

ASHE ESWP ASCE WTS

Softball Tournament Rules

GENERAL

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

- All participants must agree to the waiver of liability.
- All participants in the league assume the risk of injury. All volunteers and employees of ASHE, ESWP, ASCE and WTS shall not be liable for injury to person, loss or damage to personal property arising from or in any way resulting from participation in the league.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- Any behavior that is deemed violent, harassing, and/or inappropriate in any way, as witnessed by the umpire, referee, or ASHE, ESWP, ASCE, and WTS staff, will result in the actions outlined in PSL's Sportsmanship Policy (link below).
 - <https://pittsburghsportsleague.leagueapps.com/pages/PSLSportsmanship>
- A player who is ejected from a game must leave the premises immediately. Play will not resume until the ejected player has left.
- Officials reserve the right to end a game at any point if the overall sportsmanship is out of line.
- Captains are to be the team liaison to discuss any call or rule with an official during game play.

WEATHER POLICY

- The decision to call a rainout will be made as early as possible.
- We will endeavor to play in mildly inclement weather. Rainouts will not be called unless conditions on the sand are extremely poor or the weather is deemed dangerous.
- Umpires have the jurisdiction to call a game due to darkness or weather at the beginning or during a game.

TEAMS

- Teams will randomly be selected the day before the event by skill level; we will strive to keep teams as equally skilled as possible.
- Teams will appear on a poster board the day of the event at the registration booth, where you will pick up your shirt and additional information.
- Each team will have a maximum of 10 players.
- Depending on gender ratio, the maximum men allowed on the field will be 9; meaning, if you have a 10M roster, only 9 may take the field; if you have 9M:1F or any other ratio, then you may have all 10 play the field*

- No player who is not on your roster and signed a waiver form may play in the tournament.
- If a substitute player is needed, one can be selected from the waitlist. The designated team captain will contact the tournament director and/or umpire.

*Women may choose any position and must not be forced to play catcher or any other position. Forcing a woman to play a position she does not want to play will result in dismissal from the team

PLAYERS

- A team consists of 10 players.
 - A team can consist of all females but not all men.
- A team can start play with a minimum of 8 players.
 - A team must have a minimum of 9 players by the start of the 2nd inning or they forfeit the game.
- No designated hitters are allowed.
 - All players must bat and play in the field.
- A team may pick up a maximum of 2 players in the tournament to avoid forfeit; players must be registered and approved by ASHE, ESWP, ASCE, and WTS staff.
 - If rostered players arrive late, they must be immediately inserted into lineup for the substitute players.

GAME SCHEDULE

START TIME

- Game will start at its scheduled time.
- If a team does not have enough players to start the match by 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, they will forfeit the first game.
- If enough players to start a game arrive between 10 and 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the game will be officiated and played as a scrimmage but will still be recorded as a forfeit.
- Once 15 minutes after the scheduled start time has passed, the game is recorded as a forfeit and the teams are allowed to use the remaining time to practice or organize a pickup game. Officials are not required to stay and officiate.

GAME LENGTH

- Regulation games are 5 innings but will be extended to 7 innings if time allows. The Championship Bracket game will consist of 7 innings regardless of time.
- A game that is called off by the umpire after 5 full innings of play shall be considered a regulation game and will not be made up. The score at the end of the last full inning shall determine the winner.
- A new inning shall not be started if there are 15 or fewer minutes remaining before the next game is supposed to start

- For example, if the time is 7:40pm the current game shall be called final and the teams playing at 7:45pm may take the field.
- A 10-run rule will take effect after 5 innings, also known as the Mercy Rule.
 - If during the 6th or 7th inning, the visiting team goes up by 10 or more runs, the home team still bats in the bottom of the inning. If the home team goes up by 10 runs during the 6th or 7th inning, the game is over.
 - During championship play, the Mercy Rule is extended to 15 runs.
 - When the Mercy Rule comes into effect, teams may choose to continue the game as a scrimmage, noting that the umpire will no longer keep score. Teams may use the field to scrimmage until 5 minutes prior to the next game time.

EXTRA INNINGS

- There are no extra innings, and no ties for regular play final score. If the home team is down during the last inning, they must score enough runs to win the game. Otherwise, the score at the end of the previous full inning (if not recorded as a tie) will be recorded.
- During the Championship Bracket, additional innings will be played until a winner is determined, however there will be no warm-ups between half innings.

RULES

PLAYING FIELD

- The bases are set 60 feet apart.
- The pitcher's mound is approximately 45 feet from home plate.
 - Pitchers may pitch from either 45 or 50 feet, as long as they are in line between home plate and 2nd base and no more than 3ft to the left or right of 2nd base.
- A strike mat behind home plate will be used. Any legal pitch that lands on the strike mat and/or home plate will be called a strike.
- Runners and fielders must touch home plate for their run or out to count. Touching the strike mat does not count.
- ASHE, ESWP, ASCE, and WTS uses a safety first base. Please see link below for ASA rules regarding the safety 1st base.
 - http://www.pump.org/_data/global/images/PSL-Rules/double-base.PDF

LINEUP

- A lineup must be submitted to the umpire before the game begins and all teams must bat in the written order. The umpire must approve the lineup prior to play. The team lineup may be rejected if it is weighted in favor of the male batters.
 - Teams may not deviate from their rotating lineup after the game has started.
- All players must have a spot in the batting order.

- Teams may not remove a player from the game with the intention of inserting a substitute player for the remainder of the game.
- A player arriving late to the game may be added to the end of the lineup.
- If a player is injured or becomes ill and cannot continue participating in the game, the lineup will remain in the same formation. The injured and/or sick player will not incur an out when their spot in the lineup is reached.
- If a player is ejected from a game, the lineup will remain in the same formation. The ejected player will incur an out when their spot in the lineup is reached.

PINCH RUNNERS

- Players needing a pinch runner must let the umpire know before their first at bat.
- Players may not use a pinch runner if they advance past first base on a fairly batted ball.
 - The exception to this is if a runner injures themselves running to a base; in this case a pinch runner may be awarded at the umpire's discretion.
- Once a player uses a pinch runner, that player must use a pinch runner for the remainder of the game.
- The last player of the same gender who has been called out shall be the pinch runner.
 - If no player has been called out, the player of the same gender farthest away from the player needing a pinch runner in the batting order will be used as the pinch runner.
 - For example, if the first male batter in the batting order needs a pinch runner, the male batting last would be his pinch runner.
 - Pinch runners will likely change inning to inning based on the last player to be called out.

GAME PLAY

- Only captains may discuss or clarify calls with the umpire.
- An outfield fence is in play. In most cases a ball hit over the fence is a homerun; however your umpire will go over the ground rules of the field before each game.
- Any ball that goes under an outfield fence will be ruled a dead ball and considered a ground rule double.
- Bunting, stealing, and/or advancing a base on a wild pitch is not permitted.
- Base runners may not leave their base until the ball is hit. Leaving the base before the batter makes contact with the ball is an out.
- Pitchers must pitch underhand, with an arc between 6-12 feet from the ground.
- The infield fly rule is in effect. For more information on the infield fly rule, see link below.
 - http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/definition_terms_2.jsp
- Each batter starts with a 1-1 count and gets one free foul. If the batter has two strikes against and hits a foul ball, that foul will not be counted as strike three. If the batter hits a second foul ball, that foul will be counted as strike three.

- If a batter throws a bat on a follow through of their swing, he/she will receive a warning from the umpire. The second time it occurs, the batter will be out.
- If a team chooses to intentionally walk a batter, the pitcher may waive the pitches and the batter may advance directly to first base.
- A runner may not slide beyond the base to break up a double play.
 - Runners who slide to break up a play will be called out. Should the runner at the prior base reach the base safely due to the double play being broken up, he/she will also be called out.
- No fielder may block a base or baseline, including home plate, unless he/she has possession of the ball or is in the act of fielding the ball.
 - Fielders who block a base or baseline without possession of the ball, or being in the act of fielding the ball, will be called for obstruction.
 - Runners must slide or surrender when a fielder has the ball and is waiting at the base to make the tag. Runners who don't slide or surrender will be called out.
 - Surrender will be defined as slowing down to the point where the runner can hold the base without contacting the fielder covering the base.
- No outfielder may step into the infield when a female is up to bat until she makes contact with the ball.
 - If an outfielder encroaches into the infield before contact is made, but after the first pitch, the ball is immediately dead and the batter is awarded first base.
 - Runners on base only advance if they are forced.
- A player is called out when:
 - Their batted fair or foul fly ball is caught by a fielder in the field of play.
 - The umpire calls a third strike on a batter.
 - A batter hits a foul ball after using their courtesy foul.
 - An infield fly is declared.
 - A fairly hit ball touches the batter before touching a fielder.
 - A runner or base is tagged before the runner reaches the base they are advancing to.
 - A runner does not slide or surrender.
 - A runner goes outside of the baseline by more than three (3) feet.
 - Exception: runners may go outside of the baseline to round a base when attempting to advance to another base.
 - A batter is found to be batting out of turn after the first pitch has been thrown.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

- Softballs, bases, and bats will be provided by the ASHE, ESWP, ASCE and WTS staff.
- Participants must bring their own gloves.
- Metal spikes/cleats are not permitted.

- No food or alcohol is permitted on the fields at any time.
- Alcohol must remain in the pavilion area at all times. **Glass bottles are prohibited.**

Allegheny County Parks Field Playability, Rulers and Regulations:

The permit holder will decide if the field is playable. This person will use common sense and good judgement in the decision to play. The soil must be firm and free of obstacles that could cause personal injury or field damage before play begins. Water can be broom-dried to remove puddles from infield to expedite play.

- All persons, if given permission to use a field, will abide by all and any directives from the County of Allegheny Police and Parks Personnel.
- All teams and individuals given permission to use a field assume all responsibilities in regards to injury and/or accident and all liabilities.
- Permits must be kept with team while using field at all times. Teams and individuals given permission to use a field must use the field assigned.
- No exchanging of field permits with another team or individual is allowed.
- No practice of any kind is allowed on fields during the months of February and March.
- Fields will be scheduled for use (Weather Permitting).
- After all scheduling has been completed, organizations may request additional dates if available. Please call the Park Permit Office where the field request was submitted.
- All teams are responsible to provide bases and line their own fields; you must use Field White only.