



# Ojai Recreation Department

## Adult Softball League

### Rules & Regulations

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives for this league are to promote, develop, and conduct recreational softball within the City of Ojai and to promote standards of good sportsmanship and wholesome physical activity.

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

All leagues will be played under the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) rules with certain exceptions noted herein, insofar as such, the rules do not violate the policies and regulations of the City of Ojai Recreation Department. All decisions made by the league coordinator or umpires regarding protests, illegal equipment, illegal players, and softball rule interpretation are final – Appeals are **not** permitted.

#### **LEAGUE FEES:**

1. Standard league fees are \$375 per team per season.
2. League fees cover the cost of game balls, awards, lighting, and field maintenance.
3. League championship team awards for up to fifteen (15) rostered players.
4. A fee of twenty dollars (\$20) per team is to be paid to the umpire prior to the beginning of each scheduled game. Failure to pay the umpire will result in a forfeit.
5. *Optional:* Teams may purchase Medical/Liability Insurance through SCMAF at an additional fee. This is optional and is handled through SCMAF, with no involvement from the Ojai Recreation Department.

#### **ROSTER AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Each team shall be allowed a maximum of sixteen (16) players on its team roster.
2. No player may participate who is currently playing on a high school, junior college, college, or professional team roster during the current season.
3. All players must be 18 years of age or older.
4. All players must have a positive means of identification at all games.
5. All players are required to personally sign the official roster and fill out the roster completely before their first game in order to be eligible to play for a team.

6. The team a player first plays with will be considered their team for the season and that player may only transfer from one team to another with written consent of both team managers and approval from the League Coordinator.
7. There is no limit on player additions, however, once a player has been dropped from a team's roster he/she is ineligible to play with that team for the remainder of the season.
8. No additions or drops are allowed after the tenth (10) game of the season. If a player is on the original roster but has yet to officially sign the roster, that player has until the tenth (10) game of the season to be officially on the team's roster.
9. It is the manager's responsibility to keep track of his/her roster.
10. Any changes in the team manager must be reported to the league coordinator immediately
11. Absolutely no players may participate until they have signed the waiver on either the official roster or the player add-drop form.
12. Managers will be held personally responsible for ensuring that their players have all signed the participant's waiver before participating.

#### **LEAGUE PLAYING RULES:**

1. Teams who win their division may be moved to a higher division the following season to ensure a competitive balance. The league coordinator reserves the right to remove teams to maintain a competitive balance.
2. Managers will receive the game schedule within the first weeks of the season.
3. It is the manager's responsibility to ensure that his/her team receives schedules and schedule revisions.
4. League standings, schedules, and rules will be posted online on the city's website:
  - a. [www.ojairec.com](http://www.ojairec.com)
5. Games will be played at Sarzotti Park, 510 Park Road, Ojai CA 93023.
6. Games are scheduled to begin between 6:00 and 8:50 PM for weekday games. **(Game times are subject to change).**
7. The time limit will be sixty-five minutes or seven (7) innings, whichever comes first. Any innings in progress will be played to completion with the exception of when the home team is ahead after the sixty-five-minute time limit has elapsed.
  - a. The time limit is in effect in **all games including play-offs and championship games.**
  - b. During playoffs, ties will be played to completion, under the judgment of the umpire.
  - c. During the regular season, home teams will be specified on the schedule. During playoffs, the higher-seeded team during the regular season is the home team.

8. A team not having eight (8) eligible players on the field at the scheduled game time will forfeit the game. No postponements will be allowed.
  - a. Exception: the first game of the night allows a five (5) minute grace period.
  - b. The City of Ojai has the right to change game times. Team managers will be notified of the change either through e-mail, by phone, or in person.
9. The umpire will act as the scorekeeper.
10. Multi-purpose shoes will only be allowed; metal cleats may not be worn.
11. Only players and the team manager will be allowed in the dugout.
12. **Bats used during league play must comply with the SCMAF rules and regulations regarding equipment.**
  - a. No composite barrel bats or titanium bats will be allowed in the coed leagues. Composite handle bats will be allowed. **Women** will be permitted to use ASA-approved composite bats in all coed divisions.
  - b. ASA-approved bats are allowed in the Men's leagues.
  - c. All bats must be designed for softball, **no baseball bats allowed.**
  - d. The use of double-and-multiple wall bats will be allowed only if the BPF of 1.2 is visibly marked on the bat.
  - e. If the BPF of 1.2 is not marked visibly on the bat due to wear and tear the bat will be used at the umpire's discretion.
  - f. Any bat exceeding the BPF of 1.2 will be prohibited.
  - g. **Any bat in question will not be allowed until approval from the league coordinator.**
13. No batting donuts will be allowed. On-deck batters may not swing more than one bat.
14. The Recreation Department will furnish one game ball per game. Bats, gloves, and other equipment are the team's responsibilities.
15. No infield or batting practice will be allowed on the infield prior to game time. Before the start of the game, no pitching practices will be allowed until game time.
16. Runner Substitution Rule: Unlimited courtesy runners will be allowed:
  - a. The player making the last official out (of the same sex) is the courtesy runner.
  - b. If no out has been made the last player in the batting order will be the courtesy runner.
  - c. If the substitute runner's batting spot comes up while on base, that player will be called out.
17. Batter shall take his/her position in the batter's box promptly when it is his/her time at bat. Batters start with a one-ball one-strike count.

18. The pitch must arc above the level of the batter's head, but not higher than sixteen (16) feet from the ground.
19. **Mercy Rule:** The game will be called if one team is ahead by 20 runs or more after four innings or 15 runs or more after five innings, **including playoffs**.
20. At the beginning of the game, the person at the manager meeting will act as the game's manager. Only he or she may talk to the umpire during the game. Only the league coordinator & umpire may include other team members if necessary.
21. The city will provide official umpires. If an umpire is absent, the games will be rescheduled to the end of the regular season (if necessary).
22. The field will be marked with a "Pitchers Box." This is a chalked box, extending back from the pitcher's plate, for six (6) feet. The pitcher may deliver the pitch from any point inside the "Pitcher's Box", and for the purposes of rule enforcement, the "Pitcher's Box" is treated the same as the pitcher's plate.
23. Bunting or base stealing **will not be permitted**. The penalty for doing so will constitute an out by the player committing the infraction.
24. Any base runner that intentionally runs into a baseman will automatically be out and may be ejected from the game.
25. All City of Ojai softball leagues use a "DOUBLE BASE" at first base. The following rules apply.
  - a. A batted ball hitting the inside base shall be declared fair and a batted ball hitting the outside base shall be declared foul.
  - b. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the inside base, and the batter-runner must use the outside base. On extra-base hits or balls hit to the outfield where there is no play being made at the double base, the runner must touch the inside base.
  - c. Should the batter-runner reach and go beyond the first base, he/she must return to the inside base.
  - d. Should the batter-runner round the base on a hit to the infield or outfield, he must return to the inside base.
  - e. In the case that a batter-runner is required to touch the outside base, and instead touches the inside base, said runner shall be declared out. An appeal is not necessary, and the ball remains live. In the case that a batter-runner misses both bases in running to first base, it shall be treated as a base runner failing to touch a base. In this case, if an appeal is made prior to the batter-runner returning to the base, said batter-runner shall be declared out.

**ADDITIONAL RULES FOR COED LEAGUES ONLY:**

1. A male who walked on three straight balls (no strikes) is awarded second base. This includes an intentional walk without any pitches being thrown. The following female batter must take her at bat.
2. Players arriving after the first pitch of the game must be added to the end of the batting order by sex IMMEDIATELY or must be used as a regular substitute.

3. COED AMENDMENT; Under either option teams MUST ALTERNATE MEN AND WOMEN in the batting order.
4. **A minimum of four (4) women must be on the field at all times.** Under no circumstances may there be more than five, or fewer than four, men on the field. If only four (4) women are playing, the following will take place:
  - a. A maximum of five, and a minimum of four, men may play in the field.
  - b. Any other male players present would have to enter the game as a substitute.
  - c. A team may bat more than five men during a game, provided the alternating batting rule is being observed. (Failure to do so will result in an out.)
5. **Courtesy Catcher (only of the same sex):** If an opposing team has supplied a courtesy catcher due to a team being short of a player, the catcher will be supplied for the remainder of the game, or until another player arrives. The courtesy catcher's primary role is to return the ball to the pitcher and DOES NOT participate in any other defensive players.
  - a. The opposing team must agree to provide a courtesy catcher for the game to proceed.
  - b. Teams are NOT required to supply a courtesy catcher.
6. Three outfielders must position themselves within a minimum of 180 feet from home plate prior to each pitch. A rover may play anywhere in the field. The rover must be of the same sex of the batter.

**LINE-UP OPTIONS:**

1. Teams will have the option of batting their ENTIRE BENCH, or playing with 10 PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTING THEIR BENCH. Both managers will notify the umpire of their choice before the game begins.
2. If a team chooses to bat its entire bench, all players will continue batting in the order designated at the beginning of the game, with a free substitution rule in effect on defense, with all changes being made at the start or end of an inning. Pitchers may be replaced during an inning.
3. If a team chooses to play with ten players and substitutes its bench, once a player has been removed from the game, he/she is not eligible to return.
4. Players arriving after the first pitch of the game must be added to the end of the batting order IMMEDIATELY or must be used as a regular substitute. Coed league players arriving late will be added to the end of the batting order by sex.
5. A team shall consist of ten (10) players on the field at one time; however, a game may be played without forfeit with eight (8) eligible players present during a game. Less than eight eligible players will result in a forfeit.

**PLAYER CONDUCT:**

The Code of Conduct applies to all players, coaches, and managers. The Code of Conduct applies to players as individuals or as a team and penalties can be applied to an individual or an entire team. The Code becomes effective as soon as participants arrive at the facility of play and it remains in effect until participants leave the facility. Managers will be held

responsible for the conduct of players on their team. It is the manager's responsibility to notify their team of the league's conduct policies.

- a. See attached Code of Conduct

**GAME CALLED DUE TO WEATHER & UNFORSEEN EVENTS:**

A game is considered **official** and complete if weather, darkness, or field conditions prevent the game from being completed:

- **4-inning game** (or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is leading) have been completed **before** being stopped will be considered a completed game.

If a game is not official as described above (**including** Playoffs and Championship game), the league coordinator will suspend the game and arrange to have it **resumed where it left off**.

- **Both teams** must mutually agree to continue the game. If one team declines to resume play, their team will be recorded as a forfeit and the opposing team will be awarded a win on their record. The final score will be 7-0.
- Make-Up games may be played on weekday evenings or nights, depending on field and staff availability.

**Umpire's Discretion:** The umpire or league coordinator has the authority to decide whether conditions are safe and playable and to call a game due to weather or field conditions. They may also end a game if playing conditions become unacceptable for safety reasons.

**FORFEITS:**

1. Games shall be forfeited if:
  - a. Because of the removal of a player or player from the game by the umpire for any cause, resulting in the team having less than eight (8) players, the game shall be forfeited in favor of the team with at least eight (8) players remaining. (Coed is less than four (4) women remaining.)
  - b. A team is found to have used an illegal or non-rostered player.
  - c. In the opinion of the umpire or league coordinator, a manager does not have complete control of his/her team.
  - d. A team or members of a team continue to harass the umpire or if the umpire feels the situation is such that physical harm may come to himself/herself, other players, city employees, or spectators.
  - e. Any player is consuming alcoholic beverages at the park facility.
  - f. The final score will be recorded as 7-0 in favor of the opposing team. The team receiving the forfeit will be credited with a win, while the forfeiting team will receive a deduction of 1 point (-1) from their overall standings.
  
2. Any team that forfeits a game must pay a forty-dollar (\$40) fee per game to the Ojai Recreation Department **prior to your team's next scheduled game**. If a team does not pay their forfeit fees prior to their next scheduled game, that team will be assessed another forfeit fee and cannot play until all forfeit fees have been received.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS.**

3. In case of a double forfeit, the penalty is the same as it is with a single forfeit.
4. A forfeited game during the regular season will tally a negative one (-1) point toward playoff point standing. Games played involving illegal players will tally a negative two (-2) points toward playoff point standings.
5. Any team with three (3) forfeits in a season will be subject to removal from the league without a refund.

**PROTESTS:**

1. A game cannot be protested because of an umpire's decision involving accuracy of judgment, nor on agreements which are made between managers, captains, or umpires prior to the start of the game. A protest will be received and considered, based on a misinterpretation of playing rules ONLY on pages 2-5.
2. Whenever a matter of protest arises during a game, the captain or manager shall, prior to the next pitch, notify the umpire, and the umpire will then notify the opposing team's
  - a. Managers or Captain. If no protest is made by the next pitch, no protest can be filed.
3. Each team has the option to request a player eligibility protest one player on the opposing team per game. This "I.D. check" may take place at any time during the game or before the game begins.
  - a. If a manager feels an I.D. check is necessary, he/she must call time and tell the umpire which player they would like to I.D. check.
  - b. The player in question and the team's manager are the only players allowed to approach the umpire. The player in question must produce a picture I.D. to the umpire prior to their next at-bat or at the discretion of the umpire.
  - c. If a player cannot present a picture I.D. before their next at-bat, the game will be subject to immediate forfeiture.
  - d. Decision regarding player eligibility and other protests will be made final by the league coordinator, NOT the umpire.
4. Within 24 hours after a game a written protest must be turned into the league coordinator. The protest must cite the violated rule from the SCMAF rulebook or from the City of Ojai league rules.
5. **Results of Protest:** If a protest is filed and reviewed, the outcome will be one of the following:
  - a. If the protest is considered invalid, the game result remains as played.
  - b. If the protest is determined valid due to a misinterpreted rule, the game will be resumed from the point of the incorrect call, with the correct ruling applied.

- c. If the protest is upheld due to an ineligible player, the protesting team will be awarded a win by forfeit (score: 7-0).

**PLAYOFFS**

Playoffs will be a single elimination bracket format. Playoff standings will be updated after the completion of the regular season.

**CHAMPIONS DETERMINATION:**

1. League champions will be determined by the total number of points earned during league play: zero (0) points for a loss, two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, minus one, (-1) for a forfeit, and minus two, (-2) for a forfeit involving an ineligible player. The team finishing with the most points will be the league champion.
  - a. Tie-breaking procedure:
    - i. In the event of a two-way tie:
      1. The best record, head-to-head, will determine team's playoff position.
      2. If the teams are still tied, a "run differential" among the teams will determine the team's playoff position.
    - ii. In the event of a three-way tie:
      1. The best record involving games against the teams tied will determine team's playoff position.
      2. If this procedure leaves two or more teams still tied, the "run differential" among the two teams will determine team's playoff position.
    - iii. In the event of a tie involving more than three teams, the League Coordinator will determine the tie-breaking procedure based on the previous methods.

**S.C.M.A.F BLOOD RULE:**

A player, coach, or official, who is bleeding, or who has an open wound, or had blood on his body or clothing, shall be prohibited from participating further in the game, until appropriate treatment has been administered. If first aid is required for a player, the player must be immediately removed from the game, unless treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time.

A player, coach, or official will not be allowed to participate unless:

1. All bleeding has stopped.
2. Any exposed cut/scrape, which has bled, is completely covered.
3. Excessively bloody uniform is changed.



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All rules will be strictly enforced. The term “Individual” includes the following: Team Manager, Player, or Spectator. A team is responsible for the conduct of its individual players and spectators. Misconduct may result in penalizing an individual or team from all City of Ojai leagues and tournaments. The term “Official” includes the following: Umpire, Recreation Coordinator, or City Staff.

All participants shall behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct such as aggressive play, profanity, derogatory remarks, physical/verbal abuse, trash talking, taunting, fighting, unnecessarily rough tactics, threatening, charging, refusing to abide by the umpire’s decision, throwing any foreign matters, mocking, drinking, intoxication, smoking, or using altered/illegal bats **will not be tolerated**.

No Individual Shall:

1. At any time lay a hand upon, shove, or strike an official or individual.
  - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Removed from league play for remainder of the season and placed on one (1) year probation.
  - b. *Maximum Penalty* .....Banned from all City of Ojai Programs.
2. Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent by throwing gloves, balls, bats - or any other forceful actions.
  - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Warning by official.
  - b. *Maximum Penalty* .....Ejection from game and playing field and a one (1) game suspension.
3. Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game.
  - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Ejected from game and playing area and one (1) game suspension.
  - b. *Maximum Penalty* .....Banned from all City of Ojai Programs.
4. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any official or individual on or off the field/court.
  - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Ejected from the game and playing area, two (2) game suspension and probation for the season.
  - b. *Maximum Penalty* .....Suspension for one full year and placed on probation for (6) months after reinstatement.
5. Use profane, obscene or vulgar language in any manner at any time on or off the playing field/court.
  - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Warning by league official or umpire.
  - b. *Maximum Penalty* .....Ejection from game, (2) game suspension and probation for the season.
6. Appear on the field/court in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of any type of drug that will infringe on the player’s safety or the safety of others.
  - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Ejection from game and probation for the remainder of the season.

- b. *Maximum Penalty* .....Banned from all City of Ojai Programs.
7. Drink alcoholic beverages during a scheduled game, OR have an open container of alcohol in the dugout/gymnasium.
    - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Warning by official.
    - b. *Maximum Penalty* .....The team forfeits the game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
  8. Be guilty of any demonstration of unsportsmanlike conduct.
    - a. *Minimum Penalty* .....Warning by official
    - b. *Maximum Penalty* .....Banned from all City of Ojai Programs.

NOTE: Players or managers who are on probation when another incident occurs can have their penalty increased to the maximum. If a player or captain is suspended from play and is found to be playing on another team, the penalty can be extended beyond the original time limit. The severity of the infraction will determine the penalty. Penalties can fall between the minimum and maximum. City staff, Recreation Coordinator, and/or the Recreation Manager will determine the penalty within a reasonable amount of time.

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Team Manager Acknowledgment:

“I \_\_\_\_\_, Team Manager, acknowledge that all of the individuals playing on my team are listed on this Softball Roster and have signed and submitted completed release and waiver of liability forms to the Ojai Recreation Department; and further acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that any player on my team not listed on this Softball Roster must sign and submit a completed drop-in release and waiver of liability form to the umpire before playing softball.

I further acknowledge that I have read these rules in their entirety and understand my role as Team Manager.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_