# STANDARD PARK SPORTS COMPLEX



# ADULT SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

UMPIRE REFERENCE BINDER

Revised 02-01-2025

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#### **PREAMBLE**

The Tuolumne County Recreation Department creates community by offering programs that promote opportunities for growth through fun, inclusive, and educational experiences.

2025 Rules Clarifications, Modifications and Additions are highlighted for easy reference.

Points of emphasis are underlined for clarity.

# ARTICLE I - LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- 1.1 League organization and operation is the responsibility of the Tuolumne County Recreation Department. Also here in referred to as: the Recreation Dept. or TCRD.
- 1.2 Teams must play all games as scheduled by the Tuolumne County Recreation Department. Teams do not have the authority to reschedule games.

# ARTICLE II - REGISTRATION

- 2.1 Registration for all leagues is online and on a first-come, first serve basis.
- 2.2 All fees must be paid at time of registration.
- 2.3 All rosters must be submitted utilizing the online registration process provided on the Tuolumne County Recreation Department's website <a href="https://www.tcrecreation.com">www.tcrecreation.com</a>, prior to the start of the season.
- 2.4 Late registrations are subject to a per day late fee.
- 2.5 Teams may be moved from one league to another at the discretion of the Recreation Department, when it is deemed necessary to balance out the leagues.
- 2.6 All managers must review the rules and regulations and agree to the Manager's Agreement at the time of registration. The Manager's Agreement can be seen in Appendix B.
- 2.7 Each team in the league will be registered with the USA Softball Association by the Recreation Department. This is included in League Fees. This registration will allow the team to play in all qualifying or sanctioned tournament events and leagues sanctioned by USA Softball without paying additional registration fees. Registration is valid until December 31st of the same calendar year.
- 2.8 Registration does not include team medical or team liability insurance. Team medical and liability insurance can be purchased from USA Softball for an additional fee.
- 2.9 Any individual or team who has presented a "returned check" to the Recreation Department will be suspended from all participation until the check has been made good. Checks cannot be held for later deposit. A \$25.00 administrative fee will be assessed on all returned checks. Cash required to replace checks returned due to non-sufficient funds.

# ARTICLE III - LEAGUE FEES

- 3.1 League fees are determined by the Tuolumne County Ordinance Chapter 3.40 and are announced prior to league registration.
- 3.2 Fees are subject to change.
- 3.3 Fees are nonrefundable once schedule has been made unless league is cancelled. (See Tuolumne County Recreation Department Refund Policy)
- 3.4 League fees include the following:
  - a. Men's/Women's/COED will use one USA Softball certified umpire.
  - b. TCRD may use two (2) USA Softball certified umpires for some competitive games including but not limited to playoffs. If only one (1) umpire is present at game time, the game will begin as scheduled.
  - c. Softballs Each game will receive one (1) new ball and one (1) used ball.
  - d. Association Registration All teams will be registered with USA Softball.

# ARTICLE IV - STANDARD PARK POLICIES

- 4.1 Standard Park General Rules
  - a. No outside food or beverage may be brought into the park beyond the main pedestrian gate.
  - b. No alcohol of any kind is allowed beyond the main pedestrian gate.
  - c. Pets of any kind are not allowed except certified "service" animals.
  - d. Smoking is not allowed inside the park or within 25 feet of the main Pedestrian gate.
  - e. Any music that interferes with or disrupts the game, as determined by an Umpire or park staff, must be turned down or off. All music must be Family friendly and have clean language.
  - f. Vehicles are not allowed beyond the main pedestrian gate except Emergency vehicles and pre-approved delivery vehicles.
  - g. Foul and offensive language is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
  - h. Aggressive behavior towards umpires, staff or spectators is not allowed.
  - I. Climbing trees, fences and backstops is prohibited.
  - j. Being under the influence of a controlled substance is prohibited.

- k. Gambling on any play or the outcome of a game is prohibited.
- I. Shoes must be worn at all times while inside the park. This applies to everyone including players, managers, umpires and spectators.
- m. Children not accompanied by an adult are not allowed in the park. Children inside the park must be supervised at all times.

#### 4.2 Standard Park Concession Rules

- a. Alcohol purchased at the Park's concession must be consumed within the interior confines of the facility. No alcohol may be taken beyond the main pedestrian gate.
- b. Any person providing alcohol to minors is subject to arrest and expulsion from all County Facilities.
- c. Tuolumne County does not allow the Concessionaire to hold debit/credit cards and keep food and/or drink tabs.
- d. Please use the numerous trash and recycling receptacles throughout Standard Park to dispose of your trash.

# 4.3 Standard Park Playground Rules

- a. The playground is for children old enough to safely use the equipment.
- b. Parents are responsible for their children's safety and behavior and must supervise while utilizing the playground equipment.
- c. Food and beverages are not allowed in the playground area to avoid spills, Slips and injuries.

#### 4.4 Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages

- a. Alcoholic beverages purchased at the Standard Park Concession are the only alcoholic beverages allowed in past the main pedestrian gate.
- b. Any person in possession of containers of alcohol not purchased at Standard Park will be ejected from the facility immediately.
- c. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the field dugouts at any time.
- d. You must have a photo ID when purchasing any alcoholic beverage.
- e. The sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during youth events.
- f. You may not carry alcoholic beverages purchased at the facility past the main pedestrian gate into the parking lot or picnic area.
- g. Please use outside picnic areas when consuming alcoholic beverages not purchased at Standard Park.
- h. Do not leave empty containers in parking lot or picnic areas. Please use trash and/or recycling receptacles.

#### ARTICLE V - MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITY

The Manager is the primary link between their team and the Recreation Department. It is the Manager's responsibility to obtain all information regarding league play at Standard Park. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of games(s). Manager responsibilities include:

- 5.1 Read and be familiar with League rules prior to league play.
- 5.2 Obtain league information pertaining to registration deadlines, make-up schedules, league tournaments, league awards and playoffs.
- 5.3 Assume all financial responsibility for league fees and complete the online registration process on time (team registration, rosters, Player Adds, etc.).
- 5.4 Update online account with any changes to his/her address, telephone number or email address.
- 5.5 Legal responsibility to have all players read and accept the Participation Liability Waiver online before playing.
- 5.6 Determine that all players on the roster are "Verified" players prior to them playing.
- 5.7 It is the Manager's responsibility to make certain the preliminary roster has been received by the Recreation Department by the Monday after late registration closes.
- 5.8 Rosters are to be submitted with each player's full name and email utilizing the online registration system. (See ARTICLE II. 2.3)
- 5.9 The Manager can modify their rosters up until the completion of their first league game. Upon completion of the first league game the Recreation Department will print out the official roster for each team. Any player additions after the first game must be done utilizing the "Player Add" process. (See ARTICLE VIII. 8.7)
- 5.10 Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators while they are on the field of play, in the confines of the dugout and in the spectator area.
- 5.11 Umpires will discuss disputes with the Team Manager only.
- 5.12 Managers are responsible for assuring all their players are eligible to play according to their classification and verified status.
- The Manager or his/her designee is responsible for providing both an accurate Line-Up card and matching Scorecard (w/ Team Name at the top plus players' first and last names) to the Umpire or Scorekeeper no later than 10 minutes before game time. Umpire will keep a line-up card or a photo-copy of the scorecard for in-game reference. Failure to do so will first result in a team warning for the season. A second failure within the same season will result in the offending team taking their first inning at bats with 2 outs. A third offense within the same season will result in a forfeit. This is important to confirm players are verified, game time management and keeping track of the games a player has played to qualify for playoffs.
- 5.14 Managers who fail to provide an accurate scorecard with Team Name and Players' first and last names (nicknames & partial names not allowed), the game will be forfeited.

- 5.15 Manager or his/her designee who uses an "illegal" and/or an "Unverified" player will forfeit all games that the "illegal" and/or "Unverified" player played in. Managers who repeatedly use "illegal" and/or "Unverified" players will be suspended from all programs at Standard Park for two (2) weeks, including playoffs.
- 5.16 A player that is listed on the roster and plays under an assumed name will result in the player, Manager or his/her designee being suspended from all programs at Standard Park for two (2) weeks, including playoffs.
- 5.17 Managers are required to initial the official scorecard at the end of each game to avoid confusion in League Standings.
- 5.18 Managers are required to turn in a complete scorecard with rostered players for forfeited games. This is important if a team challenges the number of games a player has played to qualify for playoffs (See ARTICLE V. 5.13). If the forfeit is prior to the game, all current "Verified" and rostered players for the non-forfeiting team will be credited with a game played.
- 5.19 Managers are responsible for inspecting player's bats and making certain all bats are on the USA Approved Bat List. (See ARTICLE VI. 6.1 e.) or <a href="https://www.softball.org">www.softball.org</a>
- 5.20 Players who are added to the roster after the first league game, who have not completed the "Player Add" process and paid the Player Add Fee, are considered illegal players.

  All Games played with "illegal" players will be forfeited.

# ARTICLE VI - GAME RULES

# 6.1 All Leagues -

Women's Competitive league / Men's Competitive "A" and "B" leagues / Men's Recreational "A" and "B" leagues / Coed Competitive "A" and "B" leagues / Coed Recreational "A" and "B" leagues / Men's 50+ League

- A. <u>Alcohol</u>: If alcoholic beverages are found in dugouts at any time, the umpire will be notified and the game will be over. The team in violation will forfeit the game. Cups, cans or bottles containing alcohol in your dugout, whether they belong to your team or not, will be cause for immediate forfeiture of game. Any player ejected for drinking alcohol in the dugout during a game, will be suspended for two (2) weeks from all games, including league and playoffs.
- B. Awards: Awards will be presented as follows:
  - b.1 First place finishers (Champions of each League Division Playoff) will be presented individual Championship T-Shirts (limited 18 per team), an MVP Game Ball and a Championship Ball for display.
  - b.2 First place and second place finishers may order at their cost (current market cost per plaque), an engraved sponsor plaque award to be presented at a later date.
- C. Bat Weights: All Bat Weights are PROHIBITED at all times.
- D. <u>Borrowed Player (BP)</u>: If a team does not have ten (10) rostered players present at game time, a player may be borrowed from another team as long as it does not put the team in violation of Player Eligibility Bylaws.

- d.1 Teams may borrow two (2) players per game. COED teams may borrow four (4) players; two (2) male and two (2) female per game.
- d.2 Borrowed Players must bat last in the line-up and be identified as BP on Scorecard. For COED, the BP is to bat last in the line-up based on gender (female BP must be the last female player in the line-up and a male BP must be the last male player in the line-up. NOTE: Barrowed Players CANNOT be used as a DHH.
- d.3 Borrowed players must be added to the line-up card prior to the start of the game.
- d.4 Borrowed Players must remain in the line-up until team has a full complement of its own "Verified" rostered players.
- d.5 Borrowed Players may only play for the same team three (3) times during the same league season.
- d.6 Borrowed Players may not be used during playoffs (except as provided by special circumstances) and preapproved by the Recreation Department.
- d.7 Borrowed players must be "Verified" rostered players and not interfere with any league/division restrictions on Upper Division Players. (see ARTICLE VI 6.1 gg)
- d.8 Women may not be used as a borrowed player in the men's leagues.
- d.9 Men may not be used as a borrowed player in the women's leagues.
- d.10 **Te**ams who violate the Borrowed Player rules will forfeit all games where the BP rules were not followed.

# Standard Park policy concerning mandatory use of Pitching Helmets

E. PITCHERS' HELMET REQUIREMENT: Pitcher's Helmets are Mandatory for all Tuolumne County Recreation Department Adult Slow Pitch and Adult Fast Pitch Softball games at the Standard Park Sports Complex. Pitchers must wear a TCRD approved helmet that protects the face and the entire head including the back of head. Pitchers <u>cannot</u> merely wear a face mask or guard. "Hockey goalie" style helmets worn by many baseball catchers is approved for use by pitchers at Standard Park. Pitcher's must submit their helmet to the Home Plate or UIC for inspection prior to use in a game. Pitcher's helmets that are broken, cracked, dented, or that have been illegally altered are prohibited.

# Pitchers' helmets must meet certain standards to ensure player safety:

F. <u>Certification</u>: The helmet + facemask should meet <u>NOCSAE\_STANDARDS</u> and have certification labels

Player Fit: Helmet should fit snugly with no gaps between the pads and the player's head

Head Protection: The helmet must cover the entire head including the back of the head and chin

<u>Throat protection:</u> The helmet must extend at least 2 inches below the chin or have a separate "throat protector" that covers the Player's LARYNGEAL PROMINENCE (Adams Apple).

No Damage: Helmet can't be damaged, dented, or cracked and the padding cannot be ripped or missing

Alterations: Helmet cannot be altered without written approval from manufacturer or authorized dealer

# Standard Park policy concerning use of "High End" bats:

- G. <u>Certified Bats</u>: Only bats which bear the USA Softball approved certification mark, or those included on the list published by the USA Softball National Office. This list along with other resources can be found at <u>www.usasoftball.org</u>
  - g.1 All bats must have a legible USA or Pre-Approved ASA Softball stamp. NO STAMP = NO PLAY
  - g.2 USA Softball periodically, and randomly, tests samples of bat models bearing the USA Softball approved certification mark to verify compliance with the USA Softball bat performance standards. This means that occasionally EVEN A STAMPED BAT MAY BE DEEMED ILLEGAL. To verify the legality of a bat, please refer to USA Softball's website for current list of approved and banned bats.
  - g.3 If the Umpire or Recreation Staff suspects modification of any kind (shaving, rolling, corking, etc.) they can remove it from play.
  - g.4 No Baseball, Youth or Little League Bats allowed.
  - g.5 Senior bats are only allowed in the 50+ Men's and Senior Leagues.
  - g.6 Each Manager is responsible for inspecting their player's bats. Any player, who walks up to home plate with an illegal bat in his/her hand, will be ejected from the game. The offending player is not eligible to play in the team's next game. The second offense will result in the player being suspended from Standard Park for two (2) weeks. A third offense will result in the player being suspended from Standard Park for the remainder of the season.
    - g.7 Cracked, worn or damaged bats are not altered bats, but can also be removed from play at the discretion of Game Umpire, Umpire In Charge, or League Commissioner.
- H. Combined Leagues A player is allowed to play for two (2) teams in the same league in combined leagues. When the two (2) teams play each other, the player can only play for one (1) team and cannot switch between teams during a game. Player is allowed to play for both teams in playoffs only if teams are in different divisional playoffs. If the teams are in the same division, the player must declare a single team for playoffs prior to the first playoff game. The player may only play on the declared team for the duration of the playoffs.
- I. <u>Continued Participation Due to Injury</u> Any player that is injured or has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the games until the bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered. In the event of an injury during the game where a team does not have a legal and eligible substitute for the injured player, that now vacant batting line-up slot becomes an automatic out.
- J. <u>Courtesy Runners (CR)</u> Each team is allowed one (1) per inning (COED teams will be allowed one (1) CR of each sex per inning) once the replaced runner reaches base. (Except Senior Leagues ARTICLE VI 6.6 g). Any rostered player may be a CR. In the event a CR is on base and when his/her at-bat evolves, an out is declared and the CR remains on base. The CR is legally in the game when the ball becomes "live."
- K. Double Base A double base will be used at first base for all Adult Softball leagues and divisions.
- L. <u>Dugout Conduct</u> As stated in the USA Softball Rules: players, coaches, or substitutes, cannot be outside the team area except as the rule allows or justified by the umpire. First offense results in a team warning. The second offense is an ejection of that team member. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the field dugouts at any time. Smoking and Drinking alcohol in the dugout is prohibited. Any player ejected for smoking and/or drinking alcohol in the dugout during a game, will be suspended for two (2) weeks from all games, including league and playoffs, plus their team will forfeit the game.

- M. <u>First Aid Kit</u> Standard Park has multiple first aid kits available for players and spectators including an Automated Electronic Defribulator (AED). Promptly contact Park staff if first aid or CPR is needed.
- N. <u>Forfeited Games</u> A team forfeits a game when it fails to have the minimum number of eight (8) players to start the game. Teams using an "Unverified" player will forfeit game(s) in which that player participated. Teams may only use the same "Barrowed" Player a maximum of three (3) times, any additional uses will result in forfeit. If a player is listed on the roster under an assumed name and/or fails to provide accurate proof of identity to scorekeeper, Umpire or UIC the result will be a forfeit. (see Article V section 5.13 5.16)

The score of a forfeited game shall be seven (7) to zero (0) in favor of the winning team. This is the official score for the purpose of win-loss record and calculating tie-breakers for playoffs. A double forfeit counts as a loss for both teams with an official score of zero (0) to zero (0) with the double loss and official score used for playoff tie-breakers. PLEASE NOTE: <u>Umpires and Scorekeepers will not work forfeited games</u>.

The Recreation Dept. will check rosters after each league game. If it is determined by TCRD that an illegal player was used in a game, the team(s) at fault will forfeit the game and the Manger(s) will be notified of the forfeit.

If a team has to forfeit prior to the game time, Team Managers are required to contact TCRD no later than 1:00 p.m. on the day of the contest. Teams that forfeit one (1) game without notifying TCRD will receive a Team Warning. A team that forfeits two (2) or more games in a season, because of games not played, and does not contact TCRD, may be disqualified from the playoffs. Non-Submission of Playoff Rosters by the deadline may also result in a forfeit.

- O. <u>Game Times</u> Starting times for all games will be as listed on schedules. The home team for each game is designated first on the game schedule.
- P. <u>Home Plate Mat</u> At the discretion of the TCRD, a home plate mat, or extension may be utilized for all adult slow pitch softball. A legally pitched ball, hitting any portion of the modified home plate (plate + mat) will be called a strike.
- Q. <u>Home Team Advantage</u> The home team will be outlined in league schedules. The home team advantage for playoffs will be determined by league record.
- R. <u>Jewelry</u>: All Jewelry and/or other items judged to be potentially dangerous by the Game Umpire or the UIC (Umpire in Charge) may not be worn during the game.
- S. <u>Late Arrival</u>: If a team starts an ASB game with less than ten (10) late arriving players may be added up to a total of the ten (10) players. <u>Late arrivals must be inserted last in the batting order and must check in with the Umpire via their manager only during dead ball time in between at bats.</u>
- T. <u>Up The Middle Rule</u>: A batted "line-drive" or a "single bounce chopped ball" that goes up the middle of the diamond, between the Pitchers Safety Lines (chalked lines adjacent the pitching rubber) will result in a dead ball out. Any ball hit clearly over the pitcher's head is a live ball. Any pitcher that starts their "wind up" with a foot outside the pitching mound lines relinquishes protection status and renders balls hit "up the middle" as live resulting in a no-call by the Plate Umpire. Stepping or reaching out of the protected area during follow through or before the pitch is hit also relinquishes protected status.

U. <u>Line-up Card</u> – The home plate umpire will be given a line-up card/batting order from each team. The Plate Umpire shall possess and maintain a current line-up card for each team during the game. An additional photocopy of a managers' scorecard is an acceptable substitute for a "line-up card".

NOTE: Manager or his/her designee is responsible for providing accurate roster information. (Team Name at top with players' first and last names) to the Plate Umpire who then passes a copy on to an official scorekeeper. Teams may not challenge what is recorded on the official scorecard if they cannot provide their own scorecard from the game. Managers are required to review and initial each scorecard to avoid confusion in League Standings. If a manager fails to produce an accurate scorecard with first and last names (nicknames and partial names not allowed) or if a manager or his/her designee uses an "illegal" and/or "Unverified" player, the team at fault will forfeit the game. If any player is listed on the roster under an assumed name, the Manager or his/her designee will be suspended for two (2) weeks including playoffs. (See ARTICLE V 5.13-5.16)

V. <u>Minimum # of Players</u>: Teams must have a minimum of ten (10) rostered players to begin the season. At least Eight (8) players must be present to start and finish an adult slow pitch game.

<u>Maximum # Players</u>: Teams may have up to a Maximum of eighteen (18) "verified" rostered players.

W. Official Score Keepers: Each Team is required to produce two (2) Official Scorekeepers (13 yrs or older) for Training and Certification by Umpire in Charge at least 1 hour before the first game they will keep score. Scheduled Appointment Training is available.

The home team will provide a single Certified Official Scorekeeper at game time. If home team does not provide a certified official scorekeeper, the home team will first receive a Team Warning for the season and forfeit home team status to the visiting team. A second Offense will also result in the team taking its first inning at bats with 2 outs already in the inning. A third Offense will result in a forfeit of the game.

If neither team has a Certified Official Scorekeeper available, the Umpire(s) will be pulled and the game will be submitted as a double forfeit. Upon mutual agreement the teams may play an "exhibition game" until time has expired. No scoring will be recorded and the game will officially remain a double forfeit.

- X. Position Requirements: Playing with less than ten (10) players, a team is still required to play with a catcher.
- Y. <u>Postponed or Rained-Out Games</u> In the event a game is postponed due to inclement weather or any other cause, the Tuolumne County Recreation Department will reschedule the postponed game.
  - y.1 The game will be scheduled on the first day of field availability.
  - y.2 Each manager will be given one right of refusal with reasonable cause. If both managers exercise their refusal right, TCRD will assign the next available date.
  - y.3 If either team decides to forfeit, the game will not be rescheduled and a win will be awarded to awarded to the non-forfeiting team.
  - y.4 If a game has no bearing on league standings and both Mangers mutually agree, the game will not be played or rescheduled.
  - y.5 If a postponement occurs during the game, the game will be considered complete if the postponement occurs after the end of the fourth inning. The team ahead at that time of the postponement will be declared the winner.
  - y.6 If home team is leading going into the bottom of the 4th inning and postponement occurs, the game will be declared official with the win going to the home team.

Z. Roster – Players may be added to or deleted from the roster up until the completion of the first league game. To add a "Verified" player to a roster or to verify an "Unverified" player on a roster, the online information must be submitted prior to participating in the first game. Reminder: Being on a roster does not necessarily mean you are eligible for competition. Players who are added to the roster after the first league game who have not completed the Player Add process and paid the Player Add Fee, are considered illegal players. Games that "illegal" player players participate in will be forfeited. (See ARTICLE VIII 8.7)

Added players must still meet minimum game requirement to play in playoffs. ARTICLE VII 7.10) The Civic Rec Registration system will not allow "player additions" when the number of minimum games to qualify for that season's playoffs cannot be satisfied. Season Deadlines:

Before game six (6) in Spring Before game seven (7) in Summer Before game four (4) in Fall)

- AA. "Run Ahead Rule" The USA Softball "skunk" rule will be applicable in all softball leagues at Standard Park, including playoffs.
  - aa.1 An Umpire will signal the conclusion of the game when a Team is ahead by 20+ Runs after three innings, 15+ runs after four innings or 10+ runs after five innings, the leading team will be awarded the win.
  - aa.2 If the Run Ahead Rule is triggered the game will be scored and finalized at that point for league standing purposes. If there is mutual agreement between Managers the two teams may continue playing an "exhibition" game without Umpire or Scorekeeper until the time limit is reached. Subsequent scoring does not get officially recorded.
- BB. Shoes: Must be worn inside the park by all Players, Managers, Umpires and Spectators.
- CC. <u>Softballs</u> Each game will use one (1) new ball and four (4) used balls. All official balls must be returned to the umpire upon completion of the game. All Balls found on site remain the property of TCRD.
- DD. <u>Steel Spikes</u> Are not allowed for league play.
- EE. <u>Tied Game</u> If a game is tied after seven (7) innings and there is time remaining within the time limit extra innings may be played until the tie is broken or time expires. If the game is still tied when time expires, the game will stand and be recorded as a tie, except during Playoffs. Tied games count as a half-win and half-loss in league standings.
- FF. <u>Time Limits</u>: There are time limits on all league games. EXCEPTION: Playoff "Championship Games" All other Slow Pitch time limits are sixty-five (65) minutes or seven (7) innings whichever comes first. No new inning may start with less than five (5) minutes remaining in the game.

- GG. <u>Umpire Duties</u> Men's, Women's and COED slow pitch will use one (1) USA Softball Certified Umpire. TCRD may use 2 Umpires for select Competitive Games, Playoff and Championship Games. In the event that only one (1) umpire is present at game time, games will begin as scheduled w/ only one (1) umpire.
  - gg.1 It is the duty of the umpire to administer decisions of the game in accordance with the current year's official USA Softball Rulebook and a current copy of the Standard Park Adult Softball Rules and Regulations.
  - gg.2 All games are under the control and direction of the Umpire. <u>Only Team Managers may discuss game decisions with the Umpire.</u>
  - gg.3 Umpires will not hold up a game to look for rules between innings or batters. All situations regarding rule interpretation are handled through a Protest Procedure. (See ARTICLE XI 11.4)
  - gg.4 Umpires shall have the authority to order a player, manager or spectator to do, or cease doing, any act which in their judgment is necessary to enforce USA Softball and Standard Park Adult Softball Rules and Regulations.
  - gg.5 Umpires are responsible for notifying the official scorekeeper of the official starting time of the game and to verify that it is recorded on the official scorecard.
  - gg.6 Umpires will monitor music as they deem necessary for the safety of the game. Any music that interferes with, or disrupts, the game, as determined by the Umpire, or the UIC must be turned down or off. Music that contains any children inappropriate language, profanity and/or racial slurs is not allowed.
  - HH. <u>Umpire Abuse</u>: Any player, manager, sponsor or other person connected with the team that swears or uses abusive language may be ejected from the game or the game will be forfeited. Any player, manager, sponsor, spectator or any other person who pushes, shoves, bumps, threatens or strikes an umpire <u>will be Suspended from Standard Park for up to 3 entire softball seasons and will be reported to USA Softball. Suspended Players may not enter Standard Park for any reason without prior permission until the suspension is lifted (See ARTICLE X)</u>
  - II. Upper Division Players List (UDPL): Both Men and Women may be placed on the UDPL. Men's Recreational "B" leagues may only have 1 player on the UDPL. Coed Recreational "A" leagues may have only 1 player on the UDPL. Men's Recreational "A" leagues may have up to 2 players on the UDPL. Coed Recreational "A" leagues may have up to 2 players (1 male/1 Female) on the UDPL Men's Competitive "B" leagues may have up to 3 players on the UDPL Coed Competitive "B" leagues may have up to 4 players (2 male/2 Female) on the UDPL. Competitive Men's, Women's and Coed "A" leagues have no restrictions on the number of "Upper Division" players on their roster.

PLEASE NOTE: The "Upper Division Players List" is determined by input from Players, Managers, Standard Park Umpires and the Tuolumne County Recreation Department. TCRD has final authority on adoption or revision of the "UDPL". Any Player or Manager may propose a player's placement or removal from the "Upper Division Players List" by e-mailing the Commissioner or UIC. TCRD Staff will review, research and render a decision for or against placement on or removal from the list. A Player deemed "Upper Division" during any softball season, will be placed on the UDPL list ONLY after the current season is complete. The designation takes effect for all subsequent seasons.

- JJ. <u>USA Softball</u>: USA Softball Rules plus the Standard Park Adult Softball Rules and Regulations will govern League play. <u>Team Managers and Umpires cannot agree before or during, a game to modify the rules</u>. If both managers agree to ignore, modify or change USA Softball and or Standard Park Rules, both teams will forfeit the game.
- KK. <u>Vacant Roster Spot</u>: If a team starts a game with less than the maximum players or a spot in the line-up is left vacant for any reason, including injury, ejection or suspension, the team will not be assessed an automatic out if there are legal and eligible substitute players available to put in the lineup.

# 6.2 Adult Slow Pitch Rules (All Leagues)

- A. <u>Ball/Strike Count</u>: All Hitters begin with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. The batter will be out on the second foul after two (2) strikes.
- B. <u>Bases</u>: Bases will be placed seventy (70) feet apart.
- C. <u>Courtesy Runner (CR)</u>: Each team is allowed one (1) Courtesy Runner per inning once the replaced runner reaches base (see ARTICLE VI 6.1 h). Exceptions: Coed leagues is allowed one CR per gender per inning and Senior Leagues can have unlimited Courtesy Runners.
- D. Designated Home Run Hitter
  (DHH): Allowed In Competitive Men, Women & Coed Leagues only. A designated player
  may hit a home run without penalty every time at bat. The DHH must Be a "Rostered
  Player" (No Barrowed Players) and must be declared before the start of each game and
  recorded on the official scorecard with Umpires notified. If the DHH is walked (intentional
  or not) the next person in the line-up is allowed to hit a home run without penalty. If the
  DHH is substituted for, the team loses the DHH until they return to same spot in line-up.
  - All Competitive Men's and Coed Leagues may use the DHH regardless of field assignment (see ARTICLE VI 6.2 D)
- E. <u>Extra Player (EP)</u>: Under normal circumstances, when all players are present, twelve (12) players (including EP's) may bat. An extra player may not be added after the start of the game and needs to be used throughout.
- F. <u>Home Run Rule</u>: Any ball hit over the "old" or "new" Home Run Fence will be considered a home run. Any ball that hits a scoreboard will be considered a home run. The "One Up Rule" will be in effect for all innings. The "One Up Rule" does not apply to the following leagues: Senior and Women's Slow Pitch. (See ARTICLE VI 6.2 D & 6.2 H)
- G. <u>Home Run Walk-Off Rule</u>: When a home run is hit, all offensive players may return directly to the dugout without running the bases. It is, however, acceptable for the batter/runners on base to run the bases.
- H. One Up Rule: Teams may only have one (1) more "over the fence" home runs than their opponents. Subsequent home runs will result in the batter being awarded a single and allowing base runners to advance 1 base. This rule is in effect for all innings.
  - EXCEPTION: Women & Men's 50+ Leagues allow a Maximum of three (3) home runs per team. Additional home runs in these leagues result in a "Ground Rule" single with all baserunners advancing one (1) base.

# Adult Slow Pitch Rules continued

- I. <u>Pitchers</u>: Pitchers may pitch, for the sole purpose of safety, anywhere from the pitcher's mound back towards second base if the pitcher stays within the pitching lane and pitches from the same location until the batter's turn at bat has been legally completed. The pitcher may return or move to a different area for any subsequent batters. Pitcher may not move around to confuse opponent.
- J. <u>Pitching Arc</u> The pitching arc will be six (6) feet minimum to a maximum of ten (10) feet above the infield surface.
- K. <u>Strike Zone</u>: A <u>legally pitched ball landing on any part of the modified home plate</u>. "Modified Home Plate" consists of the Plate itself in addition to a strike mat at the rear of home plate.

# 6.3 Recreational COED League Slow Pitch Rules

- A. <u>Ball/Strike Count</u>: Hitters will begin with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. The batter will be out on the second foul after two strikes.
- B. Bases: The bases will be placed at seventy (70) feet apart.
- C. <u>Batting Order</u>: All legally rostered players may bat. However, four (4) women must bat in the first ten (10) spots and no more than two (2) men can bat in a row. If three (3) men do bat consecutively, the third male is out, and runners may not advance. If during a game a team drops below the four (4) female minimum, that now vacant batting line-up slot becomes an automatic out.
- D. <u>Commitment Line</u> A commitment line has been placed between each of the bases. Once a base runner has passed the commitment line, he/she will not be permitted to return to the last base and a force out situation will occur at the next base. <u>EXCEPTION</u>: If a runner passes the commitment line on a caught fly ball, he/she may return (within the base path) to his/her original base before being doubled off.
- E. <u>Courtesy Runner (CR)</u> COED teams are allowed one (1) CR of each sex per inning once the replaced runner reaches base. Any rostered player may be a CR if the player they are running for is the same gender as they are. No "opposite-gender" CR's are allowed. (See ARTICLE VI 6.1 H).
- F. <u>Fielder/Runner Interference</u>: All players share the responsibility for avoiding collisions. Failure to do so will constitute "interference" or "obstruction" and will result in an out and/or ejection. Any other runners will return to the base occupied at the time of the ruling, or forward as awarded by the Umpire in the case of obstruction. Blatant infractions may result in ejection from the game and/or suspension from the league at the discretion of the Umpire, UIC (Umpire In Charge), Park Supervisor or TCRD.
- G. <u>Force Out</u>: All bases and home plate are a force out. The runner does not have to touch the base or plate and may run to the outside of the bag or plate. If the runner passes a base or plate before the ball has arrived, the runner will be declared safe. If under the Umpire's judgement, a runner rounds a base with intent to advance, but does not cross the commitment line, and returns to the last base occupied, it is a force out.
- H. <u>Injured Player</u>: In the event of an injury during the game where a team drops below the four (4) female minimum, that now vacant batting line-up slot becomes an automatic out. A male player cannot replace the injured female player. If a team falls below the minimum number of players to start a game, eight (8), the game will be forfeited. Any substitution may not violate the Position Requirement Rule (see ARTICLE VI 6.3 K).

- I. <u>Minimum Number of Players</u>: A game may start with eight (8) players, but there must always be a minimum of four (4) female players in the batting order and on the field.
- J. One Up Rule: All COED games will be played under the "One Up" home run rule. TEAMS may only have one (1) more "over the fence" home run than their opponents. Subsequent home runs will result in the batter being awarded a single and allowing base runners to advance only 1 base. This rule is in effect for all innings.
- K. <u>Position Requirement</u> A female or male may play any position as long as two (2) players of each sex are infielders, and two (2) players of each sex are outfielders. If a female is injured a male player cannot field her position. (see ARTICLE VI 6.3 H), A maximum of four (4) male players are allowed to play in the infield. Note: <u>For Coed purposes</u>, the <u>Pitcher/Catcher Battery</u> are considered infielders.
- L. <u>Rostered Players</u>: <u>COED softball teams may bat all legally rostered players</u> but must list everyone in the Batting Oder/Scorecard.
- M. Safety Run Through Lines & Double First Base: Double First Base and Safety Run Through Lines must be used by batter/runner to avoid any collisions with Defensive players. A Batter/Runner that does not touch the "orange" double base on a run through play at first can be called for the force out, may be tagged out before returning to the base or called out on appeal after illegally advancing.

Runners trying to advance (after being called safe via run through line) MUST RE-TOUCH base before advancing to the next base. Failure to do so may result in an out by appeal.

Batter/Runners must give defenders the right of way to cover the base for a potential play at the base. Failure to do so will be considered INTERFERENCE by the base runner and results in an out. A Runner failing to use the home plate run through line (touching home plate and/or plate extension mat but not interfering with the catcher) will first result in a Team Warning. All subsequent infractions will result in an out and run does not score.

- N. <u>Sliding</u>: Sliding is prohibited except in Competitive Leagues. This includes sliding back to a base. Any runner guilty of sliding will be declared out and all runners will return to the last base occupied at the time of violation. In the event the batter has not made an out as a result of his/her contacting a fair ball, all play is dead, and the batter is awarded first base.
- O. <u>Starting Line-up</u>: A team shall consist of ten (10) players; six (6) male and four (4) female. In the event six (6) males are not available, a team may play with a male / female combination in favor of the female gender (four (4) male and six (6) female).
- P. <u>Walking A Male Player</u>: A walk to a "male" batter will result in the batter being awarded two bases <u>if the next batter is a "female"</u>. A walk to a "male" batter will result in the batter being awarded one base if the next batter is a "male".

# 6.4 Competitive COED League Slow Pitch Rules

- A. <u>Ball/Strike Count</u>: Hitters will begin with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count. The batter will be out on the second foul after two strikes.
- B. Bases The bases will be placed at seventy (70) feet apart.
- C. <u>Batting Order</u>: All legally rostered players may bat; however, four (4) women must bat in the first ten (10) spots and no more than two (2) men can bat in a row. If three (3) men bat consecutively, the third male is out, and runners may not advance. If during a game a team drops below the four (4) female minimum, that now vacant batting line- up slot becomes an automatic out.
- D. Commitment Line: COED Competitive Leagues don't use commitment lines.
- E. <u>Courtesy Runner (CR)</u>: COED teams are allowed one (1) CR of each sex per inning once the batter reaches base. Any rostered player may be a CR as long as they run for the same sex. (See ARTICLE VI 6.1 h)
- F. Fielder/Runner Interference: USA Softball Rules for Fielder-Runner Interference strictly enforced.
- G. <u>Injured Player</u>: In the event of an injury during the game where a team drops below the four (4) female minimum, that now vacant batting line-up slot becomes an automatic out. A male player cannot replace the injured female player. If a team falls below the minimum number of players to start a game, eight (8), the game will be forfeited. Any substitution may not violate the Position Requirement Rule. (see ARTICLE VI 6.4K)
- H. <u>Minimum Number of Players</u>: A game may start with eight (8) players, but there must be a minimum of four (4) female players in the batting order and on the field.
- I. One Up Rule: All COED games will be played under the "One Up" home run rule. The "One Up Rule" applies to the team not the gender.
- J. <u>Position Requirement</u> A female or male may play any position as long as two (2) players of each sex are infielders, and two (2) players of each sex are outfielders. If a female is injured a male player cannot field her position. (see ARTICLE VI 6.3 H) A maximum of four (4) male players are allowed to play in the infield. NOTE: <u>For Coed purposes</u>, the <u>Pitcher/Catcher Battery are considered infielders</u>.
- K. <u>Rostered Players</u>: <u>COED softball may bat all legally rostered players</u> but must list everyone in the Batting Oder and Scorecard.
- L. <u>Safety Run Through Line</u>: Coed Competitive League does not utilize a safety run through line adjacent to home plate. <u>Runners are required to touch home plate</u>.
- M. <u>Sliding</u>: Sliding is allowed in the COED Competitive League.
- N. <u>Starting Line-up</u>: A team shall consist of a minimum of ten (10) players; six (6) male and four (4) female. In the event six (6) males are not available, a team may play with a male / female combination in favor of the females (four (4) male and six (6) female)

# Competitive COED League Slow Pitch Rules

O. <u>Upper Division Players List (UDPL)</u>: Men and Women are on the "Upper Division Players List" Competitive Coed "A" leagues have no restriction on the number of Players on the "UDPL".

Competitive Coed "B" leagues may only have up to 4 players (2 male / 2 Female) on the "UDPL".

PLEASE NOTE: The "Upper Division Players List" is determined by input from Players, Managers, Standard Park Umpires and the Tuolumne County Recreation Dept. TCRD has final authority on adoption or revision of the "UDPL".

Any Player or Manager may propose a player's placement or removal from the "UDPL" by e-mailing the Commissioner or UIC. TCRD Staff will review, research and render a decision for or against placement on or removal from the list. A Player deemed "Upper Division" during any softball season, will be placed on the UDPL list ONLY after the current season is complete. The designation takes effect for all subsequent seasons.

# 6.6 Men's 50+ League

- A. <u>Ball/Strike Count</u>: Hitters will begin with zero (0) ball and zero (0) strike. Batter is out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foul after 2 Strikes
- B. Bases: The bases will be placed at seventy (70) feet apart
- C. <u>Batting Line-up</u>: All uninjured players on the roster must be in the batting line-up, but no more than ten (10) in defensive positions. Late or borrowed players must be inserted at bottom of the line-up.
- D. <u>Borrowed Player (BP)</u>: May be used to complete the ten (10) man roster. BP's must first be recruited from the opposing teams. Should there be insufficient numbers on the opposing team then players may be borrowed from other registered and "Verified" Senior League players. BP's can play any defense position but must bat at the bottom of the line-up. BPs from the opposing team have no "base advance" restrictions. BP's who are not from the opposing team, shall be limited to one (1) base advance only. A BP, who is a base runner, may advance without limitation by a regular rostered player. Upon arrival of the regular rostered player, he will immediately replace the BP.
- F. <u>Certified Bats</u>: All bats used in USA Softball play for the Senior Divisions must be Official Softball Bats certified by USA Softball. (See Rule 3 Section 1 of the USA Softball Rule Book).
- G. <u>Courtesy Runner (CR)</u>: Each team is allowed unlimited Courtesy Runners per inning. However, a player can only pinch run one time per inning. If a CR is on base and when his at bat evolves, an out is declared. However, that CR is allowed to remain on base. The CR is legally in the game when the ball becomes "live."
- H. <u>Defensive Position Changes</u>: There will be no limit to defensive position changes by rostered players as long as there is no delay of game.
- I. <u>Fielder/Runner Interference</u>: All players share the responsibility for avoiding collisions. Failure to do so will constitute "interference" or "obstruction" and will result in an out and or ejection. Any other runners will return to the base occupied at the time of the ruling, or forward as awarded by the Umpire in the case of obstruction. Blatant infractions may result in ejection from the game and or suspension from the league at the discretion of the Game Umpire, UIC, Park Supervisor and/or TCRD.
- J. <u>Home Run Rule</u>: Any ball hit over the "old" or "new" Home Run Fence will be considered a home run. Any ball that hits a scoreboard will be considered a home run. Senior Leagues Teams will be restricted to three (3) home runs per game. Each subsequent home run after the teams third will be an out.
- K. <u>League Fee</u>: Each team shall pay a league fee, per league, spring and summer. The players will combine to form the pool from which all teams shall be formed.
- L. <u>Pitching Arc</u>: The pitching arc for 50+ is six (6) feet minimum not exceed a maximum height of twelve (12) feet from the ground. USA Softball strike zone and/or a strike mat will be used.
- M. <u>Player Registration</u>: All participants in the league are required to accept the Player Registration and Liability Release form through their online account to become a "Verified" player.
- N. <u>Pool of Players</u>: Upon establishment of the pool of players, the league will form the appropriate number of teams which will play the season. The league shall pay the appropriate per team fee as outlined by the TCRD fee schedule.

- O. Run Limit: All teams are limited to five (5) runs per inning until the last open inning.
- P. <u>Safety Run Through Lines & Double First Base</u>: Double First Base and Safety Run Through Lines must be used by batter/runner to avoid any collisions with Defensive players. A Batter/Runner that does not touch the "orange" double base on a run through play at first can be called for the force out, may be tagged out before returning to the base or called out on appeal after illegally advancing.

Runners trying to advance (after being called safe via run through line) MUST RE-TOUCH base before advancing to the next base. Failure to do so may result in an out by appeal.

Batter/Runners must give defenders the right of way to cover the base for a potential play at the base. Failure to do so will be considered INTERFERENCE by the base runner and results in an out. A Runner failing to use the home plate run through line (touching home plate and/or plate extension mat but not interfering with the catcher) will first result in a Team Warning. All subsequent infractions will result in an out and run does not score.

- Q. <u>Sliding</u>: Sliding is prohibited. This includes sliding back to a base. Any runner guilty of sliding will be declared out and all runners will return to the last base occupied at the time the violation occurred. In the event the batter has not made an out as a result of his/her fair ball contact, all play is dead, and the batter is awarded first base.
- R. <u>Team Manager</u>: Teams formed with a manager designated by the league. All remaining players will be drafted from the pool of senior players. No complete teams allowed. Players added to the league after the initial draft will be assigned to the team "next in line" for selection.

# ARTICLE VII - LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

7.1 <u>Adding Players after the Deadline</u>: Teams may obtain permission to add players to their Playoff Roster after the deadline provided there are serious and compelling reasons for players' absence. All additions for playoffs must be approved by the League (TCRD) no less than 24 hrs before game.

EXAMPLES: Emergency Personnel Players called to duty or Players with Serious Injury or Illness. Any player added due to these exceptions must meet player eligibility requirements and must be a "Verified" Player and have played the required minimum number of league games as a "Verified" rostered player. (see ARTICLE VII 7.10)

# 7.1a MANDATORY PLAYOFF ROSTER VERIFICATION:

Managers must submit playoff roster to League Commissioner no later than 24 hours before their first playoff game. FAILURE TO DO SO, WITHOUT CAUSE, RESULTS IN A FORFIET.

- 7.2 <u>Forfeits</u>: A team that forfeits two (2) or more games in a season, because of a game not played, and does not contact the Recreation Department by 1:00 p.m. the day of the game, will be disqualified from playoffs.
- 7.3 Format: Playoff format will be determined by the Recreation Department. The top four (4) teams from each League Division will qualify for playoffs in divisions with six (6) or more teams. For Combined Leagues, the top eight (8) teams will qualify for playoffs with seeds 1 4 being the upper division playoffs and seeds 5 8 being the lower division playoffs. TCRD reserves the right to assign teams to F2 playoffs regardless of record if they are eligible.
- 7.4 <u>Illegal Player</u>: A team using an illegal or an "Unverified" player shall automatically forfeit each game in which the player participated. If a team uses an illegal or "Unverified" player under an assumed name, that team shall automatically be dropped from the playoffs.
- 7.5 <u>Minimum Games</u>: Players must play the minimum number of games to qualify for playoffs. (See ARTICLE VII 7.10)
- 7.6 <u>Multiple Teams Playoffs</u>: <u>Players are eligible to participate on multiple teams for playoffs</u> <u>if the teams are in separate divisions on separate nights. Players are NOT Eligible to play in the playoffs for more than one (1) team on the same night</u>. The player must be a "Verified" rostered player for each team and must play in the minimum number of league games for each team. (see ARTICLE VII. 7.10)

EXCEPTION: If leagues are combined, players are allowed to play for both teams in playoffs if the teams are in different divisional playoffs (Comp A, Comp B, Rec A, Rec B). If the teams are in the same divisional playoffs the player must declare a single team for playoffs prior to the first playoff game. The player may only play on the declared team for playoffs. (See ARTICLE VI 6.1 f)

- 7.7 <u>Team Standings:</u> Team standings are determined by overall win percentage. Win percentage takes tied games into consideration.
- 7.8 <u>Tie Breaker</u>: If two (2) or more teams have the same winning percentage at the end of the season, the following tie breaker criteria will be used to determine playoff seeding:
  - a. Head to Head (among teams tied)
  - b. Winning percentage (if different number of games played and/or ties)
  - c. Fewest runs allowed in head to head play
  - d. Fewest runs allowed for the entire season
  - e. Least number of forfeits
  - f. Coin toss
  - 7.9 <u>Time Limit</u>: Playoff games will have the same time restrictions of sixty-five (65) minutes. No new inning may be started with less than five (5) minutes remaining in the game. Exception: the Championship games will continue through at least seven (7) innings with no ties. The USA Softball "Run Ahead Rule" still applies.
- 7.10 <u>Verified Players</u>: To be eligible for playoffs, a player must appear in a minimum number of the team's league games <u>as a "Verified" and Rostered Player</u>, as outlined by leagues below:
  - a. Spring League minimum is four (4) league games
  - b. Summer League minimum is five (5) league games
  - c. Fall League minimum is three (3) league games

# ARTICLE VIII - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All Players, Managers and Coaches must comply with the following eligibility rules. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of game(s) and/or suspension from the league(s).

- 8.1 Age Limit Age limits will be applied to any player whose class has not graduated from high school or will not graduate during the current season. To play in adult leagues a player must be at least fifteen (15) years of age by the first league game and have completed or be completing his/her freshman year of high school. Players under eighteen (18) years of age must have their parent or guardian register and accept all waivers online. Any such player without the required waivers will be considered an illegal player upon the protest of the opposing team or review by the Recreation Department.
- 8.2 <u>Changing Teams</u> Within a current season, a player may not leave one (1) team for another team in the same league without approval of the Recreation Department.
- 8.3 Completed Roster Rosters must be complete w/ player's first and last name + email address.
- 8.4 <u>High School Players</u> No player may participate on any team and simultaneously compete on a high school or junior college athletic team. Any team which violates this rule shall forfeit all games in which the ineligible player played. A team may not have more than two (2) high school age players on the roster at any one time unless special approval is granted by the Recreation Department.
- 8.5 <u>Online Registration</u>: All rosters must be submitted prior to the start of the season utilizing the online registration process as provided on the TCRD website: <u>www.tcrecreation.com</u>

#### ARTICLE VIII - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY Continued

8.6 <u>Multiple Team Player</u>: A player may play for multiple teams in the same season as long as the teams are not in the same division. and the player does not place any of the teams in violation of other rules. Players may play on more than one (1) team per night; however games will not be scheduled, rescheduled, or held up for players playing on multiple teams. Players are eligible to participate on multiple teams for playoffs if the teams are in different divisions and the player is a "Verified" rostered player for each team. Player must play in the Minimum number of league games as a "Verified" player for each team. (see ARTICLE VII 7.10)

EXCEPTION: If leagues are combined, players are allowed to play for both teams in playoffs if the teams are in different divisional playoffs. If the teams are in the same divisional playoffs, the player must declare a single team for playoffs prior to the first playoff game. The player may only play on the declared team for the duration of the playoffs. (See ARTICLE VI 6.1 f)

8.7 <u>Player Additions</u>: Player Adds are accepted online after the first game and will require a Player Add Fee as outlined in the Tuolumne County Fee Ordinance and Recreation Department Fee schedule due and payable at the time of the add. Players who are added to the roster after the first league game who have not completed the Player Add process and paid the Player Add Fee, are considered illegal players. Games "illegal" players participate in will be forfeited.

Added players must still meet minimum game requirement to play in playoffs. ARTICLE VII 7.10) The Civic Rec Registration system does not allow "player additions" when the number of minimum games to qualify for that season's playoffs cannot be satisfied. Season Deadlines:

Before game six (6) in Spring Before game seven (7) in Summer Before game four (4) in Fall)

- 8.8 <u>Team Classifications</u>: Team classifications are determined by the Recreation Department with consideration given to the submitted roster, players on the UDPL and prior league standings. Teams may be required to move up or down to next level.
- 8.9 <u>Playoff Eligibility</u>: A player must be a "Verified" and rostered member of the team and participate in a minimum number of league games in order to be eligible to participate in league playoffs. (see ARTICLE VII 7.10)
- 8.10 <u>Roster Changes</u>: Rosters may be altered or changed online only through the end of the first game. All additions after the first game must be completed by team Manager through the online registration process for Player Adds. (See ARTICLE VIII 8.7)
- 8.11 <u>Upper Division Players List (UDPL)</u>: Men and Women may be placed on UDPL

Men's Recreational "B" leagues may only have 1 player on the UDPL. Coed Recreational "B" leagues may have only 1 player on the UDPL. Coed Recreational "A" leagues may have up to 2 players (1 male/1 Female) UDPL Men's Recreational "A" leagues may have up to 2 players on the UDPL. Men's Competitive "B" leagues may have up to 3 players on the UDPL. Coed Competitive "B" leagues may have up to 4 players (2 male/2 Female) UDPL

Competitive Men's, Women's and Coed "A" leagues have no restrictions on the number of "Upper Division" players on their roster.

8.12 <u>Verified Players</u> - Each roster must have a minimum of ten (10) "Verified" players with a maximum of eighteen (18) "Verified players". Players who are added to the roster after the first league game who have not completed the Player Add process and paid the Player Add Fee, are considered illegal players. Games played with "illegal" players will be forfeited.

# ARTICLE IX - ILLEGAL PLAYERS

- 9.1 Illegal players are any players who do not conform to the player eligibility rules in (ARTICLE V and ARTICLE VIII)
- 9.2 Proper eligibility is the obligation of both players and managers.
- 9.3 Any Manager or Designee who uses an "illegal" or "unverified" player will forfeit all games in which the "illegal" or "unverified" player participated in.
- 9.4 Team using an illegal player in league and/or playoffs shall automatically forfeit each game in which the player participated. If a team uses an "illegal" player under an assumed name during playoffs, that team is automatically dropped from the playoffs. (ARTICLE VI 6.1/ARTICLE VII 7.4)
- 9.5 Illegal players can be identified for suspension if a protesting team completes and files a Protest Form during the game or when an eligibility check is done by TCRD. Recreation Department. (See ARTICLE VI 6.1 I and ARTICLE XI 1)
- 9.6 In both leagues and tournaments, players should have picture identification available. The protested player must produce identification for the umpire or have their identity verified by the Recreation Department or umpire staff. A protested player unable to provide this proof may be considered an illegal player, may result in a team forfeit.
- 9.7 Protests that require only identification will be handled by the umpire on the playing field at the time of the protest. The game clock will continue to run.
- 9.8 The Manager or his/her designee is responsible for providing accurate names to the scorekeeper. If a Manager fails to provide first and last name (nicknames and partial names not allowed), the game will be forfeited.
- 9.9 If a Manager or his/her designee knowingly uses an "illegal" and or an "Unverified" player, the game will be forfeited.
- 9.10 Managers/players who repeatedly violate the "Unverified" rule will be suspended for two (2) weeks.
- 9.11 A Manager who lists a player on the roster under an assumed name, the player, Manager or his/her designee will be suspended from the game, including playoffs. If a team uses an "illegal" or "Unverified" player under an assumed name, during playoffs, that team shall be dropped from playoffs.
- 9.12 Players who are added to the roster after the first league game who have not completed the Player Add process and paid the Player Add Fee, are considered illegal players. Games "illegal" players participate in will be forfeited.

# ARTICLE X - PLAYER EJECTION

- 10.1 Rules concerning player misconduct also apply to managers, spectators and players of earlier games waiting to play in a later game. Player/Spectator ejections may be enforced by umpires and/or Recreation Department personnel.
- 10.2 Players are subject to ejection by an umpire according to USA Softball Rules of Play. Not all ejections will result in further suspensions. Any Player/Manager ejected from a game will be disqualified from participating in the remainder of any game that night and may be suspended from his/her team's next game, playoff games included. The ejected Player/Manager is required to vacate Standard Park immediately. This includes the parking lot. If the player refuses to leave Standard Park, the offending team will forfeit the game. The ejected Player or Manager may be prohibited from attending the team's next contest, including playoffs.

Suspended Players may not enter Standard Park for any reason, without permission until the suspension is fulfilled or lifted.

Players or Managers ejected a second time during the same season for unsportsmanlike conduct, will be suspended from Standard Park for two (2) weeks.

Players or Managers ejected a third time during the same season for unsportsmanlike conduct, will be suspended from Standard Park for the rest of the current season plus all of the following season.

- 10.3 Any player, manager or spectator who verbally threatens physical harm, physical touches, pushes and/or strikes an umpire, team manager, player or park employee, may be suspended from entering Standard Park for up to three (3) softball seasons. Local Law Enforcement will be called if necessary.
- 10.4 In the event that a Player/Manager is ejected from the game, he/she is required to vacate Standard Park immediately. This includes the parking lot.
- 10.5 Anyone ejected from Standard Park will be given reasonable time to vacate the premises.
- 10.6 In the event that the Player/Manager does not comply with the umpire's direction to leave the field area, the game may be immediately forfeited by the violating player's team and further suspensions of the Player/Manager may result.
- 10.7 Unnecessary delay of game will result in immediate expulsion of the delaying player. Continued delay will result in further suspension and possible forfeiture.
- 10.8 If a player is ejected from a game or has to leave for any reason (including injury), each time that player's normal "at bat" evolves, an out will be declared; unless the team has a legal and eligible substitute that can take the player's spot in the batting order.
- 10.9 Any Player/Manager who leaves the confines of the dugout/bench area during a fight that has broken out, will be ejected from that game and is ineligible for the team's next game. If the team Manager does not instigate or escalate the fight, he/she is allowed to break up the fight and will not be ejected from the game.

# ARTICLE XI - PROTESTS

# NOTE: Protest decisions will not be retroactive to previously played games

#### 11.1 Roster and Classification

- A. Protests which concern roster listing or classification must be filed with the umpire and recorded on the scorecard. The Protest Form must be completed by the Manager and submitted to the Umpire, UIC or Commissioner at the end of the game. The decision may not be available the same night.
  - EXCEPTION: 1) Protests that require only identification will be handled by the umpire on the playing field at the time of the protest and 2) During playoffs a decision will be made before the game is resumed.
- B. The Recreation Department will check rosters after each league game. If it is determined by TCRD that an illegal player was used in a game, Managers will be notified and the team(s) at fault will forfeit the game.

# 11.2 Judgment Calls

- A. Protests on umpire judgment calls are NOT Allowed.
- B. Ball/strike, safe/out, fair/foul, infield-fly & up the middle are considered judgment calls.

# 11.3 Player Eligibility

- A. Player Eligibility Protest must be made before the last out of the game has occurred.
- B. Notify the umpire and he/she will notify opposing Manager and Scorekeeper.
- C. Record on official scorecard.
- D. Follow procedure on Protest Form (Appendix A). Include all pertinent information.
- E. Submit form to Recreation Staff along with protest fee (as outlined in the Tuolumne County Fee Ordinance and Recreation Department Fee schedule)
  - e.1 Protest fee will be refunded if protest is upheld.
  - e.2 Protest fee will be forfeited if protest is denied.
- F. If protest is upheld, violating team will forfeit the game.
- G. Decisions may not be made on night of protest. EXCEPTION: 1) Protests that require only identification will be handled by the umpire on the playing field at the time of the protest and 2) During playoffs decisions will be made before the game is resumed.
- H. All TCRD decisions are final.
- I. Managers will be informed of the decision.

# ARTICLE XI - PROTESTS Continued

# 11.4 Rule Interpretation

- A. Protest must be made to umpire before the next pitch is delivered.
- B. Record on official scorecard.
- C. Follow procedure on Protest Form (Appendix A). Include all pertinent information.
- D. Describe the situation that caused the protest.
- E. Identify the rule that is protested.
- F. Submit form to Recreation Staff along with protest fee (as outlined in the Tuolumne County Fee Ordinance and Recreation Fee Schedule) immediately following the game.
  - f.1 Fee will be refunded if protest is upheld.
  - f.2 Fee will be forfeited if rule is denied.
- G. Protests will be decided by the Recreation Department.
- H. If protest is upheld, the game may be replayed from point of protest, at a date and time to be determined by the Recreation Department. Decisions may not be made on the night of the protest.
  - EXCEPTION: 1) Protests that require only identification will be handled by the umpire on the playing field at the time of the protest and 2) During playoffs a decision will be made before the game is resumed.
- I. Final Decisions may not be made on the night of the protest
- J. Managers will be informed of the Recreation Department's decision.
- K. All decisions are final.

**APPENDIX** 

Α

PROTEST

FORM

**Tuolumne County Recreation Department OFFICE USE ONLY** 2 S. Green Street [ ] Protest Fee Paid Sonora, CA 95370 [ ] Score Sheet Filed Tel: (209) 533-5663 FAX: 532-2502 w/Protest Form Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee Initials: STANDARD PARK PROTEST FORM PROTEST FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. Fee will be refunded if protest is upheld. TYPE OF PROTEST: [ ] Misinterpretation of Playing Rule [ ] Illegal Substitute or Re-Entry [ ] Player/Roster Eligibility JUDGMENT CALLS CANNOT BE PROTESTED. Check if the following was completed: [ ] Umpire notified of intent to protest. [ ] Protest noted in official score book. [ ] Protest turned into park personnel before leaving park. Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Game Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Field: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Umpire Names: \_\_\_\_ [ ] USA Softball Rule Book [ ] Standard Park Rule Book Rule Number Protested: Essential Facts & Details:

Decisions will not be made on the night of the protest (unless it is a playoff game). Managers will be informed of the protest decision. All decisions are final.

**APPENDIX** 

В

MANAGERS AGREEMENT

# MANAGER'S AGREEMENT

Both parties agree that as a condition of league participation, the manager is responsible for the filing of the official roster and certifies that all players are eligible for play.

The manager is also responsible to see that his/her team complies with the rules attached hereto and included by reference herein, as well as with any other regulations set forth by the Tuolumne County Recreation Department.

INDIVIDUALS MUST PROVIDE OWN INSURANCE. The Tuolumne County Recreation Department does not carry medical or accident insurance on any of its adult programs. This responsibility lies with each individual on a team. Participants and spectators assume all risks inherent in athletic competition. On behalf of himself/herself and his/her team, the manager hereby expressly waives any liability on the part of the County of Tuolumne for any injuries, damages or losses arising from league participation.