

**PALATINE PARK DISTRICT  
14" CO-REC SOFTBALL  
LEAGUE RULES**

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**Unless stated below, 14" ASA Slow Pitch Rules will govern play.**

*General Information*

1. All games will be played at Osage Park
2. Rules – Official ASA rules will be observed. House rules will override any situation not specifically covered by league rules or the official softball rules will fall under the decision of the umpire, softball supervisor, or Park District staff
3. Ground rules – Ground rules will vary with each diamond. Rules will be established with umpire before each game. League rules may not be suspended. Ground rules may change with different umpires. Captains make sure you are fully aware of any discrepancies and go over them with the umpire before the start of the game.
4. Game
  - A. All games will have (1) hour time limit. No inning will start after one hour has expired. No game can end in a tie. Games will be played until there is a winner. International rule will be used for extra innings. The one hour limit will start when the umpire says “Play Ball”. The umpires and/or supervisors watch will be the official time keeping device. The umpire does not have to give the team time remaining accounts.
  - B. All games are scheduled for seven innings, unless called due to inclement weather or time, at the discretion of the umpire.
  - C. Game time is forfeit time.
  - D. Completion of (5) five innings will constitute a legal game. A game being terminated by inclement weather will be a completed game if five (5) innings have been completed or, if the home team is leading after 4-1/2 innings. The umpire and field supervisor shall have the authority to determine the continuation or calling of games due to inclement weather.
  - E. Base distance 60 feet  
Pitching distance 38 feet  
Pitching Arch Limits 6’ minimum and 12’ maximum
5. Number of players – Teams must have at least eight (8) players to start a game. All players must be on the official roster. A team consist of 5 men and 5 women: however, a team may play with more women than men (i.e. if you have 8 players to start the game, 4 must be women). If the game starts with the defensive team only having nine (9) players, the tenth player can enter the field at any time. The umpire and opposing manager must be made aware of the situation before the game.

6. Courtesy runners – The player who makes the last out may be designated as a courtesy runner. However, men must run for men, and women must run for women. Please note only the players that made the last out may return as a courtesy runner ( i.e. last male out runs for male runner.). Courtesy runners do not have to be approved before the game and may be used at any time.
7. No lead-off's allowed. Runner may leave base when pitch crosses home plate.
8. A player must attempt to avoid contact with a person covering the base with the ball.
9. Make-up-games – Rainouts will be rescheduled on regular game day whenever possible; however, if we have several rainouts they will be scheduled for Monday. Teams will be contacted as well as umpires. A minimum of one-week notice will be given. Dates will be final
10. Pitching – The pitcher can be a man or woman. They will have two (2) hesitations before mandatory delivery to the plate.
11. Defense positioning, ten players: (five male and five female) with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and the outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher or catcher.
12. Men will bat natural handed.
13. The batting order must alternate men and women. A team can bat as many as 14 players. However, for every male batter, there must be a female batter. The maximum number of males that can bat is seven if there are seven females that bat as well.
14. If a male batter is pitched four balls he has two (2) options:
  - a. Take a walk to first
  - b. Take another 1 and 1 count. If he walks again he takes second base  
(this does not automatically walk the next female batter)
15. A third strike dead ball is a dead ball. Runners cannot advance.
16. One-on-one count will be used for all leagues.
17. If one team is ahead by 15 or more runs at the end of five innings or ten or more runs at the end of six innings the game is complete.
18. Rosters.
  - a. Rosters can have a maximum of twenty (20)
  - b. Players must sign roster before participating. Rosters and signatures are subject to a spot check.
  - c. Changes may not be made after the start of the third game.
  - d. All players must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
  - e. Players may play for one team only.
  - f. If eligibility is questioned on a player, the umpire shall have all players sign score book next to name on the page. Signatures will be checked by the League Supervisor after the game. If an ineligible player is determined, the team will forfeit that game. If a player refuses to sign the book, this also constitutes a

forfeit.

19. Game Ball – The home team will receive the game ball.
20. Decisions – The Athletic Coordinator is the league manager and his/her decision is final.
21. Equipment
  - A. Shoes- Only rubber softball spikes or tennis shoes may be worn. No metal or removable cleats permitted.
  - B. Gloves – only women are allowed to use gloves
  - C. Bats:
    1. Any bat may be used if marked “OFFICIAL SOFTBALL” by manufacturer and has not been altered. There must be 10-15” of tape for a safety grip. If there is any doubt concerning bats, it is the responsibility of each team captain to bring these bats to the attention of the umpire and opposing team captain for approval. Final decisions are made by the umpire.
    2. Aluminum bats are permissible if they conform to the rule and are in one piece.
22. BLOOD RULE - Any player who is bleeding must be removed from the game until the bleeding has stopped and all bloodied clothing has been changed. If a runner begins to bleed, a mandatory courtesy runner will be utilized until the bleeding can be stopped, the wound can be dressed, and any bloodied clothing is changed. The courtesy runner shall be the person making the last out. If a fielder begins to bleed, a courtesy fielder will be used until the bleeding has stopped, the wound has been dressed, and any bloodied clothing has been changed. The courtesy fielder can be any player that is not in the batting order at that time. As soon as the fielder is ready, he may enter the game.