

## **RCI Sports Adult 16in (“Big”) Softball League Rules and Regulations**

All league play shall be governed by the official slow pitch softball rules of the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) unless otherwise stated in the “RCI Sports Rules and Regulations.”

### Equipment:

- The game of 16in softball will be played on the standard turf fields following the baselines that are already provided. Bases will be at 60ft with the pitching mound at 46.6ft.
- Softballs will be 16in diameter and provided by RCI Sports.
- Players may wear protective gear or a softball glove if desired, but it is not required.
- All players must wear active footwear. No open toed shoes or metal cleats are allowed. Any player with improper footwear will not be allowed to participate.
- The official bat made up of the knob, handle, grip, taper, barrel and end cap shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat may be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion.

### Player Eligibility:

- All players must be over the age of 18 to participate.
- All participants must be written on a line up card prior to the start of the game. This line up will reflect the batting order and act as a waiver to participate.
- Each team must have a minimum of 4 females and 4 males.

### Teams:

- Each game will have two participating teams. Team designations (home vs away) will be decided by RCI Sports administration prior to the game and listed on the schedule.
- Team Captains are expected to coordinate and ensure their teams adhere to the rules and regulations of the league.
- If a team does not have enough players to participate in their scheduled game when the game starts, they will automatically forfeit the game and pay a fine of \$50.
  - If a team knows they will not have enough players to play the day of the game, they can forfeit before their scheduled games. All forfeits must be emailed to [events@rcisportsmanagement.com](mailto:events@rcisportsmanagement.com) by 3pm the day of the game to avoid the penalty. Any forfeit requests after 3pm the day of the game will be fined \$50.
  - If fined for illegal forfeits the team will not be permitted to play until fines are paid in full. Exception: They can play the second game of the evening of the same night if they have enough players show up.
  - Illegal forfeit fines are per game.

### Game Timeline:

- The game will last 50 minutes or 7 innings. Whichever comes first.

- If the time expires during an inning, the teams will keep playing until the inning is over unless the home team is at bat and has the lead.
- No new innings will commence with 2 minutes left in the game.
- In the event of a tied game, the game will be recorded as a tie.

#### Pitching:

- The pitcher will be from the defensive team and is required to pitch the ball underhand.
- The action of the pitch must start with one foot on the pitching rubber.
- The ball must be delivered at a moderate speed, in an underhand motion from below the hip, with a perceptible arc of at least six (6) feet from the ground while not exceeding a maximum of twelve (12) feet from the ground. Any pitch that does not meet these requirements will be declared a ball.
- Catchers must stand directly behind the batter's box, but not where they would interfere with the batter.
  - Any interference, as deemed by the Umpire, will be an automatic base awarded to the Batter.

#### Batting:

- Batting order should resemble the line-up form given to Umpires before play. They must alternate male-female until they have exhausted a gender or run out of batting slots. No more than 10 batters can rotate through the batting line-up and must play defense and offense equally (no swapping out offensive players only without playing them in defense as well for the inning). Substitution may occur with the appropriate gender.
  - Ex: I have 4 females and 7 males. The first 8 must alternate male-female. Then 2 of the remaining 3 males can be consecutive at the bottom of the line-up.
    - i.e. Male, female, male, female...insert 2 reps... male, male, top of line-up
  - Note: you cannot double up a gender until all of the players of the other gender have been rotated through. In this example, you could not have all 7 males and only 3 females in the line-up. All of the females would have to be rotated through the line-up first.
  - If line ups fail to meet these requirements, they will receive a ghost out when the line-up error occurs.
- Batters will follow a 3 strikes/ 4 ball rule, starting with a 1 strike:1 ball count. The batter is out on the third strike or will take a base on the 4<sup>th</sup> ball.
  - Foul balls will count as a strike, except on the third strike. The player is out if they hit 2 foul balls.
- Foul balls are considered foul if they go outside the white lines down the first and third base line. If they are hit into fair territory and then roll or bounce out of fair territory (with our interference) before the first and third base, they are considered foul. If they are hit into fair territory and then roll or bounce out of fair territory after the first and third base, they are considered fair.

#### Running:

- Runners must stay within the designated baseline. If they run outside of the baseline to avoid a tag, they will automatically be out.
- Stealing before the ball is hit is illegal and will result in an automatic out.
- No leading off is permitted. This will result in an automatic out.
- Diving is not permitted, except if the runner is diving back within 3ft to the base.
- Sliding feet forward is permitted, except at 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- If a ball is overthrown by a fielder into foul or dead territory, the runner can only advance one additional base beyond the base they are on or running towards.

#### Scoring:

- A runner scores when they tag Homeplate.
- Mercy Rule: When one team is 10 or more points ahead at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game is ended immediately.
- There is a run limit for teams each inning. Recreational leagues run limit is at 7. Once the run limit is reached, the defensive and offensive teams must switch regardless of how many outs.

#### Fielding:

- At least 4 males and 4 females must be on the field at all times when playing defense.
- There are no rules regarding gender placement in the infield or outfield.
- No more than 10 players are allowed on the field in defensive positions at a time. This count includes the pitcher and the catcher.

#### Injury/Substitution:

- In case of an injury, time outs may be called.
- If a batter needs a substitute runner after the initial hit due to injury or a pre-existing medical reason, they may do so after the batter is deemed safe on 1<sup>st</sup>. Replacement runners will be the last runner of similar gender to be out.
- Teams can substitute players in the line up as long as the Umpire is notified prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch. Batters cannot be substituted during the middle of the line up if it causes that batter to bat twice in one line-up.

Please adhere to these rules. In the end, this league is all about having fun and promoting a friendly and recreational environment. If there are any serious disputes between the referees and participants, complaints can be made to [events@rcisportsmanagement.com](mailto:events@rcisportsmanagement.com).