

2016 SOFTBALL RULES

City of Rohnert Park
Community Services



LOCAL RULES SUMMARY

- **No alcohol permitted anywhere in the park.**
- Seven-inning limit. No new inning after 70 minutes.
 If one team leads by 7 runs or more, no new inning after 65.
- Batters start with a 1-and-1 count.
- Each batter is allowed a “Courtesy Foul.”
- No base-stealing or leading off.
- Coed Lineups may be standard or “All-Bat”.
- See back cover for park-specific rules.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Mitch Austin, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

588-3456, Mon. - Fri., 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Nelle Herman, COMMUNITY SERVICES SUPERVISOR

588-3456, Mon. - Fri., 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Chris Morgan, COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR

588-3456, Mon. - Fri., 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Rohnert Park Municipal Code Section 9.34.010 prohibits the possession of alcohol in any public park or adjacent parking lot. This includes the playing field, dugout, or bleachers before, during and after the game. Forfeiture of the game might occur if players, managers and spectators do not comply.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

An eligible player is one who has signed their team's roster, kept on file at the Rohnert Park Community Services Department, and who is not disqualified by:

- Being a high school student at any time during the season.
- Being less than 18 years old as of June 1, 2016.
- Currently playing in college baseball or softball
- Having been suspended from recreational softball by any city recreation department in Sonoma County.
- (Playoffs) Having played for their team in fewer than four season games.

Players must be prepared to show ID to the umpire on request.

An ineligible player in a game will cause his/her team to forfeit that game and all previous games in which that player participated. If a similar incident by the same team occurs again during the season, that team will be removed immediately from the league, and barred from further competition.

ROSTER CHANGES / ADDITIONS / DELETIONS

Players may be added and/or deleted through the 4th game of the season. Player additions are eligible to play one calendar day after being added to the roster. A maximum of five roster additions per season can be made. To be eligible for the playoffs, players must participate in four of their team's games during the regular season.

A \$5 fee must be paid per player added to the roster. No refunds will be given to players who are unable to play. All additions must have the manager's signature and the added player's signature. Deletions only need the manager's signature. A player who has been dropped by another team already during the season needs both managers signature to be added to a new team. Teams whose roster drops below the minimum number of players may add back to the minimum at any time during the season with the

league coordinator's approval.

Roster Limits: Men's	Min: 10 players	Max: 20 players
Coed	Min: 5 men	Max: 10 men
	5 women	10 women

EQUIPMENT: UNIFORMS, CLEATS AND BATS

All teams will be required to have matching shirts with numbers on the back. Players without a matching shirt will not be allowed to play. The decision on what is "matching" will be made by the umpires: this will be considered a judgment call and cannot be protested.

Players are strongly encouraged to remove loose jewelry and watches before play. Players are expected to comply with an umpire's request to remove hazardous attire. Metal cleats are not allowed in slow-pitch softball.

Only bats that are currently ASA approved are allowed. Managers are provided with a banned bat list at the start of the season. For the most current information on banned bats, please visit www.asasoftball.com, and check "Certified Equipment."

GAME TIME, DURATION AND TIED GAMES

Game time is forfeit time. The official time is kept by the umpires, or the scorekeeper if the umpire so designates.

Games are played until the time limit or through seven innings, whichever comes first. A new inning may only be started after 65 minutes if it is a "close game": if the leading team leads by fewer than 7 runs. No new inning may be started after 70 minutes, except in the case of a tied game.

Tied games will be played if time allows until broken. Once time has expired one additional inning will begin and will be played with the last legal batter of the previous inning as a runner on sec-

ond base. If the tie remains then it shall be scored a tie. In playoffs after the time limit the game will continue under the time expired rules until a winner is declared with the exception of the championship game where there is no time limit and will be played under normal rules until a winner is declared.

RAINOUTS

Field conditions will be determined by 3:30 PM on the day of the game. Check <http://www.rpcommunityservices.org> for field rain-out info.

All rained-out games will be made up in the week or weeks following the scheduled season: season playoffs may be delayed until rained-out games are made up.

FORFEITS AND PENALTIES

If teams communicate a planned forfeit to the Community Services Coordinator at least one day before that scheduled game, that "planned" forfeit will count as a 1 game loss.

A team shall have a "called" forfeit if:

1. A team fails to field 8 players when the umpire calls "play ball."
2. In the umpire's opinion, a manager is not in control of their team.
3. There is continued delay of the game after the umpire has called "play ball."
4. There is any harassment of umpires, scorekeepers, players, or spectators by a player or manager of that team.
5. There are team violations of park rules and regulations.
6. A minimum number of players are not properly in uniform.
7. Ineligible players are used.

A called forfeit counts as a 1 1/2 game loss.

Teams with called forfeits will be required to pay a \$15.00 fine to

clear the forfeit before they will be allowed to participate in the next league game: this fine must be paid one day before the next league game. Any games missed because of a fine non-payment will be counted as a 1 game loss.

Any team forfeiting three or more games may be dropped from the league, and may lose all rights to participate in the playoffs. Such teams will not be allowed classification as a returning team in the following season.

Forfeited games will not be made up or rescheduled.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Rohnert Park Community Services is committed to promoting a safe and positive atmosphere in its leagues.

The team manager shall communicate all grievances to officials.

Officials are required to report a violation of the Code of Conduct to the Community Services Coordinator. The infringing player shall be considered suspended until the Community Services Coordinator has considered his or her case.

The following rules are strictly enforced:

No player shall at any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike or threaten an official or Community Services Department staff.

Immediate Action: Ejection, suspension for following game.

Penalty: Minimum suspension for two games, season probation. At the City's discretion player may be suspended for current/future seasons.

No player shall smoke on the playing field or within the dugout.

Immediate Action: Ejection, no further penalty

No player shall use unusual tactics, profanity, or derogatory remarks.

Immediate Action: Ejection, suspension for following game. Player may be placed on season probation.

No player shall refuse to abide by an official's decision.

Immediate Action: Ejection, suspension for following game.

Penalty: Probation, further suspension may be considered

Ejection: Ejected players must leave the park within one minute. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game, and the player will be suspended for the remainder of the season and any portion of the following season.

Probation: If a player on probation is reported again for a violation of the Code of Conduct, he or she will be suspended for the remainder of the season and any portion of the following season.

Suspension: The player may not participate in games on any team while suspended.

If stronger action is warranted in the opinion of the Community Services Supervisor, such action will be taken.

ALCOHOL POLICY

Rohnert Park Municipal Code Section 9.34.010 prohibits the possession of alcohol in any public park or adjacent parking lot. This includes the playing field, dugout, or bleachers before, during and after the game.

1st Infraction: If an umpire or City staff person witnesses usage of alcohol at the park by a softball participant (or spectator) before, during or after a ballgame they will first issue a warning to the player and that player's team manager. They will then witness the removal of the beverage either to be dumped out or removed to a vehicle in the parking lot. A note will also be made in the scorebook that the warning has been given.

Infraction After Issued Warning: After a team manager has been

warned he/she is responsible for informing their entire team and any further infraction of this rule by any member of his/her team will result in that player's ejection from the ballgame and suspension for the next game (2 games if their game for the night is complete), no further warnings will be given. This ejection cannot be protested including for not being aware of the warning issued.

ANY EJECTION AFTER AN ISSUED TEAM WARNING WILL PLACE THE ENTIRE TEAM ON SEASON LONG PROBATION AND ANY FURTHER ALCOHOL RELATED INFRACTIONS WILL RESULT IN THE ENTIRE TEAM BEING REMOVED FROM THE LEAGUE (no refunds).

LINEUP CARDS

Team managers must provide their teams' lineup to the scorekeeper five minutes prior to their game's start time. At the time the lineup is provided, the manager must state if their lineup order is Standard (Men's or Coed leagues) or All-Bat (Coed leagues only): this choice **cannot** be changed later in the game.

Format

1. Lineups must include players' first names, last names and uniform number. Defensive position is optional.
2. All players who play defense must be in the lineup.
3. Managers may choose to include every player present as a starter in their lineup, up to 16 players.
4. New players may be added to the end of the lineup at any time, up to 16 players. Additional players may substitute in per ASA rules. Notify the scorekeeper of any lineup changes.
5. Players removed from the lineup cannot re-enter the game. Teams may remove players without penalty unless that results in fewer than 10 players or (in Coed) two consecutive males, in which cases removing players results in automatic outs.
6. (Coed) You must have at least four players of each gender.

Standard Lineup (Men's or Coed)

1. Batters bat in the listed order.

2. If playing with eight players, there must be two automatic outs somewhere in the lineup. If playing with nine players, there must be one automatic out somewhere in the lineup.
3. (Coed) If two male batters bat consecutively, an automatic out will be declared between them.

All-Bat Lineup (Coed only)

1. Managers provide the scorekeeper two lineups: one of male players, one of female players. Batters bat in the listed order for each lineup: lineups alternate between batters.
2. Each lineup must have a minimum of four players. If either lineup has four players, an automatic out fills the fifth lineup slot.

LOCAL RULES

Rohnert Park Community Services softball is played under current ASA rules, except when superseded by the Local Rules in this booklet. Some rules are included as reminders of current ASA rules.

1. Players begin batting with a 1-and-1 count.
2. Pitches are illegal if they are lower than 6' or higher than 12'.
3. "Courtesy Foul": Batters are allowed to hit one foul ball when they have two strikes against them without penalty.
4. The courtesy runner rule as laid out in Rule 8 Section 9B will be played with the exception that in Coed play the runner must be of the same gender as the runner being replaced. The runner no longer needs to be the last out recorded.
5. Base stealing is not allowed. Runners must remain in contact with their base until a pitched ball is hit, or be called out.
6. Any ball hit over the fence in fair territory is a home run, and any ball that bounces over or rolls through a fence or barrier in fair territory is a ground-rule double: see the back cover.
7. When scoring a run, players must touch home plate.
8. (Coed) The pitcher/catcher must be male/female or female/male. When playing with ten or more players, there must be at least two female infielders, and at least two female outfield-

ers. If playing with eight or nine players, there must be at least one female infielder and one female outfielder. Teams must field at least four players of each gender.

9. (Coed) When a male batter is walked, he may take second base. When this occurs with two outs, the immediately following female batter may either bat normally or take a walk.

PLAYOFFS

Playoff format is based upon number of teams registered and availability of fields. Formats for each league will be announced at the manager's meeting. Please note that in some formats not all teams will make the playoffs. All playoff formats are seeded using season standings with tie-breakers described below.

In leagues where all teams make the playoffs the first game is considered one of a team's guaranteed minimum games, first two for double elimination playoffs.

If any team is playing their 1st playoff game, the team with the higher season standing will be the home team. In all future playoff games home team will be decided by coin toss.

There is no time limit rule in the championship game.

SEASON STANDINGS PROCEDURES

In the case of identical win-loss records, the following tie breaking procedures will be used to determine which team(s) have a higher place in the standings. Criteria will be applied in the following order until the tie has been broken.

1. Best record head-to-head among the tied teams.
2. Run differential head-to-head among tied teams.
3. Run differential in all league games
4. Coin toss.

All decisions are final.

ACCIDENTS

In case of an injury, immediately notify the scorekeeper. Fill out the accident report completely and accurately. The scorekeeper will return this form to the Community Services Department

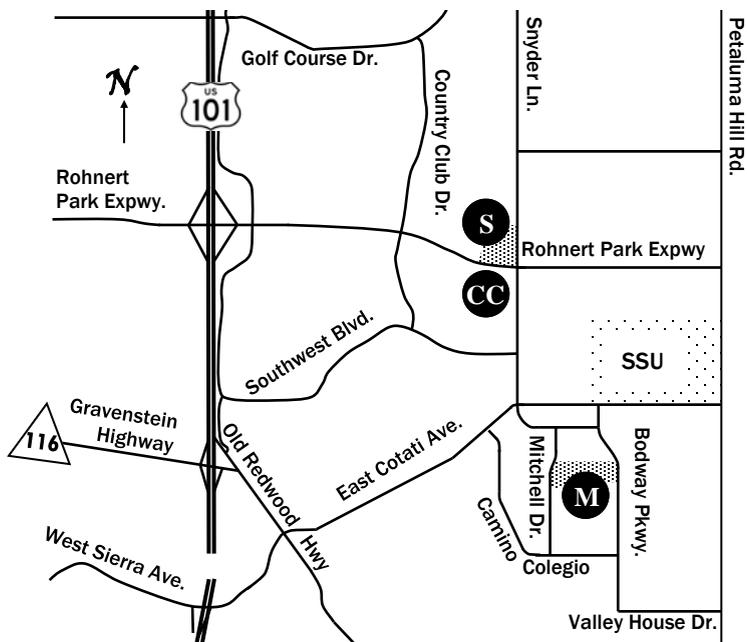
LIABILITY

ASA team liability insurance protects the team and sponsor against lawsuits, judgments and legal expenses that might result from negligence of team members, managers, coaches and sponsors. Liability insurance is not required but is strongly recommended. The City of Rohnert Park does not assume any legal or moral obligation to care for a player who is injured while participating in the City of Rohnert Park softball programs.

PROTEST

The Rohnert Park Community Services Department does not recognize protests regarding judgment calls by the officials. Only roster irregularities and rule interpretations are subject to protest. All protests must be made in accordance with ASA rules (Rule 9) by notifying the umpire that the game is being played under protest. Managers must then receive from the official scorekeeper a protest form and submit it to the Sports Center along with a \$25 cash fee no later than 4:30 PM the following day. If no form is submitted the game will stand as played. Protest forms must be filled out clearly and completely. If the protest is upheld the \$25 fee will be returned.

Revised 5/11/2016



- M Magnolia Park: 1401 Middlebrook Way
- S Sunrise Park: 5201 Snyder Lane
- CC Community Center: 5401 Snyder Lane

MAGNOLIA PARK RULES

- M1: (Facing SW) Balls hit over the fence are ruled home runs. Balls which roll under the fence, or which are hit into other playing field obstructions, are ruled ground-rule doubles.
- M2: (Facing NE) Balls which enter the street or parking lot, or which are hit over the fence, are ruled home runs. Balls hit into playing field obstructions are ruled ground-rule doubles.

SUNRISE PARK RULES

Balls hit into the trees in left and left-center fields are considered home runs. Balls hit onto the soccer field while players are moving west shall be ruled live balls. Balls hit onto the soccer field while soccer players are moving east shall be ruled ground-rule doubles. Balls hit into the soccer net shall be ruled ground-rule doubles. These are judgment calls by the umpire and cannot be protested.