

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Athletics Division

SOFTBALL RULEBOOK *For Adult Leagues*

Neither the whole nor any part of this publication may be copied or reproduced and/or translated without first obtaining express written permission from the Supervisor of CRC Athletics.

Published by the . . .

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Athletics Division

Two Centennial Plaza
805 Central Avenue, Suite 800
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1947

To Contact The CRC Athletics Division . . .

CRC Athletics Division (513) 352-4020

CRC Fax (513) 352-1605

CRC Program Cancellation (513) 684-4908 or (513) 684-4915

CRC Score Hotline (513) 352-1620

CRC Athletics Web Site www.cincyrec.org

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Cincinnati Recreation Commission Board Members

Rev. Kazava Smith, President

Dawn Denno, Vice President

Roscoe Fultz, Member

Stephen MacConnell, Member

Chris Nelms, Member

Christopher Bigham, Director of Recreation

Stephen Pacella, Superintendent

Michael Thomas, Superintendent

Doug Carlisle, Athletics and Special Services Supervisor

Mandy Bello, Adult Sports Coordinator

Jamie Lambert, Softball Secretary

EQUAL ACCESS IS FOR EVERYONE. All Cincinnati Recreation Commission programs and facilities are open to all citizens regardless of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or disability. CRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

*is dedicated to providing recreational and cultural activities for
all people in our neighborhoods and the whole community.
We believe that by enhancing people's personal health and wellness,
we strengthen and enrich the lives of our citizens
and build a spirit of community in our City.*

Forward – The Athletics Division of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission has prepared this rulebook to clarify the governing rules and procedures for the softball season. Please read carefully those sections applicable to your league.

The CRC Adult Athletics Supervisor is responsible for the organization and control of the Adult Softball Program. That person will enforce all rules set forth and will expect managers and team members to follow procedures as outlined in this rulebook. All league decisions and rule interpretations by the Adult Athletics Supervisor and/or the CRC Softball Advisory Council are final.

Injury Prevention

All participants must be aware that some risks are involved when actively participating in a physical program. If you are pregnant, handicapped or not positive you are physically fit to participate in an active sport, please consult your physician.

A player/substitute, manager, coach, trainer or other team member who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until the bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered. If treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is at the discretion of the umpire. If excessive time is involved, the re-entry rule would apply to players. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform or if a bandage becomes blood soaked, in the judgment of the umpire, the uniform/bandage must be changed before the individual may participate.

Priority Registration

Priority registration is determined year to year by the manager of the team regardless of the sponsor or players! The manager is the key in all of our programs.

Considerations for a team being a priority team are:

1. If the team splits and several players form a new team. The original manager has priority as the old team; the players who formed the second team become a new team.
2. If a team splits and several players and the sponsor form a team, that team is a new team; the original manager has priority as the old team.
3. If the manager leaves the sport, the alternate will assume the position of the old team and have priority in registration.
4. If the old manager leaves the sport and there is no alternate or the alternate also quits, the first person who registers the team name becomes the old team and will have priority in registration. Any and all other managers of players will enter teams as new teams.

Registration Fees

Entry Fee: Payable to CRC – Athletics and due at the time of registration.
\$300.00 Twilight Leagues (no lights used) 8 game season
\$360.00 Twilight Leagues (no lights used) 10 game season
\$430.00 Twilight Leagues (no lights used) 12 game season
\$365.00 Lighted Leagues 8 game season
Includes: USSSA registration, score book, rulebook, umpire fees, game balls and bases.

Refunds: Teams withdrawing prior to completion of league schedules will be assessed a \$25.00 service charge for clerical & material fees. Teams withdrawing after completion of schedules will be assessed a \$50.00 service charge plus a prorated game fee (if necessary). Teams withdrawing after the second scheduled game will receive no refund.

Summer & Fall Softball Leagues - Registration will continue until all leagues are filled. See our website for dates. www.cincyrec.org

ORDER OF RULES

SECTION ONE – LEAGUE ORGANIZATION PAGE

Rule	#1.1	Division Structure
	#1.2	Manager's Responsibilities
	#1.3	Roster
	#1.4	Roster Violations
	#1.5	Players Changing Teams
	#1.6	League Schedule and Tournaments
	#1.7	Rescheduled Games
	#1.8	Awards
	#1.9	Forfeitures

SECTION TWO – GAME SITUATIONS

Rule	#2.1	Governing Rules
	#2.2	Team Responsibilities
	#2.3	Required Number of Players
	#2.4	Additional Hitter
	#2.5	Scheduled Game Times
	#2.6	Field Rules
	#2.7	Regulation Game
	#2.8	Official Game
	#2.9	Unofficial Game
	#2.10	Cancellation/Games Information Numbers
	#2.11	Umpires
	#2.12	Second Strike Rule
	#2.13	Softballs
	#2.14	Conduct
	#2.15	Alcohol
	#2.16	Accident Report
	#2.17	Metal Spikes
	#2.18	Sliding Base Rule
	#2.19	Field Conditions
	#2.20	Excessive Roughness Rule

SECTION THREE – PROTESTS

Rule	#3.1	Player Protests
	#3.2	Game Protest

SECTION FOUR – WOMEN'S LEAGUES

Rule	#4.1	Women's Divisional Structure
	#4.2	Penalty for Ineligible Players
	#4.3	Schedule Revisions
	#4.4	USSSA Tournament Berths

SECTION FIVE – CO-REC LEAGUES

Rule	#5.1	Co-Rec Divisional Structure
	#5.2	Required Number & Position of Players
	#5.3	Excessive Roughness
	#5.4	Option to Take Base or Bat
	#5.5	League Participation
	#5.6	Schedule Revisions
	#5.7	USSSA Tournament Berths

SECTION SIX – MEN'S LEAGUES

Rule	#6.1	Men's Divisional Structure
	#6.2	Division Requirements
	#6.3	Other League or Tournament Schedules
	#6.4	Schedule Revisions
	#6.5	USSSA Tournament Berths

SECTION ONE – LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

Rule#1.1 – Divisional Structure

Specific requirements have been developed for player participation in the different divisions of the Women's, Co-Rec and Men's Adult Softball Programs. These requirements are set forth in Sections Four, Five and Six, respectively. Each manager must carefully read the appropriate section prior to the first game.

Rule #1.2 – Manager's Responsibilities

The manager is the primary communication link between his/her team and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's Adult Athletic Supervisor. It is the manager's responsibility to take the initiative to clarify information about the operation of the league. In addition, the manager must:

- A. Read the CRC Softball Rulebook prior to the first game.
- B. Ascertain the eligibility of each player (managers of women's teams should refer to rule #4.2, Co-Rec teams to rule #5.2 and men's teams to rule #6.1).
- C. Obtain league information (deadline, rainout schedule, tournaments, etc.).
- D. Submit league paperwork accurately and on time as outlined in the league rules.
- E. Retain a copy of the team roster (see rule #1.3A), youth contracts (see rule #1.3D). Player addition/release forms may be obtained on request from CRC (see rule #1.3F).
- F. Educate team members and spectators of CRC Softball rules and see to it that they abide by them. By entering a team into this league, the manager accepts the responsibility of the actions of his/her players and spectators before, during and after the game. Bring a copy of the USSSA Softball Rule book and the league schedule to every game. If a league rule is questioned, the umpire must be shown the rule or he/she will not be responsible for enforcing that rule. If, after being shown the rule, the umpire still refuses to enforce it, the manager should lodge a game protest and in addition should file an official complaint with the Adult Athletics Supervisor.
- G. Inform the Adult Athletics Supervisor of changes in his/her address and telephone number.
- H. **Inform all players that they MUST have a picture ID at every game and that players are playing at their own risk.**

Rule #1.3 – ROSTERS

- A. Each team manager must complete one roster form for each team entered in the CRC Adult Softball Program. All rosters must be on file at the CRC Athletics Office prior to the first played game. A roster will not be considered valid unless it is filled out completely and correctly. **Managers must sign and date the roster.** No previous year's rosters will be accepted in any form. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS IN THIS MATTER.** Faxed rosters will be accepted. It is strongly advised that you call the CRC Athletics Office to make sure your faxed roster has been received. We do not advise mailing them. In all cases of lost or undelivered mail, the proof of mailing rests with the team. Any team not having a roster on file in the CRC Athletics Office according to the specified deadline may forfeit each game and lose all previous points in the standings. Please refer to Rule #1.4.
- B. Each manager must ascertain the eligibility of each player signing the roster. Players may play on only one team per league. Since leagues are offered for men and women, men must play in only men's leagues and women must play in only women's leagues.
- C. No player may participate in a game until all the forms required for that player, as stated in the league rules, are officially on file in the CRC Athletics Office.
- D. **Minimum age is 18 years as of the first played game.**
- E. Rosters are limited to a maximum of twenty-five (25) players
- F. Once the roster has been validated, a player addition/release form must be used for all other roster changes. No player can be added to a team's roster after the 6th played game.

Rule #1.4 – ROSTER VIOLATIONS

- A. Any Team not having a correct roster (at least nine players signed up on an official CRC roster form) on file in the CRC Athletics Office as indicated in rule #1.3 may automatically forfeit each game and all previous points in the standings if protested. These points will be deducted from the team's point total in the league standings at the end of the season.
- B. Any team with a roster violation, which has resulted from an ineligible player (rule #1.3), may forfeit that game. The win will be awarded to the opposing team.
- C. Any team playing a non-roster player who has been ejected from the game, will lose all previous games.

Rule #1.5 – PLAYERS CHANGING TEAMS

A player may release himself/herself from a team without the manager's signature if the following procedure is followed:

- A. The player should notify his/her manager.
- B. The player must bring a signed release form to the CRC Athletics Office for validation.
- C. If a player is on two team rosters within the same league, they will be considered a legal player for the team with the earliest validated roster. They will be considered an illegal player on the second team roster until the proper release form is filed in the CRC Athletics Office.

Rule #1.6 – LEAGUE SCHEDULE AND TOURNAMENTS

- A. Each team will be scheduled for eight (8), ten (10) or twelve (12) league games.
- B. Any post-season tournaments are not included in the league entry fee.

Rule #1.7 – RESCHEDULED GAMES

All games that have been rescheduled must be played on the new scheduled date and time. The Adult Athletics Supervisor will make the decision concerning final date of rescheduling games.

Rule #1.8 – AWARDS

First place winners of each league will receive a sponsor trophy and individual T-shirts. Team credits will also be offered at the following amounts: Individual T-shirts - \$50.00 / Sponsor trophy - \$25.00

Because of the volume of awards to be distributed, the Adult Athletics Supervisor will establish a mandatory pick-up date. Teams failing to pick up their awards will forfeit them. A maximum of eighteen (18) individual awards will be presented to the appropriate winning teams. Extra awards may be purchased through the CRC Athletics Office.

Ties will be broken at the end of the season in the following manner:

- 1. Head to head results
- 2. Runs allowed against all opponents. A forfeit is scored at the average runs allowed during the entire season.
- 3. Playoff game

Any team without a roster on file with the CRC Athletics Office will forfeit individual awards.

Rule #1.9 – FORFEITURES

- A. Forfeited games will not be rescheduled. If your team forfeits a game, the loss will be credited in the final league standings. Two forfeited games could result in the removal from the league without refund of registration fee. As a courtesy, please contact the CRC Athletics Office as early as possible when a game will be forfeited so we can notify the other team.

- B. If a team is dropped from the league, all future games scheduled for that team will be forfeited to their opponents. Games won by that team will stand as a win in the league standings.
- C. Forfeiture to an opponent is considered a league game.
- D. Both teams must have at least nine (9) players by game time or it is a double forfeit.

SECTION TWO – GAME SITUATIONS

Rule #2.1 – GOVERNING RULES

United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) rules prevail unless amended in this league rulebook, on the league schedule or on other league correspondence.

Rule #2.2 – TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The home team must:
 - 1. Keep the official scorebook. The first initial and last name of each player must be written on the score sheet.
 - 2. The winning team manager must verify the score card after each game.
- B. The visiting team must:
 - 1. Check the official scorebook at the end of each inning.
 - 2. Bring to the attention of the umpire all differences between the official scorebook and the visiting team's scorebook.
- C. Differences between the official scorebook and visitor's scorebook must be brought to the attention of the umpire during the inning in which they arise and should be settled immediately by the umpire. Failure to bring scorebook differences to the umpire during the inning in which they arise shall be deemed as an acceptance of the original scorebook.
- D. Teams must report to assigned field unless games have been cancelled by CRC (see rule #2.10 for procedure).

Rule #2.3 – REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. The home team must have at least nine (9) players on the field and the visiting team must have at least nine (9) players on the bench when the umpire calls "play ball" (see rule #2.5).
- B. When both teams in a men's or women's league starts with nine (9) players, the 10th spot out has
- C. been dropped. It is not an out.
- D. When a team starts with nine (9) players the 10th spot must be filled upon arrival of the 10th player. This may occur at any point in the game. When the 10th player arrives, this player must enter in the 10th spot in the batting order only. Co-Rec teams should refer to Rule #5-2 A & E.
- E. A team with fewer than nine (9) players at any time during the game will automatically forfeit the game (see rule #2.3E).
- F. A player may be replaced by a substitute at any time during the game in accordance with USSSA rules.

NOTE: Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once provided players occupy the same positions in the batting order.

Rule #2.4 – ADDITIONAL HITTER

- A. The additional hitter (AH) may be used in any CRC Softball League. If the AH is used, the batting order must remain constant and any designated 10 of the 11 (12 for Co-Rec) players will take a defensive position in the field throughout the game. However, if the number of batters drops below 11 (12 for Co-Rec), an out is recorded in the official scorebook for that player's time at bat in the batting order. It is not mandatory that the AH be used, but:
 - 1. It must be declared prior to the start of the game and properly designated on the line up card.

2. Once it is declared, the team must continue with the AH during the entire game.
3. If the AH is injured, i.e. the AH position becomes vacant, the game is not forfeited – just record it as an out (see rule #5.2 E).

Rule #2.5 – SCHEDULED GAME TIMES

- A. Games are to begin at the time scheduled. However, there is a 10-minute grace period. All of the minutes during that grace period will be considered as time elapsed from the official game time.
- B. The time shown on the umpire's timepiece is the official time.
- C. Before the start of the game, managers should check their timepieces with the umpire.

Rule #2.6 - FIELD RULES

- A. The three ball, two strikes rule will be used in all CRC Softball Leagues.
- B. Twilight League Rules:
 1. Under no circumstances should any game ever run into the following game's starting time. The time limit on the first game is one hour and ten minutes (1:10), no new inning shall be started after one hour (60 minutes), except under the following circumstances:
 - a) Second games played on twilight fields do not have a time limit (to meet rule #2.7 regulation game). All extra innings are played at umpire's discretion.
 - b) Tie games may be played to completion as long as the extra innings do not run into the next game's starting time.
- C. Lighted League Rules:
 1. The maximum time limit for games in a lighted league is one hour and thirty (1:30) minutes.
 2. The last game played on a lighted field must be completed by 11:00 p.m.

Rule #2.7 – REGULATION GAME

- A. A regulation game is seven (7) innings, exception rule #2.8.
- B. Wins shall have a value of two (2) points and ties will have a value of one (1) point in determining the final league standings.

Rule #2.8 – OFFICIAL GAME

- A. When, in sole discretion of the umpire, rain, darkness or another uncontrollable circumstance makes it impossible to play a "regulation game", and that game has met one of the following criteria to be considered an "official game", it will not be rescheduled if:
 - B. The game has continued for one (1) hour. The home team is losing or tied must have the last at bat or the score reverts to the last complete inning played prior to the end of the hour.
 - C. Three (3) innings have been played or two and one-half (2 ½) innings if the home team has scored more runs than their opponents have scored in three (3) innings.
 - D. There will also be a 12 run rule in a game after 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or after 5 or more completed innings.

The losing team may quit playing without being penalized as a forfeit. This will be done at the discretion of the losing manager.

Rule #2.9 – UNOFFICIAL GAME

- A. A scheduled game, which has begun but has been stopped by the umpire before meeting the criteria for a "regulation game", is considered an "unofficial game".
- B. An unofficial game shall be rescheduled and replayed from the beginning. This will be done at the end of the regular season's schedule.

Rule #2-10 – CANCELLATION/GAME INFORMATION NUMBERS

- A. In case of doubtful weather conditions teams must call one of the cancellation/game information numbers to find out if a scheduled game has been cancelled. Please call (684-4908 or 684-4915) after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and on Sundays after 12:00 noon.
- B. If your game is cancelled, teams must play the next week's game as scheduled in accordance with rule #1.7.

Rule #2.11 – UMPIRES

- A. If the umpire does not show or is late, please call CRC the next morning at 352-4020 after 8:00 a.m. Teams are permitted and encouraged to have a mutually agreed upon person officiate the game if the umpire does not show. **Teams umpiring their own games will receive credit upon verification by the CRC Adult Athletics Supervisor.**
- B. Any concerns/complaints about the quality of umpires should be submitted in writing to the Adult Athletics Supervisor. You can also submit this on the CRC website in the tab marked "End of the season evaluation".

Rule #2.12 – SECOND STRIKE RULE

After one (1) strike, a batter will be called out on the second foul ball.

Rule #2.13 – SOFTBALLS

A twelve (12") inch softball shall be used in all men's and co-rec leagues and an eleven (11") inch softball shall be used in all women's leagues (unless otherwise specified). **The required softball for all CRC Adult Athletics Leagues is Max 375 lbs. Max .44 COR.**

Rule #2.14 – CONDUCT

- A. Smoking on the playing field or bench and profane language or unsportsmanlike conduct are strictly prohibited. Individuals or teams not abiding by this rule are subject to further action including suspension by the Adult Athletics Supervisor.
- B. Any person ejected by an umpire must leave the field and stands area immediately. The ejected person must be out of the umpire's sight in accordance with the USSSA rule. The ejected person is suspended for the next scheduled game which is played and should not be on the premises.
- C. Any person who physically or verbally assaults an umpire or CRC employee on CRC property before, during or after a game, may be expelled from participation in any/all CRC leagues.
- D. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their spectators before, during and after games. The Adult Athletics Supervisor retains the right to determine an appropriate penalty if a team spectator violates this rule.
- E. Any person fighting will be suspended for a minimum of 1 calendar year and possibly longer.

Rule #2.15 – ALCOHOL

- A. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages on any CRC ball field is strictly prohibited.
- B. Any team abusing this rule may be ejected from a CRC league without refund of entry fee.
- C. Umpires may forfeit the game of the offending team and report violations to the Adult Athletics Supervisor. This includes before, during and after the game.

Rule #2.16 – ACCIDENT REPORT

In the event that a player is injured during a scheduled league game, the team manager should complete an accident report, (obtained from the CRC Athletics Office), and promptly submit the completed form to the Adult Athletics Supervisor. Each player is responsible for his/her own medical coverage.

Rule #2.17 – METAL SPIKES

Metal spikes are not permitted in any CRC Softball Leagues.

Rule #2.18 –SLIDING BASE RULE

When a runner goes into a base standing up and the runner and the base move more than the width of the base, (umpires discretion), in any direction whatsoever, and the runner is tagged, the runner is out. If the runner gets back to the spot where the base was before being tagged, the runner is safe. When sliding, the runner shall remain on the ground until the umpire calls time. If the player gets up and moves before the umpire calls time, the runner will be called out if tagged and not standing on the original spot of the base. If the player moves the base more than the width of the base (umpire's discretion) and gets up and makes the next base, the future runner will move to the original spot of the base.

Rule #2.19 – FIELD CONDITIONS

Fitness of the playing field for the game shall be decided by the umpire.

Rule #2.20 –EXCESSIVE ROUGHNESS RULE

The excessive roughness rule will apply to all leagues (Men, Women and Co-Rec). It is imperative in all leagues that physical roughness is kept to a minimum and that safety be emphasized and respected. Any player, who in the opinion of the umpire, deliberately runs into a fielder in order to dislodge the ball or to prevent a play at another base or any other unusually excessive action, will be called out and removed from the game. Most dangerous situations arise because of one player (usually a fielder) being in a vulnerable position where he/she cannot watch an approaching opponent (usually a base runner). A play will be considered "excessively rough" if one player physically contacts another player with dangerous force or unusually obstructive force whereby the offending player does not try to avoid contacting the vulnerable player. Any player, who in the opinion of the umpire, uses excessive roughness will be removed from the game, and the outcome of the play will favor the victimized team. The Adult Athletics Supervisor must be notified of the ejection and take further action if the situation warrants.

Rule #2.21 – HOME RUN RULE

On fenced fields, there is a two (2) over the fence home run rule (The Adult Athletics Supervisor may choose to drop this rule for specific leagues). Any additional over the fence home runs will be considered an out.

SECTION THREE – PROTESTS**Rule #3.1 –PLAYER PROTESTS (For Ineligible Players – Roster or Division Violations)**

- A. Any protest involving the eligibility of a player must be filed in the following manner by the manager or assistant manager only:
 1. The protest must be lodged prior to the last out of the game.
 2. Only one person per team per game may be protested.
 3. The protesting manager must inform the umpire who will then inform the opposing team's manager that a player protest has been lodged.
 4. A protest form must be completed in full with the umpire obtaining the picture I.D. of the player in question. The umpire should sign the form as witness.
 5. If the player refuses to show their picture I. D., the umpire should so indicate on the protest form. This will result in an automatic forfeit when the protest form is brought to the Athletics Office by 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the game. No fee is required.
- B. If the protest is upheld the appropriate penalty will be applied as designated in rule #1.4.
- C. If the protest is denied the results of the game will stand.

- D. This rule applies to players challenged as ineligible because they are not on the roster or because they are playing on two teams in the same league.

Rule #3.2 –GAME PROTESTS

- A. Any protest involving the application of a specific CRC league rule must be filed in the following manner:
 - 1. The protesting manager must inform the umpire and the opposing team's manager at the time of the particular play or decision that is being protested. Any game protest made after a pitch has been made to the next batter shall not be considered.
 - 2. The game should then continue.
 - 3. Prior to the last out of the game the protesting manager must complete in full the appropriate protest form, including the signatures of the umpire and opposing team manager.
 - 4. The protest form and \$50.00 must be filed in the Athletic Office by 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the game being protested. The opposing manager and the umpire are also encouraged to submit statements for review.
- D. If the protest is upheld, the \$50.00 fee will be returned and the game will be replayed from the point of protest. Note: USSSA rules for resumption of the game will apply.
- E. If the protest is denied, the results of the game will stand and the \$50.00 fee will be deposited in the CRC Adult Athletics account.
- F. Managers are advised to review the USSSA Guidelines concerning calls that can not be protested.

SECTION FOUR – WOMEN' S LEAGUES

Rule #4.1 – WOMEN'S DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

There is no classification of team/player experience. Teams registering in this division should expect to encounter a variety of skill levels.

- A. Managers must resolve any questions concerning their team's eligibility for a particular division prior to registration.
- B. Managers must resolve any questions about a player's eligibility before putting that player on their roster.
- C. Women may play on more than one team in the same division. However, no player may play on two different teams within the same league.
- D. The minimum age for participation in the women's softball program is 18 years of age as of the first game played.

An eleven-inch (11") softball will be used in all CRC Women's softball leagues unless otherwise specified

Rule #4.2- PENALTY FOR INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- A. If a player participates in a league for which she is ineligible, her team will forfeit all games played until the ineligible players have been officially released from the team roster.
- B. In applying the penalty, the Adult Athletics Supervisor will assume that the ineligible player has competed in every game that the team has played.
- C. The burden of proof rests with the manager to prove that the ineligible player did not play in every game that the team has played.
- D. Any team with a roster violation, which has resulted from an ineligible player, (rule #1.3), shall forfeit that game. The appropriate win will be awarded to the opposing team.

Rule #4.3 -SCHEDULED REVISIONS

Softball schedules are corrected and updated as the need arises. All attempts are made to keep the number of schedule revisions to a minimum. However, once a schedule is revised, it is the manager's responsibility to follow the corrected (revised) schedule. If the corrected schedule is not followed, a forfeit will be assessed.

Rule #4.4- USSSA TOURNAMENT BERTHS

A berth to the USSSA Great Lakes Division Championship Tournament will be awarded to the first place teams in each league. A berth to the Ohio USSSA State Championship Tournament will be awarded to the first, second and third place team in each league. Teams accepting berths are responsible for paying their own entry fee. The CRC Adult Athletics Supervisor and USSSA officials will determine the proper team classification. Tournament packages for Great Lakes Division and State Tournaments will be mailed to eligible teams by the USSSA. For Additional information, call USSSA State Director Mark Linnemann at 859-341-7088.

SECTION FIVE – CO-REC LEAGUES

Rule #5.1 – CO-REC DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

Recreational Division (12" ball) - There is no classification of team/player experience. Teams registering in this division should expect to encounter a variety of skill levels.

Media League (12" ball) - For the Media League, players must be working with and/or on the payroll of the company which the team represents, (this rule will only apply if league fills during early registration). Rosters are limited to twenty-five (25) players. In case of layoffs or strikes on or after April 30th, players will continue to be eligible.

Rule #5.2 – REQUIRED NUMBER AND POSITION OF PLAYERS

- A. This year teams are no longer required to alternate (male/female) defensive positions in the field, (males may be positioned next to males and females may be positioned next to females).
- B. A team can begin a game with only nine (9) players with five (5) men and four (4) women **OR** five (5) women and (four) 4 men. When a team starts with (nine) 9 players, **an out must be taken in the 10th spot.**
- C. Each team must alternate women and men in the batting order.

Rule #5.3 – EXCESSIVE ROUGHNESS

It is imperative in a Co-Rec league that physical roughness is kept to a minimum. Any player, who in the opinion of the umpire, deliberately runs into a fielder in order to dislodge the ball or prevent a play at another base or uses any other unusually excessive action, will be called out and removed from the game. The Adult Athletics Supervisor must be notified of the ejection and take further action if the situation warrants. (See Excessive Roughness 2.2 for a complete description).

Rule #5.4 – OPTION TO TAKE BASE OR BAT

- A. When the male batter receives a base on balls or an intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat.
- B. The female batter should notify the umpire of her choice.

Rule #5.5 – LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

- A. Players may participate in more than one league but not on two teams within the same league. Players from another CRC team may be used to avoid a forfeit (both managers must agree). Penalties will be enforced when discovered by the Adult Athletics Supervisor through a protest. This may occur at any time during the season (see rule #1.5).

Rule #5.6 – SCHEDULE REVISIONS

Softball schedules are corrected and updated as the need arises. All attempts are made to keep the number of schedule revisions to a minimum. However, once a schedule is revised it is the manager's

responsibility to follow the corrected (revised) schedule. If the corrected schedule is not followed, a forfeit will be assessed.

Rule #5.7 – USSSA TOURNAMENT BERTHS

A berth to the Ohio USSSA State Championship Tournament will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in each league. Teams accepting berths are responsible for paying their own entry fee. The CRC Adult Athletics Supervisor and USSSA officials will determine the proper team classification. Tournament packages for State Tournaments will be mailed to eligible teams by the USSSA. Teams must meet USSSA eligibility requirements to advance. For additional information, call USSSA State Director Mark Linnemann at 859-341-7088.

SECTION SIX- MEN'S LEAGUES

Rule #6.1- MEN'S DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

The following requirements will apply to all teams and players registered in the men's softball program:

- A. Managers must resolve any questions about a player's eligibility before putting that player on the team roster.
- B. Players may participate in more than one league but not on two teams within the same league. Players from another CRC team may be used to avoid a forfeit (both managers must agree). Penalties will be enforced when discovered by the Adult Athletics Supervisor through a protest. This may occur at any time during the season (see rule #1.5).

Rule #6.2 – DIVISION REQUIREMENTS – OPEN:

There is no classification of team/player experience. Teams registering in this division should expect to encounter a variety of skill levels.

Rule #6.3 – OTHER LEAGUE OR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

It will not be possible to re-schedule CRC league games in order to accommodate those teams participating in the A.S.A. Metro Tournament or any other tournaments. We will not reschedule games for any reason other than those stated in this rulebook.

Rule #6.4 – SCHEDULE REVISIONS

Schedules are corrected and updated as the need arises. All attempts are made to keep the number of revisions to a minimum. Once a schedule is revised, it is the manager's responsibility to follow the corrected (revised) schedule. If the corrected schedule is not followed, a forfeit will be assessed.

Rule #6.5 – USSSA TOURNAMENT BERTHS

A berth to the USSSA Great Lakes Div. Championship Tournament will be awarded to the first place team in each league. A berth to the Ohio USSSA State Championship Tournament will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in each league. Tournament packages for Great Lakes Division and State Tournaments will be mailed to eligible teams by USSSA. Teams must meet USSSA eligibility requirements to advance. For additional information, call USSSA State Director Mark Linnemann at 859-341-7088