

# ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

Official playing rules are the [USA Softball – Rules of Softball](#), with the following noted or added exceptions:

1. Players must be 16 years of age or older.
2. The first team listed on the league schedule is the home team. The home team will keep the official scorebook. Both teams will be provided with separate game balls.
3. **ROSTERS** – New players can be added or transferred to another roster up to May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Players may be on only one roster in **EACH** division (men's & coed) for USA Softball championship play.
4. **PICK-UP PLAYERS** – Teams are permitted to add or substitute a maximum of two players as follows:  
**Pick-up players must be on a USA Softball roster by the May 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline.** No exceptions for this rule will be made.
  - a. Players may only play up from the highest level they are currently participating at on a given night. For instance, no Men's OPEN or Coed Intermediate may play in any Recreation Division as a pick-up player.
  - b. The opposing teams must be made aware of and agree on pick-up players prior to the start of a game. Consent must be proven with a **Pick-up Player Consent Form**, which is to be signed by both team managers and the player(s).
  - c. **If the opposing team does not give consent to the proposed pick-up players, the game will be ruled a forfeit.**
  - d. Use of pick-up players without an opponent's consent is illegal, and grounds for forfeit. All such cases will be brought to the S.V.S.A. Advisory Board to decide.
5. The minimum number of players needed to start and finish a game is:
  - a. Men's = nine (9). Coed = eight (8) – teams may never have more males than females playing at the same time.
6. **Three (3) forfeits** in a season will automatically disqualify a team from further league participation without a refund.
7. **No player is to be smoking on the playing field or dugouts. Alcohol is NOT allowed in the Skagit Playfields Complex.**
8. **A TEN-RUN RULE** will be in effect in all league games after the trailing team has a chance to bat in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
9. **FACEMASKS** – Must be worn by pitchers.
10. **1-AND-1 Count for Batters** – In USA Softball all batters shall assume a one ball, one strike count upon entering the batters box.
11. **TIME LIMIT** – A one (1) hour and ten (10) minute time limit will be imposed on all league games. **No new inning will start after one (1) hour, unless the game is tied. At this point the International Tiebreaker will be used (Each team comes to bat with a player on 2<sup>nd</sup> base that was the last player to make a plate appearance in the previous inning.). The final round of the evening will have a one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minute time limit!**
12. Teams are allowed to bat their entire roster. However, if a player leaves the facility, is injured and unable to play, or ejected from a game, that spot in the batting order will be considered an out if there is no available substitute.
13. **HOME RUNS** – All Divisions (Men's & COED) will be three (3) Home Runs Ahead. A team can not be more than three over the fence Home Runs ahead of the other team.
14. **COURTESY RUNNERS** will be defined as:
  - a. Any player injured during the game may have a courtesy runner. A player of the same gender who registered the last out that his/her team made will be the courtesy runner.

- b. One courtesy runner may be named prior to the start of a game. The courtesy runner in this instance will also be the player of the same gender who registered the last out that his/her team made. If at the start of the game with no outs for a particular gender, the player of the same gender at the bottom of the batting order will be designated the courtesy runner.
15. **NO BASE STEALING (MEN'S SLOW PITCH ONLY)** – beginning w/ the 2014 Spring Softball League Base Stealing will NO longer be allowed in ANY men's division of play.
16. **COMMITMENT LINE & SAFETY LINE - COED Divisions ONLY.** Once a player crosses the Commitment Line between 3<sup>rd</sup> Base & Home Plate they must continue through to Home. The act of crossing the Safety Line (Home Plate to backstop) will now act as Home Plate, whereas any player running Home that touches Home Plate will be considered out. Also, all plays at Home Plate will be force outs (i.e. once a player crosses the Commitment Line they can be forced out at Home).  
**\* COED teams see information at bottom of rules with additional Commitment & Safety Line definitions.**
17. **Only USA Softball approved bats** may be used. Check USA Softball certified equipment at [Certified USA Softball Equipment](#).
18. **NO METAL CLEATS** are to be worn at the Skagit Playfields!!
19. **RAIN OUT INFOLINE – Call 360-416-1361 x1**

**No warm-ups are to occur on any of the paved walkways through the Playfields or near the concession stand. Avoid throwing towards areas that people are congregating in.**

**Misconduct will not be tolerated. Managers and coaches are responsible for their team and fans behavior.**

## **\*SCPR Commitment & Safety Line Rule**

The Safety Line shall be marked between home plate and the fence on the third base side of the diamond, perpendicular to the third base line. **On a play at home plate, a runner will be called out if he or she touches or crosses the Safety Line after the catcher has the ball and is in contact with the plate (i.e. a force play).** Otherwise, the runner will be safe. A runner will be considered to have crossed the Safety Line once they touch the ground on or beyond the line.

The catcher may still tag runners out if **NOT** standing on Home Plate. **If the runner touches home plate, runs over the plate or on the infield side (fair territory) of it, or makes intentional contact with the catcher, the runner will be called out. EXCEPTION:** The runner will not be out for any of these reasons if the catcher, or any member of the fielding team, is blocking the scoring/Safety Line so that the runner cannot be reasonably expected to cross it properly. **NOTE:** The runner is permitted to slide across the line.

A "Commitment Line" will be drawn perpendicular to the third base line, one half the distance down the line from third base toward home plate. Once a runner has touched or crossed the "Commitment Line", he or she has committed to trying to score and may not return to third base. A force play will now be in effect at home plate and the conditions of the previous rule will apply. **In the event that the runner returns to third base and does not try to score after having "committed", the runner will be called out once the play is over IF APPEALED TO THE UMPIRE. EXCEPTION:** A runner who "committed", passed the commitment line, may return to third base after a caught fly ball OR to touch a base previously missed.

**DEAD BALLS:** When a **HOME RUN** is hit (the ball clears the outfield fence), a **BASES LOADED WALK** or an **OVERTHROW** that goes **OUT OF PLAY** occur, the runner(s) **WILL NOT BE OUT** if they touch home plate.