

## Jay Community Center Coed Softball League Rules – Rules as of August 9<sup>th</sup> 2015

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ASA rules govern unless stated otherwise in the Jay Community Center Coed Softball Rules.

1. **Team rosters:** Maximum of 16 players allowed. Team rosters due at the time of registration. Midseason roster changes must be approved by the Program Director and will only be allowed under special circumstances. Any given player must be registered with only one team. Players must be at least in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade of high school.
2. **Game/player requirements:** A complete lineup shall consist of 10 players (minimum of 5 women). Defensive positioning requires that there be 2 women and 2 men in the infield and the outfield. If a men pitches a woman must catch and vice versa. Men may not bat consecutively in the batting order.

The following “non-complete” lineups shall also be permitted:

- 9 players (4 women & 5 men) – an automatic out shall be declared in vacant spot for the 10th player
- 9 players (5 women & 4 men)
- 8 players (4 women & 4 men)

Exception: Prior to the start of a game, team captains may agree to allow other combinations of men and women in order to proceed with the scheduled game.

3. **Extra Hitter (EH) Rule:** Teams may have up to 2 extra hitters (EH). This is optional, but if the EH option is used it must be made known PRIOR to the start of the game and listed on the score card in the regular batting order.
4. **Substitution & Re-Entry:** A starter in the batting line-up may be withdrawn and re-enter the game once, providing the player returns to the original starting batting line-up position. A substitute may not return to the line-up once withdrawn unless a player is injured and no other eligible substitute exists; then a player from the bench may take the injured players batting position.
5. **Fees:** The designated league entry fee must be paid by the stated deadline in order to compete in league play.
6. **Forfeit Time/Policy:** A team having less than 8 players (4 women & 4 men) at no more than 5 minutes past the scheduled start time shall be required to forfeit the game. Note: if both teams have less than 8 players (4 women & 4 men) at no more than 5 minutes past the scheduled start time, then both teams will receive a loss on their record. **As a courtesy, please give 24 hours notice to the Program Director and opponent’s captain when your team is unable to play their scheduled game.**
7. **Equipment:** Any bat declared illegal by ASA will also be illegal in this league. Also, metal spikes shall not be permitted. Wood bats are supplied for small field, but you can bring your own. Any wood bat is permitted, and the team that brought the bat does not have to allow the other team to use that bat. **New as of Fall 2016 all teams supply your own ball. JCC will not provide balls. 52/300 12” ball is required. Using an illegal ball will result in a forfeit.**

8. **Forceouts at home plate and scoring:** If there is a play at home which results in a forceout, the runner shall step on the strike mat and the defensive player shall step on homeplate. **Runners always step on the strike mat at home plate regardless if there is a play or not.**
9. **Player/Team Conduct:**
  - Since this is a family oriented league, NO ALCOHOL shall be in the dugouts or on the field of play.
  - Fighting, cursing or use of physical force will not be tolerated. .
  - **NO SMOKING ON THE FIELD OR IN THE DUGOUTS!**
  - Violation of any of these items shall be considered inappropriate conduct by players, managers, and/or teams and will result in penalties including but not limited to: game ejection, game forfeit, suspension or expulsion.
  - Only the team captain shall represent the team in discussions with officials and the opposing team
10. **Game Duration/Time limits:** Games shall be 7 inning contests, subject to the following 1 hour time limitations:
  - No inning shall be started after 60 minutes of play.
  - Upon reaching the 1 hour limit, the inning in progress shall be completed.
  - There shall be no time limits in the tournament championship game(s).
11. **Run Rule:** A game will be terminated if a team is leading by 15 or more runs through 4 innings of play or by 10 or more runs through 5 innings of play. The home team must get their last at-bat if trailing before the run rule is declared.
12. **Batting, 1-1 Count:** All batters begin their at-bat with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. Foul balls count as strikes. If a batter hits a foul ball with 2 strikes they will be declared out.
13. **Batting, Walk Rule:** With 0 or 1 outs in an inning, if a male batter “walks” then he will be awarded a double (and runners will be advanced as necessary). However, with 2 outs in an inning, if a male batter “walks” then he will be awarded a double (and runners will be advanced as necessary) and the following female batter will be given the choice of receiving a “walk” or she may bat as usual.
14. **Small Diamond Wooden Bat Rule:** On the Small Diamonds only, a man hitting the ball must swing a wooden bat.
15. **Women’s Grace Line:** A “grace line” shall be painted in the outfield. When a woman is batting, outfielders shall not be permitted to advance past this line until the ball is hit. As an addition to this rule while a woman is batting, all infielders must be in the infield dirt.
16. **Tournament Format:** All teams will participate in a double elimination tournament immediately following the regular season. Tournament seeding will be established by regular season records. Ties will be broken by using the following sequence of comparisons: 1) Head to head record, 2) Point differential, 3) Coin flip. Home team status will be awarded to the higher seed. For all championship games, the team in the winner's bracket shall be the home team. A coin flip will determine home team if a second championship game is required.
17. **Rainouts and Cancellations:** MAY or **MAY NOT** be rescheduled. This decision shall be made by the Program Director.
18. **Stepping on home plate while batting:** A batter will be called out if he/she steps on home plate while hitting the ball
19. **Tagging Up:** A runner may “tag up” after the ball is touched. The defender does not have to maintain control of the ball in order for the runner to advance.

## 20. Sliding/Interference:

- Unless a fielder is in the process of going for the ball or making a play, the base runner has the right of way. If the fielder is making a play, the runner must not interfere with the fielder.
- If there is going to be a close play at home plate, it is recommended, BUT NOT REQUIRED for a runner to slide. If a collision occurs at home plate because the runner was going for home and not the strike mat they are out. If the collision occurs in front of the strike mat the run is scored. If a runner causes interference with a play at any base by not sliding, the runner will be called out. Sliding at any base if there is going to be a play is recommended.

21. **Courtesy Runners:** With approval from the opposing team's coach, courtesy runners may be used for injured players. The player must be the person who made the last out. Guy for a guy and girl for a girl.
22. **Foot off the bag rule:** A runner may be called out when the runner fails to stay in contact with the base to which they are entitled until the ball is batted, touches the ground, or reaches home plate.
23. **1<sup>st</sup> base safety bag rule:** Runners should always use the safety bag at first base. Umpires may call runners out if they do not use the safety bag, but it is umpires discretion.
24. **Throwing runners out from outfield:** No runner can be thrown out by an outfielder at first base. However, an infielder can throw out a player from the outfield. First attempt is a warning; second attempt is an advancement of one base for the runner.
25. **Homerun on small fields:** A homerun must completely go over the fence and or netting. Balls can be played off of the netting, but if a ball gets stuck in the net and is not playable the outfielder must throw hands up. The runner can continue to run and the umpire must decide if it was playable or not. If deemed not playable it is a double and all runners go back to base where the dead ball occurred.
26. **Pitched ball that hits plate and rubber mat:** If a ball hits the plate and mat at the same time, the pitch will be called a ball. (UMPIRES DISCRETION)
27. **Homerun limit:** There is a new 5 homerun limit this year. After 5 homeruns it will be the 1 up rule. Meaning if one team hits 5, the other team must hit 5 before the first team can hit another. After the team has reached 5, any other homerun is considered an out until the other team ties them in homeruns or goes 1 up.
28. **Paying the Ref:** If your team does not pay the umpire cash prior to the game, your team will forfeit that game and the captain will be billed by Jay Community Center to cover the cost of the umpire. Each week all teams play 2 games and need \$10 per game.