

2019 ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

Spring/Summer

All leagues are organized to provide an enjoyable recreational experience!! Enjoy yourselves, enjoy the league, respect others, and respect all property.

Liability Statement: The City of Mason City, the Parks & Recreation Department, its employees or appointed agents, assume no responsibility for any personal injury or loss that any team member or spectator may incur as a result of this program. Individuals are encouraged to have their own personal health/accident plan for any such injuries which occur.

1. All games will be played at Frederick-Hanford Park (23rd S.W.).
2. All playing rules, except those herein described, are in conformance with the ASA Official 2019 Rulebook. All teams will be sanctioned through Iowa ASA. (This is included with your registration fee)
3. The Recreation Department reserves the right to change, modify or make new rules when necessary.
4. **Rosters:**
 - Use official forms: Roster spots are unlimited, but players may only play on one team per league night.
 - Please print or type all information requested on the official sheet that was provided in the registration packet. Please make sure all First and Last Names are spelled correctly
 - Players must be 18 years of age upon game day to participate in our leagues. ID's may be asked if underage. Otherwise it's a liability if a person 18 years or younger plays and gets hurt.
 - **Spring/Summer Rosters are due at on May 7th, 2019. Your first game will be forfeited if your roster is not received by May 7th, 2019. No Exceptions! Players may be added, until Friday, June 28th at the Recreation Dept. free of charge. Additional players may be added for a \$10.00 fee per player and must be added at the Recreation Office beginning on June 30th. No additional players can be added beginning on July 5th. A forfeit will be charged for using players not on your roster or an illegal roster. No Exceptions!**
 - **Spring Rosters are due prior to your first game. No additional players may be added after July 5th.**
 - Once a player is on a roster, that is the **ONLY** team he/she can play for. If a player is asked to quit the team or decides to quit of their own will, the captain must submit, in writing to the Program Coordinator, permission for that player to change teams. Players are allowed to play on more than one team, but not in the same league/night.
 - The only way players can be removed from a roster is if they are injured and can no longer play (rest of the season) or if they are moving out of town and will be unable to continue playing in Mason City. In both cases the captain must present (to the office) a letter of verification from the doctor or player who is moving, before the additional player can be added to the roster. Once off a roster, they can't be added to another roster in any league.
 - All players are asked to bring Identification to their games, if you don't bring identification it could lead up to suspension of the game.
 - Any changes in the roster the day of a game need to be turned in by 4:30pm. They can be turned in through email, calling the Recreation office, or turning in names to the office. The player can't play on the team after 4:30pm that night.
 - Umpires will have a binder that has updated rosters if any player wants to look at roster before the game begins.
5. In compliance with the Americans Disability Act (disability defined by the ADA), any team considering using a player with a disability is asked to notify the Recreation Department prior to the season, so appropriate action can be taken to accommodate their play.
6. **Game time is forfeit time!** All games will start at the scheduled time, or earlier if the previous game is completed. The time limit will begin on the first pitch. Each game will have a 55 minute time limit regardless of the time it starts, unless 7 innings are completed before the limit. Thursday league will have a 1 hour and 15 minute time limit. Make sure all players are present at least 15 minutes before their scheduled game. In case of early completion of the preceding game, the next game will start early. Later games may be delayed with the extended time limit.
 - Please have your team ready to play by 7:15pm or 8:15pm just in case if games get done early. It could leave to a forfeit if teams are not ready to play. Make sure everyone shows up early.
 - 5 Pitches will be allowed at the beginning of the game. Once the 5 practice pitches are done the game clock starts. No practice pitches in between innings unless a new pitcher comes to pitch.

7. Teams must start and finish with at least 8 players. An automatic out will be inserted in the positions of the missing players in the batting order. If you start with 8 players and the other players show up, the captain may insert that player when he/she is ready to play. The captain must report the entry to the umpire/those players must bat in the automatic out positions.
8. Teams may start play with 8 to 11 players. If, during the game, a player or the extra player gets injured/ejected and can't continue to play and they have no other substitutions, that position in the batting order will become an automatic out. If playing with less than 8 players, the game becomes a forfeit.
9. Players that are ejected will be suspended from play for the game they were ejected from, and at a minimum, their team's next scheduled game. Multiple-game suspensions will be at the discretion of the Program Coordinator.
10. Decisions whether a game will be played due to weather, will be made after 4:00 p.m., unless conditions warrant canceling earlier. **Always check the Mason City Parks & Recreation Facebook Page First!** It will **ALWAYS** be listed here first! Team captains will be notified of when re-scheduled games will take place via e-mail and the Softball Page on the Mason City website.

11. All batters will start with a one and one count (1 ball & 1 strike). A foul ball on the third strike is an automatic out.
12. There is no leading-off a base. You must remain on base until the ball is hit, touches the ground or reaches Home plate, there is **NO** stealing in our leagues.

13. *Steel cleats are NOT allowed in any leagues.*

14. All players must wear the same color jerseys or shirts, even in cold weather. Jackets and sweatshirts must be the same color as jersey. Handkerchiefs/bandanas do not qualify as headwear & cannot be worn around the head.
15. All games will be seven (7) innings in length unless the 20/15/10 run limit is in effect, (20 after 3, 15 after 4, and 10 after 5) or the time limit is reached. It is considered a full game if time runs out or if it rains after 4 innings, or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead. The umpire will attempt to project what will be the final inning and let each captain know. But if there is any time remaining on the 55 minute limit, we will begin an additional inning, if within the 7 inning game. Games that are tied at the end of their time limit will play (1) extra inning, starting with the last out on 2nd base. Extra innings for games in a tie can be played if time limit has not expired.
16. Each team will be responsible for supplying their own balls. All leagues must use 12" core .52/300 compression balls, and must be ASA approved, yellow balls. **For COED Only, YELLOW 11" core .470 or under and must be ASA Certified.** If the defensive team is caught altering the opposing team's ball, they will start the next inning with the first batter being an automatic out. If the offensive team alters the ball, that batter becomes an automatic out.

17. Protest Procedure: Protests must be filed in accordance with ASA rules. A typewritten description of the situation along with a \$50.00 protest fee must be filed within 24 hours of the game in protest at the Recreation Office (time exception being ineligible player). There is no protest if staff recognizes an illegal situation.

Protest Ineligible Player: No Fee, but must be filed by opposing team of game/player in protest.

- **RULE AGAINST:** Game stands as played, money deposited into Players Improvement Fund.

- **RULE IN FAVOR:** Replay game from point of protest, money returned to team who protested. Player ineligibility, offending team forfeits (0-7) the game in question or last game played against offended team.

18. **HOME RUN RULE:** All balls hit over the fence in a game by a team in excess of the following limits will be ruled an automatic out.

HOME RUN CLASSIFICATIONS:

-- Monday Men's Recreation	1	
-- Tuesday Men's Semi-Competitive	2	* No running out homeruns
-- Wednesday Coed	3	
-- Thursday Men's Champion	4	

19. Safety Bases: (1st base):

- A batted ball hitting the white portion is declared fair, and a batted ball hitting the orange portion is declared a foul.
- The orange portion of the base may only be utilized by the offensive player and white portion by the defensive player. **EXCEPTION:** On extra base hits or hits where there is no play being made at the double base or to avoid a collision the runner may touch the white portion.
- The batter/runner after touching first base must return to the white portion on a single base hit.
- When tagging up on a fly ball, the white portion must be used.
- If the rule is not followed: Runner may be called out/safe depending on situation.

20. If the base runner makes an obvious attempt to disrupt the defensive player, it shall be the umpire's discretion whether the runner is declared out for interference, or ejected for blatantly interfering with the defensive player.

21. Awards will be given to the 1st (\$50) and 2nd (\$25) place teams in each league and (\$25) for Tournament Champion. Tie breakers: The following criteria will be used to determine league place winners in the event of a two-way tie for 1st/2nd place, or any other place.

- Head to head competition. Record vs. opponent tied with.
- Run differential (+,-) vs. opponents tied with.
- Run differential (+,-) vs. ALL league teams.

22. Intoxicating beverages, smoking, and Vaping are not allowed on the playing area. Any player or captain caught Consuming an intoxicating beverage and/or smoking on the playing field during the game will be ejected from the game. **NO QUESTIONS ASKED!!** Smoking and Vaping is **ONLY** allowed West of the road...Please be respectful of the law. **ANYONE caught with carry in beer will be assessed a \$25.00 fee. Players will not be allowed to play until the fee is paid.**

- Patrons and players are not allowed to smoke or Vape near the ball diamonds. Managers & players are responsible for making sure their fans smoke on the west side of the road.

23. BLOOD RULE: If at any time an umpire sees blood on the uniform or body of a player or captain, the game shall be stopped and someone should treat the wound by cleaning and covering the area. If the uniform has blood on it, have the player exchange/cover the part regardless of the jersey, pants, or undershirt color. There will be no violation of a wrong color. The amount of time it takes to treat the wound is entirely up to the umpire. Should the player have to leave the game and a substitute report for the injured player regular re-entry and substitute rules will apply. A team can play short-handed – if the game can't be resumed and there is no substitute available, the game must be forfeited.

24. The home team will be provided with an official scorebook to keep the official book. Both first and last names must be used in the official book. An exception will be made if home team does not have an extra person to keep the book.

25. SPORTSMANSHIP:

- A high degree of sportsmanship is required from players as well as spectators. Remember our leagues are to have fun and provide good clean leisure activities.
- Music is allowed at the complex. Please make sure it is appropriate music with no swearing or inappropriate terms. The Umpire can determine to turn off the music due to language and loudness.
- Only the captain is permitted to appeal to the umpire. If anyone else gets involved, they will be ejected.
- Swearing will **NOT BE TOLERATED!** Players can be ejected from the game or suspended.
- Players involved in fighting will be suspended for the remainder of the year. (Summer & Fall)
- Any player striking or threatening an umpire or staff will be suspended for the remainder of the year. (Summer & Fall) This rule will be in effect for all players & captains on and off the playing field.
- Softball umpires and supervisors have the authority to eject players, captains or fans from the playing area. If the ejected player refuses to leave, the police will be called.
- Any player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, such as profane language or gestures will automatically be suspended for their teams next scheduled game.

26. Any player whose behavior results in damaging property such as fences, dugouts, gates, etc. will be charged for costs Of repairing the damaged property. The player will be written up by the supervisor and will be suspended from the league. Possible vandalism charges could be brought against the player. **THIS BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!!**

27. Anyone caught climbing the fences will be suspended from play for one week. (Umpire Discretion)

28. **NO COOLERS** or carry-in beer allowed inside the complex. The Recreation Department will be in charge of concessions with proceeds going to improvements at Frederick-Hanford Softball Complex.

COED RULES:

1. Each team will be responsible for supplying their own balls. **Women must use Yellow 11” core .470, 375 compression balls, and must be ASA approved.** If the defensive team is caught altering the opposing team's ball, they will start the next inning with the first batter being an automatic out. If the offensive team alters the ball, that batter becomes an automatic out.
2. Ten member teams will be used (5-males/5-females). Batting order shall be male-female or female-male alternating.
3. If the extra-player (EP) is used, 1 male and 1 female must be used for a total of 12 players.
4. Teams may play with 5 females and 4 males, but not 5 males and 4 females. If a team is short 1 female, they may play with 8, taking 2 automatic outs. If a female shows up, both a male and female may enter the game when both are ready to play and the captain must report the entries to the umpire.

5. Coed defensive positioning will include 2 males/2 females in the outfield; 2 males/2 females in the infield - and 1 male/1 female in the pitcher/catcher positions.
6. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. Batter does **NOT** have to touch 1st base. The next batter (female) **MUST** bat. Exception with two (2) outs, the female has the option to walk or bat.
7. When a male batter gets walked, base runners must touch all bases including home plate in order for runs to count.

FORFEIT RULE:

If the team cannot make a night of play, it is the captain's responsibility to contact the office by 4:00 p.m., so the staff can contact the other team and other arrangements can be made. If the office is not contacted, the following penalties will be enforced:

If the office is not contacted by 4:00 p.m., the following penalties will be enforced:

1st Offense - Written Warning.

2nd Offense - \$25.00 fee payable to the Rec. Dept. prior to next scheduled game.

3rd Offense - Out of the league.

2019 Summer Season

Pitchers in ALL Leagues must wear a mask for safety.

MONDAY - RECREATIONAL

1 Home Run

Only 1 Player on Roster can play on Thursday
(2018 Summer Rosters)

TUESDAY – SEMI-COMPETITIVE

2 Home Runs

Only 3 Players on Roster can play on Thursday
(2018 Summer Rosters)

WEDNESDAY - COED

3 Home Runs

Only 3 Players on Roster can play on Tuesday or Thursday
(2018 Summer Rosters)

THURSDAY - CHAMPION

4 Home Runs

* Roster Rankings are based on 2018 Summer Season.

* **Example:** If you play on Thursday Team, you are ranked a Thursday Player...If you play on a Tuesday Team, you are a Tuesday Player...If you play on a Tuesday and Thursday Team, you are a Thursday Player.

* Players ages 40+ do not get rated.