

SportsOhio Adult Softball League Rules

Governing Body: USA Softball (formerly ASA)

Game Format

- **55-minute drop-dead time limit**
- No new inning may start once time expires
- Game ends immediately when time runs out
- **5-minute changeover** between games to allow games to start on the hour
- Games may end in a tie during regular season

League Structure

- One game per team per week
- Coed and Recreational divisions
- USA Softball–approved equipment required
- Emphasis on fun, fair play, and sportsmanship

Playoffs

- All teams qualify
- Single-elimination format
- Seeding based on regular-season record

Sportsmanship

This is a recreational league.

Respect umpires, opponents, and teammates.

Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in ejection.

League Rules (USA Softball – Recreational Modifications)

Coed Softball Rules

Team Composition

- 10 players on defense
- Maximum **6 men / minimum 4 women**
- Minimum **8 players** to start a game
- Continuous batting order allowed (up to 12–14 players)

Batting Order

- Male and female batters must **alternate**
- If a female batter is intentionally walked, the following male batter must hit

Equipment

- USA Softball–approved bats only
- **12” ball for men, 11” ball for women** (or league-approved optic ball)
- **No metal cleats**

Recreational (Men’s) Softball Rules

Team Composition

- 10 players on defense
- Continuous batting order allowed
- Minimum **8 players** to start

Equipment

- USA Softball–approved bats only
- **12” softball**
- No metal cleat

Pitching Rules (All Divisions)

- Slow-pitch arc: **6–10 feet**
- One foot must remain in contact with the pitching plate at release

Game Length & Mercy Rule

Game Length:

- 7 innings or **55-minute drop-dead**, whichever comes first

Mercy Rule:

- 15 runs after 3 innings
- 10 runs after 5 innings

Conduct & Umpires

- No arguing balls and strikes
- Judgment calls are final
- Zero tolerance for abuse of officials
- Umpires may eject players for unsportsmanlike conduct

Default to USA Softball website rules page for detail