



CITY OF FRESNO
PARKS, AFTER SCHOOL, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
ADULT SPORTS SECTION

MEN'S SLOW PITCH RULES

Revised: 2017

PLAY REGULATIONS:

Rules not specifically mentioned will be governed by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules.

Rule 3 Section 3E [3]: EFFECTIVE 2014: The 52/300 12 inch ball will be the only 12" ball allowed in Men's Adult Slow Pitch, Men's Co-ed, Men's Master's Slow Pitch and Junior Olympic Boys Slow Pitch, with the exception of Seniors. Balls must be yellow in color except during the month of October where they may be pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness.

Removes the 44/375 12" ball as an approved ball for all Men's Adult Slow Pitch, Men's Co-ed, Men's Master's Slow Pitch and Junior Olympic Boys Slow Pitch Championship Play beginning January 1, 2014.

1. Alcoholic Beverages – City of Fresno does not allow alcoholic beverages on any City of Fresno Park. Consumption of alcohol on the premises will result in removal from the park and the City of Fresno Adult Sports Leagues for one year.
2. Once schedules are made, **NO REFUNDS** are allowed.
3. Game time is forfeit time! **Exception:** First game has a ten (10) minute grace period. The first week of the season all games have a ten (10) minute grace period (game time will be deducted from the grace period.)
4. Length of game is seven (7) innings or fifty-five (55) minutes. No new innings after 50 minutes. **NO TIEBREAKERS.**
5. Game must start at the scheduled game time; therefore, **the line-up** must be given to the umpire on the scorecard before game time with **first and last names** of players appearing on the scorecard. Each team must have 8 players to constitute an official game, 10 players standard.
6. Metal spike shoes are not allowed in the City of Fresno softball program.
7. A base runner cannot leave the base until the batter has swung or made contact with the ball and he/she is not out.
****Step off Rule:** For safety purposes, if you choose to step off first or third you must request permission from the umpire
8. All batters will start with a (1) ball (1) strike count with none to waste.
9. MSP / WSP Run Rule (Mercy Rule) - 15-run lead after five (5) innings.
10. All players must remain in the dugout or behind the playing line excluding the on deck batter.
11. All players must bat in rotation, regardless if they are not playing in the field. Player rotation must be determined at the beginning of the game and the official must be notified.
12. Any player not able to take his / her turn at bat when it comes up will be ruled automatically out. The loss of a player due to injury will only result in an out every time that player comes up to bat.
13. No bunting, chopping or half swinging at the ball. Batter will be ruled out at the umpire's discretion.
14. A foul tip that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catchers hand(s) or glove is an out.
15. A team may use (1) courtesy runner per gender per inning. Any player that is listed on the line up may run at any bag.
16. A defensive player **may not block** a base in attempting to prevent a runner from getting to that base. **Effect:** The runner will be declared safe. Runner may be ejected at the discretion of the umpire.

17. Female players **are** allowed to play in any Men's Slow Pitch League. **No men** allowed in Women's Slow Pitch League.
18. Pitching: A.S.A. style only. No U.S.S.S.A. pitching techniques will be allowed.
19. A strike: a pitched ball between 6' ft & 10' ft. that hits the plate or mat.
20. **Home Run Rules:**
 - Men's / Women's High Divisions – 5 home run limit per team, then 1 up.**
 - Men's / women's Middle Divisions – 3 home runs per team, then 1 up.**
 - Men's / Women's Lower Divisions – 2 home run limit.**
21. **ASA / NSA Banned Bat list will be enforced.**

Article 510 N. 06 of the 2006 ASA Code, any player discovered using an altered bat, including a doctored bat or a bat with additional weight shall be called out and disqualified from further City of Fresno league play and ASA Tournaments from one to ten years. City of Fresno/ASA shall have the right to take possession of a bat that is, in the sole discretion of the City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services Department reasonably suspected to be an altered bat. In the event the suspected altered bat is tested and determined to be an altered bat, then the player shall surrender ownership of the altered bat to City of Fresno/ASA; otherwise a bat of equal or greater value, in the sole discretion of City of Fresno/ASA, shall be returned to the player. A team that is discovered using or have within its possession or control an altered bat may be disqualified from further league play or tournament competition.
22. Rough play, cursing, and/or verbal abuse toward any player or official will be handled in accordance to the Code of Conduct.
23. Safety bags at first base will be provided.
24. Any male players arriving after the start of the game may be substituted for one equal (male for male) player in the original line-up if it does not violate the ratio of men.
25. Athletic footwear is required of all participants. Rubber cleats or turf cleats are allowed.
NO METAL SPIKES, NO TRACK OR FOOTBALL CLEATS ALLOWED.
26. League Teams will be placed in a league in as fair a manner as possible. Ability level, past performance, and special requests will all be taken into consideration but not guaranteed. The City of Fresno PARCS department reserves the right to move any team up or down a division to create a level playing field.
27. A league game ending in a tie will be recorded as tie. A point system will be used to determine standings as follows:
 1. Overall record based on points (win= 2 pts / tie= 1 pt. / loss= 0 pts.)
 2. Head to Head
 3. Victory margin over head to head opponent, if team split season series
 4. Fewest runs allowed over season
 5. Coin flip
28. A runner **may not run over** a defensive player in order to avoid a tag.
Effect: The runner will be declared out.
Note: Runner may be ejected, at the discretion of the umpire.
29. Once a player is on a team roster, he/she may not switch and play for another team. If the player quits, he/she is ineligible to play in the same division of play.
30. Four (4) complete innings constitute a game when called because of rain, darkness or inclement weather. Games stopped by the time limit shall be considered complete regardless of the number of innings played.
31. **Each team shall furnish the umpire with a new ASA / NSA approved ball.**
(Men's league = 12in ball / Women's league = 11in. ball)

32. **WOMEN'S DIVISION: Any .40, .44core ASA / NSA stamped ball will be allowed. The ball compression cannot exceed the 375lbs - 400lbs max.** Best ball available shall be used at all times at the umpire's discretion. No game shall start until each team has furnished the umpire with a new ball. If a new ball is not furnished to the umpire by game time, the game shall be forfeited to the opposing team. The umpire has discretion to negotiate a mutual agreement between the coaches.
33. **MEN'S DIVISION: Any ASA Stamped .52core / 300 lbs compression ball will be allowed.**

PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

Team players are those persons who sign the original team contract.

1. All players must sign the original team roster/waiver. A manager or other person shall not sign a team contract for another person. The penalty for signing another person's name on a contract is a one (1) year suspension. The person who signs another person's name on a contract is held liable in case of injury to the person whose name was signed.
2. An Add/Drop Form must be filed in the Sports Office for any additions or deletions of player(s) to the original team roster/waiver. Forms will be accepted up to the 5th game.
3. A player may play on more than one team per night **PROVIDED** the team he/she plays for is not in the same league. Participants who are accused of being illegal or ineligible must provide proof of identification to the Sports Supervisor, via a pictured identification, or the game could be forfeited. Acceptable "picture identification" will consist of the following documents:
 - Department of Motor Vehicles Driver's License or ID
 - Student Body Card
 - Passport or any notarized Identification
4. A player must be 18 years of age or over to be eligible to participate with adult team. Any player under the age of 18 will be required to have a City of Fresno photo I.D.
Absolutely NO players under the age of 16 years old – NO EXCEPTIONS
5. Any player who is listed as a member of a team that is dropped or officially disbanded will be considered automatically released.
 - A. Automatically released players are eligible to play on another team after signing a team roster/waiver with the new team, provided that the team falls below the minimum, and at least one half (½) of the season is still remaining. Approval must be given by the Sports Supervisor for any players to be allowed to play on any other established team.
6. Any player who is on the roster of a college, junior college, high school or junior high school squad and is competing under C.I.F. rules and regulations is ineligible to compete in the City Athletic Leagues until completion of their school's current league schedule. Player's name must appear on the official team roster/waive contract prior to deadline. The league in which player wishes to participate in will be determined by the team with whom the player signed his/her team roster/waiver. A written letter is required from the school to release said player to participate. Player must then sign the official team roster/waiver before legal to play.
7. Any player who is called into the Armed Forces of the United States may be replaced immediately upon authorization of the Adult Sports Supervisor. The replacement will be eligible to compete upon the date of signing a team contract. Any player returning from the Armed Forces of the United States shall be eligible to compete in the City League upon written request and subsequent approval of the request by the Adult Sports Supervisor. A signed team roster/waiver must also be filed in the Sports Office. Induction papers and/or discharge papers will be required before final approval.

PROTESTS

The Adult Sports Supervisor shall not be bound by any verbal agreement made between managers or players.

- A. The protest **must be recorded on the scorecard** at the time of the protest and **signed** by the protesting manager, the opposing team manager and the game official(s) before play resumes. If opposing team manager chooses not to sign, the official(s) should note that on the scorecard.

SIGNING THE SCORECARD IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.

- B. All rule protests must be in writing and filed in the Sports Office by 5:00 p.m. the next working day following the disputed game. Failure to do so will eliminate all consideration of the rule protest.

1. **ALL ILLEGAL PLAYER PROTESTS** must be made verbally to the official(s) during the game.

- A. The protest must be recorded on the scorecard at the time of the protest and signed by the protesting manager, the opposing team manager and the game official(s) before the game resumes. If opposing team manager chooses not to sign, the official(s) should so note that on the scorecard.

SIGNING THE SCORECARD IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.

- B. All illegal player protests must be made in writing and filed in the Sports Office by 5:00 p.m. of the next working day following the disputed game. Failure to do so will eliminate all consideration of the rule protest.
- C. During league play, if an illegal player is identified by the Recreation Staff or Adult Sports Supervisor, corrective action may be taken up to and including one (1) business day after that league's last official game.
- D. Anytime a player and/or manager, coach, etc. is found playing illegally in the program, he/she will be dealt with individually by the "Code of Conduct" rules.

Dead time during a protest is an official time-out. That time will be added at the end of the game.

APPEAL PROCESS

1. Only individuals directly involved in the infraction, or their authorized representative, may address the Adult Sports Supervisor.
2. The Adult Sports Supervisor shall be the final authority in interpretation of all rules and in determining, any points not satisfactorily covered in the rules.
3. The Adult Sports Supervisor considers all advice, suggestions and recommendations in making its final decisions. These decisions shall be final and not subject to appeal.
4. To find the status of an appeal the team manager may contact the Sports Office the next business day.

AGREEMENTS

Upon filing the official team roster/waiver and reviewing the Code of Conduct for participation in the City of Fresno Sports Program, the manager agrees that he/she has read all of the rules regulations and further agrees that he/she will conduct himself/herself and control his/her team in accordance with all policies, rules and regulations of the City of Fresno Department of Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services and Fresno Unified School District.

RAINY OR BAD WEATHER PROCEDURE

On the day(s) in question, **only the manager/coach** will call the Weather Hotline at 621-6725 after 3:00 p.m. for the following information:

1. Fields not playable.
2. Leagues affected by the weather.
3. If games will be rescheduled in the near future.
4. Additional information needed to maintain the best play for all concerned.

EJECTION – NO SUBSTITUTE AVAILABLE

Umpire's discretion – either ball game will be forfeited, or "out" recorded in vacant spot.