

2016 Los Alamos Softball League Rules

1. Umpire / Player Relations:

Both players and umpires are required to treat each other with respect and courtesy. Only the managers (or designated person) from each team are allowed to protest calls made by the umpire. Formal protests are filed with the League President. The President and other league officials will confer and decide whether to accept the protest or deny the protest. By accepting a protest, the league is acknowledging that a significant reversible mistake or incorrect rules interpretation was made by an umpire. If a protest is denied, it is due to the fact that the league board found that there was no significant mistake or rules misinterpretation. Umpire calls made in the field by an umpire are typically not reversible by the board.

Verbal threats of violence made against umpires are taken seriously and are prohibited. Threatening an umpire with violence will cause the player to be ejected from the game. The player may also be suspended from league play for a period of time determined by the league.

Assaulting or battering an umpire/league official will result in a player being banned from league play and the offending player's team may forfeit the remainder of the season. Legal action may be taken against the player.

Banned from league play also means the player is not allowed at the softball fields while the ban is in effect, regardless of whether the player's team is playing or not.

2. Penalties for players/coaches/managers ejected from games during one year are as follows:

1st offense: Player suspended for a 2 game period

2nd offense: Player is suspended for 365 days (which may carry into the next season)

3rd offense: Banned from the Los Alamos Softball League

If the player only has 1 offense at the end of the seasons (both regular & coed season) then that offense will be wiped clean for the following season. **Names of players that are suspended/banned will be distributed to all teams. If any team uses a suspended/banned player on their team, that team will forfeit their game.** Anyone who knows of a suspended/banned player being used for a game is asked to notify the league. This information will be kept confidential.

All players will only sign **ONE** roster. In the men's division, a player may play up but cannot play down to lower divisions (**unless approved by the opposing team**). We will be implementing the online roster at the softball league webpage (<http://www.conehed.net/softball/>). All teams must enter their rosters online. **This should be completed before the 3rd week of the season.** If you need assistance with this (obtaining a password, etc.), we will be glad to help you.

Seven players from your official roster are required to start an official game. Rostered players must be used, both defensively and offensively, before a sub can be used. A sub can only be used if you do not have enough of your own players for the game.

3. Time limit rules begin 55 minutes after completion of the coin toss. If teams are late, forfeit after 10 minutes; late team is visiting team if less than 10 minutes; first games start at 5:45 or 6:00 p.m.; allow for extenuating circumstances when teams travel between fields and are running late due to extra time or extra innings circumstances. Three warm-up pitches in the first inning only, or for a new pitcher; no other inter-inning warm-ups allowed. Games that are called in progress because of rain or darkness are considered complete after 4 innings.
4. If the visiting team is batting at the 55 minute mark, finish that half of the inning, go to next step; if the home team leads and is batting at the 55(+) min mark - game over - home team wins; if the home team trails at the 55 minute mark, finish the inning: the home team gets the lead - game over, home team wins. The home team trails and completes the inning (3 outs) game over, visiting team wins.

5. Game tied - go to another inning, if less than 60 minutes (after the extra inning/time, game will end in a tie); make sure the teams are hustling in and out - no delays, no warm up pitches to get the next inning going and finish as soon as possible (the 15 minutes between games are, partly, for these circumstances).
6. There is no cutting short at 45/50 minutes unless the run rules take effect - play up to the 55 minute time limit and use the above guidelines to determine the outcome; Mercy rule (men and women): 15 run lead after 4 innings played; 10 run lead after 5 innings played.
7. Home run limits:
 - Upper Division: 5 per team per game
 - Lower Division: 3 per team per game
 - All team home runs above the total allowed per game shall be called an out.
8. A home run towards the home run limit is one that flies over the fence without touching the ground or a player in the field of play. Runner will not have to touch a base just return to the dugout. Runners on base need not touch the next base. If a ball touches a player and then carries over the fence, it is a 4 base error and it does not count toward the home run limit. Home runs that hit the top of the fence and then bounce over the fence or hit the foul pole count toward the limit. Inside the park home runs do not count towards the limit.

XL:

The extended fence in right field must be cleared for a home run to be called. Consider it our version of the “green monster” from Fenway Park (if applicable).

9. Batting Line-up:

All players that show up for a game can bat in the line-up. This is different from the USSSA rule that says only 11 batters per team can bat in a game. Official players on your roster must play, defensively and offensively, before your subs.
10. Equipment:

Bats will not exceed 1.20 bpf. They must have the 2013 USSSA Thumb print.

Legal bats may be found at USSSA web site: <http://www.ussa.com/ussa/ussa-general/LegalBats.asp>. If the bat is not listed on the USSSA web site, it will be considered to be an illegal bat. Use of an illegal bat may involve suspension of up to one year from USSSA play. If you are not sure if your bat is legal, it is your responsibility to determine its status prior to using the bat.

Ball for the men’s league will be .40 / 325 compression or less. We will be using the “Classic M” balls. If you need additional balls, they can be purchased from League Treasurer at cost.

Ball for the women’s league will be .47 core / 500 compression or less.

If ANY team is suspected (umps decision) or caught doctoring a ball or using an illegal ball to gain an advantage, the umpire shall supply the balls for all remaining games of the season for the offending team (at the team’s expense).

There are additional penalties for using an illegal ball:

1. First offense – warning
2. Second offense – immediate forfeiture of game
3. Third offense – review by the league committee to determine if team should be removed from the league.

11. Roster / Number of Players:

If a minimum of 7 players from a team's roster are not present, the game shall be considered a forfeit. You may start a game with 7 players. Cancelling or rescheduling a game due to a "lack of players" will not be allowed. IF BOTH TEAMS are in agreement, a team may pick up extra players in order to field a team in order to prevent a forfeit. A team may loan another team players, or provide a catcher for the sake of having a game instead of a forfeit. If the game is being played for fun, and the forfeit taken by one of the teams, the umpire shall leave the field area. A rostered player may join a game in progress at any time.

12. Non-Contact Rule:

If there is a close play going to be made by a fielder on a runner as they are coming into a base or home plate, the runner is required to slide into the base or home plate or stop before the base/plate. This is also in effect for trying to break up a double play. Runners who deliberately try to deflect the ball being thrown to first or slide into the defensive player at second base will be called out, and the runner at first base may also be called out by the umpire if the umpire feels there was a reasonable chance that the double play would have been successful.

Players that intentionally try to injure another player or intentionally attempt to knock the fielder over during a play at a base or home plate will be called out and will be ejected from the game. Enforcement of this rule is up to the umpire's discretion. Additional administrative actions may result from the league, including suspension from league play.

13. Courtesy Runners:

Courtesy runners shall be allowed for a batter that reaches base safely. To have some type of fairness for the fielding team, the courtesy runner must be the player from the batting team who made the last out. A runner tagged out at a base or home plate does constitute the last out, even though the runner was not the batter. If more than one runner is needed, the out prior to the last out should be used. If a runner is needed early in the game and no outs have yet been recorded, the last batter in the lineup or the last batter available shall be used. There is no limit on courtesy runners.

14. Rained Out Games/Games Called for Darkness:

Games that are cancelled will be made up on Fridays when possible. Games that are called in progress because of rain or darkness shall be considered completed after 4 complete innings have been played, and will not be rescheduled. Games that are forfeited will not be rescheduled.

15. Clean Dugouts:

Pick up all trash from your dugout and bleacher area after each game. If trash is left behind, the Los Alamos County will charge a \$60 fee to the team responsible.

16. Field Closures

Notice of field closures will be decided by Kimberly Trujillo (or LA County Parks and Recreation). Field conditions can be determined by calling 662-8159 after 3:30 p.m. If we find out that the fields will be closed, we will send an e-mail to the coaches. It is the coach's responsibility to notify his/her team of the cancellation.