

Centralia Parks Department COED SOFTBALL RULES

USA Softball rules will apply with the following for all Centralia Coed leagues:

Players and Rosters

1. The game is designed for ten players. A team may play with eight players (four males and four females). 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. If a team has less than five male and/or five female players, they may add up to 2 pick-up players of the appropriate gender. Pickup players must be currently rostered on another Centralia Parks Department team. Teams picking up players may not exceed 10 players. If a team's own player shows up late, he or she must replace the pick-up player.
3. Batting through the roster and unlimited substitution is allowed, as long as a male-female alternating batting order is maintained and substitutes are of the same gender. If a player is injured or is ejected by the umpire and there is no substitute, the vacated spot in the batting order will be scored as an out each time that spot comes to bat.
4. If you have nine players, it is permissible to play an extra male, however there is an automatic out between the two males in the batting order. The balance of the team can favor the female at any time without penalty.
5. Teams may participate only with players listed on their team roster, plus up to two pick-up players, as allowed by pick-up player rule (rule #2). Use of an illegal player will result in a forfeit for the offending team.
6. All players must sign the official roster before they play. Players may only be listed on one roster per league.
7. Players may be added to the roster up until the mid-point of the season. No players may be added after that point without consent of the league director, and only if replacing a removed player.
8. Players must be 16 years or older to play. **Minors under 18 must have a release signed by parent.**

Equipment, Uniforms and Playing Field

9. Base paths are 70 feet and 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.
10. Male batters shall be pitched a 12-inch ball; female batters shall be pitched an 11-inch ball. A female batter may be pitched a 12-inch ball if she chooses.
11. A strike mat will be used behind home plate. If the pitched ball hits the mat, it is a strike.
12. The umpire has the right to remove a bat from a game if he deems it dangerous or damaged. Coaches are asked to help police their own teams and see that their players not use bats that are known to be unsafe.
13. 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.
14. Players should wear matching or similar shirts or jerseys.
15. No player may wear metal spikes.
16. Minors under 18 must wear helmets when playing offense and catcher's gear if catching. Minors under 18 may NOT pitch.
17. No alcohol, smoking, dogs/pets or sunflower seeds/shelled nuts allowed at the complex.

The Game

18. **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 doesn't have enough players to start a game at the scheduled start 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 the time limit will be considered a complete game, regardless of the inning.
19. Teams with at least 8 players (4 males and 4 females) at game time, must start the game. A game will be called a forfeit if the 10-minute grace period expires and there are not at least 8 players available to play.
20. Defensive positioning: 2 males and 2 females in the outfield, 2 males and 2 females in the infield and 1 male and 1 female in the pitcher/catcher positions. If a team is playing with 8 players, at least one female must be in the infield and one female in the outfield. Pitcher/catcher must always be male/female.
21. Batting order: Alternate the sexes, except when you have more females than males. You can then have back to back female batters in one instance in the line-up.
22. Pitching arc must reach a minimum of 6 feet and not exceed a maximum of 10 feet from the ground.
23. Each batter will begin with a 1 ball, 1 strike pitch count, and will be given one extra foul ball.
24. If a male batter is walked, be it intentionally or unintentionally, the male batter is awarded first and second base, and the following female batter has the option to walk or bat.
25. The person of the same gender who got the last out may be used as a courtesy runner. Limit one per gender per game, unless there is an injury.
26. A progressive home run rule shall be used for all games. Once both teams have reached the maximum of 2 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.
27. The team at bat must retrieve its own home run and foul balls.
28. Outfielders may not encroach toward the infield and must stay on the grass until after the ball is hit. If, at the discretion of the umpire, an outfielder is encroaching (whether or not he or she is on the grass), the batter will take first base after one warning.
29. The 10-run rule is in effect after the 5th inning.
30. 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. Players' code of conduct will govern all play.
31. 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

32. 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.
33. For rain-out information, go to the city website, Parks & Recreation department, and Rainout Information (found at the bottom sidebar) after 4 pm.