



City of Salem Parks and Recreation  
 Sports Office – Division  
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# ADULT SOFTBALL

## By-Laws: 2023

The City of Salem’s Adult Softball league is governed by the **"USA SOFTBALL: Official Rules of Softball"** rules unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.

Leagues	Ages	Game Length	Playing Field	Ball Used
Church Coed	18+	55 minutes	Bases - 70ft rubber - 53ft	AD Starr Spirit .52 COR/300 <i>(subject to change)</i>
Men’s “Open” Church	18+	55 minutes	Bases - 70ft rubber - 53ft	AD Starr Spirit .52 COR/300 <i>(subject to change)</i>

### TEAM/PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. This league is open to all churches.
2. Players listed on the official team roster must be a member/regular attendee of the church they represent prior to the start of league play.
3. All players must be eighteen (18) or older prior to the start of the team’s first game to participate.
4. There are no residency requirements to participate in any league.
5. Team Rosters are limited to 25 players, including the manager, and must be turned in prior to the team’s first game. (No Exceptions) Failure to do so may result in a forfeiture.

**Note:** Additions may be made up the 2<sup>nd</sup> game. **Roster additions will not be accepted after a team’s 2<sup>nd</sup> game.**

### INELGILIBLE / ILLEGAL PLAYERS

Players **cannot** play on more than one team within the same league/division. The Sports Office reserves the right to check for illegal players at any time during the season. If a team is found using an illegal player, all games in which that player participated in will be declared a forfeit. Teams found using an illegal player for the second time will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season and forfeit all games played. A third offense and the team is expelled from the league. The person that is found to be an illegal player on a City of Salem softball team will not be allowed to play in the City of Salem for one year.

### CO-ED CHURCH LEAGUE

1. All Co-Ed teams must have a male/female pitcher/catcher combination.
2. Each team shall have ten (10) players; minimum of three (3) female players.  
**Note:** See rule 6 for playing with two (2) females.
3. When possible, there must be two (2) of each sex in the outfield and infield positions.
4. Outfielders may **not** be on the infield surface.
5. **Teams may choose to bat two extra players (EPs) for a total of twelve (12), provided the EPs are a male and female.**  
**Note:** **Teams must have a minimum of four (4) females in the lineup to bat twelve (12)**
6. **If a male batter is walked in front of a female batter the batter will go to second base. The female batter has the option of taking the walk to first base or hitting. Any runners on base at the time will be only advanced if forced by batters. (Ex: if only a runner at 3<sup>rd</sup> base at time of the walk the runner will not be advanced.)**
7. **If a team has only two (2) females for the start a game, that team must play with nine (9) fielders. The 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the lineup will be an automatic out. If the 3<sup>rd</sup> female arrives after the game has started, she will be inserted into the 10<sup>th</sup> spot of the batting lineup.**

### TEAM PLACEMENT (When applicable)

In the best interest of equalizing league play, after a team(s) demonstrates dominance in a division, the Sports Office reserves the right to promote a team into a more competitive division. Depending on the total teams registered in a league, teams may be moved up/down to another division, leagues may also be combined.

### TIME LIMIT

An official game will consist of fifty-five (55) minutes, seven (7) innings, or the Slaughter Rule, which ever comes first. When possible, the scoreboard will be used as the official time. Otherwise, the umpire will keep the official game time. Time will start when the umpire signals play ball. No inning will begin after time has expired on the clock. Innings will be completed if time expires while a team is at bat. If a regular season game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will be declared a tie. **GAME OVER.**

**NOTE:** Playoff games must have a winner. Where-in a game is tied at the end of regulation, extra inning(s) will be played until a winner has been decided.

### UNIFORMS / SHOES

1. All players on each team must wear jerseys that are matching in the base color and have a permanently affixed, non-duplicated numbers on the back. Jerseys without numbers or jerseys with taped, pinned, or handwritten numbers will NOT be allowed. There will be a one game "grace period" for all teams to obtain jerseys. After this "grace period", players not attired as described above will NOT be allowed to participate.
2. Metal cleats are **not** allowed.

### GAME BALLS

1. The City of Salem will provide all game balls.
2. One new game ball will be provided per team for each game.

### BATS

1. Only ASA approved bats shall be used. Approved and Non Approved bat list can be found at  
a. [www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-ASA/Certified-ASA-Equipment.aspx](http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-ASA/Certified-ASA-Equipment.aspx)
2. All bats must be tested and labeled before they can be used for the year. If a bat has not been tested and is used it will be treated as an illegal bat. **If a player is caught using an illegal bat, the player will be out and ejected. All runners must return to the base on at the time of the at bat.**

### "GRACE PERIOD"

There is **not** a "grace period" for any games. Teams must be ready to play at game time.

### LEAGUE PLAY

1. On deck batter must be in the on-deck circle ready to bat.
2. Speed-up Rule: The team that is behind will bat first in the 7<sup>th</sup> Inning.
3. Slaughter Rule: As per ASA Book 20 after 3, 15 after 4 and 10 after 5.
4. Teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players to begin a game.

### PITCH COUNT

- 3 Balls = Walk
- 2 Strikes = Batter is Out

Extra Swing: Batters will have two (2) swings to put the ball in play. If the second swing results in a foul ball, the batter shall have one (1) additional swing that must result in a fair / playable ball. Should the extra swing result in a foul ball, the batter will be declared out.

### HOME RUN RULES

League	Limit
Men's Church	2 per game per team
Church Co-Ed	Home runs are <b>not</b> allowed, Any HR will end that half inning.

- Once the limit is met, each subsequent home run is an out.

## COURTESY RUNNER

1. Courtesy runner may be used once per inning.
2. Courtesy runner can be any player on the roster.
3. Courtesy runner must be of the same sex.
4. If a courtesy runner is on base when their turn to bat comes up the runner will be replaced with another runner.

## TIES IN FINAL STANDINGS

If two teams are tied in the final regular season standings, the following tie-breakers will be used:

1. Team's record against each other.
2. Team's run differential against each other.
3. Team's total runs allowed for the season.
4. Coin flip.

**Note:** In the event of a three-way-tie, the team's record against each other will be taken out.

## CONDUCT

1. The City of Salem will not tolerate the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in any park located within the City.
2. Verbal or physical violence directed on other participants, umpires or league officials will not be tolerated. Any individual involved in conduct deemed unsportsmanlike will lose his/her right to participate in any City of Salem leagues for a minimum of one (1) year. Decisions by the Sports Office involving verbal or physical violence are final. Subject to an annual review if requested.
3. The umpires have the authority to remove a player, coach, or spectator from a game and/or forfeit the game due to unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to, profanity, threats of any kind toward the umpires, staff or designate official, fighting (before, during or after the game), any intoxicated condition detected by the umpire before or during the game.

## EJECTIONS

1. Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game will receive a minimum one (1) game suspension. Salem Parks & Recreation reserves the right to lengthen or shorten suspensions.
2. **If a player or a coach is ejected from a game that person must leave the premises immediately.**
3. If a player is ejected from their last regular season game, suspension will carry over to next season.

## PROTEST

1. Protests must be made to the umpire before the end of the game by the team manager.
2. The team manager making protest must notify the recreation department within 24 hours in writing.
3. Judgment calls are not protestable.
4. **Protest fee:** \$50.00, which will be returned if protest is upheld.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER & MAKE-UP GAMES:

1. If the game is called by the umpire after completing four (4) innings of game play (3 ½ if the home team is ahead), the game shall be counted as complete & legal. If four (4) innings (or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead) have **not** been completed, prior to the game being called, the game will **not** count and remaining time be made up at a later date, pending available field space and league end dates.
2. If rain/snow ensues prior to or during your game, it is the umpire's decision whether field conditions are safe and playable.
3. If a game is cancelled due to inclement weather, make-up games may be scheduled on days other than usual game days. Email notifications will be sent to coaches/captains when games are rescheduled and posted to the league website.

## POSTPONEMENTS

Daily game status may be obtained by calling the Salem Parks & Recreation Weather & Information Hotline at (540) 966-6900 after 3:30 p.m or emailing [athletics@salemva.gov](mailto:athletics@salemva.gov).

## SCHEDULES

Game schedules and reschedules will be posted online at [www.salemva.gov](http://www.salemva.gov) ('Parks and Rec.' link).