

**CITY OF COOLIDGE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
MEN'S SOFTBALL  
RULES AND POLICIES**

**ENTRY FEE**

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

**SCHEDULING**

Games will be played on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 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" 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.
  - a. 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.
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 that bat. (Additional foul rule, refer to USSSA)
  - A. All batters will begin their at bat with a 1 ball, 1 strike count.
7. Only players, coaches, and one scorekeeper are allowed in the dugout during game.
8. A team must have a minimum of eight players to start a game and cannot have less than eight (8) to finish a game. Less than eight (8) players will result in a forfeit rewarded to the opposing team.
9. 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.
10. The pitcher is allowed three warm up tosses or one (1) minute to assume the pitching position.
11. A player must participate in a minimum of five (5) games with team in order to qualify for tournament play.
12. Smoking is **NOT** allowed on the field of play.
13. **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.**
14. Physical abuse of a game official, park employee or another player will not be tolerated and could result in prosecution. This is also a violation of the Code of Conduct and will result in a ban being issued against the player(s).
15. Foul language will not be tolerated. The use of foul language might result in that player being ejected from the game.

A protest in the game could result when there is a difference of opinion on the field between the protesting team and the umpire regarding the application or interpretation of the game rules. A judgment decision is not a protest able to call and you have no grounds to protest. To file a protest, you must inform the umpire that you are playing the game under protest and give a specific reason.

A written protest along with \$10 must be filed by the end of business hours the following day 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 fee must be filed with the League Supervisor. All protests must be settled before any play can resume. This fee is refundable only if the ruling is in your favor.

16. The ball is dead and not in play when the base runner deliberately crashes into a defensive player who is waiting to make a tag. The runner is declared out and also ejected from the game.
17. Any player who vacates the batting order shall be declared an out the first time his at bat comes up, after that; he shall be passed over in the line-up without further penalty. If the team has a substitute for vacated player, he may assume his position in line-up without penalty.
18. 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.
19. 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 bat scores more runs in their half of the uncompleted extra inning.

### **OPTIONAL BATTING ORDER**

Every team will have the option of using one of two types of batting orders and this must be announced prior to the Game.

1. The standard method of using just ten (10) names, while using substitutes to change the batting order. You also will be able to use the eleven man extra player is so declared prior to the game. Your batting order must stay the same for the entire game.
2. The optional batting order will allow the entire team to be placed in the batting order, while only ten (10) players will play on the field at any one time. Once a team starts the game using the optional batting order, they must continue to use it for the entire game.
  - a. Having chosen to use an optional batting order, teams may place any number of players above the minimum limit.
  - b. When a team member(s) of a team using the optional batting order arrives at the ballpark after the start of the game, the late arriving player(s) must immediately be added at the end of the batting order. Once a team starts the game using the optional batting order, they must continue to use it for the entire game.

### **COURTSEY RUNNER**

1. A courtesy runner will be used one time per inning.

## **COURTESY RUNNER CONT.**

2. Whoever made the last out shall be designated as the courtesy runner, if not available, continue up the batting order and get the next available batter, as decided by the umpire.

## **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 pitch 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.

## **BATS**

Only bats supplied by the City of Coolidge may be used during play. There will be 2 bats per field, located with the umpires. These alone will be used in the field of play. Any other bats used by the players, will cause said player to be removed from the game on the first offense. Second offense, the player will be removed from the league. Third offense, the player will be banned from City of Coolidge leagues for 3 years.

## **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 Men's tournament/league there will be a limit of three (3) homeruns per team per game. Any homerun hit in addition to the three (3) will be an automatic out.