

TOWN OF PRESCOTT VALLEY
PARKS & RECREATION
SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

The Town of Prescott Valley Parks and Recreation Department Sport Leagues are designed to provide a recreational activity for residents of Prescott Valley and surrounding communities. The department strives to promote physical fitness, develop sportsmanship, and to provide a constructive outlet through recreational activities.

SCHEDULE OF GAMES

Weather makeups will be held on next available Wednesdays.

All games will be played at Mountain Valley Park ball fields, 8600 E. Nace on Sunday's

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Prescott Valley Parks and Recreation Department does not discriminate against race, age, disability or national origin in its athletic programs.

AWARDS

Winner of Single Elimination Tournament will determine the winners of each division. First place vouchers will be given for each division winner and each tournament winner. If two teams are tied for first, the winner will be the team that was victorious over the other tying team during league play. If teams are tied in win/loss record in their games, team with higher winning score will be the victor.

POLICY STATEMENT ON OFFICIALS/FIELD SUPERVISOR

The Town of Prescott Valley Parks and Recreation Department provides officials. Judgment calls are final. A field supervisor will be available on site to facilitate the program, handle problems and ensure roster eligibility. The decision made by Site Supervisor will be final. No protests will be taken after a game has been completed.

CARE OF BALL FIELDS

Please instruct all players and spectators to place empty cans and litter in trash receptacles. Misuse of ball fields or park facility will not be tolerated. Violators will be prohibited from using the facility and suspended from league program.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Parents/guardians are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children at the game site/facility. No bikes ridden in and around restroom and no throwing balls against fences or walls.

ALCOHOL AT PARK

Town ordinance forbids any consumption of alcoholic beverages within the confines of the park. Any player, coach or spectator that is found to be in the possession of alcoholic beverage with the intent of consumption will be asked to dispose alcohol and or leave the park. Refusal to leave will cause immediate forfeiture of game being played, yet to be played or having already been played. A first warning will be written for player who does not followed set rule, a second written warning for said player in same season will eject player for entire softball season.

TOURNAMENT

The **top four teams** who play in regular season with less than 2 forfeits will play in end of season tournament. If a team is tied in division for placement, their win/loss record will determine order of their team placement in standings for bracket placement. If teams are tied in win/loss record in their games, team with higher winning score will be the 1 or higher seed team.

GAME TIME

Game time is forfeit time. There will be no waiting period for late players. Official's and/or field supervisor's time is the official time. Time will begin when official declares, "Play ball." Due to each game having a time limit of sixty (60) minutes and the necessity of other teams to be able to start on schedule, no new inning will be started after fifty-five (55) minutes; unless the score is tied.

Games played four (4) or more innings and called due to inclement weather or other unforeseen cancellations shall be considered a regulation game.

- **A Ten (10) run rule will be in effect after 4 1/2 innings.**

- **Flip Flop rule is in effect if the home team is behind by 10 runs or more going into the last inning, then the home team become the visitor in the last inning and any extra innings.**

TIE GAMES

At the end of seven (7) innings or time limit (60 min.) a tie breaker rule will be used to break the tie. All games will be played out until the tie is broken.

Tie Breaker Rule: At the end of seven (7) innings or time limit, whichever comes first, the visiting team puts the last completed batter during the previous inning on second base to start the inning. The home team then gets the same opportunity when they come up to bat. All other rules and situations will remain the same throughout the inning. The game will continue in this format until there is a declared winner.

SLIDING or AVOIDING DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Sliding is allowed at any base. However, sliding is not mandatory. A base runner must either slide or make an attempt to avoid a collision with the fielder.

Neither fielder nor base runner will be allowed to use force in performing their duties of tagging or base running. Penalty: Runner or fielder may be ejected from the game if judged flagrant.

It shall not be considered a violation if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw and the Umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with runner was unavoidable.

SCORE KEEPING

Home team will be official scorebook. A representative must be noted as a designated scorekeeper. Umpire will mediate any discrepancies in score. If home team does not provide a scorekeeper, they will relinquish their home team status. Visiting teams are encouraged to also provide a scorekeeper. Winning team manager must initial scorecard before leaving field.

HOME RUN RULES

- **Hit and Sit Rule**; Batter and all base runners at the time of an over the fence home run or four base award, may advance home without rounding or touching bases or home plate.
- No appeals will be allowed for a missed base or home plate.
- The **one up rule** will apply after 3 home runs. A maximum of 5 will be allowed per team per game. An excess of 5 will constitute as an out.
- **Teams are required to retrieve any ball hit over the fence or out of play.**

MISCELLANEOUS

- Jewelry is prohibited.
- No steel cleats may be worn by any player.
- A first baseman's mitt or glove is allowed at any position on the field.

FIGHTING

Players who engage in fighting will be automatically ejected from the game. Further penalty may be carried out against player(s)/team(s) if the situation warrants.

PROTESTS

Protests will be handled on a case by case basis. Time should be called, inform Umpire that your team is issuing a protest. Site Supervisor must be notified immediately. Official timeout must be called to address rule being protested, the game cannot be continued until protest decision has been decided by the Site Supervisor. All decisions of Site Supervisor are final on all protests. No protests will be allowed after a game has finished.

TEAM CAPTAIN/MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

Team captain/manager will have a current daytime & evening phone number listed on the roster. All managers are responsible for the Code of Conduct of their players and spectators associated with them. Violations of the Code of Conduct or behavior deemed "inappropriate" will receive a minimum/maximum penalty. Team captain/manager is the only team member that may address the official during match play.

CODE OF CONDUCT

No player will at any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike or threaten or use any obscene, abusive gestures or verbal attacks.

No player will be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics or rude sounds in the play of the game against the body and/or person of opposing player.

No player will appear on the contest area under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Team captain/manager is the only team representative who may discuss a ruling with the facility supervisor or official. All judgment decisions are final.

LOCAL SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL RULES

RUNNERS/LEAD-OFFS

A courtesy runner is allowed, one per inning. It must be last out made, or non-player. No lead-offs are allowed. Runner must not leave the base until the ball crosses the plane of home plate.

STRIKE ZONE

The strike zone is achieved with a 6-10 foot arc and the ball landing on the mat or home plate. Players start with a one and one count, with one foul to waste.

PRE-GAME

Umpires and players must initial scorecard:

- Game time
- No illegal bats/balls
- All waivers signed

ELIGIBILITY, ROSTERS, GAME PLAYERS

Players must be fifteen (15) years or older and have completed a waiver to participate in the softball league. A team that participates with an underage player will forfeit the game(s) in which that player plays. Staff may question the eligibility of any player any time before, during or after a game.

- A player must be on your roster, having played in 2 games for your team by end of regular season play to play for that team during League Tournament
- A player may only play on 2 teams (in separate leagues) for end of season tournament. Teams will not be allowed to pick up players just for the Tournament.

ROSTERS

Rosters are open throughout the season to add names. A player may be added who has not participated on another team. Additions/deletions to the roster may be done through Recreation Department office or with the field supervisor on site. Players who are on another team's roster may only play if opposing team agrees before game time. No team may pick up more than three players from another team for a legal game. Umpire must verify agreement or opposition by opposing team. No protests will be received after start of game in this case. All additions/deletions to a roster must be made prior to start of game in which the player participates. If a player wishes to transfer from one team to another in the same league, he/she must notify Parks and Recreation office before making the transfer or on site with field supervisor.

All Teams must have players sign roster/waiver. If your team is caught with a player not on the roster that team will automatically forfeit that game.

MINIMUM PLAYERS MEN/WOMEN

Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players to begin a game. No team may start with less than eight (8) neither nor finish with less than eight (8) or it will be considered a forfeit. A maximum of ten (10) players are allowed on the field defensively. Teams may bat as many players as are on the roster; however, they may not change the order in which they bat.

CATCHER OBSTRUCTION

Obstruction is when a defensive player affects or prevents a batter from swinging at a pitched ball or hinders the progress of a runner. Therefore, the catcher will be called for obstruction if the catcher's glove makes contact with the hitter's bat or when a defensive player doesn't have possession of the ball and blocks a base or base path. If the defensive player (the catcher) has the ball, then that player is allowed to block the base or base path to apply the tag for an out. It shall not be considered a violation if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw and the Umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with runner was unavoidable.

12" COED RULES

HOME PLATE LINE

The home plate line and “line of no return” will be used in all coed leagues. A player running home in an attempt to score must run across the home plate line that extends from home plate towards the backstop. Runners cannot touch home plate. Defensive players can only touch the home plate. Any throw beating the runner to this line and controlled by a defensive player while touching home plate, will result in that runner being out (this is a force out). Runners tagged by a defensive player while attempting to score will not be out. If the runner touches the home plate, he will be out and the ball will remain alive.

LINE OF NO RETURN

A line will be drawn 20 feet from home base the “line of no return”. Once a runner crosses this line, he/she cannot return to third base. He/She is obligated to continue towards home plate in an attempt to score. If the runner does return to third base after he has crossed the line, he/she will be out and the ball remains alive. However, if the runner does not cross the line, it is play as usual, i.e. he/she may be tagged by a defensive player.

COED BATTING ORDER

A team may bat up to eight male and eight female batters during a coed game. Teams do not have to have the same number of men and women batting. However, if a player is playing defense, he/she must be listed as one of the eight in the batting order. If there are an odd number of men and women batting, players will follow the person of the same sex the first time around in the batting order. This will still enable the teams to bat male, female, male, female, etc.

MINIMUM PLAYERS ON FIELD (COED)

A team must have at least eight players present to start and continue a game; of these eight players, there must be a minimum of four men and four women. If nine or more players are used, there must be an equal number of men and women or a majority of women on the field.

Example:

8 players: 4 men/4 women; **9 players:** 4 men/5 women; **10 players:** 5 men/5 women

- There may never be more men than women on the playing field at any time.
- Fielding positions must show a minimum of two women outfielders and two women infielders
- Catcher and pitcher must be opposite sex
- When eight players are used the following ruling applies to the fielding position: Catcher and pitcher must be opposite sex. The infield and outfield positions must have a minimum of one female in its makeup.

CONES

A minimum of three outfielders must be positioned outside the 175' arc when women are at bat. They may move only after the ball is hit. Penalty for violation is illegal pitch (ball).

MALES WALKED

If a male player is walked in his time at bat, he goes automatically to second base (must touch first base on his way to second). The female following has the option to either take her normal turn at bat or she may advance to first base. If the woman steps into the batter's box with a bat she must hit.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Recreational sporting leagues offered by the Town are designed to be leisure in nature with an emphasis placed on sportsmanship and fair play. Participants are encouraged to be competitive and abide by the intent of the league at all times. Unsportsmanlike behavior is not tolerated.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Includes actions of deceit, disrespect, or vulgarity unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, coach, manager or spectator includes, but is not limited to the following: Derogatory remarks to official, opponents, team members, spectator, or recreation staff. Excessive questioning or attempts to influence official or recreational staff decisions. Showing disgust with officials or recreation staff and/or their decisions. Using insulting language or gestures or baiting acts which produce ill will. Making any contact with an opponent which is deemed unnecessary and which incites roughness.

MINIMUM PENALTY

Warning by official and/or Site Supervisor. Possible ejection from the contest, probationary status and/or multiple game suspensions as determined by the Department.

MAXIMUM PENALTY

Removal from further league play and/or possible extended recreational suspension.

POLICY STATEMENT ON FIELD SUPERVISOR

A field supervisor will be available on site to facilitate the program, handle problems and ensure roster eligibility. The field supervisor has the ability to amend a rule if deemed necessary to improve game. Supervisor will enforce ASA approved bat list. All bat protests must be made at time of incident. Site Supervisor has right to remove any bat from play of game. Umpire will notify Site Supervisor for any protests for bat.

ELASTICITY CLAUSE RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY STATEMENT

Judgments will be made upon any rule or procedure not stated herein by the Parks & Recreation Department as necessary, to provide for the recreational enjoyment of players, coaches, managers, spectators, officials, and recreation staff members. The Parks & Recreation Department of the Town of Prescott Valley reserves the right to change, add, or delete, any rules or regulations as it benefits the program.

CANCELLATION INFORMATION

Dial 928-759-3093 during inclement weather, cancellation information will be posted as soon as we become aware. Forfeits call 928-759-3093 after work hours/weekends if your team will be unable to play its scheduled game.

TEAM SCHEDULES

Schedules will be posted on the Town of Prescott Valley's website under Parks and Recreation; it is the responsibility of Team Manager/Captain to provide a working email address. All updates, notices and tournament schedules will be posted and emailed. Managers/Captains are responsible for keeping their teams informed.

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