



2026 Rules

Line-Up

1. All players must be 18 years or over, as of the playing year.
2. Maximum 10 players on the field. Four (4) must be females.
3. Maximum of 12 batters on batting order (Not including subs) Subs are to be replaced once per game.
 - . Until a substitute has been made, the replacement player is unable to bat or field.
4. Once a sub has joined the game, the replaced player is unable to bat or field for the remainder of the game.
5. The 12 active players on the batting order may be moved freely in and out of the fielding position but must always take their proper turn batting.
6. No back-to-back female batters unless batting order consists of 6 or more females or the team is batting 6 males and 5 females.
7. 3 male batters in a row may occur only once per batting order. (This includes from the bottom to the top of the batting order)
8. The first extra batter can be male making the line up a maximum of 7 male batters to 4 female batters.
 - . The rule of 3 male batters in a row still applies in this scenario. (See Rule #7)
9. There can be no extra batter on an order when there is an auto-out.
10. Teams are permitted to add late players to the bottom of the order until the end of the 3rd inning, as long as Rule #6 and Rule #7 are abided to.
11. Teams unable to meet the minimum line-up requirements are still asked to arrive with however many players they have on time. The permits and umpire are paid for already, so we ask the field does not go to waste. Combine teams, have fun. Should a team choose to not show up, a fine of \$100 will be levied. This is to allow the league to cover the cost of the umpire and the permit. No wins are awarded to a team until all fines are paid. **THIS RULE SHOULD NEVER NEED TO BE USED!!**

WE PLAY STAMPEDE WEEK!! PLEASE MAKE PLANS ACCORDINGLY

12. A 15-minute grace period is allowed at the start of the game, after that the game will be forfeited.
 - . If you have 8 players, 2 of which are female, present at the scheduled game start time you **must** begin on time with no grace period. This would result in 2 auto outs. At any time, a female can replace an auto out upon her arrival. The rule of 3 male batters in a row still applies in this scenario. (See Rule #7)
13. When a team does not have the minimum number of players at game time, they will be forfeited. (Score will be reported as 10-0).
 - . If the team can field a team for the second game, the game will be played at the normally scheduled time unless both teams agree to start the second game earlier.

GAME PLAY

1. Game start times are 6:15PM and 7:45PM (Doubleheaders are played each night)
2. Game times are 1 hour & 15 minutes. There is no new inning after 1 hour.
3. All games are 7 innings unless a mercy occurs. (Time permitting)
4. Tie games result in 1 point being awarded to each team.
5. Winning team confirms score and inputs it into Crossbar within 24 hours.
6. Maximum of 5 runs per inning. The last inning is open.
7. If a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 5 or 6 innings, the game is over by mercy rule.
 - . SPN Catch up rule is in effect. (If a team is down by 15 or more in the 4th inning, they are allowed to score enough runs to stave off the mercy rule)
8. When a male batter walks with 4 or less pitches when followed by a female, the male batter takes 2nd base, and the female **must** bat.
9. Bunting is allowed by females only.
10. Bunting is never allowed when a pinch runner is being used for the batter.
11. Male batters will be called out if he intentionally bunts or chops the ball downward.
12. Once a batter chooses to bat right or left during an at bat, they are unable to change sides.
13. Strikes are called using a strike zone. Strike zone is defined as the **space over home plate** between the batter's armpit and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural batting stance.
14. Pitches must be between 6 to 12 feet.
 - . An umpire may call "Illegal" if the pitch is too low or too high. The batter may still choose to swing at an "Illegal" Pitch, which would result in a strike if the ball is hit foul or missed all together. (Third strike foul still applies)
15. **Home Run Rule-Maximum 4 male home runs per team.** Male batters are out if they hit a home run after maximum is reached. There is no plus one. An inside the park home run doesn't count toward the 4 as that would be considered a home run reached on error.
 - . Walk off home run rule in effect for both the batter and the runners on base.

BATTING TEAM RETRIEVES THE HOME RUN BALLS

16. Unlimited pinch runners can be used from first base only. If the runner advances beyond first base without an error on the play, a pinch runner is no longer allowed.
 - . Pinch Runners are available from home once per game, unless an injury has occurred, in which case the player can choose to continue batting with a pinch runner from home for the remainder of the game.
17. Pinch runners are always the same gender player who was last out.
18. The runner must run behind home plate when coming home. The catcher can make an out by touching home plate or making the tag before the runner crosses the line.
19. Tagging is allowed on all four bases to achieve an out.
20. Sliding is permitted on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Sliding is not permitted after the commitment line when coming home.
21. Commitment line will be indicated by the umpire prior to the game.
22. Teams may have a same gender battery. (Pitcher/Catcher)
23. Third strike foul is an out. Runners can tag up and run on a caught third strike foul.
 - . Players are not allowed to tag up on any caught out of play ball.
24. A caught foul tip results in an out, regardless of the count, or height of the tipped ball.
25. No stealing or leading off is permitted. Anticipation is up to the umpire's discretion.

GAME PLAY continued

26. 150' arc rule is in place for female batters. All outfielders, except for the rover, must stay beyond this arc until after the ball is hit.
 - . It is the responsibility of the female batter to inform the umpire of a fielding violation **before** the pitch is thrown.
27. Home team sets up the field. It is the home team's responsibility to ensure the field is set up on time. Both the home and away team are responsible for packing up the equipment and cleaning the benches.

Please leave the diamonds in better condition than you found them

28. Home Team supplies a game ball for each game. The visiting team is to supply an extra ball in good condition.
 - . Branding on the ball does not matter, (eg. SPN, Canada West) as long as the ball is a Worth Hot Dot .52 Core ball
29. **If a rule is not stated above, SPN rules apply.**

Any and all decisions made by an umpire are FINAL.

Only the captain/manager of the team shall address the umpire if any questions or concerns need to be addressed.

Equipment

1. All teams will be supplied with a box of balls and a score sheet. (To be picked up at Tuxedo Sports on Wednesday April 15th, 2026 from 4:00pm until 8:00pm).
 - . **GREAT SALES!! TELL YOUR WHOLE TEAM!!!**
2. Teams are responsible for their own bases. The equipment boxes at the diamonds are no longer maintained by us.
3. Facemasks for pitchers are mandatory.
4. No metal cleats.
5. All bats **MUST** have the USSSA Thumbprint to be legal. Any bat appearing on any banned list, regardless of if it contains the USSSA Thumbprint, will not be permitted.



Alcohol

1. Alcohol is not permitted on public City of Calgary Diamonds. Umpire may choose to remove any player who violates this rule.

Rain Outs (Inc. Air Quality Warnings)

1. Rain outs warnings will be decided no later than 4:00PM on game days. Managers will receive notification only after we decide. We will always try to play the games whenever possible. Rain outs will only occur if we, as a league, are sure the field will be unplayable at game time.
2. Mad Batters are not meteorologists; we will not know earlier in the day if the diamonds will be playable or not. Once we decide, we will notify the managers. (No reason to call or text us before 4:00pm. **As soon as we know, you will know.**)
3. On days when the league has decided to try and play, and the weather changes for the worse after 4:00PM, the umpire on the diamond will make the final decision on whether or not the games are rained out. On days such as this, it is up to each team to make sure they have their team present and ready to play to prevent them from forfeiting their games.
4. Once a rain out is announced at 4:00PM, the games will be rescheduled. Never will the league change their mind after a rain out is announced and expect teams to show up on the diamonds that same night.
5. Make-up games are played on off nights (Commonly Thursdays and Sundays). We will give as much notice as possible to the teams, so they have a chance to notify their players.

Playoff Tournament *Included in your fees*

Playoff tournament is scheduled for August 7th to 9th, 2026 in Carseland at the Centennial Diamonds. The League's Champions are crowned at this tournament who will then have their City Championship fees subsidized by the league.

Beer Gardens, concessions, and camping (Last year, it was \$20.00/unit for the weekend) and free showers are all available at the Carseland Diamond Facility.

Let's have a great and fun 2026 Season!!!!

These rules can be found on the Softball Calgary Website if reference is required during gameplay.

<https://www.softballcalgary.com/leagues/mad-batters/18496>