

## Covington Parks and Recreation

# CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS



Covington Parks and Recreation provides a RECREATIONAL CO-ED Softball League for participants 16 years and older. The intent of the League Rules is to ensure safe, fair and fun league play. Although we understand competitiveness does play in to some activities during the game, the overall purpose of this league is for adults to get together, have some fun and play softball. **This is not a competitive league.**

**Please read the Rules & Regulations and Athletic Code of Conduct so that you understand the expectations Covington Parks and Recreation has for its participants.**

Covington Parks and Recreation Co-Ed Adult Softball League Rules and Regulations will be consistent with current ASA rules except for the following modifications and clarifications. Any situation(s) that arise(s) during a game that are not covered in the League Rules and Regulations are at the discretion of staff and clarification of rules will be made prior to the start of the game and/or after, if needed.



## RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES OF TEAM MANAGERS

1. **Register the team.** You may register in person at the Covington Aquatics Center located at 18230 SE 240th St, Covington, WA 98042 (253) 480-2480. You may also register at the Covington Parks and Recreation office located in City Hall located at 16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100 (253-480-2499). The team fee will be \$975.00. We need to collect registration fee in total to guarantee a spot in the league.
2. **Take advantage of priority registration for returning teams.** Returning teams receive priority regarding registration and reservation. Once the priority deadline has past, the dept. will and must open registration to the general public. After that time, no priority will be given to past participants and space will be limited to the number of teams that we can reasonably accommodate.
3. **Submit the roster/waiver on time.** Ensure the roster is completed, legible and signed by every player and received by the first game. ALL PLAYERS must complete the roster/waiver before they are eligible to participate in the league. Any team without a roster on file by the league deadline is in jeopardy of forfeit sanctions and/or other disciplinary proceedings.
4. **Share league information with your team.** Team Managers are the liaison between their team and the league. If your contact information should change, please contact the League Coordinator (253-480-2499). All league communication will be through the Team Manager and they are expected to distribute league information to their team. As a general rule, please have all communication from the team come from the Team Manager.
5. **Know the rules.** Managers are expected to know and adhere at all league rules and sport specific league and tournament rules. It is also expected that Managers inform their team of any league rule changes, announcements, and park or facility rules.
6. **Uphold Sanctions.** The Manager is responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators. You are expected to uphold all disciplinary sanctions levied by the league and the City of Covington.
7. **Mandate Sportsmanship.** You are the example for your team. It is expected that Managers control their team, themselves and spectators from unsportsmanlike behavior.
8. **No Alcohol or Illegal Substances.** Alcohol and illegal substances are prohibited in Covington parks and facilities. Anyone suspected of consuming alcohol or illegal substances before, during or after the game while on park property will be removed from the premises, and the League Coordinator will be informed. Team sanctions may result. Police may be called if necessary. All adult sports leagues are non-smoking leagues. It is the Managers responsibility to monitor his/her players and spectators.
9. **Have proper uniforms and equipment.** Teams are not required to have matching uniforms but if you would like to purchase uniforms there is no rule against it. New balls will be provided for the entire season. The home team manager is responsible for bringing two new balls to each game as well as the official scorebook. If the home team does not supply new game balls, they lose home field advantage. Each team must provide its own bats. For further details on equipment, including information on banned bats, please see the "Rules and Regulations" section.
10. **Visit the League webpage frequently.** The league website, [www.covingtonwa.gov/athletics](http://www.covingtonwa.gov/athletics) will be updated weekly with results, standing, and important information. Give the website address to your players and encourage them to visit the site.

## CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES OF PLAY

**Regular Season:** A game is considered official once three innings have been satisfactorily completed. This means that three full innings have been played and the visitor is ahead, or 2 and 1/2 innings have been played and the home team is ahead.

A game is considered complete when 7 innings have been satisfactorily played. This means that 7 full innings have been played and the visitor is ahead, or 6 and 1/2 innings have been played and the home team is ahead. If a game is tied at the end of 7 innings AND in the opinion of the official it is permissible, extra innings may be played.

No inning may be started after 1 hour and 15 minutes of play has elapsed from the start of the game. The current inning will be completed and the game will end. If the home team is winning at the time and is at bat, the game will be stopped (all runs scored in that inning will be counted).

**Playoffs:** A game is considered official once five innings have been satisfactorily completed; unless one team has won the game based on the "Mercy" rules (see below). This means that five full innings have been played and the visitor is ahead, or 4 and 1/2 innings have been played and the home team is ahead.

**Championship game has no time limit.**

If a game is halted because of weather, field problems, injury, etc. and less than three complete innings have been played, we will do our best to reschedule.

**Mercy Rule:** A game will be stopped because of the "Mercy" rule in the following instances:

- **One team is leading by 18 or more runs after 3 innings.**
- **One team is leading by 13 or more runs after 4 innings.**
- **One team is leading by 10 or more runs after 5 innings.**

The "Mercy" rules will be enforced. It is not the discretion of the teams to waive the rule.

**Scoring:** All leagues play under the same scoring rules. Teams can score a maximum of 10 runs per inning.

- If a team trails by more than 10 runs, and the official calls last inning, the game is over.
- If runs 11, 12, and 13 score on the same "dead" ball play as run 10, those runs will also count.

**Pitching:** The legal pitch arc is 6' - 12'. Pitches that are too low or too high will be called "illegal pitch" by the umpire and are automatically balls. However, the pitch is live and can be put into play by the batter. If the batter swings, the "illegal" status NO LONGER applies. (If the batter swings and misses it is a strike.) Each at bat will start out with a 1-1 count. This ensures a appropriate speed for the game

No quick pitching is allowed. The pitcher must allow the batter a chance to get set or reset. The umpire will stop play if a pitcher is not allowing the batter time to set and will issue a warning. Repeated warnings may result in ejection. However, once a batter is set in the box, the pitcher may pitch.

**Eligible Players:** All players must be 16 years of age or older. The maximum amount of players on any given team is 15 before extra fees are warranted. Each player added after 15 is a \$75 individual fee. You can have a maximum of 20 players on roster. ALL players are required to sign a release of liability waiver before participating.

**Rosters:** Roster additions will be open during the regular season, but no players can be added prior to the playoffs.

- Teams can field a maximum of 10 players. If a team fields the maximum 10, the ratio of male to female players must be no more than 7 male players and no fewer than 3 female players.
- Teams can bat as many players as they want up to 15 batters in the starting line-up. The ratio of male batters to female batters must be 2 to 1 (the exceptions are noted below). This means that a team can bat 8 men and 4 women. The following is the minimum breakdown of male to female batters in the line-up:
- When a team plays less than four (4) female players, they are permitted to field seven (7) men and three (3) women. However, the team must have a male player at catcher. They also are bound to comply with the special line-up restriction. **See below.**
- When a team plays less than four (4) female batters, the line-up cannot have more than three male batters in a row.

TOTAL # OF BATTERS	MAN/WOMAN RATIO
8	5 MEN/3 WOMEN 6 MEN/2 WOMEN (PLUS 1 AUTOMATIC OUT EACH INNING)
9	6 MEN/3 WOMEN 7 MEN/2 WOMEN (PLUS 1 AUTOMATIC OUT EACH INNING)
10	6 MEN/4 WOMEN 7 MEN/3 WOMEN
11	7 MEN/4 WOMEN
12	8 MEN/4 WOMEN
13	8 MEN/5 WOMEN
14	9 MEN/5 WOMEN
15	10 MEN/5 WOMEN
16+	10 MEN/6 WOMEN

If a team cannot field ten players, they are permitted to play with as few as 8 players. The minimum number of women players is two. If a team has only two women, they are only allowed to field nine players (7 men/2 women) and must take an automatic out.

**Automatic Out:** The only instance in which a team may take an automatic out is if they only have two (2) female players. An automatic out will be included in the line-up as the third female player. A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to begin the game. The rules in effect for teams playing with three women will be enforced. Teams are permitted to exercise this option only once during the season.

## BATTING LINE UP RULES

**Four or more female batters:** Four female players must bat within the first ten. Within those ten batters, teams can bat in any order they want.

**Three female batters:** A team playing with only three female players must bat according to the special line-up rules. The female batters must bat 2nd, 5th, and 8th in the line-up. See the special line-up restrictions.

### **Special Line-up restrictions for 3 female players:**

Line-up – 7 male/3 female	Line-up – 6 male/3 female
1 - Male	1 - Male
<b>2 - FEMALE</b>	<b>2 - FEMALE</b>
3 - Male	3 - Male
4 - Male	4 - Male
<b>5 - FEMALE</b>	<b>5 - FEMALE</b>
6 - Male	6 - Male
7 - Male	7 - Male
<b>8 - FEMALE</b>	<b>8 - FEMALE</b>
9 - Male	9 - Male
10 - Male	

Once a batter is in the batter's box, play is live and the pitcher can proceed. **The batter must ask for time, and be granted it, by the umpire. The simple act of stepping out of the batter's box does not mean time is called.**

A batter will be allowed to step out once during an at-bat, but repeated delays will not be allowed.

## FIELDING/POSITION RULES

**Ten fielders max:** Teams can field a maximum of 10 players. If a team fields the maximum 10, the ratio of male to female players must be no more than 7 male players and no fewer than 3 female players.

**Four or more female fielders:** A team that plays with four (4) or more women can play each fielder in any position without restrictions or conditions.

**Three female fielders:** A team playing with only three female players is permitted to field seven (7) men. However, of the three female players, they cannot play the catcher position.

**Catchers:** All teams must provide their own catcher. If they field less than the maximum 10 players, they cannot have the other team provide a catcher or use a player that cannot participate in live play.

## STANDINGS AND PLAYOFFS

For Playoffs, a game is considered official once five innings have been satisfactorily completed; unless one team has won the game based on the "Mercy" rules. This means that five full innings have been played and the visitor is ahead, or 4 and 1/2 innings have been played and the home team is ahead.

**Championship game has no time limit.**

Tie games will count as half a win for the purpose of calculating percentage. Points are determined as follows. Wins = 2 Points, Ties = 1 Point

1. Winning percentage (not points) will be used to determine the standings **in the event an unequal amount of games are played.**
2. Teams with an equal amount of points or the same percentage will be considered tied for a position in the standings.
3. Every team will advance to the playoffs.
4. Playoff qualifiers and seeding will be determined by:
  - i. Season Record
  - ii. Tie breaker
    1. Head to Head record
    2. Margin of victory in head to head
    3. Coin Toss

## SCORING

1. Each team must supply a scorekeeper. Scorekeepers should double check with each other after each inning of play.
2. Each player's name and the position(s) he has played shall be listed in the order in which he batted or would have batted unless he is removed from the game or the game ends before his turn at bat.
3. Each team shall be provided a scorebook prior to the season.
4. Winning teams are **REQUIRED** to **EMAIL scores** to the Parks and Recreation department inbox at [sconway@covingtonwa.gov](mailto:sconway@covingtonwa.gov) by **12 noon the following day**. This enables the department to keep standings current. The umpires DO NOT report scores. In addition, the league website will be updated with results, standings and other league information as well. Visit: [www.covingtonwa.gov/athletics](http://www.covingtonwa.gov/athletics)
5. Games cancelled due to rain or other circumstances should be reported to the same email address as winning scores: [sconway@covingtonwa.gov](mailto:sconway@covingtonwa.gov)

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Lineup:** A team may bat 15 players provided the lineup is presented to the opposing team prior to game time. The batters must remain in the lineup on their original order unless they have to leave the field during the game.
  - a. Managers must notify the other team prior to the inning upon removal of a batter from the lineup. No batter may be placed in the batting order during the game other than through normal substitution.
  - b. Eligible roster members may be added to the available substitution list at any time during the game.
2. **Substitution:** Unlimited substitution is allowed and must be agreed upon prior to the start of the game. In addition, players must remain out of the game (but remain in their original batting order) for one (1) full inning.
3. **Third Strike Foul:** The batter will be declared out if he hits a second foul ball after receiving a second strike.
4. **Ground Rules:** Ground or special rules establishing limits of the playing field may be agreed upon by teams whenever backstops, fences, stands, vehicles, spectators, or other obstructions are within the prescribed area.
5. **Base Obstruction:** The baseperson may NOT block the base when a runner is approaching them UNLESS they have the ball in their mitt and are making a tag.
6. **Banned Bat List:** A list of banned bats will be posted at the field. Players are forbidden to use any bat on this list. In addition, all Titanium bats that are marked "exceeds 1.2" are not allowed.
  - a. Penalty. Any player, after entering the batting box with one of these bats, will be declared out and suspended from play for two (2) games. A player caught using these illegal bats a second time will be suspended for the season.
7. **No metal cleats allowed. No flip flops or sandals as well.**
8. **Pitching distance:** 46 feet from the rubber.
9. **Protests:** Any protests of a game must be declared by the team manager to the umpire immediately after the protested incident has occurred or before the next pitch is made. The League Coordinator is available to hear constructive concerns regarding the league.  
**Communication regarding team issues must come through the Manager.**

## PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY: 911

League Coordinator, Sean Conway Office 253-480-2499 Cell 206-290-9629

Email: [sconway@covingtonwa.gov](mailto:sconway@covingtonwa.gov)

Website: [www.covingtonwa.gov/athletics](http://www.covingtonwa.gov/athletics)

Email (report scores): [sconway@covingtonwa.gov](mailto:sconway@covingtonwa.gov)

