

Ankeny Parks & Recreation Coed & Men's Softball Rules

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INTRODUCTION

Please review the following rules with your team. The Ankeny Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary during the season. Managers will be notified of any changes.

LIABILITY STATEMENT

The City of Ankeny, Ankeny Parks & Recreation, its employees or appointed agents assume no responsibility for any personal injury or loss that any team member or spectator may incur as a result of Parks & Recreation programs. Individuals are encouraged to have their own personal health/accident plans for any such injuries which could occur. Players may be held responsible for unnecessary damage which may occur as a result of misconduct in a facility.

ELIGIBILITY

- All players must be 18 years of age prior to the start of league play.
- The fee for participation by a non-resident is \$10 per person.
- All team and non-resident fees must be paid prior to participating in the league.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- If there has been inclement weather, teams may call the Weather Hotline at 963-3575 or check for updates on www.teamsideline.com/ankeny after 4:30 pm.
- If games have been canceled for the evening by Parks & Recreation, games cannot be played. Any games played on these days will not be recorded.
- If it rains during a game, the umpire must decide if the fields are playable enough to start a game.
- After the game has started the umpire will decide as to whether the game will continue or be cancelled.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & SMOKING

- **No alcohol is allowed to be brought onto or leave the premises.**
- Customers must be (21) twenty-one years of age and provide adequate photo identification to purchase beer.
- Purchasers can buy no more than two cans of beer at a time.
- Beer Sales are allowed:
 - Weekdays start at 5:30 p.m. and end no later than 9:30 p.m.
 - Weekends start at 10:30 a.m. and end no later than 9:30 p.m.
- Hawkeye Park is a smoke free facility; smoking is forbidden by the concession stand, softball fields and volleyball courts. Smoking is only allowed in personal vehicles while on City property.
 - **First Warning** – Player or players will be asked to leave the complex
 - **Second Warning** – Team will be disqualified from the league with no refund
- The City of Ankeny does not serve to intoxication, nor does it serve the intoxicated.
- We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone believed to be intoxicated.

ROSTERS

- Roster changes can be made up to the third game of the season by contacting Parks & Recreation. After the deadline a player may not play in the league or the season ending tournament. Roster additions must be on the official roster held at the Parks & Recreation office. All fees must be paid when players are added.
- No player is allowed to play on more than one team within the same league in Ankeny in the same season. If a person is on two (2) or more rosters in a league, the player will be assigned to the first team they played for.
- Men's League: A team will be comprised of 10 players. A team may start a game with eight (8) players; no outs will be assessed. Late players may be inserted into the game by asking the umpire for time and inserting them to the end of the lineup. If, however, a team has less than eight (8) players because of injury, ejection, or must leave, the game will be a forfeit. Teams may continue to play with eight (8) players. Teams do not have to take an out if a player leaves.
- Co-Ed League: Teams shall consist of 10 players: five (5) males and five (5) females. A team may play with eight (8) players but can never have more males than females in the line-up. You must alternate male/female in the batting order and can have up to 20 players bat. If, however, a team has less than 8 players because of injury, ejection, or must leave, the game will be a forfeit. Teams may continue to play with 8 players. Teams do not have to take an out if a player leaves.
- Teams may choose to place all players present for the game in one batting order and use free substitution in the field. If using this form of lineup, the opposing team Manager must be made aware prior to the game starting. **Coed Exception: An out will occur for men batting back-to-back.**
- Roster Protest: If a team or the Department has a question about a player's eligibility, the following procedures should be followed:
 - Players in question must be protested to the umpire before the game ends. The name of player(s) will be recorded by the umpire on the scoresheet.
 - If name does not appear on roster, the team will forfeit the game.
 - Single Elimination Tourney — Each tournament player must have played in two regular season games to be eligible for the tournament unless approved by teams.
- Any violation of these rules will result in suspension.

RULES OF CONDUCT

- Manager Responsibility: Managers are responsible for the behavior of their players and spectators at all times—before, during, and after games. Teams are also accountable for the conduct of anyone representing or supporting them. Consistent leadership and respect help maintain a positive league atmosphere.
- Sportsmanship & Language: Profanity, arguing calls, taunting, or other unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. Umpires may assess penalties, including outs, ejections, or suspensions. Continued issues may lead to team suspensions or removal from the league.
- Respect for Umpires: Umpires' decisions are final and must not be disputed. Only the team manager (or designated manager) may speak with an umpire regarding a call. Threatening, harassing, or making physical contact with officials, staff, or opponents will result in immediate removal and possible suspension from all Ankeny Parks & Recreation programs.
- Ejections & Forfeits: Players or managers ejected from a game must leave the park immediately and will serve at least a one-game suspension, with longer suspensions possible depending on the severity of the offense. Teams that continue to challenge an umpire's authority after a warning may forfeit the game, which will count as a game played.

LEAGUE RULES:

- All softball games will be played in accordance with the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) except for any rule changes specifically stated as follows:
- Teams are required to keep their own score, and the home team's book will be the official book. The home team is also required to keep the score on the scoreboard. The first base dugout is the designated "home" dugout.
- City of Ankeny staff reserves the right to make any changes necessary. The Parks & Recreation Supervisor will reschedule any game that is postponed during the season.

GAME FORFEITS:

- Be **RESPECTFUL** – teams sign up wanting to play and not wanting forfeits. Do your part, have enough players each week and be ready to play at game start time.
- Game forfeits will be scored in Team Sideline as 15 – 0 for the team winning by forfeit.
- More than one (1) forfeit in a season or if the entire team no shows, without notifying the opposing manager and Recreation Supervisor will result in immediate release from the league with no refund of fees.
 - Weeknight Leagues: You must notify the opposing team manager and Recreation Supervisor before 4:30 p.m. on the scheduled game day.
 - Weekend Leagues: You must notify the opposing team manager and Recreation Supervisor before 3:00 p.m. on the scheduled game day.

LENGTH OF GAME:

- Games will be seven innings or 55-minute limit.
- A game will be considered official after 4 innings; if 4 innings are not completed due to rain the game will be rescheduled and resume at the exact point where the game was stopped.
- If the score is tied after seven (7) innings or 55 minutes, the game will be played with the batter beginning with a 3-2 count (no courtesy foul) – the game will continue until a winner is declared.
- Tournament: All regular season rules apply. The Mercy Rule (15 after 5) also is in effect.

PITCHING:

- Five (5) warm up pitches will be allowed in the first inning and two (2) warm up pitches will be allowed between innings. Infield ball or throwing the ball around the horn will only be allowed during the first inning.
- A starting pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher unless they have been removed for pitching with excessive speed.
- A pitch must have a minimum arc of 6 feet from the ground and a maximum arc of 10 feet from the ground.
- **Men's and Co-Ed The pitcher may take a position from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to 10 feet behind the pitcher's plate with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.**

BATTING

- Batting order for Coed League must alternate males and females.
- The batter will start at bat with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike. There is no-courtesy foul.
- Strikes will be called by using a mat strike zone located on the ground, hugging the corners of the plate to approximately 36" behind the plate. A pitched ball, with proper arc, landing anywhere on the mat or on the plate is a strike.
- Coed League walk rule: A walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award.
 - The next batter must be female and bat if there are fewer than two (2) outs. With two (2) outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
 - If a runner is on 2nd and 3rd base with 1st base empty and a male batter is walked to 2nd base, runners will advance one (1) base only.
 - If a runner is on 3rd base and a male batter is walked to 2nd, he or she cannot advance.
- Over the fence home runs will be ruled out for the batter after the following limits are met: Men's five (5) and Coed three (3).
- **Home Runs do NOT have to be run out;** touch 1st base or hit and sit down.
- Teams may bat all players. Players must be listed in the scorebook.
- **Bat Certification:** All bats used in Ankeny Parks & Recreation League must be inspected and stamped with an approved sticker by designated Parks & Recreation staff or umpire. All bats must bear ASA stamp and also must be on the ASA approved bat list <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment> to receive the approval sticker.

- Any player caught using a noncertified bat will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension to be served in the next consecutive game. Any player caught twice in the same season using a non-certified bat shall be suspended for the remainder of the year.

GAME PLAY RULES:

- The only players that are allowed on the field while on offense are the base coaches, the on-deck batter and the batter. It is the responsibility of the manager to keep all other spectators from this area. For their safety, please keep children out of the dugouts.
- No stealing in any leagues.
- **Softballs: .52/300 ball with ASA/USA Softball Logo** (for both Men's and Coed Leagues)
 - Teams must supply and hit their own game ball.
 - A 12" ball with the ASA/USA Softball logo is required. **Thunder Advanced Softballs are not allowed.** Umpires will approve of any questionable balls.
 - Both teams will provide each other with a game ball and between innings the pitcher will be responsible for the balls.
 - Balls are available for purchase at the Hawkeye concession stand.
- Mercy Rule: 15 run-rule after five (5) innings.
- Slide Rule: If there is a play at a base, you may slide or avoid contact (avoid contact at all times when the defensive player has the ball or is receiving the ball). No running over or crashing into another player. When a defensive player has the ball, or is about to catch and throw the ball, and the runner remains on his feet and crashes into the defensive player, the runner will be declared out. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. We encourage the use of sliding pants.
- Courtesy Runner: Any eligible player on the official line-up, including available substitutes, may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning. Any courtesy runner used in Coed League must be gender specific.
- Double First Base Rule: The orange portion of the base may only be utilized by the offensive player and the white portion of the base by the defensive player. Exception: On extra base hits or balls hit into the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the runner may touch the white portion.
- Scoring line: A scoring line will be used for coed leagues only. A scoring line will be chalked eight (8) feet from the back tip of home plate.
 - The scoring line is for use by the offensive player only.
 - All plays at home plate are force plays.
 - If an offensive runner's foot is touching the scoring line in any way, or past the scoring line, before the ball reaches the catcher's glove at home plate, the runner is safe.
 - Runners who use the regular home plate will be called out, even if no play is made.
- Coed League Defense positions shall be two (2) males and two (2) females in the outfield, two (2) males and two (2) females in the infield, and one (1) male and one (1) female in the pitcher and catcher positions.
- The 150' arc will be used for the Coed League. All outfielders must be positioned behind the arc prior to contact of the ball by the batter. After contact, they may cross over the line.
- A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his clothing shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered within a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered will be umpire's decision.
- Jewelry that may cause injury must be removed. Ex. watches, dangling earrings, necklaces.
- Metal spikes and metal tipped soccer shoes are not permitted.
- **Standings and scores will be updated daily on the Team Sideline website www.teamsideline.com/ankeny.** Teams should double check scores for errors. Teams will be allowed to change scores within one week of the game played.
- In the event of identical league records, the following tiebreakers will be followed:
 - Head-to-head record
 - Head-to-head differential
 - Total Points For

- Total Points Against
- Strength of Schedule
- Coin Toss
- Tournament champions will receive tee shirts.

GAME PROTEST

- Game protests must be clearly and definitively stated to the umpire before the end of the game.
- If no decision can be reached in (1) above, the protesting team must submit a written protest to the Parks & Recreation office within 24 working hours of the scheduled start time of the protested game. Protests will be decided on by a committee consisting of Umpire-in-Chief, Site Supervisor and one of the following two (Player representative, Parks & Recreation Supervisor).
- Game protests will be accepted regarding rule interpretations only. Judgment calls are not open to protest.
- Game protests will be considered only when the play in question had a “Significant Effect” on the outcome of the game.

Parks & Recreation has final say over any interpretation of the a forementioned rules and guidelines and will determine best actions to reach an appropriate resolution.