

## **ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

### **I. OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of the Carmichael Adult Softball League is to promote and conduct a positive leisure-time activity which encourages fitness, healthy competition and an atmosphere conducive to fun and fellowship.

### **II. RULES:**

All games in the Carmichael Recreation & Park District's Adult Softball League are governed by the current Official Rules of the USA Softball except as specified herein.

### **III. PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT:**

All players, managers, coaches and spectators will abide by the Carmichael Player's Code of Conduct. It will be the Manager's responsibility to see that all players on his team are aware of and abide by the Code of Conduct.

### **IV. UMPIRES:**

- A. Umpires assigned to the game will have complete charge of the field and games. They have the authority to banish players, managers, or other persons from a player's bench or general area for misconduct, delaying the games, or for any other reason deemed necessary for the good of the games. If a team cannot control spectator's actions, the games will be forfeited (language, derogatory remarks toward players, etc.).
- B. Umpire's decision will be final, except as to misinterpretation of the playing rules.
- C. Any player banished from a game will be required to leave the players bench and can be directed to leave the park if the umpire so orders. A player will not be permitted to direct remarks toward the umpire even though such player is in the spectator's area. Such player will be ineligible to play in the next scheduled game for that team. Once banished from a playoff game, such player will be ineligible for the following game in playoffs.

### **V. SCHEDULE:**

- A. Games will be played as called for by schedules made up by the Carmichael Recreation & Park District.
- B. Game time will depend upon the number of teams in the league.
- C. Home team for each league will be designated on the league schedules.
- D. All games will be played on ball field two at the Carmichael Park (lighted) which will be posted on the season schedule before the league starts.  
[5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael CA 95608]

- E. Park Hours – Carmichael Park officially closes at 11pm. All players are required to vacate the premises no later than 11pm. Our scorekeeper will wait approximately 10 minutes after the last game to turn off the field lights. At that time the park gets really dark. We recommend all teams gather their equipment and leave as soon as their game is over.

## **VI. REFUND POLICY:**

- A. Please refer to the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Refund Policy located on the CRPD website at [www.carmichaelpark.com](http://www.carmichaelpark.com).
- B. No refunds will be granted for no-shows.

## **VII. ROSTERS AND PLAYERS:**

- A. All players **must be 18 years of age or older** and signed up on the **Official Team Roster** which the team manager may pick up at the La Sierra Community Center Office or from the scorekeeper at their game. If a player is not on the roster the official will not allow them to play.
- B. Any team without a completed team roster turned into the scorekeeper will be ineligible for play-offs or league championships. Without a completed team roster, all team games will be considered a forfeit at the end of the season.
- C. If a player's identity is in question, the player will be required to submit identification to the scorer. If the player is unable to prove their identity, they will not be allowed to play in the game. Any player unable to identify themselves prior to the game will be required to come to the La Sierra Community Center Office on the day following the game and present valid I.D. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the previous day's game.
- D. If the umpire or the scorekeeper determines there is an ineligible or illegal player before the game, said player will not be allowed to play.
- E. Teams using unregistered or ineligible players shall forfeit the game in which such players took part, to the opposing team, provided proper protest procedure is followed.
- F. The recreation district will be the final authority in determining the eligibility of all players.
- G. Teams must have a minimum of 10 players and no more than a maximum of 16 players on their roster. Teams can add or delete players on their roster up to their 5<sup>th</sup> league game. No additional players may be added at that point.
  - 1) Teams can use an unlimited number of subs on their roster, except during playoffs.
  - 2) Substitutes must complete the roster in the designated substitute area.
  - 3) Substitutes are intended to be used on an emergency basis only to avoid forfeitures and not to hold a regular roster spot.
  - 4) Substitutes are only allowed to play on their original team for playoffs.

## **VIII. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- A. No ball players shall be allowed to play in a game if they have no shoes or shirt on. The umpire will be informed that a player will not be able to play if this situation should occur.
- B. No metal spikes may be used by any players.

- C. **BATS** – Be sure to check the ASA Rule Book for up-to-date bat requirements. The umpires will check the bats for proper grip, taping, knobs, weight, dents, etc. Bat rings, donuts, propellers, etc. are not allowed. For a list of certified bats visit [www.usasoftballsacramento.org](http://www.usasoftballsacramento.org).
- 1) Team managers are responsible for ensuring all of the team members' bats are legal and they remain unaltered.
  - 2) The umpire may inspect all bats at any time before or during the game. Any bat not meeting inspection standards will not be allowed to be used.
  - 3) Any player who is found using an altered ("shaved") bat will be ejected from the game, and both the player and the manager may face suspension.
  - 4) If a player uses a bat that has already been removed from the game, the team will forfeit the game.
- D. **SOFTBALLS** – Balls will be provided by the District. 12" balls will be used for the male players and 11" balls for the female players.

**IX. LENGTH OF GAMES:**

- A. Line Ups – The team's line-up must be submitted to the scorekeeper before each game begins, and include both first and last name of all players. The scorekeeper will hold onto this copy so please make another copy of it for your team. Please have your line-up submitted to the scorekeeper 10 minutes before scheduled game time.
- B. Games will be governed by a 55 minute time limit kept by the scorekeeper. Time will start when the umpire calls, "Play Ball."
- C. Championship games will be governed by a 65 minute time limit kept by the scorekeeper. In the case of a tie, International Tie-Breaker Rules will be used.
- D. Game time is forfeit time. No grace period will be allowed. No umpire will umpire a forfeited game. Please call the recreation district for forfeits at (916) 483-7826.
- E. There are no provisions to make up postponed games. If a team cannot field a team when scheduled to play they cannot postpone the game and make it up at another time.
- F. If an umpire believes a team is stalling for time, they have the authority to call the game and forfeit to the opposing team.
- G. Games rained out or suspended will be made up at the end of the season. Original schedules should be followed and a schedule of the make-up games will be emailed.

**X. FORFEITED GAMES:**

- A. **IF YOUR TEAM NEEDS TO FORFEIT**, please call the La Sierra Recreation Office (916) 483-7826 before 4:30pm or email [mzimmerling@carmichaelpark.com](mailto:mzimmerling@carmichaelpark.com)
- B. Teams failing to appear with at least nine players at the game time will forfeit the game to the opposing team. (Eight players for the Co-Ed leagues).
- C. Any team using ineligible players will forfeit the game in which such players took part to the opposing team. Whenever a team determines that another team is using an ineligible player, not the inning and the score to the scorekeeper. Game will be continued and league officials will determine the next day if the player was eligible. If so, the game is a forfeit.

- D. A team that forfeits more than twice in a season may not be allowed to register for the following season, the decision will be made by the league supervisor after reaching out to the team manager.
- E. Teams forfeiting two successive games may be dropped from the league pending review by the league supervisor – **LEAGUE ENTRY FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED.**

## **XI. PROTESTS:**

- A. A protest based on the misinterpretation of a playing rule shall be filed by the manager or captain of the team immediately following any such play with the scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will note the innings, outs, score and other pertinent information at that time. Should a team manager or captain decide to protest after play has resumed or after the game is over, the protest will be denied.
- B. All protests must be made by phone or in writing within 24 hours after the protested game has been played. If the following day is a holiday or weekend, the time limit is the day after such holiday or weekend. All phone protests must be followed by a written protest. Any protest filed after the 24 hour limit will not be accepted.
- C. Written protest must be accompanied by a \$10 deposit and must give all the facts involved in the protest such as a specific rule that was misinterpreted or ineligibility of a player.
- D. If the protest is upheld, the \$10 will be returned. If the protest is denied or disallowed, the \$10 deposit will be kept by the recreation department.
- E. Protests will be reviewed by Carmichael Recreation & Park District, providing the protest is accepted. The protest action is final.

## **XII. PLAYOFFS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

- A. League playoff information will be noted on the schedule.
- B. Playoff notification and brackets will be completed after the last scheduled games and qualifying team managers will be notified.
- C. If teams are tied for a spot in the playoffs, the tie breaking method will be as follows: 1) Winning Percentage, 2) Head-to-Head, 3) Head-to-Head Differential, 4) Lowest Number of Forfeits, and 5) Coin Toss.
- D. Team rosters will be checked prior to the start of playoff games. Only players listed on team roster as permanent players are permitted to play. Subs cannot play in playoffs unless a league representative has been notified at least 24 hours prior to the game and the circumstance justifies a change in roster (illness, injury, pregnancy, etc.). If a sub is allowed to be added to a team's roster as a permanent player, that sub cannot play on any other teams in that league during the playoffs.
  - 1) Honor the game and only use players from your roster who have been playing all season with your team. Using players only for playoffs goes against the goal of the league.
- E. **CHAMPIONSHIP PRIZES** – The league champion has two choices for prizes. The manager can either choose to have a championship coupon worth \$50 off league registration for any adult sports league or championship t-shirts for each individual player. The t-shirt max is 16.

### **XIII. LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES:**

- A. All games shall be governed by the current ASA official slow-pitch rules and modifications put into effect by the Carmichael Recreation & Park District as listed below.
- B. District scorekeepers will keep the official scorebook for all leagues. This is part of the league fee.
- C. In accordance with ASA, there must be an equal number or more females in the playing field than males. Teams cannot begin a game with more males playing defensively than females. However, if a team is playing with only 9 players, 5 men and 4 women will be allowed defensively with an automatic out in the last female spot in the lineup. At no time will more than 5 males be allowed defensively on the field.
- D. The batting order must alternate male to female. A team losing a female to injury, disqualification, etc., and not replacing that spot in the lineup will be allowed to bat more males, however, an automatic out will result in the batting order vacated by the injured or disqualified female.
- E. Batters start with a 1-1 count.
- F. When a batter has 2 strikes, the 2nd foul ball is a third strike foul ball and constitutes an out.
- G. In accordance with ASA, when any male batter is walked, it will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
- H. **Commitment/Safety Line** – A “Commitment Line” will be drawn perpendicular to the third base line, one half the distance down the line from third base toward home plate. Once a player crosses the Commitment Line they must continue through to Home and cannot return to third base or will be called automatically out. All plays at Home Plate will be force outs. Runners who touch home plate will be called out.
- I. **Halo Rule** – In an effort to provide some protection for the pitchers in the program, the Carmichael Recreation and Park District League will be enforcing a new “Halo Rule” for all male and female batters.
  - 1) A pitchers box will be created (chalked) that will measure 2” x 5” extending back from the pitchers plate. The pitcher may pitch from anywhere within the pitchers box. The player must remain completely in the box unless pitching from the pitchers plate. Any ball hit by a male or female on the fly that is head height or below that passes through the pitchers box or strikes the pitcher will be an automatic out. All runners must return to their bases. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
- J. **STRIKE MATS** – All slow pitch leagues will use a strike mat to determine ball and strike count.
- K. **HOME RUNS** – Each team is allowed 4 homeruns **per team**. Any home run after the four allotted home runs will constitute an out. If a player hits an inside the park homerun with no errors being committed on the play then that will count as one of the homeruns for that team. The scorekeeper will use the umpire as a reference to see if an error did or did not occur on the play in question, after the play the umpire will signal if the hit was a homerun or if an error did in fact occur on the play in which case the hit would not count as one of the said teams homeruns.
- L. **GROUND RULES** – Determined during the pre-game meeting with the agreement of both team managers and the umpire.
- M. **COURTESY RUNNER** - One courtesy runner is allowed per inning per gender. The runner must be the player of the same sex who made the last out.

- N. **PITCHING** – The pitcher must start their motion and have one foot in contact with the pitching rubber when releasing their pitch.
- 1) There is a 6-foot minimum height required on all legal pitches. The maximum height is 10 feet.
- O. **TIED GAMES** – Games that are tied after the time limit has expired will remain tied. There are no extra innings in regular season games. In playoff games, tied games will continue 1 inning at a time until the tie has been broken.
- P. Fake tags are not allowed. It is the official's discretion to warn the player/teams or make an ejection if he/she thinks necessary.
- Q. Any player with a bleeding wound and/or blood stained clothing must leave the game until all bleeding is stopped, all wounds are properly covered, and all blood and blood stained clothing is removed. Failure to comply with this policy may result in ejection from game.
- R. Sliding is allowed. Stealing is not allowed.
- S. If any team is up by 10 runs or more when time expires, the game is considered over at that point. If the time expires during a live ball the expiration of time will occur once the umpire calls "time" when the ball becomes dead.
- T. Standings: Wins count as 2 points, ties as 1 point, and losses as 0 points in the official standings. A tie for third place will be broken by the following: (a) Head to Head, (b) Run differential, (c) Coin flip.
- U. During wet weather conditions, managers are required to call Carmichael Recreation and Park District's Recreation Office at (916) 483-7826 after 4pm for postponement information. Any games postponed will be made up at the end of the season.
- V. Games rained out or suspended will be made up at the end of the season. Original schedules should be followed and a schedule of the make-up games will be emailed.
- W. Teams are responsible for the actions of spectators seated on their side of the field. Unsportsmanlike conduct of spectators can result in a forfeit. Abusive language will not be tolerated from players or spectators. If the team does not know the spectator, please tell the scorekeeper so they can ask the spectator to leave.
- X. Managers are asked to report any hazardous field conditions or acts of vandalism to the scorekeeper and the Recreation Office at (916) 483-7826, or email [alaina@carmichaelpark.com](mailto:alaina@carmichaelpark.com).
- Y. Individual awards will be given to the first place team.