

**2019**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Registration Deadline**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019**

Pre-Season Officials Meeting  
SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019

Pre-Season Team Captain Meeting  
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

**Season Openers**  
COED: Monday, June 3, 2019  
Men's Rec: Tuesday, June 4, 2019  
Men's Comp: Wednesday, June 5, 2019

**All Leagues: All players must be 18+ years of age**

## Fields

<b>Iselin</b>	<b>Rotary</b>
ARC Campus <b>*Synthetic Turf*</b> See Field Rules for outline of gameplay with the HR fence	ARC Campus <b>*No parking in roundabout*</b> See Field Rules for outline of gameplay with the HR fence
<b>Upper Moore</b>	<b>Lower Moore</b>
ASD Campus <b>"Wooden Moore Field"</b> All games (all leagues) played with <b>WOODEN BATS ONLY</b>	ASD Campus <b>*Extended outfield*</b> Both hands up for Ground Rule Double
<p><b>No trash left behind!</b></p> <p>No smoking or use of tobacco on ARC or ASD properties. No apparent use of alcohol on ARC or ASD properties. <b>All pets must be LEASHED at all times.</b> [No pets allowed on the synthetic turf at any time.]</p>	

## Leagues

<b>COED Recreational</b> [Tournament: August 17-18, 2019]	
<b>When/Where</b>	<b>Teams</b>
Monday Nights 5:30p/6:45p	16 Teams MAX Each Team is allowed 30 Names/Roster MAX
<b>Men's Recreational</b> [Tournament: August 3-4, 2019]	
<b>Tuesday Nights</b>	<b>8 Teams MAX</b>
5:30/6:45p	Each Team is allowed 24 Names/Roster MAX
<b>Men's Competitive</b> [Tournament: August 10-11, 2019]	
<b>Wednesday Nights</b>	<b>8 Teams MAX</b>
5:30/6:45p	Each Team is allowed 24 Names/Roster MAX

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## Weather Clause/Rainout Hotline

We try to do our best to give everyone the most amount of notice possible. Please understand that facility decisions in regards to weather are a cooperative effort between the Aspen Parks and the Aspen Recreation staff, both parties doing their absolute best to support the other. When we call games for weather, please believe that we rarely have a choice.

**JUDI Hotline: (970)544-JUDI (5834)**

## League Outline

<b>COED</b>	
<p><b>Registration includes:</b>                  24 Regulation Softballs                  1 Team Scorebook                  1 Aspen Rec Adult Softball Rules &amp; By-Laws Booklet  <i>Self-provided team jerseys are recommended.</i></p>	
16 Teams 30 Players/Team MAX 11 Games/Team	<2:3 Roster Ratio (Gender) 50/50 On-Field Ratio (Gender) 1-4 "Wooden Moore Field" Games/Team
<b>Men's Recreational</b>	
<p><b>Registration includes:</b>                  24 Regulation Softballs                  1 Team Scorebook                  1 Aspen Rec Adult Softball Rules &amp; By-Laws Booklet  <i>Self-provided team jerseys are recommended.</i></p>	
8 Teams 24 Players/Team MAX 14 Games/Team	4-6 Double-Headers/Team 4-6 "Wooden Moore Field" Games/Team 0-1 Bye's/Team
<b>Men's Competitive</b>	
<p><b>*Proposed to move to Men's Wooden Bat League in 2020*</b></p>	
<p><b>Registration includes:</b>                  24 Regulation Softballs                  1 Team Scorebook                  1 Aspen Rec Adult Softball Rules &amp; By-Laws Booklet  <i>Self-provided team jerseys are recommended.</i></p>	
8 Teams 24 Players/Team MAX 14 Games/Team	4-6 Double-Headers/Team 4-6 "Wooden Moore Field" Games/Team 0-1 Bye's/Team

\*Upper Moore Games offer no accommodation or consideration in regards to standings/records\*

## Teams/Rosters & League Guidelines

### A. The Agreements

1. "Recreation" means 50/50; 50% Sport, 50% Fun
 

Debatably cliché, but this is the philosophy at the core of everything we're about, and anything that disrupts that balance places the integrity of our league at jeopardy. Remember this: the atmosphere of our league is more akin to that of a softball league in the 90s than one of today. It's loose, it's welcoming, it's **fun**. We have to protect that. The second it's taken for granted, it's lost. Agree to respect the opponents, the staff, and anyone else involved in the experience, and we'll enjoy a great summer.

Thank you,  
Alex
2. Eligibility Clause:
  - 2.1. In all leagues, 8 roster-eligible players minimum are required to play.
    - 2.1.1. COED: 50/50 gender ratio **mandatory** for players on the field.
    - 2.1.2. COED: Batting order must alternate gender regardless of ratio of players on the roster.
    - 2.1.3. COED: Players on the roster cannot exceed a 2:3 ratio in favor of males.
  - 2.2. To be eligible to participate in the end-of-season tournament, players will need to have played in the minimum number of games for the league:
    - 2.2.1. COED: 4
    - 2.2.2. MREC: 5
    - 2.2.3. MCOMP: 5
3. Game Time:
  - 3.1. Games have a sixty (60) minute time limit – timed by the umpire
  - 3.2. There is a 15-minute "grace period" with a **hard line policy**:
    - 3.2.1. If the first pitch is not *able to be thrown as stated by the umpire* at 15:00 past *according to the umpire's phone's time*, the game will be called a forfeit in favor of the team who is prepared to play.
      - 3.2.1.1. If neither team manages to field a team by the 15:00 mark, the game will be marked as a loss **for both teams**.
4. **NO METAL CLEATS OR DETACHABLE CLEATS ARE ALLOWED. MOLDED RUBBER ONLY.**
5. Tolerance Rule:
  - 5.1. We allow "cross-talk" between teams.
  - 5.2. Any use of profanity exclaimed aloud or otherwise directed towards any other person, place, or thing will warrant an ejection at the umpire's discretion.
  - 5.3. Any use of language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, umpires, spectators, or staff will warrant an ejection at the umpire's discretion.
    - 5.3.1. NOTE: Grossly immature or otherwise inappropriate behavior, regardless of use of profanity, can be considered and treated as above and below.
  - 5.4. Any disrespect, profanity, inciteful or otherwise at-all violent language directed towards any Aspen Recreation staff warrants an immediate ejection, subject to additional suspension or expulsion at the commissioner's discretion.

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**B. Rosters & Substitutions**

6. Each player must be registered in our Aspen Recreation system in order to be eligible to participate.
  - 6.1. Failure to do so will result in an illegal player causing a forfeit.
  - 6.2. There are 24 players allowed per roster in COED (20 players per roster in Men's Rec/Comp)
7. No player will be allowed to play unless he/she is on the official team roster.
  - 7.1. Teams may add players at any time prior to each game by contacting the field supervisor.
  - 7.2. Any team caught playing with illegal team members will result in a forfeit.
  - 7.3. The illegal player must have been identified either by the opposing team or the field supervisor prior to the end of the game.
8. No team may add players to their roster for the tournament.
  - 8.1. A player must have played during the regular season in order to be eligible for tournament play.
  - 8.2. A player on the roster that did not play during the regular season (COED: 4 games min. / MREC/MCOMP: 5 games min.) is not eligible for the tournament.
  - 8.3. If a player is identified participating illegally, the penalty is an automatic forfeit.
9. No player can play on more than one team in the same league.
10. All players must be 18 years of age.
11. Each player is required to have a photo I.D. with them at all games.
12. Any player wanting to change teams in the same league may do so only once
  - 12.1. All transfers must be done prior to the third game.
13. All substitutions must be reported to the home plate umpire.
  - 13.1. Failure to do so will result in an out.
14. If an injured or sick player must leave the game, and no substitute is available, an out will occur each time that player comes to bat.
15. Once that player has left the game, he will not be allowed to re-enter.

**[IN-GAME]**

16. Refs will have master rosters for each team available at the fields.
  - 16.1. Eligibility decisions must originate with an opponent-protest (it is not the umpire's responsibility to track roster eligibility).
17. Attendance will be taken at some point at each game by Aspen Rec staff to track post-season eligibility.
  - 17.1. It is up to the Team Captain and the individual players to make sure their attendance is recorded.
18. Players who are not roster-eligible – and discovered – will result in a forfeit.

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## Teams/Rosters & League Guidelines

### C. Pre-Season Captains/Managers Meeting

19. Team Captains are expected to attend (or provide a proxy for) the Mandatory Pre-Season Captains/Managers Meeting
  - 19.1. SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019
    - 19.1.1. Time and Location to be communicated one week prior.  
(Afternoon in Aspen)
20. Team Captains collect Team Equipment:
  - 20.1. 12 Softballs
  - 20.2. 1 Team Scorebook
  - 20.3. Season Guide (Schedule & Rules)
21. Team Captains/Managers of returning Championship teams from the previous season are responsible for returning their League Trophy to the Commissioner before their FINAL SEASON GAME.

### D. OFFICIAL Equipment Rules & Standards

22. THE OFFICIAL BALL RULES
  - 22.1. Size & Weight: The completed 12" ball shall have a circumference of 12" +/- 1/8" and weigh 6.4 ounces +/- 0.2 oz. The seam shall have not less than 88 stitches in each cover, or 88 simulated stitches in molded cover balls.
  - 22.2. Shall have an optic yellow cover
  - 22.3. Shall have one of either "USSSA CLASSIC M"/"USSSA STADIUM M"/"USSSA Classic Plus" in 1/8" letters and the USSSA logo with a 1-1/8" diameter.
  - 22.4. **Shall have a COR of .47 or less under the ASTM test used under the USSSA Softball Ball License Agreement (applies to all leagues).**
  - 22.5. Altered balls and the potential of a ball being altered and those suspected of altering, owning or using an altered ball (or determined to have altered, owned, or used an Altered Ball) shall be viewed as falling under the same rules in place for Altered Bats (detailed below).
23. THE OFFICIAL BAT RULES
  - 23.1. Shall be round in cross section, straight in length and measure not more than 34 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle, and not more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter at its largest part. Its weight shall not exceed 31-ounces, including tape or grip addition to the bat. The bat shall have a grip of tape or some other material to facilitate holding the bat during the batter's swing. The grip shall be not less than 10 inches long, nor extend to touch the taper or barrel of the bat. All key graphics, including USSSA and BPF markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method that would allow the key graphics to be easily removed or added to the bat.

- 23.2. THE BAT may be made of hard wood of one piece or laminated from sections of hard wood bonded together with adhesive in such a way that the grain directions of all the pieces are essentially parallel to the length of the bat.
- 23.3. THE BAT may also be made of aluminum or other metals, fiberglass, graphite or composite materials.
- 23.4. Bats will be legal for League Play only if the bat is manufactured by an approved USSSA bat manufacturer on the USSSA approved bat manufacturer list (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website) and has the new USSSA mark (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website; pictured 4.4.3.) on the taper of the bat. Wood bats made on the approved USSSA bat manufacturer list shall be legal without regard to this section.
- 23.5. USSSA Softball Bat New Mark Rules:
- 23.5.1. Have the new permanent USSSA or ASA Mark on its taper (USSSA/ASA marks and other graphics of the bat must be applied permanently and must be applied by the USSSA/ASA licensed manufacturer. No stickers or decals are allowed and no one may add graphics to a bat once manufactured) OR
- 23.5.2. Be a Wood Bat (must be 2 ¼" or less in diameter and unlike other USSSA approved softball bats do not require the words "Official Softball" to be legal in League Play).



23.5.3. USSSA Mark

23.6. 2019 Licensed Softball Bat Manufacturers (March 12, 2019)

23.6.1. Anderson Bats, Baden & Axe Bat, Boombah, Combat, Dirty South Bats, Dudley, Easton, Louisville Slugger, Marucci, Miken/Worth, Mizuno, Pure Sports Tech, Rawlings, Wilson/DeMarini

- 23.7. Ownership and Knowledge of Altered/Illegal Bat: The responsibility of knowing whether a bat is altered or illegal is that of the users and the owner of the bat. An individual must know that his bat is not an altered bat, if he/she brings it into an Aspen Recreation facility or used it in an Aspen Recreation Adult Softball event. If not, the individual can be suspended from Aspen Recreation Adult Activities for using or owning an altered/illegal bat.
- 23.8. Any in-game participant may at any time ask to have the League Commissioner inspect a bat that has been brought into the location of the League Event/Facility by either party.
- 23.9. Altered/Illegal Bat Inspection Protocol: The Aspen Recreation League Commissioner may at any time ask to inspect a bat that has been brought into the location of a League Event/Facility. The owner and/or user may either:
- 23.9.1. Withhold the bat from inspection and accept an immediate one-year (automatic lifetime for second-time withholders) suspension from Aspen Recreation Adult Softball events with no right to appeal; or,
- 23.9.2. Allow the Commissioner to inspect the bat and reach a conclusion as to whether or not the bat might be altered.

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- 23.10. Altered/Illegal Bat Determination: If, after making the inspection of a potentially altered/illegal bat, the Commissioner in his discretion decides that the bat might be altered/illegal;
- 23.10.1. The Aspen Recreation Adult League Commissioner may suspend a first time offender for up to three (3) years from Aspen Recreation Adult League play. For a second time offender, any such suspension will be for life.
- 23.11. Investigation Cooperation: Any coach, manager, player or other person who fails to cooperate in the investigation by Aspen Recreation Staff of a potential or actual altered bat shall be subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct suspension. A manager or captain of a team that has more than one of his team's bats determined to be altered (or not allowed to be inspected upon request for an altered/illegal bat inspection by the League Commissioner shall be subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct suspension.
- 23.12. All further protocol and criteria regarding legal/illegal bats are detailed in the 2019 USSSA Slowpitch Softball Rules & Bylaws (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website).
24. THE OFFICIAL PITCHER'S FACEMASK RULE
- 24.1. Aspen Recreation will provide protective facemasks at every field. Pitcher's have the option to void their right of usage of the provided facemask, with the understanding that they subject themselves to an increased risk of injury without equipping the provided hardware.
25. THE OFFICIAL CLEAT RULES
- 25.1. Only rubber molded cleats are allowed. No steel or detachable cleats are allowed.
- 25.1.1. Anyone caught wearing steel or detachable cleats will be ejected from the game.
- 25.1.2. If no substitute is available, an out will occur each time that player comes to bat.
26. FORFEITS
- 26.1. All declared forfeits will be recorded as a 0-20 LOSS for the forfeiting team.
- 26.2. If a team forfeits three games within a season, they will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.
27. THE RESCHEDULE QUEUE
- 27.1. The Reschedule Queue will be the list of games requiring a reschedule in order of necessity.
- 27.1.1. Games rescheduled for weather take immediate priority over games rescheduled due to a team's cancellation or a requested reschedule.

## E. Aspen Recreation GAMEPLAY

28. A REGULATION GAME consists of 7 innings, or 60 minutes of play (whichever occurs first). No new innings will begin after 55 minutes of play.
- 28.1. Games (Regular Season & Playoffs) will be considered complete and no new inning will start:
- 28.1.1. In case of inclement weather, a game will be declared official if 5 innings have been completed (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) or 45 minutes of play, whichever comes first.
- 28.1.2. If a game has NOT reached 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) or 40 minutes and is suspended due to weather, the game will be added to the reschedule queue.
- 28.1.2.1. The replayed game will be played as a new game.
- 28.1.2.2. If a game cannot be rescheduled due to field/team availability, there is no accommodated refund or return of value. We will try our best to reschedule any games, but can make no guarantees that they will happen.
- 28.1.3. If a situation (other than weather) causes a game to stop, the Commissioner will decide if a make-up will occur regardless of the amount of time played.
- 28.1.3.1. Make-up games will start from the beginning as a new game
- 28.1.3.2. Make-up games will be scheduled on various days throughout the week, including weekends, based upon field availability.
- 28.1.3.2.1. The Commissioner sets dates and times for make-up games and if either team cannot accommodate a scheduled make-up game time/date, the responsibility of forfeiture lies with the teams.
29. **Mercy Rule “20-Run Rule”:**
- 29.1. If at the completion of 4 ½ or 5 innings, one team is ahead by 20 or more runs, the game will be declared won, and the teams have the option of using the rest of their hour for a friendly.
30. Grace Period
- 30.1. There will be a 15 minute grace period for each game.
- 30.1.1. After 15 minutes from the scheduled game time, if a team is unable to field a team to the minimum requirements (a total of 8 eligible players), the game is declared a forfeit to the team who was not fully present.
- 30.1.2. If neither team is present or able to field a team, the game results in a forfeit tie.
- 30.1.3. Any team who NO-CALL, NO-SHOWS will automatically be assigned the LOWEST SEED IN TOURNAMENT PLAY (should their record otherwise qualify them for the tournament).
- 30.1.4. Umpires will not work forfeited games.
- 30.1.5. The Commissioner has final say on all disputed forfeits.
31. “Cross-League” Play
- 31.1. Men under the age of 40 can only play in one of either the Men’s Recreational or the Men’s Competitive Leagues.

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- 31.1.1. Players over the age of 40 are eligible to play in either or both.
  - 31.1.2. COED-MREC/COED-MCOMP cross-league play is permitted without appeal.
  - 31.1.3. Any and all exceptions have to be appealed to and approved by the commissioner.
32. Designated Runner
- 32.1. The last player making an out must be the designated runner.
  - 32.2. The designated runner in the men's competitive league will start at first base, not home. The batter must make it to first base, and then can have a runner.
  - 32.3. COED/REC:
    - 32.3.1. For Pitchers/Catchers ONLY: The designated runner for the pitcher or catcher will start at the spot directly behind home plate where the sand meets the grass line, with their back foot touching the grass-line. Runners for all other field positions will still start on first base.
      - 32.3.1.1. If a pitcher or catcher requests a designated runner from home plate, they may not and may not have had played any other position for the entirety of that game.
      - 32.3.1.2. Exceptions for this rule can be appealed to the commissioner and will be considered at his discretion on a case-by-case basis.
      - 32.3.1.3. Approved appeals in the Men's Competitive league will follow the same rules as detailed above for pitchers and catcher in Coed.
    - 32.4. Designated runner must not interfere with batter catcher and/or umpire, failure to comply will result in an automatic out determined by umpire.
    - 32.5. The designated runner may not run until the batter strikes the ball with the bat.
33. Batting
- 33.1. Batters will start with a one and one count.
  - 33.2. Batters must begin and end their at bat with their feet both in contact with the ground and within lines of the batters box (batters may NOT "rush" a short pitch, or chase a pitch thrown out of reach of the batters box).
    - 33.2.1. Any at-bat attempt that clearly crosses the frontmost lines of the batters box will be declared an **automatic OUT at the umpires discretion.**
  - 33.3. A batter with two (2) strikes is allowed one (1) courtesy foul ball. On the 2nd foul after the batter has two (2) strikes the batter will be called out.
  - 33.4. Any roster-eligible player may be added to the batting order at any time during the game. Coach/Manager must inform the scorekeeper of the addition.
  - 33.5. Batting out of order is an appeal play, by the defense.
    - 33.5.1. If an incorrect batter is discovered before he completes a turn, and appealed, he/she is out.
    - 33.5.2. If not discovered until a pitch is made to the next batter, the batter is then legal. The batter is out if:
      - 33.5.2.1. He/she bats illegally and is discovered.
      - 33.5.2.2. He/she hits the ball with an illegal or altered bat.
      - 33.5.2.3. He/she hits two foul balls on what would be the third strike.
34. Strike Mat
- 34.1. A "strike mat" will be used to determine sure strikes, if the softball touches any part of the mat OR home plate on a legal pitch (COED: 6'-12', MREC/MCOMP: 6'-10' arc), it will be considered a strike.

## 35. Pitching

- 35.1. At the beginning of the game and before every offensive possession, a pitcher is allowed three (3) warm up pitches to the catcher or another teammate.
- 35.1.1. A pitcher may not request an umpire to “rebound” his practice pitches.
- 35.2. Legal Position of the Pitcher's Feet:
- 35.2.1. Preliminary to the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with his/her pivot foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitching plate. The pivot foot must be in contact with the pitchers plate when the ball is released.
- 35.3. Pitchers legal motions allowed in actual delivery of the pitch.
- 35.4. After assuming the pitch position, the pitcher must present the ball IN FRONT OF HIS/HER BODY (for at least one second) in either one or both hands, before starting the delivery motions.
- 35.5. The pitcher may hold or grip the ball in any manner before delivery.
- 35.6. Only a definite underhand motion is permitted in the delivery of the pitch.
- 35.7. The pitcher may release the pitched ball in any manner, when delivering the pitch. This includes any and all types of delivery.
- 35.8. After the pitcher presents the ball he/she may make any wind-up or arm motion desired, either in front of his/her body, above his/her head or behind his/her back including stops and pauses in these motions.
- 35.9. Once the pitcher begins his/her delivery motion, the umpire shall not give a call or signal for 'time' unless an unusual happening occurs.
- 35.10. The pitched ball must be released within five seconds from the time the pitcher has the ball and the batter has taken his position in the batters box.
- 35.11. The pitcher must face home plate on the delivery of the pitch.
- 35.12. Type of pitch permitted:
- 35.12.1. COED: In Coed the pitched ball must arc SIX (6) feet minimum to TWELVE (12) feet maximum from the ground – *as judged by the umpire.*
- 35.12.2. MREC/MCOMP: In Men's Recreational and Men's Competitive, the pitched ball must arc SIX (6) feet minimum to TEN (10) feet maximum from the ground – *as judged by the umpire.*  
(Judging pitch height is not an exact science. Any harassment toward officials will not be tolerated.)
- 35.12.3. A strike that hits any part of the plate or mat.
- 35.12.3.1. NOTE: An illegal pitch will be called when the arc is below SIX feet or higher than TEN feet (automatic ball).

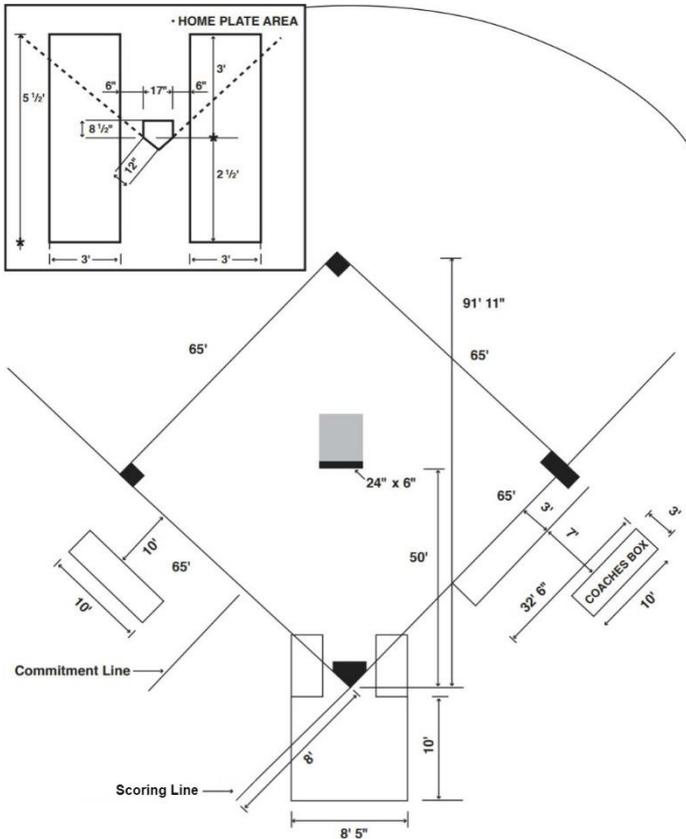
## 36. Fake Tags

- 36.1. Players giving fake tags will first be warned, then ejected.

## 37. Music/Broadcasted Sound

- 37.1. Given that our parks are public space, we must regulate any music played at any volume that can be heard by any visitors on-site.
- 37.2. EXPLICIT/PROFANE MUSIC IS DISALLOWED – if any Aspen Recreation Staff notices explicit or profane content played aloud, teams will be asked to turn down the music and issued a warning.
- 37.3. ON A SECOND OFFENSE IN A GAME, the offending team will be subject to a forfeit as declared by an umpire or other Aspen Recreation Staff.

**F. Field Layout, Field Rules, & Commitment/Scoring Line Rule**



**38. Field Rules:**

**38.1. "WOODEN MOORE FIELD" Bat Law:**

**38.1.1. All games played on Upper Moore Field must be played with only wooden bats.**

38.1.2. Any teams caught breaking or attempting to intentionally break this rule will be subject to immediate forfeit of the game.

38.1.3. Games on Upper Moore Field will be evenly-distributed across the team population.

**38.2. ISELIN ONLY:**

**38.2.1. Sunflower seeds, chewing tobacco, is disallowed on Iselin field. Use of these products will result in a warning by the umpire, and immediate ejection for repeated, same-game offenses.**

38.3. ALL FIELDS:

38.3.1. THREE (3) maximum out of the park home runs are permitted on any field.

38.3.1.1. NOTE: Any fair fly ball touched by a defensive player which then goes over the fence in fair territory will be declared a four base award and is NOT to be included in the total of out of the park home runs.

38.3.2. ONE-UP Rule: The "One-Up" rule is implemented in all games (all leagues) once either team reaches 3 out of the park home runs.

38.3.2.1. After 3 out of the park home runs, teams are only allowed to hit up to one more out of the park home run than the opposing team, but can continue up to any total number of out of the park home runs as long as one team never has more than one more out of the park home run than their opponent.

38.3.2.1.1. NOTE: Aspen Recreation is NOT subject or liable to provide additional softballs outside of what is provided at the Team Manager's meeting. Understand that if you run out of balls, the game will be called.

38.3.2.1.2. NOTE: Aspen Recreation staff is NOT responsible for retrieving any out of the park home runs. Participants may not request umpires or any other Aspen Recreation staff to retrieve balls hit out of the park.

38.3.2.1.3. Team are expected to have as many balls as is required to complete a game.

38.3.2.1.3.1. IF BOTH TEAMS RUN OUT OF SOFTBALLS, the game is called as final at whatever time and score has been reached *if a replacement ball cannot be provided within THREE (3) minutes.*

38.3.3. RESPECT THE BATTERS BOX:

38.3.3.1. No player is permitted to "deliberately remove/wipe clean" the batters box lines.

38.3.3.2. Any player caught doing this by an umpire is immediately called out.

38.3.3.2.1. NOTE: We take time adding these little details to the fields and to your experience – please respect that effort.

38.3.3.2.2. NOTE: See Rule 33.2 for additional rules pertaining to the Batter's Box.

39. Commitment/Scoring Line [COED & MEN'S REC ONLY]

39.1. NO CONTACT is permitted between the runner and the fielder between the commitment line and the scoring line – all plays must be made at the plate.

39.2. Once a player crosses the Commitment Line between 3rd Base & Home Plate they must continue through to Home.

39.3. The act of crossing the Safety Line will now replace touching Home Plate, whereas **any player running Home that touches Home Plate will be considered out.**

- 39.3.1. There is a ONE WEEK grace period where umpires will enact a "three strike" policy for forgetting the rule of the line. After Your first game, the call is undebatable and final.
- 39.3.2. All plays at Home Plate will be forced plays (i.e. once a player crosses the Commitment Line they can be forced out at if the player with the ball tags home plate).
- 39.4. The Safety Line shall be marked between the back corner of the batters box and the grass line on the third base side of the diamond, perpendicular to the third base line (parallel to the first base line).  
On a play at home plate, a runner will be called out if he or she touches or crosses the Safety Line after the catcher has the ball and is in contact with the plate (i.e. a force play). Otherwise, the runner will be safe.
- 39.5. A runner will be considered to have crossed the Safety Line once they touch the ground on or beyond the line, anywhere along the line between the corner of the batter's box and the fence. **The catcher/fielder may not tag the runners with the ball, they must contact Home Plate.**
- 39.6. If the runner touches home plate, runs over the plate or on the inside of the back corner of the batter's box where the line begins, or makes intentional contact with the catcher, the runner will be called out.
- 39.6.1. EXCEPTION: The runner will not be out for any of these reasons if the catcher, or any member of the fielding team, is blocking the scoring/Safety Line so that the runner cannot be reasonably expected to cross it properly.
- 39.6.1.1. NOTE: The runner is permitted to slide across the line.
- 39.7. Once a runner has touched or crossed the "Commitment Line", he or she has committed to trying to score and may not return to third base. A force play will now be in effect at home plate and the conditions of the previous rule will apply. In the event that the runner returns to third base and does not try to score after having "committed", the runner will be called out once the play is over, IF APPEALED TO THE UMPIRE.
- 39.7.1. EXCEPTION: A runner who "committed", passed the commitment line, may return to third base after a caught fly ball OR to touch a base previously missed.

## G. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

40. Unsportsmanlike Conduct and it's strict enforcement will be a point of emphasis for the 2019 Season.
- 40.1. An UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT SUSPENSION results in an immediate suspension affecting participation in any-and-all leagues (in any-and-all Adult Sport Programs run by Aspen Recreation) for the remainder of the season.
- 40.1.1. An appeal will need to be initiated by the offender to the commissioner during the off-season to schedule a mandatory meeting.
- 40.1.2. The commissioner reserves the right to grant or deny eligibility based on the outcome of that meeting.
- 40.1.3. The commissioner reserves the right to request a contracted commitment to agreed-upon terms regarding the offender's future behavior in Aspen Recreation Programming, and deny any reinstatement of eligibility if a contracted agreement is not reached.

## At-A-Glance

### Aspen Recreation Adult Softball Rules Updates 2019

4. NO METAL CLEATS OR DETACHABLE CLEATS ARE ALLOWED. MOLDED RUBBER ONLY.
6. Each player must be registered in our Aspen Recreation system in order to be eligible to participate.
7. No player will be allowed to play unless he/she is on the official team roster.
22. THE OFFICIAL BALL:  
22.4. Shall have a COR of .47 or less under the ASTM test used under the USSSA Softball Ball License Agreement (applies to all leagues).
- 23.6. 2019 Licensed Softball Bat Manufacturers (March 12, 2019)  
23.6.1. Anderson Bats, Baden & Axe Bat, Boombah, Combat, Dirty South Bats, Dudley, Easton, Louisville Slugger, Marucci, Miken/Worth, Mizuno, Pure Sports Tech, Rawlings, Wilson/DeMarini
24. THE OFFICIAL PITCHER'S FACEMASK RULE:  
24.1. Aspen Recreation will provide protective facemasks at every field. Pitcher's have the option to void their right of usage of the provided facemask, with the understanding that they subject themselves to an increased risk of injury without equipping the provided hardware.
26. FORFEITS  
26.1. All declared forfeits will be recorded as a 0-20 LOSS for the forfeiting team.  
26.2. If a team forfeits three games within a season, they will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.
27. NO-CALL, NO-SHOWS  
27.1. On a first offense for the season, the offending team is placed on probation for a three (3) week period.  
27.1.1. "NCNS" Probation subjects the offending team to immediate expulsion from the league for any infraction as decided by the League Commissioner.  
27.2. A second offense in one season results in immediate expulsion of the league for the remainder of the season and the following season.
29. Mercy Rule "20-Run Rule":  
29.1. If at the completion of 4 ½ or 5 innings, one team is ahead by 20 or more runs, the game will be declared won, and the teams have the option of using the rest of their hour for a friendly.
33. Batting  
33.1.1. Any at-bat attempt that clearly crosses the frontmost lines of the batters box will be declared a strike *at the umpires discretion*.  
33.2 Batters must begin and end their at bat with their feet both in contact with the ground and within lines of the batters box (batters may NOT "rush" a short pitch, or chase a pitch thrown out of reach of the batters box).  
33.2.1 Any at-bat attempt that clearly crosses the frontmost lines of the batters box will be declared an **automatic OUT** *at the umpires discretion*.
34. Strike Zone  
34.1. The strike zone is that space between the six (6') feet and twelve (12') feet arc from the ground (COED ONLY) / six (6') feet and ten (10') feet arc from the ground (MREC/MCOMP) – *as judged by the umpire* – that hits any part of the plate or mat as it first strikes the ground – *as judged by the umpire*.
- 37.1. **"WOODEN MOORE FIELD" Bat Law:**  
37.1.1. All games played on **Upper Moore Field** must be played with only wooden bats.  
37.1.2. Any teams caught breaking or attempting to intentionally break this rule will be subject to immediate forfeit of the game.  
37.1.3. Games on Upper Moore Field will be evenly-distributed across the team population.  
37.4.2. **ONE-UP Rule:** If **both Team Captains agree formally to the umpire**, the "One-Up" rule can be implemented for the remainder of the game:

\*There are other new rules not listed on this page. Any rule highlighted in yellow has been updated since 2018\*