



## CITY OF KETTERING

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

### 2025 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE GENERAL RULES

1. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department will remain the final authority on all matters pertaining to this program and reserves the right to arrange teams and leagues for the purpose of the parity, or alter rules to ensure fair and safe play.
2. If a rule is not specifically addressed below, WSL rules are the default. Rules and regulations not covered in the Official WSL rulebook or in these rules will be considered judgement calls of the officials and not subject to approval.
3. All games will be played on the property of the City of Kettering. All rules and regulations pertaining to the City of Kettering will be observed and enforced. **Absolutely no smoking or alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the buildings or parks. This includes parking lots.**
4. **Captain/Manager Responsibilities:** The cpt./manager of a team is responsible for the conduct of their player's before, during and after the game; until they leave the premises. Failure to comply with the rules will subject the offender, captain/manager to disciplinary action. Cpt./manger is responsible for communicating schedule to team.
  - a. **The manager is the only person allowed to discuss a play situation with the umpire.**
  - b. It is the responsibility of the manager to know, understand, and follow the league rules.
  - c. It is the responsibility of the managers to check [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org), in regards to field conditions any time after 3 p.m. Monday – Friday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. The league supervisor, along with the maintenance crew, will determine conditions of the field before the game. In the absence of the supervisor, the umpires will determine field conditions.
  - d. Provide notice of forfeits in a timely manner, see rule #8 below
5. Only players, managers, coaches and scorekeepers are permitted in the dugouts. All players not on the field must remain behind the bench restraining lines, except base coaches and the batter on deck. No spectators in the dugout.
6. **Removal and Suspension:** Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct, including the use of profane language may cause the removal of the offending player by the official. Continued abuse may cause dismissal from the league by the league supervisor. **Any player removed from a game will received a week suspension from all Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department operated games.**
  - a. Ex. If a player is removed from a game on Monday, they are not allowed to play again until the following Tuesday. Any player that is removed from *two* games during the season will be removed from all leagues without refund.
7. **5 minute grace period.** Players must be signed in and ready to play no later than 5 minutes past the game start time.
8. Two (2) forfeits during the season without twenty-four (24) hours' notice will justify suspension of the team without refund, from the league. Notice of forfeit must be given to the Office of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department, to **both** the Adult Sports Coordinator and Sports Supervisor, via email, phone call or voicemail. ([sam.sharp@ketteringoh.org](mailto:sam.sharp@ketteringoh.org), [reed.gibson@ketteringoh.org](mailto:reed.gibson@ketteringoh.org)) (937-296-3331, 937-296-3344). Forfeit of designated make-up games will also be counted.
9. Postponed games will be rescheduled by the League Supervisor. All incomplete games due to weather or circumstances beyond our control will be played from point of suspension. A called game will be regulation if 4 innings have been played or if the game is in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> with the home team winning.
10. Rescheduled games will be played later in the season (potentially as double-headers). Leagues that experience excessive rained out games may have to play make-up games on an alternative day than normal, including Saturdays.

11. **Protests** must be made by the manager of the protesting team to the umpire before the next pitch is made to the batter, or infielders have left fair territory, and the umpire must make the proper entry on the score card. Written protests must be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department, 2900 Glengarry Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45420, within 24 hours or the next working day, accompanied by a \$50 protest fee, which will be returned if the protest is permitted. The protest will be decided by the Adult League Coordinator and the Sports Supervisor. Protest of ineligible players must be made by the second inning that they play.

## 2025 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

1. All teams must be World Sports League (WSL) sanctioned. This is included in your league fees. If already sanctioned through another league or for tournaments, the exact team name must remain the same. Once sanctioned; each team receives one WSL rulebook and scorebook. It is good for the year.
2. **Rosters:** a “rough draft” of your roster is **due at or before your first game**, but players may be added/dropped to the roster until the **third game** of the regular season (exceptions must be approved by sports supervisor).
  - Failure to turn in a roster at the first game at the game site will result in a forfeit of the first game.
  - It is the captains’ responsibility to have all players’ names and signatures on the roster BEFORE a player participates in a game. Players cannot play until they have signed the roster.
  - **Roster maximum is 20 players.** Contact the Adult Sports Coordinator if you need to add more players.
  - No player may play on more than one team in the same league except for emergencies in the Sr. League.
  - All substitute players will need to be listed on the roster. Please designate a back-up manager on your roster. The team manager is responsible for the accuracy of the team roster. The cpt./manager should list their home and business telephone number.
  - All players should carry identification to games. Players are subject to an ID check at every game.
3. **Ineligible Players:** Any team found to be playing with a player that is not on the roster will forfeit the game. Any person playing under an assumed name will be ineligible for play in and/or participation in Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts programs indefinitely. The team will forfeit all games played with an ineligible player and may be suspended from the league.
4. **No players under 18.** Age deadline is date of first game. All players must be out of high school
5. **Men’s teams may field nine (9) players at the start of the game with no penalty.** If a team fails to field at least 9 players at game time, they must forfeit. If a player is injured during a game and the number of players’ drops to eight and the team has no substitute for that player, an out will be declared when their position comes up in the lineup. Teams participating in Kettering Men’s Softball leagues may include up to but not exceeding two non-male players on their rosters.
6. **Co-ed teams must field a minimum of five females at all times.** Co-ed teams may field nine (9) players at the start of the game with no penalty. If a player is injured during a game and the number of players’ drops to eight and the team has no substitute for that player, an out will be declared when their position comes up in the lineup.

## 2025 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE EQUIPMENT RULES

1. All players must wear a shirt, pants (or shorts) and closed toe shoes that can be tied, strapped, or attached with Velcro (Crocs & slides/flip flops are prohibited). **NO STEEL SPIKES** of any kind are allowed. Any players caught with steel spikes after a team warning will be ejected.
2. All leagues will be played using **12” balls**. Game balls are supplied by The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. Balls should be returned to the league supervisor.
  - a. It is the batting team’s responsibility to retrieve home runs and foul balls
3. The performance standard for all non-wooden bats will be a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20. Only 240 bats are approved for WSL play as long as they comply with Bat Compression Testing guidelines. **Umpires will determine if bat is legal or not.**

## 2025 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE & SCORES

1. Game schedules and weather updates are posted online <https://www.playkettering.org/adult-softball/>
  - a. It is the manager’s responsibility to check their email and our website for any updates.
2. Scores will be updated weekly and available online at <https://www.playkettering.org/adult-softball>
3. Forfeits are scored 10-0

## 2025 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE GAME RULES (ALL Leagues)

1. All WSL rules apply to City leagues unless specified in the local rules above and below.
2. The **Flip-Flop Rule** will be used for all Leagues.
3. **Progressive 3 Home Run Rule**: There is a limit of 3 (over the fence) home runs per team in a game for all leagues. **After the third home run, the rule will go to progressive.**
  - Ex. Team A hits 3 homeruns and Team B hits 1, Team A is allowed to hit 1 more homerun still.
  - When a team exceeds the 3 homerun lead, the batter is out, runners cannot advance
  - The batter and runners are not required to run the bases on balls over the fence, but that team is required to retrieve the ball.
4. **Mercy/Run Rule**:
  - a. 20 or more run-differential after 3
  - b. 15 or more run-differential after 4 innings
  - c. 10 or more run-differential after 5 innings
5. **Runs per half inning**:
  - a. **Recreational/Church Level Leagues**: **5-run limit per half inning**. Last inning will be declared as an **“open inning”** by the umpire, no run limit will be applied for this inning.
  - b. **Competitive Level Leagues**: traditional rule in place, no run per half inning cap
6. **Pinch-Runners**: Each team is allowed 1 pinch-runner per inning, and another for the pitcher (2 possible)
7. **Runners *must* make an effort to avoid contact on plays at home plate**. Runners who are determined by the umpire to intentionally seek contact at home plate will be call out, and ejected from the game. See rule #6 on page 1 above for full explanation of ejections.
8. No new innings after 65 minutes. When a game is **tied at the end of 7 innings or a full inning after 55 minutes**, the international tiebreak rule will be used and all innings will be “open innings”. Each team will start with the one out and the last batter from the previous inning will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. *All other rules remain the same.*
9. A player assumes a count of one ball and one strike when he/she steps into the batter’s box. **No courtesy/free foul**
10. In the event of a tie in the standings (win %), league champs or seeding will be resolved by **tie breakers**, in order:
  - a. Head to head
  - b. Runs allowed
  - c. Coin flip
11. **“Digging” in the batter’s box is prohibited**. A warning will be given to players scratching in the batter’s box. The umpire may call the batter out if the scratching continues.
12. A defensive player may not intentionally block a base unless they are in possession of the ball.
13. There is no restriction on defense — free substitution. Example: A player may play first base for (2) innings, rest an inning, and then play third base an inning. However, a player must bat according to the lineup given to the scorekeeper.
14. All music shall be turned OFF once games have started. If the music is not turned off, the team will have one out to start the inning. If the music continues, the umpire can forfeit the game.

## 2025 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE CO-ED SPECIFIC RULES

1. A co-ed team may choose to play more females than five but may never drop below the minimum. If a team fails to field the specified players, they must forfeit the game. Co-ed teams must bat an alternating line up of males and females until all males have been used. The continuous batting rule allows for two or more female players to bat consecutively but at no time shall male players be allowed to bat consecutively; this includes the turnover of the batting lineup.
2. If a co-ed team starts a game with no more than 10 players they must finish the game with the same number of players. If a player is injured and leaves the game, an out will be called if no substitution is available to fill their position in the batting lineup
3. One male player & one female player on the roster in/or out of the batting lineup may be a courtesy runner for any one player of their gender in an inning. If the runner is in the active batting lineup and is on base as the runner and his/her turn at bat comes up that batting position will be declared an out. A pitcher can get a courtesy runner at any time if they were to get on base.
4. A 12" ball will be used for every batter
5. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat.
6. A 10-foot scoring line (scoring plate) will be used for baserunners to score. Runners are not permitted to touch home plate or go over home plate. Runner will be called out if they touch home plate instead of the scoring plate. The commitment line is 20 feet from home plate and will be enforced. The defense must touch home plate to record an out at home. Tagging the runner is not permitted. **Runners MUST avoid contact with the catcher.**

## 2025 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE SENIOR SPECIFIC RULES

1. Teams may play with a maximum of eleven (11) defensive players and a minimum of nine (9). If fewer than nine (9) players show up, the game will be a forfeit. A team with 9 or 10 players may borrow players to make 11. The team borrowing the player will give notice to the opposing manager as soon as they are able to and the borrowed player must be approved by the opposing manager. *Borrowed players may play anywhere in the field and but must bat last in the order.* A forfeited game may be played for fun, but the forfeit stands.
2. League games consist of 7 innings. The half inning will be over when the offensive team has scored 5 runs. There is no limit of how many runs can be scored in the last inning by either team (Last inning is an open-inning).
3. No run rule. No new innings after 75 minutes.
4. Each player can act as a courtesy runner only once per inning. The penalty for attempting to act as a courtesy runner more than once in one inning is an automatic out for that runner. If a courtesy runner is on base when it's his turn to bat, he will be out as a base runner but will take his turn at bat. A courtesy runner cannot be replaced by another courtesy runner. If he is the 3rd out, then he will bat first the next inning unless injured.
5. A runner must touch the "scoring plate" before the defensive player in possession of the ball touches "home plate." The runner will be automatically out if he touches "home plate."
6. A strike mat will be used at home plate. The mat and any part of home plate will be a strike, providing that the pitch is within the 6-12' height zone.
7. In the event of a tie in the standings (win %), league champs or seeding will resolved by **tie breakers**, in order:
  - a. Head to head
  - b. runs allowed
  - c. coin flip
8. A player assumes a count of zero balls and zero strikes when he/she steps into the batter's box. **No courtesy/free foul**
9. Pitching screen needs to be centered with home plate and cannot be moved for specific batters. Screen edge needs to be centered with the pitching rubber. RH pitcher, screen is to the left and for a LH pitcher the screen is to the right. The screen should only be moved if a new pitcher takes over on the mound. Pitchers are required to stand behind pitching screen while pitching for own safety. Umpires will enforce and issue reminders as needed.