

Capital District Over 50 Softball League -2024 Rules

Current USA Softball Rules apply, except for the following:

TEAM COMPOSITION

1. There shall be a limit to the number of players on a team that are under 50 years of age. The number of 45-50 year old players will be determined by the following formula it is the # of players / # of teams. Ex. $12 / 6 = 2$ per team. If we have an uneven number then the extras should not be placed until the end of the draft or left on a waiting list. In addition the women should be placed evenly so every team has at least one. As long as men turn 45 or women turn 40 during that calendar year you are eligible to play. Players that turn 50 during that calendar year will be considered 50 for that season.
2. A team must have 9 players to start a game. If playing with 9 players and someone is injured you can finish a game with 8 players. Each team will field only 10 players in the field, playing defense, although if both captains agree, then 11 fielders are allowed. If there are more than 10 players from the roster at a game, the team shall ensure that each player have a minimum playing time in the field of 3 innings or 1/2 of the game. Free substitution in the field is permitted.
3. EH rule. Each team will be able to use 1 player per game as just an extra hitter. That player will just hit and will need to be able to run to first. They player is not required to play the field. If the player decides that he or she can play in the field later in the game there is free substitution. To be an EH it has to be the players decision and not the managers. If the player is able to play the field, they should.
4. To give each player equal playing time, the team must bat all players on the roster in each game. For example, if all 13 players come to a game, all 13 should be in the batting order. 13 players is the max number on any team unless the coach is willing to have a 14th. Extra players should be placed on a wait list.
5. Regular batting order rules apply, except for the exceptions that follow. In the event of an injury to a player requiring removal of that player from the lineup, then the automatic out rule does not apply. Similarly, if the batter needs to leave for any other reason, before the game is completed, the automatic out rule does not apply. And if a player comes too late to start the game, they can be inserted into the game, at the end of the batting order, without penalty. If that player was replaced by a sub, the sub should leave the game, unless that leaves a team with under 10 players in the field. If a player is not in the batting order he/she may not play in the field (no designated fielder). In those rare instances, if a player leaves the game (e.g. due to injury) and the team needs to replace that player with another who has left the game or is injured, the team may do so that the team is not penalized.
6. **Courtesy runners can be used for any player who is injured and is unable to run the bases after reaching first base.** The player who made the last out will be the courtesy runner unless that person is also in need of a courtesy runner, then it shall be the last out prior to them. Any player who can run should run for themselves. **This is not a pinch runner situation.** Players who need a courtesy runner should be identified to the ump prior to the game starting unless an in-game injury occurs. The first inning if no outs yet that last hitter

in the line-up will be the runner. All final determinations will be determined by the Umpire with consultation with the score keeper. There should be no more than 3 runners per team unless both coaches agree.

7. Substitutes will be allowed only as follows:

The League will prepare a list of players grouped by skill level A, B, C substitute and The League will prepare a list of all players grouped by skill level A, B, C the player liaison will be responsible to finding a sub for the team who needs one. The coach should notify the player liaison as soon as they are aware that they need a sub to ensure that one can be found in time. Subs will be based on the player ratings ex. B for a B. There will be no A for a B allowed, if a team loses a player at the last minute they will have to play with 9 players. The player liaison will have players on standby if possible to sub. All new players will be reevaluated after the 3rd game if their skill level is better or worse than originally determined

Substitutes must always be batted at the end of the order. No regular player should be displaced in the field with a substitute. For example, if the team can field 10 players, no substitute is needed. A maximum of four substitutes per team is allowed. Subs may be more difficult during the 9 am games, so there may be extenuating circumstances which will need some league assistance to find a sub.

(Substitute's stats will not be recorded to that individual's overall stats but players get a credit for a game played for anyone who has a difficult time meeting the minimum requirements for eligibility.)

8. During the regular season, if a team has less **than 6 Players** for a game, it shall forfeit the game. If the team has six players, they may only **use four (4) subs** and the four subs have to be comprised of players drawn from the substitute list as stated in rule 6. A “friendly” scrimmage (no stats) will take place if players want to engage if the other team has to forfeit.
9. Decorum: Regardless of the playing venue, foul or argumentative language, and/or disorderly or unsportsmanlike conduct are not permitted. If such behavior occurs, the umpire will first warn the offending player(s), and if, the language or conduct persists, the player(s) will be ejected from the game and asked to leave the premises completely. Failure to do so will result in immediate suspension from the league. Any player that is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for their next game in attendance. The suspended player must serve their suspension in the dugout or it does not count. If a player is ejected once they will get no further warning the remainder of the season. A second ejection should serve as a suspension for the rest of the season or asked to leave the league. The incident will be reported by either the manager or the umpire to the League President and the new Disciplinary committee, who will take any needed action. In addition to the suspension, the player will be fined \$150.

PLAYING FIELD AND EQUIPMENT

10. The Home team will have the 3rd base dugout and the visiting team will have the 1st base dugout.

11. In the infield, in the interest of safety, the league will strive to use flat, hard bases at 1B, 2B, and 3B. First base will have a double base, one for the runner, and one for the defensive player, set side by side, equidistant from home plate (60'). The defensive player must use the inside base, while the runner must use the outside base, which will be painted orange. Note: at some of the fields we will be using there may be a single base. Both runner and fielder should be careful not to interfere with the other.
12. The league will use a 3rd base commit line, approximately ½ the distance between 3B and the plate. Once the runner goes past the marker (a cone), he/she is committed and must proceed to the plate or be called out.
13. We will have a second home plate behind the batter's box for the runners to run to as all plays at home base are force out that gives the catcher and the runner enough room to avoid a collision. (Added in 2023)
14. It is recommended that two similar cones be placed on the foul lines at a distance of sixty (60) feet from first and third base respectively. This will be the distance that the outfielders must stay until the ball is struck. The short fielder would be allowed to start in front of the cones.
15. The pitching rubber should be 46' from home plate, as measured from the back of the plate.
16. All bats must be ASA/USA approved bats. In the event of a concern about bat from any source, the umpire should be requested to look at a bat and make a decision accordingly (ASA/USA Rule applies). In 2022, all bats must have a "CDOFSL approved" sticker. The ASA/USA list of banned bats will be included in the on the league website.
17. **All pitchers must wear a protective mask.** While batters are not precluded from hitting up the middle, they should be cautious when doing so to at least attempt to avoid the pitcher. The league does not want to have serious or any injury as result of hitting up the middle. It is **recommended** that both corner infielders as well as any player in the infield to wear a mask if they choose too.

GAME DURATION

18. Games shall be 7-innings, except when extra innings are needed, or if the game is likely to exceed two hours. No new inning will be started after 1:45. If the game is tied it will have to be completed at a later date and time or end as a tie. If at the end of 5 (4.5 Home) innings a team is ahead by 18 or more runs or 14 or more runs after the 6th (5.5 Home) inning the game will be stopped for the mercy rule.
19. If a game goes into extra innings the USA section 11 Tie breaker rule will apply, starting in the 8th inning the last person out from the previous inning will start the inning at second base.
20. There will be a "mercy rule" of 10 runs per inning maximum. When a team reaches that point, their half of the inning is ended. The exception is for the last inning, there is no run limit in that 7th inning for either team.

21. If one team is way ahead in a game, the two managers may agree to end the game early, particularly in extremely hot weather. Players should be consulted as to their willingness to continue in that instance.

PITCHING

22. Pitcher shall follow the USA/ ASA pitching rules for 10 man teams.
23. Intentional walks are allowed. The pitcher must notify the umpire of the intentional walk and the batter will proceed to first base.
24. Batters should make every attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch, but if the event they are hit by pitch, they must immediately proceed to 1B there is no declining the base.

IN-GAME RULES

25. All plays at home plate are a force play. Runner must make certain there is no collision. Do not slide into home plate. Because it is a force play both the runner and the catcher or other defensive player should make every effort to avoid collisions. There will be a 2nd home plate installed for all runners to run to make sure there are no collisions
26. A runner may slide into 2nd or 3rd bases only. The umpire can eject a player for a dangerous slide and the runner will be out. As stated in rule 24, the runner may not slide into home plate.
27. Purposely taking out either the runner or catcher or any other defensive player at any base is grounds for automatic ejection without warning from the game and result in a suspension of at least 1 game for the offending player.
28. On the rare occasion, that there is unintended contact between the base runner and a defensive player. It will be the determination of the umpire as to whether the contact was an incidental or intentional which will result in an automatic ejection. The play will result in an interference or obstruction call.
29. On overthrows out of play, players can advance to the base they were headed to plus one additional. Umpire's judgment rules. There is no leading, stealing or running on passed pitched balls. No bunting.

PLAYOFFS

30. During the playoffs, a team must field 10 players if they have 10 roster players available. If not they will be able to get substitutes. Rule 7 will still apply in the playoffs.
31. In order to play in any playoff game, the player must have participated in 5 (14 game schedule) of the regular season games. Consideration will be given for any extenuating circumstances, (e.g. injury, illness) to be determined by the President of the League.
32. . The team with the best record will be the number 1 seed in the playoffs. If at the end of the regular season there is a tie for playoff positions there will be a tie breaker system. First would be head to head. If more than 2 teams are tied it would who has the most head to head wins

over the other teams involved. The 2024 Playoff semifinals and championship series shall be best 2 out of 3 games series. The winner of the Championship will be crowned league champion.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Rainouts and cancellations: In the event of rain or other need to cancel or delay any scheduled game, an email will be sent to all those with email addresses or you will get a call if you do not have email. Notice will also go on the web site. You can also call Mike C.'s cell phone (518-391-9405) or your Manager to find out the status of a game. In Mike's absence, another cell phone will be designated. A determination of playable field conditions due to prior evening electrical storms or excess rainfall will be the responsibility of league officers. In general we will try to play a game even in wet weather, as long as the conditions on the field make it playable. If one or more games are canceled on a Saturday, these will be made up on a Sunday or next available open date. At some of our playing locations in 2023, most of our venues will have its own procedure on whether a field is field is playable or not. We will publish a particular venues' procedure on the website so you can follow their decisions.
- In the event of an emergency or injury at any field, call 911 and give the location.
- League umpires will be provided with a list of our CDOFSL rules at the beginning of the season and a copy available at games so that they understand our rules and those that take precedence over USA rules.