



PIKE COUNTY YMCA ADULT CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES



Rules not covered below will follow USSSA Guidelines

1. **Grace period** – No grace period. Teams should be at the field and ready to play at their scheduled time.
2. **Length of games** – 7 innings or 75 minutes, whichever comes first. Cannot begin an inning after the 75-minutes has expired. Games will be scheduled on the hour. Teams should be prepared to begin at the conclusion of the previous game on that field.
3. **Run Rule** – 15 run lead by the third inning, 12 run lead by the fourth inning, and a 10 run lead by the fifth inning.
4. **Tie-Breaker** – In the event of a tie, the game will go to extra innings assuming the 75-minute time limit has not expired. If there is still a tie after the 75-minute time limit is up, the game will be determined a tie. League ranking would then be determined by the total number of runs ALLOWED up to that point in the season for those particular teams.
5. **Starting Game** – a minimum of 8 players consisting of at least 4 women. If the eighth player is injured during the game, the game will be over and the team will forfeit. There will never be less than eight players on each team in order to continue on with a game. ***Games can begin with 9 players as long as it is 5 Females and 4 Males. If a team uses 9 players, they must take an out in the position occupied by the missing male.***
6. **Free substitution of players** – Coaches may take players in and out of a game as needed as long as the batting order and positions alternate Male and Female.
7. **Forfeits** – Teams that forfeit two regular season games will be removed from the league. No refunds.
8. **Defense** – Defensive warm-ups will be in the first inning only. ***The defensive positions must contain an equal number of males and females. The infield must contain two males and two females and the outfield must contain two males and two females. If a male pitches, a female must catch and vice versa.*** There will be a maximum of four outfielders. In the event a female is injured with no female sub, her position may be filled by another female on the field, leaving a position vacant. This falls under the free substitution rule.
9. **Infield fly rule** – in effect if there are less than two outs with runners on first and second or first, second, and third. With an infield fly, the batter is out and runners run at their own risk. Intentional dropped infield flies will result in the batter being out, the ball called dead, and runners do not advance. (Umpire discretion)
10. **Batting order** – Must alternate male/female. If a player is ejected or injured and has no sub, it will be an out in the batting order. Teams may bat a maximum of 12 batters.
11. **Batting** – ***Each batter will start with a count of one ball and one strike. A foul ball on strike three is an out. If a Male is walked, the Female batting directly after him will HAVE THE OPTION to walk as well.*** ALL Players will hit 12-inch balls.
12. **Roster** – No more than sixteen players (ages 16 and up only) will be permitted per team per game, which allows each team a maximum of four subs per game. At the conclusion of a team's *third regular season game*, no more players can be added. In the

event a player's identity is questioned, the player must present a valid form of identification. If it is discovered that a team is using an ineligible player, that team will forfeit the game. Once the team's lineups have been exchanged to both coaches and the scorekeeper, no additional players can be entered into that game. If a player(s) who have been submitted on the lineup show up once the second inning has begun, that player(s) must present a valid form of identification and the coach must prove they are on the master roster. If neither can be done, the player(s) cannot enter the game.

13. **Homeruns** – Each team will be allowed THREE home runs per game (This does NOT include “inside-the-park” home runs). After three homeruns, any ball hit over the fence is an out.

14. **Stealing** – There is no stealing allowed.

15. **Sliding** – There is no penalty for sliding into a base. If the runner knocks the baseman over from sliding then there is no penalty. *If there is a play at a base and the runner knocks the baseman over while standing up, the runner is out and ejected from the game.* At first base, if the defensive player is intentionally knocked down, the runner is called out and ejected from the game. (Umpire discretion)

16. **Equipment** – 12-inch stitched balls with a .40 core will be used. YMCA will provide game balls. All bats must have the “USSSA approved stamp”. Teams must provide their own bats. *Metal spikes of any kind are NOT permitted.*

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS AND CONDUCT

-If the batter steps out of the batters' box after the ball has been pitched, a strike will be called.

-Once the batter steps into the box, he/she can be pitched to immediately.

-The coach is allowed one time out per batter per inning. If a second time out is called, it will not be granted and if the batter steps out of the batters' box, a strike will be called.

-If a base runner is hit with a batted ball in foul territory, the ball will be declared a foul. If a base runner is hit with a batted ball in fair territory, a dead ball will be called and the runner will be called out.

-If a player is ejected from a game, he/she must also sit out their next game. If there is a second offense, that player will be terminated from the league completely for that season.

-The umpire will give one warning per player for misconduct (including profanity). If there is a second offense in that game, the offending player will be ejected.

-There will be no protests of games.

-ABSOLUTELY NO TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, OR PLAYING INTOXICATED! First offense results in immediate dismissal from the league for the offending player.

Good sportsmanship is expected at all times from both the players and the spectators.

Note: Umpire and YMCA staff can remove persons showing unsportsmanlike conduct at any time.

**Any rule not covered under this list will be covered under USSSA Rules.
The YMCA Program Director has final authority to make decisions pertaining to all
softball league rules and regulations.**