All play this season will be conducted in accord with the Amateur Softball Association’s *Official Rules of Softball: 2018*, with the following modifications and exceptions. Also, notable ASA/USA rule changes are included.

**Rule 2. The Playing Field**
- All Adult Slow Pitch Classifications shall have a base distance of 70 feet.

**Rule 3. Equipment**
- **Metal spikes are prohibited in all league play.** Team uniforms are recommended, but not required.
- For Men’s and CoRec league play, any bat that meets ASA/USA specifications and requirements and is not on the banned bat list may be used. Women will be allowed to use Men's bats. For a list of approved bats, go to the National ASA/USA website [http://www.asasoftball.com/about/certified_equipment.asp](http://www.asasoftball.com/about/certified_equipment.asp).
- Men must use a yellow optic cover, red stitch 12-inch ball with a COR of .52 and a compression of 300. **Women must use the yellow optic cover, red stitch 11-inch ball with a COR of .52 and a compression of 300.**

**Rule 4. Players, Coaches, and Substitutes**
- Teams in Men’s leagues must have a minimum of seven players or the game will be forfeited, and the umpire will call an out for each missing batter through the tenth spot.
- **New for 2018 – Men’s B players are not allowed to play in a Men’s E league or Co-ed E League**
- **New for 2018 – If a team is short players at game time, that team will automatically be visitors.**
- Teams in the CoRec leagues must also have a minimum of seven players, provided that no more than five are of the same sex. Since the sexes must alternate in the batting order, outs will be called for missing batters up through the tenth spot.
- **New for 2018 in Co-Ed Leagues only!! Prior to the pitch, all infielders must have both feet on the infield dirt, and all outfielders must start with both feet on the outfield grass.**
- There will be no waivers of these rules, even if opposing teams request it.
- Players not on a team roster may play for that team, provided that such a starting lineup substitution is announced at the coin flip and that the opposing manager does not object. This rule is intended to help teams avoid forfeits, not to load up with superior players, especially when league championships are on the line.
- Unreported substitutes will neither be called out nor ejected. However, coaches are reminded that they should report substitutes.
Adult Slow Pitch Softball League Rules

- Men’s and Women’s teams may add an EP to the starting lineup at any time during the game. Likewise, CoRec teams may add a **male and female pair** of EPs at any time during the game. However, if a starter or EP leaves the game for any reason and no substitute is available, an out will be called.
- Teams may insert a **Courtesy Runner** one time per inning. The Courtesy Runner may be any player (Male for Male, Female for Female in Co-Rec).

**Rule 5. The Game**

If one or both teams begin the game short-handed, that team with the most players present will be the home team.

- A **one hour time limit** will be in effect for all games. Game time begins when the umpire calls the coaches to home plate for the coin flip, not when they eventually get there.
- The **Run Ahead Rule** for all games is 15 after 3 innings, or 10 after five.
- A game called by the umpire shall be a **regulation** game if four or more innings have been played, or three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead. (Games decided by the Run Ahead Rule will be considered regulation games.)

**Home Run limits:**

- Men’s B: 6
- Men’s C and Church, Women’s C, Coed C: 4
- Men’s D, Coed D: 2
- Men’s Over-50, Coed Church: 1
- Men’s E, Coed E: 0

**ALL** balls hit over the fence by a team in excess of the above limitations per game will be ruled outs. The same is true in Men’s E and CoRec E; balls hit over the fence will **no longer** be ruled half-inning ending outs.

In all divisions in which home runs are allowed, the batter and baserunner(s) are not required to run the bases.

**Rule 6. Pitching**

- Pitchers may have up to 5 warm-up pitches in the first inning. After that, they get one per inning (exception: relief pitchers may have 5 warm-ups when first taking the mound). Infield warm-up is allowed during the first inning only.
- Pitchers in Senior League may take a position from the front edge of the pitcher’s plate to six feet behind the pitcher’s plate within the 24 inch width of the pitcher’s plate with both feet firmly on the ground.

**Rule 7. Batting**

- Batters will begin with a 1-1 count when they enter the batter’s box.
- **Inadvertent bat throwing:** in the interest of safety, any player who releases a bat in a dangerous manner after swinging at a pitch **may** be called out for offensive
interference and disqualified for the remainder of the game.

**Rule 8. Batter-Runner and Runner**
- Players are permitted to steal bases in all Men’s and Women’s Slow Pitch Classifications. However, players in the Over-50 and CoRec leagues are not permitted to steal.

**Rule 9. Protests**
- Protest must be made known to the home plate umpire at the time the protested incident occurs, and it will be resolved as soon as possible by the Umpire in Chief.

*Rules 1 (Definitions), 10 (The Umpires), and 11 (Scoring) remain unchanged.*

**Rules for the Over 50 Softball League**
- Players must be 50 years of age or older sometime during the season. If a team feels that a player on another team is not of age, that team must protest the game at the time it is played. The player in question will then be asked to show proof of age at that time.
- A double home plate will be used.
- A legal pitch delivered with a minimum arc of six feet and a maximum of twelve feet from the ground, not swung at, that touches any part of the plate or mat will be called a strike on the batter.
- Free substitution will be used.
- Teams may bat their entire rosters, and they may play with eleven defensive players.
- Unlimited courtesy runners are allowed each inning (Rule 8, Section 9, B1). If the runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out. However, a player may be a courtesy runner only once per inning (Rule 8, Section 9, C3).
- Each team is allowed one home run per game, after which the One-up Rule is in effect: if both teams have each hit one home run, either team is allowed to hit an additional home run to go one home run ahead of the opposing team (Rule 8, Section 5, B Note), except in the bottom of the final inning of the game. Home runs hit when the One-up situation has not been reached will be ruled outs.
- A 5-Run Rule will be used: when a team scores 5 runs, the half inning ends. Exception: if more than 5 runs score as the result of an out of the park home run, all runs count and the half-inning ends. However, unlimited runs are allowed in the seventh or final inning.
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