

**2019 SPRING SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

* Players must be a woman (or identify as a woman), 18 years of age or older to be eligible.
* Players can only be registered on one roster.
* Coaches are responsible for their team’s roster.
* Players must have registered, filled out and signed a waiver, sportsmanship, alcohol and tobacco policy, and paid with the ROOTS Women’s League prior to stepping on the field in any game.
* Coaches are responsible making sure new players check-in and are added to team rosters.

**UNIFORMS**

* Uniforms are not required for league play. However, it is HIGHLY recommended teams wear similar colored shirts with numbers.
* Ball caps, helmets or visors are allowed but must be worn in a safe manner. Helmets may be worn by batters, base-runners, base-coaches and all field players.
* All players must wear tennis shoes or cleats. Shoes having metal spikes are not allowed.
* Casts, splints, and braces must be padded. Any of this equipment judged by the umpire to be dangerous is illegal.
* Any item deemed to be dangerous by the umpire or site supervisor will not be allowed on the playing field.

**BATS/BALLS**

* Teams are responsible for providing a new ball prior to the beginning of the game.
* Balls must be 11-inch optic yellow .44cor/375 compression ball with ASA/USA Softball approved stamp.
* Game balls may be purchased at the field before the game.
* If the game ball is fouled out or hit over the fence the team that hits it is responsible for retrieving the ball or supplying a good ball to replace it. The pitcher and/or the umpire should check the ball thrown in to make sure its regulation.
* ASA/USA Softball or USSSA Bats will be allowed for Women’s Slow-pitch League Play.
* ASA/USA Softball or USSSA Bats must NOT be on current BANNED list for either ASA/USA Softball or USSSA.
* Any item deemed to be dangerous by the umpire or site supervisor will not be allowed on the playing field.
* Coaches may ask the umpire to check bats prior or at any time during the game.

**TIME-LIMITS AND REGULATION GAMES**

* GAME TIME IS GAME TIME. There will be a 10-minute grace period for the first game only.
* Games will start on time unless the previous game runs long. Please encourage your players to get to the field at least 15 minutes prior to your game time.
* No new inning will start after -minutes. All games will be considered regulation once the time limit has been reached regardless of the number of innings completed.
* A game is considered a regulation game if 5 innings (or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed.
* Any game postponed by weather before 5 innings are completed (or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) will be replayed in its entirety.
* Games may end in a tie.

**RUN RULE**

* A game will be called if a team reaches 20 runs after the 3rd inning, 15 runs at 4, and 10 runs after 5 innings.
* There is a 10-run cap per team, per inning, regardless of outs.

**LINE-UPS**

* A new line-up card may be picked up by the coach with the Site-Supervisor prior to the game.
* Line-ups must be submitted to the other team by request.
* Umpires are required for reporting the final score to the Site-Supervisor after the game.
* Teams may add players to the bottom of the lineup at any time if they arrive late, providing they meet all other league rules.
* Teams will be allowed to bat their roster.
* Free defensive substitutions are allowed, but all players must maintain the same position in the batting order throughout the game.

**BATTING**

* All batters will start their at bat with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
* A grace foul after 2 strikes will be allowed. A second foul ball following the second strike will result in the batter being called out with the ball dead unless the foul ball is a foul fly that is caught by a defensive player.

**COURTESY RUNNERS**

* One courtesy runner will be allowed per inning. The player who made the last out must come in as the courtesy runner.

**PITCHING**

* A pitched ball must have a perceptible arc of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding 12 feet from the ground.
* Pitchers must be in contact with the rubber when starting a pitching motion, or up to 5 feet behind the pitching rubber.
* Pitchers will be permitted up to 5 warm-up pitches prior to the start of their defensive half of the first inning.
* All new pitchers will be permitted up to 3 warm-up pitches when they enter the game, time permitting.

**DOUBLE FIRST BASE**

* Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner on the fair side of first base, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion. Note: The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner only touches the white portion, providing the defense appeals prior to the batter/runner returning to first base or time called.
* On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield, when there is no play being made at first base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion of the base. If the batter-runner returns to first base, the batter-runner may return to either the white or colored portion of the base.
* On any force out attempt to the foul side of first base, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or colored portion of the base. Note: This includes overthrows.
* When tagging up on a fly ball, the white or colored portion of the base may be used.

**COLLISIONS**

* Base runners must make every effort to avoid collisions with fielders. Anyone ruled to have intentionally collided with a fielder will be called out and may be ejected. This is a judgment call.

WEATHER POLICY

* The City of Tucker will make any decisions regarding the fields by 2pm on gameday.
* Safety is our number one priority. In the event of inclement weather decisions will be posted on the ROOTS Women’s League, LLC Facebook page and coaches will be notified via phone and email as soon as possible.
* Coaches are responsible for contacting players.
* Unless the rainout is posted players should assume that the game will be played as scheduled.
* Games may be played in drizzle at the umpire’s discretion. In the case lightning games will be postponed fifteen minutes from the last lightning strike. In order to get games in if the umpire/Site Supervisor cancels one game not all games may be canceled. Umpire and Site Supervisor will notify coaches of the status of game.

ALCOHOL, TABACCO, AND SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

* NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES may be consumed on any City of Tucker owned property. Violators may be subject to a fine and a possible suspension from the program. This applies to spectators, players, coaches, etc… Any individual determined to be under the influence of alcohol or drinking alcoholic beverages on the premises (park property) will be prohibited from participation and/or ejected from the game.
* The use of TOBACCO products is prohibited on the playing field or in the team bench area.
* Any player or coach punching, shoving, or otherwise fighting will be automatically ejected from the game and may be placed on an indefinite suspension.
* ROOTS Women’s League, LLC wants to main a family friendly environment. Profanity will not be tolerated. Warnings may be issued. Anyone using profanity will be ejected from the game or playing area. Depending on the severity a one game suspension maybe implied.
* Any person physically or verbally abusing an umpire or any ROOTS Women’s League volunteer may receive an indefinite suspension from the program.

EJECTIONS

* A player, manager or individual ejected from a game must leave the ball field area. An umpire has the right to request that the ejected participant leave the park if deemed necessary. Note: An umpire has the right to forfeit a contest if a player, manager, individual or team does not comply with the rules and regulations regarding ejections.
* When a player who has been ejected is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat.
* Any player, manager, or individual ejected from a game maybe automatically suspended for a minimum of one game (the next scheduled game). Any player, manager or individual on suspension cannot be in the team or bench area during his/her suspension.
* Any player, manager or individual suspended for a second time in a season will risk suspension from the program.
* Any manager or player may request a hearing on a player suspension that exceeds more than one game automatic suspension. The league coordinator will have final decision on any player suspensions.

PROTESTS AND RULE CHANGES

* Protests will be honored only on a rule infraction, not judgment calls. Managers must notify the home plate umpire you are protesting the game before the next pitch.
* In the event of any disagreement between the coach and umpire the coach may ask the Site Supervisor or League Coordinator for final decision on ruling.
* Any agreement made between team managers and umpires because of playing conditions or rules that have been altered must be brought to the Site Supervisors/League Coordinators attention.