THE VILLAGES RECREATION WOMEN'S DIVISION 2 SOFTBALL RULES AND PROCEDURES REVISED *6.7.26* (latest changes in bold)

The Villages Community Development District (VCDD) Recreation Program is governed by the VCDD Recreation Softball Procedures and the Official Senior Softball – USA Rulebook ("Senior Softball Rules") with the additions and modifications included in this document.

GAME CONDUCT

Players, managers, coaches or officials shall not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about any opposing players, officials, or spectators, or commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. Any unsportsmanlike conduct can result in an ejection. As per The Villages Recreation Softball League Policies and Procedures, 3 (L): Eligibility of players due to violations of the VCDD Recreation code of conduct is the duty of the Recreation Department. A two-game suspension is mandatory for any player or manager ejected from a league game. In the case of any physical contact the minimum suspension is 1 month. The Recreation Department will determine if further disciplinary action is necessary. The Recreation Department has the sole ability to discipline or suspend players from all recreation sponsored leagues.

ARTICLE ONE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1 - Number of Members

Division 2 will be governed by an elected 5-member Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as the "Board").

SECTION 2 - Qualifications

Board Members must be full-time residents of The Villages and must have played/managed AND umpired/served in some capacity in the booth in Division 2 for at least two of the last three consecutive seasons.

Board Members must be currently registered in Division 2 as a Roster Player, Sub or Non-playing Manager**/Scorekeeper/Umpire** and must continue to be a registered member in Division 2 while serving on the Board.

SECTION 3 - Terms of Office

Each Board Member will serve a two-year term.
On odd numbered years when the election is held, 3 Members will be elected.
On even numbered years when the election is held, 2 Members will be elected.

SECTION 4 – Elections

Any qualified person may submit an application to the Board by November 1. If the Board determines that the individual fulfills the necessary requirements, she will be placed on the ballot. The names of the candidates and the date, time, and place for the election will be posted on the bulletin board of the softball complex.

Elections will be held during the second week of November. Votes are cast on paper ballots at the fields during regular game hours. In the event that balloting cannot be held on the date posted, the next available game date will be used.

New Board Members will begin serving their terms of office immediately following the end of the Fall Season (sometime at the beginning of December). Therefore, a Board Member's term will end on the last day of the Fall Season.

The runner-up in an election serves a one-year term as Board Alternate.

SECTION 5 - Board Member Removal or Resignation

Board members are expected to serve their complete term after the election.

a) Any Member absent from three or more scheduled Board meetings per year, without a valid reason accepted by the Board, may be dismissed from the Board.

b) Any Member who resigns for any reason other than medical, family emergency, or a reason accepted by all remaining Members will not be allowed to serve on the Board for at least one full year after resignation.

c) If a Board Member changes softball divisions for any reason at any time during her term, her position on the Board is terminated.

d) Any Member may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining Members whenever it would be in the best interest of the league.

If there is a vacancy on the Board:

a) The Board Alternate becomes a member and completes the term of the person she has replaced.

b) If there is no Board Alternate or more replacements are needed, the Board can appoint them.

c) If the Board cannot fill a vacancy, there will be a special election within 30 days of the vacancy. Any qualified person may submit a written application to the Board within that time frame. If replacement(s) are unopposed, the Board may approve without a vote of membership.

d) Any replacement Board Member that is holding the position as Manager may complete that

season as such.

SECTION 6 - Board Officers

The officers will be chosen by the members of the Board as follows:

a) Chair - selected for one-year term,
b) Assistant Chair - chosen by the Chair for a one-year term,
c) Secretary/Treasurer - selected by the Board for a one- year term.

Other members will be considered Members at Large.

SECTION 7 - Board Decisions

All board decisions are made by majority vote of Board members. At its discretion, the Board may consult with managers and/or call for a vote by the players on any issue.

SECTION 8 - Rule Changes

The Board will review and approve or disapprove any rule additions, deletions or changes proposed by members, managers, players, or Rules Committee appointed by the Board. The Board reserves the right to alter, modify or update these procedures as deemed necessary.

SECTION 9 - Board Rules and Responsibilities

The Board's duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

a) Hold regular meetings, announce decisions and policy changes, and make decisions in the day-to-day management of the league.

b) Organize league play: The Board must decide the information needed on the registration forms each season, pass out and collect registration forms, and review applications of those who sign up to play each season.

c) Determine the number of teams.

d) Select team managers for the upcoming season.

An assistant manager can only be chosen from the team's roster after the draft has been completed.

e) Assist new managers with their duties.

f) Establish the schedule of games.

g) Train and schedule scorekeepers.

A head scorekeeper may be selected by the Board to assist with this duty.

h) Select Sub-Coordinator.

Sub-coordinator will maintain lists of substitutes for games and work with the Board in the development and approval of the sub program and rules.

i) Recruit and schedule umpires.

A “head” umpire may be selected by the Board to handle this responsibility.

j) Mark new balls for “Ladies Rec” and place them in buckets behind the plate before each game.

k) Collect score sheets and submit them to the newspaper. Contact the newspaper if at any time the results are not correctly printed.

l) Maintain emergency contact information for all registered players and subs.

m) Conduct the draft.

SECTION 10 - The Draft

The draft is the method decided by the Board and/or managers used to select players for the teams with the goal of achieving teams of equal playing strength. At its discretion, the Board may select roster players for teams.

The players entering the draft must have either played in Rec Division 1, 2 or 3 in their last active season, or have completed an evaluation session in which they were rated as a Division 2 player, or have played in a Neighborhood Division in the level which they were evaluated.

a) Only Board members, managers and individuals invited by the Board may attend the draft.

b) Prior to the draft date, the Board will provide to managers a list of all players eligible for the draft.

c) Player/Draft Coordinator will communicate with and maintain files/communication from the Ladies Divisions evaluators and share the information with managers as needed, at pre-draft managers’ meeting and the draft.

d) Managers should plan on attending the draft and be prepared to make their selections. Attendance at the draft will be one of the criteria for selection of managers each season.

e) Board members should not discuss specific player abilities with managers during the draft

process.

f) A random drawing will determine the order in which managers will draft.

g) All teams must draft a minimum of 11 players, if enough registered full-time players are available, with a maximum of 12 players.

h) A player must participate in the division she was evaluated for as either a roster player or substitute for her initial season. Players may decide to move up or down one division per season after their initial season.

i) If a player signs up for a division higher than the division she just participated in and does not get drafted, she will be put in the draft pool of the level below she signed up for.

j) If a Division 2 player goes undrafted for 2 consecutive seasons, she must drop down to Division 3 for one season beginning the following season. The Villages Recreation Softball Seasons are Fall, Winter, and Summer.

k) Newly evaluated players who complete their evaluation while a season is currently underway go into the priority sub protocol of their assigned league.

l) Any division representative may request a one-day re-evaluation for a player in the league in which they represent. The player will be re-evaluated and assigned to the division in which they are re-evaluated.

ARTICLE TWO: TEAM MANAGERS

SECTION 1 - Qualifications

a) Be a full-time or seasonal resident of The Villages.

b) Played or participated as a non-playing manager for a minimum of three seasons in Division 2.

c) Comprehensive knowledge of the game and Division 2 rules and procedures.

d) Have consistently maintained a positive and constructive relationship with the Board and displayed good sportsmanship both on and off the field.

e) Has access to a computer and a current e-mail service.

SECTION 2 - Manager Selection

The Board will evaluate and select team managers prior to the draft for each season. An individual cannot use a managerial appointment simply to remain in the division.

If there are more available managers than teams and they all meet the qualifications cited above, the Board may grant preference to Managers with seniority in the position, with seniority in the division, prior positive managerial performance, and demonstrated ability as a Division 2 player.

SECTION 3 - Manager Duties and Responsibilities

The managers' duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

a) Draft players to form a team or work with the Board to form teams.

b) Make the team members aware of the Division 2 rules and procedures.

c) Schedule and conduct pre-season practice sessions.

d) Distribute the game schedule to team members.

e) Maintain all necessary communication with the Board via email.

f) Maintain an effective and timely communication stream with their players and share Recreation Department and Board information.

g) Complete the official line-up form and submit it to the scorekeeping team no later than 20 minutes prior to game start time.

> A minimum of 10 players is required to field a team. The maximum number of defensive players on the field at one time is 11. Except for the pitcher, extra players will rotate among other players with no player sitting out more than two innings defensively and no player sitting out 2 consecutive innings. All players must be in the batting line-up and bat in order. Subs are listed last and designated with an "S." Pitcher is notated with a "P."

h) Provide a copy of the line-up to the opposing team's manager.

i) Inform the Sub Coordinator of an injured or ill player.

j) Attend any/all meetings when invited by the Board, unless on an approved absence.

ARTICLE THREE: PLAYERS

TRANSGENDER RULE (Transgender Athletes)

Men are not permitted to compete on women's teams but on occasion the eligibility issue of transgender athletes arises. To ensure that no athlete is excluded from the opportunity to participate, that the safety of women players is protected, and to maintain fairness in competition, the SSUSA has adopted the standards used by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to govern the eligibility of trans-gender athletes.

A. Generally, under NCAA guidelines, all transgender athletes must:

1. Have a serum testosterone concentration below 10 nmol/L. for at least 12 months. The athlete must maintain that level to remain eligible: and

2. Follow other gender requirements set by World Baseball/Softball Confederation (the sport's international governing body). See the NCAA or WBSC websites for more information and any updates to this policy.

B. The transgender athlete must provide suitable documentation in support of eligibility prior to participation. Challenges or protests as to the eligibility of an athlete under this provision shall be treated as any other player eligibility issue, such as residency or minimum qualifying age.

C. All costs and expenses of providing the suitable documentation in support of meeting the NCAA standards vests solely with the trans-gender athlete and shall not be the responsibility of the SSUSA.

SECTION 1 - Qualifications & Registration

a) Players must be residents or certified renters of The Villages.

b) Players must be at least 50 years of age.

c) Players must sign a release form before being eligible to practice or play.

d) New players must have completed the evaluation process and have a Division 2 designation by The Villages Recreation Softball Evaluation Committee.

e) Players must completely fill out a registration form during the posted enrollment period in order to be drafted.

SECTION *2* - Player Responsibilities

Players must be present at the fields 30 minutes prior to game time.

Any player arriving after a substitute has been chosen for that player will not be eligible to play that day.

If a player is aware at the start of a game that she cannot or may not be able to complete the game in its entirety and plays anyway and then leaves before the game is completed, the team may not replace that player with a Sub and the team will continue to play short. All subsequent at bats for that player will be declared an out. The opposing team does not have to reduce their number of players to make teams equal.

SECTION 3 - Player Equipment

Players may use any SSA approved bat or the single wall bats used by The Villages Neighborhood Leagues that are stored in the supply area at the fields.

Rubber cleats or sneakers are to be worn. (No metal cleats).

The use of any equipment designed to protect players is encouraged, including masks, shin guards, helmets, and mouthguards.

The visiting team will wear a blue shirt; the home team will wear an orange or white shirt.

Exposed jewelry that is judged by the umpire to be a safety issue to anyone participating must be removed and may not be worn during the game. A medical alert bracelet or necklace is not considered jewelry.

Division 2 does not require compliance with the Senior Softball Rules mandated safety equipment for pitchers. It is highly recommended that pitchers wear a protective face mask, heart/chest protection, and shin guards.

SECTION 4 - The 70% Rule for Roster Players

Roster players should have participated in at least 70% of their team's games in order to be eligible for the next season in which they wish to participate. Any scheduled games that are canceled will count as played games for the 70% requirement.

Roster players who do not meet the 70% minimum without receiving Board approval for a "Leave of Absence" may be placed on the Sub List for the remainder of the season.

SECTION 5 - Leave of Absence

All roster players should request a "leave of absence" because of injury, illness, or family emergency when they expect that they will miss 6 or more consecutive games. The request should be in writing

and submitted to the team manager or a Board member. Players submitting a LOA request may be retained on the roster of the team that drafted them upon approval from Manager and Board with a sub being drawn from the sub pool for each missed game. If missing 6 or more games concluding the season, the LOA player may be replaced by a permanent roster player.

ARTICLE FOUR: SUBSTITUTES

Substitutes ("Subs") are players obtained at the request of the Team Manager to replace a Roster Player for a specific game when that team's roster falls below 11 players.

A team may substitute a maximum of 5 Subs. More than 5 Subs constitutes a forfeit except in the case where a team's roster has fallen below 10 players due to extended absence of a player because of illness or injury. If the Board has approved that extended absence, a team may obtain a Sub for that player without penalty or may request a permanent replacement if the roster player will be missing 6 or more games concluding the season.

SECTION 1 - Obtaining Subs for the Sub Pool

Subs are obtained for the Sub Pool by the Sub Coordinator in the following order:

a) Sub List (Non-roster players who have specifically chosen to be Subs.)

Subs are contacted on a rotation basis so that each Sub has the opportunity to play.

A newly evaluated player who completes her evaluation while a season is currently underway will be considered a Priority Sub from the date, she is added to the sub list and will be the first Sub contacted to play the next four consecutive games. If a Sub is not needed for any one or more of those four games, the priority period will be extended until the Priority Sub has been contacted four times. If a Sub is not available to play any one or more of those four games, the priority period is not extended. A priority sub may not become a permanent roster player until she has participated in four or more games.

If the Sub is also a pitcher, that Sub cannot replace the Roster Pitcher and must play another position on the field. If, however, during the game, the Roster Pitcher is removed from the game due to an injury, emergency, or illness, the Sub can at that time replace the Roster Pitcher and a Utility Sub can enter the game.

b). Roster Players on the Bye Team or if no Bye Team, then Roster Players who are not playing a game at the same time that the Sub is needed

c). Utility Subs: The two teams not playing will each supply one roster player to be a Utility Sub. The first Utility Sub to enter the game is chosen by roll of die.

d). A Roster Player or Sub available at the field that day chosen by the Sub Coordinator or a Board Member.

NOTE: Requests for "Sub Pitchers" are not part of this selection process. The Sub Coordinator will assign Sub Pitchers as requested by the manager on a rotation basis in an effort to allow each Sub Pitcher to sub an equal number of times for each team.

SECTION 2 - Sub Selection Before the Game

Subs are required to report to the Sub Coordinator no later than 30 minutes before the start of the game. A Sub arriving after that time may not be allowed to play. The first Utility Sub scheduled for that game may then take that Sub's place in the Sub Pool.

Team Managers will meet with the Sub Coordinator at least 30 minutes before game time to select Subs from the Sub Pool. The Team line-up form should be submitted to the Scorekeeper no later than 20 minutes prior to game start time.

a) The Team Manager with the lowest percentage of wins will have the first selection of available Subs. Managers will then alternate ***picks until all the needed Subs are selected: 2,3,4,5, etc.***

b) If both teams have the same percentage of wins, the Team Managers will roll the die to determine who gets the first pick.

c) If both teams require a sub pitcher, the Team Manager with the most losses will have first pick of either sub pitcher or regular sub.

d) Subs must bat at the bottom of the line-up.

e) If a roster player on the line-up fails to appear after the line-up has been submitted to the Scorekeeper, the Manager must choose to request a Utility Sub or begin the game with 10 players until the player on the line-appears.

1. If the roster player arrives after a Utility Sub has been requested by the manager, the roster player cannot play that game.

2. If the roster player who has not been replaced by a Utility Sub arrives after the start of the game and the player has only missed two times at bat and there are not already 11 players on the roster, the player may enter the game. The "at bats" missed by the late player will be recorded as outs.

f) Subs will play wherever the manager assigns them, excluding pitching.

SECTION 3 - Sub Selection after the Start of the Game

If a Sub is needed to replace an injured player, or a player who must depart due to an emergency or illness, or any other situation that the Sub Coordinator or Board Member deems to be a legitimate reason to obtain a Sub, that player will be replaced the first Utility Sub previously selected by roll of die.

A team needing a Utility Sub because of injury or other approved reason, is allowed to obtain the Utility Sub even if they already have 5 subs from the Sub Selection Before the Game rules.

If no Utility Sub is available and the Sub Coordinator or a Board member is not able to obtain another Roster Player available at the field to sub, the team can play with 10 players and the other team does not have to reduce the number of fielded players to make the teams equal.

A Team Manager, who is physically able to play, may choose to sit out and not bat a game as long as there are 11 players on the roster. If a Sub is subsequently needed, the Team Manager must play to fill that position. If the Manager is choosing to sit out due to injury, for the remainder of the season, a replacement player may be utilized if the roster falls below 11. The replacement player, if a priority sub, must have participated in four or more games.

SECTION 4 - Replacement of Roster Player

If a team's roster falls below 11 players, with 6 or more games remaining in the team's season, the team manager can request a permanent replacement from the Sub List. The team manager should submit a written request to the Board by Sunday at 6:00 pm before the upcoming week of games. The Sub Coordinator will poll all subs for any who would like to be considered for a roster position for the remainder of the season. Upon receipt of the replacement request, all subs' names who are willing to become a permanent roster player will be given to the manager(s) who requested a replacement player. The names will be given to the manager(s) and the selection process should be completed before Friday's game, following the Sunday request. The manager(s) shall notify the Board of the selection to use a name off the replacement sub list. Team managers are not required to select a replacement player and can continue using a sub off the Sub List for the remainder of the season. If more than one team needs a replacement sub, the order of selection will be based on winning percentage, with the lower percentage selecting first.

ARTICLE FIVE: GAME RULES

Appeal Play: An Appeal Play is a play on which the umpire may not make a decision until requested by the manager. The appeal must be made before the next legal pitch. Types of Appeal Plays:

a) Missing a base.

b) Leaving a base early on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched.

c) Batting out of order**.**

d) Attempting to advance to second base after making a turn at first base (umpire's judgment).

Base Running:

a) A player will be called out for sliding, stealing, diving back or leading off a base.

b) The ball must be hit or cross home plate for a runner to leave the bag.

c) All batter/runners going to first base must use the runner's lane to avoid possible interference and must cross the orange bag or she is out. The exception is if there is no play on the batter/runner or the ball is overthrown, in which case she can use either bag to advance to second base.

d) If the defensive player touches any part of the orange bag, the batter/runner will be safe.

e) Once the batter/runner reaches 1st base, the double base shall be treated as one base and the fielder or runner may use either portion

f) Every base is a "force out."

g) 1). A runner in a force situation will be called out (ball remains live) if she moves back toward the previously held base to avoid or delay a tag by the fielder. It is permissible to stop.

2.) A batter running to first will be called out (the ball is dead, and all runners will return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch) if she moves back toward home plate to avoid or delay a tag by a fielder.

h) A tag on a runner can be made when she is advancing to the next base; however, the runner going home may not be tagged out after crossing the commitment line.

i) Running home, the offensive player must touch the “scoring plate” or cross the “scoring line”. If the wrong plate is touched, she will be called out. The defensive player must touch the “strike zone mat/plate” for the out. Once the runner crosses the commitment line on her way to home plate, she is committed to going home and she may not return to third base.

j) For safety reasons, there are no rundowns. A rundown situation starts when the ball is fielded ahead of the runner (“fielded” is either a batted ball or a thrown ball by a defensive player making a play on a base runner). The runner may advance and be in jeopardy of being put out or she may make one turn to go back to the previously held base (still in jeopardy of being put out). If she is returning to the previously held base and makes a second turn, she is out, and the ball remains live. If she is returning to a previously held base, she does not have to go back to touch the base if the ball is overthrown on a subsequent play and may advance to the next base.

Batter’s Box/Batting Position: The batter’s box is the 3- foot by 7-foot area to which the batter is restricted. A batter who steps out of the batter’s box at any time during the pitch and then hits the ball, fair or foul, shall be called out. “Steps Out” means touching the ground completely with a whole foot or stepping in front of the plate with the whole foot.

Batting Process: A batter is out if she bunts or chops the ball when hitting a pitched ball.

Cancellation or Modification of Game:

a) By the Recreation Department:

Prior to commencement of play for the day, the District Recreation Department will determine if games are to be canceled due to inclement weather or field conditions that would impact on the safety and wellbeing of participants. The Rec Department will contact radio station WVLG 640 AM regarding these cancellations which will be announced after the 7:00AM news.

b) By the Umpires:

At any time, games may be stopped by the umpires, with consultation of both managers, when the heat index reaches 104 degrees, or the temperature falls below 50 degrees. If both managers agree to continue a game in heat or cold conditions, they may do so; however, umpires have the right to leave if they choose. In addition, umpires may stop or delay a game for a maximum of 20 minutes due to weather conditions that place the players, umpires, and spectators at risk. A game that is stopped is official only after the completion of five innings or 4 ½ innings with the home team ahead.

c) By the Managers:

If both managers determine that any condition exists which threatens the health, safety or wellbeing of the players, they may agree to stop or delay the game without umpire approval. A game that is stopped is official only after the completion of five innings or 4 ½ innings with the home team ahead.

Catcher's Box: The catcher must remain within the catcher's box until the pitched ball is batted, touches the ground or plate, or reaches the catcher's box. The catcher's box ends 10 feet behind the rear boundary of the batter's box.

Courtesy Runner: A batter may request and have a courtesy runner from home plate if she meets and is playing under the American with Disabilities Act (with appropriate official government documentation). The batter/runner may not advance to second base and is subject to overthrows or errors.

Baserunners injured during the first through sixth innings can have a courtesy runner from the base of the injury and only for that inning. The courtesy runner will be the last batter to not reach base safely and is not already assigned as a courtesy runner. If that last batter is already assigned as a courtesy runner, then the previous batter who failed to reach base safely will be the courtesy runner. If the injured player cannot run for the remainder of the game, a Utility Sub will replace her. No additional courtesy runners can be utilized in the seventh or extra innings. If an obvious injury does occur, where the player is unable to run, a Utility sub will be utilized.

Runner Rule:

a) There is no criteria for needing a runner.

b) The player, not the manager, requests the courtesy runner before the game starts.

c) There can be a maximum of 2 players requesting a courtesy runner, per team.

d) Courtesy runners (C) are assigned before the game starts. A "C" will be placed by the Courtesy Runner and an "R" will be placed by the player needing the runner on the Lineup sheet, prior to the start of the game.

e) The courtesy runner will run for the player for the entire game.

f) The player must get to 1st base and stop there before the runner takes over.

g) If the courtesy runner is injured during the game, a new courtesy runner will be assigned by the manager.

h) If another player is injured during the game, the courtesy runner rule already in place will be followed.

i) The player requesting a Courtesy runner at the start of the game must use the courtesy runner for the entire game unless there is an injury involving the courtesy runner.

j) The number of Courtesy runners at the start of the game will be the same number of Courtesy runners at the end of the game.

k) A Courtesy runner on base when it's their turn at bat, will be declared out. The runner will be removed from the base and another Courtesy runner cannot be substituted. The courtesy runner will get their turn at bat unless it's the 3rd out, then they will be the leadoff batter in the next inning.

l) The player will make the umpire aware that she is obtaining a Courtesy runner from 1st base.

m) When a team is assigned a substitute pitcher who is pitching in her second game of the day, they will be allowed a maximum of 3 courtesy runners, (not 2 as set out in paragraph c above) if that pitcher chooses to have a courtesy runner. All other rules above apply.

Flip Flop Rule: The Flip Flop Rule may be invoked voluntarily by both managers when there is a 10-run differential in the sixth inning. If the team batting back-to back fails to score enough runs to tie or win the game, the game is over. If the team taking back-to-back scores enough runs to take the lead, the opponent then gets a turn at bat to either tie or win the game.

Game Forfeit: If a team does not have a minimum of 6 roster players present after 5 minutes of the games' scheduled start time, that team will forfeit the game with the option of playing the game for fun. The team forfeiting may then use any number of substitutes. The score of the forfeited game shall be 7-0.

Game Length:

A game consists of 7 innings with no time limit.

a) Five Run Limit Per Inning Rule: A team is limited to 5 runs per inning, including the 8th inning in the case of at tie when the International Tiebreaker Rule is applied. The exception to the Five Run Rule is the 7th inning when scoring is unlimited for both teams.

b) International Tiebreaker Rule: When the teams are tied at the end of seven innings, each team starts the 8th inning with a runner on second base. The base runner is the last batter of the previous inning whose turn at bat had been completed. No substitute or courtesy runner may replace the runner who was getting a courtesy runner from first during the game until the runner has reached third base, except if the last batter was playing under the Americans with Disabilities Act and had been utilizing a runner from home. She may have a courtesy runner starting at second base.

c) Mercy Rule**:** If a team is leading by 12 or more runs after the completion of five innings (or four and one-half if the home team is leading), the game is complete.

Infield Fly Rule: There is no Infield Fly Rule in D2.

Injured Player: If any player is injured or experiences a health issue during a game, either umpire may call "time" and allow first aid treatment. Whether to stop playing immediately is up to the judgment of the

umpire(s). If runners are on base when “time” is called, those runners will be awarded the bases that the umpire judges they would have reached if “time” had not been called. If an injured/ill fielder leaves the game, she may not return to the game later. A Utility Sub will replace the player in the same position in the line-up as the injured/ill player she replaced.

Interference: Interference is the act of an offensive player or team member that impedes or confuses a defensive player from attempting a play. A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases. If, in the umpire’s judgment, a runner misses a base to avoid a collision with a defensive player, the runner will not be called out. If the runner is judged as failing to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play, the ball will be declared dead, and that runner is called out.

Intentional Walk: To allow recreational softball to be played as such, there will be only one intentional walk imposed on any player per game. A player who is intentionally walked does not have to be pitched to but goes directly to first base.

On Deck Batter and Batter in the Hole: On deck player should be ready to enter the batter’s box and batter in the hole should be ready to remove the last batter’s equipment such as bat, helmet, or hat when” Time” is called by the umpire and shall not interfere with any defensive player’s opportunity to make an out.

Pitching:

a) Legal Pitching Delivery

The pitcher must come to a full and complete stop with the ball in front of the body and facing the batter before pitching. This position must be shown before starting the pitch. A pitcher’s pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher’s box (area from the front of the pitcher’s plate extending back 10 feet from the pitcher’s plate) until the pitch leaves the pitcher’s hand. The pitch must come in at a moderate speed and have an arc between 6 and 12 feet. If a step is taken by the pitcher, it can be forward, backward or to the side provided the pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher’s box and the step is simultaneous with the release of the ball.

b) Illegal Pitch Penalties:

A batter may choose to swing at an illegal pitch (a pitch below 6 feet or higher than 12 feet) and it will be either a strike or a hit; if she chooses not to swing, it is a ball. If a quick pitch is attempted (the ball is not released by the pitcher), the umpire may call “time” or “no pitch” to allow the batter to get set. If the pitch is released, it is an illegal pitch, and a ball shall be called unless the batter swings at the pitch and either a strike is called, or the ball is struck.

c) Pitcher’s Protective Screen**:**

If a pitcher uses a protective screen, it must be used by that pitcher throughout the game. Any batted ball hitting the screen is a dead ball. A thrown ball that hits the screen is considered a live ball. The pitcher using the screen must step behind the screen after every pitch. If the pitcher fails to get behind the screen after releasing the pitch, the first offense will result in a warning. Subsequent infractions will result in an illegal

pitch (or ball) being called. A pitcher is eligible to field a ball grounded up the middle or popped up above the screen. The team wishing to use the screen is responsible for proper placement and removal.

Obstruction: Obstruction is the act of (a) a defensive player or team member who hinders or prevents a batter from striking at or hitting pitched ball or (b) a fielder who is not in possession of the ball, not in the act of fielding a batted ball, or not about to receive a thrown ball, who impedes the progress of the batter/runner who is legally running the bases. When an obstruction occurs, the umpire will signal a delayed dead ball and runners will be entitled to advance.

Thrown Bat: If a batter throws the bat, but it is not in anger and it does not hit anyone, she will receive a warning. If the batter throws the bat again, the batter may be called out. A bat thrown in anger is interference and grounds for ejection.

"Time:" The ball remains live until the umpire calls "time," which should be done when the ball is held by a player in the infield area, and in the umpire's judgment, all play has ceased.

Umpires: An umpire will be used on home plate (the plate umpire) and if available, on the bases (the field umpire). In the event of a controversial call, only team Managers may discuss it with the umpire who made the call. That umpire has the option of conferring with the other umpire. Only the umpire who made the call can reverse that call.

Utilizing a Runner from Home (ADA Rule)
Any player who wants to use a runner from home must request it in writing and submit it to the Board, each season. Once approved, at the start of each game the player will inform her manager and the home plate umpire that she is using a runner from home, and she must continue to do so for the remainder of the game.

The Courtesy runner from home may not advance past first base, regardless of the hit.

The last batter who did not safely reach first base will be the runner from home, unless that player is already a courtesy runner for another player. They may only run once per inning and no more than twice per game. If either of these two scenarios have occurred, the previous batter who resulted in an out will be the courtesy runner.

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