

City of Gardena
Recreation and Human Services Department
1670 West 162nd Street, Gardena, CA 90247
Kelly Fujio, Director
www.ci.gardena.ca.us

CO-ED SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL RULES
(as of December 6, 2012)

1. S.C.M.A.F. rules will govern play with the following City league exceptions. The decision of Parks and Recreation staff is final. Rules may be changed or amended at any time without prior notification. The Parks and Recreation Department will provide each team with a game ball for each game.
2. All players and managers must personally sign the official line-up sheet each night they play. Players or managers arriving after the start of the game must sign the lineup sheet before entering the field of play.
3. 1 – 1 COUNT; ALL LEAGUES WILL BEGIN WITH A 1 – 1 COUNT. – HOMERUN RULE (Over the fence) will be – One (1) Up, meaning if a player from your team hits a homerun, your team can NOT hit another until the opposing teams hits a homerun. Five (5) runs per inning with last inning being unlimited runs.
4. A defensive team shall consist of ten (10) players. However, a game may be played without forfeit with eight (8) rostered players. **If you are playing with an uneven number of men and women there must be more women than men.** Substitutions or courtesy runners must be of the same sex as the individual being replaced. The minimum number of males that must play is four. Player Leaving: If a player leaves during the game, is injured or ejected and no substitute is available to take their place, an out will be recorded for the next time they are up to bat. After that there will be no penalty. If a female player leaves the game and there is no available female substitute to take her place, a male player must be removed from the game incurring no penalty. If a male player leaves the game and there is no available male substitute to take his place, no female has to come out.
5. Batting Order: Players must bat in alternating order by sex. The batting order may not exceed fourteen (15) players.
6. Time of Game and Innings: All games will be seven (7) innings or no new inning after 1 hour and 5 minutes of play, or whichever occurs first.
7. Forfeit Time: Forfeit time will be five (5) minutes from scheduled game time (**first game only**). Failure of a team to appear with eight (8) rostered players or if a team fails to pay the official's fee will constitute forfeiture of the game. If the grace period is used, the time will come off your game time. Games must start if eight (8) players are present.
 - a. Exception rule – If home team is short players they may opt to become visitors and bat first, if the player does not arrive for their place in the batting order or to take the field the game will be considered a forfeit and the team will be responsible for umpire fees for both teams.
8. Any team that forfeits a game during the course of the season will be required to pay a \$32 forfeiture fee (\$16 each for forfeiting team and opposing team). Payment must be in cash and paid within three business days at the Recreation and Human Services Department 1670 West 162nd Street, Gardena, CA 90247. Failure to do so will result in removal of team from the league with no refund of team fees. Double forfeits: each team will be required to pay \$16 cash within three business days at the Recreation and Human Services Department. Failure to do so will result in removal of team from the league with no refund of team fees. Other reasons where games may be forfeited:
 - A. Failure on the part of any player to abide by the umpire's decisions.
 - B. Team playing an ineligible player.
 - C. Umpire feels that the game is not controllable due to either teams or individual players fighting. Game will be declared a double forfeit.

9. A minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind an outfield restriction line marked with cones (180-foot arc from home plate) until the batter hits the pitch. While a female is batting, the rover must be a female. There will be no other restrictions on a player (male or female) as to which defensive position he or she may play. When playing with eight (8) defensive players you must have three (3) players behind the coed arc at all times.

10. COLLISIONS: It is the intent of the S.C.M.A.F. and league rules to avoid collisions whenever possible to prevent injury. To avoid collisions players must run to the side of the base when a play is being made at that base. Please refer to the definitions of interference and obstruction, and also the league rule for overrunning bases. The interpretation of "sliding" will rely solely on the umpire's judgment. **(This is not a protest-able rule!)**

11. A male batter who is walked on four consecutive balls with no strikes thrown during his time at bat shall be awarded second base. Base runners advance only if forced to vacate their bases.

12. Free substituting will be allowed among players listed in the batting order.

13. The 2 + 2 rule will be in effect. This rule states that after having two strikes, the batter hits a second foul ball, the batter will be declared out by the umpire.

14. The pitcher must arc the ball higher than the batter's head. The maximum arc is 12'.

15. Scoring a run: You must touch the anchored part of home plate, not the extension, to score a run.
a. The exception to this rule is when the runner is trying to avoid contact; he/she may run toward the scoring line.
b. Exception rule if the plate is too wet to touch the umpire will declare at that time to touch the extension part of the plate.

To score, the runner's foot must be on the ground on or beyond the line before the defensive player touches home plate with the ball in possession.

16. No metal cleats are allowed.

17. **Adding/Dropping: Player's may be added to the original roster until the 5th game.** If a team reaches a critical point where they are down to ten (10) or less rostered players after the mid season and are endanger of forfeiting future games permission from the League Director will be given to add players to continue the season. Manager's have until 5:00 p.m. on their scheduled game day to call in with their request. League Director will attend game to get players signature on team's roster.

18. Any player who has been suspended from a ball game shall not be permitted to coach or manage from the coaches' box or dugout. Any player ejected from a game, for ANY reason will not be permitted to play in his team's next game. If the player is a "player/manager" he will not be permitted to play or manage the remainder of the game. He will not be allowed to play in his team's next game but he will be allowed to manage the next scheduled game. Managers/Players can be asked to leave the park premises by the game official or park personnel if deemed necessary. Players are allowed to play on different nights of the week within the City of Gardena Recreation and Human Services Department adult softball league.

19. Players are not allowed to play on two teams during the same night. If a team is found to be playing with an illegal player, that team will automatically forfeit their game(s). Managers/Assistant Managers found to be using an illegal player(s) would be suspended for a minimum of two (2) games. Player(s) found playing on a team in which they are not on the roster would be suspended for a minimum of two (2) games. However players may play the same night but in different divisions.

19. Tie Breaker: One extra inning only will be played if time expires and the game is tied. We will use the International Tie Breaker during this extra inning (last out will be the designated runner). There will be one extra inning only played at that time even if all seven (7) innings have not been completed. If the tie remains unbroken each team will receive half a win and half a loss.

20. PROTESTS: In order for a protest to be valid, the following steps must be taken:

A. The manager or acting manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the umpire that the game is being conducted under protest. The umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager.

B. If the game is protested due to illegal players, the protest will automatically be granted if the team under protest does not have everyone who has played print their name and sign the line-up sheet. Managers have until 5:00 p.m. the next workday to file a protest for an illegal player(s). Managers playing on Friday nights have until 5:00 p.m. Monday to file a protest for an illegal player(s). When protesting an illegal player(s) the manager for the protesting team must provide the questioned player(s) name(s) and spot(s) in the opposition's batting order. Protests that fail to provide the required information will not be considered. Protesting an entire roster will also not be considered.

C. Protests that shall be received and considered are:

1. Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
2. Illegal player

21. A player must be 18 years of age to participate in the coed league.

22. No infield practice will be allowed, however, teams may use the side areas to warm up.

23. Courtesy Runner: There is no limit to the number of courtesy runners used, however, the courtesy runner used shall be the player of the same sex as the original base runner who:

Was the last official out in the inning;

If no outs have been made in the inning, then the last official out in the prior inning;

In the first inning and no outs, the batter listed last in batting order.

Note: If the player identified by the above procedure is currently a base runner, then the previous "last out/batting order" player should be used.

24. NO SMOKING on any City of Gardena Park on the field or in the park.

25. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in a public park or facility are prohibited. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by members of your organization on the park facilities (ball diamond, buildings, parking lots, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Managers are encouraged to enforce this rule. No Ice chest of any size will be allowed in the dugout, they must be in your vehicle. Any team, player or manager caught with an alcoholic beverage in his or her possession will incur the following penalty:

First offense: Manager and team will be issued a warning.

Second offense: Team will forfeit game played; person/persons caught with an alcoholic beverage will be suspended for one game. Manager will also be suspended for one game.

Third offense: Team will be removed from league and forfeit league fees.

27. In the event of inclement weather, the Recreation Division will make a judgment on the playability of the softball fields by 5:00 p.m. of game day. If you do not receive a phone call from the Recreation Division, consider your game to be as scheduled. The Recreation Division will only inform team managers when games have been cancelled due to weather.

28. Rules are subject to change, when deemed necessary by the League Director. The League Director reserves the right to reclassify teams and determine eligibility of players. For further information or clarification, please contact the Recreation Department at 310-217-9537 or 310-217-6175.

SAMPLE OF COED FEMALE – MALE PLAYER:

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| • 5 Women | 5 Men |
| • 6 women | 4 Men |
| • 5 Women | 4 Men |
| • 4 Women | 4 Men |

(NO OTHER VARIATION OF PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED)

If you are playing with an uneven number of men and women there must be more women than men.