



City of Anderson Parks and Recreation Department
Coach Pitch Softball Rules

ORGANIZATION

1. Teams may automatically have the daughters of the head coach and one assistant only.
2. Players will be assigned to teams by the Recreation Department staff based on the results of the skills tests.
3. Requests are not guaranteed.
4. All girls must play in the proper age group.
5. Once rosters are completed, no player will be allowed to change teams unless deemed necessary by the Recreation Department staff.
6. Overall league and city only team standings will be recognized.
7. Any situation not covered by these rules will be decided by the Recreation Department staff.

LEAGUE PLAY

1. A full game should consist of 5 innings with a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes. However, it will be considered complete regardless of the inning after the time limit has expired. If the game is tied after 6 innings or time limit, it will remain a tie.
2. No new inning will start within 10 minutes of the time limit. However, once an inning starts, it must be competed.
3. The umpire will prohibit unnecessary stalling actions by teams and eject offenders after one warning.
4. The 10 run lead rule will be in effect any time after 4 innings. A 20 run lead rule will apply after 3 innings.
5. Game time is forfeit time. However, when the preceding game runs longer, game time shall be when the umpire calls for action to begin. In case of a forfeit, a practice game may be played and the umpires will call the game.
6. The game may begin with as few as 8 players without being a forfeit. The other team may still play all players present. 10 players are on the field for defense (4 outfielders).

7. There should be no more than 5 minutes between the end of one game and the start of the next.
8. Teams are to warm up on the side of the field or outside of the fence prior to the game. There should be no infield warm-up.
9. All teams will be required to use line-up cards. Each coach should give one to the scorekeeper and the opposing team prior to the game. Full rosters with first and last names and uniform numbers should be turned in at least 5 minutes before the game.
10. All players present will be included in the batting order for the entire game. There will be 10 starters on defense who will be noted in the scorebook prior to the game. Free substitution will be in effect on defense – players may be switched in and out each inning and rotated around the various positions on the field. This will make it easier to make sure that each girl plays the required 2 defensive innings in all games.
11. If a girl misses too many practices without a valid reason, the coach does not have to play her. This must be noted in the book and the opposing coach and umpire notified. The parents should also be notified in advance that this is going to happen and the girl must be present for the game.
12. Outfielders must play on the grass.
13. A coach will pitch to his/her players from the marked area, which will be 25-35 feet from the plate. A girl from the defensive team will be positioned to the side of this adult for the purpose of fielding the ball and must have at least 1 foot inside the circle. She must remain there until the ball is hit.
14. Each batter will get 6 pitches to hit the ball. Three misses will be a strike out. A foul ball on the 6th pitch will be an out. There will be no walks.
15. Bunting is not allowed.
16. The infield fly rule does not apply in this league.
17. There will be no intentional rolling of the ball to the base to get a runner out at any base.
18. The side is retired after 3 outs or 10 batters, whichever comes first. When the 10th batter comes to the plate, it must be announced and then play will continue as if there are two outs. Any out will end the inning or it will be stopped when the pitcher or catcher touches home plate with the ball in her possession.
19. Any players who sling the bat will be called out – the ball is dead and runners may not advance. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
20. A player who is not available to bat when her turn comes out will be called out. Exception: If she is injured during the game or becomes sick and can not continue, her spot will be skipped.
21. If a runner misses a base or leaves early on a fly ball, it will be an automatic out call by the umpire.
22. Time out may only be called when the ball is in the possession of the pitcher in the circle. Runners will be awarded bases according to where

- they are, in reference to the halfway lines, when time is called. Halfway moves up, less than halfway goes back. Coaches are strongly encouraged to and teach their players to attempt a play rather than to automatically call time.
23. If the pitching coach intentionally interferes with the batted ball or the defensive player making a play on the ball, the batter will be out and no runners may advance. If the adult pitcher is hit with the ball or catches it in self-defense, the ball is dead and is considered a no pitch. Interference calls are at the discretion of the umpire.
 24. A coach will be allowed in foul territory on each outfield line while their team is on defense. They should not interfere with play but may help position and guide the players on the field.
 25. While the team is batting, a coach should be in each coaching box. They may not touch players in any manner while the ball is in play. Violation will result in the player being called out.
 26. If there is a question concerning a play on the field, the coach may request time-out to discuss the matter. He/she must wait for it to be granted before coming onto the field. The umpire is in control of the game and does not have to give the time-out. There will be a warning for the first offense and ejection for the second.
 27. Girls will not be allowed to wear jewelry while playing. Exception: If she has just had her ears pierced and is still wearing the studs, this rule is waived.
 28. All shirts must be tucked in while playing.
 29. Batting helmets with AND without face mask will be allowed in 8U.
 30. Only team players and coaches will be allowed in the dugout area.

CONDUCT

Anyone not following these rules will be warned by the Field Supervisor or other Recreation Department staff. A second offense will result in the individual(s) being asked to leave and if necessary, the proper authorities will be called.

1. Players, coaches, parents, and other spectators must display at all times a manner that exhibits good sportsmanship.
2. No profanity or other abusive language will be allowed at any time on city property.
3. No criticizing of the opposing team, its players, coaches, fans, or the umpires by word of mouth or gesture will be allowed.
4. Any discussion on the field will involve only one coach and the officials.
5. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages or drugs will be allowed on the premises. Any person found to be under the influence of either will be asked to leave.
6. The use of tobacco products will be prohibited during the game. One warning will be issued before ejection. Repeated offenses will result in suspension.
7. The umpire is in control of the game. In the event that a team fails to respect the umpire's authority or decisions, the umpire is instructed to forfeit the game after one warning has been given that such action will be taken.
8. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, she may be seated in the stands. If she continues to argue or act improperly, she will be asked to leave the field. If she refuses, the game will be forfeited.
9. Any coach or player that is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next game they attend.

RAIN-OUT POLICY

In case of rain on a scheduled game day, the decision is not made until after 4:00 pm. From a touch tone phone, you may call 226-2489, then follow the prompts. We will also try to post this information on the City of Anderson website – www.cityofandersonsc.com. If rain comes after 5:00 pm, a decision will be made at the field by the umpires. The message will be updated as possible. Please remember that our rain patterns are scattered at times – if you are not sure, please go to the field to avoid forfeits.

Updated 02/26/20

In case of rain on a scheduled practice day, you will need to call your team coach. With the number of teams and other activities that we have, it is impossible to keep up with individual team schedules. Find out from the coach what the contingency plans may be for bad weather.