

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

(REVISED 6.16.16)

The City of Yorba Linda will not assume responsibility for injury.
EVERY PLAYER PARTICIPATES AT THEIR OWN RISK

SPORTSMANSHIP

- I. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans. Any unsportsmanlike conduct by managers, players, or fans may result in an ejection from the game and facility and/or suspension from participating in next scheduled game or further.
- II. The use of profanity is prohibited. Multiple warnings for profanity may result in an ejection from the current game and facility and also suspension from participating in at least the next scheduled game.
- III. The use of liquor (alcohol) or controlled substances will be forbidden on the premises including the parking lot. Any player **suspected** of being intoxicated before or during the game will be ejected immediately and serve a one game suspension. For a second offense, the player will be expelled from the League.
- IV. City Staff Members, Umpires, MLS staff are here to assist you, please treat them with respect. Verbal and physical abuse of City Staff Members, Umpires, MLS Staff, or fans may result in ejection from the current game and facility and a suspension from the next scheduled game. City Staff Members are eligible to assess ejections and expulsions.
- V. Ongoing problems with players and/or teams may result in suspension or expulsion from participation in the City of Yorba Linda Adult Sports Leagues.

RULES OF PLAY

I. Players

- A. Players must be at least 18 years of age.
- B. An "Illegal" player is defined as any player that is not listed nor has signed the current Team Roster. Players must have at least 9 plate appearances to be playoff eligible.
- C. A person may play on only one City of Yorba Linda team per division per season.
- D. Players should have picture ID at all games. If a question arises over the legality of a player and the player in question does not have proper ID, then he or she will not be allowed to play in the game until correct ID is established.
- E. If, at the sole discretion of the League Director, it is determined that an illegal player is used, the offending team shall:
 1. Upon the first offense, forfeit the game or games in which the illegal player was used.
 2. Upon a second offense, be suspended from the next season of play.

II. League Format

- A. A minimum of Ten (10) league games will be played during the season.
- B. Teams will be divided into leagues based on ability. Ability will be based on past performance.
- C. All leagues will consist of up to six teams. Each team will play every team unless otherwise specified.
- D. Ties in the standings will be broken in the following procedure:
 1. Record against opposing team(s), during regular season play. If tied in wins, then head to head run differential.
 2. Lowest average number of runs allowed during regular season play.
NOTE: Any team forfeiting a game used in deciding tiebreaker will automatically lose the tiebreaker.

III. Equipment

A. Bats

1. Bats legal for use in the City of Yorba Linda Adult Softball League are outlined on the Official ASA Bat List.
2. Bats not included on the Official ASA Bat List must be approved by the League Coordinator prior to game use.
3. A.S.A. "Official Softball" stamp does not guarantee approval for use in the City of Yorba Linda Adult Softball League.
4. Bats in the Men's division shall be Manufacturer Stamped "ASA Softball" and have a Bat Performance Factor (BPF Rating) not exceeding 1.20.
 - a. Co-Ed Division: Only all aluminum barreled bats are permitted for use by men in the Coed divisions. Any composite barreled bats are not permitted for use by men in the Coed divisions. Females may use any bat that is currently ASA legal.
5. Bat Approval Process
 - a. Please contact League Director at 714-961-7165 for any bat inquiries.
 - b. Although it may be possible, to get a bat approval by the league coordinator at the fields, IT IS NOT GUARANTEED, NOR SHOULD IT BE ASSUMED that a bat will get approved at the fields.

B. Balls

1. The official ball for all Men's and Co-ed divisions will be:
 - a. **325 lbs. .40 COR**
 - b. An equivalent ball of another brand.

C. Shoes

1. All players must wear shoes.
2. Metal cleats are not permitted in any division.

IV. Games will be played under the current SCMAF Softball Rules with the following changes and clarifications:

- A. Base runners may not leave the base at any time until the pitcher releases the ball. (**Penalty:** "No-Pitch" is called and the runner is out. After any legal pitch, if the ball is thrown to the base before the runner retouches, the runner is **forced out**. On a dropped or over thrown pickoff attempt, all runners may advance at their own risk without retouching the base.
- B. ***Substitution/Batting Order:*** Lineups should be final five (5) minutes prior to game time. A team may list any combination of eight (8) to eighteen (16) roster players in the batting order and play any ten (10) on defense, with any remaining players being withheld as substitutes. Players arriving after the first pitch of the game must be added immediately to the bottom of the lineup. A late arriving player may take a defensive position on the field immediately.
- C. ***Dead Ball Appeal Play:*** Any player on the field of play, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base. An appeal may also be made for a runner leaving a base too soon once the ball has been returned to the infield and time has been called by the umpire. There is no need for a throw to a base or tag of appealed runner.
- D. All batters will start with a 1 and 1 count.
- E. A double base is permitted at first base.
 - 1. A batted ball hitting the inside base shall be declared fair and a batted ball hitting the outside base shall be declared foul.
 - 2. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the inside base, and the batter-runner must use the outside base. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield where there is no play being made at the double base, the runner may touch either base.
 - 3. The batter-runner must use the outside base. Should he/she reach and go beyond first base, he/she must return to the inside base.
 - 4. Should the batter-runner round the base on a hit to the infield or outfield, he/she must return to the inside base.
 - 5. On any force-out attempt by the defense from the foul side of first base, the defense and batter-runner may use either base.
 - 6. In the case that the batter-runner touches the incorrect base, it shall be treated as though the runner missed the base. If an appeal is made prior to the batter-runner returning to the base, said batter-runner shall be declared out.
- F. Any play at home plate requires the runner to either slide or veer away from home plate. In the case of a runner veering away from the plate he/she must attempt to stay within a reasonable distance from the plate, but is required to avoid contact with the catcher.
- G. The base runner or batter/runner is out when he/she does not slide or attempt to get around the fielder when the fielder who has the ball is waiting to tag the runner out, or the runner was forced out.

- H. When a base runner or batter/runner who comes into a base standing causes contact or interference with a fielder attempting a double play, the interfering runner and the runner who could have been put out without interference shall both be declared out.
- I. No sliding at first base (**Penalty**-runner is out, ball is dead). Runners may dive back or slide back to all three (3) bases.
- J. At no time do we insist or make it mandatory for anyone to slide, only to avoid interference with a fielder.
- K. **Scorekeeping:** Each team should keep its own official scorebook in case of an error in the scoring. The scorekeeper's score is final, unless it can be proved erroneous by scorebooks, and has to be challenged prior to the start of the following inning.
- L. The scorekeeper will keep the official time.
- M. **Time Limit:** 1 hour and 10 minutes. There is a 10 minute grace period for the first game, and a 5 minute grace period for the second and third games of the night. All minutes used during the grace period will come off of the hour and ten minute time limit.
 - 1. Games tied after 7 innings will **not** be continued, even if the time limit has not expired.
 - 2. Any inning started must be completed unless the home team is ahead.
- N. If a team is twenty (20) or more runs ahead after four (4) innings the game is called.
- O. No batting or infield practice is allowed on the field before games
- P. A game shall be forfeited if:
 - 1. A team fails to field eight (8) or more players when the umpire calls "Play Ball."
 - 2. If, in the opinion of the umpire, the manager does not have control of his team.
 - 3. Continued delay of game after the umpire has called "Play Ball."
 - 4. Continued harassment of City Staff, MLS officials, or opposing players.

VI. Co-Ed League Rules

- A. The pitching height limit for the Coed league is 12 feet.
- B. When a female is at bat a minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind an outfield restriction line (160' arc from home plate) until the batter contacts the pitch. If a rover is used, the player can be male or female.
- C. A minimum of 3 fielders must start behind the restriction line, regardless of the gender of the batter.
- D. Any play at home plate requires the runner to either slide or veer away from home plate. In the case of a runner veering away from the plate he/she must attempt to stay within a reasonable distance from the plate, but is required to avoid contact.
- E. The base runner or batter/runner is out when he/she does not slide or attempt to get around the fielder when the fielder who has the ball is waiting to tag the runner out, or the runner was forced out.
- F. When a base runner or batter/runner who comes into a base standing causes contact or interference with a fielder attempting a double play, the interfering runner and the runner who could have been put out without interference shall both be declared out.
- G. At no time do we insist or make it mandatory for anyone to slide, only to avoid interference with a fielder.
- H. A maximum of five (5) men or a minimum of four (4) women may be in the field at any one time. **A team, which only has four females, may play the game with five males on defense. You may play with six females and four males on defense.** If a team does not have at least four (4) females and four (4) males on defense, it must forfeit the game.

- I. The batting order may consist of an odd number of males and females, but every other person in the order must be a female. **Males may never bat in consecutive order in the line up.** If there are an odd number of players, and the odd person is a male, a rotating male/female batting order may be used. Two females *may* bat consecutively.
- J. A male, who is walked on three (3) consecutive balls without any strikes received during his time at bat or intentionally walked prior to any pitches, will be awarded second base. Base runners may advance only if forced to vacate their bases. NOTE: After a male batter receives one or more strikes and is then issued an intentional walk, he shall be awarded first base.

VII. Forfeit Procedures

- A. A game shall be called a forfeit if...
 1. A team fails to have eight (8) players on the field at game time.
 2. In the opinion of the officials, a manager does not have complete control of his team.
 3. Continued harassment of the official.

VIII. Protests – Please see the Protests section in the SCMAF Book

- A. All protests must be submitted to the Travis Ranch Activity Center, 5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, no later than 5:00pm the following day.
- B. Protests must be clearly written and accompanied by the required **\$25.00 cash-filing fee**. If a protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned. **No protest will be considered or honored on any official's judgment call.**
- C. All protests must be stated to the umpire and the opposing manager before the next pitch stating the exact reason of the protest with the exception of protests regarding illegal players. The umpire shall note the protesting manager's statement exactly.
- D. Protests regarding illegal players must be presented to the umpire between the top or bottom of any inning during the game. At this time, the umpire may ask the player in question for proper identification. If proper identification can't be supplied within three minutes, the game shall be continued and the player in question will not be allowed to re-enter the game until proper identification is presented. The umpire shall note on the scorecard the time, inning and score at the time of the protest.
- E. Three (3) minutes will be allowed for a protest and added onto the end of the game.
- F. If a protest is upheld, the game will be finished from the exact point where the protest was made with the exception of protests for an illegal player.
- G. The same score, outs, and position of base runners will be used.

IX. Conduct

- A. The team manager shall conduct grievances. Any unusual tactics, profanity, or derogatory remarks by a player or manager shall result in ejection from the game. **Ejected players must leave the field within umpire/league director discretion** or their team will automatically forfeit the game.
- B. The first ejection carries an automatic minimum one game suspension.
- C. If a player is ejected from a game twice during the season, the second ejection will result in immediate expulsion from the current and next season.
- D. All ejections are subject to review and may result in further suspension or expulsion from the League, depending on the severity of the infraction.
Any player who physically abuses an official will be banned from further competition in any City of Yorba Linda Adult Sport League, and can be legally prosecuted.

TEAM MANAGERS AND/OR COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING ALL OF THEIR PLAYERS OF ALL RULES AND INFORMATION REGARDING THE LEAGUE.