



FLATHEAD COUNTY WEED, PARKS & RECREATION

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ADULT SOFTBALL RULES 2015

PLAYER ASSUMPTION OF RISK

As a softball player, you play at your own risk. The County will not be held responsible for your injury. Insurance is available through ASA. If interested, contact your District Commissioner.

PROGRAM BEHAVIOR POLICY

Any abusive behavior directed toward a County Parks & Recreation employee, volunteer, or contracted employee (this includes ASA officials) by a player or spectator will be dealt with as follows:

First Offense - Removal from event and facility.

Second Offense - One-year suspension from all Parks and Recreation activities.

The Flathead County Parks & Recreation assumes responsibility for the property within the facilities we utilize. All individuals will be held liable for any damages incurred by their actions or their minor children's (windows, back boards, doors, drinking fountains, restrooms, etc.).

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. A female player may play on 1 women's team and 1 co-rec team per season. A male player can play on 1 men's team and 1 co-rec team per season.

B. Player must meet the minimum age of 16 years to play in men's, women's, or co-rec divisions. Players under the age of 18 must have written parental approval. Age by December 1st of the current year.

C. Player must be ruled eligible by Parks & Recreation Supervisor.

D. Player must be a resident of this area by March 1st of the current year, or be declared eligible by the District Commissioner before player can play in District or State play.

E. No player can be added on a team for play at State tournaments without permission of the District Commissioners after June 10 of the current year.

F. No player can be transferred from one team to another after June 10th of the current year without written permission from Flathead County Parks & Recreation Supervisor for league play or District Commissioner for state tournament play.

G. Hardship cases (team not able to roster required number of players due to unavoidable circumstances) may be allowed to add players after the June 10 deadline upon application to the Parks & Recreation Supervisor for league play. The District Commissioner will rule upon hardship cases for the District and State tournaments.

VIOLATIONS OF A THROUGH G ABOVE MAY RESULT IN GAME FORFEITURE(S).

PROTESTS

- A. Allowed on matters involving rules, not umpire judgment.
- B. All protests must be brought to the attention of both managers and the umpire(s) at the point of protest.
- C. A \$25 cash fee must accompany all protests immediately at the time of the protest.
- D. Protests must be in written form and turned into the Parks & Recreation office by 12:00 noon the following day. If the following day is a weekend or holiday, then it must be in the office by 12:00 noon the next day that the office is open. Player eligibility will be checked at the time of the protest.
- E. Board of Appeals will rule on all protests. Board is made up of Parks & Recreation Supervisor, Umpire-in-Chief, and representatives of the Softball Association.

GAME LENGTH

Games will be no new inning after 1:10 from the first pitch for regular season games. Games will be called if a team is behind by 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings.

GAME TIMES

Game times are 6:30, 7:50 and 9:10. Forfeit time for 6:30 games is 6:40. Forfeit time for 7:50 and 9:10 games is game time. Games forfeited will not be rescheduled.

GAME DAYS

Upper/Middle Co-Rec – Mondays
Lower "A" Co-Rec – Mondays and/or Tuesdays
Lower "B" Co-Rec – Mondays and/or Tuesdays
Women's – Wednesdays
Men's – Wednesday, Thursday
Church League – Thursdays
Make-ups - Fridays

PICKUP RULES

Teams will be allowed to pick up one or two players to make nine, ten or twelve players for Co-Rec during the regular season. *During end of season tournament Co-Rec teams can pick up one or two players to make nine or ten.* Men's/Women's teams can pick up one or two players to make nine or ten. Players must be from a lower or equal division. Pickup players must be placed at the bottom of the batting order and can *only* play catcher and/or in the outfield unless approved by the opposing team captain. If your player shows, the pickup player cannot continue to play. In Men's and Women's you can play with nine players and the tenth batter is *not* an out. In Co-Rec you can play with nine players, but the tenth batter *is* an automatic out.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| | ROSTERS: | Maximum 20 players, slow pitch men's/women's/co-rec. |
| A. | Men's Slow | Must have ten players at all times. |
| B. | Women's Slow | Must have ten players at all times. |
| C. | Co-Rec Slow | Must have ten players at all times. |

PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS/BATTING ORDER

- A. Men's/Women's - free substitution on defense – 11 batters; substitutions must sub in and out for the same original player.
- B. Co-Rec – free substitutions on defense – 12 batters; substitutions must sub in and out for the same original player.

PRE-GAME WARM UPS

Teams will be allowed a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 minutes (depending on time) to warm up on the field before the game. Therefore, due to the danger of spectator injury, *no warm ups will be allowed in alleyways or parking lot.* Teams can warm up on empty fields or in the designated warm up areas.

HUSTLING

Managers are asked to help move the game along as fast as possible.

EQUIPMENT

A. **BALLS:** ASA approved. The Parks Department will NOT provide game balls. Men play with 12" balls, core 52, compression 300. Women play with 11" balls, core 44, compression 375. Balls may only be yellow.

B. **BATS:** *Any bat that is deemed illegal for any reason by Flathead County Parks and Recreation (FCP&R) will not be allowed on any FCP&R field or at any FCP&R function.* All or any information pertaining to bats may also be shared with other associations, leagues and tournament directors. Bats that have been altered / tampered with will not be allowed in FCP&R games/tournaments, and may be confiscated by ASA officials. Consequences of illegal or altered bats:

Illegal Bats: 1st Offense: Owner of bat removes bat from complex.
2nd Offense: Owner of bat may be suspended from play for a maximum of two weeks.
3rd Offense: Owner of bat may be suspended for one year from latest infraction.

Altered Bats: Bats suspected of being altered / tampered will be confiscated and sent to the ASA national office. ASA protocol will be followed from that point forward. Bats are subject to inspection at *any time during the season and/or tournament play.* All bats that pass the ASA and/or FCP&R specifications will be marked by a sticker to display its certification status.

D. **PROTECTOR:** Optional men's and women's slow; mandatory in fast pitch.

E. **MASK:** Is not mandatory in slow pitch; is mandatory in fast pitch.

G. **EQUIPMENT:** Subject to approval by Commissioner. Violation of A or B may result in equipment removal.

H. **BASES:** All bases will be 65'. The orange safety base is for the runner.

I. **SCOREBOOKS:** One scorebook will be issued to each team at the beginning of the season. The home team is responsible for keeping the official game book. First and last names of players should be used.

RAIN OUTS

In case of bad weather, 4 innings, or 3 1/2 if home team is ahead, shall be considered a complete game during regular season play. These games will not be made up. When persistent poor weather exists, games will be called on or around 5:00 p.m.; radio stations will be notified. If no decision is reached up to 5:00 p.m., games will be called on site. Players are asked to go to assigned site.

MAKE UPS

All rain out or make up games will be scheduled by the Recreation Supervisor. *Friday's may be used as make up days.* Teams will have two Friday's to make up missed games or they will be forfeited. It is our

intent to be reasonable with all teams concerning make up games. However, the Recreation Supervisor has the final authority concerning any rescheduling or make up games

CONDITION OF FIELD FOR PLAY

The Umpire-in-Chief or Recreation Supervisor shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the field for starting or continuing games at the Complex. If games are delayed, the game that has been delayed will be finished first. If games are called due to conditions of fields, you are asked to abide by the decision.

SEASON START

The Conrad Complex will open as soon as fields are ready. Leagues will start tentatively by mid to late May.

TEAM PRACTICE

Team practices are allowed on all fields (*after team registration form is received*). All practices at Conrad Complex fields must be reserved by calling or stopping by the Flathead County Parks & Recreation office after 8:00 a.m. on each Thursday for the following week. All reservations are on a first come first serve basis with the master schedule located at the Parks & Recreation office and the Conrad Complex for your convenience. Do not use fields with a "Field Closed" sign on it. Failure to abide by "Field Closed" signs can result in loss of practice privileges and/or forfeiture of next game. Practice privileges can also be lost by disturbing Flathead High School and/or County property.

PUBLICITY

Flathead County Parks & Recreation will assume responsibility of all public news releases concerning any activity at the Conrad Complex.

SCHEDULE

The Recreation Supervisor will complete league scheduling.

CONDITIONS FOR PLAYER REMOVAL

- A. Profanity.
- B. Verbal abuse, striking, or baiting an umpire or opponent.
- C. Any other behavior the umpire feels is detrimental to the game.

INFRACTION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE WILL REQUIRE PLAYER TO SIT OUT ONE GAME AT A MINIMUM TO THE ENTIRE SEASON AT A MAXIMUM (unless decided otherwise by the District Commissioner, Protest Committee, and the Umpire in Chief.)

PARKING

Be considerate in parking - do not block in other cars. Do not park in emergency driveway located at the entrance of the fields.

WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS

Local invitational tournaments have been scheduled. Schedules may be picked up at the Parks & Recreation office. Schedules for State and Regional competition will be available from the District Commissioner.

FRIDAY EVENINGS

No league play will be scheduled for Fridays, unless we have more league teams than will fit on their normal designated days. Fridays will be for rescheduling rain out or make up games, or for tournament games.

CONCESSIONS

Flathead County Parks & Recreation will conduct or approve all concession sales.

BLOOD RULE

If blood is noticeable or brought to the umpire's attention on a player, coach, or an umpire, the game will stop. The umpire will allow sufficient time to stop the bleeding, cover the exposed wound and then the game will continue. This length of time is up to the judgment of the umpire. The player must leave the game to be treated if it cannot be handled by the team in a sufficient amount of time.

If there is any form of blood showing on the uniform, whether it is fresh or not, the player or coach must change that part of the uniform or cover the uniform area with tape and cover it with a sweat shirt, pair of sweat pants, or other item. The new item of clothing being worn does not have to match the original team uniform.

Should the wound not stop bleeding and the umpire feels the game should continue, he can request a substitute enter the game.

Managers are now requested to have available and carry with their other team supplies, gauze, band aides, and tape to cover the wound.

Team managers should be made aware that it is to their team's advantage to have these supplies in order to quicken the process - particularly if there is a time limit involved in the game.

The time limit does not stop during the blood rule, injury, or protest unless the umpire decides it is necessary to stop time.

DOUBLE BASE RULE

The batter/runner must use the orange bag if a play is being made on him/her, and the defensive player must use the white when making a play.

PROFANITY RULE

The player using foul language's team will suffer the following consequences:

The offending player is out his/her next at bat and/or:

Defensively: the first batter up is an automatic out.

Offensively: the next batter is out.

CO-REC AND MISCELLANEOUS RULES

- A. Metal cleats are illegal.
- B. Batting order: the batting order for co-rec shall alternate sexes (based on six men, six women).
- C. No "all-male" infields or outfields. Pitcher and catcher have to be of opposite sex.
- D. Substitutions can only be made male for male or female for female.
- E. Games will be called after four and a half innings if home team is ahead by 10 (or more) runs.
- F. No playing catch in the alleyways. Use the designated "warm up" areas.
- G. Any jewelry considered dangerous by the umpire must be removed.
- H. Any home run over your limit is an out. Home run limits are: Women's: 3; Monday Night Co-Rec: 3; Tuesday Night Co-Rec: 2; Men's: 4.
- I. Regular season games tied at the end of 1:20 or 7 innings will end in a tie.

J. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. With less than two outs, females must bat. With two outs, female has option to hit or walk.

K. Co-Rec/Men's/Women's:

When a home run is hit over the fence, player hitting the home run and any/all runners on base may immediately go to their dugout. Running the bases is *not* necessary. This procedure is to allow for more playing time.

RECREATION PROGRAM POLICY

Adult Programs:

1. Coaches' and managers' meetings will be held before the start of a program.
2. League limits will be set for all leagues (number of teams/number of players).
3. Games will not be canceled due to poor weather unless the school or gym is closed or the Department cancels.
4. No post-dated checks will be accepted for any fees.
5. Visa/MasterCard/Debit Card are now accepted for fee payments.
6. If there is room for more teams after registration ends, a fee plus a 10% late fee may be assessed.
7. There will be a \$10.00 administrative fee charged for all refunds.

THE ABOVE RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE GUIDELINES AND MAY BE CHANGED AT ANY TIME BY THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPON NOTIFICATION TO ALL PARTICIPATING TEAMS.