

## **2019 PAC SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND CLARIFICATIONS**

### **I. EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY HOME TEAM**

- A. Two (2) ASA certified slow pitch/restricted flight 12 inch softballs
- B. Home plate, pitching rubber, bases (including double 1st base) and 2 cones
- C. Umpire may call forfeit if the home team is not prepared.

### **II. FIELD**

- A. On game day, the HOME team is responsible for reporting the condition of the field to the commissioner by 4:00pm.
  - 1. If the field is unplayable, the game will be moved to another available field. If there are not available fields, the game will be rescheduled.
  - 2. If the home team is not able to check the field, contact either another home team that will already be checking fields, or commissioners.
- B. Bases are 65 feet. Unless a tape measure is available, the umpire will set the bases and be the final judge as to the 65 foot distance.
- C. Cones will be placed on each foul line approximately 140 feet from home plate.
  - 1. When a woman is batting, 3 outfielders must remain behind the cones.
  - 2. If, the defensive team is in violation, the umpire will issue a warning.
  - 3. A second violation during the same at-bat, will result in awarding first base to the female batter.

### **III. OFFICIAL GAMES**

- A. Games will begin at 6:15pm during April. Games will begin at 6:30pm from May through the end of the July. Forfeit time is 15 minutes after game start time.
- B. Official game: A game played 4 complete innings (3.5 if the home team is ahead), and is stopped because of rain, darkness, etc., shall be considered a complete game. In the case of darkness, the umpire will give a warning before the last inning to be completed.
- C. Playoffs Exception: During the playoffs, all games must be completed. If a game is stopped by rain, darkness, etc., before the fourth inning, it will be re-played from the beginning. If it is stopped past the fourth inning, it will continue from the spot where it ended.
- D. Fourteen Run Rule: If a team is ahead by fourteen (14) runs after five (5) complete innings (4-1/2 if the home team is ahead), the game is OVER. There is no option. After 5 complete innings, if either team goes ahead by 14 runs, the game is over immediately. Home team does not get another chance to hit. This does not apply to playoffs, which will be played to completion
  - a. Playoffs Exception – no run rule in the playoffs.
- E. Forfeits: A game that is forfeited (i.e. a team is a no show, is not prepared or does not have enough players by game start) is a score by rule of 7-0, per ASA Rules.
- F. Rescheduling: Please reschedule games within 1 week of the original date. The rescheduled date must be prior to July 5<sup>th</sup>. Please NOTE: The majority of Wednesdays only have 1 game / field available for umpiring reasons.

#### **IV. GAME LINEUPS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

- A. ASA substitution rules apply (See ASA Rule Books)
  - 1. Starter Return: If you substitute for a starter, the starter may return only once.
  - 2. Once a starter has returned, the substitute cannot re-enter the game.
    - 4. If a substitute is entered for a substitute the original starter cannot re-enter the game.
    - 5. The starter must return to their original position in the batting order, not the field position.
- B. Reporting changes: All changes relating to substitutions **MUST** be reported to the umpire **AND** to the opposing team. Moving defensive players around on the field does not have to be reported to anyone. Penalty will be imposed under the Illegal Substitute rule.
- C. Three (3) women must be in the lineup and in the field at all times.
  - 1. If a team only has 2 women, they can only field 9 players.
  - 2. The missing woman is placed in the first slot in the batting order of 10 total batters including the missing female, and an automatic out will be recorded whenever this slot in the batting order occurs.
  - 3. The missing woman can be placed into the game as soon as she arrives, and into that lead off batting position that was an out/vacant.
  - 4. In case of an injury and no available substitute, the team can continue playing with one less player (and can only then field 9 players, 2 women, and 7 men). The missing player will be an out when it is their time to bat. No team can play with less than nine players--it becomes a forfeit.
  - 5. The penalized team may **not** use an Extra Hitter at any time, **even after the missing player arrives**.
- D. Shorthanded Rule (this is a standard ASA Rule, page 43 of your Manual):
  - 1. A game may start or end with one less than required to play (our league requires 10 players: 10 fielders, optional 11<sup>th</sup> Extra Hitter).
  - 2. If a team only has 2 women- see the section directly above this.
  - 3. If a team has at least 3 female, but still only 9 players total: the vacant position must be listed last in the batting order, and an out recorded each time the vacant position in the batting order is scheduled to bat.
  - 4. A Shorthanded team may not use an Extra Hitter.
- E. Women cannot bat back-to-back, unless there are more than 3 women in the lineup. Then only 2 women can bat back-to-back.
- F. Contrary to ASA rules, intentionally walking a male batter to get to a female batter is permitted.
- G. Extra Hitter: Each team has the option, without permission from the opposing team, of using an 11th batter (EH) at the start of the game. **An EH cannot be added during the game**. The only player who can be added during the game is the third woman.

#### **V. BATTING VIOLATIONS**

- A. Third strike rule: Contrary to ASA rules, a foul after 2 strikes will not be an out.

- B. Stepping on or across home plate: When swinging the bat and making contact on a fair or foul ball, the batter is out if their foot touches any part of home plate or their entire foot lands in front of or behind home plate. This will be enforced.
- C. Thrown bat warning: If a batter throws a bat in a dangerous manner, the umpire will issue a warning to their team. A second warning to that team will be declared out. This pertains to balls hit fair or foul, or on a missed swing.
- D. Bats: Bats must comply with the ASA regulations as found in the Official Rules of Softball Participant Manual 2015, page 36. Bats must bear either the ASA year 2000, 2004, or 2013 certification mark. Even if a bat has the ASA Cert mark, it cannot be listed on this list of bats NOT APPROVED FOR USE despite that certification: <http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp>.

## **VI. BASE RUNNING**

- A. Courtesy Runner: Courtesy runners are permitted for an injured player or player with an injury. The courtesy runner will be a roster player of the same gender who has made the last out in the lineup.
  - a. One injured player per gender from each team may request a courtesy runner during a game. This should be discussed between both teams and the umpire prior to the start of the game.
- B. Sliding base rule: When sliding, if a base becomes dislodged, the player must stay in the original spot of the base to be considered safe. If the runner goes after the dislodged base and is tagged with the ball by the defensive player, the runner is out.

## **VII. Slide or avoid rule.**

- A. No player can block the plate or a base without the ball. This is a defensive obstruction, and the umpire will call it.
- B. When a defensive player has the ball, and the runner remains on their feet and crashes into the defensive player, the runner is out. NOTE: If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. An errant throw drawing the defensive player into the path of the runner is not interference.
- C. This rule does not eliminate accidental contact with a fielder, as long as the runner is attempting to avoid the fielder while trying to get to the base. The umpire will be the final judge on whether or not the runner was trying to avoid the fielder.

## **VIII. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND EJECTIONS**

- A. Rosters – Team rosters must be submitted prior to the first game of the season. Any team that does not submit their roster will forfeit their games until the roster has been submitted.
  - 1. Teams should have a minimum of 10 players on their roster.
  - 2. Age: Minimum age for league participation is 18 years old. No exceptions.
  - 3. Teams must have at least 3 women on the roster.
  - 4. Teams may have no more than 4 ringers in the lineup at any one time. Teams may check on the validity of the player, and the team using more

- ringers is subject to a forfeit. Ringers may be grandfathered in (former employees that remain on a team will not be counted as ringers).
5. Interns are permitted to play and are counted as new employees.
  6. Players must play at least 5 league games for during the regular season in order to be eligible for the playoff roster.
  7. New employees are an exception, but must show proof of employment.
- B. Protests: Teams will be able to protest a roster violation at any time to the umpire, or after the game to the commissioner. The protest will be reviewed in a timely manner. All other rule enforcement is subject to the umpire's final discretion in accordance with ASA and the rules listed herein.
- C. Trash talk: Abusive on continuous "trash talk" will not be tolerated. If the umpire believes this talk has gone too far, both teams will receive a warning to stop. In the umpire's judgment, if anyone continues to be abusive, the offender(s) will be ejected. Additional abuse by the offender will result in a forfeit.
- D. Ejections: An ejection by an umpire will carry a one-game suspension for players involved. A second ejection to the same player carries a three-game suspension.

## **IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Fees: all league fees must be paid by game 5 or halfway through the regular season, whichever comes first.
- B. Tie-Breakers: to determine playoff standings tie-breakers will be determined by the following criteria.
- a. If two teams are tied, Head to Head – the team that won their head to head regular season game gets the advantage.
  - b. If 3 or more teams are tied and some form of head to head cannot determine who gets the advantage (i.e. Team A beat B; B beat C; and C beat A): Run Differential. The teams tied will be ranked by Regular Season Run Differential. The team with the higher/better run differential gets the advantage. (in the off chance that 2 of the 3 or more teams have the same run differential, we will try to break the tie by separating those teams within run differential- i.e., teams A and B have the same differential that is better than team C. In that scenario, team C would be last, and then we'd break the tie between A and B via Head-to-Head since team C was deemed last place of the three, leaving 2 teams tied.
    - i. If more than 2 teams are still tied- the tie breaker will go to whoever had the better/fewer runs against.
- C. Playoff Scheduling / Format:
- a. Playoff scheduling will be completed in mid-June. The schedule will be laid out by Tournament Seed and placed on dates/fields. Team names will be added once the final standings are complete.
  - b. Teams will be expected to play on the dates/fields that their team falls into.
  - c. The top 8 teams will qualify for playoffs.
    - i. Round 1 (Quarter Finals) will be single-elimination, 1 vs 8; 2 vs 7; 3 vs 6; 4 vs 5. The better seed will be home team.
    - ii. Semi-Finals and The Finals will be best-of-three series, with the higher/better seed being home team.