



UPPER MERION PARKS AND RECREATION

2023 CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES

1. At least three women must be in the field and bat at all times. Teams can play with two women, but there will be one less player in the field and an automatic out given to the third woman's spot in the batting order. Each team must have eight players to start a game.
2. Each game is seven innings long, and if shortened due to inclement weather, 4 full innings constitutes a legal game. Games not considered regulation will be replayed from the start. If a game ends in a tie and extra innings cannot be played due to darkness, rain, etc., the game will be suspended and played from the point where the game left off. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time in case of darkness, rain, fire, panic or any other cause that places players in peril. In addition, if both team captains come to an agreement that field conditions are unsafe, games may be called and rescheduled.
3. In the event of inclement weather, we will strive to call games by 4 pm – but decisions may be made at a later time, if weather conditions change closer to game time. Captains will be notified.
4. All regular season games start at 6:30pm sharp, forfeit time is 15 minutes. If both teams fail to show, it will be recorded as a double forfeit.
 - **Playoff games will start at 6:15pm sharp.** A playoff game called because of darkness will be suspended and re-played where the game was left off.
5. Home team is listed second (Away vs. Home) and must provide game balls. Home team warms up from 6-6:15pm. Visiting team warms up from 6:15-6:30pm.
6. Both captains must notify Dennis Rudzinski of the results of your game within 24 hours of the game (drudzinski@umtownship.org). Failure to do so could result in forfeiting the game.
7. In case of emergency, call 911 or ambulance 610-265-3232
8. Non-rostered players CANNOT participate in a game. This is a **SERIOUS** offense and will result in forfeiture of the game, as well as removal of the team from the league without a refund.
9. Captains are responsible for their team and fan behavior. No alcohol, littering, abusive language, or loitering will be tolerated at the game sites. Any of these violations may result in police fines and/or removal from the league without a refund. All players and fans are responsible for following School District and Upper Merion Township park ordinances.
10. All protests or problems should be remedied if possible on the spot between the team captains and the umpire. If the matter cannot be rectified, protests should be submitted to the league director in writing within 24 hours of the incident. The decision of the league director is final in all cases.
11. Players must play in at least 3 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.
12. Teams who cannot play their scheduled game must notify the league director and the other team captain by no later than 1pm on the day of the scheduled game. Teams who forfeit more than 3 games in a season will be removed from the league without a refund.
13. **EQUIPMENT:**
 - Balls are provided to each team, please use only these as your game balls
 - Bats – see LEGAL BAT LIST. NO FAST PITCH BATS. Only these bats may be used, no exceptions.
First offense - An illegal use of a bat will result in a one game suspension of player and forfeit for the team. **Second offense** - will result in dismissal of team from the league without a refund.
 - Catcher's mask and pitcher's headgear strongly recommended.
 - No metal spikes. Players found to be wearing metal spikes, will be ejected from the game. A

- second offense will result in the players dismissal from the league.
 - Teams are required to have first-aid kits
 - Numbered/similar-colored shirts are preferred
14. Walking a guy in front of a girl gives the batting team the option to walk or bat.
 15. Method of Pitching: underhand slow pitch with an arc of 6 to 12 feet.
 16. If there is a close play at the base, the runner must slide or surrender to avoid collision or give himself up by running completely out of the play. **Colliding and/or sliding into a player** with the ball will **automatically be called out, with ejection from the game.** If the defensive player forces a runner to slide when there is actually no play, the runner will be awarded an extra base.
 17. Ten runs maximum per inning per team. Once ten-run limit is reached, the inning is concluded. No runs beyond 10 will be awarded per inning.
 18. ASA Re-entry Rule: Starting player may be substituted for or replaced and re-entered once, provided the players occupy their same batting position in the batting order.
 19. Extra hitters allowed: Extra hitter must be designated prior to each inning. If no extra hitter is used one cannot be inserted into the line-up after one complete rotation of the line up. An extra hitter is allowed even if there are only 2 female players in the batting order. If using 2 Extra hitters, one must be female. A third extra hitter is allowed, so long as the above requirements (of 1 male and 1 female) are satisfied. The third extra hitter can be male or female.
 20. 10-run mercy rule applies after five innings.
 21. **Minimum 35-foot outfielder distance rule**- Outfielders must remain at least 35-feet behind the bases until the pitch crosses the plate (teams may have a maximum of 5 infielders not including pitcher and catcher, all other players must adhere to the 35-foot outfielder distance rule). There will be a dashed line in the outfield marking the 35-foot distance. If the line is not visible cones will be available in the field boxes to mark the 35 ft on the foul lines. If a ball is hit in play and an outfielder is deemed to have not been a minimum of 35 feet behind the bases, then the play should be finished to completion. After the play has ended, the batting player will have the option to consider the pitch illegal or take the end result of the play (single, double, etc.). Any pitch thrown that is not put in play while outfielder is deemed to have not been a minimum of 35 feet behind the bases, will be considered illegal and result in a ball.
 22. 65-foot base distance; 50-foot pitchers' rubber
 23. Only the last recorded out (no matter whether the last recorded out is male or female) can be designated a pinch runner. Maximum 4 pinch runners per game. You may use multiple pinch runners per inning, so long as the max of 4 pinch runners per game has not been reached.
 24. No bunting, No chopping. The rule for runner – base runner can leave the bag when the ball has contact with the bat. A base runner who takes a reactionary step towards the next bag will not be called out; more than one step will result in the runner being called out.
 25. UMPR **WILL** start each batter with **a 0-0 count.** **If a player hits a foul ball on the third strike, it will be considered a strikeout.**
 26. Softball Strike-zone Mats are required and will be provided in the field boxes. The mat will be placed no more than 3 inches behind the plate. Any legal pitch that the umpire deems to have hit the mat or the dirt in between the mat and plate will be called a strike. **The plate is not considered a strike, however, if the ball hits the black rubber behind the plate, the pitch will also be called a strike.**
 27. ASA softball rules apply in any cases other than the previously noted.

Bob Holland Ground Rules

1. Left field ground rule: Any ball hit in the air past the walking path in left field and to the left of the first telephone pole in center field: will be considered a Ground Rule Double. Any ball that lands in front of the walking path then rolls down the hill will be considered "all you can get". The walking path in center field and right field don't have any downward hills behind them and are a lot further distance, so it is "all you can get" to the right of the telephone pole in center and right field. The area discussed above is marked on the below gps image of the Bob Holland field. Any judgement on where the hill ends in left field will be up to the umpires discretion.
2. First base line hill: Any ball that goes onto the hill in foul territory along the first base line will be deemed as out of play/dead ball. If a ball is hit fair and roles onto the hill it will be considered a ground rule double. A ball that is overthrown and lands on the hill will be considered out of play and any runners will be awarded 2 bases from the base last legally touched at the time of the throw.



Bob White Ground Rules

1. Playground ground rule: Any ball hit into fair territory (including the playground) is “all you can get”.

