

City of Sacramento:

Natomas Softball League Rules

Player Conduct

1. Players are expected to play in the sports league with sportsmanship. This league is designed to be recreational and it is the purpose to provide a recreational experience with fun and exercise.
2. Players participating in any kind of physical or verbal confrontation on the field or at the facility are subject to suspension for the current season or the entire remaining softball year.
3. All Field Calls are the Umpires Judgment. Protests can only be made on the misinterpretation of a rule. Protests will never be allowed on an umpires judgment call.
4. Games may change and be re-scheduled due to extreme Weather.

Equipment

5. Tennis shoes or rubber-cleat shoes must be worn. Metal cleats are illegal in all leagues. Shoes deemed to be unsafe by the Umpire at game time will also be prohibited.
6. Any bat on the current ASA Non-Approved bat list is prohibited.
7. The 12-inch size ball will be used for all men's games and the 11-inch ball will be used for all women's play.

Game Duration

8. Game duration will be 7 innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first.

9. Game time begins with the first pitch.
10. No new inning will begin after time has expired. The current inning being played after time has expired will be completed.
11. Inning duration will be 3 outs or the batting team bats twice through its lineup.
12. **Mercy Rule:** if a team is leading by 15+ runs after the 4th inning, the losing team will have the choice of finishing the game or giving the win to the opposing team.
13. **In the result of a tie**, during the regular season, there will be no extra inning play. The game will result in a tie in the league standings. Ties will be determined depending on Runs scored during the season.

Batting

14. A team must place a minimum of 8 players in the batting order at the start of the game. If fail to do so there will be a 5 minute grace period for the first game only. Followed by a forfeit.
15. Home Plate shall be played with regular softball rules and the runner shall touch home plate (in men's league.) *(if it's a force touch the plate, If not make the tag)* *different in Co-ed League: Co ed League runner shall touch the mat, catcher touches the plate.
16. Once a player bats, they must remain in the same batting order position for the duration of the game.
17. When the batter enters the batter's box he/she will have the count of no balls and no strikes.
18. After the batter has received a count of two strikes, he/she will be declared out on the next foul.
19. Courtesy runners will be allowed for injured players only. Courtesy runners must be the last player to have made an out. * In coed play, the

- courtesy runner must be of the same gender.
20. Teams are allowed to bat through their whole lineup (including substitutes).
 21. Starters and substitutes can re-enter between innings without restrictions.
 22. Runners may overrun first base only.
 23. No Commit Line for Men's League.

Fielding

24. A team must place a minimum of 8 players in the field of play at the start of the game. If fail to do so there will be a 5 minute grace period for the first game. Followed by a forfeit.
25. There are no restrictions concerning field position changes provided that the game is not unduly delayed.
26. Any player in the field may be replaced due to injury at any time during the game.

Pitching

27. The pitch must be delivered with an underhand motion and must have a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum of 12 feet.
28. The strike zone is the rubber mat provided by the league and placed behind home plate.

Special Coed Modifications

29. The 12-inch size ball will be used for male batters, and the 11-inch ball size will be used for female batters in all games.

30. Teams must start a game with a minimum of 4 males and 4 females in the field of play. If fail to do so there will be a 5 minute grace period for the first game. Followed by a forfeit.

31. There must be at least 3 female infielders in the field of play.

32. The number of males **MAY NOT** exceed the number of females while in the field of play.

33. The number of females **MAY** exceed the number of males while in the field of play.

34. The batting order must alternate males with females. However...

35. ...The number of males **MAY NOT** exceed the number of females while Batting.

36. ...The number of females **MAY** exceed the number of males while Batting only by one extra female.

37. If at any time two males bat consecutively, an automatic out will be recorded **before** the second male bats.

38. Home plate is a force out at all times. Runners will run to the batting mat, the catcher will tag home plate. *Only Coed

39. A runner must commit to running to home plate after passing a 'commit' line half way between 3rd base and home plate.

40. A male batter who receives a walk (intentional or not) with **two outs** will be awarded second base. Runners advance if forced. The next female batter has the **option** to walk or bat.