

2017 Dennis Township Adult Co-ed Softball Rules

1. **Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the grounds of the Dennis Township Recreation Complex. Any player who consumes alcohol on the premises will be suspended for the remainder of the season and additional sanctions may be applied.**
2. The umpires' decisions are final. Abuse or harassment of the umpires is entirely inappropriate and runs counter to the spirit of the league. Individuals who engage in such conduct will be asked to leave the premises.
3. The league is for adults, ages 18 or older as of **9/01/17**. Roster size is limited to 20 players. Completed rosters must be turned in before first game. Deadline to add additional players is **9/15/17**. No players may be added after this date. Only players listed on the official rosters kept at the rec office will be considered legal players for the remainder of the season.
4. Once a player plays for a team he/she is a member of that team and may not play for another team that season.
5. In order to be eligible for the playoffs, a player must have competed in at least 4 regular season games.
6. A team consists of 10 players, 5 men and 5 women. Men and women can play any position defensively.
 - a. At no time will more than 5 men or 5 women be permitted to play in the field.
 - b. A team may start a game with a minimum of 9 players, of which 4 must be women.
 - c. If a team starts with less than 10 players and a player arrives late, that player may enter the game immediately but must occupy the last spot in the batting order.
7. Games will consist of seven innings. Mercy rule – game ends if a team is up by 20 runs after three innings, 15 runs after four innings or 10 runs after five innings.
8. A team will forfeit if not ready to start at scheduled time. Fifteen minute grace period for the first game only.
9. Men and women must alternate in the batting order. No team may have a situation where the same sex hits back to back without taking an out between them (this rule also applies if a team only has nine players).
10. Extra Hitter – teams are allowed up to 2 extra hitters (one male, one female) or none at all.
11. All batters will begin with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike. Once the batter has 2 strikes, he/she must put the next batted ball in fair play or it will be an out. Female batters will be allowed one foul ball after 2 strikes.
12. The batter is out if he/she intentionally bunts.
13. Intentional Walks – if a team chooses to intentionally walk a batter, they may waive the pitches and the batter may advance directly to first base.
14. If a male batter walks, this is a 2 base award. With less than 2 outs the female must bat. With 2 outs the female has the option of hitting or receiving a walk. The female must make her intentions known prior to stepping into the batter's box.
15. One courtesy runner, per sex, per inning. See ASA rule book.
16. When a female is batting, outfielders must be behind designated line (170' from home plate) until contact is made. Penalty for violation is batter is awarded first base and all runners advance one base.
17. Male batters can only use Non-Composite ASA approved bats. Please note that no part of the bat can be made with composite material (this includes the handle). Females may use composite bats but bat must be marked with fluorescent tape so that it is easily identifiable. Using an illegal bat (including an unmarked composite bat) will result in immediate ejection from the game and removal from the league.
18. Rubber spiked shoes (Soccer Style) will be permitted for use. Shoes with metal cleats are illegal.
19. Base Runners – must avoid contact with the infielders but may not leave the baseline to avoid a tag. First baseman must use white base only or runner is safe.
20. There will be 2 home plates. Defense uses the regular home plate and offense uses the orange home plate. If a player touches the regular home plate they will be called out. All plays at home plate are force plays.
21. Runner on third has option (for safety reasons) to step into foul territory (coaches box). Runner must go back and tag bag before they advance on any play.
22. A commit line will be established 20' from third base. If a runner passes this line, they must go home and are not permitted to return to third base. If they do, they will be called out.
23. Pitchers must use a slow-pitch 6' to 10' arc and make contact with the mat or home plate for it to be a strike.
24. Teams are permitted to use a fifth infielder for male batters only.
25. If a team forfeits, forfeiting team pays the complete umpire fee. Three forfeits by a team will result in dismissal from the league.
26. Line up cards must be filled out (legibly and accurately) for each game. A copy of signed card must be turned into the umpire before the start of the game. Scorebooks (legibly and accurately) must be kept for each game as well.

****For 6:00 PM Games – If you need to cancel/forfeit, you must call Heidi (609-780-2660) by 4:00 PM. If later than 4:00 PM, team canceling will pay the umpire fee for both teams.**