

ADULT SPORTS

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The objectives and purposes of the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department Adult Sports Leagues shall be to foster, develop, promote, and regulate amateur sports in the City of Boulder; to establish rules and regulations governing all teams participating; to engage in any activity that will be beneficial to the participants and the leagues' well-being, and to extend the sports as wholesome recreational activities.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change any and all rules, regulations and policies whenever due cause warrants a change. When a change is made, all managers of teams affected by the change will be notified immediately.

GENERAL POLICIES

The regulations stated under General Policies will govern all adult sport leagues: basketball, softball, dodgeball, volleyball, kickball and soccer.

Animals: No animals will be allowed in any sport complex with the exception of service animals with clearly marked insignia.

Bottles and Kegs: No bottles or kegs are allowed at the sport complexes.

Pleasant View Soccer Complex – No alcohol is allowed.

Sportsmanship and fair play will be the hallmark of all adult sport programs.

The Rules Committee that governs all Boulder Parks and Recreation Adult Sports will be composed of the Recreation Supervisor and the Program Coordinator for the respective sport.

TEAM REGISTRATION

In the event that we receive the maximum number of team entries during registration, the following priority will be used for teams on the waiting list.

One: teams that were first added to the waitlist.

Two: teams that played in the same league and classification last year or teams moving up a classification.

Three: teams that contain the highest percentage of City of Boulder residents.

Entry Fees and deadlines vary with each sport or league; please refer to the entry fee listed under each sport. Entries must be received by the published deadline or late fees may be incurred. Teams will not be considered entered until their entry fee has been paid in full.

Dividing Teams: The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right and authority to place teams into leagues or divisions so competitive parity can be achieved.

Limit of Team Entries: The number of team entries will be limited due to facility availability. All entries are taken on a first come, first served basis. To assure team entry, team fees must be paid at the time of registration as designated on the specific league information.

ROSTERS

Each player must sign the roster/waiver form before playing to be considered an eligible player.

Teams may have as many players on its roster as desired. All rosters must be turned in either typed or printed in a neat manner. Teams may add players at any time during the season unless designated by specific league rules.

Refunds: Absolutely no entry or player fees will be refunded once the deadline has passed.

Players may play in as many leagues as they want but only one team per league. Players must sign a roster/waiver for each team they play with.

Participants must be 18 years of age in order to play in the Adult Sport Leagues.

Current varsity athletes in the particular sport from either high school or college are ineligible during "on" season.

NO OFFICIAL PRESENT RULE

In the event that an official fails to be present and the two teams wish to play:

1. The game supervisor must be notified.
2. The absent official form must be signed by both team managers and the game supervisor.
3. At the game's end the form must be given to the game supervisor.
4. The scores will then be entered into the official record.

In the event that an official fails to be present and the two teams do not wish to play, a make up game will be scheduled at Program Coordinator's discretion.

Release of Liability: It is the manager's responsibility to see that each player is aware and agrees that there are certain inherent dangers and risks involved in playing and participating in the sports of basketball, softball, dodgeball, volleyball, kickball and soccer. By accepting the role of manager you assume the liability for all players who have not signed the roster. All players must realize that they may be exposed to possible injury in connection with participation in the sport. All players are to be notified that the City of Boulder, the affiliated facilities, affiliated teams, and any staff members will not be held responsible for injuries.

City of Boulder Player Code of Conduct

Definitions

Manager - A person designated as the team spokesperson. One who is either a player or non-player

Player - A person who actively participates in the game, whether it is playing or sitting on the bench, and who is on the roster.

Spectator - A person who comes out to watch the games for entertainment with no physical involvement.

Official - A person on the field to administer the official rules.

Participation - Any involvement in the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department activities such as spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, registering for classes, or attending non-sporting events.

Recreation Activity - Any class or event sponsored by the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department.

Program Coordinator - The full-time Parks and Recreation employee designated to organize and supervise the activity.

Team names may not reference; race, gender, ethnicity, religion or anything else that may be ruled on as offensive or inappropriate by the Sports Rules Committee, including offensive language or slang.

No player shall:

1. At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten an official, player, or spectator.
2. Refuse to abide by an official's decision.

3. Be guilty of obscene gestures, objectionable demonstrations, or dissent of an official's decision.
4. Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the body and person of an opposing player.
5. Be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor on any player, official, or spectator.
6. Be guilty of using foul language (swearing) or abusive verbal attack upon any player, official, or spectator.
7. Appear on the field under the influence of alcohol to the extent that he/she is inclined to cause harm to him/herself or another player.
8. Misuse or destroy City of Boulder property or facilities.

Officials are required to suspend the player immediately from further play and report the player to the Program Coordinator.

Minimum Penalty: Removal from the game, suspension from the team's next game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all City of Boulder recreational activities for life. Case is subject to review the following year. Police involvement.

No player shall:

1. Discuss with an official in any manner the decisions reached by an official. Exception: The manager may confer with the official(s) in a reasonable and civil manner.
2. Smoke while coming off or going onto the field of play in any recreation facility.

Minimum Penalty: Warning by the official.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and probation for the following year. Case is subject to review the following year. Police involvement.

1. Any player being placed on probation for the remainder of the season and reported again for the violation of Code of Conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
2. Any player removed from a game must leave the field, court, or facility immediately. This includes any and all city property and any other property used by the City of Boulder for programs. Failure to do so will carry a maximum penalty of suspension for the remainder of the season.
3. Any person on probation who violates the Code of Conduct will be placed on suspension until the case can be heard by the Sports Department staff.
4. Any person wishing to appeal a decision reached by the Program Coordinator should do so by calling the department at 303-413-7465 within 72 hours of the sports staff decision.
5. Any ejected player must pay appropriate fine and sit out the designated number of games prior to playing again.

Failure to comply will result in suspension of playing, per Program Coordinator's decision.

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