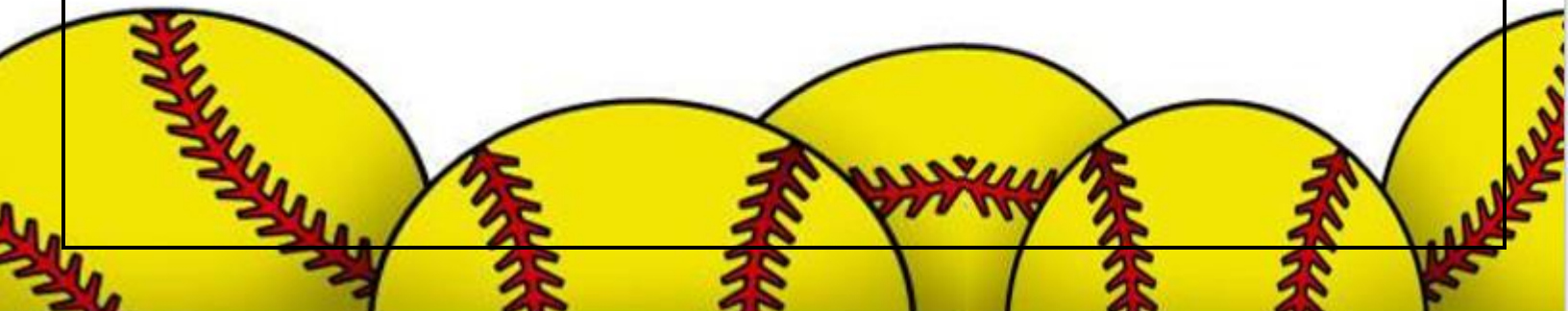




ADULT SOFTBALL

Rules & Regulations

City of Glendale
Parks & Recreation
Department
5970 W. Brown St.
Glendale, Arizona
(623) 930-2820





City of Glendale Parks & Recreation

Adult Softball Rules & Regulations

Welcome all coaches, participants, and fans to the Glendale Parks and Recreation Department Adult Softball Program. This program is based on the recreational philosophy of fun and exercise for all individuals involved. We hope you will enjoy your recreational softball experience in our program, as we look forward to cooperating and communicating with you throughout the season. Our staff would like to wish you the best of luck in the upcoming season.

The City of Glendale Coed Softball League will be played according to the current 2023 ASA (Amateur Softball Association of America) rules for all situations not mentioned in this handbook. The City of Glendale reserves the right to add, delete, modify, or change any rules or regulations during the season for the greater good of the league. When and if a change is made, all Team Managers will be notified. Team managers are responsible for knowing and understanding ASA and City League Rules and informing team members of rules and league requirements.

Questions or concerns should be directed to:

- Joshua Edwards, Recreation Coordinator- jedwards@glendaleaz.com
- Desirae Gonzalez, Recreation Specialist- dgonzalez3@glendaleaz.com
- Joanna Quintanilla, Recreation Specialist- jquintanilla@glendaleaz.com

Recreation Sports Phone: (623) 930- 4612

RULES AND REGULATION POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change any rules or regulations during the season whenever a change is warranted by due case. If a change is made, all team managers affected by the change will be notified. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to add additional rules and regulations when they will benefit the program.

The City of Glendale does not provide individual accident insurance for its participants. It is recommended that all players acquire individual or team insurance. The Glendale Parks and Recreation Department urges all coaches and/or participants who incur an accident/injury situation during game play to report the incident to the game umpire and Field Supervisor immediately so that appropriate measures may be taken.

TEAM ROSTERS

All players must be at least 18 years of age prior to participating. The team roster may not contain less than ten or more than 18 players. The roster **MUST BE** submitted at registration with the manager's cell phone number.

- **Players may be added and/or deleted from the original roster by 6 p.m. on January 12th for Friday night leagues and 6 p.m. January 14th for Sunday night leagues.**

Players may participate on only **ONE** co-ed team. Any player found on more than the legal number of teams or not on a team roster will be considered ineligible.

ELIGIBILITY CHECK

Field Supervisors can randomly perform roster checks throughout the season. A team manager may request an eligibility check of only one player during a scheduled game up to the 3rd inning. The player in question must produce current identification reflecting information provided on the team's roster. If a player cannot produce identification, they will be considered ineligible. If an ineligible player is found, the team will automatically forfeit the game. Players may participate on only one men's team and one coed team. Any player found on more than the legal number of teams or not on a team roster will be considered ineligible. If a player has failed to sign to complete portions of the team roster, they are ineligible.

Come tournament time, there will be a mandatory team check in **BEFORE** teams take the field. During check-in, players must present valid identification. Once verified, they will receive a wrist band that must be worn throughout the duration of the tournament to verify eligibility.

BANNED AND SUSPENDED PLAYERS

Team managers are responsible for ensuring that all their rostered players are eligible to participate in City of Glendale league play. Any team with a banned or suspended player in their lineup will **FORFEIT** the game, and additional **TEAM** penalties will be assessed under the Code of Conduct.

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

The City of Glendale will supply softballs for league play. Each game will start with one new ball and one used ball.

- Women will hit an 11" ball
- Men will hit a 12" ball

The league will retain all softballs upon the conclusion of the game. Any team that hits a ball over-the-fence must have a member of their team retrieve the ball.

SHOES: All participants must wear shoes. A shoe shall be considered official when it is made of canvas, leather uppers, or similar material(s). Steel/ metal cleats are not permitted in any City of Glendale League.

SAFETY/ COMMITTEMENT LINE RULE

The "Commitment Line" shall be drawn between the home plate and the fence on the third base side of the diamond, perpendicular to the third base line at a distance of 20 feet. 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. A runner will be considered to have crossed the Safety Line once they touch the ground on or beyond the line. The catcher may still tag runners out if NOT standing on Home Plate. If the runner touches home plate, runs over the plate or on the infield side (fair territory) of it, or makes intentional contact with the catcher, the runner will be called out.

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.

NOTE: The runner is permitted to slide across the line. 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. If the runner returns to third base and does not try to score after having "committed", the runner will be called out.

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.

NUMBER OF GAMES

Most leagues will consist of eight teams with a single elimination format; however, if leagues consist of less than eight teams, schedules will be modified accordingly. The Field Supervisor will keep current standings at each field. Head-to-head play will determine the league winner if two teams are tied in the standings. **IF NEEDED**, a playoff game will be used to determine first place only. All other places will use the fewest runs allowed when the two teams play. Any team that has forfeited a game at any time during the season will automatically take the lowest ranking.

LEAGUE RULES

WARM- UPS

- No batted infield warm-ups will be allowed.
- The pitcher may have 5 warm-up pitches before the 1st inning and 3 warm-up pitches between innings.
- No batting warm-ups are allowed against the backstop or any fencing

BATTING ORDER

Men's and women's teams may bat up to 15 players during the game. In coed, teams can bat up to nine men and nine women in the batting order. The lineup will be a continuous, alternating order male, female OR female, male throughout the entire game.

In all leagues, if a player leaves a game due to injury and does not return, a bench substitute can take his/ her spot on the official scoresheet. If a substitute is not available, all subsequent batters will move up in the lineup, and there will be no penalty.

If a player is ejected and a substitute is unavailable, that position in the lineup is an automatic out each time it appears throughout the game.

BAT USE

ASA approved bats and any bat approved by Glendale Parks and Recreation may be used in league and tournament play. The league has the right to disallow bats at any time during the season. Bats listed on the ASA non-approved bat website or altered bats are **NOT PERMITTED** in any City of Glendale softball league. For a complete listing of bats that are approved in 2020 and beyond, go to the certified equipment section of www.asasoftball.com.

Players found to be using disapproved or modified bats will be ejected from the game as soon as they take one pitch with the bat. The Glendale Parks and Recreation Department **WILL NOT** be responsible for individuals who spend large amounts of money on equipment not permitted in our program.

- If a player is found in violation of the altered/non-approved bat rule, additional TEAM penalties will be assessed under the Code of Conduct

The umpire may, at their sole discretion and without penalty to the batter/team remove any bat from play that in their judgement significantly changes the character of the game, affects the safety of participants, or renders a player's performance more a product of his/her equipment than individual skill. Once removed, the bat will be treated as an illegal bat and may not be used for the duration of that game.

COURTESY RUNNERS

One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. Exception: If a courtesy runner was used for a particular individual and that individual comes to bat a second time in the same inning, he/she may use the same courtesy runner again. In coed, the runner must be of the same gender.

HOME RUN RULE

The Glendale softball league will employ the equalizer home run rule. A team may not be more than the specified number of “over-the-fence home runs” in their league ahead of the opposing team. Example: if, in the top half of the first inning, a player from the visiting team hits a home run, that team is now one home run ahead of the opposing team and may not hit another home run until the home team hits at least one home run. In the bottom half of the first inning, the home team could hit one home run to tie the number, plus one more home run to go one up on the visiting team. Any home runs hit exceeding the legal number will be considered an out. Teams who hit over the fence home runs **MUST** retrieve the ball.

- Men's C — 4 home runs per game
- Men's D — 2 home runs per game
- Coed B/C — 2 home runs per game
- Coed C/D — 1 home runs per game

RUN AHEAD RULE

The ASA run rule is in effect for all league and tournament games. The game will be over if a team is ahead by 20 or more after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, or 10 after 5 innings.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF GAME PLAYERS

Teams must have a minimum of eight players to begin and continue a game.

ONE AND ONE COUNT

All batters will begin their turn at bat with one (1) ball and one (1) strike. There will be one foul ball to waste after two (2) strikes.

STRIKE ZONE

A mat will be used during all softball play. The ball will be considered a strike if it touches any part of the plate or mat.

PITCHING DISTANCE

Pitchers can pitch from the 50' pitching distance, or they may pitch up to five feet behind the pitching plate if they so desire. Pitchers must have one foot in contact with the ground within the 24" width of the pitching plate when releasing the ball.

SUBSTITUTIONS

All offensive substitutes must be reported to the official scorekeeper to acknowledge a player legally entering the game. ASA rules for re-entry will apply. Please refer to the Batting Order section of the rules.

TIE GAMES

If the game is tied at the end of the time limit, the game will count as a tie in the standings.

TIME LIMIT

Umpires will be the official timekeeper for determining forfeits. All City of Glendale Slow Pitch games will have a 55-minute time limit. No new inning can begin after 55, or 50 minutes if the 5- minute grace period is used. The new inning begins as soon as the last out in the previous inning is made. Innings in progress when the time runs out will be completed **UNLESS** the home team is already ahead. Additional time may be added for games delayed by rain, injury, or unforeseen circumstances.

GRACE PERIOD

Games will have a 5- minute grace period from the point at which the official declares the start of the game until the declaration of a forfeit.

- A team will only be granted the grace period if they are unable to meet the minimum number of players requirement.
- The 5-minute grace period comes off the 55-minute game time window.

FORFEITS

Teams who register in this league are responsible for assuring they have the minimum number of players to begin and continue the game.

- Any team that forfeits a game because they do not have at least 8 players to start the game, will be charged a \$25 forfeit fee per game to be paid at the recreation office before the next week's games.

Teams must pay the forfeit fee to be permitted to take the field the following week. Any team that forfeits more than two games during the season will be eliminated from the end of the season tournament. Teams should contact their league coordinator if they anticipate forfeiting their game(s).

PLAYOFFS

The USA tiebreaker will be used if a game is tied after the time limit expires or when the regulation innings have been completed. In the first extra- inning and every ½ inning after that, each team will start with a runner on second base and 1 out. The base runner will be the last batted out from the previous inning. Each batter will start with a 1-1 count. The game will continue in this format until a winner is determined.

AWARDS

The first- place teams (regular season and touramnet) will be given a custom City of Glendale “Champions” t-shirt.

COMMUNICATIONS

Unavoidable game cancellations due to rain, excessive lightning within a 10-mile radius, irrigation, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control may not be rescheduled. In most cases, games will be rescheduled if it affects first, second, or third place standings teams. Decisions on rain-out games can usually be obtained after 3 p.m. by phoning the Facility Playability hotline at (623) 934-6314 or via email. League games that are rained out will be made up at the end of the regular season, when possible, and teams will automatically play the following week's games per their current schedule.

THE GLENDALE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST THE LEAGUE FORMAT DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING THE SEASON.

Each manager is responsible for maintaining regular communication with the Field Supervisor for newsletters, flyers, rescheduling of games, rulings, standings, etc.

LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS

The Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Check with the Field Supervisor at the facility where you are participating for misplaced equipment.

LEAGUE POLICIES

PLAYING TIMES

Teams must be available to play at any of the four scheduled game times. Friday and Sunday league games will start at 6:00 p.m.

INFIELD PRACTICE

There will be no infield practice between games. Soft toss against fences is prohibited due to the extensive damage it causes. Teams that do not adhere to this rule risk being dropped from the league.

CONDUCT

The Field Supervisor and/or Umpire will have the power to eject a player or spectator and forfeit a game without warning for any conduct deemed unbecoming or detrimental to the game. Any player assaulting an official or city employee will be automatically suspended from all City of Glendale Adult Sports Programs, and legal action may be taken. When a player is listed on the team's roster, it is understood that the team manager will notify them of all rules and regulations as well as the Code of Conduct.

EJECTIONS

Players ejected from the game must leave the playing area immediately. Any player ejected from a City of Glendale game faces a two-game suspension. Additional action may also be taken including, but not limited to, probation and total suspension. Upon review of the incident, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to determine the length of the suspension. Each incident will be reviewed, and a decision on the length of the suspension will be made within a reasonable time frame.

PROTEST REGULATIONS

Only protests regarding ineligible player(s) or rule interpretations will be accepted and considered valid. Protests involving the judgment of an official will not be given consideration. The team manager is the only participant allowed to file a protest. The manager must call time and inform the umpire of the intent to protest. Then, the Field Supervisor and Umpire will confer if necessary. **ALL DECISIONS BY THE FIELD SUPERVISOR ARE FINAL.** The manager has the option of filing a written protest, accompanied with a \$25 fee (checks are made to the City of Glendale) by the following working day. The \$25 fee will be refunded if the protest is considered valid. In all protest situations, the game will continue. The Adult Sports Advisory Board will review all protests.

SKILL LEVEL GUIDELINES

- A. Teams with participants who are very talented as well as experienced softball players. Superior offensive and defensive skills with good home run power.
- B. Teams with experience playing together as well as individual experience. Very good offensive and defensive skills with some home run power required to play in a moderately competitive league.
- C. Teams with experience playing together as well as individual experience. Effective defensive and offensive skills are required, with all players knowledgeable in softball rules and playing for a competitive league.
- D. Teams that have some team and individual experience. Players must know the rules and regulations for play in a recreational, low competitive league.

Coed A/B	Teams with talented players that have softball playing experience. Strong team experience is recommended at this level for play in the competitive league. Players normally have tournament experience.
Coed B/C	Teams with the combination of players with tournament experience and competitive recreational experience. Teams possessing knowledge of rules and regulations regarding play.
Coed C/D	Teams with participants who have experience playing softball and possess knowledge of the rules and regulations regarding play. Prior team experience suggested for play in a moderate to low level of competition.
Open	Opened to any classification/level of play. (Overflow League)

SCORE SHEETS

THE HOME TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OFFICIAL SCORE SHEET *unless* it is agreed to be kept by the visiting team. All players must be listed on the score sheet (first and last names). It is recommended that all visiting teams keep a second scorebook during the game. It is the team's responsibility to assume that the score sheets are filled out correctly. Failure to do so may result in a team loss.

COED RULES

BALL

In all coed leagues, women will hit an 11” ball, and men will hit a 12” ball.

BATTING ORDER

Teams must have a minimum of eight players to start and complete a game composed of a minimum of four males and four females. Teams have the option of batting up to nine men and nine women in the batting order. Lineups must be filled out and submitted to the home team scorekeeper no less than ten minutes prior to the game. Any player arriving late to the game may be added to the bottom of the lineup.

The lineup will continuously alternate male/female or female/male, throughout the entire game. At no time will two players of the same sex bat next to each other.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF GAME PLAYERS

Teams must have a minimum of eight players to begin and continue a game; of these eight players, there must be a minimum of four men. A team may never play with fewer than four men. If nine or more players are used, there must be an equal number or a majority of women on the playing field. At no time will there be more men than women on the playing field. Four men and four women must begin a game in all coed leagues.

Example:

- 8 players – 4 men, 4 women
- 9 players – 4 men, 5 women
- 10 players – 4 men, 6 women
- 10 players – 5 men, 5 women

DEFENSIVE PLACEMENT

The outfield and infield must consist of two males and two females. The catcher and pitcher must be of the opposite sex. There must always be an equal number of men and women OR a majority women combination.

WALK RULE

If a male player is walked during his turn at bat, he automatically goes to second base. The next batter (a female) shall bat. EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

SLIDE RULE

There is NO mandatory sliding rule. Sliding is done at the player’s own risk.

PITCHING

The pitcher must come to a complete stop in the pitching area before delivering a pitch to the plate.

- The pitcher may take a position from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to six feet behind the pitcher's plate, within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate, with both feet firmly on the ground.
- The pitch must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a minimum of six (6) feet 8 and a maximum of twelve (12) feet from the ground.

CITY OF GLENDALE PITCHER PROTECTION RULE

A pitcher is protected by the following:

- Any batted ball as a line drive or a one hopper that passes through a 36" wide line in front of the 50' pitcher's mound.
- The ball passes through the width of the line, 6 inches on each side of the pitcher mound.
- The ball is between the top of the pitcher's head and the ground

In each instance, the ruling is a dead ball, the batter is out, and no base runners may advance. Should the same batter do it again, they will be ejected and subjected to a two-game suspension. This is a judgment call by the umpire. They will immediately announce a dead ball out, when in effect. While protecting the pitcher, they must still field their position. The ball is live on a simple roller through the mound without penalty. Should you have any questions, please contact the site coordinator.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct will be enforced before, during, and after all league and tournament play. All rules will be strictly enforced. The term "individual" includes the following: coach, manager, player, fan, or spectator. The team is responsible for the conduct of its individual players and spectators. The term "official" includes referees, site supervisors, league director, and city and/or school staff. When a player is listed on a roster, it is to be understood that they will be notified BY THE TEAM MANAGER of all City League rules and the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is as follows.

CITY OF GLENDALE SOFTBALL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **No Individual Shall** at any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike or threaten to strike an official
 - Penalty: Banned from adult sports programs, and assault charges may be filed.
2. **No Individual Shall** be guilty of objectionable demonstration of unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - Minimum Penalty: Warned by an official.
 - Maximum Penalty: Ejection from game and playing area with a minimum two-game suspension.

3. **No Individual Shall** discuss the decision reached by such official with an official, in any manner, except the team manager, coach or captain.
 - Minimum Penalty: Warning by an official.
 - Maximum Penalty: Ejection from the game and playing area with a minimum two-game suspension.
4. **No Individual Shall** be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game
 - Minimum Penalty: Ejection from the game and playing area, with a two-game suspension.
 - Maximum Penalty: Banned from City of Glendale adult sports programs and assault charges may be filed.
5. **No Individual Shall** be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any individual. Officials must immediately suspend the player from further play and report the incident to the league director. Such a player shall remain suspended until the incident has been reviewed by the Sports Department.
 - Minimum Penalty: Two-game suspension and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
 - Maximum Penalty: Banned from the City of Glendale adult sports programs and/or assault charges may be filed.
6. **No Individual Shall** be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any official or individual.
 - Minimum Penalty: Ejected from the game and playing field with a two-game suspension and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
 - Maximum Penalty: Banned from City of Glendale Adult Sports programs.
7. **No Individual Shall** use profane, obscene, or vulgar language at any time, on or off the playing field.
 - Minimum Penalty: Warning by an official.
 - Maximum Penalty: Ejected from the game with a two-game suspension and probation for the remainder of the season.
8. **No Individual Shall** appear on the field of play in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of any type of drug that will impinge upon their safety or the safety of others.
 - Minimum Penalty: Ejection from the game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
 - Maximum Penalty: Banned from the City of Glendale adult sports program.

The severity of the infraction will determine the penalty. Penalties can fall between the minimum and maximum. In all situations, individuals may be ejected from league play and banned from the softball program, depending on the severity of the incident. City Sports Staff will determine the penalty within a reasonable amount of time.

ADULT SPORTS- ALCOHOL & SMOKING/ VAPING POLICY

No smoking or vaping will be allowed on the field of play or in the dugout area.

The City of Glendale has strict policies governing the consumption and possession of alcohol within any softball complex, regardless of a permit being purchased.

Policy dictates the following:

No affiliated team member (player, non-player, or coach) may possess or consume alcoholic beverages during or in between games.

- No alcoholic beverage of any sort may be brought into the softball complex
- Staff reserves the right to inspect coolers, bags, cups, or any other container which may be used to conceal or contain alcohol.

Alcohol consumption is prohibited in the parking lot or any non- picnic park areas. A picnic area is defined by a permanent shade structure and seating area. The picnic area inside the softball complex is excluded from this guideline.