



2017 Ocean Co-Ed Softball League Rules and Regulations

1. All games begin at 6:30 pm Forfeit time will be **10** minutes from scheduled starting time. Teams must have a minimum 8 legal players to begin a game. Umpire must be paid \$20.00 per team **before the start of a game**.
2. Each Team will supply 1 brand new 12" Optic AD Starr softball per game.. Failure to supply new ball will be grounds for forfeit.. Teams should have back up balls available. We will be using the **ASA/USA** bat list. We will honor the ASA Non-approved list as well. Games will not start until both team managers exchange lineups. Umpire is to be notified of any substitution. Both teams must keep a game book. The Home team scorebook is the official book. All players **MUST** have matching color and numbered jerseys by **May 15, 2017**
3. All games will be regulation 7 innings (unless run rule applies). An official game is 5 full innings (4 1/2 if home team is ahead). The "Run Rules" will apply. Any team leading or goes up by **10** or more runs after 5 full innings (4 1/2 if home team is ahead) will result in the end of the game, or leading by **13** runs after 4 full innings, will result in the end of the game. If 7 innings are completed and is tied, then the international tie breaker rule will be used for one inning. If a winner is not decided, game is recorded as a tie (exception: Playoff games) If an umpire determines that the game is moving at a slow pace, he/she can invoke speed up rules; *1 Warm up pitch and no infield practice.*
4. Each team is allowed 10 defensive players, at least three players must be female, to bat and field. **Females cannot bat back to back, unless there are more than 5 females in the line up.** If using 1 EH it can be either male or female. When using two, you must use one male and one female. Players who have been substituted for may once re-enter the game but only in the batting order position they were previously at. The lineup is not established until the entire twelve positions (or less if batting less than twelve) have batted the first time around. After that point, only substitutions may replace a starting player. The minimum number of players a team may field is 8 (maximum number of males can never be more than 7 in the field). The number of females playing may NEVER be reduced to below two. When playing with 2 females there will be an **Automatic out** charged for the missing third female for the entire game. **Note: If the third female arrives at game, she can enter into the "automatic out" spot at any time in the game.**
5. Players may not wear metal spikes. Plastic cleats are permitted. All catchers **MUST** wear a protective facemask (or sign a waiver).
6. Umpires will enforce rules, except where inconsistent with these "House" rules. Each team will designate one manager/captain to communicate to the umpire. Only this person will be permitted to communicate with the umpire. In the event of an umpire's failure to show up, the two teams may agree to play the game anyway. Should this be the case, each team must clearly lay out ground rules and be in agreement of them. Balls and Strikes should be a part of the game. If during the course of the game an umpire shows up late, the inning in progress shall first be completed before allowing the umpire to assume his/her post. In this case, the captains should get together with the umpire to clarify the agreed ground rules. Keep in mind that a team is not at risk of forfeiting a game if it so chooses not to play without an umpire present. If this situation occurs, the game may be rescheduled at either team's option
7. UNSPORTSMEN LIKE CONDUCT will not be tolerated. Excessive abuse of an umpire or malicious contact with officials or opposing players is grounds for EJECTION and or team forfeit. An ejection is an **AUTOMATIC 1 game suspension. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Any player or coach who strikes an umpire will automatically be suspended for the remainder of season. The league has a right to suspend any player or coach upon umpire's

recommendation. Two ejections' will be automatic suspension for season. Fighting is grounds for season suspension. A \$25.00 fine must be paid before a suspended player can re-enter league. Spectator's behavior will be responsibility of team manager. One warning will be issued before ejection. **NO ALCOHOLIC beverages** will be consumed before or during game at field. Smoking on field, in dugout area during game is prohibited. This will be considered Unsportsmanlike conduct, and an automatic team forfeit. No exceptions!

8. The pitcher must face the batter before delivery. The Pivot foot must be in contact with the pitching rubber when ball is released. The ball may be held in any manner during delivery. Pitching distance is 52 feet. (**4 –10 foot** arc). 65 foot bases. The ball **MUST** be pitched at a **slow** rate of speed. The ball must cross over the plate between a zone, which is determined to be the same size as between the batters **front knee** and **back shoulder**. Any pitch higher than 10 feet will be declared an illegal pitch and batter then has choice to swing or not. Result will stand.

9. Any batted ball **judged a hazardous safety issue** by the umpire that is hit up the middle through the box (24 inch width of pitching rubber) and less than 18 inches over pitcher's head, will be called a Dead ball and an Out and a warning will be given to offensive team. A second occurrence by any batter from the same team, will be an ejection and one game suspension as per league ejection rules. If an umpire hears any comments about "hitting the middle", he will immediately warn team and eject player if this occurs. The umpire has the right to use good judgment and common sense to enforce this rule..

10. Balls and Strikes will be called by the umpire in accordance with GSSA rules. EVERY player (male and female) will start their turn at bat with a 1 ball, 1 strike count. No extra foul. With a 2 strike count you must hit a fair ball, no extra foul.

11. Bunting and stealing is prohibited.

12. Base runners may neither steal bases nor lead off bases before the batter makes contact with ball or the ball crosses home plate. Should this happen, the runner will be considered out and the play ruled dead. If a batter swings and misses a pitched ball, any runners that came off their occupied bases **AFTER** the batter's swing-and-miss are **NOT** considered out pursuant to this rule and may return to his/her respective base without incident. Base runners may tag up and advance on fly balls.

13. **One** courtesy runner per inning. The **last batted out** will be the courtesy runner. if a female needs a courtesy runner then it must be the last **female** to make an out (if there is not available female, the coach may choose the courtesy runner). If a male wants a courtesy runner then the **last out** will be the courtesy runner regardless of gender. If the request is denied, the original runner must stay on the base. A courtesy runner will be called out if he/she is on base when due up to bat. * During the first inning of a game - if there are no outs recorded and a courtesy runner is used/granted then the last person in the batting line up shall be the courtesy runner. If it's a female needing a courtesy runner ,the last female in the batting order will be used.

14. Base runner must avoid contact with any fielder. Sliding is not mandatory, but runner must make an attempt to avoid contact. Any runner who does so is automatically out and will be ejected from the game by the umpire pending a suspension period to be determined by the League's director.

15. When a female is at bat, a minimum of 4 outfielders must stay in outfield. Outfielders may not play ball till it enters "outfield area" behind the infield. When an outfielder does plays a ball in infield, it will result in a dead ball and the female will be awarded 1st base.

16. When a male walks before a female's at bat, he will take possession of 1st base, and the female will have a choice to walk or hit. If she decides to take a walk, She **MUST** inform the umpire of her decision at home plate before taking possession of 1st base..

17. If it has rained anytime during a 24-hour period previous to your scheduled starting time Teams **MUST** call 732 906-8263 mailbox #4 after 5:00pm. Teams **should not call** earlier looking for game status decision. Teams should not take it upon themselves to cancel games. Such action could result in a double forfeit being assessed. Teams should remember that rain in one area does not mean that it is raining at the game site. **Teams forfeiting more than 2 games per season are eligible for league expulsion.** League director will reschedule rainouts. Rainouts that cannot be rescheduled will be deemed canceled. Once the schedule is published, the schedule is final & any changes will result in a forfeit. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN ONCE LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS**

18. A single elimination format will be used for league playoffs, with Championship round, best of 3. All teams will qualify. In each game, the higher seeds will play the lower seeds also having the home team advantage. Should a tie result in the standings, head-to-head results shall be the determining factor. If the teams split their head-to-head games, then run differential in those games will be the determining factor. After that, coins toss, will be

used. Playoff champion will receive trophy and Tshirts, as well as discount for the 2017 season, should they return. (A team must have a minimum of 6 returning player to be considered that team).

19. **NO Alcohol** before or during games on Brick Township property. Teams are encouraged to wait until after the game where the fields are within minutes of liquor-licensed establishments that are kind (or foolish) enough to welcome the likes of us.

20. Electronic Rosters **MUST** be submitted before the start of the season! Player must appear in 4 league games. to be eligible for post-season play. No player will be game eligible **without matching uniform shirt after May 15th**. Rosters lock after May 15th. Team manager's can protest a player's eligibility by requesting a form of ID (2 if no picture). Roster protest can be made up to the completion of 3rd inning for starting players. Substitutes must be protested immediately on entrance to game. The protesting team is responsible for the recording the name of the player in question in the official score book. If that player's name doesn't appear on roster and/or can't show valid ID, said player will be ejected from game and a forfeit will be declared if game is protested properly. If a player doesn't have numbered team jersey, name doesn't appear on roster or proper ID umpire will prohibit participation in game. After May 15th and before June 1st manager's can release a player (limit-one) and add a replacement by using provided form on website at least 48 hours before next scheduled game. **Once a player is placed on a roster, they can Never play with another league team for the remainder of season.**

21. If field is fenced, an Over the Fence Home Run limit will be enforced. .ALL balls hit over the fence by a team in excess of 4 will result in a dead ball out.. Females are permitted to hit unlimited Over the Fence Home Runs. Batters hitting a home run, or earning a four base award only have to touch first base.

22. Winning teams must report game score on the league website (www.leaguelineup.com/oceancounty_coed) (It is also important to record an accurate score since tie-breakers could be based on this information between two or more teams tied in the standings at the end of the regular season.

23. All teams planning to be a member of league for 2017 season **MUST** pay (\$200.00) deposit by league meeting. A team shall pay the remaining fee balance **BEFORE** first game.. Checks should be made out to: **Jersey All Sports** If team does not meet deadline they will forfeit season and lose deposit.

24. Above rules will supersede official GSSA rule book Any rule not listed here shall be enforced as per the 2015 rule book



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