

TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
ADULT SOFTBALL RULES & INFORMATION
COED LEAGUE – FALL 2021 (Revised August 13th, 2021)

Welcome to the Town of Yucca Valley's Adult Softball League. This league is governed by the current Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) slow pitch softball rules, with minor local (by-laws) modifications. The following highlights and reminders are presented for quick reference.

ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. All players must be sixteen (16) years of age or older. Players 16 and 17 years old ***MUST*** provide a signed parent permission form to be submitted along with the team roster. No more than two players under the age of 18 are allowed per team. *Players may play on both coed leagues.*
- B. Each team roster is allowed a maximum of 16 players, including player/manager. Team rosters must be filled out accurately, completely, legibly and signed by all players prior to the first game. Violation shall result in forfeiture of all games played without a properly submitted roster.
- C. Once the roster has been submitted, teams have until the beginning of the third game to modify their roster freely with the scorekeeper (add/drop players). After completion of the third game (includes preseason), each team is allowed a maximum of 4 roster changes for the remainder of the season; these changes will be made with the scorekeeper and will be tracked on the team's roster change form. Players must play a minimum of 2 regular season games in order to be eligible to play in the playoffs and championship games. Violation shall result in forfeiture of all games played with an ineligible player.

GAME RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. All games shall begin at the scheduled game time 6:30, 7:45 and 9:00pm. *A five-minute grace period is applicable only for the first game of the evening.* The grace period shall be considered part of the official game time. Team line-ups must be given to the scorekeeper at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. The umpire shall determine the official start time. Game time may be temporarily suspended during an injury time out, at the discretion of the umpire.
- B. All regular season and playoff games will be seven innings, or the last inning after fifty (50) minutes, whichever occurs first. Any inning started will be completed. If the game remains tied after seven innings or after the time limit has expired, the game will be declared a tie. Only the championship playoff game goes 7 innings and it has NO Time Limit. Mercy rule does apply.
- C. A complete game is defined as at least four innings (or 3 and one-half innings if the home team is ahead at the time limit). Games that are in progress and suspended before completion due to inclement weather, a facility issue, or unforeseen circumstance will be rescheduled at the end of the season only if they have a bearing on first, second, third, and fourth place.
- D. A defensive team shall consist of no more than ten players, 5 men and 5 women, in the game at any time. However, a game may be played with 9 rostered players (no more than 5 of either gender) or 8 rostered players (4 women, 4 men). At least three fielders must be behind the 180-foot outfield arc until the batter hits the ball. Unless a female batter comes up to bat then only the female outfielder may enter the arc
- E. Infield practice is not allowed prior to game time. Two (2) warm-up pitches will be permitted before each half-inning.
- F. The Pitching Rule: **1)** the ball must arc higher than the batter's head. **2)** The ball must not exceed a height of 12 feet above the ground. *This is a judgment call made by the umpire.*
- G. The batting order must alternate between male and female. All rostered players can be in the batting lineup. Late players may be added to the lineup between innings by the manager. A substitute may replace a player whose name appears on the team's batting order, but such relieved player shall not thereafter participate in the game except as a coach or manager. If a player is injured, ejected or leaves the batting lineup, and there is no substitute available on the roster, an out will be recorded next time that batter is due to bat. That player may not return to the game and will subsequently be skipped in the batting order for the remainder of the game with no further penalty.
- H. Courtesy Runners: Unlimited Runners are allowed per inning per gender. When a batter becomes a designated runner and their turn at bat comes up, that runner will be declared an out for that inning.
- I. Batter's will start with a 1 and 1 count. After having 2 strikes, the second foul ball hit will be declared an out by the umpire. On any foul tip caught by the catcher regardless of count, batter will be called out. *If a male batter is pitched 3 straight balls, he shall be awarded 2nd base.*

- J. Home Runs: "One Up" Home Run Rule: Subsequent hits over the fence in fair territory will be counted as an out. Any ball that goes over the fence "touched" by a fielder on the fly will be ruled a four-base error, not a home run.
- K. **Maximum Run Rule:** **A maximum 5 run rule is allowed in each inning;** after 50 minutes any new inning is declared unlimited runs. Mercy Rule: A game ends after 4 innings if a team is behind by 15 or more runs and has completed its turn at bat. The mercy rule applies to all league games.
- L. Base Running: The league shall use the double safety base (orange) at first. The batter-runner must use the orange base on the foul side whenever a defensive play can be made at first. An appeal must be made before the next pitch by the defense if there is doubt as to which base was used. In the event contact is made by the batter/runner with the first baseman, the judgment of the umpire shall prevail. Sliding Rule: The base runner shall be called out when it is determined by the umpire that he/she did not slide **or** attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball and is attempting to make a throw. There is no rule that says you must slide.
- M. **COMMITMENT LINE:** A commitment line is twenty (20) feet prior to home plate. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, he/she may not return in the direction of third base, the runner must continue toward the scoring line. Violation will result in the player being called out. Catcher is subsequent to the base only.
- N. Coed Bats: "Town Provides Single Wall Bats" and personnel single wall bats will be permitted in this league. All bats must be checked in and approved by the scorekeeper or umpire prior to use; approved bats will be marked with a Town of Yucca Valley bat approval sticker. Any bat not showing an approval sticker will not be allowed and will be treated as an illegal bat. The umpire will have the authority to remove any bat he/she suspects has been altered or is non-compliant in any way. This judgment is left entirely to the discretion of the umpire in any game. The game will be immediately forfeited if: 1) a player takes the batter's box with a bat that has been previously removed by the umpire, or 2) if the bat is found to be illegal after it is used. Additional bats may be added to the approved list at any time at the discretion of the league coordinator.
- O. Pitchers Box: A pitcher's safety box is used that extends 8 feet behind the rubber, 2 feet on each side of the rubber and 3 feet above the pitcher's head. Any ball that travels through the box will result in an automatic out and will be declared a dead ball. All runners go back to the base at which they started. If the ball hits the ground before the rubber the ball is live and in play. The pitcher shall take a starting position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one foot within the pitcher's box or on the pitcher's plate. Should the pitcher vacate the box completely before the ball is hit the pitcher's box shall become fair territory.
- P. **Outfielders:** A minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind an outfield restriction line until the batter hits the ball. While a female is batting, the rover must be a female.
- Q. **Foul Tip:** A foul tip (regardless of the count) does not have a height limit. If the ball is foul tipped and caught it is an out.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Players must wear proper footwear while playing. NO CLEATS containing steel or metal, open-toed shoes and/or sandals are not permitted.

NO ALCOHOL: Town of Yucca Valley Ordinance No. 11.80.040 prohibits the possession of any can, bottle or other receptacle containing any alcoholic beverage that has been opened, with a seal broken, or the contents partially removed on public parks. Violation before, during and after softball games will subject the individual to immediate ejection and may subject the team to forfeiture of the game.

- Players and spectators are expected to abide by park rules and the official's decisions. If a player is ejected from a game, he/she must immediately leave the area including the field, dug out, bleachers and all areas of the park facility; failure to do so may subject the team to forfeit the game.
- **Protests:** will not be considered if they are based on disagreement with a decision based on the umpire's judgment. The notice of intent to protest must be made by the manager immediately before the next pitch. He/she must notify the umpire, scorekeeper and the opposing manager that the game is being continued under protest. The protest then must be submitted in writing to the Recreation office in person or via fax or email no later than 5:00 p.m. the following work day and must include:
 1. The date, time and place of the game along with the essential facts relating to the protest.
 2. A \$20 cash protest fee will apply.

If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned to the protesting team. All protests will be considered within two business days after being submitted to the recreation office. All decisions are final.

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