

2010 FRIDAY NIGHT MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES, REGULATIONS, AND AGREEMENT

1. Teams can have up to 17 players on their roster. Each team will have a roster waiver form for each player to sign before they are allowed to play. Each team's roster waiver form will be kept at the ball park for players who don't play the first week of the season to sign before they play. **ALL PLAYERS MUST SIGN THE ROSTER WAIVER FORM BEFORE PLAYING IN A GAME.** You have until the end of the first round to finalize the 17 players on your roster. Roster adjustments after that need commissioner approval. They will always be granted in hardship situations such as a player got hurt, moved, or had a job shift change, etc. If you are approved to add a player after the first round, you have to drop a player to meet the 17 man roster limit.
2. A player can play on only one team in this league.
3. Players must be at least 15 years of age at the start of the season. Minors (anyone under age 18) must have one of their parents sign a parent's consent form and the roster waiver form before they can play.
4. No steel spikes are allowed.
5. A maximum of 12 players may bat. A maximum of 10 players play in the field on defense.
6. There will be a 5 minute grace period for teams that don't have enough players FOR THE 1ST GAME OF THE NIGHT ONLY. Teams must have 8 players to 'take the field on defense' or the short team will have to forfeit. A team can choose to be the visiting team and bat with less than 8, but must take outs if the missing players get up and can't take the field in the bottom or the 1st with less than 8 players. If someone comes late, they get added to the bottom of the order in the inning they join the game.
7. Pitches will be LIMITED arc. Approximately 6-12 feet is the arc range limit to be used by the home plate umpire. The umpire will try to call pitches too high or too flat while they are in the air, to alert the batter, but because it is such a quick decision every pitch, the ump may not be able to do so. (Protect yourself, until you hear something.) The pitcher must have one foot on the pitching rubber when he releases the ball.
8. ONE SWING AND A MISS OR COMBINATION OF TWO FOUL BALLS / CALLED STRIKES is an OUT. THREE BALLS in an 'at bat' is a WALK. Legal pitches that hit home plate or the mat are a strike. Two strikes are an OUT.
9. The batter will be OUT if he steps on the plate or in the fair territory directly in front of home plate. He can step in fair territory on the swing, but he can't step in front of home plate if he does.
10. There is no courtesy step for runners. They must wait until the ball is hit to leave the base or be called OUT for leading off.
11. First base will have the 'safe' base. The runner must touch the orange on a play at first or he will be called out.
12. In double play situations around the bases, runners will be called out for not sliding (or otherwise getting out of the way) or sliding viciously (in a manner dangerous to the fielder) and the runner going to first may be called out because of runner interference.
13. Games will be 7 innings long unless a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after the other team has batted at least 5 times or 15 or more runs after the other team has batted at least 3 times. The 10 or 15 Run Rule is then in effect and the game is over.
14. Throwing the bat is not allowed and could lead to a player being ejected from the game. Players will be warned at least once or twice, but not more than 3 times, before being ejected. (This will become stricter if we adopt a shared bat approach to the illegal bat issue.)
15. An umpire may eject a player from the game for arguing with an umpire, opponent or someone else in the park or for excessive and/or loud swearing. We understand things get said, but please try to remember you are in a public park that we want kids to visit, so

- keep the language clean. Unsportsmanlike conduct such as over aggressive hard/dangerous play, throwing equipment or other drunk or disorderly conduct may also be grounds for an ejection.
16. If a player is ejected for any reason, he may not play in his team's next game. 2nd ejection penalty – 3 games. 3rd – Disqualified for the year.
 17. **No game protest. Decisions of the umpires are final!** Protest of a play will stop the game and the protest shall be settled at that time.
 18. Tie Breaker for a round is a playoff between all the teams that tied. A coin flip or card draw will determine who plays who if more than 2 teams are involved.
 19. League Champion will be decided by a playoff between the 1st and 2nd Round Winners. If one team wins both rounds, they win the League.
 20. Overall record for the year will determine each team's Labor Day Weekend League Tournament seeding. Double Elimination Tournament.
 21. There is NOT a 3 player minimum games played to be eligible for the tournament rule.
 22. Illegal bats. To address the problem of illegal bats (see list at http://www.asasoftball.com/about/build_batlist.asp), some bats will be banned from use for softball games at the Albany Ball Park. No banned bats to be used. (It is sometimes difficult for an umpire to determine if a bat is illegal, even with the list.) If the speed of the ball off of the bat becomes a safety issue, we may go to a league where the park supplies the bats and/or play with a softer ball. We don't want to do either of these things, but will if necessary. (We will continue to explore safe, fair, easier rule options.) Any bat in question will NOT be used. Any injury caused by a hit ball – **bat may be taken and tested before being returned! Until we agree to change the rule, players caught using illegal bats will be ejected and fall under the ejection rules.**
 23. Hometown rules take precedent over ASA rules when applicable. The league reserves the right to add, change or delete rules as needed. Notice will be given to team managers. PARK GROUND RULES are NOT listed here. If you have a Ground Rules questions, ask an umpire.
 24. I will call each team manager by or about 6:00 p.m. if we are rained out and will try to get it on my cell phone message (558-4855) as soon as we make the decision, hopefully by 5:30 p.m. Rainouts will be made up when the 2 teams involved can agree on a time when the park is open. Our make up days will be Monday, Thursday, Saturday, or Sunday. Otherwise, we will either add a few late game double headers to some of our Friday weeks or make everything up at the end of the season. The goal is to have the season wrapped up by or before Labor Day.
 25. The Sponsor fee is \$325. Please make checks payable to the Albany Park Commission. A sponsor fee deadline will be set a few weeks into the season.
 26. **There is no smoking or alcohol allowed on the field.**

The Village of Albany, the Albany Parks Commission and league officials will not be responsible for any personal loss or injury that may occur on the premises.

COMMISSIONER: Gary Armitage – 558-4855