

MAUMELLE PARKS & RECREATION

Spring 2021 SOFTBALL RULES

1. Games will normally be played at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30pm. Rainouts will be made up. For rain out status the team's coach should contact the Maumelle Parks and Recreation Department at <https://maumelleparksandrec.recdesk.com/>, or call 960-1820 after 3:30 p.m. on game days. Coaches will be contacted for rainout decisions made after 3:30 p.m.
2. A time limit of one (1) hour for each game will be in effect. The home plate umpire will be the source for official timing. The game clock will start upon an umpire's call for taking the field. Lineups must be submitted to the scoring table 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. If complete lineups are not submitted within 5 minutes of the scheduled start time, that team will forfeit 2 outs (first two batters) at the start of the game. Lineups must be accurate and legible, including first, last names and numbers for each player. Men's teams may bat an unlimited number of rostered players. Numbers must be clearly legible on the back of the jersey (no tape or markers). Players without numbers will be recorded as an out at their at-bat. Teams are not required to have matching jerseys. If the home team is waiting for a ninth player when the game begins, they may become the visitor team, but must have nine players to take the field after their at bat. Players not on the official team roster **CANNOT** play. All players must be at least 18 years of age and out of high school. Any team caught using a player to impersonate another player will automatically forfeit that game, the next game, and face possible banning from league registration. Teams are allowed one roster change (two players maximum) by April 29th. This change must be presented by the team's coach to the League Manager at least one day prior to the game night in which the new players will be involved. During the post-season tournament, the higher seed will be the home team until the finals, at which time the winner's bracket team will be home. During an "If" game, the home team will flip to the loser's bracket team.
3. Any team that forfeits on three (3) nights, including those due to ejections, will be eliminated from the league and the league tournament for that season. No refund of fees will be given.
4. No alcohol, dogs, or smoking will be allowed in the softball park per city ordinance. Any player having alcohol in the softball park will be ejected from that game and also their next game. Music will not be allowed in the dugout or on the field during games. No steel cleats allowed.
5. Any player ejected for any reason, including post-game departure, will also be suspended from their next scheduled game. Ejected/suspended players are not allowed in the park, this includes the parking lot.
6. All players must have their driver's license or photo ID available at each game. If an individual's I.D. is questioned and the player does not have a valid ID, the player will be ineligible for play. Ineligible player protests will be handled by the officials at the time of the protest. Roster challenges can be initiated by team coaches, game officials, and MPR staff. Official rosters will be available at the ball park.
7. Each team must have three (3) game balls ready for the official at all times. The approved ball will be Classic "M", Classic Plus, and Classic "W" (Co-Ed), per USSSA Rule 2, Sect. 3; approved bats will be per Rule 2, Section. 2. Players may not use bats outlawed by USSSA. Refer to <http://ussa.com/slowpitch>
8. Run rules of 12 after 4 and 10 after 5 will be enforced. The one-pitch rule will take affect in the event of extra innings and innings played after time expiration. The "flip-flop" rule will apply per these run rules.
9. Courtesy runners may be used per current USSSA rules (Rule 8, Section 13).
10. Home Run Limits:
 - Pick at the plate-halfway number (rounding down): 1-8 (Open); 1-6 (Lower/Co-ed); 4-8 (Upper).
 - Batters and Runners are not required to advance to the next base on home runs (Hit and Sit).
 - a. Exception is when the homerun is hit over the fence by the defender
11. Coed Rules: At least four females must be in the lineup (on the field) at all times. If 11 or 12 batters are in the lineup, at least five must be female. The lineup must alternate between male and female until that part of the bottom of the lineup in which it is not possible due to the lineup's M/F ratio. Females may play any position with the exception of pitcher. The batting order must not have two females batting back to back, unless there are more females than males in the lineup. If a male batter is walked ahead of a female, then the female batter has the option to walk. Female batters cannot be thrown out at first base by a player playing an outfielder position.

12. A strike-zone mat will be used. The pitch must reach an arc of at least 6 feet in height but must not arc higher than 12 feet or it will be called an illegal pitch by the umpire.
13. If a team does not have enough to field 10 players the team maybe allowed to pick up 2 additional players from another team within the Maumelle Parks and Rec Softball League
 - a. Pick-ups will be limited to playing RF, CATCHER, or 1B
14. Only one courtesy runner per inning

Current USSSA rules will apply for any matter not addressed here.