

WOODSIDE RECREATION SUMMER CO-ED SOFTBALL –2017 RULES

- Teams.** Teams will field 10 defensive players, 4 women and 6 men. Teams may play with a minimum of 6 players (2 women and 4 men) before a forfeit is declared. Teams playing with 3 women: Choose either **A)** Play with 8 players, bat 2 men, 1 woman rotation and can either play 1 women in the infield (1st, 2nd, 3rd or SS) and 2 in the outfield or 2 women in the infield (1st, 2nd, 3rd or SS) and 1 in the outfield. Men fill the empty slots but in both cases, 5 men can play, 1 at catcher, no Pitcher's Helper and only 3 outfielders total... **Or B)** Play with 9 players, bat 1 man, 1 woman rotation and must play 1 women in the infield (1st, 2nd, 3rd or SS) and 2 in the outfield. Men fill the empty slots, 6 men can play, 1 at catcher, no Pitcher's Helper, 4 outfielders total. Teams playing with 2 women must play 1 woman in the infield (1st, 2nd, 3rd or SS) and 1 in the outfield. This means 4 men can play; 3 in the infield, (1 at catcher, and no Pitcher's Helper) and 1 in the outfield. Forfeit time is 15 minutes after game is scheduled to begin, 6:15pm. Players participating must be on a current roster on file with the Softball Commissioner. If a non-roster player participates in a game, the team for which the player participated forfeits the game. A player, who is not injured, ready to play and willing to play, must play at least one inning on the field and be put in the batting lineup from the point they show up for the game and through the completion of the game. Age restrictions: 30 and over for males, 25 and over for females, 18 and over for females who are family members. **Home team is the 2nd name on schedule, will reside in the 1st base dugout & preps field before game.**
- Game length.** Games will be eight innings. If tied at end of eighth, continue to play until one team is ahead at the end of an inning. However, no inning shall begin more than 1 hour, and fifteen minutes following the beginning of the game, and games may end in ties. Beginning with the 6th inning, whenever one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more at the end of the inning, or after the end of the top half of the inning if the home team is the team ahead, the umpire shall declare the team with the lead the winner of the game. By agreement between the managers, the teams may complete more innings, but the winner of the game for purposes of League record shall be the team declared the winner by the umpire.
- Field position.** There will be four natural outfielders (no short fielders). Outfielders must play behind the outfield line until the ball is hit, and infielders must be on the infield dirt until the ball is hit. The defensive pitcher must remain within the prescribed mound area (circle around the mound) until the ball is pitched; this means that both feet must be inside or on the circle. There must be at least 4 women playing defense in each inning. There must be at least one woman at two of the 6 infield positions. There must be at least 2 women outfielders.
- Substitutions.** Free substitution is allowed on defense. Players may not play more than 3 innings at any one position during the 1st through 6th inning only. Pinch runners are allowed at any time after a batter reaches base safely; the substitute runner shall be the person of the same gender who made the previous out.
- Batting order.** All team members who play defense must bat, and all players who bat must play defense. A two-male, one-female or male-female batting order must be followed. Players who arrive after the beginning of the game will bat at the end of the order. The initial order must be followed throughout the game.
- Pitching.** 3 balls are pitched by the offensive team. If the batter fails to hit a fair ball on the 3 pitches, the batter is out. The batter is also out if the batted ball strikes the offensive pitcher. Pitches to men shall be made from the regular mound; pitches to women may be made from a closer point. One person may be designated by a team at the beginning of the game to play as an offensive pitcher only, and that person may pitch but play neither defense nor bat.
- Bunting.** Only women may bunt.
- Hitting.** Women may bat with a ball one size smaller if they choose. The first fair ball hit over the outfield fence by a player will be a home run. Any fair ball subsequently hit by that same player over the outfield fence in that game shall be an out. A pitched ball cannot be hit after it has struck the ground. Batter may step on home plate to hit pitched ball.
- Base running.** Runner must remain on base until the ball is hit. No sliding, whether feet or head first; runner will be called out. Runner must avoid contact when reaching a base, if avoidance does not occur, all potential outs on this play will be awarded.
- First base.** There will be 2 first bases - one for defense on the line, and one for offense outside the foul line marked in a different color. If a runner from home to first touches the defensive base running to first base or runs into the first baseman, the runner is out. If there is no play at first base, then the runner can touch either bag while rounding first. To get the batter out at first, defensive team can tag the white first base or tag out player along first base line.
- Second and Third base.** There will **NOT** be a double bag at second or third.
- Home plate.** All plays at home plate are force plays. No tags of runners coming to home plate after the halfway point down the third base line count as an out. At halfway down the line as marked, runners from third to home must veer to the right from the baseline and touch the offensive base marked behind home plate. If the runner reaches that marked base before home plate is tagged with the ball, a run is scored. If a runner from third to home touches the defensive home plate, the runner is out whether there is a play at home or not. When a runner from third to home goes beyond the halfway point down the baseline from third base, a force is in order at home plate whether or not the runner later retreats to third base.
- 10-run rule.** A team's turn at bat in an inning shall end when either three (3) putouts have been made against it or when the team has scored ten (10) runs, whichever occurs first. This rule shall not apply to the team's last at-bat in a game or if the team is behind by fifteen (15) runs or more even after scoring the ten (10) runs.
- Ground rules for McCovey Field.** All trees and bushes and nets are live. Any ball caught in fair territory on the fly after striking a tree or a net is an out. A ball is determined to be fair or foul by where the ball is actually caught or lands on the ground.
- Equipment and Uniforms.** Balls will be limited flight, Incredi-ball type softballs. No metal spikes are allowed. Each player on team must wear a shirt that is basically color-matched to other players on the team.
- Field Prep.** Home team to prep field. Field must be dragged completely, infield watered and completely caulked.
- Umpires.** At least one umpire will be used at each game. Arguing with an umpire will result in an ejection. Ejected players will sit out the next 2 games. Any person ejected from the game must leave the premises (out of sight and sound) within 5 minutes. If a person does not leave premises, his/her team forfeits the game. Suspensions can carry over to the following season. Once a player is ejected, during the remaining innings in the game and for those suspension games, the team will also be penalized. The team penalty for the first player ejected is one male removed from outfield, the second ejected player; one male is removed from the infield, the third from the outfield, and the fourth player and on, until a forfeited game. No extra player can replace these open positions.

NO ARGUING PLEASE. PROFANITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

ABUSE OF THESE RULES ARE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE LEAGUE.

NO BOTTLES, CANS, OR CUPS ON THE FIELD (INCLUDING COACHES BOXES) AT ANY TIME.

RESPECT THE GROUNDS BY PICKING UP ALL TRASH AFTER GAME, AND PLEASE RECYCLE.

BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN CHILDREN AND BE CAREFUL OF OTHERS.

MOST OF ALL, LET'S HAVE FUN