

PLAY **LAWTON**

ADULT SOFTBALL RULE BOOK

Rev. 04/2023
2023 EDITION

LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

OBJECTIVE: Provide guidelines for division and league play.

ARTICLE 1 - GOVERNING RULES

Games shall be governed by the current edition of the USA Official Rules of Softball.

ARTICLE 2 - CONDUCT

Game Officials, League Marshals, the League Director, and other Eastern Sports Management Staff have the authority to eject coaches, managers, players, and fans from the playing field and/or playing area for misconduct. All penalties will be imposed at the discretion of the League Director. The League Director is responsible for deciding the level of penalty imposed in cases of misconduct.

MISCONDUCT

Play lawton reserves the right to suspend any player, coach, and/or fan for misconduct of any kind. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting
- Profanity
- Obscene gesture
- Disrespectfully addressing an official
- Objecting to an official's decision
- Improper contact with an official
- Illegal player

NOTE: If a player legally playing in two different divisions is suspended in one division; the player cannot participate in any games until the suspension has been served and the player is reinstated. When a player is suspended, the player is not allowed to participate in any scheduled sporting activities. However, they may be present as a spectator, unless otherwise stated in the suspension letter.

PETS

Pets, other than certified service animals, are not allowed in or around the softball fields.

ALCOHOL

City Ordinance - City Code - Section 4-1-1-108 General Prohibitions states that no person shall drink any alcoholic beverage in public or be intoxicated in a public place. No person shall consume or sell any alcoholic or intoxicating beverage on City-owned property.

- **“Alcoholic Beverages”** include all of the following: alcohol, spirits, beer, and wine. Public Places include parks, ball fields, parking lots, recreation areas, etc. Be aware that the City of Lawton will enforce any violation of this City Ordinance. Any teams with members failing to comply (including coaches, players, and spectators) are subject to forfeiture of games. Any individual failing to comply will face criminal prosecution.

ARTICLE 3 - FANS/SPECTATORS

Fans/spectators will be held to the same code of conduct as coaches.

Fan/Spectator Misconduct

The following punishments will be handed down if a fan/spectator is thrown out of the game for misconduct (defined under 'Misconduct'):

- **FIRST STRIKE:** If a fan/spectator is removed from a game for misconduct, the TEAM will receive a warning which lasts the entire season, including playoffs.
- **SECOND STRIKE:** If a fan/spectator is removed from a game for misconduct, after the team has already received their first strike, the TEAM will immediately forfeit the game they are playing, resulting in a score of 10-0 for the team not forfeiting.
- **THIRD STRIKE:** If a fan/spectator is removed from a game for misconduct, after the team has already received their first and second strikes, the TEAM will forfeit their remaining games for the season, and will not be eligible for playoffs, regardless of record.

ALL Misconduct will be reviewed by the League Director

BOTTOM LINE:

As a fan/spectator who is passionate about the sport and/or your team. It is your right to feel emotion, for example, happiness of your team scoring/winning, or frustration with a call that didn't go your way. However, it is also your RESPONSIBILITY, to conduct yourself in a way that is appropriate and aligns with the league conduct expectations. Misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated.

ARTICLE 4 - ASSAULT ON AN OFFICIAL

Oklahoma Statutes

Title 21. Crimes and Punishments

§21-650.1. Athletic contests - Assault and battery upon referee, umpire, etc.

Universal Citation: 21 OK Stat § 21-650.1 (2016)

Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

ARTICLE 5 - ROSTERS

All players must be registered, paid, have a waiver signed, and be on the DaySmart Roster prior to game start. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the League Director. Players who do not meet the requirements will not play.

Playoff Rosters - players must play in a minimum of four (4) regular season games AND meet all previous roster requirements to be eligible to play in playoffs. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the League Director.

Roster Lock - team rosters will be “locked” prior to the start of week 4. **NO** players will be added after roster lock, players may still “drop-in” however, they will not be considered part of the official roster and will not be eligible for playoffs.

ARTICLE 6 - PLAYER DROP-IN

For any game during the **regular season** a team may have a player(s) “drop-in” to their roster. That player(s) will be available for any games a team plays on that date. The cost is \$10 per drop-in which can be paid in cash to the League Marshall or League Director. That player must also fill out a Drop-In Form and have an account on DaySmart PRIOR to playing. Please allow for extra time prior to game start if you have a drop-in player. There will be no drop-ins for playoff games.

ARTICLE 7 - TEAM SIZE

The number of rostered players at any point in time during the season may not exceed **twenty (20)**. If a team’s roster is at capacity, a player must be removed from the roster before another player is added.

COED League - Each team must carry a minimum of three (3) females on their roster at all times.

ARTICLE 8 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

See current edition of the USA Softball Official Slow Pitch Rule Book and National By-Laws.

Illegal Player - any individual that participates in a league sanctioned game who has not been entered on to the team’s official roster, met the requirements to be on the official roster, filled out a drop-in form, or otherwise been approved to play by Play Lawton Staff.

The officials, League Marshals, League Director, and other Play Lawton Staff have the authority to call a game due to illegal player(s). The illegal player(s) will also be ejected from the game. The team manager/captain/coach may also be ejected from the game at the discretion of Play Lawton Staff.

ARTICLE 9 - TRANSFER/REMOVAL OF PLAYERS

TRANSFER

Players may transfer from one team to another for the following reasons:

1. The player and/or coach/captain/manager think it is better for the team to have that player leave the team.
2. A team disbands from the league.

All player transfers must be submitted in written form (email) to the League Director no later than 24 hours before a scheduled game. All player transfers must be approved by the League Director, and may also be vetoed by the League Director for any reason.

REMOVAL

A player may be removed from a team by the coach/captain/manager. A coach/captain/manager may also be removed from a team by the team. If a player wishes to be removed from a team, but the coach/captain/manager will not remove them, they may submit a written request to be reviewed by the League Director.

ARTICLE 10 - LEGAL GAMES

START AND FINISH OF GAMES

No game shall start or finish with less than nine (9) player's for men's teams and eight (8) players for coed teams. The 50 minute game timer will start at the posted game start time regardless of the number of players on each team. Once the timer hits 40 minutes, if a team has failed to make the minimum number of required players, that team will forfeit the game.

- Automatic Outs will be placed on each player short and can be placed anywhere in the lineup.

LENGTH OF LEGAL GAMES

A game shall consist of six (6) innings, weather and time conditions permitting. Four (4) innings shall constitute an official game. A time limit of 50 minutes is in effect for ALL league preseason and postseason tournament games as well as regular season games. No new inning will start after the time limit has expired, UNLESS the game is tied. All remaining games will start at the scheduled time or at the completion of the preceding game.

ARTICLE 11 - LEGAL LINEUPS

7/3 COED

A team may not have more than two males batting in a row anywhere in their lineup UNLESS going from the bottom of the lineup back to the top. Teams can use up to two extra hitters (EH), however, they must still follow the same lineup rules. A team may play with more than three females (6/4, 5/5, etc), but should never have less than three.

Below is a list of all legal lineups (a female may be put in a male's spot and these lineups are still legal):

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ARTICLE 12 - LINEUP CARDS

Each team's coach/captain/manager must submit a lineup card to the Umpire for review in the pregame conference.

ARTICLE 13 - EQUIPMENT

Officials will approve all equipment prior to game start

FOOTWEAR

All players must wear shoes. Rubber cleat shoes will be allowed. Open toe, open heel or hard soled shoes will not be allowed. Absolutely NO metal cleats.

BATS

See the current USA Softball Official Rules, must have a USA/ASA Softball sticker. Once a bat(s) is approved by the umpire, it will remain on the field for the remainder of the game. Once the game has started, only approved bats, that are on the field, can be used.

BALLS

Fiber optic yellow balls only

Men's Balls will be 12" .52/300

Women's Balls will be 11" .52/300

Coed League - Women have the choice of hitting the 11" or 12" ball.

ARTICLE 14 - FENCE CLIMBING RULE

When a player uses the fence to gain advantage to catch a ball, that player will be ejected from the game. A home run or foul ball will be declared depending on the fly ball situation. This rule prevents damage to City property and injury to players. No player, coach, or fan shall climb fences or backstops, hit balls repeatedly into the fences or backstops (pepper), or do anything that could damage city property. These offenses will be prosecuted.

ARTICLE 15 - HOMERUN RULE

ALL divisions will use the "One-up" homerun rule after two (2) homeruns.

One-Up - teams may only hit a maximum of +1 homeruns relative to their opponent's homerun totals (after two homeruns). Any batter that hits a homerun for a team that is already +1 in homeruns will immediately be declared out (runner's cannot advance).

ARTICLE 15 - JEWELRY

Jewelry wear shall be governed by the current edition of the USA Softball Official Rules of Softball with the following local change:

A player can wear jewelry that does not present risks to themselves and other players. In further detail, post and or stud jewelry are allowed as are permanently implanted jewelry as long as they are posts or studs. Any jewelry in the form of hoops, ropes, chains, points, necklaces, bracelets, other hanging earrings, and large decorative pieces cannot be worn or must be taped prior to coaches meeting with the official.

RAINOUTS

Visit www.facebook.com/playlawton to get information on rainouts. Information on rainouts will be posted by 3:00 PM if Play Lawton staff has determined that games should be canceled. The League Director, League Marshal, or game officials may terminate any game due to inclement weather. Games canceled due to weather, electrical issues or any other reason are not guaranteed to be made up. Every effort will be made to reschedule a canceled game.

LIGHTNING SAFETY PROCEDURE

Lightning Safety Procedure:

1. Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind, which may be signs of an approaching thunderstorm.
2. Listen for the sound of thunder. If you can hear thunder, go to a safe shelter immediately. If you **“See it, flee it” and if you “Hear it, Clear it”**
3. Postpone activities promptly. Don't wait for rain. Many people take shelter from the rain, but most people struck by lightning are not in the rain!
4. Go quickly to your vehicle. An open garage, baseball dugout or picnic shelter does not provide safety. An enclosed building is the best location to go to. However, if no enclosed building is convenient, get inside your hard-topped all-metal vehicle.
5. Stay away from tall or individual trees, lone objects (light or flag poles), metal objects (metal fences or bleachers), standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the tallest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single tall tree.
6. If you feel your hair stand on end or your skin tingle or hear crackling noises, immediately crouch to minimize your body surface area.
7. Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.

Decision to Postpone and Resume Game:

1. Allow 30 minutes to pass after the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning before resuming any athletic activity.
2. No consideration will be given to completing the game when making the decision to postpone or resume the game. The only factor that will be considered is the presence/absence of lightning/thunder/threatening skies.

What to do if someone is struck by lightning:

1. Call 9-1-1 or your local ambulance service for help.
2. Get medical attention as quickly as possible

For questions or more information call the Play Lawton at (580) 448-0123 or email programs@playlawton.com