



Branson Parks and Recreation

Adult Softball Rules

Revised 3/23/2026

1.) Player Eligibility/Roster

1. All participants must be at least 16 years of age.
2. All players must sign a roster. Players may play on multiple divisions throughout the league during pool/regular season play. A team that borrows another player to avoid forfeiture will concede 1 run prior to the start of the game for each player borrowed from another team in the division.
3. To become eligible for participation, each player must sign the official roster of the team on which he/she is playing. A player can become eligible by signing the original team roster in person at the Branson RecPlex office during office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) or by signing the original roster prior to a game.
 - a. **PENALTY:** Teams that have not completed rosters by the due date are subject to forfeit any games played without such a legal roster on file. Incomplete rosters render players ineligible, which are grounds for forfeit.

2.) Roster fraud will result in forfeit and/or suspension.

- a. Players participating without having completed a legal team roster are ineligible.
- b. Upon legal protest, any team that uses an ineligible player will be subject to forfeiture.
- c. Any team that puts an ineligible player on the lineup card will be subject to an administrative forfeit or suspension at the discretion of the league director in charge of the Adult Softball program.
- d. To qualify for the end of season tournament, a player must have played at least 50% (3 games for Single Header teams) or (6 games for Double Header teams) of their team's regular season games.
- e. At the discretion of the Tournament Director and with the consent of the non-forfeiting team, the forfeiting team may be permitted to participate in an exhibition or non-official game. Such play shall not be considered an official game, shall have no effect on standings, seeding, rankings, or statistics, and may be terminated at any time by the Tournament Director.

3.) Field Dimensions / Pitching

- a. **All bases** shall be set at a distance of **65 feet**.
- b. The **pitching distance shall be 50 feet**, measured from the back tip of home plate to the front edge of the pitcher's plate (pitching rubber).
- c. The pitched ball must be delivered with an underhand motion and shall have a perceptible arc of **not less than 6 feet and not more than 12 feet** from the ground.

4.) Game Rules

- a. Games will be played in accordance with USSSA rules and regulations with the following modifications. Branson Parks and Recreation league director reserves the right to add or modify the by-laws and regulations to facilitate the smooth running of the league. A full list of USSSA rules and by-laws can be [found here](#).
- b. Each batter will begin with a 1-1 count and gets a courtesy foul during their at-bat. If a player hits a foul ball or swings and misses first, this will count as a strike then the count will be 1-2. If the batter hits a foul ball with the count being 1-2, that will be their courtesy. After that if a batter hits a foul ball or receives a strike the batter will be ruled out.

c. Any baserunner who leaves the bag early before the pitcher releases the ball or batter hits the ball will automatically be called out.

d. Teams must submit a line-up card at the start of each game to the umpire. If you do not have a lineup card, let the umpire know and they will provide one for you. This line-up card can be typed or hand-written and must be legible and show each player's first name, last name, number as well as any substitutes. **This line-up card will act as the official game roster to count towards a player's games played for playoff qualification.**

e. Each team must have a minimum of 7 players to start and continue the game. An out will be assessed for the next vacant batter if the lineup is under 9. Teams may elect to play the game under this minimum, and in doing so no more than 2 outs will be recorded for missing players. **In COED Division games, a minimum of 4 men and 4 women is needed to play. An out will not be assessed if a team is playing with 8 players (4 male/4 female). An out WILL be assessed if the team is playing with an odd number of players; the vacant spot will be an automatic out.** If a player arrives late to the game, they made be added to the end of the line-up assuming the player is listed as a substitute. **In COED, the batting lineup must alternate men and women. In the COED Division, when a walk is issued to a male batter and a female batter is up to bat next in the lineup, the female batter shall have the option to either accept a walk or take her turn at bat. If the female batter elects to walk, she shall be awarded first base and the male batter who received the walk shall advance to second base.**

If a walk is issued to a female batter, no special advancement shall be awarded. The female batter shall be awarded first base only, and the following male batter must take his turn at bat in accordance with the official batting order.

f. There is a grace time of 5 minutes from the scheduled start time. At x:05, the game clock will begin, and teams are expected to take the field; failure to take the field will be declared a forfeit.

g. The game will consist of **7 innings or 55 minutes**, whichever comes first. No new inning will be played once the clock shows "0." **The game clock will start immediately after the pre-game plate meeting, and the umpire will keep the official time, balls and strikes, and score (on their phone through the Youth Scoreboards QR code listed on both dugouts).**

h. During regular season play, games may end in a tie if the time limit or inning limit has been reached and the score is even. No extra innings will be played during regular season games.

i. All playoff games must have a winner. If a game is tied at the end of regulation, the following **tiebreaker procedure** will be used:

j. Each extra inning will begin with bases loaded and 2 outs.

k. The batter will start with a 3-2 count.

l. The inning will continue until the third out is made.

m. Both teams will receive an equal opportunity to bat unless the home team scores the winning run.

n. Extra innings will continue using this format until a winner is determined.

o. Home and away will be decided based on schedule.

p. One courtesy runner per inning (one time) may be used. The courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.

q. **In the COED Division, one courtesy runner per female and one courtesy runner per male per inning may be used. Females run for females, males run for males. The courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.**

r. If a second courtesy runner of the inning, or one not from the lineup, enters the game, the runner will be declared out.

s. **COED** – Each team is allowed 6 home runs per game. Any ball hit over the fence in fair territory and unaided by a defensive player after the 6th home run will be called OUT. In the 7th inning, (or extra innings in playoffs) the home team can hit a home run to come even in home runs as the visiting team, but they **CANNOT** go 1-up on the visiting team. Any ball hit over the fence in fair territory and unaided by a defensive player in violation of the 1-up rule will be called **OUT**. Mercy rule: 20 runs after 1 inning, 18 runs after 2 innings, 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings

CHURCH – Each team will be allowed 6 home runs per game. After both teams have reached their home run limit, the 1-up rule will be used. In the 7th inning (or extra innings in playoffs), the home team can hit a home run to come even in home runs as the visiting team, but they **CANNOT** go 1-up on the visiting team. Any ball hit over the fence in fair territory and unaided by a defensive player in violation of the 1-up rule will be called **OUT**. Mercy rule: 20 runs after 1 inning, 18 runs after 2 innings, 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings

MEN'S REC – Each team will be allowed 6 home runs per game. After both teams have reached their home run limit, the 1-up rule will be used. In the 7th inning (or extra innings in playoffs), the home team can hit a home run to come even in home runs as the visiting team, but they **CANNOT** go 1-up on the visiting team. Any ball hit over the fence in fair territory and unaided by a defensive player in violation of the 1-up rule will be called **OUT**. Mercy rule: 20 runs after 1 inning, 18 runs after 2 innings, 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings

MEN'S OPEN – Each team will be allowed 6 home runs per game. After both teams have reached their home run limit, the 1-up rule will be used. In the 7th inning (or extra innings in playoffs), the home team can hit a home run to come even in home runs as the visiting team, but they **CANNOT** go 1-up on the visiting team. Any ball hit over the fence in fair territory and unaided by a defensive player in violation of the 1-up rule will be called **OUT**. Mercy rule: 20 runs after 1 inning, 18 runs after 2 innings, 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings

5.) Official Game Cards

Team Managers are required to verify games scores and sign the official game card immediately following the completion of each game. Failure or refusal to sign the official game card at the end of the game assumes acceptance of the recorded score.

6.) Official Equipment Regulations

a. The **official softball** shall be a **12" 44/375 ball**. **In the COED women will have the option to use a 11" ball**. Must be provided by both teams. **If a ball has the USA (ASA) or USSSA Official Softball stamp/mark on it, it shall be considered legal.**

b. The official bat must bear the **USA (ASA) or USSSA stamp**. If a player enters the game using an illegal bat, it shall be the responsibility of the opposing team to recognize and appeal the use of the illegal bat to the umpire before the next legal pitch is thrown. Upon appeal, the umpire will inspect the bat and make a ruling on its legality. If the bat is determined to be illegal, the batter shall be declared out, and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. The illegal bat shall be removed from the game immediately and turned over to the League Director or Tournament Official, and the bat will not be allowed back into play for the remainder of that game. Continued use of illegal equipment after a ruling may result in additional penalties or ejection, at the discretion of the umpire and league administration.

7.) Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Actions, and Game Administration

a. Anyone sitting with a team is considered part of the team and can be ejected. **Coaches and players are responsible for the behavior of their fans.**

- b. Non-team members shall not be allowed on the bench.
- c. All bench personnel shall be listed on the official roster.
- d. **The following items are strictly prohibited from facility property and surrounding areas: gum, sunflower seeds, and metal cleats (on the field), all forms of tobacco (smoking or smokeless), vaping devices, nicotine alternatives (e.g., Zyn), and alcoholic beverages. Parking lots will serve as the designated smoking areas for ALL PARKS.**
- e. **Failure to Comply:** Non-compliance with the official's directive, or any subsequent violation, will result in immediate and permanent expulsion from the facility for the day.
- f. **Security Measures:** Law enforcement will be contacted to manage non-compliant individuals who refuse to vacate the premises.
- g. **Team Penalty:** For team sports, the individual will be recorded as an automatic "Out" (or equivalent official penalty) every time their position comes up in the official lineup for the remainder of the event. If a team loses one or more players and cannot field the minimum number of eligible players required to continue the game, the team shall forfeit the contest.
- h. Any fan or spectator who comes out of the stands onto the field to confront a game official or RecPlex staff shall be immediately removed from the facility. This includes before, during, and after a game.
- i. **Any team who forfeits half of their games (3 games for Single Headers) or (6 games for Double Headers) in a season will not be eligible for the playoffs. No refund will be granted.**
- j. The league director in charge of the program reserves the right to issue disciplinary action, including suspensions when deemed necessary for the overall health and benefit of the league. Disciplinary action cannot be appealed. All decisions are final.
- k. A team will forfeit if they receive three ejections in one game.
- l. Any player that receives 3 ejections in a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- m. Any rule misinterpretation protest must be brought to the umpire's attention prior to the next play or pitch. Protests will be settled immediately by the league supervisor; all decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

8.) Playoffs and Bracket-Play

- a. Teams in good standing will qualify for the single-elimination playoffs. Only one entry into playoffs will be allowed per team.
- b. Teams shall be seeded based on the following criteria:
 - c. Win percentage of games (i.e., a 5-1 record is the same as a 10-2 record)
 - d. Head-to-Head results
 - e. Head-to-Head Runs Differential
 - f. Head-to-Head Runs Allowed
 - g. Overall Runs Differential
 - h. Overall Runs Allowed
 - i. Coin Flip
- j. Bracket-play shall be a single-elimination tournament with regular season game rules applying.
- k. For individuals to qualify for playoffs, they must play in 50% of the team's scheduled games. A forfeit win shall be declared as participating in that game.

9.) Miscellaneous

- a. **Any rule not covered in these rules will be left to the discretion of the league director.**