

Sublette County Softball League

~ Rules ~

ELIGIBILITY:

*Men and women, 17 years or older (by June 1st), that live in Sublette County (temporarily or permanently). **No exceptions** will be made for children under the age of 17.

PLAYERS:

A minimum of 10 players shall constitute a team, and we ask that you try to limit your team to 16 players. In the event that a team shows up for play with **fewer than the minimum** number of players, it may be decided between captains whether or not the game shall be played.

10 players are the max on the field in any given inning, consisting of no more than 5 women and no more than 5 men. If a team is short a man or woman they will take an out for that position when that individual would come up in the lineup.

Each team shall designate a Captain, who will act as the manager of their team and interact with umpires on matters of interpretation or to obtain essential information.

*Players can only play for one team, except in circumstances where a team is short of players and it is agreed upon by both Captains. Repeated shortage of players will not be accepted. Teams advancing to the tournament will advance only with players on their season roster. Should replacement players be needed to advance, it must be cleared with the league prior to the tournament.

EQUIPMENT:

Games will be played with **GOLD DOT BALLS ONLY**. These are the same balls that were used last year.

EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY THE LEAGUE, with the exception of game balls. Each game shall be allowed 2 game balls, which must be returned to the umpire or league representative at the end of each game. Game balls will be restricted to flight gold dot men's softballs.

Metal or screw-in cleats of any kind are **PROHIBITED**. Players will not be permitted to play in their bare feet.

CORKED BATS ARE PROHIBITED. The limit on bats is a 1.2 BPF and a –8 differential. The differential is calculated from the difference between the weight of the bat and the length of the bat.

INNINGS AND TIME FACTORS:

A game shall consist of 7 innings or a 60 minute time limit, whichever comes first, however, no new inning shall begin after the 55 minute mark.

To begin the game, a coin toss will decide first or last at bat.

***THERE IS FREE SUBSTITUTION.** A team in the field (but not the team at bat) may substitute a player at any time, as long as at least 5 women and 5 men remain in the field and lineup.

*Each player will start with 1 ball and 1 strike.

PITCHING:

The pitcher must keep at least one foot on the pitchers plate before the ball is released.

The ball must be pitched underhand, NO WINDMILL, NO FAST PITCH, this will result in a ball.

The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 6 FEET from the ground, while not exceeding a MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 12 FEET from the ground.

The pitcher shall not attempt a quick return of the ball before the batter has taken his position or when the batter is off balance as a result of a previous pitch.

A black strike mat shall be placed directly behind the home plate. Any legally delivered pitch that makes contact with the strike mat will be called a strike. Any pitch which makes contact with both the strike mat and home plate simultaneously shall be called a strike. Any pitch which makes contact with home plate only shall be called a ball.

In the event that a MALE BATTER IS WALKED, whether intentionally or not, the SUBSEQUENT FEMALE BATTER MAY ALSO TAKE FIRST BASE as if she had been walked as well (the purpose of this rule is to avoid intentional walking of strong batters).

BATTING:

*The batter must remain in a reasonable imaginary batter's box. If the batter steps a full foot outside the box or on home plate during the act of batting (time the pitcher releases the ball to the time the bat connects with the ball) the batter will be called out.

A ball that is hit by the batter and strikes home plate(not the black mat) is in fair territory and shall be treated as a live ball.

The batting order must alternate between women and men throughout the entire order. A team shall bat the 10 players that played the field that inning and substitute in the batting order as they substituted on the field. If the team is short 10 players, they will take an out in the lineup when that player is due up. A max of 5 women and a max of 5 men in the lineup.

NO BUNTING OR CHOPPING at the ball, this will result in an out.

NO THROWING THE BAT in a reckless manner, this will result in an out.

If a batter has reached 2 strikes and fouls twice, the 2nd foul ball will be an out.

INFIELD FLY RULE is a fair fly ball which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when there are 2 or 3 runners on base with less than two outs. This must be in a force situation meaning that the runners are either on 1st and 2nd, or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The batter is out and base runners do not have to but may advance. If the ball is caught the runners must tag up to advance like a regular fly ball that is caught.

Each team will be LIMITED TO THREE OUT OF PARK HOME RUNS PER GAME.
Any additional out of park homeruns will be considered an out.

BASE RUNNING:

NO STEALING BASES, this will result in an out. The player shall not leave the bag till contact is made at the plate. An overthrow by the catcher to the pitcher is considered a dead ball and runners may not advance. Only after the batter makes contact with the ball are the runners on base allowed to advance.

SLIDING IS ALLOWED, granted the runner does not "take out" the fielder. NO "BOWLING OVER" shall be permitted, this will result in an out, and a possible expulsion from the game.

The ball is dead when overthrown out of play. If it occurs on the first throw from an infielder, base runners are awarded two bases beyond the base they legally occupied at the time of the pitch. If the overthrow occurs during subsequent action, or by an

outfielder, base runners are awarded two bases beyond the base they legally occupied at the time the throw was made.

A runner that has come in contact with a ball hit by the batter before it is touched by a fielder is out unless the runner is standing on a base.

The fielder has the right-of-way. If the runner comes in contact with the fielder fielding a ball or intentionally interferes, the runner is out.

A pinch runner shall be allowed only if the batter is physically hurt or impaired but is able to make it safely to base after a successful at bat. **THE PINCH RUNNER MUST BE THE LAST BATTER WHO WAS OUT** and must be entered prior to the first pitch to the succeeding batter.

A runner crossing home plate **MUST TOUCH** home plate, not the black mat. They will not be considered safe till home plate is touched.

*In a tagging situation the runner must be tagged by the ball, whether in the glove or bare hand.

*During a pop-fly any runners must reestablish contact with their current base before proceeding to the next base. Until contact is reestablished the runner can be tagged out or forced (thrown) out by the defending team on that base.

APPEAL PLAYS:

There are three major appeal plays:

Missing a base
Not tagging on a fly ball
Batting out of order

AN APPEAL MUST BE MADE BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH, otherwise, the appeal will not be considered.

MISCELLANEOUS:

A game ending in a tie shall only go into extra innings if time allows and Captains agree, otherwise, the tie stands.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS VITAL to the league and is expected from all participants. A team is responsible for the actions of individual team members and spectators before, during and after the game.

Team members and spectators must remain behind the imaginary line of the backstop extended (this is considered out of play).

IRRESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT THE SOFTBALL FIELDS IS PROHIBITED. Any individual considered in violation of this rule may be asked to leave the premises by any umpire, league board member, captain of any team, or County or Town official. In addition, any team that has accrued two incidences of inappropriate alcohol consumption may be dismissed from further League participation, including future games and/or tournaments. Please keep in mind that the team is responsible for individual player conduct.

FORFEITED GAMES MAY NOT BE RESCHEDULED. As a courtesy to the opposing team, a team that knows before hand that they are going to forfeit may contact the opposing captain.

***UMPIRES HAVE THE SUPREME AUTHORITY.** Uncooperative players will not be tolerated and will be asked to leave or the team will forfeit.

***SCORE REPORTING.** Teams are required to report their scores regularly by emailing sublettesoftball@gmail.com. Scores will be cross-referenced with other teams reported scores. These scores will be used to establish ranking and will determine which teams will advance to the tournament. In the event of a tie (for place rank (i.e. 7th)) the number of runs for the season will be used to establish the winner.