



# **ADULT SOFTBALL RULES**

CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD  
FRIENDSWOOD SCHULZ SPORTSPARK  
RULES OF PLAY



## **GENERAL RULES OF PLAY**

1. Age: Participants in the City's adult softball leagues must be 18 years of age when playing in a game. Any players 16 or 17 years of age will be required to fill out a waiver form.
2. Rules: USA rules shall govern play.
3. Game Time: Game time is forfeit time. The minimum number of players a team can begin with is eight (8). An out will be taken when any vacant position in the batting order appears. New players will be added to the end of the lineup and must bat in the same position the remainder of the game. The first game on the schedule will have a ten (10) minute grace period before a forfeit is declared.
4. Game Length: 50 minutes or 7 full innings. No inning may start after the 50-minute time limit.
5. **Uniforms: Teams must wear same color shirts or have team uniforms.**
6. Run Rule:      15 after 3                      12 after 4                      10 after 5
7. Tie Ball Games: If the game is tied at the end of 7 full innings, or at the conclusion of a full inning once time has expired, the game will go to a "one-pitch" format.
8. Pitching Arc: 10' maximum arc above the ground and at least a 6' minimum arc above the ground.
9. Strike Rule: All games are played with the 4-ball and 3-strike rule: 3 called strikes or, 1 called strike and 2 foul balls, 2 called strikes and 1 foul ball or, 3 foul balls and the batter is out.
10. Scorekeeper: The umpire behind the plate will be the official scorekeeper. All runs scored are to be reported to the umpire and the opposing manager after each half inning is completed. Home team is responsible for keeping the game book. In case of a score discrepancy, and no book is kept, the umpires score stands.
11. Game Ball: Each team is responsible for bringing a new or otherwise acceptable ball to each game. Only USA approved, controlled or restricted softballs will be permitted. The men will hit the 12" ball, women 11", with ASA stamp, core 52, red stitched and 300lbs. compression.
12. Legal Bats: Any bat that is not on the banned bat list of ASA, USSSA.
13. Line-Up Cards: Teams must submit a line-up card before each game.
14. Officials: Officials have supreme authority; their decision is final. The manager may register complaints only.
15. Protest: The only type of valid protest is one that deals with a specific rule. Judgment calls will not constitute a protest. To file a protest, a check of \$50.00 payable to the City of Friendswood must be submitted with the written protest and turned in to the Assistant Director of Parks & Rec by 5:00 p.m. of

the following day after the game was played. Any roster protests must be made by the third inning of the game.

16. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in a suspension from the league for one (1) scheduled game on the first offense and suspension from the season with a second offense. Serious problems, even on the first offense, can result in suspension from the league. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Officials have supreme authority. Some examples of unsportsmanlike conduct are:
  - Using profanity or abusive language, threats or any verbal abuse towards a player or official.
  - Intentionally strike, shove, throwing of equipment, or any other physical conduct to harm a player or official.
  - Fighting will not be tolerated and players involved will be suspended and subject to further disciplinary action.
17. Hitting up the Middle: If the ball is hit up the middle in the designated area, whether on the ground or within a foot over the pitcher's head, the batter will be declared out and a dead ball call will be made. This rule will still apply if the pitcher has left the designated area. If a pitcher is hit while outside the designated area, the rule will not apply. Players hitting up the middle will be subject to ejection and possible suspension.
18. Field Conditions: Determination of field condition will not be made until two (2) hours prior to game start time. Teams may the website [www.friendswoodsports.com](http://www.friendswoodsports.com) for information regarding rainouts.
19. Awards: A "Team Trophy" and individual awards (team shirts) will be awarded to first place finishers. Second place league finishers will receive team shirts.
20. Rosters: All rosters must be submitted online to [www.friendswoodsports.com](http://www.friendswoodsports.com) by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of league play to be considered for the playoff tournament. Twenty (20) player roster limit. Rosters will be verified during playoff games with a photo ID. When a men's competitive and recreational league exist on the same day, a player cannot be on two rosters in a season. They may play as a "pick-up" player only. Participants are limited to playing on one team per division per league.
21. Uniform: All players must be in uniform, whether this be a team jersey or same color shirt. Any player not in uniform will be considered a pick-up player. All non-uniformed rostered players will need to bat at the end of the lineup for playoffs.
22. Home Run Rule: Competitive League (D) and COED, three (3) home runs per game. Recreational (DD) & Church League will play the one and one up rule. However, a team will not be allowed to go up on a team if the game is in extra innings. They can hit their one home run if they have not already done so. Any additional home runs will result in an out. (D) division teams may agree to increase the home run limit for each game, as long as both teams agree.
23. Forfeit Fees: Any team that forfeits their scheduled game will be responsible for the entire amount due for umpire fees (1 game forfeit x's 2 umpires = \$50.00). The forfeit fees must be paid to Parks and Recreation office prior to the next scheduled game. Failure to comply will result in ejection from league play. Any team that forfeits three (3) games will be dropped from the schedule.
24. NO INFIELD PRACTICE. You may warm up before the game in the outfield grass and outside the foul lines. We want to reduce the wear on the infields and preserve the chalk lines.

25. **Alcohol is strictly prohibited inside the park. Teams or individuals caught with alcohol inside the park can be subject to forfeit or ejection from the game.**
26. No metal spikes will be allowed at any time.
27. No pick-up players shall enter the game after the third (3) inning of play.
28. Picking up Extra Players: Teams are allowed to pick up players (non-uniform) during the regular season only and allowed a maximum of two per game. Coaches must declare their pick-up players during the umpire's coin toss before the game starts. Teams will not be allowed to pick up players if a 'rostered player' is present and able to play. Pick-up players will need to bat at the end of the batting order.
29. Umpire Fees: Each team is responsible for paying \$25.00 per game (cash) for umpire fees. The umpire will collect the fee before the game starts. Prepaying umpire fees is not allowed.
30. The City of Friendswood reserves the right to change or amend these rules to facilitate league play. Questions may be directed to the City of Friendswood, Assistant Director, at (281) 996-3228.

### **Specific Church League Rules**

31. Both teams meet at home plate before each game for the coin flip. The designated home team will say the prayer before the game and the visiting team will say a prayer after the game at the pitcher's mound. This is not mandatory but encouraged.
32. You can substitute players in and out as freely as you wish, as long as that player bats in the same order and plays a full inning. You may bat as many players as you wish, keeping same batting order.
33. There will be no stealing in Church Leagues.

### **Specific CO-ED League Rules**

34. During play, 10 players play at time. 6 males and 4 females play on the field. Teams may start with 8 players, but 3 must be female. A maximum of 6 male may play on the field. There is no maximum number of females that can be on the field at a time to make the 10 players. Teams must have at least 3 females playing to start and continue a game, but will take an out when the 4<sup>th</sup> female was to bat in the lineup.
35. Outfielders must be at least 200' from home plate, behind the light poles. If not behind at the time of pitch, the female batter is awarded second base.
36. Stealing is not allowed in Co-ed play
37. Offensive teams must alternate the batting line-up according to gender. When playing with more females than males, you may bat females together, but never two males together. If a player leaves the game for any reason, their substitute must be of the same gender. If playing 6 males and 4 females, you can have up to two designated hitters, but both must be female.
38. Defensively, females must be evenly split between the infield and outfield. The pitcher and catcher must be of different gender. If a team plays shorthanded with either three in the infield or outfield, at least one of the three must be a male player and at least one of the three must be a female player.

39. If a male player draws a walk, intentionally or unintentionally with a two out count, the manager shall have the option to have the following female batter awarded first base, or allow her to bat in the normal sequence with the male player taking second base. If there are less than two outs, the male player takes second base and the female player bats.