



*Panama City Beach Parks & Recreation Department*  
*Adult Slow Pitch Softball*  
*Rules & Regulations*



**I League Alignment**

1. All leagues will be structured according to the number of teams involved each year.
2. Teams will be rated for league play by the Parks & Recreation Dept.
3. The Parks & Recreation Dept. reserves the right to form new leagues, transfer a team to a higher or lower division and possibly give point spreads to teams during the season to keep leagues balanced.

**II Eligibility**

1. **All Players must read and sign their team roster before playing in any league games.**
2. No men under the age of 18 years old will be allowed to participate in the Men's League.
3. No one under the age of 16 years old will be allowed to participate in the Coed League. All participants under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian release waiver attached to team roster before playing in any games.
4. To be eligible for the playoffs a player must play in a minimum of 4 regular season league games for his or her specific team. No exceptions.
5. Teams found using ineligible players will forfeit all games in which the players took part.
6. Player I.D.: Teams may ask the umpire to I.D. players per game if it is suspected they are ineligible. If the player is ineligible and has batted in the game, the game will be declared a forfeit. All players need to bring picture I.D. so they are eligible to play in league and playoff games.

**III Team Rosters**

1. Men's Leagues 15 player roster limit. Coed Leagues 18 player roster limit.
2. **Team rosters must be signed before playing in your first game.** Rosters are available at the scorekeeper's table. Please have all players print their name and signature as required.
3. **Roster additions can be made until 9pm at the End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of play for each League.**
4. **A ROSTER CHECK WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE EACH GAME AND IF A PLAYER HAS PARTICIPATED WITHOUT SIGNING, THIS WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT FOR THAT TEAM. To be eligible for all playoff games, players must have played in a minimum of 4 league games with their team. No Exceptions...**
5. In both the Men's and Coed League a player may only change teams before the start of league play. Players may not play on two teams. **No Exceptions.** Players may play on one team in the coed league and one team in the men's league. Teams are not allowed to combine teams due to shortage of players. **No Exceptions.**
6. **Team Uniforms** – It is required to have team uniforms with numbers. If you do not have team uniforms, we recommend that all players wear similar color shirts. Please keep uniforms "PG" Rated.

**IV League Rules:**

1. **STRIKE / BALL RULE – 1 & 1 Count when batter enters the box. No Extra Foul Ball.**
2. **We Will Provide the BATS!** – Any player that uses a bat other than the bat provided for the league will be ejected from the game and suspended for the next two games. No Exceptions.
3. All Leagues will play with 53 Foot Pitching Mound & 70 Foot Bases. Pitching Screens will be used (see rule 14).
4. USSSA current year rulebook will be in effect plus locally adopted rules.
5. Games will be 7 innings or 75 minutes, whichever comes first.
6. Line-up cards are due **5 minutes** before game time. **First & last names plus jersey no.** No defensive positions needed. Once Umpire officially calls Play Ball, game time will start. If teams have not submitted lineup to scorekeeper, extra time will not be added to the end of the game. It is the responsibility of team managers to have lineups in 5 minutes before game time.
7. A team must have 8 eligible players to start and finish a game or game will be declared a forfeit. Coed teams must have a minimum of 4 men and 4 women to begin a game. For the Men's and Coed Leagues, Outs will be recorded to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> players not in the lineup. No exceptions, this includes injured players & ejected players. Each team must provide a catcher, no exceptions...  
Late arriving players may be added to the end of the batting order & may enter game during time out.
8. **No infield or batting practice allowed on the game field.**
9. A team will have the option of batting up to **14 players** in the **Men's League** and **14 Players** in the **Coed League**, with a maximum of 10 defensive players.
10. Jewelry Rule: No earrings, necklaces, or exposed rings allowed. Exception, approval from Softball Coordinator.

11. No steel cleats allowed. Penalty: Automatic Ejection. No suspension & No probation.
12. Throwing of the bat, Penalty. Team Warning. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense Automatic Ejection. No suspension & No Probation.
13. **Pitching Rules:** USSSA pitching rules & Strike Zone. 3 feet to 10 feet from the point of release.  
*A Pitching Safety Screen will be used for all leagues.*
14. **Pitching Safety Screen Rules:** The Pitching Safety Screen will be placed in the Pitching Square by pitcher. The screen must be at all times on the front line of the pitching box on either the left side or the right side. The Pitching Box Dimensions will be from the middle of the pitching rubber (3 feet in front, 6 feet in back and 2 feet to the left and 2 feet to the right). There will be a middle chalk line dividing the box. If the pitching screen is hit by a batted ball, the ball will be declared dead and batter is out.
15. Third strike foul ball rule will be in effect. No extra foul ball allowed.
16. Intentional walks: Pitcher should announce “walk him/her”
17. A batter’s box will be used. If a batter steps out of the box or in front, or on top of home plate/mat and makes contact with the ball; ball is declared dead and batter is out. *Batter’s Box is 4 feet wide & 6 feet long.*
18. **Home Run Rule:**  
**Men’s Comp League-** Each team will bid on Home Runs- 3 or 6, Low bid always wins.  
**Men’s Rec League-** Each team will have a designated home run hitter and will be allowed to hit unlimited home runs. That player must be announced before the game and can’t be changed. If the home run hitter is walked he is automatically awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> base.  
**Coed Rec League-** Home Runs for Men same as Men’s Rec & Unlimited Home Runs for Women.  
**Coed Comp League-** Each team will bid on Home Runs- 3 or 6 & Unlimited Home Runs for Women.  
*“Inning Ending Out will be recorded for any Home Runs over the limit”.*
19. Courtesy Runners are not allowed.
20. If a player is injured or ejected from a game, and the team has no replacements, an out will be recorded when he/she comes to bat.
21. **Leaving the Base Early:** Runners may not leave the base until the ball has been hit. Penalty – No Pitch is declared, ball dead and runner is out.
22. **Fake Tags:** In the event of a fake tag by a fielder attempting a runner to slide without having possession of the ball, ball will be declared dead. The umpire shall award the runner an extra base, and the fielder will be ejected from the game.
23. **Tie Breaker:** If a game is tied after regulation time or seven (7) innings, Game will be declared a TIE. **For the Playoffs** if game is tied after regulation time, each team will put a runner on 1st and 2nd base during their at bat in extra innings. The runners must be their last two batters of the previous inning. For Championship Games, games will be played out as normal.
24. **Overthrows:** Runners are awarded 2 bases on overthrows (into dead ball territory) from the last base they occupied at time of the throw, Regardless of who made the throw, two bases are awarded from the last base touched at the time the ball left the hand.
25. **Speed up Rule:** Beginning of the game, 3 warm up pitches and a maximum of two minutes. At the beginning of each inning, 1 warm up pitch & batter up. Maximum of 1 minute between innings to deliver first pitch or ball one will be announced by the umpire. Also, batter must be in batter’s box when umpire announces play ball or strike one will be announced by the umpire. Once pitcher has ball & batter is in the box, the pitcher has 5 seconds to pitch ball.
26. **Re-Entry Rule:** A batter that is replaced in the line-up may re-enter the game only once in his/her original bating position. The starting player and their substitute MAY NOT be in the line-up at the same time. If a player re-enters the game a second time OR a player re-enters the game in a position in the batting order other than their original starting or substitute position, this is considered an ILLEGAL re-entry.
27. **Slide Rule:**
  - a. If a base runner deliberately takes out a fielder, the base runner will be called out, ejected from the game and suspended from the next 2 games. Please understand that this has to be deliberate and with cause to take out a fielder. In some cases, a fielder may accidentally be in the base path, in front of, or blocking the base. In the discretion of the umpire, it is possible that in some cases the fielder is blocking the base and the runner had no choice. Remember this is a Recreational League, Keep it safe.
  - b. If a base runner does not slide or get out of the way causing a possible double play to be broken up, the umpire will declare double play interference and an automatic 2 outs will be awarded to the defensive team. No ejection of players.
28. **Run Rule:** 20 Run Rule after 3 complete innings. 15 Run Rule after 4 complete innings. 10 Run Rule after 5 complete innings. **This rule does not to apply to teams giving point spreads if those competitive teams are “Run Ruled”. They will be given an Opportunity to come back...**



## 29. Coed Special Rules:

- A. Teams must alternate the batting order; male/female. **NO Exceptions.** For injured players and ejected players an out will be recorded if there are no replacement players available.
- B. A team may bat up to 14 players, with maximum of 10 defensive players. A team may begin a game with Minimum of 4 male batters & 4 female batters with outs recorded to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> batter.
- C. A team may never bat two or more males or two or more females consecutively in the batting order. Exception, if a player is injured, ejected or if a team is playing with 9 players. However, if this happens, there will be an out recorded in between batters. Example for playing with 9 players: (5 men and 4 women); After the 5<sup>th</sup> male batter bats, there will be an out recorded to the #10 batter which is supposed to be a female batter. Another Example: 12 players (6 men & 6 women) a male batter gets injured or ejected and the team has no replacements; an out will be recorded each time his slot comes up to bat.
- D. **If a male batter WALKS**, The female batter next in order has an option to walk or hit. If the male homerun hitter walks, the female batter next in order has an option to hit or take a “double”.
- E. **The Coed League will observe the Second Home Plate Rule-** Defensive players must touch home plate for a force out and Runners must touch the second home plate to score a run before force out is made. This rule has been put in place to avoid collisions at home plate. No Tag Plays. An out is recorded by the defensive team by a force out only by touching home plate. Tagging the runner or touching the second home plate does not count as an out. No exceptions. \*\*\*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Plate will be placed 8 feet directly to the right of the original home plate and 70 feet from third base. **A commitment line will be placed 20 feet** from home plate on the third base line that commits the runner once he/she crosses or touches line to go to home plate. This will not allow any tag plays from the defensive team past that line.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Example:** Runner coming from 3<sup>rd</sup> base to touch the 2<sup>nd</sup> home plate. Catcher catches ball & tags original home plate for a force out before runner tags 2<sup>nd</sup> home plate. Runner is out..  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Example:** Runner passes the commitment line, defensive team throws a wild ball up the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line, catcher catches ball but must tag original home plate. Catcher cannot tag runner. Runner touches 2<sup>nd</sup> home plate before the catcher can touch the original home plate for a force out. Runner is declared safe.

### Coed Defensive Alignment:

- F. There must always be an even amount of male & females in the field. Exceptions if your team has (9) players. If that occurs a team is allowed (5) male & (4) Female or (4) male & (5) Female players on defense.
- G. **Outfield Line & Infield Alignment** - When females are batting, there must be (6) infielders at all times positioned on the dirt until pitch is hit. All remaining outfielders must position themselves behind the outfield line **200 Feet** from home plate. Penalty – automatic double & runners advance 2 bases. Outfield line will also be designated by (3) small soft cones (left field line, right field line & center field).

## V Forfeits

1. Forfeit time is the scheduled game time.
2. Failure to (8) eight players for men’s & coed teams will constitute a forfeit. See “Rule 7”
3. Forfeited games will not be officiated.
4. A team that forfeits will receive 1 ½ losses in the standings.
5. If a team forfeits 3 league games, that team will be eliminated from the league and not eligible for the playoffs. **No Exceptions.**



## VI Protests

1. A judgement call cannot be protested.
2. Protests will be accepted for consideration only on player eligibility and rule misinterpretations.
3. Rule misinterpretation must be protested before next legal pitch or if on the last play of the game, before the umpire leaves the playing field. Team manager must write protest in the score book, briefly explain protest in written form & sign book before completion of next pitch.
4. If you suspect that a team used an ineligible player against your team, you have until 5:00 pm the next working day to notify the league director of the suspected violation. **All protests must be in writing and by the team manager.** .
5. If it is found that a team used an ineligible player, that team will automatically forfeit that game.
6. Any protests filed after time limit has expired will not be accepted.

## VII Player Misconduct Rules

1. If a player or manager is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike like conduct, he/she will be suspended for the next **2 games** and placed on probation for the rest of the season. If a player plays on 2 teams he/she is suspended from all play until the 2 game suspension is fulfilled by the team where the ejection occurred.

2. If a player or manager is ejected from a second game or facility, he/she will be suspended for the rest of the season including playoff games.
3. Player or Manager Ejection: The player or manager who has been ejected must immediately leave the facility, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Also the player or manager who is serving the 2 game suspensions will not be permitted at the facility until the suspension is fulfilled.
4. Any player or manager who threatens or places his/her hands on an umpire, league official, or any player will automatically be suspended for one calendar year or life from all recreational activities and be subject to Florida State Laws.
5. Only a manager or assistant manager can protest a rules misinterpretation. A player other than the designated manager or assistant manager who protests a call will be ejected from the game.
6. **Profanity Rule:** 1<sup>st</sup> time-team warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> time-automatic ejection of that player.  
When a team gets their first warning from the umpire, any player on that team that uses profanity will be ejected from the game and suspended for 2 games.
7. Disciplinary action is subject to review and modification at the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Dept.
8. **NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED: Parks and Recreation Staff, Umpires and Scorekeepers have the right to eject participants from the facility for having alcohol. Automatic 2 game suspension.**

## **VIII Playoffs/ End of the Season Tournament**

1. Single elimination playoff. All teams make the playoffs.
2. All games observe regular season rules.. For the Championship Game, there will be a 2 hour time limit. Tie Breaker Rule will be used for all playoff games except the championship.  
*If a game is tied after regulation time or seven (7) innings **For the Playoffs** each team will put a runner on 1st and 2nd base during their at bat in extra innings. The runners must be their last two batters of the previous inning. **For Championship Games, games will be played out as normal. All ties will be played out until a winner is decided.***
3. Rosters will be checked at the beginning of each game. All players participating in each playoff game must be written into the official scorebook before the first pitch. Late arriving players **must be** written in the scorebook as substitute players. Any player that is not on the roster will not be eligible to play. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
4. Divisional ties will be resolved by head to head wins first. If still tied flip of the coin.
5. Before all playoff games, flip a coin for home team. Exception unless changed in the tournament schedule.

## **IX Special League Notes**

1. **Scheduling Problems:** The Parks & Recreation Department cannot accommodate scheduling problems of teams. Teams must play as scheduled. Games will not be rescheduled due to a team's inability to get enough players.
2. **The Parks & Recreation Dept.** reserves the right to alter, interpret and administer all rules and situations concerning the league.
3. **NO DOGS ALLOWED:** For the safety of the league, please keep your dogs at home. Violators will be assessed a fine for bringing dogs to the fields.
4. **NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED: ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED FROM THE FACILITY!!**
5. **NO GOLF CARTS INSIDE THE SPORTS COMPLEX**
6. **NO MUSIC** will be allowed inside the complex or dugout during the game.

