

# HUDSONVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATION SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

1. The 2021 A.S.A. rules and the Hudsonville Community Education Recreation League rules shall govern play in this league.
2. Game time is forfeit time, except for the first game of the night. Start on time with players available.
3. No infield and no batting practice before games. (please stay off the infield)
4. No inning begins after 55 minutes.
5. No smoking on the field.
6. No roster is required. Just remember that a player cannot play for two teams on the same night in the same division. If it happens, the second game is a forfeit.
7. A player cannot play in any league until his/her high school season is over. All players must be 18 by May 1 to be eligible to play.
8. Tie games after seven (7) innings will use the following rule (if time allows): last batter in previous inning starts out on 2nd base with one out. Games can end in a tie if it is at the time limit.
9. If two teams tie for first place, the champion will be determined by head-to-head games. If three or more teams tie, there will be a playoff.
10. A game that is stopped before the fourth inning begins will be rescheduled from the beginning. If a game is stopped in the fourth or fifth inning, because of darkness or rain, it will be rescheduled from where it left off. If it is stopped because of rain after five innings it is a complete game.
11. In case games are postponed, there will be a number for you to call.
12. The league cannot be held responsible for injuries before, during, or after the game.
13. Each team is allowed three (3) home runs per game. Everything after that is an out.
14. Any acts of violence or derogatory remarks directed at umpires before, during, or after a game will be handled on an individual basis.
15. Any player ejected from two (2) games will be suspended for the season.
16. Protests can be made only on rule violations. Protests must be made before the next pitch is thrown. The umpire must be informed and the rule violation must appear on the official score sheet. The protest must be written out and turned in at the Community Education office along with \$20.00 before 4:00 P.M. the following working day. If the protest is upheld, the money is returned; if not, the money goes to the league fund.
17. Only ASA official softball bats may be used. MAKE SURE YOUR BATS ARE LEGAL. Please check the [ASA website](#).

18. Slow pitch teams must have 9 players to start a game unless it's the 1st game, then they can begin with the number of players available. However, they must have 9 players after 2 innings or the game is then forfeited.

19. Pitchers on women's slow pitch teams can pitch from 43 feet or 50 feet. Men's teams and co-ed teams must pitch from 50 feet.

20. MERCY RULE: 20 runs after 3 innings; 15 runs after 4 innings; 10 runs after 5 innings

21. The designated hitter is allowed in all games. The DH can enter the game on defense. He/she may play any position but must remain in the same spot in the batting order.

22. Slow pitch teams may use the rocket rule. You may bat as many people as you want. If there is no substitute for an injured player, that spot is an out in the batting order.

23. Slow pitch softball will use a limited arc (6' to 12'). The ball must hit within 24" behind the plate to be called a strike.

24. APPEAL PLAY: Anyone can make a verbal appeal. Ball can be dead or alive. Ball does not have to be thrown.

25. Slow pitch batters begin with one and one count. (3 FOUL BALLS, BATTER IS OUT).

26. **Metal cleats are not allowed.**

### **SPECIAL CO-ED RULES**

27. A team can play with more women than men, but not more men than women.

28. Men and women can play any position.

29. Walking a man is an automatic two (2) bases for everyone. Runner on 2nd scores. The next hitter must bat.

30. Men cannot bat back to back, there must be a woman between them. Every man follows the same man etc. A man could follow a different woman, just so men stay in the same order and women stay in the same order.

31. We will be using the line in the outfield. All four (4) outfielders must be behind the line until the ball is hit. If a violation occurs, the batter has the choice of either the batted ball or a walk.