

**CITY OF COOLIDGE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CO-ED REC SOFTBALL
RULES AND POLICIES**

ENTRY FEE

The fee covers umpires, ball, trophies, lights, and awards. Registration will cost \$275.

SCHEDULING

Games will be played on Tuesdays beginning at 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm, and 9:00 pm, at Kenilworth Sports Complex. A post season playoff will follow the league.

ROSTERS

All rosters will be limited to 20 players and no less than 8 players. Rosters must be submitted on the night of your first game. Any additions/deletions may be made prior to the second league game. After your first game, your roster is **FROZEN. IF A TEAM CANNOT FIELD ENOUGH PLAYERS FOR A GAME, THE GAME MUST STILL BE PLAYED IF THE OTHER TEAM AGREES TO PLAY.**

There will be a one-time only rosters addition night. At the midpoint of the season, rosters will be opened to add players.

GAMEBALL

The game ball will be a 12" & 11" softball provided by the City of Coolidge Parks and Recreation.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Players must be 18 years or older to participate in this league.
2. **Players may compete on only one team within each division.**
3. No players may be apart of a two or four year college or university team.

Any violations of eligibility will result in forfeiture of all the games the offending player competed in. Roster check will not be done. **All eligibility protests must be made before the start of the second inning or they will not be heard unless the players in question begin playing after this time.**

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES

Team managers and field supervisors may challenge the eligibility of any player according to the guidelines below. Player eligibility challenges are considered protest situations and must be made as per the below guidelines. Any player challenged must provide identification or proof, which reflects information provided on the team's roster. If they cannot produce identification, they will be considered ineligible. Field supervisors may challenge the eligibility of any player at any time prior to or during a game. An eligibility challenge instigated by a field supervisor may evoke a return challenged.

1. Time will be stopped.

2. Challenge must be made before the start of the second inning, others will not be heard unless the player in question begins playing after this time.
3. Team A may challenge one player of team B
4. If the team B player produces the proper identification, team A may continue to challenge team B players until a team B player produces proper identification or a maximum of four players have been challenged.
5. Team B then may challenge team A's players under the same guidelines.
6. Games will be continued after the ineligible players have left the playing field and both teams have the minimum number of eligible players to proceed.

FORFEITS

1. A ten-minute grace period will be given to the 6:00 game only. This time will count against your hour limit. The umpire will notify both teams when the grace period begins and will call the game if a team cannot field enough players after the grace period has elapsed. The umpires watch is the official watch.
2. A team must have 8 eligible players to start a game and no less than 8 to finish a game. If a team cannot field 8 players or more, this is a forfeit and is recorded as such. If the 2 teams are willing to play the game as a practice game during that hour, they will be allowed to do so.
3. Any violation of the code of conduct in the umpire's discretion could result in a forfeit.

PROTESTS:

1. Only rule interpretation will be justifiable for protests and not an umpire's judgment call. If a team protests, it must notify game umpire and/or field supervisor by the team captain or manager before the next pitch to the next batter.
2. Ineligible player protests must be made during the game, please notify the umpire. You must point out the player in question; whole roster checks will not be done.
3. Protests must be written and submitted to the Coolidge Parks and Recreation office during the next business day. To file a protest, you must inform the umpire that you are playing the game under protest and give specific reason. The next business day (M-F, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.), a written protest along with a \$10 fee must be filed with the Parks and Recreation Department. This fee is refundable only if the ruling is in your favor. To file a protest during a tournament, you must inform the umpire immediately and give a specific reason. A written protest along with a \$10 check fee must be filed with the League Supervisor. All protests must be settled before any play can be resumed. This fee is refundable only if the ruling is in your favor.

INSURANCE

The City of Coolidge does not carry any insurance to cover individuals. Participants in any league or tournament is done so at your own risk.

AWARDS

First and second place finisher of the league will receive 20 shirts and one trophy.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All leagues will use the City of Coolidge modified softball rules.
2. The Strike Zone is only that part, or any part of the area, over Home Plate that is lower than the top of the Batter's highest shoulder, or higher than the bottom of his FRONT KNEE.
3. a. The Pitched Ball must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the Pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of Home Plate.
b. The Pitched Ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground.
4. All games will be one hour in length or seven (7) innings. No new inning will begin after one hour.
5. No steel or metal cleats are allowed.
6. The batter will be declared out if he fouls off two pitches after receiving two (2) strikes previously during at bat. (Additional foul rule, refer to USSSA)

7. There is a 20-16-12 run rule in effect for all games. Any team ahead by 20 or more runs in three innings, 16 or more runs in four innings, or 12 or more runs in five innings shall be declared the winner.
8. Every team will have the option of using one of two types of batting orders. This must be announced prior to the game.
 - A. The Standard Method
 - B. The Optional Method

* See last page of rules for definitions.

9. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 of the 12 players can take a defensive position throughout the game.
10. The batting order must alternate between a man and woman. Two (2) men may never bat consecutively.
11. If you walk a male batter, he will automatically advance to second base. The female batter will have the choice of walking or batting.
12. Teams in the field will consist of five (5) men and five (5) women. The outfield will consist of two (2) men and two women. The infield consists of two (2) men and two (2) women. The pitcher and catcher will be male/female. The number of women can exceed the number of men, but the number of men cannot exceed the number of women by more than one (i.e., five men, four women).
13. The pitcher is allowed three warm-up tosses or one minute to assume the pitching position.
14. Players and coaches are NOT allowed to drink alcoholic beverages during the game in the dugout or on the field of play. Offenders caught consuming alcohol in the dugout or on the field during their game will be asked to dispose of it, and suspended from the current and any subsequent games on the same day. After review the player(s) and team may be assessed further suspensions possible forfeiture of games won.
15. There is **NO** smoking allowed on the field of play.
16. A player must participate in a minimum of five (5) games with team in order to qualify for tournament play.
17. No bats exceeding a bpf of 1.20 can be used in this league. Any altered bat is also not permitted in this league. All bats must have visible manufacturer markings. Any player caught using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game and the league.
18. A regulation game that is **TIED** at the end of seven innings or the one hour time limit has expired. One additional inning will be played with the last batter out from the previous inning starting on second base as the runner.
 - A. Tournament game that is tied at the end of seven innings or one hour shall be continued by playing additional innings until one team has scored more runs than the other at the end of a completed inning, or the team second at the bat scores more runs in their half of the uncompleted extra innings.
 - B. Tournament championship game will play seven (7) innings with a one hour time limit; Run rule is still in effect for game. If a second game is required there will be no time limit, but the run rule will still be in effect.

COURTSEY RUNNER

1. Both teams must agree prior to the game to use a courtesy runner.
2. If a courtesy runner is agreed upon before the start of the game, the following is in effect:
 - a. A courtesy runner will be used - one for a male batter and one for a female batter one time in each inning.
 - b. Whoever made the last out, female for female, male for male, will be designated as the courtesy runner.

SAFETY RULES

These rules are enforced to insure the safety and welfare for everyone.

1. Throwing the bat

- a. Anyone who intentionally throws a bat will be immediately ejected from the game.
- b. A person who throws the bat, while in the act of swinging at a pitched will receive a warning from the umpire. Any further violation will result in an ejection.

2. Sliding

- a. Any player attempting to slide into any base must slide directly into the base. There will not be any take out slides or roll blocks allowed. Any player who violates this rule will be ejected from the game.
- b. Yelling at a defensive player trying to make a play will be called for verbal interference.

3. The ball is dead and not in play when a base runner deliberately crashes into a defensive player who is

BATTING ORDER

Every team will have the option of using one of two types of batting orders. This must be announced prior to The game.

- a. The **Standard Method** of using 10 or 12 (DH) names, while using substitutes to change the batting order. Your batting order must stay the same for the entire game. Once a team starts the game using the standard batting order, they must continue to use it for the entire game.
- b. The **Optional Method** will allow the entire team to be placed in the batting order, while only 10 players will play on the field at any one time. This does not require having the same number of men as women in the batting line up. All men and women bat, with the men following their batting order and the women following theirs. Teams must alternate between the men's line up and women's line up to ensure no two men or two women bat consecutively. Once a team starts the game using the optional batting order, they must continue to use it for the entire game.

SPECIAL RULES

In the event of any rules not specifically covered by the City of Coolidge modified softball rules, the Recreation Department will have the authority to institute new rules or change old rules to maintain continuity of the overall sports program.

HOME RUN RULE

During the Co-Ed tournament/league there will be a limit of three (3) homeruns per gender per game. Any home-run hit in addition to the three (3) will be an automatic out.