

ADULT SOFTBALL POLICIES

I. **PLAYER and Team ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Residents and Non-Residents of Independent School District 77
1. Are eligible to participate on one team, in as many as three different divisions in the Adult Softball program, provided they meet all the age, fee and eligibility requirements of the particular league.
 2. Residency is established by residing within the geographical boundaries of ISD 77 by no later than May 1 of the current year.
 3. CER reserves the right to allow or not allow non-residents to participate in its programs.
 4. No refunds will be issued after the deadline has passed and teams have submitted entry form and entry fee.
 5. Team managers are held responsible for all team fees, forms and rosters. Team entry fee, players fee and roster must be submitted to the CER office, managers are held responsible if fees are owed.

II. **LEAGUE RESTRICTIONS**

- A. Graduating high school seniors may participate in either the adult or the senior high program, but not both. They must meet all other eligibility and program requirements for the specific league.
- B. Youth 16 years of age or older as of September 1 of the current year may participate in the adult church league. Men age 50 and over as of December 31 of the current year may participate in the Men's 50+ league.
- C. **Players may play on only one men's league team. Teams/players that do not abide by this rule will have their game forfeited and the player will be suspended. Exception is Men's 50+, may play both nights.**
- D. Players may play on only one women's league team. *Exception- Thursday Women's 40+
- E. **CHURCH LEAGUE:**
1. Teams shall be composed of players who are actively associated with the religious endeavors of a specific congregation/parish as shown by their regular attendance and participation at religious services. **LOCAL EXCEPTION:** Church league teams may add

non-church member players based on their congregation size according to the following formula:

Congregation Size:

- 1,000 and over. No non-member players
- 500 to 999. One non-member player
- 250 to 499. Two non-member players
- 001 to 249. Three non-member players

2. A non-member may play for a church team according to the above formula, providing the church they are a member of, or attend regularly, does not have a team in a church league.

a. If a church team qualifies for adding non-member players, these players MUST be listed last on the roster and denoted by an asterisk, in addition to listing the church they do attend, or of which they are a member.

3. The roster must be submitted to the Community Education Recreation office by the final roster deadline, with each player's name, signature, and phone number, and signed by the head of the church, verifying the membership or regular attendance at church, of each of the players on the roster.

4. Post-Season Tournament Play:

a. The non-member policy is strictly a local policy. Non-member players ARE NOT ELIGIBLE to participate with the church team at a church league state tournament should their team advance.

F. Men's Over 50 League players must be over the respective age by September 1 of the current year.

G. Women's Over 40 League players must be 40 years of age as of September 1 of the current year. Up to 3 players per team may be age 35 and older.

H. Eligibility for participation in other leagues is open to multiple league play, provided all eligibility and fee requirements are met.

III. PLAYOFFS:

A. Seeding of teams into playoffs will be handled in accordance with CER guidelines.

IV. POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS:

A. Teams eligible and wishing to advance to Post-Season Tournament play, must fill out and turn in the MSF Official Team Roster with a check for the appropriate entry fee to the CER office by the deadline date provided you in your preseason information.

B. Post-season tournament deposits MUST be a separate check and NOT included with your team league entry fee or players fees)

C. Slow pitch teams wishing to advance to post-season play and turning in their tournament check, must have a minimum of 14 players on their team roster.

D. Submission of a check is a firm commitment your team would advance if they qualify, according to berth award procedures.

E. Post-season tournament berth award procedures:

1. Team must emanate from an eligible league, division of a league, or an eligible playoff format. These are identified on the league schedules.

2. Only teams which have a tournament deposit check turned in would be eligible.

F. Teams submitting a post-season tournament check and qualifying, **MUST ADVANCE OR FORFEIT THEIR CHECK.**

G. A team or player may participate in local playoffs that advance teams to post-season tournaments, and in the post-season tournaments in any of the following 7 divisions of play: Slow Pitch, Church Slow Pitch, CoRec Slow Pitch, Masters Slow Pitch, Fast Pitch, Masters Fast Pitch, Modified Fast Pitch. A player MAY NOT participate in more than one classification in the same division of play.

V. FEES (Players Fees/Team Fee).

1. All player fees and entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

VI. GENERAL:

A. Rosters for all leagues will be limited to 20 players, including a player/manager.

B. A legal player is:

1. A player meeting all state and local rules of eligibility.

2. A person who has completed the following:

- has paid all appropriate fees

- has his/her name, signature, address, and phone number on the team roster at the CER office.

C. Managers found using ineligible players during league play will be suspended, along with ineligible player(s), for one calendar year. Suspension will include ALL CER athletic programs.

D. **Sign up for our 'Remind system'**. Will notify managers via text, app or email if there are changes. League director will send invite to team managers after league breakdowns are released. After 4:30PM managers will only be notified through the Remind system. After 4:30PM decisions on whether or not to cancel games will be determined by umpires on site. If games are canceled after 4:30PM CER will alert managers to the best of our ability.

E. **GAME CANCELLATIONS:** There is no longer a hotline. Updates will be made through Remind, email, Facebook and mankatocer.com

1. All games that complete 5 innings (4 ½ if home team leads) are considered finished in the case of weather suspending and eventually postponing games. If games have not completed 5 innings they will re-start on a make-up date. Games that are tied after 5 innings will resume from the current state of the game.

F. All games will stop immediately, and all subsequent games cancelled, when the tornado sirens are sounded. Tornado siren is a five-minute, steady siren tone.

G. **PROTESTS:** Must be submitted in writing, accompanied by a \$25.00 protest fee, a copy of the scorebook pages, and be submitted to the CER office within 24 hours of the game, or the next working day. Teams should refer to the ASA rule book for protest information needed. Fee refundable if the protest is allowed. Teams that do not have their players' first and last names in their scorebook at game time will forfeit their right to protest.

H. **PROTEST PROCEDURES:**

1. Eligibility Protest Procedures:

a. Both the umpire and manager of the opposing team must be notified of the protest before or during the game, not after.

b. The protesting team must first prove their own eligibility at the time of the protest:

- 1) First and last names in their scorebook.
- 2) All players will have 5 minutes to show proper picture identification (valid driver's license)
- 3) Any players failing to provide proper identification will automatically be declared ineligible.

c. Then prove the opposing team's ineligibility:

- 1) Follow steps 1), 2), and 3) above.

2. CER office reserves the right to pursue questions of player ineligibility any time.
3. Rule Interpretation Protest Procedure: The umpire shall make note of the facts concerning a rule interpretation protest by writing these on the back of the scorecard, making official note of the inning, number of outs, ball and strike count, relative position of base runners, and any other pertinent information at the time of the protested play. Judgement calls may not be protested.
 - I. Drinking alcoholic beverages is prohibited while a team is playing a scheduled league or playoff game. This includes managers, coaches, and players. No consumption in or behind the dugout, on the field, or in the spectator area. VIOLATION: immediate forfeiture of the game.
 - J. No smoking will be allowed on the playing field or in the dugouts.
 - K. Managers, coaches and players shall not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, managers, coaches, officials, or spectators. VIOLATION: ejection from game and complex.
 - L. The umpires are given the authority and responsibility to sanction from the time they arrive at the softball complex, between games and after games in the complex or complex parking areas. Any sanction of misconduct before, between or after the final game will be assessed in the game following such misconduct. Level of sanction will be determined by league director.
 - M. Ejected Players:
 1. Any coach, manager, or player ejected from a game shall be suspended for a minimum of 1 game, and be declared ineligible until s/he is reinstated by the League Director.
 2. Any coach, manager, or player ejected from more than one game shall automatically forfeit their eligibility to participate in the CER adult athletic programs. A hearing will be conducted to determine what disciplinary action, if any, will be taken.
 - N. If your umpire fails to show up at your game, managers are asked to call in the following order, so that we can try to get an umpire to the facility for the other scheduled games:
Rick Wollenzien (507) 380-0599 (Cell)
Seth Hoscheit (507) 766-0461 (Cell)
 1. All scheduled games for which an umpire fails to show up will be rescheduled by the CER office unless teams agree on a Samaritan Umpire. Protest not allowed.
 2. To find out when your game has been rescheduled, team managers should check the CER website.

O. Any team that has three forfeits during the season will be suspended from participation until reinstated by league director. Any team that knows beforehand that they will have to forfeit a particular game should notify the CER office as soon as possible so the opposing team and umpire can be notified. This would still be counted as one forfeit.

P. The tie-breaking procedure for teams with identical records in the Final League Standings will be handled in accordance with COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION guidelines.

Q. COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION requests:

1. Do not use East High School, Rosa Parks Community Fields or Dakota Meadows practice fields, little league diamonds, baseball fields or other areas for softball practice.

2. Police your litter and any other you see.

3. Do not take glass containers or bottles to softball complexes/fields.

4. Respect private and public properties.

5. Park your vehicles in designated parking areas—not on sidewalks, fire lanes, on the grass, or other designated no parking areas.

6. Report vandalism and/or suspicious acts. We recommend that you get the license plate number.

7. All teams shake hands following each game.

8. Notify the COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION office of any changes in team manager's name, address, or phone number.

9. If you have a player dropped from your team, contact the COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION office to have their name crossed off your team roster.

VII. INSURANCE: The COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION office does not provide any insurance for this program. It is recommended that players check with their insurance agent to make sure they are covered under their personal policies.

VIII. POLICY VIOLATIONS/CENSURES: Any player, manager, coach, or team found in violation of a COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION DEPARTMENT policy, will receive a censure notice by to which the violator is required to acknowledge. Failure to acknowledge a censure notice will result in suspension. Suspensions:(including players ejected from multiple games in a single season or ejected for flagrant violations) shall be immediate and remain in

effect until such time that the suspended party appears before a hearing committee. Should the suspended party fail to appear, s/he shall be granted a second hearing. Should the party fail to attend the second hearing, the original suspension shall continue to be in effect until such time that it expires.

IX. TEAM MANAGERS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

Following is a brief outline of what we expect from a manager:

- To be totally familiar with the official in-house rules of the game and league.
- To be a leader by example.
- To assist COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION in policing the rules, regulations and policies of YOUR program.
- To be in control of the team and its individual players at all times.
- To report and attempt to identify anyone vandalizing or committing illegal acts in the park system

CER SLOWPITCH IN-HOUSE RULES AND REGULATIONS 1-31-18

In Fall Ball One-Pitch league

All regulation rules apply besides the following. Games will be limited to 50 minutes or 9 innings whichever come first. Teammates will pitch to teammates and they have one pitch to put the ball in play or it is recorded as an out. Teams are allowed to have a Monday one-pitch team as well as a Wednesday or Thursday team.

- 1. Official National Softball Federation rules will govern play, with noted in-house exceptions.**
- 2. Game time is forfeit time - NO GRACE PERIOD. (Exception: Women's Over 40 League, refer to Women's Over 40 League in-house rules.)**
- 3. Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start and finish all league and playoff games. (Less than eight players, game shall be forfeited).**
- 4. No metal spikes, or removable or detachable cleats of any kind are allowed in any Mankato slow pitch softball leagues. All cleated shoes should be constructed with a one-piece solid, molded rubber or plastic sole. Violation: player ejection.**

Baserunners must run through the orange base at first base on plays at first. Players that use the defensive base (white base) may be called out if they are deemed to be interfering with the defensive play.

5. Count: All batters will automatically inherit a 1 ball and 1 strike count each time they come to bat. No courtesy foul will be allowed. . (Exception: Women's Over 40 League, refer to Women's Over 40 League in-house rules.)

6. All teams must have a pitcher and a catcher.

7. Run Ahead Rule: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings or 10 after 5 will be played for all league and playoff games.

8. Home team shall be second team listed on the schedule. Exception: Playoffs, higher seed team determines home team. In a final round where a "if" game is necessary, the home team will be determined by coin flip.

Home team shall provide the scorecard for that game, filling in their line up (first and last names) on the back of the card, giving it to the visiting team to fill in their lineup, and then giving it to the umpire to record the score.

Each team shall provide the ball their team will hit when they are at bat.

9. No batter shall be allowed to carry his/her bat while running the bases. Batters must discard their bat in a proper manner before they reach first base. Violation: Batter is out, and all base runners return to their original bases.

10. The number of men and women on the field defensively (coed leagues), may never differ by more than one. (Teams playing with 9 players may use 5 men and 4 women, or vice versa. Teams playing short a gender must take an out in the vacant position).

In CoRec if a male is walked he automatically takes second base. With less than two outs the female is required to hit. If a male is walked with 2 outs, the female has the option to either hit or go to first base.

11. Coed defensive positioning requirements (2 men and 2 women in the outfield, 2 men and 2 women in the infield and pitcher and catcher of the opposite sex) WILL NOT be enforced in local coed play.

12. COREC DIVISION 3 & BELOW: When a female is at bat, all outfielders must remain behind the arc line in the outfield grass and all infielders must remain in the infield NOT in the grass until the ball is hit. If violation by an outfielder or an infielder occurs, batter has choice of taking the resulting play, or being awarded 1st base and advancing any other base runners one base.

13. Casual Profanity/Family Atmosphere Rule: Casual profanity pertains to expletives not directed at umpires or opposing players, but uttered by a player, manager/coach frustrated with themselves, a teammate or fan. (Examples include: A player swearing after popping out, striking out, booting a ball, or at a belligerent fan, etc. This type of profanity is penalized by "outs" being declared against the offending team. Penalty: If the offending team is at bat and profanity is used, the player is out unless the result of the play is an out, in which case the next batter will be declared out. If the infraction coincides with the 3rd out, the penalty will be assessed at the team's next at bat. If the offending team is in the field, the first player to bat in their half of the inning will be declared out. Outs will be treated as delayed dead ball situations. It is possible for a team to come to bat with one or more outs already recorded. The casual profanity/family atmosphere rule will not be enforced when a profanity is uttered under a player's breath in a manner that only the umpire or immediately adjacent player hears it.

14. Additional Players Rule (Hoffman):

- a) Must have 12 or more players at game time (14 in coed).
- b) Must indicate to umpire that team will be using additional players prior to starting game.
- c) Late arriving players added to end of batting order.
- d) Automatic out for any players ejected during a game (dropping below 8 players is forfeit).

15. No new innings will begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes (1 hour for Fall Ball) of playing time unless the game is tied (Can end in a tie for Fall Ball). (Game time starts when the home team takes the field. The next inning starts with the last out of the previous inning.)

16. A batter is not required to run out a home run, but may if they desire to do so.

17. One courtesy runner may be used per half inning. The courtesy runner shall be the last person of the same gender to make an out while batting or the same gender farthest from being due up to bat that is not currently on base if an out has not yet been recorded in the game. When announced by a team rep., the designated runner is officially in the game. If a courtesy runner's time at bat comes while they are on base they will be called out as a base runner, be removed from base and allowed to bat. One courtesy runner per half inning is the max, 1 total courtesy runner can be used per inning. Anyone can be courtesy ran for, but it must be the last out that runs for that player. For CoREC males must run for males and females run for females.

18. Courtesy runners will be allowed for any runner requesting one in the Men's Over 50 league and Women's Over 40 league. The courtesy runner will be the previous out unless that player also had a courtesy runner, it would then move to the previous out before that runner.

19. The over the fence home run limits will be: Men's 1, Six (6) home runs, Men's 50+, two (2) home runs and for all other leagues four (4) per game. All home runs hit after limit has been reached will be 'an out'. Inside the park home runs do not count against the allotted limit.

20. For all Men's, CoRec and Church Divisions softballs must be Optic Yellow red stitch with COR of .52/ .300 compression and a readable "ASA Approved" stamp on them. If the ASA approved stamp is not readable or the ball is dirty it can be removed from the game.

21. All Women's Divisions and CoRec when a women is batting will have the option to use an Optic Yellow red stitch 11' inch ball. COR of .52/.300 compression and a readable "ASA Approved" stamp on them. All balls used in league play must have a COR of .52/300

22. The pitching Arc shall be a 6 foot minimum, 12 foot maximum, measured from the ground. All leagues will use a mat behind the plate for the strike zone except for D1 Men's. In designated leagues that use a mat, when a pitch hits the the mat, the pitch shall be called a strike, if the pitch is higher than 6' and lower than 12'. When a pitch hits any part of the plate it will be a ball. Pitchers are allowed to pitch from 6 feet behind the pitching rubber, within the width of the rubber. Pitchers must come to a set before they deliver the pitch.

23. Slow pitch pitchers have the option to take a position up to six feet behind the 50' pitcher's plate as a safety and defensive measure. Once they take their position, the pitcher must come to a full and complete stop (one second) with both feet firmly on the ground. Also, one foot must remain in contact with the ground at least partially within the width area of the pitcher's plate until the pitched ball leaves the hand.