

OSPR RECREATIONAL CO – ED SOFTBALL RULES



1. **Age Requirements:**
Min. age 21 yrs.
AS CAPTAINS IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR TEAM IS OF CORRECT AGE.

2. **Rosters:**
Final rosters may have a **MAXIMUM** 24 players on it, **50% off whom must live or work in Old Saybrook**. Final Roster forms must be submitted to the Park and Recreation office before your team plays its first game of the season.

Teams can field a maximum of 10 players and a minimum of 8 (catcher supplied by the other team). If a team fields the maximum 10, the ratio of male to female players must be no more than 6 male players and no fewer than 4 female players.

Teams can bat as many as 16 players. The ratio of male batters to female batters must follow the minimum breakdown of male to female batters in the line-up:

TOTAL # OF BATTERS	MAN/WOMAN RATIO
8*	6 MEN/2 WOMEN
9	6 MEN/3 WOMEN
10	6 MEN/4 WOMEN
11	7 MEN/4 WOMEN
12	8 MEN/4 WOMEN
13	9 MEN/4 WOMEN
14	9 MEN/5 WOMEN
15	10 MEN/5 WOMEN
16	10 MEN/6 WOMEN

If a team cannot field 10 players, they are permitted to play with as few as 8 players. The minimum number of women players is two. If a team has only two women, they are only allowed to field eight players (6 men/2 women) and must take an automatic out to maintain the minimum proper batter ratio. No **PLAYER** may bat more than once in the line-up*.

3. **Batting Line-up rules:**
Only 2 men are allowed to bat in a row, then a women must bat. You must keep the same batting order throughout the game, unless an injury occurs. If you are batting more than 10 players you are permitted to have up to 4 men bat in a row, then a women must bat. If you have only 3 women at your game, which means only 11 players can bat. If you bat three men in a row, you must take an out before the third batter. Even if it ends the inning.
Games at Trask, OSMS, McMurray, Fireman’s Field or OSHS use a three homerun rule: After three homeruns are hit an out will be recorded for each homerun hit thereafter. Homeruns are classified as hit into the trees on the fly or over the outfield fence. An “in the park HR” does not count towards this rule.
4. **Positioning rules:** As long as a team can field at least three women, they are not restricted in the positions they can play. No more than 6 men may be in the field. All teams must provide their own catcher. If you field 8 players, you can have the other team provide a catcher.
5. **Team uniform:**
Optional but recommended. To be provided by individual teams.
6. **Equipment:**
All Game balls will be supplied by OSPR and will be handed out at the Captain’s meeting. All other equipment is supplied by individual teams. **MEN Wooden Bats Only**. Women may use either a wooden bat or aluminum bat. All equipment should be A.S.A. or USA Softball approved.
7. **Alcohol and Tobacco:** The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited as is smoking on all town properties.
8. **Umpires:**
No home plate umpire. A first and third base umpire will be provided by the batting team or spectators. First base ump to call 1st and 2nd, third base ump to call 3rd and home.

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9. **Game:**
Seven (7) innings. **GAMES BEGIN AT 6:00 PM SHARP. (GRACE PERIOD OF 15 MINUTES)**
10. **Pitching:**
6 PITCHES PER BATTER (WITHIN REASON)
3 STRIKES = OUT
2 STRIKES + 1 Foul = OUT
4 FOULS = OUT
LEGAL PITCH = *ARC NOT TO EXCEED 12 FT. BATTER CAN HIT AN ILLEGAL PITCH*
THERE ARE NO WALKS ALLOWED
11. **Batting:**
There is NO Bunting. As we do not have a catcher in normal position, each batter must make their best attempt to **fully** hit the ball and swing through.
12. **Catchers:**
Mask optional (at players own risk of injury). It is recommended that the catcher stands far enough behind the batter to field the ball on a bounce.
13. **Outfielders:**
Must position themselves at least 15 feet behind infield.
14. **Base Running**
- No Sliding, leading or Stealing. Will result in an automatic out.
 - A Pinch runner may only be used for an injured player, AFTER they have made it to the base and the play has ended. The pinch runner MUST be at least four batters away in the lineup as you cannot have a pinch runner for a pinch runner.
 - No base can be blocked by any player. If a defensive player is blocking the base path the runner will be automatically awarded the base. You can over run the base in a straight path within reason.
15. **First Aid Kits:**
Parks and Recreation requires that each team have a first aid kit on site. Must be provided by each team.
16. **HAVE FUN:**
This recreational league will not tolerate rough or dangerous play on the field. The relaxed nature of the rules and officiating should promote enjoyable sportsmanlike games for everyone. Anyone who cannot follow this rule may be banned from participation in the future.
17. **Home Plate Rule:**
No tagging is required to put out a base runner at home. A force out will occur at home, if the ball is caught, by the player playing home, prior to the base runner crossing home plate. Home plate player is required to play home like a first basemen. The fielder has to be within one foot of home plate. They do not need to be standing on the plate, but must be within a foot's reach of the plate. This is to avoid a collision.
FIELDER INTERFERENCE - HOME PLATE: No fielder may be in the runner's path without the ball. A special line will be marked on the third base line. This line will represent the "point of no return." Once the line has been crossed they are committed to home plate and cannot go back to 3rd base. Once a runner is past this line, the fielder can not be standing on home plate or in the runner's direct running path unless they are already in possession of the ball. If the player covering home (catcher, pitcher, etc) is deemed to be "in the way" by the umpire, the runner is automatically safe, a dead ball is called, and if any collision occurs, the fielder is ejected. If the fielder does have possession of the ball, the runner must make every effort to avoid a collision with that fielder. If, in the opinion of the umpire, the runner did not "give themselves up" and a collision occurs, the runner is ejected.
A fielder may enter the runner's path in an attempt to catch a throw. A legitimate attempt to make a play will not be considered interference.

For all plays at home plate, any fielder (catcher, pitcher, etc) that is standing in fair territory is, by rule, not impeding the runner's path. **STANDING ON HOME PLATE WITHOUT THE BALL IS INTERFERENCE**
18. PRIOR TO THE START OF ANY GAME, BOTH CAPTAINS SHOULD MEET TO DISCUSS THE RULES. ANY RULE CAN BE MODIFIED BEFORE THE START OF THE GAME IF BOTH CAPTAINS CAN AGREE.