

Centralia Parks Department MEN'S LEAGUE RULES

USA Softball rules will apply with the following for both the traditional and wood bat leagues:

Players and Rosters

1. The game is designed for ten players. Each team must have a minimum of eight players to start and finish a league game. Any team who fails to field less than eight players shall forfeit that game. Three forfeits by one team during the season shall dismiss that team from the league for the remainder of the season.
2. A team may pick up a maximum of two players to reach nine players, but the pick-up players must sit out if the team's own players arrive. The team's players may then assume the pick-up players' positions in the batting order. Pickup players must be currently rostered on another Centralia team. Pick-up players may NOT be used if a team has 9 or more of its own players present. If no pick-up players are available and the team has fewer than 8 players, the game will be considered a forfeit. A battery (pitcher/catcher) is mandatory at all times.
3. Batting through the roster and unlimited substitution is allowed. If a player is injured or ejected and no substitute is available, his spot in the batting order will be scored as an out each time his spot comes to bat.
4. Teams may participate only with players listed on their team roster, plus up to two pick-up players, as allowed by rule #2. Use of an illegal player will result in a forfeit for the offending team.
5. All players must sign the official roster before they play. Players may only be listed on one roster per league.
6. Players may be added to the roster up until the mid-point of the season. No players may be added after that point without the consent of a league director, and only if replacing a removed player.
7. All players must be 18 years of age or older.

Equipment and Playing Field

8. Base paths are 70 feet and standard pitching distance is 53 feet. For safety reasons, the USSSA "floating rubber" rule shall be used—that is the pitcher will have the option of pitching from the standard 53 foot plate, or from any point up to 6 feet behind the pitching plate that is within the width of the existing pitching plate.
9. An umpire has the right to remove a bat from a game if he deems it dangerous or damaged. Coaches are to help police their own teams and ask their players not to use bats that are known to be unsafe.
10. A wood softball bat shall be used for wood bat league games.
11. A strike mat will be used behind home plate. If the pitched ball hits the mat, it is a strike.
12. The team at bat should provide a good used ball to use in the event game balls are hit out of play until balls can be retrieved, to avoid delaying the game.
13. Players should wear matching or similar shirts or jerseys
14. No player may wear metal spikes.
15. No alcohol, smoking, dogs/pets or sunflower seeds/shelled nuts allowed at the complex.

The Game

16. **Time limit is 55 minutes, finish the inning, then play one additional inning.** Time starts at the end of the coaches' conference. If a team is short players to start a game at the scheduled time, they will be given a 10-minute grace period, but the time limit begins at the start of the grace period. Games played until time limit will be considered a complete game, regardless of the inning.
17. Each batter will begin with a 1 ball, 1 strike pitch count, and will be given one extra foul ball.
18. A courtesy runner may be used for one player injured during the current game. The last out shall be that courtesy runner. Emphasis: The injury to the baserunner must have occurred during the current game and ONLY the last out may be used as a courtesy runner.
19. Pitching arc must reach a height of at least 5 feet from the ground (not the release point) and not exceed a maximum of 10 feet from the ground.
20. **Home run rule for the traditional leagues:** A progressive home run rule shall be used for all games. Once both teams have reached 3 home runs each, no team may be more than 1 home run ahead of the other. An out will be the penalty for any untouched over-the-fence home run that puts a team 2 home runs ahead of their opponent after the initial home run limit. This rule applies to all innings of play. Batters have the option of running the bases on a home run, but must at least touch 1st base.
21. **Home run rule for the wood bat leagues:** Unlimited home runs are allowed.
22. Players are asked to hustle on and off the field to avoid delaying the game.
23. The team at bat must retrieve its own home run and foul balls.
24. The 10-run rule is in effect after 5 innings.
25. Throwing bats, using foul and/or abusive language, alcohol and/or drugs and climbing over the ball field fences will all result in the ejection, by the umpire, of the player(s) at fault. Players ejected from a game may not play in the next game. The coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players and the team's spectators.
26. If an umpire does not show up for the game, that game will be rescheduled. Teams may play a scrimmage game during their allotted time, but the outcome will not count. Please report when an umpire does not show up for your game, so that game can be rescheduled.

Other Information

27. Winning team must report game scores to the ball park attendant or email ckane@cityofcentralia.com. Games will count as a loss to both teams if scores are not reported.
28. For rain-out information, go to the city website, Parks & Recreation department, and Rainout Information **after** 4pm.