



ADULT MEN'S SOFTBALL RULES

THE RANCH Marin Social Sports

Men's 40+ League

Updated 4.1.24

Marin Social Sports Softball League shall be governed by USA Softball rules, with the exception of Local League rules and amendments **

In the interest of complete games being played, there will be a 7 run limit per inning. Unlimited runs may be scored in the final inning. Final inning is the 7th inning, or determined by umpire, weather or light.

- **Time Limit – 75 minutes** (approximately 7 innings).
 - No new innings shall start with less than 10 minutes remaining in the game. (Example: if there are 9 minutes left after 5th inning, the game is officially over)
 - Officials will call “last inning” at the top of the inning.
- Warm-up Pitches, 5 in 1st inning, 3 innings 2-7
- Please “hustle” on and off field, keep batting order (on deck hitter/pinch runners) flowing
- Respect the officials and your fellow players. No exceptions. Officials and league organizers hold the right to eject/ suspend a player for unsportsmanlike conduct, intoxication, etc.
- Minimum of 7 players to start any game. *Less than 7 players is a forfeit. Teams may borrow from opposing team. Borrowed players may only play in the following positions; Right Field, Catcher, and 1st Base.*
- **Games must start on time (especially 1st of two games).** If teams are not ready to take the field at the umpire’s request, the umpire may declare the game a forfeit. Late players may enter the game upon arrival.
- 24 hour Cancellation notice. “No shows” without notice will count as forfeit
- ASA certified bats only (no wooden). No composite barrels. Softballs used are Dudley SB 12in.
- Bats will be inspected by both team managers prior to the start of the game. No new bats will be added in to rotation after the 1st pitch.
- Each batter starts with a 1-and-1 count. They are allowed 1 foul ball after reaching 2 strikes. A second foul ball is an out.
- Each game begins with 1 new ball and 1 good condition ball. Foul balls and retrievable home runs should be picked up by the teams not on the field and returned to the umpire. (players do not chase foul/homerun balls)
- There is a 1 asphalt fly ball home run rule per inning for each team (*refers to asphalt area of left/left center field, not walking path*). Additional asphalt fly balls are considered ground singles. Base runners will advance.
- There is a 15-run rule after 4 ½ innings. The game is ended at that point.
- No contact / collisions allowed. If the official determines a player has interfered with a runner, the runner is safe. All runners must run to the right side of first base.
- Facemasks are encouraged for pitchers.
- Pitches must be thrown underhand in an arc style between **6’ and 12’** in height.
- The strike zone consists of home plate and the mat that sits up against the plate.
- Pinch runner rule. 1 pinch runner allowed per inning and it has to be the last out with reasonable exceptions for injuries at umpire discretion.
- Sliding is allowed.
- No stealing. Base runners may not lead (must wait until the ball has been hit before leaving the base)
- All runners must run to the **"safety line"** (secondary line located diagonally to the right of home plate) if attempting a play at Home. Once a runner crosses the "commit line" (a line drawn 3/4 of the way between third

base and home plate) it becomes a forced play (the runner may not go back to third base and must make an attempt at home). If the defense tags home plate BEFORE the batter crosses the safety line, the runner is out. (This rule is set up to protect the safety of our players and to avoid unnecessary collisions at home plate).

- Games can end in a tie if time has expired at the completion of a full inning.
- Field Maintenance- Infield will be lined and prepped before every game by the official.
 - Home team will designate players to drag the infield prior to the first game of the night.
- **PLAYOFFS / CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 - Playoffs – All teams make the playoffs.
 - Championships – games will be played in single elimination rounds. Winner moves on
 - Team with the higher seed will be “Home Team” for playoffs.
 - Championship “Home Team” will be determined by a coin flip.
 - Player Eligibility: must have played 3 regular season games to qualify
- **Shorthanded due to injury:** players leaving game due to injury in a game with no substitutes available will Not be an automatic out in the batting order.
- **Player Adds:** Any added players after the season has started must sign a Waiver and be officially listed and submitted to the League for the team roster.
- **Interference:** Runner’s interference occurs anytime the runner’s actions interfere with the defense’s ability to make a play on the ball. If, in the umpire’s judgment, the runner unintentionally interferes with a fielder attempting to field a ball in fair or foul territory, or with the fielder’s throw, then the runner is out. If the interference occurs during an attempted double play, the umpire can rule both the interfering runner and the other runner involved in the double play out. All other runners stay at the base to which they advanced. If the runner intentionally interfered with the play, then the ball is dead, the runner is out, and all runners must return to the last base they touched before the interference occurred.
- **40+ Exception:** If BOTH managers agree prior to the beginning of the game, more than one substitute runner may be allowed per inning. Even if both managers don’t agree to this prior to the game, ALL substitute runners must be the last “healthy” out in the batting order (not just any runner)
- **No Alcohol:** Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited in the Park.

****USA Softball (formerly ASA Softball):**

“From local recreational teams to umpire clinics to National Team Programs who represent our country on the international stage, USA Softball has something for everyone. Our local associations across the U.S. are dedicated to promoting the USA Softball experience and brand on a daily basis, which includes providing top-tier administration as well as league and tournament competition.

The BEST Play USA Softball! Annually, USA Softball conducts over 100 National Championships in each of its major disciplines of the sport – slow pitch, fast pitch and modified pitch. The road to USA Softball National Championships begins at the local level through each of USA Softball’s state and metro associations. Whether it’s a league or state championship or a series of qualifying tournaments – each association determines how berths are allocated for teams within their associations.”

Note from Commissioner: As we are a Recreational 40+ league, not all USA Softball rules will apply, especially those rules for National and Olympic play. Umpire judgement may also be used in a case-by-case scenario.