2026 League & Divisional Rules

For details on certain rules please refer to the USA Softball Rule Book (link on our website)

General Rules Last updated 06/25/2025.

Rosters

- EACH TEAM MUST SUBMIT A ROSTER. PLAYERS THAT HAVE SIGNED THE ROSTER ONLINE WILL NOT NEED TO SIGN A PAPER ROSTER. PAPER ROSTERS ARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SIGNED UP ONLINE.
- ROSTERS ARE TO BE TURNED IN PRIOR TO STEPPING ON THE FIELD FOR PLAY.

Gear

- Metal Cleats are NOT allowed in league play in any division.
- Uniforms are NOT required for the league. If used, numbers on the back should be 6".

Balls & Bats

- Teams are responsible for purchasing softballs. They are sold at the Managers' Meeting if you choose to wait until then.
- **Balls**
    1. **Home teams will provide a new ball, visiting teams will provide a good used ball.**
    2. Optic Yellow, 52 cor/300 compression ASA or USA Softball approved stamp on ball.
    3. The men's size ball is 12 inches.
    4. The women's size ball is 11 inches.
    5. COED will need 1 size each (Men's and Women's)
- **Bats**
- **All bats must be currently approved for play in USA Softball or USSSA. Any bats on the banned bat listed are not allowed any bats that do not have a current certification stamp are not allowed.**
    1. **New in 2026-*Any bat that is on a banned bat list, either USA Softball or USSSA will not be allowed in league or Tournaments.* This includes the 220's.**
    2. https://www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/
    3. https://usssa.com/slowpitch/slowpitch-licensed-softball-bat-ball-manufacturers
    4. Senior Bats are only allowed in the Senior League

Line-Up

- Line-ups must be submitted to the opposing team's scorekeeper prior to the start of the game.
- The home team is responsible for keeping the book.
- Umpires are responsible for reporting scores.
- Teams may add players to the bottom of the lineup at any time if they arrive late, providing they meet all other league rules.

Game Format

- 3-2 Count Format
- Players will come to the plate with 1 ball and 1 strike.
- Extra Foul ball will be allowed with 2 strikes.

Pitching

- Pitchers have the option of pitching from 50ft to a maximum of 56ft. The pitcher must have one foot touching the pitching box. All other pitching rules will apply. Fields will be lined with 6-foot lanes, starting at the Pitcher's mound, and going back towards 2nd base.
- The pitching Arc is to be between 6ft and 10ft from the ground.
- No pump faking or juking allowed, pitchers must pause and present the ball in front of their body prior to delivery.

Game Time

- Games are scheduled every 1 hour and 5 minutes.
- Games will start on time unless the previous game runs long. Please encourage your players to be at the field 15 minutes prior to game time.
- Only the 1st game of the day/evening will be allowed to have a 10-minute grace period.
- No additional time for warm-ups
- No new inning will start after 1 hour.
- A drop-dead time of 1 hour and 15 minutes will also be used from the start of the game, at which time the score will revert back to the last full completed inning for the final score, which may result in a tie.

Tied Score at end of Time Limit

- If the game is tied at the end 7 innings or at the end of time limit, teams will be allowed up to 2 additional innings to break the tie.
- These innings will be played using One Pitch Rules (even if 7 innings have NOT been played), in which the opposing Pitcher will pitch one pitch.
    1. If it is a ball, it is a walk.
    2. If it is a strike, it is an out.
    3. If the ball is hit foul, it is an out.
    4. If the ball is hit fair, they play as usual.
- If the game is still tied at the completion of the 2 additional innings, the game will terminate, and a tie score will be reported in the standings.
- A drop-dead time of 1 hour and 15 minutes will also be used from the start of the game, at which time the score will revert back to the last full completed inning for the final score, which may result in a tie.

Run Rule

- ***Men's Division*** will follow the 10 after 5 if the home team is ahead by **10** or more runs in the bottom or the 5th inning, they will be declared the winner by mercy rule.
- FLIP FLOP RULE- if the visiting team is leading by **10** or more going into the top of the 5th, they will become the home and the NOW VISITING TEAM will have to get within **10** runs for the game to continue.

WOMEN'S DH & ALL COED DIVISIONS WILL USED THE 5 RUN PER INNING RULE

- ***Run Rule-*** will use the 5 run per inning Rule, 15 after 4 innings or 10 after 5 innings.
- ***5 Run Per Inning Rule-***
- Innings 1-4: Five runs per inning
- Innings 5-7: Run Limit is removed.

Home Run Rule

- Progressive Home Run Rule: A team may not have more than 1 over the fence home run than the opposing team. If A Home Run is hit over the fence that puts team 2 homeruns ahead, it will be a dead ball and the batter is out. With multiple HR then progressive both teams must get to the (2.4) then it is progressive.
- **All Men's Double Header Divisions -4 Home Runs allowed then progressive.**
- **All Women's Double Headers- Progressive Home Run Rule.**
- **Coed Single Games – Progressive Home Run Rule.**
- **Coed Double Headers- CDH 1 - 2 Home Runs, then progressive Home Run Rule.**
- **Coed Double Headers- CDH 2 & 3- Progressive Home Run Rule.**

Halo Rule

- The Halo Rule is in effect when a "Sharply hit ball" goes through the pitcher's box *and the pitcher is within the box,* this will result in an automatic "Dead Ball Out."
- If any part of the pitcher is within the box, it will result in the HALO RULE
- Excessive HALO violations may result in player removal and/or forfeited game(s).
- **It is up to the Umpire's Judgement on what is a "sharply hit ball."**

Stealing

- Stealing is allowed in Men's & Women's Only.
- Stealing is NOT allowed in any Coed Divisions.

Batting your Roster

- Teams will be allowed to bat their rosters. If players show up after the game has started, you may add the late comers to the bottom of the batting order, AFTER NOTIFYING THE UMPIRE AND BOTH SCOREKEEPERS. If an injury occurs with more than 10 players, the injured player shall be removed from the batting order, without taking an out in his/her spot.
- **COED DIVISIONS**
    1. Batting order must alternate Genders (male/female or female male)
       If an injury occurs with more than 10 players, The Wheel may be used at this point.

Short Handed

- Games cannot continue due to Short Handed due to ejection.
- **ALL MEN'S DIVISIONS**- Teams will be allowed to start and finish a game with a minimum of 8 players. No out recorded.
- **WOMEN'S DIVISION**- Teams are allowed to start and finish with 9 players. No out recorded for 10th batter.
- **Games cannot be continued if a team has less than 10 players due to ejection**. Teams may not pick up non-rostered players to avoid an out in this instance. Game is forfeited.

SHORT HANDED CON'TD NEXT PAGE

Short Handed- Cont'd

- **ALL COED DIVISIONS (see page 6 for Wheel information)**
- If you have 5 players of one gender, you must play all 5 of those players.
    1. Teams will be allowed to start and finish with 9 players but must have at least 4 females/or 5 male or vice versa.
    2. If the 10th batter shows up, that player must be placed in the 9th or 10th position in the line-up immediately keeping the male/female or male/female rotation.
    3. If a player is ejected from a game, any time that player comes up in the batting order, an out will be taken, unless he/she is replaced by an available substitute. If ejection takes a team to less than 5 of one Gender, the game is a forfeit. TEAMS MAY NOT PICK UP NON-ROSTERED PLAYERS TO AVOID AN OUT IN THIS INSTANCE.
- **SHORT-HANDED –**The Wheel formation will be used if a team is shorthanded of players FOR EXAMPLE**- 4 females /6 males or 4 males/ 6 females** OR 4 females/5 males or 5 males/4 females etc. **without taking an out**. ***WHEEL FORMATION DETAILS ON PAGE 6***

Substitution

- Free Substitution is permitted in all divisions when batting your entire roster. A player may enter and re-enter in any defensive position at any time, but they must keep their same positions in the batting order.
- Normal Substitution rules apply if a player is not in the batting order. ***See USA Softball rule book**

Courtesy Runner

- **COED DIVISIONS**
    1. Any eligible player in the line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner Gender specific (male for male, female for female). Courtesy Runner must come out before the 1st Pitch.
    2. Only 1 Courtesy Runner may be used per inning, per gender.
    3. A player may not have a second Courtesy Runner if they come up again in the line-up during the same inning.
    4. If you sit out and have a Courtesy Runner for you, you cannot be a Courtesy Runner for a player in the same inning. A Courtesy Runner whose turn at bat comes while on base will be declared out. The courtesy runner will be removed from base and take his turn at bat. A second courtesy runner CANNOT be substituted at this time.
- **MEN'S DIVISIONS**
    1. Any eligible player in the line-up including available substitute may be used as a Courtesy Runner.
    2. ONE Courtesy Runner may be used per inning. If the same player comes up twice in the same inning, he will be permitted a courtesy runner. Courtesy Runner must come out before the 1st Pitch.
    3. If you sit out and have a Courtesy Runner for you, you cannot be a Courtesy Runner for a player in the same inning. A Courtesy Runner whose turn at bat comes while on base will be declared out. The courtesy runner will be removed from base and take his turn at bat. A second courtesy runner CANNOT be substituted at this time.

- **WOMEN'S DIVISIONS**
    1. Any eligible player in the line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner.
    2. Unlimited Courtesy Runners are allowed. Courtesy Runner must come out before the 1st Pitch.
    3. If you sit out and have a Courtesy Runner for you, you cannot be a Courtesy Runner for a player in the same inning. A Courtesy Runner whose turn at bat comes while on base will be declared out. The

courtesy runner will be removed from base and take his turn at bat. A second courtesy runner CANNOT be substituted at this time.

Player Ejection Rule-

- If a player is ejected from a game, that player will be required to sit out a minimum of 2 games (league only)
- The player will be on probation for the balance of the year.
- If a player gets ejected from another PMSA sanctioned league game, they may be suspended from the PMSA program for a minimum of 1 year.
- Managers are responsible for providing Umpires and staff with player information and informing players of their suspension. Managers failing to do so will be suspended for 4 games.

Profanity/Hate Speech/Unsportsmanlike Conduct-

- Profanity or threatening language, including Hate Speech, or actions from one Player or Spectator to another Player, Umpire, or Staff member, will result in an automatic ejection from the game and the park. The player/spectator will be subject to probation or suspension from all PMSA, or USA Softball play for a **minimum of one full year.**
- Appeals- **The Player /Spectator would need to appear before the board before they would be allowed to participate after the year's suspension has been served.**

Alcohol/Tobacco/Marijuana/Vape-

- **NO ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE COMPLEX. ALCOHOL PURCHASED FROM CONCESSIONS MUST STAY INSIDE THE COMPLEX**
- **ONLY** Coolers with water or sports drink are allowed inside the complex.
- **NO Tobacco products of any kind are to be used on Parks Property per City of Portland Code. This includes vape, chew, cannabis of any kind.**
- ***Any team or player caught violating these rules may be asked to leave the complex and the team may be put on probation. BOTH the player AND team may be subject to suspension.***

Field Conditions/Forfeits /Contacts

RAINOUT LINE (503-823-3020; option #1) will be updated by 3:30pm or sooner. **Always check the *RAINOUT LINE 503-823-3020; OPTION #1,* before heading to your game in case field conditions change.**

IF you are NOT able to make your game please do the following: PLEASE NOTE CONTACT CHANGES!!

Contact your opposing team manager and let them know.

BEFORE 3:00pm – Text/Call or Email Sports Office – Angie Pickron 360-440-3928 – angie.pickron@portlandoregon.gov

AFTER 3:00pm-

- **Text/Call or Email one of the following with your team's name, field and time and that you are not able to make your game.**
- **DAMON HILLIARD – EMAIL- DHILLIARD@PORTLANDSOFTBALL.COM 360-281-9531**
- **BRIDGET LAHM – EMAIL PARAMEDIC14@YAHOO.COM 503-750-5201**
- **ROB CRAWLEY- RCRAWLEY@PORTLANDSOFTBALL.COM**

See next page for COED Division Special rules.

Special Individual Division Rules

Coed Division Special Rules

Always a Force at Home Plate/Commitment Line

- A line will be pre-chalked or drawn by the Umpire. Roughly 1 foot out from the left edge of the batter's box and extend 6-8ft.
- A defensive player with the ball may merely touch home plate for a force out, no matter how many runners are on base in order to be called safe a player must.
    1. Cross the line by home plate and
    2. Either has his/her foot down on any part of the line or have the foot down past the line
    3. The foot must be down prior to the defensive player, in possession of the ball, touching home plate.

Positioning of Players

- 5 males & 5 Females, 6 males & 4 Females or 4 Females & 6 Males on the field, can be in any position. You must have at least 4 outfielders when playing defense. **NO 5 INFIELDERS.**

Encroachment Line

- A line is set at 200ft in the outfield at WVO Softball Complex, DeMarini (#1) & Delta #7. At all other fields, may be set at approximately 175ft
- Encroachment Line will be used when ANY PLAYER is up at bat, the outfielder is not allowed to cross the encroachment line until the ball has been hit.
- If the outfielder crosses the line prior to the ball being hit, it would be a delayed dead ball. The team batting would have the option of taking the result of the play or the batter is awarded a base hit, all runners will move, if forced.

Walk Rule

- A walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next batter (a female) shall bat. The ball is dead on the walk.
- Exception- with 2 outs, the female has the option to walk or to bat.
- Should the female batter/runner pass a male batter/runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during the dead ball period.
- A male batter/runner advancing to 2nd without touching 1st base shall be called out, if properly appealed.

Batting the Wheel

- If you have 5 players of one gender, you must play all 5 of those players.
- The wheel batting order will be used if a team has an uneven number of men and women players, after the initial 5 and 5 gender ratio. EXAMPLE- You have more men than women, after the initial 5 and 5 minimum.
- **NEW-** The Wheel formation will be used if a team is shorthanded of players FOR EXAMPLE**- 4 females /6 males or 4 males/ 6 females** OR 4 females/5 males or 5 males/4 females etc. **without taking an out**.
- Format- Batting order must always alternate male/female or vice versa. A batter will follow the person of the same gender throughout the game. Once all batters on one gender have batted that gender line-up starts over.
- Players arriving late can be added to the bottom of the line-up with no penalty.

Non-Binary line up-

Any persons identifying as non-Binary will bat between 2 females in a non-binary batting position.
Defensively need to have 5 females, 4 males and 1 non-binary.