



# RocSports, LLC

## Slow Pitch Rules and Regulations: RocSoftball @ Perinton

*Last Updated: 1/14/2020*

### General

All leagues shall be under the direction of the RocSports, LLC League Directors and governed by the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA). Note: This Constitution supersedes Slow-Pitch Rules.

### Player/Team Eligibility

- Adults at least 18 years of age are eligible to play softball.
- Players must be listed on the official roster before they may participate.
- **Waiver/Roster Form** – **Must be completed properly and scanned and emailed to rocsportsny@yahoo.com by Week 2 – no exceptions!** Team representative, by his/her electronic signature must verify all information. Do not turn in incomplete rosters.
  - No player can be listed on more than one roster on the **same** night of play.
  - **Females may NOT play on men's teams due to insurance.**
  - The roster **maximum is 20 players**. Rosters, subject to league approval, may be added up to the 20-person limit any time prior to the **start of the SIXTH game**.
  - Players must have played in **three (3)** regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.
  - Teams using illegal players will forfeit the game. An illegal player is defined as any player not listed on the official roster. This will not be tolerated and may lead to team being asked to leave the league.
  - Protests must be filed with the RocSoftball League Directors within 24 hours of the completion of the game. RocSoftball League Directors will be responsible for validating teams' rosters.

### General League Information

- **Schedules**: Schedules will be provided by the RocSoftball League Directors prior to the first game of the season and posted online at [www.rocsportsny.com](http://www.rocsportsny.com). No games other than regularly scheduled games shall be played without the league director's approval. Teams will be placed into divisions by ability level. The league reserves the right to place your team (*this can change at any time during the regular season and/or prior to the postseason starting to ensure league parity*).
  - Single Elimination Playoffs will follow the completion of the regular season and will be based on final regular season standings – number of teams advancing to playoffs and overall matchups will be determined by league directors. Playoff seeding tie-breakers will be based on regular season head-to-head matchup. Overall league champions will be eligible for postseason award.
- **Game Times**: 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 8:30pm (if necessary). At least eight (8) players from each team's roster must be present and ready to play. At 6:00 p.m., if a team has eight players, they must start the game. If a

team has less than 8 players, there will be a 10-minute grace period. Forfeits will be called 10 minutes after game time. **No inning may start after 7:10p.m unless there is suitable daylight (June/July)**. The 7:15pm game also has a 10 minute grace period and there is no time limit to finish the game.

- Start times for games scheduled after August 1<sup>st</sup> may be adjusted for earlier sun sets. The first game could start at 5:45pm, following the above rules, and the second game would begin at 7:00pm.
- If an umpire is late, the first game will start as soon as he/she arrives. As stated above, no Inning can start after 1 hour and 5 minutes from beginning of game.
- **Rainouts/Makeups:** The parks foreman & league directors will decide whether or not games will be played due to inclement weather or questionable playing conditions. **Managers should check the RocSoftball website at <http://www.rocsportsny.com> and/or the “RocSports” Facebook page after 4pm on game day for cancellation reports.**
  - If conditions are questionable after 4:00 p.m., teams should report to the field where a decision will be made by the umpire.
  - RocSoftball League Directors will make every attempt to make up games that are cancelled due to inclement weather on the teams’ regular night of play during the regular season (as doubleheaders). If this is not possible, the team(s) involved will be given enough advance notice to make arrangements to play at an alternate site and/or different night of the week.
    - In extreme circumstances where ALL games cannot be made up **no refund(s)** will be issued. It is always the intent of the RocSports league directors to play league schedules to their completion unless extreme circumstances prevent it (ex. Weather).
- **Official Game:** If a game is suspended in the event of inclement weather or darkness after 3 ½ full innings (home team ahead) or 4 full innings (visiting team ahead) the game is official. Less than that or if suspension is for other problems, (light failure, long injury delay, etc. the game will continue from the point of suspension.). Any game resulting in a tie after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning either because of the time limit or darkness will result in a tie game (*Playoff games cannot end in a tie*).
  - **Forfeits:**
    - Any team that forfeits a game during the regular season may be subject to removal from end of season playoffs at the discretion of the league directors.
    - Any team that forfeits two of its scheduled games during the season may be dropped from the league at the discretion of the league directors. Any remaining games will be forfeited and any games that the team has won, the decision will be reversed.

## **Equipment and Attire**

- Shirts must be worn at all times by those players participating in the game. The shirt does not have to be a team shirt.
- Rubber molded, plastic cleats or all–purpose turf shoes may be worn. **Metal spikes are NOT** to be worn and any player found doing so will be thrown out of the game.
- The pitcher/catcher may use his/her own discretion to decide whether or not to wear a face mask.

- BATS are “approved” under two circumstances:
  - They have ANY USSSA approval - old or new.
  - They are dual stamped (i.e. they have both the ASA and USSSA stamp on them)

**NO Senior Bats OR ASA ONLY stamped bats are allowed**

*BATS must meet the requirements of USSSA and be included on the list of approved bats published by the USSSA national office (Copy and paste the following links into your browser):*

- <http://web.usssa.com/usssa/usssa-general/USSSASoftballBatMarks7-10-14.pdf>
- <http://web.usssa.com/usssa/usssa-general/licspmf.htm>
- <http://web.usssa.com/usssa/usssa-general/Withdrawn&Non-CompliantSoftballBats.pdf>

### **Player/Team Conduct (ZERO tolerance policy)**

- The manager must be in control of his/her players at all times. No taking of drugs, swearing, fighting or use of abusive language by players or spectators will be tolerated. The RocSoftball league directors reserve the right to remove violators from the program.
- Any manager, player or spectator who physically or verbally assaults another person will be removed from the league permanently and immediately.
- Any player ejected from a game must leave the park. If the player refuses to do so, the game will automatically be forfeited against his/her team. **First** violation will result in one game suspension and the **second** violation will result in permanent suspension.
- Only team members and scorekeepers are permitted to occupy the players’ benches.
- **Only the team manager may have a discussion with the umpire** over a particular call. If the manager is not present, he/she should assign an acting manager to handle debates.
- **Protests** based on the interpretation of rules and **not** an umpire’s judgment, must be submitted (in writing) to the RocSoftball League Directors by close of the next business day after the game.
  - Protests will only be considered for rule violations, clarification, and misinterpretations. **Teams cannot protest a game based on a judgment call by an umpire.**
  - Protested games will only be replayed (from the point of the protest) if the game has a bearing on 1<sup>st</sup> place.

*For conduct violations not listed above, the penalty shall be decided by the RocSoftball League Directors*

### **Scores**

- The manager of the **WINNING** team is responsible for reporting scores. Acceptable methods of reporting scores are email ([rocportsny@yahoo.com](mailto:rocportsny@yahoo.com)) or phone call/text (see numbers below) by 9pm on game night. Reporting scores by the designated time is critical to updating league standings/scoreboards in a timely manner.
  - To report **Coed** scores please call/text your score to: 455-7827
  - To report **Men's** scores please call/text your score to: 278-0654
- All **forfeited** games will be scored 7-0 for the winning team.

## **Injuries**

- **For emergencies, call 911.**
- The RocSoftball League Directors should be advised of any injury requiring medical attention.

## **Miscellaneous**

- The “home” team will be decided by the schedule during the regular season. Each team will have an equal mix of “home” and “away” games (*reminder: home teams always provide a new game ball for each game*). In the playoffs the “home” team will always be the lower seeded team (ex. In a #4 vs. #5 matchup, the #4 seed is the “home” team).
- The RocSoftball league directors may take any action deemed necessary to maintain order and safety within the league.
- The RocSoftball league directors may request some teams to switch leagues for the following season in an attempt to maintain parity (competitive balance).
- RocSoftball is not responsible for any damage to vehicles parked at any of the venues at which games are hosted, including, but not limited to: Fellows Road Park, Spring Lake Park, Kreag Road Park, Edmund-Lyons Park.
- RocSoftball is not responsible for loss or damage of any article.
- The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of rain, darkness, panic or for any other cause which puts the umpire, players or the patrons in peril.
- Each of the parks that RocSoftball utilizes has a **“carry-in, carry-out”** policy. **EACH TEAM SHOULD PROVIDE ITS OWN GARBAGE BAGS AND SHOULD CLEAN UP AFTER EACH GAME.**

## **RocSoftball Rules of Play for ALL Divisions MEN'S AND COED**

- The official USSSA rule book will govern play; local league rules below supersede if applicable.
- The league director will provide each team with new balls at the beginning of the season. The HOME Team will supply the umpire with one (1) new ball at the beginning of each game, which you are responsible for getting back at the end of each game. The AWAY team is responsible for providing the umpire with one (1) lightly used game ball, as back up for the game.
  - Warm-ups: In order to speed up play, there will be THREE warm-up pitches allowed for pitchers between innings, with the exception of the top and bottom of the **first inning**, or if a new pitcher enters the game.
  - Pregame Practice: Warmups behind the bleachers only - no batting or infield practice.

## **ALL leagues:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Base/Safety Base - Any batted ball hitting the white portion should be fair and any ball hitting the red or orange portion should be foul. On the initial throw to first base from the infield or outfield, the batter-runner **MUST TOUCH** the red or orange portion of the base but not the white. If legally appealed by the defense, the runner will be called out. The defensive player **MUST** always touch the white portion. This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base. This does not include:
  1. Returning to the base after over running,
  2. Running on a base hit to the outfield (runner may touch the red or white part)
  3. Re-tag to advance on a fly ball.

*All BASES must be securely fastened at their designated places.*

- Three ball (3) and two (2) strike rule. (Start with one and one count)
  - 2nd foul ball after 2 strikes you're out rule
  - 3' – 10' arch
- Sixty-Five (65') foot baselines shall be used in all adult programs.
- Pitcher's distances of 50 feet for both men and women.
- **Mercy Rule:** 10 runs after 5 completed innings (home team does not have to bat in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning).
- Minimum 8 players to start game w/ a maximum of 12 allowed in the batting lineup (2 AH – additional hitters allowed). There shall be no more than 10 fielders at any given time.
- Players that arrive late (after an inning has started) may be added to the end of the batting order and must wait until the beginning of the next half inning to enter the game.
- If someone gets injured and you have no subs, no out is recorded when the injured players spot in the lineup comes up.
- **No fake pitching is allowed in any leagues.**
- There is no leading or stealing.
- The infield fly rule will apply if there are less than 2 out and there are runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base OR the bases are loaded.
- Ejected players can be replaced with subs that are on your roster.
- ALL players **MUST REMOVE** jewelry prior to play.
- The “**Flip Flop rule**” is not preferred, but is left up to the discretion of the managers and umpire at the game. This should only be used if a game is completely one-sided and in the spirit of getting the game to completion quicker.

- The home team is the official book. If no scorekeeper available - visiting team is designated official book. Be ready to play at scheduled game time. Tape the playing and ground rules in your scorebook.

## Courtesy Runners:

- Each team is allowed an **unlimited** amount of courtesy runners per game, who have to be the last batted out (co-ed league must be same gender of last batter).

## COED Rules ONLY

- **Six (6) run MAXIMUM per inning (with the exception of the last inning).** *What this means to you?* When you hit 6 runs your inning ends – regardless of how many outs there are.
- **Standard lineups** include six (6) males and four (4) female players. (seven (7) and five (5) if A.H. is used). Any six male and any four female players must play defense.
  - 6 males and 5 females is ok; 5 males and 6 females is ok
  - 5 males and 4 females is ok; 4 males and 5 females is ok
  - 4 males and 4 females is ok

*If at any time there are less than 4 males or 4 females, or 5 males and 3 females forfeit will be declared. You can always have more females than males, but 8 people are required.*

- Three guys cannot bat in a row at any time. There is no mandatory defensive player positioning.
- As players arrive, they can be inserted into the lineup if they meet gender requirement anytime.
- **When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat. If a male is up after the person that walked the male that walked will only get 1<sup>st</sup> base.**
  - Note: If the next female chooses to walk, it is not considered an intentional walk for the purpose of making an appeal.
- 5th infielder may not be used. Outfielders must start in outfield grass.

**Exception:** *A minimum of 8 players can start a game. However, whenever males bat “back to back to back” (i.e. 3 males batting in a row) an out must be taken. Only 6 male players can play defensively at a time.*

*All COED playing rules not specifically covered above shall be governed by the “All Rules” section of the USSSA rules book.*

## Field Ground Rules:

**\*\*Note:** ALL “out of play” calls are left up to the discretion of the umpire\*\*

### **Fellows Road Park Field 1, 2, 3**

- Entire Field: All you can get
- *Fellows Road 1* - Over park fence on the fly: **INNING ENDING OUT**
- Over park fence on a bounce: Ground-rule double

### **Spring Lake Park Field 1**

- Entire Field: All you can get
- Hits the trees/ over growth in the air: Homerun

- Homerun rule (Hit the trees/Over growth in the air) – Limit of 1 per person
- Balls hit into the woods, on the ground...
  - Spring Lake #1
    - Right Field = Ground Rule Double
    - Center Field/Left Field = Ground Rule Triple

### **Kreag Road Park Field 1**

- Hits the trees in the air/Over the fence on the fly: Homerun
  - Homerun rule (Hit the trees in the air/Over the fence on the fly) – Limit of 1 per person
- Over the fence on a bounce: Ground-rule Double
- Inside the fence under the trees: Ground-rule Double
- Note: It will be the umpire’s judgment to call time when sidewalk is in use

### **Kreag Road Park Field 2**

- Hits the trees in the air/Over the fence on the fly: Homerun
  - Homerun rule (Hit the trees in the air/Over the fence on the fly) – Limit of 1 per person
- Over the fence on a bounce: Ground-rule double
- Inside the fence under the trees: Ground-rule Double

*All above ground rules are subject to change based on the umpires and/or RocSoftball league director’s discretion if it is deemed necessary to ensure a safe playing environment for our teams.*

### **Liability Statement**

I, and my team, by receipt of this document agree to assume any and all risk of accident or injury related to the activity (slow pitch softball). We agree to release RocSports and its officers from any and all liability for any incident or injury caused by whatever reason, including, but not limited to, an act of omission.

I, and my team, understand that NO medical insurance is provided.

I, and my team, understand that ALL decisions made by the RocSports League directors are FINAL. It is also at the discretion of the RocSports League directors to amend, delete, or add any rules that they may deem necessary.