

MANHATTAN BEACH PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.  
1400 Highland Avenue (310) 802-5412

# CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES

## **TEAM MANAGER**

One person designated as team manager (or his/her appointed co-manager) shall be present at all games involving their team. This person is responsible for the conduct of their team. They shall see that their team is ready to play on time, hustles on and off the field, and shall act as spokesman for the team in all discussions. The manager must run the team, having full control over ALL of their players.

## **CONDUCT**

Each team manager, coaches and players shall display good sportsmanship at all times. Fighting, arguing, abusive language or swearing will not be tolerated in these leagues. Team members who cannot abide by this rule may be excluded from play.

## **NO DRINKING, SMOKING OR DRUGS**

No team member shall drink, smoke or use any drugs on the playing field or in the dugouts at any time. Violation of this rule will result in automatic forfeiture of the game and can result in the entire team being dropped from the league without a refund. This rule also applies to conduct in the stands by fans supporting or associated with certain teams. Absolutely NO alcoholic beverages in the stands or on the field. **NOTE:** Any participant who, in the judgement of the umpire, is under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed to participate.

## **INSURANCE (MEDICAL BENEFIT FUND)**

Insurance coverage is not mandatory and is not included in the team entrance fee. Teams are eligible to join the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) Player Medical Benefit Fund. Cost is listed in current SCMAF rules.

## **TEAM ROSTERS**

Each team must submit a team roster to the league director. Every player must be listed on the roster to be eligible to play. Players must be 18 years of age or older. Rosters must have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 16 players. Rosters will be open during the first week of league play for teams to sign on additional players or make changes. All such additions or changes must be approved by the league director. No additions or changes may be made to any team after the second week of league play. **PLAYOFF ROSTERS:** If a player participates on more than one team in the league, come playoffs, that player must choose only one team to play on for the last night of playoffs.

## **MINIMUM PARTICIPANTS**

A team may play an official game without forfeiting with a minimum of eight eligible players. Among those eight players, the team must consist of a minimum of either 3 men and 5 women, or 3 women and 5 men. In no case can there be more than 5 males on the field at the same time.

## **ILLEGAL PLAYERS**

Teams using an illegal player will forfeit the game played by that player and the team may be dropped from the league. (Illegal players must be reported to the League Director prior to the conclusion of the last league game in order for the forfeit to go into effect).

## **TIE GAMES**

In case of a tie, teams completing six or more innings within the time limit will be allowed to play one extra inning. After this extra inning has been played and teams are still tied, the game will go down as a tie in the standings. Any game that has not completed six or more innings at the end of the time limit, providing four innings have been played, will be called and count as a tie as well. A tie game will be recorded in the standings as a ½ game won and ½ game lost.

## GAMES

Games will have a 1 hour time limit. There will be no new inning after 55 minutes. Forfeit time will be 10 minutes after game time as printed on schedule. Teams not able to field eight players by that time will forfeit. A team will be dropped from the league without any refund whatsoever if it forfeits more than once.

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## LEAGUE RULES

1. There is a zero tolerance alcohol policy at the fields. As team manager, make it clear to your teammates not to bring any alcohol to the games. Do not jeopardize your team's status in the league. Violation of this rule can result in an automatic forfeiture of the game as well as the entire team being dropped from the league without a refund. This rule also applies to conduct in the stands by fans supporting or associated with certain teams. Again, absolutely NO alcoholic beverages in the stands or on the field.
2. Umpire and/or league director reserves the right to make changes or adjustments in the interest of fair play.
3. Shoes: Players are required to wear tie-type shoes that cover the entire foot. Loafers or slip-on shoes, bare feet, and metal cleats will not be permitted.
4. Count and Pitching Rules: Batters start with a 1-1 count. If a male batter is walked on three straight pitches, he advances to second base. If the count reaches 2 strikes on a male batter and then he is walked 1 base is awarded. The female batter who follows him must bat. There are no automatic walks. After 2 strikes in the count, one foul ball is permitted. The next foul ball is an out. There is a 6 to 16 foot arc required on all pitches. If an illegal pitch is called by the umpire, the batter may still attempt to hit the pitch but the result of any subsequent play stands. No attempt by the batter will result in a ball. The pitcher may start their pitch from the rubber or up to 5 feet from behind the rubber.
5. Scoring and Base Running: 6 runs per inning limit until last inning is declared. The last inning is unlimited. All plays at home plate are force outs. The runner must cross the chalked line behind home without touching home plate or the extension. The catcher must receive the ball with their foot on the plate prior to the runner crossing the line for the force out, no tag is required. No over-running the bases except first base. Players must maintain contact with the bag or risk being called out, unless the umpire announces that the bases are "loose". If a base runner requires a courtesy runner, then the last out of the same gender can replace that runner. Limit one per inning.
6. Sliding Rule: Sliding is allowed. Malicious contact when sliding is immediate ejection.
7. Line-up and Defensive Positions: Batting order rotates male batter then female batter throughout the line-up. "Let the girls play"-male players may not take obvious plays away from female players (ex. Pop-ups or fly balls to female players). One base will be awarded. However, male pitchers may take throws and plays at home plate. The infield positions may be in any order, as long as there is an equal amount of male and female players. If a team is short by 1 female, they must resort to 3 outfielders, with a female playing center and males in left and right field. The "extra" male player must play catcher.
8. Outfield Positions: All four outfielders (including the rover) must be in male-female order. Three outfielders must stay at least 160 feet from home plate until the batter swings at the pitch. Penalty: Batter will be awarded first base. The rover may be in any place on the grass of the outfield or must remain 10ft. behind a base until the ball is hit. The rover may not be on the receiving end of plays made at 2<sup>nd</sup> base (making put outs, or force outs).
9. Leading Off: Players on base are not allowed to leave the base until the ball has come into contact with the bat once pitched.
10. Any ball hit fairly over the fence by male batters are automatic outs, no runner may advance. However, any ball hit fairly over the fence by a female will result in a homerun.
11. Playoffs: All extra inning playoff games will be played with the "California Tie-Breaker". This tie-breaker begins with the last out from the previous inning being placed as a baserunner at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. The team at bat starts that ½ inning with 1 out.