

City of Frederick Softball Rules and Regulations

The City of Frederick Adult Co-ed Softball program will play by the current year ASA/ USA Softball rules and regulations with the following additions and alternations contained within this document.

The rules contained in this document apply to both Spring/Summer Session's and Fall unless stated otherwise.

You will receive a rule book at the before season coaches meeting containing all USA Softball rules, or you can visit the USA Softball website at <http://mddcde.usasoftball.com/>

FORMS AND FEES

1. All forms and fees must be completed in full and submitted before season opening day or by deadlines sent out by Recreation Supervisor or Softball Coordinator
Failure to comply may result in teams being ineligible to participate in the league.
2. The fees for the current season will be outlined in the City of Frederick Brochure and at the Mandatory Coaches meeting.
3. All forms must be completed with accurate information. Any attempt to provide false information may result in the suspension or expulsion of players, coaches, and /or teams. (i.e. Providing false address information for players to avoid paying a higher league fee, etc)

ROSTERS

1. All players must sign the roster/waiver form before practices or playing in a game.
2. Additions and drops to a team's roster are permitted until the add/drop deadline. This date will be communicated to all coaches prior to the beginning of the season. After this date the rosters are final and no changes are permitted. However if extraordinary circumstances arise exceptions may be made to this rule by Recreation Supervisor.
3. A player may be added to the roster before a game, providing the add/drop date for the season has not passed. The team adding the player must notify the umpire and opposing coach before coach before the start of the game. The new player(s) must sign the roster/waiver form before participating in a game and pay the player fee.
4. A player must play in at least 1/3 of the regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs. Exceptions may be granted on a case by case basis (i.e. injury). Any players signed after week 1 must play in 1/3 of their team's remaining games.
5. Any use of illegal players, especially in post season play, will result in the possible suspension or expulsion of the offending players, coaches, and teams. Any teams using illegal players may also result in the forfeiture of games where the illegal player(s) were used.
6. Men's League Players
 - a) Summer Season – Teams may have up to four men's league players in their lineup at any

given time. There is not a restriction on the number of men's leagues players that can be on a team roster, but only up to two may participate in a game at any given time.

b) Fall Season – Teams may have up to four men's league players in their lineup at any given time. There is not a restriction on the number of men's leagues players that can be on a team roster, but only up to four may participate in a game at any given time.

Frederick County Men's Leagues are:

a) Frederick County Men's League (Pinecliff)

b) Industrial League

c) Ballenger Men's Fall League (counted for Fall Season only)

Players playing in Men's leagues in other counties are considered Men's League Players as well. Players in the 50 and over Senior League and Friday/ Sunday Church Leagues do not count as men's league players.

7. Players are allowed to be on a maximum of 2 rosters.

a. A team can have a maximum of 2 multi-divisional players.

c. A player cannot play on another team in the same division.

SCHEDULING

Reschedules / Forfeits

1) If a team cannot play an upcoming scheduled game, the opponent has the option of accepting forfeit win(s) or granting a reschedule request. It is strongly encouraged that opponents agree to reschedule the games.

2) If games are rescheduled within 48 hours of the original scheduled game time, the requesting team will be billed for the cost of each game. The fees will be used to cover umpire cost for scheduling the new game(s). If the game(s) are not rescheduled then no charges are assessed.

3) If a game is rescheduled prior to 48 hours of the original scheduled game time then no fees are assessed.

4) Note that it may not be possible to grant all reschedule request due to scheduling conflicts, umpire and or field availability.

5) Rain make-ups take priority over rescheduled request.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Inclement weather information can be found:

Parks & Rec. Softball website: www.leaguelineup.com/cityoffrederickparksandrec

Website (Alt): www.cityoffrederick.com

City of Frederick Cancellation Line: 301-600-6970

Softball Contact: Chris Ashley: hitter85@hotmail.com

Last Choice: Wm. Talley Rec. Center Front Desk 301-600-1492

Decisions are usually made by 2:30 pm depending on rain start time.

Note: Our League plays on City fields only. All weather closing by the city only fields affect (Riverwalk, 7th Street, and Walnut Ridge) City makes decisions based on city fields only. Just because county fields are opened or closed does not mean city fields are opened or closed, City and County Parks and Recreation Departments make their own decisions on field closings.

If no cancellations have been posted by the deadlines listed below, then assume your games are still scheduled. If inclement weather occurs after the times below, the decision to play will be left up to the umpire at or near game time.

Weekday Games

6:00 pm or earlier game times – A decision will be made by 4:30 pm

6:45 pm or later game times – A decision will be made 1 hour before game time.

Weekend Games

A decision will be made by 8:30 am or 1 hour before the first scheduled game of the day, whichever is later.

Game Play & Miscellaneous

1) Game Length:

a. Games will last 7 innings or 60 minutes, whichever occurs first.

b. A game can last less than 5 innings (or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) if the time limit has been reached.

c. The umpire reserves the right to end a game at the end of an inning if there is less than 5 minutes left.

d. The umpire reserves the right to stop a game in the event of inclement weather, light issues, or other unforeseen circumstances.

e. Any inning that an umpire allows to start must be completed (exception, see rule f)

f. If a game is stopped due to inclement weather, light issues, or other unforeseen circumstances and the time limit has not been reached, the game will be suspended and resumed at a later date – if possible.

2) If a game is tied after innings it may continue if time allows or at umpire's discretion. If the time limit has been reached and a game is tied it may continue at the umpire's discretion. If the time limit has been reached and a game is tied it may continue at the umpire's discretion. If not, the game will end in a tie. If a game goes into extra innings:

a. Normal pitching rules are used (NO ONE- PITCH)

b. Each team will start their offensive half of the inning with a runner on second base.

c. The base runner on second base will be the last out from the previous inning (or a courtesy runner or substitute).

d. Games can end in a tie.

3) All batters begin their at-bat with a 1 and 1 count (1 ball and 1 strike).

There are no courtesy fouls.

4) The line-up must be exchanged with the opposing teams prior to the beginning of the game.

5) There will be a 15 minute grace period for each game when the umpire gives a starting time. After the 15 minutes the team not having enough players will forfeit that game.

6) Each team on offense is responsible for having a first or third base coach to rotate balls to the pitcher.

7) If the defense wishes to intentionally walk a batter, the pitcher needs only to inform the batter to take the base.

8) If a batter hits an over the fence home run, he/she does not need to round the bases. Any runners on base may also leave the field without touching the remainder of the bases.

9) If a male batter walks and a female is due to bat next, the male batter is awarded second base.

10) If a team is playing with 9 players, a male batter walks and the following batter is an out for a missing female batter, the male batter is still awarded second base.

11) If there are 2 outs and a male batter walks and a female batter bats next, she has the option to bat or walk to first base. If there are less than 2 outs the female batter must bat.

12) A team can play up to 12 players in a game. On defense, a team must field 9 or 10 players. On offense a team may bat 9, 10, 11, or 12 players. Any player(s) that bats but does not play defense will be considered a designated hitter (DH) or Extra Hitter (EH).

Legal lineups are as follows:

- a) 9 players – minimum 3 females, and 6 males, and all fielders bat.
- b) If the missing batter is a female (total of 3 females and 6 males), the shorthanded team must take an automatic out for the missing batter. If the missing female player arrives after the game has started she must be inserted into the automatic out spot in the lineup.
- c) If the missing batter is a male (total of 4 females and 5 males), the shorthanded team does not take an automatic out. If the missing male player arrives after the game has started he must be inserted into the 10th spot.

Note: Note the gender of the missing player in your scorebook. This is important for any situations that are dependent on the other gender of the missing batter (i.e. if a male batter walks and the next batter is an out but would've been a female, the male batter is still awarded second base.

- b) 10 players – minimum 4 females, maximum 6 males, all fielders bat
 - c) 11 players – minimum 5 females, maximum 6 males, all fielders bat and there is one DH
 - d) 12 players – minimum 5 females, maximum 7 males, all fielders bat and there are 2 DHs.
- Legal DH combinations are either 1 male/1female or females. Two male DHs are not allowed. There must be at least 4 females playing defense.

Miscellaneous lineup information:

- 1) The first batter in the lineup can be male or female.
- 2) The batting order must alternate gender until it is no longer possible, then same gender players may bat consecutively. (i.e. a team is batting 6 males and 4 females. The first 8 batters will alternate gender. The last 2 batters will be male.)

14) A runner approaching second or third base, or home plate must slide or give him or herself up when. In the opinion of the umpire, there is a close play on the runner. Failure to comply can result in the runner being called out, and possibly ejected, at the umpire's discretion.

15) A runner will be called out when, in the opinion of the umpire, the runner intentionally hinders a defensive player's chance of making a play by sliding or running into the defensive player or through intimidation and/or distraction.

16) If a double-base is in use at first base, the batter-runner must run towards the orange base for all obvious plays where the runner only has a chance for first base. The batter-runner can touch only the white portion of first base if he/she intends to try for extra bases on the hit. If a field does not have a double base at first, runners should run to the foul side of the base when there is a play at first base.

17) The game ending run rule is 10 runs after 5 innings of play. or 4 ½ innings if the home team is winning.

18) Each team is allowed 3 homeruns per game, per gender. If a team exceeds the homerun limit, any additional home runs will be an out, until the other team has hit 3 homeruns as well. Once both teams have hit 3 homeruns, each team can continue to hit more, as long as they stay within one homerun of each other (The 1 – Up Rule)

19) In the event of an injury and a team can not replace the injured player with another player of the same gender, the batting team will take an out for the missing batter. Exception, if a team is left with 9 players, see rule "13 a" under GAME PLAY & MISCELLANEOUS to determine if an automatic out is used. Note the gender of the missing player in your scorebook. If a team is left with 8 or less players after being removed due to injury, the game will end and the team that is shorthanded will have to forfeit.

20) A coin flip will be used to determine the home and away teams for regular season games.

21) Courtesy runner guidelines are as follows. Courtesy runners must be; 1) male for male or 2) female for female or male. Teams must declare a courtesy runner to the umpire before he/she assumes base running responsibilities.

a) Once per inning, per gender, a base runner may be replaced with a courtesy runner. Both players will be exempt from the re-entry rule.

b) Legal courtesy runners are as follows and must be used in this order:

i) A player on the roster but not in the lineup (bench player)

ii) The previous batter in the lineup who is not on base and is of the correct gender

iii) The player farthest away in the lineup from the runner (beginning of games)

c) If an injury occurs to a base runner and the courtesy runner has already been used in an inning, the runner may be replaced via substitution as outlined in the ASA rules.

22) At the conclusion of each doubleheader, each team must compare scorebook to verify the correct scores. The winner of the last game must report the scores to the commissioner via email or phone within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game. Failure to report scores within 48 hours of a game may result in Losses for the missing score.

23) Incorrect ball pitched and appeal process:

a) If the incorrect ball is discovered after it has been put in play (contact is made with the ball – fair or foul).

Effect #1: male hitting a female ball must bat again. It does not matter what the result of the play was, i.e., HR, base hit, fly out, ground out, etc.

Effect #2: female hitting a male ball may take the result of the play or bat again. If the female bats again the pitch count reverts to the normal starting count (1-1).

The appeal must be made:

Before the next legal or illegal pitch, or if that was the last pitch of the inning, the appeal must be made at the end of an inning, before the pitcher and all the fielders have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area, or on the last play of the game if the umpires have not left the field. If the incorrect ball is discovered after a pitch and no contact has been made with the ball (i.e. the batter was pitched a strike and either swung and missed or did not swing, or a ball was pitched (legal or illegal)

Effect #1: the batter, regardless of gender, has the option to take the result of the pitch, or request a re-pitch with the correct ball. If multiple pitches have been thrown in an at-bat with the incorrect ball before it is discovered, only the previous pitch can be appealed.

The appeals must be made:

Before the next legal or illegal pitch, or if that was the last pitch of the inning, the appeal must be made at the end of an inning, before the pitcher and all the fielders have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area, or on the last play of the game if the umpires have not left the field.

Suspended Games

Games may be suspended before they are considered an official game due to darkness, weather, or other circumstances.

- 1) The game resumes at exact point of suspension (score, players on base, # of outs, ball/strike count on batter)
- 2) Returning players must resume their spot in the lineup. New players must be the same gender as the players they are replacing.
- 3) If a team had DHs in the lineup before the suspension but do not have enough players to fill the DH spots when the game resumes, the DHs may be removed from the lineup without penalty. If any DH players were on base, they may be replaced with players of the same gender who were the last outs. If DHs are removed, the lineup is still subject to the lineup restrictions for DH but cannot put a 5th female in the lineup, the male DH must be removed also, as 7 male/4 female lineups are illegal. The lineup can be re-ordered to meet the alternating gender requirement.
- 4) If a DH player was batting when the game was suspended and the DH spot is no longer in the lineup, the next player in the lineup will bat and assume the ball/strike count (if any) of the removed – DH player.
- 5) Any substitutions made in the original game, or any substitutions made while preparing the lineup for the game to be resumed are irrelevant. However once the game resumes all normal substitution rules are in effect.

CONDUCT

The City of Frederick Discipline Policy will be enforced for all league games.

- 1) Taunting of players or teams will not be permitted. Players committing this act can be ejected from that game at the umpire discretion.
- 2) Our league does not have a permit to have alcohol on any of the parks and softball fields. Indulging alcohol will not be permitted on the field, bench, in the stands, or in the parking lots. Any player found to be indulging in alcohol may be expelled from the game and/or the league and subject to fines.
- 3) Violence or threats of violence will not be permitted. The umpire has the right to eject violators from the game and/or the league.
- 4) The umpires have the right to eject players from a game for any conduct involving an umpire in which the umpire deems threatening.
- 5) Unsportsmanlike – like conduct will not be permitted. If it is determined that any player acts in an unsportsmanlike manner they may be ejected from the game.
- 6) Sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
- 7) The City of Frederick has the right to remove any player from the league whose conduct warrants removal.
- 8) Each team is responsible for removing trash from their respective bench and bleacher areas after the games.
- 9) Fighting or any unruly physical conduct will result in suspension from league.
- 10) Any players that are ejected from a game. And /or any players involved in an incident involving an ejection or unruly behavior are subject to possible suspension and / or expulsion from the league.
- 11) This applies to before, during, and after games.

EQUIPMENT

- 1) The City of Frederick Parks and Recreation Softball League uses an ASA/USA Softball Sanction bat list and may use an extended bat list. An addendum to this document will be communicated to all coaches prior to the season (and during the season if needed) that contain legal and illegal bats and the types of allowed bats.
- 2) If a team is caught using an illegal bat(s):
 - a) First offense: the bat will be removed from the game and the player using the bat will be called out.
 - b) Second and subsequent offenses: the offending team's coach and the player(s) using the illegal bat(s) will be ejected.
- 3) If the legality of a bat comes into question during a game and the umpire cannot determine the type or legality of bat, the bat will be removed from the game. A decision will be made shortly after the game (within a few days) and the bat list amended with the status of the bat in question.
- 4) Males are required to hit 12" softballs. Females have the option to hit 11" or 12" softballs.
- 5) It is the pitcher's responsibility to verify the correct ball is being pitched.
- 6) Legal softball are:
 - a) Males - .52 core
 - b) Female - .52 core