WALLER COUNTY SPORTS

2024-2025 Adult Slow-Pitch Softball Rules

Rev 10/2024

1. **Max Roster Size**: 15 Players Maximum per team

2. **Substitute Players Per Team**: Teams can have substitute players on the team roster up to 15 players max including the substitutes.

    a. Players may legally participate on their original rostered team and only one substitute team each night.

    b. Substitutes will only be allowed to sub on the same team twice during a season.

    c. Competitive league players may only substitute in their league. Recreational players may only substitute in their league. No substituting between different leagues. If caught playing between leagues the game 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 will be forfeited if a player substitutes on more than one team a night and more than twice on the same team throughout the season.

    f. You are only allowed to pick up 1 guy and 2 girls for a game. If you don't have at least 8 players, then you must forfeit the game.

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.

**** 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***

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8. **Equipment**:

    a. No wooden bats or metal cleats allowed.

    b. Bats must be softball or slow pitch bats.

    c. All teams must provide their own game balls – Slow-pitch Softball 52 COR/300 12”

9. **Optional & Misc. Items**:

    a. Sliding, helmets and catchers gear are all optional.

    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.

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12. **Intentional Walk:** Pitcher desires to intentionally walk a batter is not allowed; all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter.

    No signaling:

    The pitcher cannot signal to the umpire that they want to intentionally walk the batter.

    Must pitch within the strike zone:

    Even if the pitcher wants to give the batter first base, they must still attempt to throw strikes within the strike zone.

    If the pitcher is caught attempting to intentionally walk the batter, or the pitches may be received as unsportsmanlike, pitchers' team will be forced to take an automatic out on their next at bat.

13. **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 outfields

    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 has been up to bat and 1 woman must play outfield. If you have 4 men but 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.

14. **Mercy Rule**: Game will be called if one team is 15 runs ahead after the 2nd, 10 after the 3rd.

15. **Team Lineup & Batting**:

    a. You must bat your lineup not your roster.

b. Your line up must bat before there are subs allowed to come in, once your sub is in, they have to bat before coming out again. Any person to bat must play the field unless there is a visible injury.

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. Anyone the is walked will only be given one base. A female will **not** be awarded a base after a male is walked.

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.

16. **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.

17. **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. If a courtesy runner is needed for the first up to bat, you need to use the last person on your roster of the same sex as the person needing the courtesy runner.

18. **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.

19. **Homeruns**:

    a. If the batter hits an out of the field home run, the batter and the players on base may return to dugout. There is no need to run the bases.

    b. During each game you will only be allowed 4 home runs per team. This is 4 total not by gender.

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20. **Safety (Middle Rule)**:

    a. If the batter hits the ball at pitcher and pitcher ground or line drive, 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.

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

22. **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. Both Teams will have one person from each of the teams from the last game played rake the field they played on.

    d. Managers are to ensure that this gets done and all trash is cleaned out of the dugouts.

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

24. **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.

25. **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. 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 runs continue from the game.

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26. **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 to do this.

27. **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.

28. **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 violators that are on a team, the player and their manager will be asked to leave. Any violator not leaving voluntarily will be escorted away by local enforcement authorities and banned from all future involvement in WALLER COUNTY activities. 1 warning from ump or league officials after that you will be asked to leave.