

Powhatan Softball Association

2009 Rules and Regulations

Contests of the Powhatan Softball Association will adhere to the most recent version of the Amateur Softball Association's (ASA) Official Rules with the following amendments:

1. The Powhatan Softball Association is open for participation by persons 18 years of age or older as of opening day. Minors 17 years of age as of opening day may play on the same team as a legal parent or guardian.
2. Games will be limited to a length of 7 innings or 50 minutes, whichever occurs first. A new inning may not begin 50 minutes after the start of the first inning. The game clock will begin when the umpire says "play ball," initiating the start of the first inning.
3. Players must wear proper attire including team jerseys (may be identical tee-shirts), shorts and shoes. Catchers must wear a protective mask when catching. To reduce the risk of injury, the use of cleats is recommended. **The use of *metal* cleats is strictly prohibited.**
4. Any team may "pick up" a maximum of two players (more may be allowed at the option of the opposing team manager) from within the league on a single-game basis in order to avoid forfeiting a game.
5. Players removed from the batting order will be allowed a "one-time re-entry" privilege.
6. One new and two used game balls will be provided by the home team for each contest. Game balls must meet the following specifications:
 - a. Male batters will be pitched 12" 44 cor balls (.375 lb. compression)
 - b. Female batters may be pitched 11" or 12" 44 cor balls (.375 lb. compression) at the batter's discretion.
7. Whenever possible, teams must field 5 female and 5 male players, with the infield comprised of a minimum of 2 female players. An infield position is any position in the infield except the pitcher.
8. Only single-wall bats which do not consist of any composite materials will be permitted for use in PSA league play. Additionally, bats banned by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), according to its most recent list of non-approved bats, will not be permitted. Use of a bat that is found to be illegal will result in ejection from the game and a fine of \$25.00. Team managers should consult the list of banned bats which is available on the ASA website.
9. In each at bat, the count will start at one ball and one strike before the first pitch is thrown. Batters are allowed a maximum of three foul balls. The third foul ball of any at bat will be called "strike three" and the batter will be called out on strikes. Example: The first batter comes to the plate at the beginning of an inning—count: 1 and 1. The batter takes ball 2—count: 2 and 1. The batter takes strike 2—count: 2 and 2.

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The batter hits a foul ball—count: 2 and 2. The batter hits a second foul ball—count: 2 and 2. The batter hits a third foul ball—count: 2 and 3. The batter is out on strikes.

10. Batting orders must alternate between male and female batters with the following exceptions:
 - a. If a team has fewer than 5 female players, then the batting order must alternate between male and female players beginning with the top of the batting order.
 - b. The defensive team will be awarded one out for each consecutive male batter faced (at the discretion of the defensive team's manager), unless both teams have an equal number of female batters in the lineup.
11. Teams may allow their entire lineup to bat, provided that each team manager agrees to do so. The following conditions apply:
 - a. If teams have an unequal number of players present, both teams may allow a batting order the length of the team with the least number of players in participation.
 - b. The batting orders of both teams should match with regard to male/female ratio. **Important: Team managers are responsible for comparing lineups with one another** (see rule 10).
12. If a man batting before a woman is issued a base on balls (walk), then the woman will, at her discretion, either be awarded first base (advancing any forced runners) or take her regular turn at bat.
13. Any batter, after safely reaching base, may request a courtesy runner. The use of a courtesy runner will be subject to the following rules:
 - a. If the player requesting a courtesy runner is male, then the last male player who was called “out” will serve as the courtesy runner.
 - b. If the player requesting a courtesy runner is female, then the last female player who was called “out” will serve as the courtesy runner.
 - c. If the player who fits the above criteria is unwilling or unable to serve as a courtesy runner, then the defensive team may choose a courtesy runner from the lineup of the offensive team.
14. The offensive team may score five runs per half-inning. The five-run-per-inning rule will be implemented as follows:
 - a. Except for the final inning of play, a cap will be imposed on the number of runs scored by the offensive team in any half-inning.
 - b. Upon the 5th run scored, the half-inning will be declared over **at the conclusion of play** (when the ball is ruled dead), and the next half-inning will begin.

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- c. Note that it is possible for more than 5 runs to be scored in the half inning. Example: The home team has scored 4 runs in the bottom of the first. With two outs and runners on 2nd and 3rd, the batter hits a line drive to right field. The right fielder fields the ball and throws to the second baseman while the base runner from 3rd scores and the base runner from 2nd rounds 3rd base. The second baseman throws to the catcher and the advancing runner is ruled safe at home. The inning ends with a 2 RBI single by the batter and the home team has scored 6 runs in the bottom of the first.
 - d. There is no run maximum for the final inning of play.
15. At the end of 5 complete innings, a team winning by more than 13 runs will be declared the winner of the contest.
16. Over-the-fence home runs will be limited to two per team per contest. Subsequent balls hit over the fence will be considered ground-rule singles, with all base runners advancing one base.
17. To avoid injuries due to collisions at home plate and on the bases, runners must either slide or sacrifice themselves on attempts by the defensive team to throw runners out. It is the base coach's responsibility to monitor the play and coach the runner to slide. Runners cited for colliding with defensive players may be ejected from the game and face fines.
18. An accurate score book will be kept by both teams. In the event of a discrepancy between score books, the home team's score book will be considered the official score book for that contest.
19. If, at the end of any contest (7 innings or 50 min., whichever occurs first), the score is tied; then a one-inning tie-breaker will be played as follows:
 - a. The last player to bat in the previous inning will stand at 2nd base, and the new inning will begin.
 - b. The next batter in the order will begin the tie-breaker inning.
 - c. Play will continue until 3 outs are recorded.
 - d. If the score is still tied at the end of the one-inning tie-breaker, then the contest will go on the record book as a tie.
20. In the event any two teams are tied in the league standings, standing will be decided as follows:
 - a. The team with the best record in head to head competition wins. If teams are tied in head to head competition, then:
 - b. The team that has given up the fewest runs to the other team wins. If each team has given up the same number of runs to the other, then:
 - c. A tie-breaker game will be played. If the tie-breaker game ends in a tie, then:

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- d. The winner will be decided by coin toss.
21. Any player cited for using obscene or offensive language or gestures or profanity may be subject to disciplinary action.
22. The use of drugs or alcohol before and during PSA events is strictly prohibited. Any player deemed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be ejected from the game and subject to fines and/or other disciplinary action.
23. Smoking on any part of Ace's Diamond, its dugouts, or surrounding area (inside the surrounding chain-link fence) is strictly forbidden.
24. All umpire's decisions are final. Any arguing against an umpire's call is prohibited and considered grounds for ejection. However, players *are* permitted to ask umpires for rule clarifications.
25. Any player ejected from a game for any reason will be subject to a league fine of \$25.00. An ejected player may not return to league play until any and all outstanding fines are paid