



Winchester Recreation Softball Rules & Regulations



Season Format

- Each team plays **9 regular season games**, facing every other team at least once.
- **Umpire fees:** \$50 per team, per game.
- **Playoffs:** Single-elimination tournament.
 - **Top seed** is always the home team.
 - **Championship:** Best-of-three series.
 - Game 2: Lower seed is home.
 - Game 3 (if necessary): Top seed is home.



Seeding & Tie Breakers

- Tie breakers for playoff seeding:
 1. Head-to-head win/loss record
 2. Runs allowed



Game Schedule & Time Limits

- **Game Nights:** Mondays & Tuesdays
 - Start times: 8:00 PM or 9:00 PM
 - Second game begins immediately after the first ends
- **Time Limits:**
 - No new inning within 5 minutes of the next game's start
 - No inning starts after **10:30 PM** for late games
- **Makeup Games:** Scheduled for **Thursdays** as needed
- **Forfeit Time:** There will be a grace period of 10-minutes from game time before issuing a forfeit, if a team does not show or have enough player.



League Rules

- **USSSA rules apply**, with the following modifications:
 - Batters start with a **1-1 count**
 - 3 balls = walk
 - 2 strikes = out
 - After one strike (called swinging, or first foul), batter gets **one additional foul ball**
 - Any further foul balls = automatic out

- **TYPE OF PITCH PERMITTED.**
 - The ball must be pitched in a definite underhanded motion at slow speed.
 - The pitched ball must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of home plate.
 - The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground.

Bat Regulations

Allowed Bats

1. Full/traditional wood bats
2. Hybrid bats with **solid wood barrels** and **non-wood handles** (must have USSSA stamp)

Not Allowed

- Full composite-barreled bats (made entirely of reinforced carbon fiber polymer)

All wood bats must be marked "Official Softball." Illegal bat use results in:

- First offense: team warning
- Second offense: game forfeiture **Captains are responsible** for ensuring legal bats are used.

Player Participation

- All players present must be in the batting order unless they are injured.
- Injured players:
 - May bat but not field
 - Cannot field without batting
- No penalty for removing injured players unless team drops below 9 players
 - If fewer than 9, empty spot = automatic out
- Removed players **cannot re-enter** during the same game

Rosters & Eligibility

- Rosters due to Rec Department by **September 9**
- Players must play in **3 regular season games** to be playoff-eligible

Home & Away Designation

- Determined by the official schedule

Forfeiture Rules

- Minimum **8 players** required to avoid forfeiting
- Forfeiting team pays **both umpire fees** (\$50 per umpire)

Game Cancellations

- **Minimum 48-hour notice** required to reschedule
- Notify:
 - Chris Ellison, Program Coordinator  cellison@winchester.us
- Last-minute cancellations (<48 hours):
 - Result in automatic forfeit
 - No makeup granted
 - Must notify Chris **and** opposing team immediately
 - Failure to notify may result in **league dismissal**

Reporting Scores

- Winning team must report score within **24 hours**
 - Email: cellison@winchester.us
 - Or update via: winrec.com

Inclement Weather

- Rec Department may cancel/postpone games
 - Managers will be notified via email/text
- Rescheduling will follow
- If weather worsens just before game:
 - Umpire decides whether to proceed
 - Teams must have 8 players to avoid forfeit
- If canceled **before first pitch**:
 - Each team pays **\$25** to the umpires
- If game begins:
 - Plate umpire decides on stoppage
 - Full umpire fee applies: **\$50 each**

Late Arrivals

- May be added to **bottom of batting order**
- Can enter on defense **after a completed at-bat**
 - No mid-at-bat entry

Courtesy Runners

- Allowed **only after a single**
 - Runner = player who made last out
- Not allowed after doubles or triples

10 **Slaughter Rule**

- Game ends if either team leads by **10+ runs** after bottom of 5th
- Home team always gets last at-bat if trailing
- Applies in 6th and 7th innings as well

Ejections

- Ejected players must leave field immediately
- Suspended from **next game** (including playoffs)
- Managers must report name to plate umpire

Field Procedures

Each team is responsible for field upkeep before and after games:

- Use **base plugs** for youth base posts (not dirt)
- **Rake infield** after final game, especially batter's box & mound
- **Pick up all trash**
- **Take home personal items**
- Store **game balls** in field lockbox
 - Dispose of damaged balls properly