

CityWide Sports Softball

Official League Rules 2024

General Information

Denver CityWide Sports is the Adult Sports Division of Denver Parks and Recreation. All CityWide Sports Softball Leagues utilize ASA-style rules with the following exceptions and modifications.

Note: All situations not specifically covered in the rulebook shall be acted upon by the Softball Program Coordinator, and all such action taken shall be final.

- 1) CityWide Sports reserves the right to re-classify a team at any point in the season to maintain a fair balance of competition. Previous season records (if applicable) will be utilized to assist in classifying teams. It is recommended that if a team wins its respective division in the previous season that they move up to the next division. The only exception is if a team is already playing in the highest division offered by CityWide Sports.
- 2) Designated team managers are responsible for communicating league rules and scheduling updates to team members. Managers are also responsible for the conduct of his/her team during league and tournament play.
- 3) Denver CityWide Sports' Participant Conduct Guidelines apply to any player, manager, coach, or spectator affiliated with the team. Effective Fall 2022, violations will be classified using a tiered system found on pages 9 - 10 of this document.
- 4) CityWide Sports strives to provide game officials and site supervisors that are professional, knowledgeable, and courteous. Please contact your CityWide Sports Program Coordinator with any concerns or feedback regarding our team's performance.

Online Game Schedules, Inclement Weather & Make-Up Games

- 1) Game schedules can be found online at <https://denvercitywidesports.org/schedules>
- 2) The CityWide Sports Weather Line is a recorded message, which will inform teams of the status of that day or evening's game. Messages will not be recorded until 4:00 pm on weekdays and 2 hours prior to the first scheduled weekend game. Updates are made as necessary.
- 3) **Weather Line: 720.913.0715**
- 4) Please do not call the CityWide Office asking if games are cancelled.
- 5) Umpires and field supervisors work together to officially cancel a game(s). In the event a game is delayed, teams are required to wait (at the complex) for a minimum of 20 minutes. Games may be resumed prior to the 20 minutes. After a 20-minute waiting period, a decision will be made by the field supervisor and umpire.
- 6) If your team leaves prior to instructions given by the field supervisor and games continue, your team will be given a forfeit.
- 7) Game cancellations will also be posted to the Denver CityWide Sports Facebook page and emailed directly to affected team captains. All suspended/cancelled games will be made up as long as there

are remaining makeup dates and weeks between seasons. Make-up games may be scheduled at any time, including weekends or when fields are available on weeknights. We will not call teams with their make-up times. All schedule changes will be communicated via email.

Game Credits

- 1) CityWide Sports team registrations are non-refundable.
- 2) Team captains will be issued a \$75 game credit for each regular season game and scheduled playoff game that is not played to completion (40 minutes) and is not able to be rescheduled due to inclement weather, unplayable field conditions or park closures.
 - a. CityWide Sports does not issue game credits due to opponent forfeits.
 - i. *Exception – credits may be issued at the Program Coordinator’s discretion in the instance of 3 or more opponent forfeits.*
 - b. Teams that did not qualify for playoffs will not be issued a playoff game credit.
- 3) Game credits will not be issued to a team that forfeits a rescheduled game.
- 4) Game credits are good for up to one calendar year and may be used towards any CityWide Sports League registration.
- 5) **How to use Game Credits**
 - a. Register your team online.
 - b. Email your CityWide Sports Program Coordinator with the credit amount you would like to be applied.
 - c. A refund will be processed for the requested game credit amount in 3-5 business days.

Forfeits

- 1) All teams must notify the CityWide Office (720-865-0690) or the CWS Team (Citywidesports.recreation@denvergov.org) (720) 951-6589) of their forfeit no later than 4PM
- 2) **No Call No Show Forfeit:** When a team fails to show up for their assigned game without notification. **Teams will automatically be removed from the league with no refund if this occurs two times.**
- 3) If a team has three forfeits during the regular season, the team is automatically dropped from the league with no refund (this includes make-up games). This includes forfeits with notification.
- 4) Umpires will not officiate forfeited games. Teams will be allowed the use of the field until 10 minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game.
- 5) **A forfeited game will be scored 10-0**

Equipment

Bat Regulations

- 1) **Bats must be visibly marked with at least one of the following stamps: USA (formerly ASA) or USSSA.**
- 2) Senior Bats are permitted in Senior leagues ONLY.
- 3) USA (formerly ASA) or USSSA “Certified Softball” wooden bats are legal.
- 4) Wooden baseball bats are not legal.
- 5) Any bat that is altered, cracked, or dented is not legal.

- a. 1st offense – A Player who stands in batter’s box wielding an illegal bat will be called out.
 - i. Note – a bat may be inspected after a batter has reached base. If the umpire determines that the bat is illegal, the batter will be called out.
- b. 2nd offense – Batter will be ejected from game.

Game Balls

- 1) CityWide Sports utilizes ADSTARR Certified USA 52/300 softballs. No other balls are legal for play.
- 2) Teams are responsible for the retrieval of home runs and foul balls. Limited quantities will be stored on site each season for backups.

Uniforms, Shoes, and Safety Equipment

- 1) Uniforms are recommended but not required.
- 2) All players must wear shoes. Shoes must cover the entire foot. The soles may have soft rubber or hard plastic cleats. The all-purpose molded cleat softball shoe is legal.
 - a. Metal Cleats are illegal. Any player wearing metal cleats will be given a warning and one opportunity to switch shoes. If the player refuses to switch shoes and takes the field again, they will be ejected. If the player is ejected while at-bat, the team will be issued an out.
- 3) Pitchers, catchers, and infielders are encouraged (but not required) to wear helmets or pitching masks. Chest and leg protection may also be worn.

Blood Rule

- 1) Any player who is bleeding, has an open wound, and/or an excessive amount of blood on their uniform must leave the game.
- 2) The player may not return until either the bleeding has stopped, the wound has been covered and bandaged, or uniform has been changed.

Jewelry

- 1) All exposed jewelry or items that are judged to be hazardous by the umpire may not be worn during the game. Jewelry that is deemed dangerous must be removed prior to league play.

Game Times and Extra Innings

Regulation Game Length

- 1) 55 minutes or seven innings, whichever comes first.
- 2) Game time is forfeit time with the following exceptions:
 - a) If a team has six (6) players (3 & 3 for CoEd), the opposing team can ask for an immediate forfeit or allow the game clock to count off ten minutes. If the seventh player has not arrived in that ten-minute grace period, the game is ruled a forfeit.
 - b. If a team has seven (7) players (4 & 3 for CoEd), this team will be designated the visiting team. Once three outs have been recorded by the visiting team and the eighth player has not shown, the game will be designated a forfeit.
 - c) If both teams have less than eight players, the game will be declared a double forfeit.

- d) If a team is playing with eight players and a player becomes injured or ejected, the game will be ruled a forfeit due to playing with seven (7) players.

Extra Innings If tied after 55 min. or seven (7) innings)

- 1) One pitch at-bats:
 - a) Teams will begin each extra inning with one out.
 - b) Ball = Walk
 - c) Swing and Miss = Out
 - d) Called Strike = Out
 - e) Foul Ball = Out
- 2) 1st Extra Inning: the last-out batter from the previous inning starts at 2nd base.
- 3) 2nd Extra Inning: If teams are still tied at the end of the 1st extra inning, the last-out batter from the previous inning starts at 3rd base.
 - i. **Regular season games that are still tied at the end of the 2nd extra inning will end in a tie.**
 - ii. **Playoffs** – Extra innings will continue until a winner is determined using the 2nd extra inning format.

Team Rosters & Participant Waivers

- 1) All players must sign an Adult Softball league roster for each season to be an eligible player (please see below for more information). All team managers must submit their completed team roster which shall include player's name, phone number and signature prior to their first league game. Teams are permitted to add players during the regular season as long as all players sign the team's roster with player's name, phone number and signature (this must be done prior to roster cut-off date). Players are not allowed to participate on more than one team in the same league on the same night.
- 2) **Locked Roster Dates**
 - a. Spring – after fourth regular season game
 - b. Summer – after eighth regular season game
 - c. Fall - after fourth regular season game
 - d. No players may be added to teams after these games. This includes the end of season tournaments.
- 3) **If illegal players are found to be in the line-up - that team will have to play without that player but the game will proceed** (unless the team does not have enough players to legally play the game, in which case the game will be forfeited).
- 4) Full roster checks (if requested by team(s)) must be done before the game starts and both teams will be checked. IDs must be provided to prove each player's eligibility.
- 5) **If an illegal player enters the game after it has started, the protest must be made before the current inning is completed.**
- 6) An illegal player is defined as:
 - a. Not listed on the roster
 - b. Player name and signature are not on roster
 - c. Player is participating on two teams within the same league on the same night
- 7) Players must be able to produce valid picture ID upon request.

- 8) All players must be 18 years of age to participate.
- 9) **Protest of a player must be made before the player bats.**
- 10) Dual registration is permitted; however, a player cannot be on two rosters in the same league.
- 11) Any player ejected during a game must leave the complex in a timely manner, or his/her team will forfeit game.
- 12) Transgender participants are eligible to play on a team that matches the gender on their state or federal issued identification document. Individuals who identify as female are eligible to play on Men's E, Men's E+ and Coed teams; individuals who identify as male are eligible to play on Men's and Coed teams. This rule extends to CoEd batting orders.

League Classifications and Home Run Limits

League Classifications

- 1) **Men's D: Competitive (3 home runs per game)** Our highest level of competition, best suited for players with C/D tournament and/or collegiate baseball experience. Female players are not permitted to play in Men's D Leagues.
- 2) **Men's E+: Intermediate (3 home runs per game)** Moderately competitive with experienced teams who have been successful at the E level for several seasons. Best suited for teams comprised of a mix of D/E level players. One female player is permitted per team roster.
- 3) **Men's E: Recreational (2 home runs per game)** Great for teams that are just starting out or their individual skills have diminished over the years – our least competitive division. One female player is permitted per team roster.
- 4) **Co-Ed: Open (2 home runs per game)** Teams that have played together for several seasons, may play a couple of tournaments a softball season, and have a consistent pool of players that have played the game of softball.
- 5) **Seniors: Intermediate (7 home runs per game)** Moderately competitive with experienced teams who have been successful for several seasons. Best suited for teams comprised of a mix of players whose love for the game is there, but their skills or speed have diminished over the years. Participants must be 35+. One female player is permitted per team roster.

Home Run Limits:

- 1) Any homerun hit after the limit results in an out.
- 2) Any ball tipped over the fence by an outfielder's glove will be ruled a 4-base error, and it will not count as a homerun used by the respective team.
- 3) "Hit and Sit" is in effect.
- 4) It is each team's responsibility to collect their homerun/foul balls.

Game Play

- 1) Home and away teams are designated on the schedule.
- 2) The game clock will start at the scheduled game time.
- 3) The umpire will keep track of both the time and the score of the game.
- 4) The distance from pitching rubber to home plate is 55 feet.
- 5) The distance from home plate to 1st base is 65 feet.
- 6) Pitching height is 6 feet minimum and 10 feet maximum.

- 7) Pitcher will get 5 warm up pitches in the 1st inning and one warm up for the remainder of the game.
- 8) **If the pitched ball touches any part of the strike mat and home plate within the legal height (6ft - 10ft) arc limit the pitch will be called a strike.**
- 9) Batter will start with a 1 & 1 count. The batter will be out when the umpire calls two strikes. The batter is awarded 1st base when the umpire calls three balls. 10. The batter will be called out when he/she hits two foul balls after one called strike or if the batter hits three consecutive foul balls. With two strikes, there is one courtesy foul, the next foul ball after that is a foul out.
- 10) **Foul Balls** are dead whether caught or not. Runners may not advance on the last foul ball that is considered an out.
- 11) **Double First Base**
 - a. Fielder is entitled to the white base and the runner is entitled to the orange base on all balls hit in the infield.
 - b. If fielder touches any part of the orange bag during a play at 1st base, the runner will be declared safe.
 - c. If runner touches any part of the white base on any play at first base, the runner will be declared out.
 - d. On a ball hit to the outfield runner may touch the white bag.

Courtesy Runners

- 1) Courtesy runners (2 per gender per inning) are permitted anytime but must be the last recorded out.
- 2) Once a batter reaches a base safely, they are entitled to a courtesy runner of the same gender once the umpire has stopped play.

Baserunning

- 1) Baserunners are not required to slide but they must avoid contact with the fielder.
 - a. Interference – please reference ASA Rulebook
- 2) No fake tags.
- 3) No lead offs, no stealing.
- 4) Players must touch home plate to score a run. The strike mat is not an extension of home plate for scoring plays.

Infield Fly Rule

- 1) An infield fly is a fair ball, not including a line drive, which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases are occupied before two are out. Any fielder can catch an infield fly.

Batting Order/Substitutions

- 1) Only a maximum of 10 defensive players can take the field at once.
- 2) Starters and subs may be withdrawn from the lineup and re-enter once. They may only re-enter into the same spot in the batting order.

- 3) The starting player and the substitute cannot be in the lineup at the same time.
- 4) If a player is injured and cannot continue to play and there is no substitute to take his place in the lineup, that spot in the lineup will be skipped over with no penalty (no out). **EXCEPTION:** In CoEd if a male/female substitute is not available, then when the same gender bats back-to-back there will still be an out (see rule N3 in Special CoEd Rule section)
- 5) If a player is ejected and there is no substitute to take the ejected players spot, then every time that vacant spot in the lineup is due to bat an out will be recorded.
- 6) Teams may begin a game with a minimum of 7 players but they will be designated as the visiting team and the 8th player (must meet gender ratio requirements) must arrive before the bottom of the 1st inning. If the 8th player fails to arrive, the game will be ruled a forfeit.

5/5 CoEd Rules – Ruby Hill & Kennedy

- 1) CoEd teams may play with 10, 9, 8, or **7 (only for the first half of an inning)**
 - a. 10 players – 5 men & 5 women (a team with 6 or more male players must substitute into the field to be included in the batting order)
 - b. 9 players – 5 men & 4 women (must take an out where the 5th female player should have been in the line-up) or 5 women & 4 men
 - c. 8 players – 4 men & 4 women
 - d. **7 players – 4 men & 3 women or 4 women & 3 men (only in the first half of an inning)**
- 2) Batting order shall alternate genders.
 - a. Exception: there is no limit on the number of female players in a line-up. Teams may place females back-to-back at any point in the batting order.
- 3) Teams playing with 11, 9 or 7 players must take an out when two male players bat back-to-back.
- 4) Player substitution must be a man for a man and a woman for a woman.
- 5) Any walk to a male batter, intentional or not will result in the batter being awarded 2nd base.
- 6) If a male batter walks, the following female batter has the option to take the walk and advance to first base or bat, regardless of outs.
- 7) For defensive positioning there must be an equal number of males & females on the playing field.

Exception: When playing with nine players, must be 5 & 4.

Exception: there is no limit on the number of female players in a line-up. Teams may place females back-to-back at any point in the batting order.
- 8) All infielders must remain on the infield, and all outfielders must remain behind the outfield arc line until the ball has been put into play (for ALL batters).

6/4 CoEd Rules – Lawson & Lincoln

- 1) CoEd teams playing at Lawson and Lincoln may play with 10, 9, 8, or **7 (only for the first half of an inning)**
 - a. 10 players – 6 men & 4 women
 - b. 9 players – 5 men & 4 women or 5 women & 4 men
 - c. 8 players – 4 men & 4 women
 - d. **7 players – 4 men & 3 women or 4 women & 3 men (only in the first half of an inning)**

- 2) Teams may place male hitters back-to-back up to twice in the line-up.
- 3) There is no limit on the number of female players in a line-up. Teams may place female hitters back-to-back at any point in the batting order.
- 4) Placing male hitters at the top and bottom of the line-up “around the horn” is allowed, but it will count towards the back-to-back limit.
- 5) Team captains must track and maintain this order throughout the duration of the game.
- 6) Batting out of order will result in an out.
- 7) In the event of an injury or substitution, the line-up may be adjusted to avoid exceeding the back-to-back limit.

Co-Ed Legal Field Positioning

- 1) Infield includes the following: P, C, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B – all infielders must remain on the infield dirt during pitch to batter.
- 2) Outfield includes the following LF, LC, RC, RF – outfielders must remain behind the painted “CoEd Line” in the outfield during the pitch to the batter.
- 3) Teams may not play with more than 4 outfielders any time during the game and cannot have more than 6 infielders in the infield dirt any time during the game.
- 4) Playing with 10 players – 6 in the infield and 4 in the outfield, Playing with 9 players – 6 in the infield and 3 in the outfield or 5 in the infield and 4 in the outfield.
- 5) Playing with 8 players – 4 and 4 or 5 infield and 3 outfield or 6 infield and 2 outfield
- 6) Men & women can play anywhere in the infield/outfield as long as the above rules are followed.

Breakthru Bev Rule Alterations

- 1) The Breakthru Bev Private League will follow the prior stated rules and regulations with only the following addendums:
 - I. The distance from home plate to first base is 75ft
 - II. There will be an eight (8) run per inning limit ONLY AFTER the 3rd inning **UNLESS** the batting team is down by more than eight (8) runs
 - III. Six (6) males may play the field **ONLY IF** one of them is playing catcher
 - IV. In the event of a team having an offset male to female ratio (e.g. 7 men, 5 women), the last two players in the batting order must be male
 - V. Teams with an offset male to female ratio will not be charged an out while at bat
 - VI. There will be no home run limit
 - VII. Sliding into a base will result in the slider being called OUT
 - VIII. Any walk to a male batter will result in the batter being awarded first base
 - i. By extension, the following female batter will not have the option to take the walk to first, and may only bat

Rule Protests

- 1) Protests shall be received and considered in matters of:
 - a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule
 - b. Failure to apply correct rule to a given situation

- c. Failure to impose correct penalty for a given situation
- 2) Notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch. Upon notification to the umpire, the umpire shall inform opposing manager. Team managers should notify the field supervisor immediately. The supervisor will note all the game details at that moment (outs, score, runners, etc). Immediately after the game, a written protest must be completed before the manager leaves the field. The CityWide Sports office has 2 business days to make a judgment on the protest and update both teams involved.

Playoff Format

- 1) Teams ranked in the top 5 at the end of the regular season will be placed in a single elimination bracket.

Playoff Seeding Tiebreakers

- 1) Head-to-head regular season results between tied teams.
- 2) Run differential in the head-to-head games.
- 3) Run differential in all league games.

League Championship Awards

- 1) Individual awards (15) or a team trophy (1) will be given to the team that wins the season ending tournament.

CityWide Sports Participant Conduct Guidelines

Denver CityWide Sports' Participant Conduct Guidelines apply to any player, manager, coach, or spectator affiliated with the team. Effective Fall 2022, violations will be classified using the following tiered system:

Violation Level: Blue

- I. Alcohol is not permitted inside recreation centers.
- II. Alcohol is not permitted on softball fields or inside of softball field dugouts.
- III. Dogs and other pets must be on leash and under control/owner supervision at all times.
- IV. Dogs and other pets are not allowed on the playing fields at any time.
- V. Glass and kegs are prohibited.
- VI. Marijuana use is prohibited.
- VII. Smoking in the dugouts, bleachers and on the playing-field is prohibited.
- VIII. Littering is prohibited.
- IX. No-call/No-show forfeits will be documented.
- X. Loud and/or offensive music is prohibited.
- XI. Roster and line-up violations including but not limited to - failure to complete team roster, use of players currently rostered on another team in the same league, playoff use of players who have not participated in a minimum of two regular season games and failure to produce batting order upon request.

Violation Level: Green

- I. Repeated Blue Level violations
- II. Use of illegal/altered bats

III. A third forfeit during a season will result in removal from the program and loss of “Priority Status”

Violation Level: Yellow (subject to suspension after review)

- I. Reports will be completed for all ejections.
- II. Use of derogatory or profane language directed at officials, staff, opponents, or spectators is prohibited.
- III. Players and/or spectators may not leave the bleacher or dugout area to argue/confront an official or opponent. *Exception – team captains may respectfully interact with umpires to request rules clarifications.*

Violation Level: Orange (subject to suspension after review)

- I. Flagrant fouls (excessive and intentional) resulting in ejection.
- II. Throwing/kicking objects in the general direction (non-contact) of an official, staff, opponent.
- III. Inappropriate and or harassing language/touching of others.
- IV. Direct or perceived threats of physical violence including but not limited to “let’s take it to the parking lot”.
- V. Physical altercations including but not limited to: thrown punches, grabbing hair/clothing, pushing, shoving, kicking and spitting.
- VI. Theft, vandalism, and destruction of property.
- VII. **Second occurrence of a Yellow Violation in a calendar year (January – December).**

Violation Level: Red (subject to suspension after review)

- I. Violence resulting in bodily harm and police contact.
- II. Possession of weapons, simulated weapons and fireworks is prohibited.
- III. Threats of violence resulting in police contact.
- IV. **Second occurrence of an Orange Violation in a calendar year (January – December).**

DUE PROCESS

Customers alleged to have committed a violation, which may result in a suspension will be emailed a Violation Notification Letter. The letter will describe the alleged violation and which rule and/or item from the Code of Conduct that was violated. It will explain that they have been suspended and how to request an appeal.

Customers have the right to request a review of their suspension by filing a written appeal request with the Deputy Executive Director of Recreation. The appeal shall state the basis for the appeal and the requested relief. An appeal request must be received by the Deputy Executive Director of Recreation within (15) calendar days after service of the Violation Notification Letter at the following address:

Deputy Executive Director of Recreation
City & County of Denver
101 W. Colfax Ave. Suite 900
Denver, CO, 80202

After review of the written appeal, the Deputy Executive Director will issue a written decision granting the appeal, granting the appeal with conditions or denying the appeal. The decision of the Deputy Executive Director shall be the final decision.

CityWide Sports Contact Information

1. Kelli Garrison – CityWide Sports Sr. Supervisor

- 720.837.9067 (Cell)
- 720.865.0692 (Office)
- Kelli.Garrison@denvergov.org

2. Vincent Gomez – CityWide Sports Program Admin

- 720-865-0690 (Office)
- 720-951-6589 (Cell)
- Vincent.gomez@denvergov.org

3. Cody Erp – CityWide Sports Program Coordinator

- 720-865-064 (Office)
- Cody.erp@denvergov.org

4. Fallyn Beemer – CityWide Sports Program Coordinator

- 720-865-0697 (Office)
- Fallyn.beemer@denvergov.org

5. CityWide Sports Office

- 2080 York Street., Denver CO, 80205
- 720-865-0690 (Main Line)
- Citywidesports.recreation@denvergov.org