

Unified Softball Rules and Regulations

Springdale Parks and Recreation



Teams

- Unified teams must have an even number of Special Olympic Athletes (SOA) and partners playing in the field.
 - Teams may field ten (10) players at a time and bat twelve (12) in their line-up.
 - Three (3) SOAs and three (3) partners in the infield, two (2) SOAs and two (2) partners in the outfield.
 - If a partner is pitching, a SOA must catch. If a SOA is pitching, a partner must catch.
 - The batting line-up must be organized as alternating between a SOA and a partner. Example: SOA, partner, SOA, partner, etc.
 - If a partner is walked and there are less than two (2) outs, the partner advances to second base. If there are two (2) outs and a partner is walked, the partner advances to second base and the coach has the option to have the next SOA up to bat either take first base or step up to bat.
- All players must be 16 years or older to participate.
 - If under the age of 18, players must have a parent/guardian sign a waiver/permission slip before they may participate.
- All partners that intend to play in the post-season tournament, must have played at least four (4) games during the league play.

Game

- Games will consist of seven (7) innings with a fifty (50) minute time limit, whichever comes first.
- Run Rule: fifteen (15) runs after the 3rd inning, or ten (10) runs after the 5th inning.
 - For Lower Division: there will be a six (6) run limit per inning.

Partners

- Partners will serve as both mentors and role models throughout the competition.
- Dominant play by a partner is not permitted. SOAs must be allowed to play their position. This will be called at the discretion of the umpire.
- Partners may only advance to 1st base on a hit ball when they are up to bat.
- At no time is it permissive to argue an umpire's call. Rule interpretations may be discussed, but only by the head coach.
- Any SOA or partner demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct will be ejected from the game and asked to leave the playing area.

Substitutes

- All substitutes must be partner for partner or SOA for SOA. This substitution also applies for pinch runners.

Equipment

- A .52 C.O.R. with 275 compression NSA softball will be used for games.
 - Game balls will be provided by the league.
- All bats must have a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20 or lower to be used in this league.
- SOAs in the Lower League must wear a protective face mask if they are to play the catcher position.
- For the Lower League only: if an SOA has two (2) strikes, he or she may choose to use a batting tee on their next pitches. It is not a requirement. SOAs may choose not to use the batting tee if they wish.
- NO METAL CLEATS! Only plastic or rubber cleats may be worn in this league.

Weather Policy

- In the case of inclement weather before or during the start time of the game, the game may be canceled.
- If games do get canceled, we will let you know the earliest make-up date possible.
- Games will not be rescheduled if teams are able to make it through the top half of the fourth (4th) inning and the home team is ahead, or through the bottom half of the fourth (4th) inning and either team is ahead. If these specifications are met, the game will be ruled as an official game.

Miscellaneous Items

- If a player is bleeding or has an open wound, he or she will be prohibited from playing until the bleeding has stopped or the wound has been treated.
- The referee, as well as any staff member, has the right to remove anyone from the playing field or end a game if he or she deems it necessary. Meaning be on your best behavior and stay safe