



City of  
**Santa Monica**<sup>®</sup>

Community Recreation Division Adult Softball League By-Laws

League Director:  
Eric Johnson  
(310) 458-2244  
Eric.Johnson@smgov.net

Softball League Staff  
Keyla Bell  
(310) 458-8237  
Keyla.Bell@smgov.net

The City of Santa Monica Community Recreation Division is conducting recreational softball Leagues. Listed below are the guidelines for Sportsmanship, the Ten Commandments of Sport and The Sportsman's Creed. Sportsmanship is valued very highly in our leagues. Throughout the season we will follow these guidelines, the S.C.M.A.F Rule book, S.C.M.A.F. Players Code of Conduct and our By-Laws. To read a copy of the SCMAF Rule book contact your League Director. We hope you will enjoy playing in our leagues. Best of luck on a fun and safe season.

### **TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SPORT**

1. Thou shalt not quit.
2. Thou shalt not alibi.
3. Thou shalt not gloat over winning.
4. Thou shalt not sulk over losing.
5. Thou shalt not take unfair advantage.
6. Thou shalt not ask odds thou art unwilling to give.
7. Thou shalt always be willing to give thy opponent the benefit of the doubt.
8. Thou shalt not underestimate an opponent or overestimate thyself
9. Remember that the game is the thing and he who thinks otherwise is no true sportsman
10. Honor the game thou playest, for he who plays the game straight and hard wins even when he loses.

### **The Sportsman's Creed**

#### **The Player.....**

1. She/he lives clean and plays hard. He/she plays for the love of the game.
2. She/he wins without boasting, he/she loses without excuses, and she/he never quits.
3. She/he respects officials and accepts their decisions without question.
4. She/he never forgets that he/she represents his/her team.

#### **The Coach.....**

1. She/he inspires in his athletes a love for the game and the desire to win.
2. She/he teaches them that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly.
3. She/he leads players and spectators to respect officials by setting them a good example.

#### **The Official.....**

1. She/he knows the rules.
2. She/he is fair and firm in all decisions.
3. She/he treats players and coaches courteously and demands the same treatment for himself/herself.
4. She/he knows the game is for the athletes, and lets them have the spotlight.

**City of Santa Monica  
Community & Cultural Services  
Community Recreation Division  
Softball By-Laws  
(Updated 4/27/17)**

**\*New/Amended Rules highlight in Yellow**

**I GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. Entry fees for teams playing in the Santa Monica Softball leagues will be published each session. This total fee is normally announced at the managers' meeting (if not before) and must be paid in full prior to being considered for acceptance into a league. The due date is announced at the managers' meeting and checks must be made payable to the City of Santa Monica. (Note: The entry fee is not refundable after the first scheduled league game.) Money and rosters are due at Memorial Park, 14th and Olympic, Gym Office between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- B. Santa Monica softball leagues are open to adults 18 years of age and over.
- C. No metal cleats (or multi-purpose with a metal inner) are allowed in any Santa Monica softball league.
- D. The Santa Monica softball leagues do not carry any insurance. Players should have their own, or the team can take advantage of the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation's Player Medical Benefit Fund (insurance).
- E. Game schedules are not set until all rosters and money are in and your team has been accepted. If your team is not accepted, your check will be returned (Allow 3 weeks for a refund.) You will play once a week with game times at 6:50, 8:00 or 9:10 p.m. If less teams games will start at 7:00/7:10 and 8:10/8:20pm

**II TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES**

- A. Your rosters and league fees will be due 7 working days after the managers' meeting. You may turn in your league fees and roster before the 7th working day. League fees are announced at the managers' meeting. League fees and completed roster are due in full before a team is officially accepted into the league.
- B. The system used for accepting teams that make the published deadline into Santa Monica Softball Leagues will be as follows:
  - 1. Resident Teams: Roster must have no less than six (6) Santa Monica residents to be considered a resident team.
  - 2. If more resident teams apply than there is room, resident teams will be assigned numbers and a public drawing will be held.
  - 3. Your team must have six (6) Santa Monica residents on your roster at all times during the season to be considered a resident team.
  - 4. If space is still available after all resident teams have been accepted, business teams will be accepted next. If more business teams apply than there is available space, a draw for business teams will be held. You must have at least six (6) players that work at a business in Santa Monica to be considered a business team.

5. If space is still available after all resident and business teams have been accepted, non-resident and non-business teams will be accepted next. A draw will take place if more teams apply than allowable space.
  6. If space is available after the published deadline for having your completed team roster and league fees turned in, teams will be accepted at a first come first serve basis.
- C. Managers may add a player to their rosters up until the 1st pitch of the ninth game. This is done in the following manner once the rosters have been turned the sports office.
1. The player must go to the League office prior to playing and sign the team roster and liability release
  2. The League Director must approve the new player.
- D. All sponsored teams must carry the sponsors' name throughout the season.

### III. PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation Fast-Pitch and Slow-Pitch Softball Rule book will govern play with the following local exception:

Section 1: The City will provide the game ball. Both teams are responsible for having back up balls.

Section 2: "Game time is forfeit time". The time is determined by the umpire's watch (or his designated watch) and no one else's. If your team forfeits, you must pay the Umpire the \$30 forfeit fee prior to the start of your next game. Notifying the League that you are going to forfeit provides the league the courtesy of notifying your opponent but does not advocate you from paying the \$30 forfeit fee. Only five minutes of infield practice will be allowed per team before games **if time permits**. Visiting team goes first.

Section 3: Playoff schedule and format will be announced for each league on the team's schedule.

In the Playoffs: If one team is ahead by 15 runs or more after 5 innings, the team ahead by 15 runs, will be declared the winner. In the championship game: there will be no time limit: the 15 run rule after 5 innings will still be in effect In the regular season, after 4 innings, the 15 run rule goes into effect.

Section 4: "Don't use the hardball diamond and diamond #2 for practice when games are played on other diamonds."

Section 5: A team can start a game with 7 players, but must have 8 by the last out of the second inning and must complete the game with 8.

Section 6: TIME LIMIT: No inning will start after an hour.

**Section 7: \*New – TIEBREAKER RULE**

Visiting team starts with runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and two outs. Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base is last out from inning before. Next batter in line-up comes up and visiting team bats until 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded. Total runs scored is their total. Home team then gets the same opportunity. Same rules apply. Total runs scored wins the game. If a tie then repeat with last out from the tiebreaker and resume with the next batter in the lineup.

Section 8: Both manager's will meet at home plate to cover the ground rules for the game in the presence of the umpire and fill out their starting line up on the game card.

Section 9: All players, managers, coaches must conform to the S.C.M.A.F. players Code of Conduct.

A Team involved in fighting and a bench clearing altercation, will be suspended and dropped from the league.

A player who uses physical abuse toward an opponent or umpire will be suspended for one (1) year.

Abusive language directed towards League Director/Umpires/City staff will result in automatic suspension.

If a player is ejected from a game, he/she may not be eligible to participate in the next scheduled game or risk forfeit for his team. Once being ejected, said player must leave the immediate vicinity of the ballgame. If said player continues to create a disturbance, the umpire may forfeit said game.

If a player is ejected twice in one season, he/she will be disqualified from Santa Monica Leagues for a 365 day period. Physical abuse towards League Director, Umpire or a League Official, will result in Life suspension.

Section 10: In the regular season, if one team is 15 or more runs ahead of its opponent after four (4) innings, the game will be called. In the playoffs, five (5) innings.

If in doubt as to whether or not games will be played you can call (310) 458-8643 after 1 p.m. (do not call before). It is the manager's (and only the manager's) responsibility to inform his/her players.

Section 11: The batter starts with one ball and one strike. There is a possible of three (3) total foul balls and the batter is out, depending on if the batter takes 1 strike then it would be 2 foul balls.

Section 12: Up to twelve (12) individual T-shirts or trophies will be awarded to the League Champions. All awards will be awarded at the conclusion of the league.

Section 13: It is the intent of this softball league to avoid collisions whenever possible. AT NO TIME DO WE INSIST OR MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR ANYONE TO SLIDE, ONLY TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH A FIELDER. RUNNERS SHOULD ATTEMPT TO AVOID CONTACT WHENEVER POSSIBLE. The base runner or batter runner is OUT when he/she DOES NOT attempt to get around the fielder who has the ball and is waiting to tag the runner out and/or the fielder has a force out. If you slide, you must slide towards the base, not the fielder. An over slide, quick slide or body slide could result in player ejection (umpires discretion) A base runner may run around home plate to avoid a collision with the fielder/catcher whom does not have possession of the ball if the fielder/catcher is blocking home plate; in this case the base runner will be declared safe even if said base runner does not touch home plate. If the fielder/catcher is blocking home plate with the ball, the runner must avoid contact by either returning to 3rd base or giving their self up or slide. We never recommend to slide. If a runner runs over the catcher an out will be declared and the runner will be suspended from the game on umpires discretion

Section 14: Head-to-head play will used to break all ties, then coin flip; except that the league director reserves the right to use some other means to break a tie (such as a playoff game, run differential, etc.), when he or she deems it appropriate.

The league director reserves the right to make last minute changes once the league commences to help facilitate the program's efficiency.

Section 15: Illegal Bats: A player using an illegal bat will be declared out and may be ejected from the game. All bats must be an official softball bat and ASA approved

- IV. **Section 15: Teams are required to maintain two (2) forfeit bonds to reimburse the umpire:**  
A team that forfeits will pay the whole umpire fee for said forfeited game. If one of the umpire forfeit bonds are used to pay the umpire, the team using its forfeit bond is required to replace the used forfeit bond prior to the teams next game. Failure to replace the forfeit bond or pay the umpire will result in the team in violation being dropped from the league.

#### **PROTESTS**

A. **Player Eligibility**

If a manager feels that an opposing player is a non-roster player, he must file a protest prior to the last pitch of the game and then follow these steps:

1. Go to the game official and ask him to have the player produce positive identification.
2. If positive identification is made and you feel that the player may not have his signature on the team's roster, the roster will be checked against the player in question signature. If the signature does not match, the player will be declared ineligible and a forfeit will be declared.

Protest involving judgment calls will not be accepted (fair or foul? Safe or out?). Protests involving rule infractions will be accepted if properly filled out.

1. Inform the umpire at the point of infraction (must be done before the next pitch is thrown.)
2. Have the umpire notate on his scoreboard what the situation is at the point of infraction (men on – inning outs – etc.)
3. Go to the office and put in writing the nature of your protest with a \$25.00 check made out to the City of Santa Monica within 24 hours of the game.
4. The Ruling Committee will give you a decision within 2 days. If the protest goes in your favor, the \$25.00 is returned. If it goes against you, the money goes into the league fund.

**V. COURTESY RUNNERS and BASE RUNNERS**

A manager or team captain may request a courtesy runner for one or more players at any time during the game when it becomes necessary due to an injury. The umpire shall determine the validity of a courtesy runner request. Unlimited runners no rabbits. Player cannot run for more than one player. A player leaving the game for a courtesy runner must return to the game unless he is officially replaced by a substitute. Substitutions may be made at any time during the game by notifying the umpire.

A base runner occupying 1st base or 3rd base may stand off the base but the runner must stand in foul territory and be no further than 3 feet from the base in foul territory and no closer to home plate.

**VI. CO-ED, WOMEN'S AND MEN'S RULES AND REGULATIONS**

A. Co-ed softball will be governed by the rules and regulations established in the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (S.C.M.A.F.) Fast-pitch and Slow-pitch Softball Rule Book with the following exceptions:

1. A team shall consist of 10 players. A team can start with 7 players, 2 women, but must have the their 8th player, 3 must be woman, by the start of the 3rd inning or a forfeit will be declared
2. Players must bat in alternating order by sex – women, man, woman, man, etc.
3. A minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind an outfield restriction line (165 feet are from home plate), until the batter swings at the pitch. Penalty: Batter will be awarded 1st base unless he/she reaches the base safely.
4. Metal cleats are not allowed.
5. The pitching distance will between 50 - 56 feet.
6. The pitcher must pitch one (1) strike to a male batter.  
If three (3) straight balls are thrown prior to a strike, a male batter is awarded second base, any runners on base will move up. The female batter still has to bat.
7. You may borrow up to three (3) players, male or female, to make 9 players on your team during the regular season. The three (3) players must bat 7th, 8th and 9th, play catcher, right field and 2nd base. You may never use a borrow player to make a team of ten (10)., if you do a forfeit will be declared. You can never borrow players in the playoffs. In the playoffs, you can only use players on your team roster.

8. A player may play as a borrow player for as many teams as teams need players. The borrow player can only play when on a team that has nine (9) or fewer players. If a borrow player makes the 10th player, a forfeit will be declared during or after said game. You cannot play as a borrow player in the playoffs.
9. A player may be on two (2) rosters in two different Coed Division. If both teams make the playoffs, and if the playoff game times are at the same time, the player must choose which team they wish to play for. All efforts will be made to schedule the games at different times but there is no guarantee.  
A team cannot play in two (2) Leagues. Players can play on two (2) teams as long as no more than three (3) players are from the same team are playing. If two teams have four (4) players or more playing from the same team, even if they are on both teams roster, only three (3) players will be eligible to play in any given time during the game.

**While the pitcher is in the pitchers position:**

While the pitcher is within the pitcher's position (an area extending 18 inches in both directions from the center of the pitching rubber, 1 foot in front of the rubber, and 18 feet behind the rubber), Umpire judgment, a line drive only (except co-ed), hit with such pace as to make playing the ball dangerous for the pitcher, that is hit through this designated area will be considered an automatic out against the batter. All base runners will return to the base occupied prior to said hit if they the base runners are not declared out during to said hit. Balls landing before the pitcher's box/mound is live (men's league only)

**VII. MEN'S & WOMEN'S SLOW-PITCH RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- A. Women's softball will be governed by the rules and regulations established in the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (S.C.M.A.F.). Fast-pitch and Slow-pitch Softball Rule Book with the following exceptions:
  1. Slow-Pitch: Catcher has option of wearing a mask. It is recommended.
  2. Metal cleats are not allowed.
  3. TIME LIMIT: No inning will start after 60 minutes
  4. Santa Monica Softball By-Laws, Rule II. Sections 1 through 16 apply to the women's program and to co-ed program.
  5. The batter starts with 1 ball and 1 strike.

**VIII. LEAGUE DIRECTOR**

- A. League Director has the authority to rule on any subject not specifically covered in the By-laws or the S.C.M.A.F. Softball Rule Book.
- B. League Director may move teams at the 1/3rd or 1/2 way mark of the season to better facilitate a Divisions balance. The team that is moved to the higher Division will compete in the playoffs in the highest Division that it qualified. The team with the highest winning percentage will be the number one (1) seed in a Division if a team is moved at the 1/2 way point during the season and has not played the same number of games in the Division as all the other teams.

**IX. SUBSTITUTE RULES FOR ALL MEN'S & WOMEN'S LEAGUES**

- A. Teams may bat up to 16 players in the starting batting order.
- B. You may add/drop players up until the 9th game of the season upon approval of the League Director.
- C. Starting batting order must be followed, but defensive changes may be made at any time. The umpire need not be notified of position change, but must be told of any batting order changes.
- D. A player, not in the original batting order, may substitute for another player, but the replaced player may not thereafter participate in the game.
- E. If players (11th and up) arrive late, they may be added, up until the last out of the ballgame, to the end of the batting order to complete the allowable 16 person batting order.
- F. If a player is injured during the game and the umpire determines that the player cannot play due to the injury, an out will not be declared when said player misses his/her turn in the batting order. If injured player needs to be taken to the hospital by a teammate, and no substitute is available to replace one of the two players; The team with the non injury will choose either to replay the game from the start or picked up from the injury.
- G. A team may borrow players from other roster teams, if a team is missing the required 7 players to start the game. Once the missing player (s) arrive, the other borrowed player (s) must stop playing. The borrow players must bat 7th, 8th and 9th and play catcher, right field and 2nd base, if players do not, a forfeit will be declared.
- H. A player may be on only one (1) team roster per night. A player can play on only one (1) team per night unless said player is a borrow player for that night. (see G. above for borrow player clarification)
- I. No Thursday night team can play, in any game, more than five players who also plays for a Tuesday or Wednesday night team. A Thursday night team can only play five (5) player who also plays on a Tuesday and or a Wednesday night team.
- j. At no time can you borrow a player to make 10 players playing on the field. At no time may a team borrow a player and have its own player (s) sitting on the bench. A forfeit will be declared if the above happens.

**X. NEW- PLAYOFFS and PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYOFFS**

- A. If a team goes undefeated during the regular season, they will need to be defeated twice during the playoffs. If no teams are undefeated then it becomes a single elimination playoff for all eligible teams**
- B. Players on any team must play a minimum of 4 league games to be eligible for playoffs. Any exceptions must be approved by league director and league staff.**

C. All eligible players must have I.D. with him/her during the playoffs. If player is unable to generate a photo I.D. then said player is not eligible. League staff will be checking during the playoffs.

D. If team is caught using an ineligible player it is ruled and automatic forfeit.

**XI. GROUND RULES FOR SANTA MONICA SOFTBALL FIELDS**

- A. Regular softball diamonds #1 and #3.
1. Extension of infield fence line to light poles then straight line from poles through outfields will provide out of play line.
  2. Diamond #3 right field side and left field side will use the fence to determine out of play.
  3. Batter's entrance will be imaginary line between the two fences for out of play.
  4. Outfields are open unless there is interference by another player on another diamond – umpire's judgment will award number of bases