

SPORTS LEAGUE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
Men's 12" & 16" Softball Rules



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1. A “strike mat” will be used to determine sure strikes, if the softball touches any part of the mat on a legal pitch (6'-12' arc), it will be considered a strike. Pitches touching any part of the plate **WILL BE** considered a strike as well (Because of the small size of the strike mat and the difficulty of pitching, the CSSC has increased the strike zone to include the plate to promote teams to swing more and give pitchers a larger target.) An umpire will determine all balls and strikes. All judgement decisions are final. Any excessive disagreements will result in an ejection from the game and/or league if deemed necessary by CSSC staff. A legal pitch must have an arc of (6'-12'). Any pitch that is not deemed legal will be an automatic ball. ****IMPORANT DISTINCTION**** The strike mat is only used for calling balls and strikes. The strike mat is not home plate. Therefore, when a runner is trying to score, he or she must touch home plate in order to score. If he/she touches the strike mat and not home plate, and then is tagged, the runner will be tagged.
2. All batters will start with a one ball, one strike count.
3. A batter with two strikes is allowed one foul ball. Two fouls with two strikes, the batter is out.
4. All games are seven innings or one hour (warm up time included); the last inning will start 10 - 15 minutes to the hour. The ump will enforce this rule and will make the call at the top of the final inning. If a game is tied at the end of 7 innings, extra innings will be played only if there is time. If there is not time (at least 10 minutes left in the hour), the game will end in a tie. Note: Due to differing circumstances in each and every game, some games will finish short on an hour in length, while others might run over the hour mark. Please respect your ump's call in this matter. He/she must keep all games on time in fairness to teams playing later hours and due to facility permit restrictions.
5. 10 players in the field at all time. CSSC rules will allow a team to play with a minimum of 8 players. If a team has less than the minimum required number of players it is up to the opponent and/or umpire as to what is allowable.
6. Teams may bat more than ten players. Prior to game time, ask your ump for a scoresheet. Line-ups must be given to the ump for every game.
7. All players in the field must be listed in the batting order. There are no designated hitters allowed. Any attempt at doing so must be brought to the attention of the umpire prior to game time and can only be deemed allowable by the opposing captain.

8. **Game mercy rule: 10 runs up after five complete innings (home team always gets their final at bats when the last inning has been called).**
9. **NEW RULE ***Inning run limit rule: There will be a 7 run limit per inning during innings 1-4. (Exception: unlimited runs may be scored if one of the innings 1-4 is declared the final inning of the game.) Unlimited runs may be scored in innings 5,6,and 7 and in all extra innings.**
10. **No leadoffs or stealing, runners can leave the base once the ball crosses the plane of the plate or is hit by the batter. If a runner leaves early, the ball is dead and the runner is declared out. If this is the 3rd out of the inning the batter will be first up in the next inning.**
11. **Games start on time!!! Teams must be prepared to play.
Forfeit rule: 10 minutes after game time. If one team has less than the minimum number of players (8 total) at ten past the designated start time, the team that is short players will forfeit. If however, the opposing team wishes to allow the team to play with less than the minimum amount of required players, the game may be played as an official game. The umpire must be notified by the opposing team that they would like the game to be played as an official game.**
12. **Base runner to defensive player contact will be closely watched by the ump.
Any excessive contact or collision will result in an “out” and/or ejection. This includes contact with the catcher. Sliding is allowed. Any sliding into a base to break up a double play, or any intentional (in the eyes of the monitor) interference with the defensive player, the runner and the batter will be called out.**
13. **NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED.**
14. **A foul ball above the batter’s head may be caught for an out.**
15. **All thrown balls are deemed out of play when:**
 - **The ball is thrown over the fence**
 - **The ball is thrown beyond the fence**
 - **The ball is thrown beyond the imaginary line extending from the end of the backstop (if there is no fence).**
 - **This imaginary line applies to overthrows and caught fly foul balls.**
 - **If the ball is overthrown and hits the fence behind the 1st or 3rd base lines but does not travel out of play, this is NOT considered out of play and the runner may advance, BUT at his/her own risk.**
 - **On overthrows out of play, the runner is granted the base he/she is going to (at the point of the throw) plus one more base. Note: in cases where a base runner runs past first base, he/she must make a clearly aggressive turn towards second base to be granted 2nd and 3rd in overthrow situations.**
16. **On an infield fly (any fly ball within the infield with significant arc and deemed an “easy catch”) with less than 2 outs and runners on 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the batter is automatically out and runners can advance, BUT at their own risk**

17. 5 innings will be considered a complete game. The home team will always be allowed their final at bat in order for it to be considered complete. (Example: The Home team is leading after six innings, and the game is called in the seventh with the visiting team batting and taking the lead. With the game being called we would revert to what the result was after the last completed inning after five, which would be the score after six and thus the Home team would win). **EXCEPTION:** During the playoffs if a game is called due to lights/darkness we may pick it up where it left off and resume the following week (Consult CSSC office for ruling).
18. If a game is called due to weather, and less than 5 innings have been played, the game will be restarted from the beginning.
19. If a game is called due to darkness, and less than 5 innings have been played the game will resume from the exact point at which it was stopped. i.e. same count, same batter, same base running situation
20. The Chicago Sport and Social Club reserves the right to change or modify these procedures on a case by case basis, if necessary.

LEAGUE POLICIES

GAMES:

During the regular season games are to be played within time allotted (warm up time is included).

UMPS:

An umpire will be provided by the Sport & Social Clubs to supervise the game. It will be the umpire's responsibility to coordinate and run the games, which include the following tasks:

- Starting games on time.
- Calling balls/strikes and keeping the count
- Calling outs, making final calls on any disputed balls or strikes.
- Settling all disputes or disputed calls.

It is understood that umps will assist in the tracking of the score (i.e. Announcing it between innings) and assist in any discrepancies with regards to the coed line-up ratios. However, it is the responsibility of both teams to maintain their respective line-ups and scores each inning.

BAT POLICY:

Due to safety concerns, the Chicago Sport and Social Club have implanted a bat policy for 12" softball only. Participants are still allowed to use any softball bat for 16" softball leagues. All bats for 12" softball **MUST** contain the ASA Certification stamp. Bats that do not contain this stamp are ineligible for use in the CSSC 12" softball leagues. In addition to that, there are some additional bats that have certification marks but are not approved for use in our leagues. An online guide to these bats is located at:

http://www.asasoftball.com/about/build_batlist_one_page.asp

FORFEITS:

If your team forfeits a game during the season, the following rules apply:

First Offense: Loss of game.

Second Offense: Loss of game and staff reserves the right to remove team from playoffs.

Third Offense: Removal from the league.

Any team that forfeits more than once also forfeits any guarantee or right to a certain number of guaranteed games.

If you know in advance that your team is going to forfeit a game, we encourage you to call our office, at 312.850.8196, so as to help us schedule your opponent a game.

Teams have until **ten** minutes past the designated start time to field a full squad (minimum numbers of players required to play according to the rules). Refer to rules regarding guy/girl batting ratio. Anything less than the minimum must be approved by the staff and opposing team.

STANDINGS:

The updated standings will be posted weekly, displaying each teams rank within its skill level. Rank is based on winning percentage.

PLAYOFFS:

Playoffs will begin immediately following the end of the regular season and will typically last between 2 and 3 weeks. After teams have been seeded according to their records all captains will receive an email or call with the 1st week of playoff game times roughly 3 days before their league. **Teams will not receive a call for any other weeks of playoffs!** It is **ALL TEAM'S** responsibility to check the playoff brackets at the league to find out what time they will be playing the following week if they win. In playoffs it is not uncommon, (and in some cases will be necessary), for teams to have more than one game in a given night. No non-roster players will be allowed during playoffs. All players must have signed the waiver or be on the roster by the second week of the season in order to be eligible for playoffs. All eligible teams will make the playoffs. Playoff eligible teams will be determined on a league by league basis. Teams that have violated the forfeit policy during the course of regular season will not be eligible for playoffs. In certain situations teams at or near the bottom of the standings may not advance to the playoffs. Check with CSSC league coordinator to see if this applies to your league. Playoffs are single elimination.

Seeding: Teams are seeded according to winning percentage, point differential and various other criteria. Teams may be dropped from their regular season level based on the above criteria. Teams may play more than one game per day/night, and/or play games on days/nights other than your regularly scheduled league day/night if necessary. CSSC reserves the right to schedule playoff games on days other than teams regularly scheduled league night.

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WAIVERS:

In order to participate in the league, each participant must sign the team waiver. Waivers are provided and must be completed and handed in no later than the first night of play. Players not present the first week of play will still be required to sign a waiver with our staff before participating.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

Any protest made during a game or after a game will NOT be considered a formal protest. A formal protest may be filed before a game if an opposing player's eligibility is in question. The player in question will be required to provide his player information (name, address, phone #, signature) in writing to a CSSC staff member prior to the start of the game. This qualifies as an official protest. The game will then be played in its entirety as scheduled. Teams will be notified of all rulings on the identified eligibility discrepancy by the following business day – decisions will not be made on site. If the protest is proven to be legitimate, it will result in the forfeiture of the game in question. Games subsequent to the protested game may be rescheduled.

The above procedure will also apply for any other “logged” protests. All rulings by CSSC staff are considered final.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

The purpose of Chicago Sport and Social Club is to have fun. We hope that all participants keep that in mind when becoming involved. Although the games may become intense, you still can be competitive while maintaining good sportsmanship. With this said, any behavior deemed unacceptable by staff may result in suspension and/or ejection from a game or the league.

STAFF:

To coordinate and run the league, the umpires and/or staff will be available at all times to help the league run as smoothly as possible. If you have questions regarding schedules, policies, rule interpretations, directions to the bar, etc. please ask.

LEAGUE CANCELLATION/RAINOUT:

Please call our weather hotline for the most up to date information on any cancellations (312.773.7100)

Leagues may be cancelled due to existing weather conditions, dangerous or unplayable field conditions, facility constraints, etc. CSSC staff

makes every effort to play all scheduled games, thus we will not cancel games until absolutely necessary. Therefore, if you are calling concerning a decision on a cancellation, remember we will not have an answer until close to the start of the league.

If the league is cancelled, CSSC staff will change the voicemail immediately. CSSC will then call all of the captains. If a league is cancelled on site, CSSC staff will attempt to contact those teams still scheduled to play the remainder of the league day/night. Depending on the time of cancellation, some teams will have to be notified on site. If we do cancel, follow next week's schedule (ex. If April 13 is cancelled teams should follow the April 20 schedule for their next game). The games that are cancelled will be made up at the end of the season if time allows. In extreme circumstances, CSSC reserves the right to run a shortened season without a refund or schedule matches on days and/or locations other than our regularly scheduled league day/night/location.

PRIZES/ JERSEYS:

Each team will receive a pre-bundled set of colored jerseys with various sizes at the first night of the league. Additional shirts and sizes can be purchased from the CSSC for an additional charge. The top teams in each division will receive a prize of great emotional, spiritual, and most importantly, social value.

These policies are designed to make the league run as smoothly and safely as possible, and provide continuity for its participants. Each player in the league is responsible for this information: please advise your team of these rules and thanks for playing.