

# Atlanta Sport and Social Club

## Official Softball Rules

### General Rules

**1. Schedule:** All games are to be played at the time, date and place specified on the schedule.

**2. Roster:** Each team can have as many players as they choose. **The roster minimum for softball is 13 players.**

**3. Forfeits:** Game time is forfeit time. **Minimum to start a game is 7 players. {2 females for Co-Ed leagues}**

Forfeits will be scored as a 10 – 0 final match score.

**Mercy Rule/Run Rule: 15 after 3, 15 after 4, and 12 after 5.**

**a.** If you know you may not be able to field a full team, please call an ASSC representative at least **48 hours** in advance if you would like to explore a rescheduling option. If it is within 48 hours, please STILL let us know so that we can notify your opponent! Although your team may end up forfeiting the match, there may still be an opportunity to use the space for practice or pick up games.

- Call: 678-869-4690
- Email: [havefun@atlantasportandsocialclub.com](mailto:havefun@atlantasportandsocialclub.com)

**b.** Teams forfeiting more than two league games will not be eligible for the playoffs. Teams forfeiting three or more games will be removed from the schedule. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.**

**4. No show officials:** Teams have a choice to self-officiate or mutually agree upon an official (team member or spectator). Games will not be rescheduled and will count as official game.

**5. Roster Checks:** Roster minimums must be met before week 1 of games including; Minimum number of players/roster and minimum number of female players/roster in Co-Ed divisions **Roster checks will be conducted** during t-shirt delivery and Before the start of each playoff game.

**Roster checks may be done once or twice, randomly during the regular season,** at the League Manager's discretion.

**6. RAIN OUTS** - check ASSC's website or call **678-866-1207**. Games will be rescheduled for the end of the season, or as part of a doubleheader on certain league nights. **ASSC also reserves the right to shorten the season or move games to other nights due to excessive cancellations.** [Review the weather policy here.](#)

**7. Overly Competitive Players:** All ASSC sports are intended to be recreational, unless designated as a competitive league at registration. Any player who is deemed to be excessively competitive and/or overly aggressive may be removed from competition at the discretion of an ASSC staff member.

**NOTE:**

- Piedmont Park Modifications
  - Cleats **ARE** permitted at Piedmont Park
  - **No metal cleats at any location!**
  - Piedmont Park softball games are held at the active oval at the corner of Piedmont and 14<sup>th</sup>. These softball fields do not have homerun fencing or foul

poles. The following modifications are specific to this park:

- If a ball is hit into the outfield, **THERE IS NO AUTOMATIC HOME RUN RULE.** At this point, the ball is live and the batter/runner is allowed to reach as many bases as possible. This rule is in effect for all parks without an outfield fence.
- **Exceptions:**
  - If a ball lands on or crosses over the running track, from the air, it is an automatic home run. Again, this exception is in place to preserve player safety. 3-home run-rule limit.
  - A defender may not venture onto the running track to catch a fly ball. Any fly ball caught on the running track will be declared a home run, if in fair territory, or a foul ball, if in foul territory. This is in place to protect players and patrons on the running track.
    - To catch a ball near the running track, the player must have both feet in the grass at all times. A defender may jump to catch a ball but must leave from and return with both feet in the grass.
  - If a ball rolls onto the running track on either field, the ball becomes dead and the runner gets the base they were proceeding towards.
  - If a ball rolls onto the sand volleyball courts, it is considered a dead ball and the

batter will be awarded a ground-ruled double.

## Equipment

- Cleats
  - Only rubber molded cleats are permitted. **NO METAL CLEATS. NO SCREW INS.**
- Balls
  - Atlanta Sport and Social Club will provide game balls each week. .52 COR 300 Compression
- Bases
  - Bases will be provided for all games
- Bats
  - Legal bats are as defined by ASA rules. **Bats must have an ASA 2004 (or newer) stamp and not be on the banned bat list.** *Bats not following these rules may not be used for ASSC play.* This information can be found at [http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/build\\_batlist\\_one\\_page.asp](http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/build_batlist_one_page.asp)
    1. The first time a team comes to the plate with an illegal bat, the batter is considered out. The second time the team uses an illegal bat, the batter is out and ejected with possible league suspension.
    2. Each individual is responsible for using legal bats.
    3. ASSC and the umpires reserve the right to disallow a bat should it be thought the bat may have been doctored. If a bat is used and proven to be doctored (i.e. painted over, "corked", shaved, etc.) this will

result in the immediate ejection of the person using the bat and the owner of the bat, and the owner/user may possibly be suspended for the remainder of the season or longer, as this is a safety issue.  
**NO REFUND WILL BE ISSUED.**

## **Game Rules**

- Regulation Games:
  - The game time is indicated on the schedule and that's when the game clock will start.
    - Incomplete innings are to be played to completion.
    - No new innings will start after 53 minutes of playing time.
    - The Umpire's watch is the official time
    - Regulation games last 7 full innings.
  - A game that is called off by the Umpire for darkness or other safety reasons after 4 full innings of play or 30 minutes of expired game time, will be considered a completed regulation game
  - In the event of a tie score at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning OR 53<sup>rd</sup> minute, during the regular season, the game will be recorded as such.

## **Fielding Team:**

- The maximum number of infielders is 6 (including Pitcher and Catcher). Outfielders must stay in the grass until contact is made. If an outfielder comes into the infield dirt before contact is made, and is any way involved in that play, all runners will be ruled safe.

- Fielding positions can be changed between players on the field while on defense, however new players may not substitute in except for:
  - A pitching change
  - The team is short fielders
  - An injury substitution
- The batting order must always stay the same despite any changes made on the field.
- When female batters are at the plate, outfielders must stay behind the co-ed line that is marked with cones and/or field paint, until the ball is put into play.
  - Co-ed line distances vary, based on the facility.
  - If an outfielder comes inside the line before contact is made and is in any way involved with that play, all runners will be ruled safe.
- When female batters are at the plate, infielders must remain on the dirt even with or behind the baseline until the ball is put into play.
  - If an infielder comes inside the baseline or goes into the outfield before contact is made and is in any way involved in the play, all runners will be ruled safe.

#### The Count:

- Batters will start with a one-ball/one-strike count. With two strikes, the batter has courtesy foul. The second foul with two strikes will be called strike three and the batter out.

#### Batting Order:

- All players may bat but no more than three males can bat in a row.

- If a player plays defense, then he/she must bat as well. (No pure DH)
- There are no substitutions in the batting line-up, with the exception that females are allowed to re-hit to maintain the proper ratio (**In-game INJURY**).  
(SEE BELOW)

**If at team begins the game short (less than the minimum number of females (3)) female players are not allowed to re-hit, and therefore the result is an out.**

- If the team has a third female show up after the game has started, that team may insert that female into the designated spot in the lineup at any time and will no longer have to take an automatic out.
- All late arriving players may be inserted at any time. Late arrivals must be inserted into the bottom of the batting order, or as close to the bottom to ensure gender rules apply.
- Batting Out of Order:
  - If the error is discovered while the incorrect batter is hitting, then the correct batter will assume the ball/strike count of the incorrect batter.
    - If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has safely reached base, the incorrect batter will be called out, and all runners will return to their original base.
    - The opposing team must make the umpire aware of “batting out of order” before a pitch is thrown to the next batter. If it is not, then the incorrect batter will stay on base.
    - If a team starts the game with only three females and one of them gets hurt, they must play defense with only 9 players. However, when that player’s position in the batting order

comes up, they will not be forced to take an out. (RE-HIT)

#### Walked Batters:

- When the umpire has called four balls. The batter-runner is awarded first base
- **EFFECT:**
  - The ball is dead and runners may not advance unless forced.
  - If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, he may do so by notifying the plate Umpire who will award 1<sup>st</sup> base to the batter.
  - If two batters are to be walked intentionally, the second intentional walk may not be administered until the first batter reaches first base.
    - If the umpire mistakenly allows two walks at one time and the first batter fails to touch first base, no appeal will be honored on the first batter.
- **CO-ED:**
  - The ball is dead. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award, if the next batter is a female.
  - A walk to a male batter with a male batter following will only result in 1 base award.
- **EXCEPTION**
  - **WITH TWO OUTS, THE FEMALE BATTER HAS THE OPTION TO WALK OR BAT.**
    - Should the female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out will be called during this dead ball period.



- A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base will be called out if properly appealed.

### Home Run Rule

- Fenced Fields
  - Each team will be allowed 3 home runs per game for all leagues. Any ball hit over the fence after the 3<sup>rd</sup> HR will be declared an out.
  - After hitting a homerun over the fence, the batter does have to run and touch first base only, but does not have to touch any other base unless they choose to do so. All runners on base at the time of the homerun have to circle the bases and touch home plate.

### Infield Fly

- Infield fly is in effect with less than 2 outs and runners on first and second base or bases loaded.
- Any pop-up which would be a routine play for an average fielder hit in or near the infield will result in an automatic out, if the ball is fair.
- Runners may advance at their own risk.

### Courtesy/Pinch Runners

- Courtesy runners are limited to INJURED Players ONLY. If you hit you must run. If player needs an injury substitute it must be the last out and same gender. There is no limit but player must be injured, we will monitor teams abusing this rule.

## **Spirit of The Game**

This is the most important rule in ADULT RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE SPORTS. Competitive play is important, but never at the expense of following the rules, respecting other players, respecting the bar/facility, and having fun!

## **Playoffs**

1. The playoffs begin the week after all regular season games have been played.
2. The top four teams with the best records will advance to the playoff rounds.
  - a. Additional teams may be added to the playoffs for larger sized leagues.
3. Tie-breakers will be decided as follows:
  - a. Total standing points
  - b. Point Differential
  - c. Head To head
  - d. Coin Toss