



FLATHEAD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

The primary purpose of Flathead County adult recreation programs is to provide members of the community with the opportunity to pursue the many benefits of competitive sports in a family-friendly environment.

PLAYER ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Participants in adult recreation programs assume all associated risks. Flathead County is not responsible for injury. Insurance is available through ASA. If interested, contact your District Commissioner.

PROGRAM BEHAVIOR POLICY

The Flathead County Parks & Recreation Code of Conduct is enforced for all adult recreation activities, including softball. The Code of Conduct may be accessed on the Flathead County recreation website (<https://flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/parks-and-recreation/recreation>) or in physical form from the Flathead County Parks & Recreation department.

The registered coach/captain/manager of a team is ultimately responsible for team behavior. Registered coach/captain/manager is subject to a one-week suspension from all Parks & Recreation activities in the event the member of a team is suspended for behavioral issues.

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 league per season. A male player may play on 1 men's team and 1 co-rec team per league per season.
- B. All players must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age to play in men's, women's or co-rec divisions. Players under the age of 18 must have written approval from parent or legal guardian. Age as of December 1st of current year.
- C. Player must be ruled eligible by Flathead County Parks & Recreation department.
- D. Player must be a resident of this area by March 1 of current year, or be declared eligible by the District Commissioner before player can play in District or State play.
- E. No player may be added to a team for play at State tournaments without permission of the District Commissioners after June 10 of current year.
- F. No player may be transferred from one team to another after June 10 of current year without written permission from Flathead County Parks & Recreation department for league play or District Commissioner for State tournament play.
- G. In the event a team is unable to roster required number of players due to unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances, the team may add players after the June 10 deadline upon approval by the Flathead County Parks & Recreation department for league play. The District Commissioner will rule upon such cases for District and State tournaments.

VIOLATION OF PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES MAY RESULT IN GAME FORFEITURE(S).



FLATHEAD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

PROTESTS

- A. Protests are allowed on matters involving rules not umpire judgment.
- B. All protests involving the game/rules must be brought to the attention of both managers and the umpire(s) at the point of protest.
- C. A \$50 cash fee payable must accompany all protests at the time of the protest.
- D. All protests involving rosters/player ineligibility must be brought to Park & Recreation staff by the end of the 1st inning of the game in protest. No roster protests will be accepted past the 1st inning.

GAME LENGTH

Regular season games are a maximum 7 innings. There will be no new innings once a game has been played for one hour and ten minutes from first pitch. Games will be called if a team is behind by 20 runs after 3 innings, 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

Co-Rec – Monday, Tuesday

Women's – Wednesday

Men's – Wednesday, Thursday

Make-ups – Friday

PICKUP RULES

Teams may 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, a Co-Rec team may pick up one or two players to make nine or ten. Men's and Women's teams may pick up one or two players to make nine or ten. Players added must be from a lower or equal division. Pickup players must be placed at the bottom of the batting order and can *only* play pitcher, catcher and/or outfield. If a rostered player shows up during the game and the team has the required number of rostered players, the added player may not continue to play. Men's and Women's teams may play with nine players. In this instance, the tenth batter is not an out. A Co-Rec team may play with nine players, but the tenth batter is an automatic out.

- **Men's League pickup rule** - Added player may be a rostered male player from any Flathead County league as long as the player is on an equal or lower league. The added player must be a rostered player from the current season.
- **Co-Rec League pickup rule** - Added player must be a rostered player on a co-rec team in the current season/league and on a team in an equal or lower division/league. A team may not add a player that is a rostered player in men's league but isn't playing/rostered on a co-rec team.
- **Woman's League pickup rule** - Added player must be a rostered female player on a woman's or co-rec team in the current season/league and on a team in an equal or lower division/league.



FLATHEAD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

ROSTER LIMITS

All rosters have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 20 players.

PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS/BATTING ORDER

Team captain must list all rostered players playing in the game. Teams may freely substitute players on defense. However, substitutions must sub in and out for the same original player. Men's and Women's lineups may have a maximum 11 batters. Co-Rec lineups may have a maximum 12 batters. The batting order may not be changed once it has been submitted with the following exceptions:

1. **Late Addition** – A player arriving after the lineup has been submitted will be listed following the last player in the batting order.
2. **Injury** – An injured player will be dropped from the batting lineup. The batting order will resume with the next player in the batting order. If an injury occurs to a player while that player is on base, the last player who made an out will substitute for the injured player on base. If no sub is available, team will receive an out when injured player comes up in the order. Injured players may not re-enter the game.
3. **Emergency** – A player who leaves the game due to emergency will be dropped from the lineup. The batting order will resume with the next batter. A player who has left the game may not re-enter.
4. **Ejections** – An ejected player will be dropped from the lineup. The batting order will resume with the next batter. Ejected player is an automatic out when it is his/her turn in the batting lineup and this player may not be replaced in the batting order for the remainder of the game.

EQUIPMENT

- A. **BALLS** – All game balls must be USA/ASA approved and yellow. Flathead County Parks & Recreation will not provide game balls. Men's league balls are 12", core 52, and compression 300. Women's league balls are 11", core 52, and compression 300.
- B. **BATS** – Any bat deemed illegal for any reason by Flathead County Parks and Recreation will not be allowed on any Flathead County Parks and Recreation field or at any Flathead County Parks and Recreation function. Any and all information pertaining to bats may be shared with other associations, leagues and tournament directors. Bats that have been altered/tampered with will not be allowed in Flathead County Parks and Recreation 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 USA/ASA national office. USA/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 USA/ASA and/or Flathead County Parks and Recreation specifications will be marked by a sticker to display its certification.

- C. **EQUIPMENT** – Subject to approval by District Commissioner.



FLATHEAD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

- D. **BASES** - All bases are 65'. The orange safety base is for the runner.
- E. **SCOREBOOKS** – Teams are responsible for supplying their own scorebooks. Home team is responsible for keeping official game book. Game start time must be logged. For convenience, scorebooks are available for sale at the Conrad Complex concessions building.

RAIN OUTS AND MAKE UP GAMES

In case of inclement weather, a completed 4 innings—or 3 1/2 innings if home team is ahead—shall constitute a complete game during regular season play. These games will not be made up. If daytime weather precludes games from being played in the evening, games will be called on or around 5:00 p.m. If no decision is reached by 5:00 p.m., games may be called on site. All rain out or make up games will be scheduled by Flathead County Recreation Program Manager. Fridays may be used as make up days. Teams will be given two Fridays to make up missed games or they will be forfeited. Flathead County Recreation Program Manager has final authority concerning rescheduling games.

FIELD CONDITION

Umpire-in-Chief and Flathead County Recreation Manager will determine fitness of fields for starting or continuing games at the Complex. If games are delayed, the game that was delayed will be first to resume. If games are called due to conditions of fields, teams are required to abide by the decision.

SEASON START

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

TEAM PRACTICE

Team practices are allowed on all fields after team registration form is received by Flathead County Parks & Recreation department. All practices at Conrad Complex fields must be reserved by calling or stopping by the Flathead County Parks & Recreation office. Reservations are on a first come first serve basis with the master schedule located at the Parks & Recreation. 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 may be revoked or limited at any time by Flathead County Parks & Recreation. Player conduct during practice is subject to the Flathead County Code of Conduct. Players must be respectful of the Complex, other teams at the Complex, and vehicles.

SCHEDULE

Flathead County Recreation Program Manager will schedule all league games and tournaments.

PARKING

Be considerate. Do not block in other cars. Do not park in emergency driveway located at the entrance of the fields. Do not park in spots designated for County staff.

CONCESSIONS AND OFFICE

Flathead County Parks & Recreation will conduct or approve all concession sales. The concessions building and recreation office at the Complex is off limits to all players and their doors are to remain locked at all times.



FLATHEAD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

MISCELLANEOUS AND CO-REC SPECIFIC RULES

- A. Baserunners must use the orange bag if a play is being made at the double base, and the defensive player must use the white.
- B. Metal cleats are not permitted in Co-Rec and Women's leagues. They are permitted in Men's league.
- C. Co-Rec batting order shall alternate sexes (based on six men, six women).
- D. No all-male Co-Rec infields or outfields. Pitcher and catcher must be opposite sex.
- E. Co-Rec substitutions may only be male for male and female for female.
- F. No playing catch or practicing in the alleyways. Designated warm-up areas must be used.
- G. Any jewelry or accessories deemed dangerous by the umpire must be removed.
- H. When a home run is hit over the fence, player hitting the home run and all baserunners may immediately go to dugout. Running the bases is not necessary. The team that hit the homerun must retrieve the ball immediately and/or provide a new ball for play.
- I. Any home run over a team's limit is an out. Home run limits are as follows:
 - a. Men's League – 4
 - b. Women's League – 3
 - c. Co-Rec League – 3
- J. Regular season games tied at the end of 1 hour and 10 minutes or the completion of 7 innings will result in a tie.
- K. Hitter may opt for a runner if needed. Female must run for female, male for male. It is not required that the runner be the last out. However, if the runner's turn to bat comes up while still on base, that runner will receive an automatic out.
- L. Co-Rec: Any walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. With less than two outs, females must bat. With two outs, females have the option to hit or walk.
- M. Alcohol is strictly prohibited in the dugout or on the field. This includes captains/coaches. Refer to the Flathead County Adult Recreation Code of Conduct.
- N. Music may be played at a reasonable volume at the Complex. Vulgar music or music containing themes of violence, sex, racism, drugs, or criminality is strictly prohibited. The Complex is a family-friendly environment.

HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES

- Captains/coaches meetings will be held prior to the start of a program.
- Leagues are subject to a limited number of teams. Teams are subject to a limited number of players.
- Rosters must be submitted prior to the start of the first game of the season.
- League fees must be received by the Recreation department prior to the start of the season. If a team has a sponsor that requires an invoice, let the department know. This must be done annually by every team, regardless of whether the team has the same sponsorship annually.
- No post-dated checks are allowed.
- Credit Card and debit card payments will incur a 3% fee.
- There will be a \$10.00 administrative fee applied to all refunds.
- NO DOGS OR PETS ARE PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES.
- NO GLASS BOTTLES ARE PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES.



FLATHEAD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

FLATHEAD COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR OTHERWISE CHANGE REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND RULES AT ANY TIME. PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY CHANGES.