

LAKE OSWEGO SOFTBALL

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LEAGUE RULES

The Lake Oswego Adult softball league uses USA softball rules for the governance of play. The following information is an addition or clarification for league play. If it is not covered in the following information, then the rule will be by the book. Note, this is an adult league, all players must be at least 18 years old.

BALLS: The home team shall provide a new game ball and a game ball that has only been used in one game. Only the league issued ball shall be used. Co-ed teams must provide two balls of each size.

NOTE! If a player hits a ball that is lost, that team will provide a replacement ball.

UNIFORMS: All teams must wear jerseys that match, with non-duplicated, six-inch numbers **screen printed** on the back. You may have one batter per inning that does not have a matching jersey. **A second player in the batting order, without a matching jersey, will be an out when coming to bat.** In inclement weather players may wear a jacket but must be able to show their jersey number to the opposing score keeper if asked.

METAL SPIKES ARE PROHIBITED!!

Catchers' and pitcher's masks are strongly recommended.

Any legal ASA/USA approved bat is OK to use in all leagues.

BRINGING BEER AND LIQUOR IS PROHIBITED AT ALL FIELDS. Any player violating this rule and observed by the umpire will be ejected from the game and will be subject to the ejected player penalty. A team can be removed from the league, with no refund of fees, for continued infractions of this rule. Smoking and the use of any tobacco product is not allowed on any school or park property. This rule also applies to all spectators.

SCORE KEEPING: The home team is the official book and must use an official scorebook. The visiting team should also keep score, and the score keepers should confer frequently to verify the score.

GAME RESULTS: **The winning team** is responsible for reporting the game score. Send your report to oswegosoftball.com. **Scores should be reported the night of the game.** League standings will be posted on the web site.

FORFEITS: Any team that forfeits two or more nights will not participate in the league playoffs. Make sure that all your players are committed and will show up each week, so you do not have to forfeit.

RAINOUTS: Games that are rained out will be rescheduled at the end of the season. Once the umpire has taken the field, it will be their decision to determine playability.

To find out if games have been canceled because of rain, check the web site after 4:00pm. However, the best way to stay informed about field conditions is to subscribe to the Lake Oswego field conditions email service. See information below. If the message does not say the games are canceled, then you better plan on showing up. The message is not changed if it starts to rain after 3:00. It is then up to the umpire. If it has rained in the previous two days, it is a good idea to check.

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GAMES AND FIELDS: Games will begin at 6:30 and 7:45 if there are two games scheduled. If there are three games on the field that night, the game times will be 6:15, 7:30, and 8:45. The umpire will be the official timer. In the men's league no new inning will start after 65 minutes. Coed limits are stated below. If the score is tied at the end of seven innings, and there is still time before the 65-minute time limit, another inning may be played using the international tie breaker. If the score is tied at the end of the time limit, the game will be recorded as a tie.

It will be a complete game if one team is ahead by 15 runs after 5 innings.

All batters will begin with a one and one count. One extra third strike foul ball will be allowed.

There will be no infield practice allowed, and no warmup pitches after the first inning, unless there is a new pitcher.

Each team may bat your roster or use substitutes as per the rulebook. If you bat your roster, any ten players, (5 men, 5 women in co-ed) may play defense. This defense may change each inning. If a player cannot fill their position in the batting order due to an ejection, and there is no eligible substitute, it will be an out. There is no out if it is due to an injury. ASA/USA. rules apply for co-ed defensive positions. Players may not play defense only. Any player in the game must be in the batting order. If they cannot bat, it will be an out.

Each team must have at least eight players to start and finish a game. Players may be added to the bottom of the batting order any time during the game.

Co-Ed Batting Option 1: Co-ed teams may bat nine players. If the ninth batter is a man, there is an out recorded between the two men batters. If it is a women batter, there is no penalty. If there are ten or more batters, then the number of men and women batters must be even.

Co-Ed Batting Option 2: Commonly known as the wheel. You still have to have a minimum of 4 men and 4 women to play the game. This option allows you to play all your players that show up without having to have some sit out as subs, and without having to take an out. In both options you may play nine players on defense with only one more of either sex as the ninth player.

You will put your players into the scorebook as follows.

Female 1
Female 2
Female 3
Female 4
Female 5
Male 1
Male 2
Male 3
Male 4
Male 5
Male 6

If you are going to bat a woman first, Female 1 bats, followed by Male 1, followed by Female 2, and so on. At the end of the inning note who the last batters were and continue the rotation the next inning. In the example above with a woman batting first, Male 6 will bat his first time after Female 1 bats her second time. Instead of remembering which player of the opposite sex that you follow, you will have to remember which player of the same sex you follow. When they are up to bat, you are in the hole.

In all leagues, except Men's upper, you may have only one more "**Over the Fence on the fly**" home runs than your opponent. Additional home runs will be ruled out. Men's upper division may have two more than their opponent.

Courtesy runners will be allowed for one player of each sex per inning. **The courtesy runner must be the most previous batter, of the same sex, not currently on base.**

Coed teams will be limited to six runs per inning through the inning that occurs 50 minutes into the game. The inning occurring at 50 minutes will be finished, and then there will be one more inning that is open with no run limits.

Coed games will be played with all outs at home being a force play. There will be a second home plate, or an extension line of the first base foul line that will go into foul territory at least six feet. The runner must touch the second home plate or cross the line while the catcher must have a foot on the main home plate and catch the ball to make an out. There will be a line perpendicular to the 3rd base foul line 20' from home plate that if the runner crosses, then must continue to home.

Roster additions must be completed online prior to using the new player. You may change or add to your roster before the middle of July. An email will be sent out with the exact date each year. Failure to submit a roster by the deadline will result in your team not being included in the league playoffs.

A team can borrow registered players from another team, but only if they cannot field a team of 10 players.

If you cannot field a team for a game, and must forfeit, you must email the office and let me know. Only games cancelled by the league for weather or field conditions will be rescheduled.

UMPIRES AND SPORTSMANSHIP: The umpire has full authority to determine what is unsportsmanlike conduct. A player or team may be suspended from the game and the premises for misconduct.

Casual Profanity Rule: This pertains to expletives and verbal unsportsmanlike language not directed at an umpire or opposing players or coaches. This is usually uttered by a player out of frustration. This behavior is penalized by an out being charged against the offending team as follows:

A: If the act is committed by the batter, who was not out on the play, he will be called out.

B: If the act was committed by the batter who was out on the play, or any other offensive player, the next batter shall be called out.

C: If the act is committed by the defensive team, the first person to bat in the next at-bat shall be called out. The outs will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation. A game may end by a casual profanity out. **Profanity directed at others, especially umpires, will result in ejection and may cause a game forfeiture.**

Any physical abuse, profanity or threats made to an umpire, another player, or score keeper, by a player, will result in an ejection and possible removal from the league. All players in the league are obliged to follow the rules laid out in the Code of Conduct for the City of Lake Oswego Parks and Rec Dept. This is in the list of documents on the web site.

Any player ejected from a game will receive an automatic one game suspension for the next scheduled game. This applies to both league and playoff games. An ejected player must leave the field, out of sight and sound. If it happens in the first game of a double header, he will not play in the second game. If it is in the second game or in a single game, it will be the first game next week. The player's name and number will be reported to the office and that information will be given to the umpire for the next game. If that player shows up to play, the game will be forfeited by his or her team.

Coaches are responsible for their players and fans' behavior.

NO SHOW UMPIRES: The game shall be played with a substitute umpire. The home team shall email the office and report that the umpire did not show and that the game was played with a fill in umpire. If you use a substitute umpire, please email the office, and give me his or her name and address so we can pay him or her for umpiring.

INSURANCE: All players participating in Lake Oswego Softball are covered with a liability policy. They are not covered for accident or medical insurance. This may be obtained by going to the Oregon USA softball web site. www.usasoftballodoregon.com and clicking on the Bollinger Insurance tab.