

2009  
SOFTBALL GUIDE



Men's, Coed, and Women's

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## I. Points of Interests

- **Rosters**– Must be turned in at least 10 minutes before your first game. Teams are allowed up to 20 people per roster. Must add new players 2 days before game. Each team has one emergency add. (See page 8 for complete information)
- **Uniforms**-Teams must have matching uniforms with at least 6 inch numbers on back by end of third week of play. (see page 7 for complete information)
- **Equipment**-Softballs are provided by Salt Lake County. To see the approved bats list go to [www.recreation.slco.org/sprotsoffice](http://www.recreation.slco.org/sprotsoffice)
- **Rain-out info**-Call # 801-468-2525 between 4pm-5pm or check

## II. Salt Lake County 2009 Rule Changes

- **Section IX (A. 4)Rule Change**-Each team is allowed one emergency add to their roster. The emergency add allows one opportunity for one player to be added up until game time. This emergency add may be used even after rosters are frozen.
- **Section XI (E)-Rule Change**-For men's, women's, and coed slow pitch leagues, the Run Rule and/or Flip/Flop Rule will be used:
 

Run Rule	Flip/Flop
25 after 3	After 2nd
20 after 4	After 3rd
15 after 5	After 4th

(see page 15 for further clarification)
- **Section XII(L)-Rule Change**– For the safety of players, and in the interest of keeping leagues skill-appropriate, USSSA ranked players are subject to the following limitations:

Gold/Silver-ranked players = Major-Comp-(unlimited amount per roster)

Comp-(maximum of 2 Gold per roster-max of 5 silver/gold per roster)

Bronze-ranked players = Major-Comp or Comp Leagues-(unlimited amount per roster)

PENALTY: Manager of team & player breaking rule must sit for 2 games from all Salt Lake County leagues that the manager & player participate in.

### III. MANAGER QUICK TIPS

#### Important game rules:

- A 3 balls– 2 strikes count will be used (unlike the normal baseball/softball count of 4 balls & 3 strikes).
- The one-up home run rule will be used (page 17). An orange safety base will be used at first base. Offense must touch the orange and the defense must use the white.
- A commitment line will be placed half way between 3rd and home. Once a runner crosses that line they are “committed” to run home and may not go back to third. All play at home will be a force play.
- A safety scoring plate will be set up 8 feet from the home plate. Offense must touch the safety plate and defense must play on the home plate.

**-Substitutions** – Starters may re-enter one time. A substitute player who is withdrawn may not re-enter. See page 18 for complete requirements.

**-Uniforms**– Mandatory by the third week of scheduled league play. We suggest the manager carry extra shirts/jerseys for subs or [in case someone gets blood on their uniform.] See page 7 for full requirements.

**-Equipment**– New game balls are provide by Salt Lake County. However, teams are required to bring used balls in good condition for back up. Teams must provide their own bats and gloves. See page 6 for full requirements.

**-Sportsmanship**– Salt Lake County will not tolerate poor sportsmanship. Please take time to read the section regarding unsportsmanlike behavior (page 13) and make sure all team members are informed. The penalties for breaking these rules are severe and will be enforced.

**-Protests**– The only time you can protest is if you feel there has been a misinterpretation by an umpire of a playing rule, failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation, or failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation. Please read page 23 to get the full procedure to properly protest a game. Judgment calls can't be protested.

## What to do the first night of leagues:

- Arrive at field at least 20 minutes before scheduled game time.
- Make sure roster is filled out completely and signed by each team member.
  - For team members who are not there for first game, write in their names on the roster and have them sign when they play in a future game. List all the subs who might possibly play. **You have 20 spots on your roster– Use them!**
- Check in with your scorekeeper and submit your roster.
- Your scorekeeper will give you a line-up card.
  - Completed line-up cards are your batting order. See page 11 for complete rules on the line-ups.
- Write down your scorekeepers name, phone number in case you have questions or if you need to add anyone to your roster.

## IV. LEAGUE CONTACTS

### Salt Lake County Program Manager

- Eliza Goodman # 801-270-7260 [egoodman@slco.org](mailto:egoodman@slco.org)

### Copperview Recreation Leagues

- Katie O'Bray # 801-561-0075 [kobray@slco.org](mailto:kobray@slco.org)

### Redwood Recreation Leagues

- Amelia Watts # 801-974-6923 [amwatts@slco.org](mailto:amwatts@slco.org)

### Wasatch Scorekeepers Association

- Kaye Crawley [kayelc@juno.com](mailto:kayelc@juno.com)

### USSSA Umpires and State Director

- Randy Johns [ussautah@hotmail.com](mailto:ussautah@hotmail.com)

## **V. PHILOSOPHY**

The Salt Lake County Sports Adult Softball Program is intended to provide participants with an opportunity to play softball in an organized, competitive, but recreational environment. Salt Lake County strives to promote the ideals of sportsmanship and physical fitness to all participants, regardless of sex, race, creed or color. More important than any game are the participants and their needs. The Adult Softball Program strives to bring area residents closer together through their common interests in sportsmanship, cooperation and appreciation of the game.

## **VI. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

A. The Salt Lake County Sports staff will determine the placement of teams: Any open spots cannot be sold, bartered or traded. Any vacated spots will be filled at the discretion of the Salt Lake County Sports staff. Availability of open spots in leagues will be based on league standings of the previous year and the status of returning teams.

1. Mandatory condition to secure your spot in the league is FULL payment of FEES on or before deadline.
2. To be considered a returning team, one of the two conditions must be met:
  - (1) Have the same manager from the previous year.
  - (2) Have at least one-half of the returning players from the previous year and roster.

B. Teams must play at the time, place and date specified by the Salt Lake County.

## **VII. EQUIPMENT**

A. Each team will furnish their own equipment. Salt Lake County will provide two new game balls for each game.

B. Each team will furnish one acceptable used ball for each game. Slowpitch balls must be stamped USSSA approved.

1. Umpires will inspect the softballs at the beginning of the game and will be the final judge on quality and the make of the ball.
2. Usable balls must be given to the umpire at the beginning of each game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit game.
3. Check our web site [www.recreation.slco.org/sportsoffice](http://www.recreation.slco.org/sportsoffice) or [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com) for approved bats. Bats must be stamped 1.20 or less B.P.F. for USSSA. Senior league bats must have a Salt Lake County sticker.

## VIII. UNIFORMS

- A. As a team, it will be MANDATORY for each player to have the same uniform for league play. Deadline for having uniforms is by the end of the third scheduled league game.
- B. Uniforms will consist of similar colored shirts or shirts of a different color IF they all have the same team name or logo on them.
- C. All uniforms must have at least a 6-inch number on the back in a contrasting color. Identical numbers are not allowed.
- D. If a manager plays a player (defensively or offensively) who is out of uniform, when that player's turn at bat comes, it will be scored as an out and an "at bat" will be recorded.
- E. When three or more players are not in uniform, the team will be considered out of uniform.

PENALTY for infraction of above rules: Game will be considered a LOSS; however, the game will be played with statistics given to both teams. This rule is called by the scorekeeper and can not be protested.

### F. BLOOD RULE:

A player who is bleeding or has an open wound or excessive amount of blood on his/her uniform must leave the game. There is no provision to allow the player to stay in the game after a momentary delay once the umpire has observed the bleeding and has suspended play. The player must leave at once.

1. The removed player is expected to receive appropriate treatment before returning to the game. The player involved is not to return until the bleeding is stopped, an open wound is covered, or an excessively bloody uniform is changed. An excessive amount of blood on a uniform would mean it is saturated to the extent the blood might transfer to another player or the blood could soak through to the skin.
2. No penalty is to be assessed if the replacement shirt style or color does not match the others exactly.

PENALTY: Failure to comply with this rule will result in the player being expelled from the game.

## IX. GAME MANAGEMENT

### A. Managers/Captains

1. The manager shall be the official representative of their team unless they designate one of the players as the team captain prior to the start of the game.
2. Only the official team representative is permitted to raise a question concerning a rule interpretation, but they shall be prohibited from questioning a judgment call.
3. For the purpose of introduction, team representatives will meet with umpires at home plate immediately prior to every game.

### B. Rosters

1. All completed rosters must be signed and turned in to the official score keeper PRIOR TO THE START OF THE FIRST LEAGUE GAME. For rosters to be legal, the manager must have all information filled out, including name, signature, address, zip code and telephone number of each team player.

a. EVERYONE MUST SIGN THE ROSTER BEFORE PLAYING IN ANY GAME. Because of legal requirements, everyone must sign the roster before taking the field or the game will be declared a forfeit. This is the manager's responsibility.

b. Illegal player rule. The scorekeeper reserves the right to request identification of players from any team to ensure eligibility. Player must show ID when requested.

PENALTY: If the player is found to be ineligible, the game will be a forfeit.

c. When a player is caught playing under an assumed name the person writing the line-up and the illegal player will be suspended in any and all leagues they participate in, and the game declared a forfeit.

1st offense:	2 games
2nd offense	Remainder of the season

2. All Salt Lake County slowpitch and fastpitch softball teams may carry a maximum of 20 players on their roster. If a team wants to add an additional player, another player must be dropped to keep the maximum number at 20. No more than five players may be added or dropped per week of play.

3. Before a new player is eligible to play, his/her name must be added to the roster prior to 8pm, 2 days before game time. (Example: if you play on Wednesdays, you must contact your scorekeeper no later than Monday) If you need your scorekeeper's phone number or email, please call the sports office at #801-270-7260.
4. Each team is allowed **one emergency add** to your roster. The emergency add allows **one** opportunity for **one player** to be added up until game time. This emergency add may be used even after rosters are frozen.
5. If a player on the roster is suspended for any reason, his/her spot on the roster may not be replaced.
6. If a player is suspended at the end of the season, they will serve a two game suspension at the beginning of the next league they play in.
7. Roster changes must be transacted between team manager and official league scorekeeper.
8. The OFFICIAL ROSTER shall be kept by the scorekeeper of the league in which the team participates. Please do not call the County Sports Office or Centers to report roster changes. If you need your scorekeepers name & number please call and we will give you the information. When adding a player to a roster, the scorekeeper must be given the specific name and show identification of the player to be added. Please obtain your scorekeeper's phone number on the first night of league play or call #801-270-7260.

The deadline for adding players to the roster is:

1. By the 7th scheduled game of the season for the 14 week league.
2. Exception, all 7 week leagues and Copperview, will be by the 4th scheduled game
3. ALL ROSTERS ARE FROZEN AFTER ROSTER DEADLINES.

### C. Game Times

1. A five minute grace period will be allowed for the FIRST SCHEDULED GAME of the night.
  - a. If a team fails to field a minimum legal team of (8) players at the end of the grace period, the official in charge shall declare the game a forfeit.
  - b. Game clock starts AT SCHEDULED GAME TIME.
2. Once a game begins, the time limit will continue uninterrupted.

## EXCEPTIONS

1. Loss of light or arrival of darkness
2. Rain or electrical storm (Severe lightning)
3. Malfunction of automatic watering system
4. Field maintenance problems
5. Serious injuries
6. Anything which places the patrons or players in peril and was not the direct cause of action by players or patrons

NOTE: If any of these conditions exist, the decision to stop or continue play will be made jointly by the scorekeeper and umpire unless it is a legal game according to the governing league rules. If games are canceled due to any of the exceptions listed above, when play is resumed at the point where the game was delayed or suspended.

3. If a team employs tactics designed to delay the game, the game will be forfeited by that team. After one warning is given, this rule will be strictly enforced by the umpires. (The game clock will not stop for arguing.)

### D. Lineups

1. Completed lineups must be submitted to the scorekeeper at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled game time. Noncompliance may subject teams to penalty or forfeiture of that game. The only exception to this rule will be for the first scheduled league game of the night, however, all lineups must be turned in by scheduled game time.
2. Managers must legibly print first and last names for every player on the lineup card.
3. If necessary, two (three if using AH) or less blanks can be left anywhere in the lineup to save a late players place in the batting order. After the game starts and a player is not present, but his/her name is in the scorebook, the player is considered in the game and can still play. They may still play if the player is substituted for; however, the re-entryrule will apply.

### E. Player Eligibility

1. All players in the Men's, Women's and Coed slowpitch leagues must be 16 years of age before competing. Young men and women who play in the adult programs and are under 18, will be required to have their parent /legal guardian complete an additional form for minors. This form is available from your scorekeeper.
2. The Girl's and Men's Fastpitch leagues age eligibility will be regulated each year as the program dictates.

3. Any player banned from other USSSA or ASA sports programs will not be allowed to play in the Salt Lake County sports program.
4. Players can only be on one roster per league. If a player wants to change teams within the same league, he/she must secure written release from Salt Lake County. The scorekeeper must receive a copy before he/she is eligible to play.
5. If a league tournament is held: Players must have played in at least four games to be eligible to participate.

#### F. Forfeit game

1. If a game is declared a forfeit and the teams agree to play the game, they assume all risks and liability of the game. Umpires are not required to work a forfeit game.
2. After three (3) forfeits during the regular season, a team will be expelled from league play for the remainder of the season and receive no refund of fee paid. Any team with three forfeits will be put in the draw as a new team for the following season.
3. If a team begins a game with enough players, but cannot finish with enough players, the game will be considered a loss, not a forfeit, and all stats will be given.

#### G. Field Rules

1. NO INFIELD PRACTICE BEFORE THE GAME OR BETWEEN INNINGS. HUSTLE ON AND OFF THE FIELDS.
2. NO SOFT-TOSS or batting into the fence is ALLOWED.
3. No equipment shall be left lying on the field either in fair or foul territory.
4. No children or pets are allowed in the dugout area or on the field during the game. No bat boy/girl under the age of 16 will be permitted.
5. PRACTICE AREAS ARE RESTRICTED TO DESIGNATED WARM-UP AREAS. WARM-UP ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ACROSS SIDEWALKS.

#### H. Softball Complex Press Boxes

1. Coaches, managers and players are asked to conduct business with the scorekeepers between games whenever possible and not when he/she is keeping score except to make substitutions.
2. No tobacco/smoking in the press box, in dugouts or in the vicinity of play. Smoking is not permitted in any Salt Lake City Park due to city ordinances. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited any Salt Lake County ball park .

### X. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

A. The Salt Lake County Sports Staff has the authority to disqualify, suspend or remove any manager, coach, player, spectator or team that behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner before, during or after a game. These rules of conduct will be strictly enforced during the season. It is the manager's responsibility to ensure all players know and adhere to these rules.

B. The following are included in defining unsportsmanlike conduct:

1. Verbal Abuse: No player, manager, team or spectator shall verbally abuse, taunt, provoke or disrespectfully address an umpire, scorekeeper, director, county official, other players or spectator before, during or after the game.
2. "F---Word" RULE: Any player, coach or bench personnel that says the four letter "F-word" before, during, or after the games and loud enough for the umpire and/or scorekeeper to hear.

#### PENALTIES:

- a) First offense: Ejection from the current game, facility and next scheduled league game. Player is not eligible for individual awards.
- b) Second offense: Suspension from all Salt Lake County Recreation programs for one year from time of infraction. Player is not eligible for individual awards.
- c) If an ejected spectator refuses to leave the facility, the team they are affiliated with will forfeit the game. Remember – the CONDUCT OF SPECTATORS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAM they are supporting.

3. Ethnic and Sexual Innuendos: Ethnic and sexual innuendos will not be tolerated by Salt Lake County and will carry a three game suspension. (Current game plus the next two games. Player is not eligible for individual awards.)
4. Ejections: A player or manager ejected from a game will be automatically suspended from that team's next game played. An ejection during the last game of the season will result in a two game suspension and will be enforced in the next league they play. If a player or manager is ejected from a game, they will be ejected from the facility. Umpires and scorekeepers can eject players.
5. No player, manager or spectator shall at any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike or threaten an official or scorekeeper. Officials and scorekeepers are required to suspend the player immediately for the remainder of the season and report such a player to the program manager. Such a player shall remain suspended until his/her case has been considered.
6. NO FIGHTING POLICY: Salt Lake County Sports strictly prohibits fighting before, during or after a game. The definition of a fight includes, but is not limited to, punching, slapping or swinging a fist or open-palmed hand at another. A punch does not have to land to be considered a fight. The definition may, at the program manager's discretion, also include kicking, shoving, throwing an object at another or any other violent act. Any fight that occurs out of the immediate vicinity of the ballpark ( parking lot or street), and is witnessed by county employees or representative, shall carry the same consequences as if it had occurred on county premises.
7. Threatening: No player, manager, or team shall threaten another player, official, score keeper or spectator before, during or after a game.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from County Adult Sports programs for one year from date of infraction.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension from all County Adult Sports programs.

8. NO PLAYER SHALL refuse to abide by official's decision. Officials are required to suspend player immediately from further play and report such a player to the League Director. Such a player shall remain suspended until his/her case has been considered. Officials consist of umpires and scorekeepers.
9. Only the person designated prior to the game may hold a discussion with the official. Any other player that argues or questions the umpire/scorekeeper is subject to:

MINIMUM PENALTY: Warning by an official.

MAXIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game.

10. Alcohol is not permitted in any Salt Lake County Park.  
PENALTY: If an infraction is reported, a warning will be issued by game personnel for the first known offense and an ejection will be issued for the second offense.  
**Alcohol consumption and possession is subject to sanctions imposed by the local law enforcement jurisdictions.**
11. No tobacco/smoking in the press box, near the scorekeeper's area, in dugouts or in the vicinity of play area.  
PENALTY: If an infraction is reported, a warning will be issued for the first known offense and an ejection will be issued for the second offense.
12. Any player placed on probation for the remainder of the season and reported again for violating any "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" rule will be given the maximum penalty of suspension for the remainder of the season. His/her case will be reviewed by the Salt Lake County Sports Office before being eligible for the following season.
13. Once a player has been suspended from play for one year, a second year-long suspension MAY result in a lifetime ban from ALL County Adult Sports programs.
14. A player removed from the game must leave the facility immediately (OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF SOUND). This includes the parking area of the facility. Failure to do so will carry a penalty of suspension for the remainder of the season and forfeiture of the game.
15. Participants may be held responsible for damages caused by negligence or intentional acts.
16. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. If the team's manager, after being warned by the official, scorekeeper or director, cannot control abusive treatment or vulgar language, the game shall be declared a forfeit and awarded to the opposing team.
17. Provocation is not a legitimate defense to overturn any suspension or ban. All players are presumed to have notice of this rule.

## XI. OFFICIAL SLOWPITCH RULES AND EXCEPTIONS

- A. The official softball rules adopted by Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation will be USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) and will govern Men's, Women's and Coed Slowpitch Leagues for the current year.
- B. USSSA rule books are available online at [www.recreation.slco.org/sprotsoffice](http://www.recreation.slco.org/sprotsoffice). Limited copies are available from scorekeepers.
- C. SAFETY BASE: A double first base will be mandatory for all Salt Lake County slowpitch leagues. Runners must use the outside base and the fielder must use the inside base. Using the wrong base by the runner or a fielder will result in an automatically safe or out call, unless there is no play at first base.
- D. All Slowpitch leagues use the 3-2 Count.
  1. A batter walks on three balls and strikes out on the second strike. Foul ball rule: The batter is out on the second foul ball after one strike.
- E. All Men's, Women's and Coed Slowpitch games shall be seven innings or no new innings after 55 minutes of play. If a batter is in the box and time has expired, the batter completes his/her turn at bat.

EXCEPTION: For men's, women's and coed programs the Run Rule and/or Flip/Flop Rule will be used:

Run Rule	Flip/Flop
25 after 3	After 2nd
20 after 4	After 3rd
15 after 5	After 4th

Run Rule- awards a win to a team that is ahead in a game-see appropriate column above.

Flip/Flop- All programs: in the inning when a Run Rule for that particular program is exceeded and the HOME TEAM is losing, the Home Team will remain at bat and will now become the new *Visiting Team*. If the new Visiting Team does not score enough runs to reduce difference below the Run Rule the game is over. If the New Visitor Team does reduce the run difference to below the run rule then the New Home Team will bat. The game will continue following the time limit/seven innings or Run Rule & Flip/Flop chart, with the teams staying as the new designated Home/Visitor.

F. THE SCOREKEEPER IS THE OFFICIAL TIMER FOR ALL GAMES.

G. ADDITIONAL HITTER(S) cannot be added after game clock starts.

H. HOME RUN RULE:

1. The Men's Major Comp league will play the two-up home run rule.
2. Leagues will play the one-up home run rule through the last inning.
3. The One-up Home run rule: Simply stated, one team may not have more than a "one" home run advantage over their opponent. If "Team A" hits a home run, they cannot hit another home run until "Team B" hits a home run. Once "Team B" hits a home run, both teams now have one home run and are even again. Now "Team A" or "Team B" may hit a home run. This is not an alternating rule. It simply means that a team may not at anytime hit any more than "one more" than their opponent. (**Hypothetical example: TEAM A, TEAM B, TEAM B, TEAM A, TEAM A, TEAM B, TEAM A, TEAM B, TEAM B, TEAM A.**) Any home run exceeding the "one up" rule will be an out.

I. MINIMUM PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1. Teams may start a game with 8, 9, 10 or 11 (12 if coed) players; however, no more than (10) players may play defensively.
2. If you start a game with (8) players, you will take two automatic outs until the ninth or tenth players arrive. You may not finish the game with less than (8) players. You may not add the additional hitter (AH) once the game starts. Coed can start with (11) and take an automatic out until the 12th player arrives.
3. If you choose to start the game with (11) players, (10) players on defense and the additional hitter, you may finish with no less than (9) players and take two automatic outs. The 11th player can enter the game defensively at any time.

J. Re-entry Rule

1. Men's, Women's and Coed re-entry is permitted. Any starting player may withdraw and re-enter once, provided each player occupies the same batting position whenever he/she is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.

K. No metal cleats except in Men's and Women's (17 and up) Fast Pitch leagues.

PENALTY: Ejection of player(s) wearing metal cleats.

- L. For the safety of players, and in the interest of keeping leagues skill-appropriate, USSSA ranked players are subject to the following limitations:

Gold/Silver-ranked players = Major-Comp-(unlimited amount per roster)

Comp-(maximum of 2 Gold per roster-max of 5 silver/gold per roster)

Bronze-ranked players = Only Major-Comp or Comp Leagues (unlimited amount per roster)

PENALTY: Manager of team & player breaking rule must sit for 2 games from all Salt Lake County leagues that the manager & player participate in.

## **XII. COED RULE EXCEPTIONS**

### **A. NUMBER OF TEAM PLAYERS:**

Each team will consist of a MINIMUM of 4 male and 4 female players. If there are nine players on a team, there must be 5 male and 4 female players, or 4 males and 5 females. If the additional hitter rule is used (optional), there must be one additional male and one additional female hitter for a total of 6 male and 6 female players.

Penalties if less than 10 players at start of game:

1. Only two missing players are allowed per game. If more than two players are missing, the game will be a forfeit.
2. If you start the game with 8 players (4 male/4 female), you will take an automatic out each time the two missing players are up to bat.
3. If you start with 10 players you may finish with 9, but you must take an automatic out every time the missing player is up to bat, and you must finish the game with no less than 8 players (4 male/4 female).
4. If you opt to use the an Additional Hitter and start the game with 11 players, you must take an automatic out each time the missing player is up to bat. And you must finish the game with no less than 10 players (5 male/5 female).
5. If you opt to use the Additional Hitter and start with 12 players, the additional hitter may substitute for any player (of the same sex) at any time to play defense, but must bat in the original batting order.

B. Batting order must alternate between genders. Lead-off hitter can be either female or male.

C. Substitutes must replace a member of their own sex.

- D. When starting with ten players, the outfield will consist of two males and two females. The infield will include three men and three women. There is no preference to infield positions.

EXCEPTION: The pitcher can either be male or female; the catcher must be the opposite sex.

- E. OUTFIELDERS ARE OUTFIELDERS! They MUST play 25 feet from the infield and MAY NOT move in until the ball is HIT.

PENALTY: A single and runners advance when forced. Batter has the option to decline penalty.

- F. 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.

- G. HOME RUN RULE:

Coed leagues will play the one-up home run rule. Coed will play one up per team (not gender) through the last inning.

- H. Coed teams will play using both an approved 11-inch and 12-inch ball. HOME TEAMS will provide an acceptable 11-inch ball(.44 core), VISITORS will provided an acceptable 12-inch ball(.40 core) for each game.

- I. The 11-inch softball will be used when a female is batting, and the 12-inch softball will be used when a male is batting.

- J. In all Coed leagues (except competition leagues) a scoring plate will be used. The scoring plate shall be located with its right corner eight feet from the back of home plate. The scoring plate shall be situated on the imaginary extension of the first base foul line. The offensive team must always touch the scoring plate when scoring, *including out of the park home runs*. If the runner touches home plate or goes in the batters box, the runner is automatically out. The defensive team must always touch home plate for the out. If there is an attempt by defensive team to tag the runner, the runner is automatically safe. The competition coed leagues will use the regular home plate. These leagues will be determined by the Program Manager prior to the 2009 season.

- K. Commitment line: Once a runner is past the commitment line, the runner must commit to going home. Exception is on a fly ball, runner must return and tag up and then have the option to go home.

### XIII. SENIOR RULE EXCEPTIONS

- A. There will be 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, and 75+ slow pitch leagues playing at Cottonwood or Valley Complex. Players may play down divisions, however no player may play up divisions. Players are not allowed to play for more than one team in the same age group. Scorekeepers may request ID's for players for age & names. If player can't provide ID then that player is ineligible to play.
- PENALTY: If players play up a division that game will be a forfeit.
- B. 65+, 70+, and 75+ may play 11 defensive players. There is a 5 run differential per age group.
- C. All Teams may bat as many players as they want. If a player is injured or leaves and there are no substitutes, that spot will be recorded as an out each time that position comes to bat.
- D. Courtesy runners may be used. They may enter the game at any dead ball, not during live play. The same courtesy runner is not allowed to run more than once during the same inning. If the courtesy runner is on base when he should be batting, he is out.
- E. A commitment line will be drawn half way from third base line. This is the point of no return. If you cross it, then you must continue to run home or be called out.
- F. In the 50+ & 55+ programs a scoring plate will be used. The scoring plate shall be located with its right corner eight feet from the back of home plate. The scoring plate shall be situated on the imaginary extension of the first base foul line. The offensive team must always touch the scoring plate when scoring, *including out of the park home runs*. If the runner touches home plate the runner is automatically out. The defensive team must always touch home plate for the out. If there is an attempt by defensive team to tag the runner, the runner is automatically safe. In the 60+, 65+, 70+, & 75+ divisions, a line will be used if a home plate is not available.
- G. A batting mat will be used for balls and strikes. If a legal pitched ball hits any part of the mat, the ball is a strike. Requirements for a legal pitch: Ball must be at least 6 feet from ground and must not travel more than 12 feet in height from the ground during delivery.
- H. Requirements for a legal pitch: Ball must be at least 6 feet from ground and must not travel more than 12 feet in height from the ground during delivery.

- I. Each team may score only 5 runs an inning. After the offensive team scores 5 they must go to defense. When the game gets to 45 minutes teams will complete that inning and go one last inning, which will be the open inning for runs.
- J. If the game ends in a tie after time has expired (55 min), or 7 innings of play, the international rule will be in effect. (i.e. the player making the last out in the prior inning will be placed on 2nd base to start the inning)
- K. All senior bats must be approved by Salt Lake County Sports Office. When your bat is approved you will receive a sticker that you must have on your bat. Bats can be approved at the first game night or at the Sports Office. Call #801-270-7260 for more information.
- L. Senior leagues will use the Run Rule and/or Flip Flop Rule. If Run Rule or Flip Flop are used the last open inning will be eliminated. See page 15.

#### **XIV. FALL LEAGUE RULE EXCEPTIONS**

- A. Players eligibility: After the fourth scheduled game rosters are frozen. Exception: Emergency add may be used if available.
- B. Uniforms: The deadline for having uniforms is the end of the second week of scheduled league play. (See page 7 for additional rules and penalties.)

#### **XV. OFFICIAL FASTPITCH RULE EXCEPTIONS**

- A. The scorekeeper is the official timer for all games.
  - 1. In Men's Fastpitch League, play will be seven innings, or no new inning after one hour and 15 minutes.
  - 2. In the Women's Fastpitch League (17 & up), play will be seven innings, or no new inning after on hour and five minutes.
  - 3. In Girl's Fastpitch League play will be seven innings, or no new inning after one hour.
  - 4. Tie Breaker Rule: At the end of the time limit, or seven innings (whichever comes first) and the score is tied, the top of the next inning will begin with the last batter from the previous inning being placed on second base as a runner. This will continue until the tie is broken.

## **XVI. INCIDENT REPORTS**

- A. Incident reports must be submitted by both the umpire and scorekeeper within 24 hours of the time of any of the following incidents:
1. Fighting
  2. Unsportsmanlike Acts
  3. Verbal Abuse
  4. Ejections
- B. The incident reports can be submitted in person, by fax (# 801-281-0941), or e-mail the information to Salt Lake County Sports Office (egoodman@slco.org).
- C. Players are entitled to submit incident reports with regards to any incident. Forms are available from the scorekeeper.
- D. Submit incident reports to Salt Lake County Sports Office or the Center where you participate. The incident reports can be submitted in person, by fax (# 801-281-0941), or e-mail the information to Salt Lake County Sports Office (egoodman@slco.org).

## **XVII. PROTESTS**

- A. Protests to be considered concern matters of the following types:
1. Misinterpretations by umpires of a playing rule.
  2. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
  3. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
- B. THE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO PROTEST MUST BE MADE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH. A protest is not considered valid if play continues with no notice to the UMPIRE AND SCOREKEEPER of intent to protest.
1. The manager or acting manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire and scorekeeper that the game is being continued under protest. Any protest made after the conclusion of the game is not a valid protest.
  2. The plate umpire is required to notify the scorekeeper and the opposing team of the protest.

- C. Protest must be filed in writing to the Salt Lake County Sports Office, or the Recreation Center where you participate, by 5:00 p.m. the following work day with a \$20.00 protest fee. Any protest after the game will not be allowed.

Submit protest to the appropriate location listed below:

Salt Lake County Sports Office  
5201 South Murray Park Lane (160 East)  
Murray, Utah 84107

Copperview Community Center  
8446 South Harrison Street  
Midvale, Utah 84047

Redwood Multi-Purpose Center  
3060 Lester (3100 South Redwood Road)  
West Valley City, Utah 84119

If a protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is overruled, the fee is nonrefundable. Protest forms are available from the scorekeeper.

- D. A formal protest must contain the following information:
  1. The date, time, and location/field of the game.
  2. The rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is being made.
  3. Explanation of all essential facts involved in the matter being protested.

## **XVIII. WEATHER CONDITIONS**

- A. If a game in progress is called because of inclement weather or darkness, the game shall be called a completed game if four and a half innings have been played and the Home team is ahead. Otherwise the game will be suspended, then rescheduled and play will be continued at the point at which the game was called.

- B. If there is inclement weather during the day, ONLY MANAGERS SHOULD call the appropriate site after 4:00 p.m. to find out whether your game is being played.

Once the league games have started, the umpire/scorekeeper will determine the condition of the field.

Redwood Multi-Purpose Center            801-974-6923

Copperview Community Center        801-561-0075

\*\*RAINOUT HOTLINE                    801-468-2525

- C. League scorekeeper will notify MANAGERS as to rescheduled games.
1. RAINOUTS WILL BE RESCHEDULED ON THE EARLIEST DATE AVAILABLE.
  2. If playing on multiple teams or in multiple leagues, Salt Lake County will attempt to accommodate conflicts whenever possible.

## **XIX. MAKEUP GAMES**

- A. Scorekeepers will have notification forms for managers to sign as to rescheduled game time. If you do not show up for a rescheduled game, it will be considered a forfeit.

## **XX. INSURANCE**

- A. MANAGERS, PLAYERS OR SPECTATORS participating in activities sponsored by the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division ARE NOT COVERED IN ANY WAY FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE THAT MAY OCCUR DUE TO THEIR PARTICIPATION.
- B. This means that players are competing in softball leagues at their own risk, and are advised to obtain their own insurance as their personal needs may require.
- C. Team insurance information is available through the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) and the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA).
- D. The filling out and signing of a Salt Lake County Public Liability Accident form does not in any way indicate assumed liability by the county, but is standard procedure at all county operated facilities. THIS IS ONLY TO VERIFY THAT AN ACCIDENT HAS OCCURRED.

**XXI. LEAGUE STANDINGS**

- A. Up-to-date standings and stats will be available to managers by the scorekeepers after the third game.
- B. Scores and standings will not be given over the phone.

**XXII. LEAGUE WINNERS**

- A. League winners will be determined by the best overall season records.
- B. If there is a tie for first and second place, head to head games will be the first tiebreaker. If a forfeit game is involved, in leagues where teams play each other more than once and a tie exists, the team with the forfeit will take the lower award.
- C. Any team that forfeits twice during a season cannot win any team or individual awards.
- D. Points differential will be used if necessary to resolve ties in the standings. An example of using Points Differential:

SCORES			DIFFERENTIAL	
Team A 12	vs	Team B 4	A+8	B-8
Team A 10	vs	Team C 11	A-1	C+1
Team B 13	vs	Team C 12	B+1	C-1
Team A 12	vs	Team B 14	A-2	B+2
Team A 12	vs	Team C 7	A+5	C-5
Team B19	vs	Team C 10	B+9	C-9

Points differential    A+10   B+4   C-14

1st Place = Team A

2nd Place = Team B

If a tie still exists for second place, the same tiebreaking procedure listed will be used. If any tie still exists after using the points differential formula, teams will be declared co-champions or co-runners up.

**XXIII. AWARDS**

- A. One team award will be given to each winning and runner-up team in each league.
- B. Fifteen individual awards (16 Coed) will be given to the winning team in each league.
- C. A leading hitter award will be given in each league.
- D. A leading hitter male and female will be given in coed leagues.
- E. If a team forfeits 2 games in a season they are not eligible for 1st or 2nd place awards or individual awards.
- F. Any player who is ejected from a game will not be eligible for any individual awards for that league.

# NOTES



SALT LAKE  

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COUNTY