

Co-Ed Adult Softball League Rules and Guidelines
Established by the Alton Parks and Recreation Softball League Board of Directors
875-0109, parksrec@alton.nh.gov; Revised April 5, 2018

Co-Ed League- All teams must have a minimum of three women playing (based on 10 positions) in the game at all times. If there are not 3 women, then the team will play with 8 participants, with at least 2 women and 6 men playing at all times; the empty positions will remain open in the field, and the missing woman's position will be an automatic out in the batting order.

➤ **10 players:**

At least 3 women and maximum 7 men

➤ **8 players:**

At least 2 women and maximum 6 men

- **12 batters is an option:** A team may place 12 batters in the batting order. Of these 12, any 10 players can field as long as 3 are women- the two extras batters are to be one male and one female. A team may not place 11 batters in the batting order. If one of the 12 players is injured and cannot play, they are an automatic out in the batting order, (unless a legal substitution can be made from the bench, that maintains the 4 woman minimum). Someone that has left the game from a different part of the batting order cannot come back into the game for the injured player, (thus putting them back into the game at a different spot in the batting order).

Team Rosters- Team coaches will submit a team roster, each player's signed waiver form and a signed Player's Contract, and a copy of a government issued photo id for each **new** player by the **June 11, 2018** roster deadline to the Parks and Recreation office, the absolute final day to get rostered players/subs signed up is June 22, 2018. Coaches will submit the balance of the registration fee, \$150.00 by May 1, 2018. Registration is \$450 per team.

Season Schedule- The season will run June 18 through August 18, 2018, weather permitting. Games will be Mondays-Thursdays. Make up games are scheduled for ACS but may be scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays if needed, please plan accordingly. The season finals are scheduled for August 6-18, 2018 with games as listed on the schedule. In the result of a tie for any place, places will be determined in the following order: (1) Head to Head Record, (2) Runs scored against that same opponent, (3) Flip Coin. The team with the better record will have the field choice for the post-season play. The five teams will be eligible for the playoffs.

Game Time- Game Time is a hard start at 6:15pm. Line ups will be submitted by 6:10pm sharp. Players may not appear on the line up if they are not physically present on the field. During playoffs the time schedule will revert 15 minutes prior (Example: Line ups submitted by 5:55pm, game time 6:00pm). When the umpire says, "Play Ball", no late player, or penalty player, may enter the game until the start of the new inning after they arrive. Please note *if two teams do not have enough players to have a game, they can still scrimmage each other but each team takes a loss in the standings. If Team 1 has only 1 female arrive, they can avoid a forfeit if a League rostered woman from another team is at the field before the grace period expires. She can play for Team 1 to avoid the forfeit, but Team 1 will still play under the 2 woman penalty; if a woman player from Team 1 eventually shows up, the substitute League rostered woman will come out of the game. The use of another team's rostered player is only permitted to meet the minimum number of woman as to not cause a forfeit.

Substitutes- In order to play in regular scheduled games, subs need to be included on the roster at the beginning of the season by the **June 22, 2018** deadline. All subs must fill out and sign the registration packet and submit an id copy.

Umpire- Paid umpires will be hired to officiate league games. Teams are encouraged to provide umpires to the pool of officials. Teams not in the playoffs are asked to please assist with supplying umpires for the finals. A paid umpire needs to be an official Town employee prior to officiating the game.

Inclement Weather- Players will show up at the field ready to play. The umpire will determine a rain cancellation at the field. If the game is cancelled, the coaches will choose a new game date at the field, with their teams and the umpire present. The umpire may cancel the game ahead of time; if playing conditions are obviously not safe (it's pouring rain and has been raining for 2 days). If the game is cancelled, the rescheduled game will be planned for one of the next 3 days the two teams have off in common, if the teams can not agree on the make up date, the umpire will choose the make up game date.

Tobacco and Alcohol Use- NO SMOKING AT ANY TIME. The Parks and Recreation Commission promotes a clean, safe and drug free environment at all fields used for games; smoking is prohibited on all school property to include the playing fields and parking lots. Alcohol is prohibited on Town and School property at all times. Players who choose to drink alcohol at games will immediately be dismissed from the league.

Team Records- The umpire will send the score to the official recorder after each game.

Equipment- All bats must be approved and stickered by the designated official bat person (Rob Glidden or Luke LaFreniere), at least one week before the season starts, and if a bat is purchased later in the season, it must be approved before bringing it to the field for use. Game Balls used will be 52 core 300 compression; 52/300.

The official bat in ASA Championship Play must meet all of the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1 and:

1. must bear **either** the ASA approved 2000 certification mark **or the ASA 2004 certification mark** as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA non approved list, **and**



2. must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office;
or
3. must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.

League approved softball bats only. See ASA website for complete list. Bats must have the ASA 2000 or 2004 certification mark and must not be listed on an ASA's most recent (as of April 2015) non approved bats with certification marks (2000, 2004) list- please check the ASA website often for updates as the list may change during the season. Teams will supply their own bats, balls, gloves and water. Game balls used will be Evil Sports .52 300 Ball. Teams will be issued game balls by the League. Home team supplies 2 balls per game. **The Parks and Recreation Department strongly recommends that all catchers and pitchers wear**

a mask in order to prevent facial injuries; if a mask is not worn players do so at their own risk. It is also strongly recommended that pitchers wear a heart guard protective shirt.

Game Rules:

- Three fouls is an out;
- Foul on third strike is an out;
- No leading, no stealing and no bunting; bunting is allowed by female players only.
- In lieu of sliding- all players must attempt to avoid contact with base players when running the bases- if a player is intending to injure, the player will be immediately ejected from the game, all contact either accidental or intended will be determined by the umpire;
- No metal cleats/spikes; any player found in violation of this rule will be immediately ejected from the game, a second violation of the rule is dismissal from the league;
- The home base mat that sits over home plate will be painted with the “home plate” outline, this limits the size of home plate to its actual size and runners will no longer be safe when touching “any part” of the mat. Runners need to touch the area within the outlined home plate. The mat will be 2” wider and 1” longer to accommodate the better strike zone.
- 160’ from Home Plate is the fielding arc for female batters that cannot be crossed by all four outfielders until contact is made with the ball.
- Re-Entry- Players may re-enter a game after they have been substituted for as long as they re-enter in the same position in the batting order.
- The pitcher’s mound is 46’ from home plate at both fields.
- Pinch Runner- In the event of a need for a pinch runner, the batter of the same gender that made the last out shall be the pinch runner.
- Loss of Batter in line up- If a spot in the batting order is vacated by rule or injury and it can not be filled within the rules of the League it will become an out for that spot.
- **Ejection Rule**- If an umpire ejects a player from the game, the player will be penalized by not being able to play in the team’s following game. If the same player is ejected by an umpire a second time, the player will be terminated from the League based upon the Board of Director’s vote.

Intentional Walk- A pitcher may choose to intentionally walk a batter at any point of the at bat by giving verbal instructions to the umpire, with no need to throw any more pitches. This walk is treated as any other walk in the League.

Walking Co-Ed Rule- If a male batter is walked to first base and a female batter is next at bat, the male is awarded second base. The female can choose to walk or to hit before the next pitch is thrown.

Mercy Rule- If the Home team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 4.5 innings, the game is considered complete. If the Away team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the completion of the 5th inning, the game is considered complete.

Pitch- A legal pitch is *slow pitch softball, underhand- no windmill a 6’ minimum arc*. A mat will be used to determine the strike zone. If a pitched ball hits the mat, it is a strike. ***Pitchers mounds will be the same distance at all fields used.*** There is a ***batter’s box rule-*** it’s an invisible box do not step out of it; it will be called by umpire.

Field Maintenance- The home team is responsible for dragging the field after the game. Please pick up litter and debris in the dugouts and on the field after the game is over. The use of the field may be revoked if we do not provide Field Maintenance and remove all litter.

PARKING- The League requests that players and spectators park in the school parking lot and not along the road by the field. **Parking at the fields is at your own risk and the Town of Alton will not be responsible for any damage to parked vehicles, choose your parking space carefully.**

ACS Field- TREES- It will be the umpire's judgment in regard to tree interference. A tree can not make an uncatchable ball catchable. However, a caught ball by a stationed fielder, will be ruled a catch. Upon occasion, a foul ball or over thrown pitch during a regularly scheduled game, may accidentally cause damage to an Appleyard Lane resident's home/vehicle on property adjacent to the Alton Central School Field. If this happens the umpire will immediately document the incident (time, witnesses and damage) and contact the Alton Police Department so a Police Report is filed. Homeowners have 24 hours to contact the Alton Parks and Recreation Department to file a claim. Verified damage will be repaired at the expense of the Adult Softball League only to homeowners. **Players are advised to only park in the School Parking Lot, damage will not be covered to players/spectators vehicles.**

Home Run Rule and Dead Ball- At the start of each game, each team roster is allowed 3 Home Runs over the fence. Until BOTH teams reach 3 home runs over the fence, any additional balls hit over the fence will be an automatic out. Once BOTH teams have each hit 3 HR over the fence, they may hit a HR over the fence but never to be more than 1 HR ahead of the opposing teams total or it's an out. At Jones Field- a ball in flight that hits an AYBL foul pole is a dead ball and it will be a replay.