

Walla Walla Parks & Recreation



2024 Adult Softball Rules and Regulations

Revised 5/2/2024

**WALLA WALLA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RULES FOR ADULT SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE
FOR SPRING/SUMMER SEASON**

The goal of Walla Walla Parks & Recreation is to provide opportunities for physical exercise, socialization, and healthy and constructive use of leisure time for adults through sports programs.

Please remember that regardless of the league or caliber of competition, the main objective of the program is to have fun and provide activity. Abuse of umpires will not be tolerated.

The USA Amateur Softball Association will govern the sport in conjunction with the Walla Walla Parks & Recreation Department Slowpitch Softball Rules.

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- The league fee covers: the officials, bases, facilities, maintenance and operation costs, administrative costs, awards and USA registration.
- By participating, all players agree to release Walla Walla Parks & Recreation and all cooperating agencies, employees, officials or managers thereof from all liability for damages to persons or property that may be sustained as a result of participation in the program.

LEAGUE CLASSIFICATION

- Teams are classified by the Recreation Supervisor and Coordinator. Classifications are based on the following criteria: registering in each division, standings after the 1st half of the season is completed.

FACILITIES

- Players in dugout. No children will be allowed in the dugouts or playing area. Only the players, coach, and scorekeeper will be allowed in the dugouts. (Liability and Safety reasons)
- Problems that occur with teams that practice on school or private facilities may result in a possible suspension from the league. No alcohol is permitted on park or school grounds.
- Please use trash receptacles.
- No glass containers are allowed in any parks or school facilities.
- No scooters, skateboards, bicycles, roller blades allowed at Mill Creek Sportsplex due to safety concerns.
- No climbing on fences. If a home run is hit, please do not climb the fence to retrieve the ball. The umpire will have a second ball that he/she will put into play.
- No soft toss into fencing.

- Excessive digging in by batters will not be allowed, due to the holes that are created around home plate and the extra maintenance work that is caused by the holes that are dug. First infraction is a warning and all subsequent infractions, by any player on that team, is an out.

EQUIPMENT

- No metal spikes are allowed in the co-ed league or men's league.
- Game balls will be provided to the team managers. Each team will receive one new game ball per "home" game. The home team will provide one new ball and one good used ball for each game.
- All bats must comply with the USA bat rule established for championship play (see USA rule book)
- Altered Bats – Player found using an altered bat will be declared out and will be suspended from league and USA play for one calendar year from date of infraction.
- Uniforms - uniforms are not required for league play. Teams playing in any level of tournament play may be required to have matching uniforms with numbers. Teams are responsible to check with the tournament director ahead of time as to the uniform requirements.

ROSTERS/ELIGIBILITY

- There is no maximum for the number of players on a league roster.
- The combination League/USA roster is due at registration time. Each player's **SIGNATURE, address, and phone numbers must appear on the form.** All players must be on the roster before they play their first game. Additions can be made at the Parks and Recreation office (office hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or online at www.wwpr.us. Players can switch teams one time only during the season, as long as both team managers agree. Players must be 16 years of age or older.
- **Player Pool:** a list of players, if available, will be developed who may be picked up by teams who find themselves shorthanded at the last minute or who may need additional players for a short period of time. This list will consist of no more than three players for men's league and no more than three players of both genders for the co-ed league. These players must register prior to being placed on this list. The list will be made available to all team captains. There is no guarantee that these players will be used and no refunds will be given.
- Rosters will remain open for player additions until the 2nd Friday in July (July 12, 2024) for summer league. After the 2nd Friday in July players may only be added if a team is shorthanded subject to approval by the Recreation Supervisor. All additions to the roster must be made in person at the City Parks & Recreation Office, 55 Moore St. It is the manager's responsibility to make sure the roster addition has been made. No player additions may be made by phone.

- Teams **MUST** carry an updated copy of their roster to each game.
- **Protesting ineligible player(s):** The protesting team must notify the other team of the player they are protesting and why during the game. The name of the protested player must be verified by the umpire and noted on the score sheet. (It is the responsibility of the protesting team to make sure this is done.) Teams may look on the City of Walla Walla Recreation website for updated rosters of each team. Automatic penalty: Player and team manager will be suspended from the next league game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season. The offending team will forfeit the game.
- If an ineligible player is discovered by the Recreation Supervisor or Coordinator within 24 hours after a game is played the game will be a forfeit. The ineligible player will receive a two-game suspension.
- In the case of a discovered ineligible player, the player must register (whether he/she plans to play in another game or not) prior to the teams' next game. Teams will not be allowed to play another game until the player has registered.
- A player may not play on more than one team in the same league. (i.e. a player can play in men's and co-ed but not on two men's teams or two co-ed teams).

Players must be signed on each team's roster, in the Parks & Recreation office or at www.wwpr.us.

Players can only play on **ONE USA TOURNAMENT TEAM** in the same league (i.e. a player cannot be on two mens or two co-ed ASA rosters)

GAME ROSTER AND PLAYERS

- **Playing shorthanded:** A team may start and finish the game with a minimum of nine (9) players in Men's league, and eight (8) players in Co-ed or Women's league. The missing players will bat in the lowest possible position(s) in the batting order. An out will result in all missing player's batting positions. If additional players arrive after the game has started, the short team may add players up to a maximum of ten (10). The added players will bat in the appropriate batting positions. A team can play shorthanded in any position they choose, other than pitcher and catcher. Men's teams cannot have a lineup of 11 if 11 are not present at game time. A team not having a minimum player at game time or anytime during the game, will forfeit the game, exception: A team can start with 8 if they are on offense. They have until the 9th batting position or 3 outs to get their 9th player. Games forfeited at game time will still be played and officiated as a practice game provided there are 9 players for each team. Players must be on a League roster. The same rules as an official game apply to the practice game.
- **Substitutions:** will follow the USA Rules.
- **Courtesy runners:** in Men's League or Women's League teams will be allowed to run for one player throughout the game for any reason. In Co-ed League teams will be allowed to run for one player of each gender throughout the game for any reason. The runner must be the person who made the last out. For Co-ed, runner must be of the same gender. The player who will be run for does not have to be identified prior to the game.

OFFICIAL GAME RULES

- No 10-run rule
- **Time limit: No new inning will start after 1 hour and a drop dead time of 1hr 5 minutes.** At drop dead time, the score reverts to the last completed inning.
- No new inning shall start after 11:15 p.m.
- **Speed up rules:**
 - a) There will be no warm-up pitches between innings, unless a new pitcher is entering the game.
 - b) All players must be timely in getting on and off the field between innings.
- **One and one count:** In Men's, Women's, and Co-ed league , all batters will start with a ball and strike count of one ball and one strike. *Courtesy Foul* - batters will be allowed one free foul ball, which is not caught, on strike three. Any subsequent foul balls will result in an out.
- **Pitch Height:** The arc of the pitch must fall between **6 ft – 12 ft**. *USA rules dictate pitch height between 6 ft-10 ft
- **Strike Mat :** A strike mat will be used for Men's, Women's, and Co-Ed leagues to aid in the consistency of the strike zone.
- **Grace period:** There will be no grace period. Game time is forfeit time. If the previous game runs late the scheduled game will begin 5 minutes after completion of that game. **Failure to field a team at game time will result in a forfeit.**
- **Completed games:**

7 completed innings (6 ½ if the home team is ahead) Weather related-five innings must be completed (4 ½ if the home team is ahead)

At drop dead time, score reverts to the last completed inning.

Games not declared official will be replayed from the exact point where they left off.
- **Home Run Rule:** Men', Women's, and Co-ed - leagues will use the progressive home run rule with a limit of 3 home runs until the opposing team reaches 3 home runs, then teams may hit one more than the opposing team throughout the rest of the game. Home runs that violate this rule will be declared a single and all runners will move up one base. **Players are not required to run the bases on a homerun and all the runs will count automatically.**
- **Batting line-up:** Teams may choose to hit their entire line up if they wish. This must be declared prior to the game and announced to the umpire and opposing team. If a batter is no longer available (injury, etc.) to hit an out will be recorded when his/her batting position is due to hit. If a player arrives late he/she may be added to the bottom of the order as long as the team has not yet hit through their line-up. For co-ed teams who plan to hit their entire line-up, see Co-ed Exceptional Rules for explanation on how to record this in the scorebook.

- **Score book:** If the home team does not have a designated scorekeeper to manage the score book while their team is on defense then the visiting team, as long as they have someone to manage the book while on defense, will become the official book. The official scorekeeper must be over the age of 16.
- **Stealing:** stealing will not be allowed.
- **Double first base:** will be used for all games for increased safety. See the rules supplement on page 14 or Official ASA Rule Book for rules related to playing with the double first base.
- **Base distances:** bases will be 70' apart in all adult league softball play.

COED EXCEPTION RULES

- **Game ball:** Both genders will use a 12 inch game ball for batting and fielding
- **Encroachment line:** An arc will be placed on the field at 175 feet from home plate between the left field and right field foul line designated as the encroachment line. When a female batter is hitting all outfielders must have both feet behind the line prior to the batter making contact. If, in the umpire's judgment, an outfielder crossed the line prior to the batter making contact a delayed dead ball will occur and the team manager will have the following options:
 - a) the batter will be awarded first base and other runners will move up one base.
 - b) take the result of the play
- **Men/Women Ratio:** Teams can play with four women and six men, however, they must have a minimum of four women on the field. Team having less than four women will forfeit such games.
- **Defensive positioning:** Teams must have two females in the infield, excluding the pitcher and catcher. The outfield and pitcher & catcher may be of either sex, as long as there are a minimum of four females on the field.
- **Put outs at first base:** Female batter/runners may not be put out at first on a ball hit by such batter/runner that is fielded by an outfielder.
- **Switching positions:** players may not switch positions during an inning, unless they are being replaced by someone from the bench of the same sex.
- **Playing shorthanded:** Coed teams playing short can have no more than six men on the field. The above defensive positioning applies.
- **Walks:** Any walk to a male player, the male batter goes to second base and the female batter hits. Exception: If there are two outs the female has her choice to hit or walk. (See USA rules)

- **Batting:** Everyone present for a team may be listed on the batting lineup. Two males may not hit consecutively in the lineup. Women may hit consecutively in the lineup, but men may not. Males must hit opposite handed. If a player is used as a pinch runner and is on base when their spot in the lineup is due, they will be allowed to bat and the last recorded out of the same gender will take the place of the player on base
- **Line-up:** Men and women may be listed separately on the score sheet and then as they hit teams can alternate from one list to the other. This way everyone on a team may all hit in the line-up at the same time and still alternate genders. (Contact Recreation Supervisor for explanation if you do not understand this concept). If a player can no longer hit (due to injury or other reason) and there are no eligible substitutes to replace him/her an out will be recorded every time this batting position is due to hit.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE EXCEPTION RULES

- **Game ball:** will use a 12-inch game ball for batting and fielding
- **Encroachment line:** An arc will be placed on the field at 175 feet from home plate between the left field and right field foul line designated as the encroachment line. When a batter is hitting all outfielders must have both feet behind the line prior to the batter making contact. If, in the umpire's judgment, an outfielder crossed the line prior to the batter making contact a delayed dead ball will occur and the team manager will have the following options:
 - a) the batter will be awarded first base and other runners will move up one base.
 - b) take the result of the play

CONDUCT OF PLAYERS & SPECTATORS

- Teams and team managers will be held responsible for the action of their players and spectators.
- If team managers are satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of an umpire, the manager is requested to file, in writing, specific complaints or suggestions to Walla Walla Parks & Recreation. These comments will then be reviewed by the Recreation Program Supervisor. If the comments require review, such action as needed will be taken by the Recreation Supervisor and Walla Walla Softball Umpire Association. (Concerns not put in writing will not be addressed.)
- Casual profanity/Unsportsmanlike conduct Rule:

Any team member in a game using profanity or unsportsmanlike language, expletives not directed at an umpire(s) or opposing player(s), and loud enough to be heard by spectator(s) will result in an out being called against the offending team.

If a team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter will be declared out.

If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat, that player will be called out.

If the act is committed by the defensive team their first batter up when they are on offense will be declared out. The outs will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation.

If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning, where the fielding team may not bat again, the ejection rule will apply. If the team goes below (8) players it will constitute a forfeit.

- If, in the opinion of the umpire(s) the game cannot be continued in a sportsmanlike manner, the game shall be forfeited by the offending team.
- Only the manager may speak to the umpire. The umpire will direct all conduct warnings to the managers, and it is the manager's responsibility to control all player conduct.
- Officials are not required to warn a player or manager prior to ejection. When a player is ejected from a game, if asked, he/she must leave the entire complex (including parking lot) immediately or the team will forfeit the game. Ejected players may not return to the complex until the following day, if not suspended for a longer period of time by league rules or league director

PENALTY ASSESSMENTS AND PROCEDURES

The following are penalties that will be assessed for each specific act that occurs before, during or after a game (penalties decided by one or all of the following: Umpire, Recreation Supervisor, Softball Advisory Board or Parks & Recreation Director).

Level One Violations

- Possession or consumption of alcohol while participating in a game.
- Intentional throwing of bat (not directed at an individual).
- Minimal swearing directed at another player, umpire, spectator or the Recreation staff.
- Taunting or using language or gestures to provoke another player or umpire.
- Abusive language or continued swearing directed at another player, umpire, spectator or Recreation Staff.
- Participating in a game as an ineligible player.
- Attempting to arouse spectators against an official.
- Not leaving the park when asked to by umpire or Recreation Staff.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Kicking or throwing dirt at an umpire.
- Approaching or following an official off the field after the game is complete with the intent of verbal harassment or physical harm.

Automatic penalties:

First Level One Offense: Ejection from that game and suspension from the following league game. Probation for the remainder of the year.

Second Level One Offense: Ejection from that game and suspension from the following four league games. Probation for one calendar year.

Level Two Violations

- Verbal or physical threats to a player, umpire, spectator or Recreation Staff.
- Fighting whether initiated or done in retaliation.
- Making physical contact with intent to do harm to a player, umpire, spectator or Recreation Staff.

- Throwing or kicking an object at a player, umpire, spectator or Recreation staff with intent to do harm.
- Harassing players, spectators, or Recreation Staff.
- Causing, aiding, or assisting to the damage or destruction of property of Walla Walla Parks & Recreation or individuals associated with the program.

Automatic Penalty: Ejection from that game and suspension from all Parks and Recreation softball leagues for one calendar year. To be reinstated following the suspension the player must write a letter to the Recreation Supervisor asking to be reinstated.

FOR ALL PENALTIES: At the discretion of the Recreation Supervisor and/or Parks & Rec Director a hearing may be held to increase or decrease the penalty according to the degree of violation.

- USA will be notified of the ruling made regarding the violation. Names of players suspended may be published in the Walla Walla Parks & Recreation rule book along with the length of violation.

PROTESTS

- Decisions involving an umpire's judgment may **NOT** be protested.
- Protests for league play must be done according to the USA rule book with the following exceptions:

All protests must be written on the score sheet, both teams notified of protest, and the umpire must sign the score sheet acknowledging the protest. Protests not declared prior to the next play will not be heard. All protests **MUST** be received in writing within two working days, but reported verbally within 1 working day to the Recreation Supervisor at the Walla Walla Parks & Recreation office. A \$25 protest fee must be submitted with all protests. The fee will be refunded if ruling is reversed. The protest, if needed, will be presented in front of the Softball Advisory Board for due process. The manager or coach shall be the only person permitted to protest the interpretation.

Umpires that are protesting the results of a game or the actions of a player/team manager/spectator must report verbally within 24 hours and present the protest or action in writing within 2 working days to Walla Walla Parks & Recreation.

Protest must be written on both teams score sheet, both teams notified of protest, and the umpire must sign the score sheets acknowledging the protest.

CANCELED GAMES/RAINOUTS

- If no official umpire arrives for a game, the game may be played if both managers agree and there is a volunteer umpire to umpire said game or it will be rescheduled. If the game is started with a volunteer umpire, it must be completed. Both coaches are required to sign the score book as proof of agreement. Complaints against a volunteer umpire shall not be considered. Home team is responsible to call the score into the Parks & Recreation office the next day.
- All games which are declared no game because of poor weather conditions, unplayable field (umpire's decision), umpire not showing up, will be attempted to be rescheduled for later in the season. Teams must notify the Walla Walla Parks & Recreation before 9:00 am the next working day as to any dates that would be a conflict. The Recreation Coordinator or Supervisor may cancel games at his/her discretion.
- Rained out games will be attempted to be replayed later that season. (Teams should be prepared to potentially play that same week.)

If games are unable to be rescheduled refunds will not be given.

If it has been raining for a few days prior but has stopped, be sure to call and double check that the fields are playable.

A decision will be made at 4:30 pm to whether the games will be canceled or not. It is the team managers responsibility to call in at 524-4529 to see if the games are canceled. Cancellations will also be posted on the internet at www.teamsideline.com/wallawalla on the game schedules section.

LEAGUE STANDING/AWARDS

League standings are posted on the Internet at www.teamsideline.com/wallawalla

Awards will be given for league play. The contact person listed on the registration form will be notified of the awards pick-up date. Failure to pick up awards within 10 working days of the pick-up date will result in forfeiture of the awards. Award will be given for the following (1st place – t-shirts)

League standings – standings will be determined in the following manner:

Percentages – The team with the highest percentage of wins compared to games played will take the higher place.

Tie breaking criteria:

1. Head to Head: Games played between the teams that are tied will be compared and team winning the most games will take the higher place.
2. If still tied, runs scored for and against (Run Differential) in games played between the tied teams will determine the winner.

Note: If tie involves three or more teams and criteria #1 does not break tie, then criteria #2 will be skipped and a single-elimination playoff will be held between the tied teams. Seeding for playoff will be determined by a blind draw.

END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT

The end of season tournament is available only to teams registered in Walla Walla Parks & Recreation leagues. All teams will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament with their league registration fees.

Post-Season tournament play (Double elimination)

Separate tournaments will be held for each division of play, when possible.

Post-season tournaments will be played according to league rules.

Seeding - seeding for tournament play will be according to league standings at the time the schedule is set up (worst record against best).

Team managers will be notified of their first game.

Home/visiting team – for all tournament games will be decided by a coin flip prior to each game.

Forfeits - if a team forfeits a tournament game, that forfeit is considered a loss. An intentionally forfeited game will result in elimination from the tournament.

Protests - protests should be handled on the spot by assembling a committee of four people: the umpire, a representative from each team, and a neutral person. No protest fee is required.

Protest of illegal players in the tournament must be handled before the end of the game. Rosters will be on the City of Walla Walla Parks & recreation website.

REFUND POLICY

Team fees will not be refunded to teams which drop from the league after the registration deadline. A full refund will be given to teams who drop out of the league prior to the completion of registration minus a \$5.00 processing fee.

Player fees will not be refunded.

If a team drops from the league, there is no refund.

League Directors

Angela Potts, Recreation Supervisor 509-527-4527
recreation@wallawallawa.gov /apotts@wallawallawa.gov

Dave Meliah, Recreation Coordinator 509-730-3709
recreation@wallawallawa.gov /dmeliah@wallawallawa.gov

USA District Commissioner

Stan Johnson, Richland Parks and Recreation 509-942-7541

Schedules, Standings and Results

www.teamsideline.com/wallawalla

REPORTING SCORES:

Winning team must report scores via
Email – [**recreation@wallawallawa.gov**](mailto:recreation@wallawallawa.gov)

OR

Text – **509-730-3709**

Rules Supplement A

Double first base rule (from ASA rule book).

Rule 8, Section 2 (page 109)

M. The double base shall be used at first base in all divisions of play. The following rules should be enforced:

1. A batted ball hitting or bounding over the white portion is fair.
2. A batted ball hitting or bounding over the colored portion is foul.
3. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion of the base.
Effect: The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the white portion, providing the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base. Once the runner returns to the white or colored portion of the base, no appeal can be made.
4. On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base the defense and the batter-runner may use either the white or colored portion of the base.
5. On an errant throw pulling the defense off the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or colored portion of the base.
6. On balls hit to the outfield with no play on the batter-runner advancing to first base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the batter-runner return, the runner may return to the white or colored portion.
7. When tagging up on a fly ball, the white or colored portion may be used.
8. (Fast Pitch, Slow Pitch with stealing & 16-Inch Slow Pitch) On an attempted pick off play, the runner may return to the white or colored portion.
9. When there is a force play on the batter-runner, who touches only the white portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the white.
Effect M-9: Interference, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out, all runners must return to the last base occupied at the time of the interference.