

2023 WALLER COUNTY

Adult Slow-Pitch Softball Rules

Rev 1/2023-v01

1. Max Roster Size: 20 Players Maximum per team

2. Substitute Players Per Team: Teams can have substitute players on the team roster up to 20 players max and the substitutes.

- a. Players may legally participate on their original rostered team.
- b. Substitutes will only be allowed to sub on the same team twice during a season.
- c. Competitive league men players may only substitute in their league. Rec men players may only substitute in their league. Only women can substitute interleague. If men are caught playing between leagues the game, they're substituting on will be forfeited.
- d. Each player must be 18 years of age by the first scheduled game to participate and must sign the non-liability waiver.
- e. Game that the player is substituting on will be forfeited if said player substitutes on that team more than twice throughout the season.

3. Time Limits: All regulation games are 50 minutes.

4. Game Start: Batters will start with a 1/1 count (1 strike, 1 ball)

5. Age Verification: All players on a team must be age 18 at time of the first

game. **6. Season Format:** Per schedule

7. End of Season: A championship tournament will follow the regular season schedule. There will be 2 end of season tournaments, one for each league (Recreational League and Competitive League). Each tournament will consist of 9 teams. - COMPETITIVE WILL ONLY HAVE 8 THIS SEASON!

**** If your team can't play in the end of season tournament we will need to know at the very latest before week 5 games begin. Failure to do that may affect your team not being able to participate in the early registration for next season***

8. Equipment:

- a. No wooden bats or metal cleats allowed.
- b. Bats must be softball or slow pitch bats.
- c. All teams are required to supply their own 52/300 ASA 12" softballs. If you do not have your own, we will have some for sale in the concession stand at \$8 a piece or 4 for \$30.

9. Optional & Misc. Items:

- a. Sliding, helmets, catchers gear, pitching screen and pitching helmets are all optional but highly recommended.
- b. You can drink in the dugout or stands but not on the fields this includes base coaches & No glass bottles "Will Be Strictly Enforced."
- c. No Smoking on the field
- d. There will be ashtrays for cigarette butts! Do not throw them on the ground or the field! There will be only 1 warning given before you are asked to leave.
- e. Base coaches are allowed on the field. All others must be up against the dugout.
- f. An obstruction call at the umpire's discretion will be made if a play is obstructed by coolers, bags, bats on the ground etc.
- g. The parking lots are not to be used as trash cans. Please be respectful of the park!

10. Pitching Area & Distance: Chalk lines will be made at 38' and 45' and from home plate and be approx. 6' wide on each field. The pitcher must have at least 1 foot between those lines while pitching.

11. Pitching Arch: When pitching, the ball cannot have more than a 10' arch and no less than a 6' arch. Trick pitching is allowed if it is within the regulated arc and over plate.

12. Mandatory Play:

- a. Minimum of 9 players on field with the option of a 10th player
- b. Minimum of 4 women on each team and each team must always play 2 infield positions and 2 outfield positions

- c. All outfield players are not allowed to play in the dirt no matter the field.
- d. If there are only 3 women then you must take an out each time the fourth woman was supposed to have been up to bat and 1 woman must play outfield. If you have 4 men but yet are short a guy you must take an out anytime he would have been up to bat. Outfield positions must be played as: Boy/Girl/Boy or vice versa. If there are only 3 women, you cannot add an extra man in the outfield. If both teams agree to not take the out the managers must inform the umpire before the start of the game.
- e. Regular season games can end in a tie.
- f. No bunting/slapping is allowed.

13. Mercy Rule: Game will be called if one team is 20 runs ahead after the 2nd, 15 runs ahead after the 3rd, 10 after the 4th and 8 after 5th.

14. Team Lineup & Batting:

- a. You will bat your lineup (9 or 10 players playing on the field) not your entire team roster.
- b. Your line up must bat and play the field before there are subs allowed to come in, once your sub is in they have to bat and play the field before coming out again. Any person to bat must play the field unless there is a visible injury. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of the game.
- c. Batting order must be boy/girl/boy or girl/boy/girl.
- d. There will be only 4 balls, 3 strikes. You are allowed 1 foul tip once strikes are filled up. If the batter then hits a foul twice, they will be called out. Balls do not have to be consecutive.
- e. If a man is walked the next woman up to bat has the option to walk or bat if she wants. If she decides to bat, the man is still awarded 2nd base. If runners are on base, they only advance 1 base unless the runner is on 1st base, they advance 2 bases.
- f. Each team will be provided with line up sheets. You must fill out the lineup sheet every game and give a carbon copy to the umpire and other team before the game starts. On the starter side of the lineup, you must list your players i.e., boy, girl, boy, girl vice versa. We will go off of the lineup cards given to the umpire for any batting issues. If you do not give the umpire your lineup card, we will have to dismiss the protest as there is no proof.

15. Strike Zone: The strike zone is defined by an extended strike mat that will be placed up to home plate. Any pitch landing partially or wholly in this area is a strike, as long as the pitch is within the legal arc requirements. This will be by umpire discretion.

16. Courtesy Runners: Courtesy Runners are allowed only if batter makes it to first base and the courtesy runner must be the teams last out and of the same sex. If the courtesy runner is on base and their turn comes up to bat, then the runner is considered out and must bat. A courtesy runner will not be allowed for the original courtesy runner and cannot be pulled from the sub list.

17. Infield Fly Rule: Runner on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd with less than 2 outs or runner on 2nd and 1st with less than two outs. If the ball is popped up in the infield the batter is out regardless of whether the ball is caught. This is by umpire discretion.

18. Homeruns:

- a. If the batter hits an out of the field home run, the batter does NOT have to touch first nor run all bases. All runners on base must run home and touch each base. If the runners on base do not touch each base before entering the dugout the runner will be called out.
- b. During each game you will only be allowed 4 home runs per team. This is 4 total not by gender.

19. Safety (Middle Rule):

- a. If the pitching screen is used and the ball hits the (5ftx7ft) screen the batter will be out. If the screen is not used and the batter hits a ball at the pitcher and the pitcher is blasted and considered defenseless the batter is out. If the ball is hit in the air, and higher than the pitchers extended arm while standing flat footed the ball is live. It is to the judgment of the umpires.
- b. No throwing bats. If a batter throws the bat after a hit the batter will be out.

20. Offensive music lyrics: No overly excessive vulgar music. Kids are here too!

21. Team Responsibilities:

- a. Home Team is responsible for cleaning their dugout/stands after the game.
- b. Visiting Team is responsible for operating the scoreboard, returning the control box back to the concession stand and cleaning the dugout/stands after the game.
- c. Managers are to ensure that this gets done and all trash is cleaned out of the dugouts.

22. Score Books: The lineup, index card with official score, both team managers and umpire signature is all that is needed. Umpires are responsible for returning the index card to Waller County Adult Board.

23. Lockup and Lights: If you are last to leave, turn off the lights and lock up. Lights are only to be turned on or off by someone 18 years or older.

24. End of Season Tournament: Rosters for End of Season Tournament must be the same roster as the regular season. Subs that are on a roster from another team will not be allowed during the End of Season Tournament unlike the regular season. If caught doing so the team will forfeit the game.

a. The last 3 games of the tournament competitive league games will be held on the 10u field while the rec league games will be held on the softball field.

b. Aggressive ITB will go into effect if a game ends in a tie during the tournament. Bases loaded with the last 3 outs, full count with 2 outs, 1 pitch you do not have to swing at the pitch thrown to you if it's not a strike. If the pitcher throws a bad pitch, then you are walked. Guys are awarded 2nd base women can hit or take 1st base. Home run counts continue from the game.

25. Appeals: If you would like to appeal for a batter being out of order while batting or a player not on the other team's roster play (during end of season tournament mostly) you must wait to do it until the 1st pitch to them has been made. Don't wait until the end of the game or when the game has ended to do this.

26. Pet Policy: No pets are allowed at the fields unless the animal is a service animal. You must show papers and/or their service tag to be able to keep the animal at the fields. You will be asked to leave if you bring your animal.

27. Disruptive Behavior:

WALLER COUNTY will not tolerate any fighting or disruptive behavior by anyone (players, managers, and fans) during any WALLER COUNTY sponsored activity at ANY playing field. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AND VIOLATORS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES. Any violator not leaving voluntarily will be escorted away by local law enforcement authorities and banned from all future involvement in WALLER COUNTY activities. You will receive 1 warning from ump or league officials after that you will be asked to leave.