

Lincoln Park District 16" CO-ED Softball Rules



1. A strike mat will be used to determine balls and strikes. If the ball touches any part of the mat with the legal arch it will be considered a strike. The strike mat is not home plate. Therefore, if a runner is trying to score he or she must touch the home plate not the strike mat.
2. The arch of the pitch should be under 12 ft. but above 6 ft.
3. All batters will start with a 1-1 count, one strike and one ball.
4. A batter is allowed three foul balls. After the third foul ball, the hitter is out.
5. All games are 7 innings or one-hour long. If a game is tied at the end of seven innings, extra innings will be played only if there is time. If there is not time, then the game will end in a tie during the regular season.
6. 10 players (at least 4 females) must always be in the field. You are never allowed more than 6 men in the field. Your team will be allowed to play with 8 players, but you must have 2 females present.
7. All players in the field must be listed in the batting order. There are no designated hitters allowed. You may have one courtesy runner per inning. Female running for another female and a male runner for another male.
8. Game mercy rule: 10 runs up after 4 ½ complete innings if the home team is ahead, (home team always gets their final at bats when they are behind by 10 runs).
9. There will be a 7-run limit per inning during innings.
10. No leadoffs or stealing allowed. Runners may leave the base once the ball crosses the plane of the plate or is hit by the batter. If a runner leaves early, the ball is dead, and the runner is declared out. If this is the 3rd out of the inning the batter will be first up in the next inning.
11. Games do start on time! Forfeit rule: 10 min after game time. If the opposing team wishes to allow the team to play and with the minimum number of required players, the game may be played as an official game.
12. Any excessive contact or collision will result in an out and or ejection. If there is an intensive slide resulting in a collision the player will also be out and or removed from the game. This will be closely watched by the umpire.
13. No metal spikes are allowed.
14. Only female participants have the option of using a glove or not. The only time a female is required to wear a glove is if she is playing first base.

15. A foul ball above the batter's head may be caught for an out.
16. On an infield fly (any fly ball within the infield with significant arc and deemed an "easy catch") with less than 2 outs and runners on 1st and 2nd, or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, the batter is automatically out, and runners can advance, BUT at their own risk.
17. All outfielders must remain on the grass not the dirt infield until the ball crosses the plate. There cannot be more than 6 players on the infield or dirt area at any one time. Once contact has been made the outfielders may move onto the infield dirt area. If an outfielder moves onto the dirt area before contact has been made the batter may be awarded first base.
18. The pitching mound will be 45' feet from home plate. Pitchers must have contact with rubber when releasing the pitch.
19. 4 ½ innings will be considered a complete game if the home team is ahead and the is called due to weather. The home team will always be allowed their final at bat if they are trailing by less than 10 runs. If a game is called due to weather, and less than 4 ½ innings have been played, the game will be restarted from the beginning at another date.
20. You are only allowed to re-enter the game one time. You must check in with the umpire.
21. Everyone must use a softball bat when at the plate.
22. Sliding into home plate is not allowed. There is zero contact at home plate. Home plate is always a force out. Once the runner passes the line between third base and home plate they may not return to third base, they have committed to home plate.
23. Catchers will have home plate to make the play and the runner must touch the black mat to be called safe. This will avoid contact and keep players safe.
24. All the players must be 18 years of age or older and out of high school to be able to play in the league.
25. There will be zero tolerance to any drugs or alcohol used prior to or during any of the games. If it is noticed or seen the umpire will ask you to leave the facility. If it continues to be an issue you or your team will be asked to leave the league, please be respectful.
26. To participate, everyone must sign a waiver a week prior to playing.
27. Games may be cancelled due to weather so make sure you follow the Lincoln Park District on Facebook or are calling 217-732-8770 for updates.
28. The deadline to add more players to the team roster is August 18.