

2023 Rocky Mountain Regional Rules

1. **Home teams.** Home teams are determined by the flip of a coin except for Championship game which is determined by winner's bracket being Home. And "If" game is determined by coin flip.
2. **Timing and Extra Innings**
 - a. **Pool Play games.** Pool play games will have a 50-minute time limit from the time the umpire calls for "Coaches". There will be no extra innings in pool play, games will end in tie. Run rules are in effect.
 - i. The 10-run rule is in effect after 5 innings.
 - ii. The 15-run rule is in effect after 4 innings.
 - iii. The 20-run rule is in effect after 3 innings.
 - b. **Bracket games.** Bracket games will have a 50-minute time limit from the time the umpire calls for "Coaches". Run rules are in effect. Games will not end in tie. See Extra Inning Play in 2(d). Championship games will go a full 7 innings unless the run rule comes into play. "IF" games will be on a 60-minute time limit.
 - i. The 10-run rule is in effect after 5 innings.
 - ii. The 15-run rule is in effect after 4 innings.
 - iii. The 20-run rule is in effect after 3 innings.
 - c. **Delay of Game.** The team manager must hustle players on and off the field between innings. The umpire must first warn the team and then call the game a forfeit if a team employs tactics to delay a game.
 - d. **Extra Inning Play.** All extra-inning games and games tied after the time limit will go to one pitch; you either walk, strike out or take the result of the play. No exceptions. (Foul ball is an out). You will also start the first extra inning with the last player who batted in the previous inning on second base with no outs. If, after one full extra inning, the game is still tied, the last player who batted from the previous inning will start on third base with no outs.
3. **Inclement Weather/Darkness.** If a game must be called due to inclement weather, darkness, or any other potentially hazardous conditions, the game shall be considered complete, if 5 or more innings have been played, or 4½ with the home team ahead. This rule does not apply to championship games.
 - a. Aurora Sports Park does not allow a new inning after 10:30 PM
4. **Attire.**
 - a. No steel cleats, hard plastic, or removable cleats are allowed. Shoes must be rubber soled or molded cleat.
 - b. External jewelry may be worn at the discretion of the player but must be removed or taped at the request of the umpire.
5. **Bats.** Every bat used must have the ASA/USA logo Or USSSA thumbprint to be eligible for use. If neither are clearly visible by the Tournament Director's interpretation, the bat will not be allowed and will be considered illegal. If a bat is banned by a sanction, it is banned for us as well. (220's are allowed, but if a bat is banned in any sanction, it is not allowed ex. Suncoast)
6. **Balls.** We will be using ASA Balls. By Default, men bat with the 12-inch ball and female players bat with the 11inch ball. However, Individual female players may choose to bat with the 12-inch ball. They must make this request with the umpire prior to the first legal pitch.
7. **Behavior and Code of Conduct**
 - a. All coaches will review the player code of conduct with their team and the coach will sign the player code of conduct on behalf of their team. By doing this, the coach and team agrees to be responsible for the conduct of their players.
 - b. Players failing to abide by the code of conduct may be ejected.
 - i. **Ejection:** Any player who is ejected from any game must sit out a minimum of one game. Which is the next full game. Any team having a player, or a coach ejected from a game, will declare a forfeit by that team in pool play. If a player or

coach is ejected from a game in bracket play, then that team will be deducted 7 runs immediately and run rules will still be in effect. We hold personal conduct to a spiritual standard.

- c. **Umpires must always be treated with Respect.** Any harassing, yelling, or being rude to the umpires will not be tolerated, and will be cause for removal from the tournament.
8. **Eligibility.** In addition to being alcohol and drug-free, each player must meet the following conditions:
 - a. Be an active member of a 12 Step Recovery Program that pertains to substance abuse And/OR be a family member (Spouse, Partner, Parent, Child, Sibling) of a current player in the tournament who is an active member of a 12 Step Recovery Program that pertains to substance abuse.
 - i. Family members that are participating are to be alcohol and drug free during the event, and for 24 hours prior to the event.
 - b. Have not played on another team in the current year tournament. Once a person plays one time for a team, they cannot play for any other team in the Tournament without the Tournament Director's approval - To do so will result in a forfeit. (Men and Woman that played on a Men's or Women's team can play on one Coed team).
 - c. **Challenging Eligibility.** An eligibility challenge can be made at any time and in accordance with Protesting Rules (See Below). A Challenge is not anonymous and is not private. A challenge must include a reasonable suspicion. Hearsay does count as reasonable so long as the source is made public and able to be contacted. If a player is found to be ineligible, that player will be ejected from the tournament and the manager of record will receive a 1 calendar year suspension. The team will forfeit their current or most recent game.
9. **Playing on Multiple Teams.** Playing on multiple teams in Men's/Women's OR Coed is not permitted. Once a person plays, one time, for a team during the tournament, they cannot play for any other team in the Tournament without Tournament Director approval - doing so, without approval, will result in a forfeit of the game. Men and Woman that played on a Men's or Women's team can play on one Coed team.
10. **Rules/Protesting Rules**
 - a. **Protests.** Judgment calls may not be protested. The only thing that may be protested is a rule violation. A protest will be considered immediately. Because protests include a stoppage of game time and affect other schedules a \$25 protest fee will be needed to prevent frivolous protests. If a team's protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the protester. If a basic interpretation of the rules is needed, it will not be considered a protest, and game time will not be stopped. The protest will be heard by the Tournament Director who will consult 2 other Softball officials. Note: If the team that the Tournament Director is playing on is involved, the TSRA Softball Commissioner will fill in.
 - b. **Elastic Power.** The Acting Tournament Director shall have complete charge of all situations not covered in the rules. Rules shall be acted upon by the supervisor, and all decisions are final.
 - c. These tournament rules supersede any other set of rules. If anything cannot be reconciled with these tournament rules, then the 2020 USA (ASA) Softball rules will be the next guiding document. In the event anything cannot be resolved by the 2020 USA (ASA) Softball rules.
 - d. There is an underlying principle to all our rules which leaves all of them open to interpretation. The most agreed on interpretation is written in black and white. Should the Tournament officials deem it necessary to interpret a situation different than what is written, it will be done under the guidance of the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.
11. **Ready to Play.** Be aware that during tournament play it is necessary that your team be available to play until you have verified that you have completed playing for the day or your team has completed tournament play.

12. **Score Keeping.** Each team is asked to maintain a scorebook for each game. If/when there is a score, roster, count, number of outs dispute, Umpires and tournament officials will defer to the most complete scorebook.

13. **Blood.** A player/coach who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform cannot participate until he/she is treated, and/or their uniform is changed. If that is accomplished in a reasonable amount of time, they do not have to leave the game.

14. Pitching

a. **Pitching Masks.** Pitching masks are required, protecting from the forehead to the chin.

b. **Pump Fakes.** Pump faking is NOT permitted. Pitching motion is in accordance with USA softball and motion is one complete motion after the ball is presented.

c. **Distance.** A pitcher may pitch from up to 6 feet behind the pitching rubber, keeping at least one foot in line with the pitching rubber as if the foot was on the rubber itself.

d. **Height/Strike Zone.**

i. Any legal pitch that hits any part of the mat/plate is considered a strike.

ii. A legal pitch must travel within a 6' to 10' arc.

15. Batting/Base Running

a. **Count.** Batters will start with 1-1 Count with one courtesy foul.

b. **Courtesy Runners.** The pitcher will be allowed a pinch runner by default. Each team is then allowed one (1) runner per inning per gender – in addition to the pitcher. Courtesy runner doesn't need to be active on the lineup but MUST be on the roster.

c. **Home Plate.** The whole mat is considered the plate in terms of baserunning.

d. **1st Base.** The safety base must be used. Base runner must tag the orange bag when a play is made at first base. Failure to do so will result in the runner being called out. The first base position player must tag the white part of the bag. Failure to do so will result in the runner being safe regardless of the result of the play.

e. **Extra Batters** – More than 10 batters is optional, but if used, the extra batter's spots must be used the entire game. If the game is started with 13 batters in the lineup and 1 player must leave for non-injury/non-illness reasons, then that spot will be an out if there is no legal substitution.

f. **Walk/ Intentional walk:** Coach/Pitcher/Catcher can notify the umpire and the umpire will award the batter first base. If a male is walked and a female follows, the male will be awarded second base and the female will have the option of either hitting or walking to first base. This rule is in effect no matter the number of outs.

g. **On Deck.** The on-Deck batter must noticeably take their position in the on-deck circle in a reasonable amount of time. If the on-deck batter requires more time, it must be announced to the pitcher and umpire if the on-deck batter is a male or female. If a male is walked intentional or not, ahead of a female and that female was not announced or did not take their position in the circle, then the male can only receive one base and the female must bat.

16. Defense

a. **The Arc/Infielders.** If the batter is a female, all outfielders (no less than 4) must be completely behind the arc at the time the ball is hit. All Infielders must remain on the dirt. A 200 ft. arc will be placed in the outfield. If the batter is male, the defensive team may have as many outfielders/infielders as they like, provided the total number of players on the field is no more than 10. The upper and middle bracket will be allowed to ignore this rule.

b. **Male Dominance.** No male shall be allowed to take away the female's play/position during a live ball. Example: Male pitcher may not take the female catcher's position on a throw to home plate, but can be a relay to the catcher if desired, male center fielder may not catch a female left fielder's fly ball etc. Umpires will allow everyone to be safe if this occurs. This is a discretionary call like balls and strikes and for the most part is not subject to protest. Upper teams are excluded from this rule.

- c. **Home Plate.** The whole mat is considered the plate in terms of plays at home.
 - d. **1st Base.** A safety base is in effect. Therefore, the first base position player must tag the white part of the bag. Failure to do so will result in the runner being safe regardless of the result of the play.
17. **Home Runs**
- a. **Home Run Limit.** Divisions are limited to the number of home runs they can hit. Any home runs hit in excess of the home run limit will be called an out. There is NO One Up.
 - i. Uppers are permitted 8.
 - ii. Middle is permitted 5.
 - iii. Lowers is permitted 3.
 - iv. Rec is permitted 1.
 - b. **Hit and sit.** No home runs are to be ran out. If a HR is hit, the batter and all runners can return to the dugout. Running the bases will be considered an attempt to stall/delay the game and the batter will be warned.
18. **Outside the Dugout.**
- a. The Batter, 2 deck batters, Base Coaches, and Scorebook keeper are the only offensive individuals allowed outside of the dugout in foul territory.
 - b. All player's equipment is to be kept inside of the dugout and out of the playable foul territory.
19. **Line Up.** All substitutes' names should be listed on the official line-up card that is submitted to the plate umpire AND opposing team at the start of the game.
20. **Coed Requirements.** Coed requires a minimum of 3 women playing, per team, at all times. Upper, Middle, and lower coed brackets may bat 8 men and 3 women. A 4th female must be added for a 9th man and a 5th female must be added if batting 10 or more men. The rec bracket will be allowed to bat any number of men and women in their lineup if they meet the minimum.
21. **Music.** Aurora Sports Complex allows boom boxes, however music must be radio appropriate. Please remember that we have families present. If a member of your team is found to be playing music that is not radio appropriate, they will be asked to turn it off/down. If the infraction happens a second time, your Team will lose that privilege for the rest of the tournament. If ANYONE in play OR NOT would like for the music to be turned down because it is distracting, the request will be made respectfully, and the music will be turned down regardless of its appropriateness.
22. **Dogs.** Aurora Sports Complex does NOT permit Dogs.

Rocky Mountain Regional Players Code of Conduct

No player or fan shall, at any time, lay a hand upon, shove or threaten to strike anyone, especially officials or softball personnel.

Penalty: Ejection from the Tournament and possible charges being pressed

No player or fan shall verbally threaten anyone, especially officials or softball personnel.

Penalty: Ejection from the game, venue, and possible ejection from tournament

No player or fan shall use sexist, profane, obscene, vulgar language, or behavior in any manner, or at any time whether on the field or not.

Penalty: 1. Warning by Umpire OR Tournament Director. 2. Ejection from the game and venue

No player or fan shall refuse to abide by an official's decision.

Penalty: Ejection from the game and venue

No player or fan shall appear upon the field of play or in the stands at any time in an intoxicated condition.

Penalty: Ejection from the game and venue

ANY person ejected from a game constitutes a forfeit in pool play by that individual's team. An ejection during bracket play will result in an immediate 7 run deduction. An ejected player will not be allowed on premise for their teams next 2 complete games. 1 game if a proper amendment has been made.

I do hereby certify that these rules and the Players Code of Conduct have been distributed and/or discussed with my team. I also acknowledge that it is my team's responsibility to hold each other accountable in a timely manner.

Coach and Team Printed Name

Coach's Signature Date