

JOHNSTON MEN'S SOFTBALL - 2019 LEAGUE RULES

ANY RULES NOT SPECIFIED IN THIS DOCUMENT DEFER TO THE 2019 USSSA RULE BOOK - <http://usssa.com/docs/2019/2019USSSARulebook.pdf>

RULE 1 – EQUIPMENT

- A. Bats will be provided by the league. No personal bats will be allowed in play.
- B. Metal spikes are not allowed
 - 1. Any player caught using metal spikes will be ejected from that game only.
 - 2. The player removed from the game be replaced by a legal substitute. (If a legal substitute is not available then it will be an out when removed player's position in the batting order comes up.)
- C. Teams must have matching uniforms. At a minimum, that consists of the same shirt with a unique number for each player. Uniform rules go into effect on May 30.
- D. Game Balls – Only USSSA 12" Classic M balls may be used. Each team will be required to supply one new ball per game. Each team will also be required to supply good condition additional balls as necessary.

RULE 2 – THE GAME

- A. A 10 minute grace period will be allowed for first game only. If grace period is used, that game will played with a 60 minute time limit from time the game was intended to begin. Games after the first game of the night will start immediately after the end of the preceding game.
- B. Game forfeits
 - 1. The forfeiting team will be responsible to pay for both umpires fees (see below) and the scorers fee (\$16.00).
 - 2. Multiple forfeits by the same team may result in being prohibited from the league playoffs or removal from the league at the commissioner's discretion
- C. Batter will be declared out on the 2nd foul ball after the first strike. ("One to waste")
- D. Courtesy runners will be allowed, once per inning. The courtesy runner will be the player who was the last recorded out.
- E. Home run rule - 3 home runs per game per team (progressive up to 5 maximum). An out-of-the park home run after the maximum number allowed will be an out.
- F. Run Rules - 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, 12 runs after 5 innings.
 - 1. In the event that the visitor team scores to go ahead by the previous innings run rule (e.g. visitors go ahead by 15 runs in the top of the 5th inning), the game will end without the home team batting.
- G. A game called by the umpire, during regular season play, which cannot be resumed within 30 minutes, may be regulation if four or more innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored as many or more runs during the un- completed fourth inning.

RULE 3 – PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

- A. Rosters
 - 1. All teams may have up to 20 players on their roster, and all players on the roster are eligible for the playoffs with no minimum games played.
 - 2. Preliminary roster must be submitted to commissioner prior to first game.
 - 3. Final roster is due to league commissioner on May 30, after which no other roster changes may be made.
- B. If a team has 9 players at starting time, the game must start. A team cannot play with less than 9 players
 - 1. A team may play or continue a game with 9 players. If 10 players are present, then 10 players must be used. In addition, the league also allows for the 10th player to be added to the game last in the batting order without penalty.

- C. If a team starts with 10, 11 or 12 players and for any reason cannot field that number of players, the spot in the batting order for which there is no player becomes an out.

RULE 4 – UMPIRES

- A. Umpires will be paid \$27 per umpire for two umpires, or \$42 per umpire for one umpire.
- B. Texas Swear Rule. Any player who used inappropriate language, regardless of the intent, is subject to his team being assessed one out when on offense.
 - 1. If a team is on offense when the infraction occurs, an out will be immediately called. If the infraction occurs on the 3rd out, then the team will come to bat the next inning with one out already declared. The person scheduled to bat will be out.
 - 2. If the team is on defense when the infraction occurs, an out will be called when the offending teams comes to bat the next inning. The person scheduled to bat will be the out.
- C. Protests are based on misapplication of USSSA or league rules only
 - 1. The protesting team must notify the umpire, scorer, and opposing coach of the protest before the next pitch.
 - 2. Protests must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of game in which protest is lodged.
 - 3. Protests will be heard and acted upon by the league commissioner and the state and local Umpires in Chief.
 - 4. Each protest must be accompanied with a \$30.00 fee and will be returned if protest is upheld.

RULE 5 - MISCELLANEOUS

- A. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on any town property.
- B. Batting practice is not allowed on the field before games.
- C. No children under the age of 18 are allowed in dugouts or on playing field — no bat boys or bat girls allowed.
- D. Teams can and will be held responsible for the actions of their fans.
- E. Player conduct - Managers and coaches are responsible for players' conduct & behavior. It is expected that every coach and player conduct himself in a responsible manner. Any action by a coach, player or spectator which falls in the following categories will result in ejection and 3-game suspension:
 - 1. Making a mockery of the game
 - 2. Fighting
 - 3. Arguing with official, opposing players, coaches, or fans,
 - 4. Unsportsmanlike conduct or creating an unsafe playing condition

Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in the next 3 games. A second ejection shall result in a league suspension for 1 year from date. If the action of a player or manager warrants greater penalty such penalty will be applied at the discretion of the league commissioner. Umpires have the authority to eject a team or player before, during, and after a game.