

# City of Sacramento:

## Natomas Softball League Rules

### Player Conduct

1. Players are expected to play in the sports league with sportsmanship. This league is designed to be recreational and it is the purpose to provide a recreational experience with fun and exercise
2. Players participating in any kind of physical or verbal confrontation on the field or at the facility are subject to suspension for the current season or the entire remaining softball year

### Equipment

3. Tennis shoes or rubber-cleat shoes must be worn. Metal cleats are illegal in all leagues. Shoes deemed to be unsafe by the Umpire at game time will also be prohibited
4. Any bat on the current ASA Non-Approved bat list is prohibited.
5. The 12-inch size ball will be used for all men's games and the 11-inch ball will be used for all women's play.

### Game Duration

6. Game duration will be 7 innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first.
7. Game time begins with the first pitch.
8. No new inning will begin after time has expired. The current inning being played after time has expired will be completed.

9. Inning duration will be 3 outs or the batting team bats twice through its lineup.
10. A team leading by 15+ runs after 4 innings will be declared the winner and the game complete.
11. During the regular season, there will be no extra inning play.

## **Batting**

12. A team must place a minimum of 8 players in the batting order at the start of the game.
13. Once a player bats, they must remain in the same batting order position for the duration of the game.
14. When the batter enters the batter's box he/she will have the count of no balls and no strikes.
15. After the batter has received a count of two strikes, he/she will be declared out on the next foul.
16. Courtesy runners will be allowed for injured players only. Courtesy runners must be the last player to have made an out. In coed play, the courtesy runner must be of the same gender.
17. A starting batter can be replaced by a substitute at the beginning of an inning only.
18. A starter and their substitute must bat in the same batting position for the duration of the game.
19. A starter and their substitute MAY NOT both bat in the same inning.

20. Starters and substitutes can re-enter between innings without restrictions.

21. No designated hitter. Any player who bats must play in the field next time their team takes the field.

22. Runners may overrun first base only.

## **Fielding**

23. A team must place a minimum of 8 players in the field of play at the start of the game.

24. There are no restrictions concerning field position changes provided that the game is not unduly delayed.

25. Any player in the field may be replaced due to injury at any time during the game.

## **Pitching**

26. The pitch must be delivered with an underhand motion and must have a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum of 12 feet.

27. The strike zone is the rubber mat provided by the league and placed behind home plate.

## **Special Coed Modifications**

28. The 12-inch size ball will be used for male batters, and the 11-inch ball size will be used for female batters in all games.

29. Teams must start a game with a minimum of 4 males and 4 females in the field of play.

30. There must be at least 3 female infielders in the field of play .
31. The number of males **MAY NOT** exceed the number of females while in the field of play.
32. The number of females **MAY** exceed the number of males while in the field of play.
33. The batting order must alternate males with females.
34. If at any time two males bat consecutively, an automatic out will be recorded before the second male bats.
35. Once the pitcher has received the ball and assumes a stance to address home plate, all outfielders (including a male "rover") may not position themselves closer than 165' to home plate until the ball reaches home plate. A female "rover" may be positioned inside the 165' arc at any time.
36. Home plate is a force out at all times. Runners will run to the batting mat, the catcher will tag home plate.
37. A runner must commit to running to home plate after passing a 'commit' line half way between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate.
38. A male batter who receives a walk (intentional or not) with two outs will be awarded second base. Runners advance if forced. The next female batter has the option to walk or bat.