



# City of Lincoln Adult Softball Rules

## I. Eligibility & Roster Requirements

- A. Each roster must consist of 10 – 16 players. The minimum age to participate is 17.
- B. Completed team rosters must be turned in by week 4. If a player is not available to sign the roster, then the player's name should be added anyways and they should be instructed to sign it. See your scorekeeper for a copy of your roster.
- C. All players must be on the roster and have signed the roster to be eligible to play. An ID check may occur at any time and all players must be able to produce a picture ID if asked.
- D. Players may be added to the roster, up to the maximum, during the first 4 weeks of the season. Players may not be added to the roster after week 4. If you reach your roster maximum, then a player must be taken off the roster to add an additional player.
- E. Any team that's found to be playing with an ineligible player or a player not on their roster will immediately forfeit the game they are playing. One-time subs may be used without a name on the roster as long as the opposing team is notified of the players (not acceptable during playoffs/championship games).
- F. Mid-game subs MUST be reported to scorekeepers before they are up to bat, or it will be an automatic out.
- G. Any protest a team has regarding the eligibility of a player on the opposing team must come from the team's captain and be made towards the umpire during the course of the game. The umpire will then confer with the scorekeeper and/or the staff person in charge and an ID check will be done to determine eligibility. No action will be taken if the protest is made upon conclusion of the game or by any person other than the team's captain.
- H. There will be an ID check during playoffs. No ID, not on the roster, no play.

## II. Playing Rules

- A. USA SOFTBALL rules and Lincoln "Code of Conduct" govern play, with exceptions listed.
- B. Game time plus 5 minutes on the umpires' watch is forfeit time. There is a \$50.00 forfeit fee. The \$50 forfeit fee will be collected by the league prior to your next game and a \$50 credit for future league play will be given to the team that was forfeited against. Exception – forfeit fee won't be charged if prior notice is given to the league director by 2:00pm on game days.
- C. Teams will be allowed to start and finish a game with 8 players. If a team gets down to 7 players, the game is a forfeit.
- D. A team forfeiting twice during the season may not be considered for the playoffs.
- E. Managers/Captains must turn in a lineup sheet to the scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to game time. Players not on the lineup sheet turned in to the scorekeeper will not be allowed to play in that game.
- F. Only USA SOFTBALL Approved Bats are allowed. All bats used in league play must have an ASA Certification Mark. USA SOFTBALL has, however, certified bats in the past that have since been determined to be unsafe. These bats appear on the USA SOFTBALL Non-Approved Bat List provided in your team packet and available on the league website [www.LincolnRecSports.com](http://www.LincolnRecSports.com). If a bat has the ASA Certification mark but appears on this list, then the bat may not be used. League umpires also have the authority to remove any bat from play that they believe may be altered or unsafe. If a player is found to be using an illegal bat (ASA non-approved bat), the bat will be removed from the game, the batter will be ruled out (if discovered after a hit), all base runners will return to their previous bag, and a warning will be issued to that player as well as the team captain. If that same player is discovered using an illegal bat again during the course of the season, then that player, along with team captain, will be ejected from the game they are playing. Use of an altered bat (any ASA approved or non- approved bat that has been altered in some way to increase the speed of the ball off the bat) will result in immediate ejection from the game for the player found using it. A second offense will result in suspension from the current league as well as possible future leagues and may also result in suspension of the team captain and/or team.
- G. RE-TAG Rule – A runner on 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base may request a "re-tag" from the umpire, in which case the runner may stand off the base in foul territory and on contact must "re-tag" his/her base prior to advancing.
- H. Start with a 1 – 1 count. The batter is out on the second foul ball after two strikes.
- I. HOMERUN RULE: Homerun "equalizer" and "limit" rules will be in effect for all divisions but Men's D1.  
**Equalizer Defined:** Applies to over-the-fence homeruns only. Once a team hits this # of homeruns, that team is not allowed additional homeruns until the opposing team reaches the same # of homeruns. Any additional homeruns hit before the opposing team reaches that # will be ruled a "dead-ball" out. This rule will reset once the opposing team hits that # of homeruns.  
**Limit Defined:** Applies to over-the-fence homeruns only. Once a team hits this # of homeruns, no additional homeruns may be hit. Any additional homeruns will be ruled a "dead ball" out.
  - Men's D1/D2 – Equalizer of 4, Limit 5

- Men's D3 – Equalizer of 2, Limit of 3
  - All other leagues & divisions – Equalizer of 1, limit of 2
- J. No new inning after 55 minutes. A 12-run rule will apply after 5 innings or 50 minutes.
- K. At least 4 innings or 50 minutes must be played to constitute an official game. Games that are postponed due to rain, power outage, etc. and have not completed 4 full innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) or 50 minutes will resume where it left off.
- L. If the score is tied when time has expired, one inning will be played using the USA SOFTBALL tie breaker rule (Rule 5; Section 11). If the score remains tied after the one inning, the game will end in a tie. Unless Playoffs or Championship game when a winner must be determined.
- M. One courtesy runner is allowed per inning/per gender in Coed.
- N. When an ejected player's spot comes up in the batting order, that spot is an OUT (unless filled by another player who is on the team roster but not already in the lineup). If a player leaves a game voluntarily, their spot left in the lineup is not an out. However, once their spot in the order has been skipped, they will no be allowed to reenter.
- O. A plate extension mat will be used in all leagues. A strike will be called if a pitch lands on the mat only. A pitch that lands on home plate will be called a ball.
- P. The minimum pitching arc height will be 6 feet & the maximum pitching arc height will be 12 feet.
- Q. No steel spikes allowed.
- R. All protests (for rule interpretations only) must be made immediately with the umpire who will then inform the scorekeeper that the game is being played under protest. A written protest statement must then be submitted to the Recreation Department office along with a \$20 non-refundable fee within 48 hours. Protests will only be accepted from the team captain. See your USA SOFTBALL Rule Book for additional protest rules and guidelines.
- S. Make up games will be re-scheduled at the end of the season before playoffs. Make up games could be played on a different night due to scheduling conflicts, but every effort will be made to avoid this.
- T. The top 4 teams will compete in the playoffs with the # 1 seed playing the # 4 seed and the # 2 seed playing the # 3 seed and the winner of each game facing each other in the championship game. All games will be played in the same evening with the 2 & 3 seeds playing the 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled semi-final game and the 1 & 4 seeds playing the 2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled semi-final game.
- U. The higher seeded teams will be the home team for all playoff games.
- V. Championship game will be played in its entirety (7 innings).
- W. Playoff seeding and tie breakers will be determined by the following order: 1) overall record; 2) head-to-head record; 3) head-to-head run differential; 4) average runs against (does not include forfeits); 5) average runs for (does not include forfeits); 6) coin flip.
- X. Courtesy Runner: Anyone in the line-up may be used as a courtesy runner. 1 runner per inning, may be used for the same person in the same inning. If courtesy runners at-bat comes up while on base the at-bat is an automatic out. Pitchers can receive an unlimited courtesy runner, even if 1 has already been used. For COED – 1 courtesy runner per gender, male runs for a male and female for a female, same rules as above apply.

#### REVISED/NEW RULE

# City of Lincoln Adult Softball Rules

## Co-Ed Addendum

- A. A team can start with 9 players. If the 9 players are comprised of 5 men and 4 women then the vacated female spot in the batting order is an out. A female player arriving after the start of the game must be added to the lineup, if starting with 9 players. If playing with 10 players, there must be at least 5 females playing defense.
- B. There will be no defensive positioning restrictions among men and women. Players may play anywhere, having no more than 6 positioned in the infield.
- C. All hitters, male & female, will be pitched a 12" ball.
- D. Women may bat consecutively in the batting order...men may not. If there are more men in the lineup than women, then one or more male lineup spots will need to be shared to maintain a rotating batting order. In this case, one player will bat the first time through the order with the other player batting the second time through.
- E. Any walk to a male batter will result in two bases being awarded. The next batter (a female) will bat. With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat..
- F. If a male player fields a batted ball, taking the play from a woman in the umpires' judgment, the umpire shall rule the batter safe and award the number of bases that he/she feels the batter would have achieved.
- G. A male player may not cover home plate in the place of a female player on a throw to the plate. A male player may cut a throw off in the middle of the field, but the runner will be ruled safe if the throw is received within 3 feet of home plate.
- H. A safety Home Plate Line will be used. All players are required to cross the scoring line. If a player crosses over or steps on home plate or the strike mat, that player will be called out.
- I. Once a base-runner has crossed the "commit line" between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate, that runner is committed to home plate and cannot return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Any play made on that runner once they've crossed the commit line must be a force play (no tag outs) with the catcher having possession of the ball while touching home plate before the runner crosses the safety home plate line. Runners may be tagged out between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and the commit line.

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| <p><b>The League Director reserves the right to make changes at any time if he/she feels it is for the betterment of the league</b></p> |
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