

Slow Pitch Rules & Regulations

Hamilton County League Rules

Section I – Eligibility

1. Player must be a high school graduate or 18 years of age before the start of the season.
2. 19 players plus a playing manager or 20 plus a non-playing manager will be allowed on the roster.
3. No player may transfer from one team roster to another team roster after playing in a game. When a player appears on multiple rosters prior to league play, that player will be locked on the roster of the first team he or she plays a game with.
4. A team may start a game with 8 players but must have the 9th player in the dugout and ready to play 5 minutes after the start of the game or the game will be called a forfeit 7-0 in favor of the team with the required number of players. Any players arriving after a game starts will be inserted in the bottom of the batting order.
5. **SHORT HANDED RULE:** A team may finish a game with nine players due to an injury or ejection. An out will be taken in the 10th players spot in the batting order. If for any reason a team drops to 8 players or if there is a second ejection the game will be forfeited.
6. Coed may play with 9 players with no penalty if two females bat back to back. However if two males bat back to back an out will be taken after the first male bats.
7. If a question of eligibility of any player should arise during league play, a player may be required to show proper I.D. as listed under ASA guidelines.
8. **To be eligible to play in the tournament, player must play 4 regular season games with team. Rosters will be frozen once a team has played 6 games.**

Section II – Scheduling

1. Games will start at 6:20 and 8:20 as doubleheaders. The team listed first on the calendar will be the visiting team. The second game of the doubleheader will start immediately after the first game.
2. Teams that forfeit for any reason must pay a \$25 forfeit fee to the Hamilton County Parks and Rec office prior to the next date they are scheduled to play.
3. **RAINOUTS AND RESCHEDULING:** Game cancellations due to inclement weather will be available on the Morse Beach Softball hotline- **(317) 770-4409**. Information will be posted ASAP up until 4pm. After 4pm it will be a game time decision. Rainouts will be rescheduled after the completion of the regular season. All efforts will be made to reschedule the games on the night which your team plays, however due to unforeseen circumstances such as a significant number of rain outs, your team may have to play on another night. Rain make-ups and tournament games will be updated on the calendar of the Morse Beach Softball website.
4. **SUSPENDED GAMES:** Suspended games will be continued from their actual point of suspension unless the game has met the criteria of a “complete game”, meaning 4 1/2 complete innings if the home team is winning or 5 complete innings if the home team is trailing.

Section III – Balls

1. One new game ball per doubleheader.
2. The team at bat is responsible for recovering all home run balls and foul balls.
3. New and used balls will be provided by the league.

Section IV – Bats

1. The ASA banned bat list will be used for all league play. It will be posted and updated throughout the season at the diamonds.
2. If a player is found using a banned bat, the player is out and disqualified for the remainder of the game. If the same bat is found in the game a second time, it will result in a forfeit.
3. **RULE CHANGE:** Cone or flare grips are now allowed on the handle by the knob.

Section V – Playing League Rules

1. 1 and 1 count with no courtesy foul.

2. Cannot start a new inning after 55 minutes.
3. Run Rule: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 10 after 5 innings.
4. No metal spikes.
5. **NO STEALS** for all league play.
6. **ASA NEW PITCHING HEIGHT** 6-10 feet from the ground.
7. Home Run Limits: All Coed and Rec – 2, Lower – 3, Upper – 4. Do not have to run out home runs.
8. A courtesy runner may be used once an inning. It must be the last out, or if the last out is on base, at bat, or on deck then go to the next previous out, which could be from the previous inning. If in the first inning, the person farthest from the batter in the line up can be used.
9. Can bat from 9 to 12 players. However, when team bats 9 they will take an out in the 10th spot.
10. **BLOOD RULE:** A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from taking part in the game until the bleeding is stopped and dressed. Also, clothing with blood shall be changed. If this can be done in a reasonable amount of time, the player will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. If the player cannot return in a reasonable amount of time, shorthanded rules still apply. An extra courtesy runner may be used for the blood rule if the team has already used their courtesy runner for that inning.
11. **DRESS CODE:** Uniform is recommended but not mandatory. **Hats shall not be worn backward. No bandanas.**

Section VI – Field Rules

1. Only players, coaches, and scorekeeper are allowed in the dugout or on the playing field. **No children in the dugout or on the field at any time.**
2. When at bat, only first and third base coaches, base runners, the on deck batter, and batter are allowed on the field.
3. No alcohol in the park. Any individual considered under the influence of alcohol (inebriated), shall be ejected from the game immediately and asked to leave. Any spectator under the influence of alcohol shall be removed from the park.
4. **No smoking on the field or in the dugout.**
5. Pets must be on a leash at all times.

Section VII – Discipline

1. The manager or team captain is the only player with the privilege to address or question an umpire on judgment or rule interpretation.
2. The softball director or umpire has the power to eject any player, coach, or spectator from the game, bleachers, or park if necessary.
3. Taunting will not be tolerated. No warning, immediate ejection.
4. Fighting will not be tolerated. Any coach or player involved in a fight will be immediately suspended from the league indefinitely. Two fighting incidents by one team in a season will necessitate the suspension of the entire team from the league indefinitely. Any incident where players leave their positions or come off the bench onto the field of play to confront a player(s) can result in a double forfeit and indefinite suspension of the players involved from the league.
5. Threatening or physical contact with a player, umpire, or league official will not be tolerated. Indefinite suspension from league and possible ASA suspension.
6. Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game will be suspended from the next game. Two ejections by the same player, coach, or manager will result in suspension for the remainder of the season including tournament.
7. **PROFANITY RULE:** Profanity directed at an umpire will result in an ejection. Profanity not directed at anyone but loud enough so both benches and the stands can hear it will result in an extra out added if the team of the individual is at bat, or if the individual is on defense then his team will start with an out when they come to bat the next inning.

Section VIII – Additional Information

1. Except as previously outlined, all ASA guidelines and rules will be followed.
2. The Park Department reserves the right to adjust league rules as it deems necessary for league operation.