



FOND DU LAC RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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LOCAL CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES - 2023 SEASON

A. EQUIPMENT

1. We will continue to use both size softballs in the co-ed leagues; women will hit the 11” and the men will hit the 12”.
2. A pitched ball touching any part of the plate or mat will be a strike.

B. PLAYERS – BATTING ORDER

1. A normal batting order will consist of 5 men and 5 women in alternating batting positions.
2. A team can start a game with a minimum of 9 players. (*4 men & 5 women or 5 men & 4 women*)
3. If a team starts a game with 9 players, 5 men & 4 women, the missing person in the batting order will be declared an out when they are up in the batting order.
4. If a team starts with 9 players, 5 women & 4 men, there will be no out in the 10th position of batting order.
5. When starting with 9 players and an additional player arrives, they must be inserted into the line-up at the ninth or tenth batting position (depending on vacant spot by alternating sexes).
6. If a team uses an extra player (EP), you must have 6 men & 6 women in the batting order.
7. If you elect to bat more than 10 players, you must keep the sexes equal and you must maintain that number of players throughout the game. If you start with 12 and go down to 10, you must take an out for each player taken out of the line-up.
8. If at any time you drop below the number you started the game with, an out will be taken when the vacant position in the batting order appears.
9. If you drop below 9 players any time, the game is declared a forfeit.

C. PLAYERS – FIELD POSITIONS

- Teams do NOT have to rotate positions by gender
 - Teams must have 2 men and 2 women in the outfield & the infield
 - Players must remain in their positions for a complete inning.
 - Pitcher and catcher must be of opposite gender.
1. Substitution Rule used is the same as Men & Women’s Leagues.
 2. When a male batter gets 3 straight balls (no strikes) or is intentionally walked, he will be awarded 2nd base.
 3. With 2 outs, if a male batter gets 3 straight balls or is intentionally walked, he gets 2nd base AND the next female batter can choose to bat or take a walk.
 4. Courtesy Runner- When using a Courtesy Runner in Co-ed males must run for males & females for females.

D. SAFETY

1. It is highly recommended that teams purchase a fielder’s mask for their 3rd base person and/or pitcher.
2. Players will not be able to step forward and go out of the batter’s box. Players taking more than one (1) step before making contact with the ball will be called out by the umpire.
3. **Collisions:** We do not want to have collisions between male and female players on the base paths such as going into second base to “break up the double play” or at the plate. Therefore, if a collision occurs (whether standing or sliding) at any of the four bases, the umpire can rule the play as intentional, blatant, or dangerous and rule the play as unsportsmanlike resulting in automatic ejection from the game. We do not want collisions or injuries to any players; players must try to avoid collisions of any type.