



# Somerville Adult Softball League

---

## Official League Rulebook

### 1. General Information

- League Format: Regular season followed by playoffs.
- Game Length: 7 innings, unless extra innings are needed.
- Equipment: This is a wood bat only league. Metal, composite, and hybrid bats are not permitted.

### 2. Basic Softball Rules

The league generally follows ASA/USA Softball rules with the following highlights and exceptions:

- Team Lineup: A team must have at least 8 players to start a game.
- Teams may bat up to the full roster and use defensive substitutions freely.
- Base Running: No leading or stealing bases. Runners may leave the base once the ball is hit.
- Pitching: Underhand slow-pitch style is required. The arc must be between 6–12 feet from the ground.
- Field Dimensions: Standard softball dimensions are used

### 3. League-Specific Rules

- Mercy Rule:
  - If a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 5 innings, the game will be called.
  - If a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 6 innings, the game will be called.
- Tree Rule: A ball caught off a tree in the field of play is considered an out.
- Pitcher Rule: A team may designate a non-hitting pitcher before the game starts. This pitcher will not bat and cannot be added into the batting lineup mid-game.
- Pinch Runner: A pinch runner may be used, but the last recorded out must serve as the pinch runner.

### 4. Lineup & Batting Policies

- Any player who plays in the field must also be in the batting lineup.
- Once a player enters the batting order, they must bat for the entire game unless:
  - They are injured, or
  - They are replaced by a pinch hitter. A player who is pinch hit for may not re-enter the game.

### 5. Player Eligibility

- All players must be registered online through Somerville Parks & Recreation before participating in a game.
- To register:

1. Visit [somervillerec.com](http://somervillerec.com)
  2. Create an account
  3. Navigate to Register → Programs → Adult Softball League
  4. Follow the prompts to complete registration
- Players must appear in at least 50% of their team's regular season games to qualify for playoff eligibility.
  - For help with registration, contact the League Commissioner.

## **6. Forfeits & Conduct**

- If your team forfeits a game, you are responsible for paying the umpire fees for both teams before your next scheduled game.
- Any team that forfeits two consecutive games will be removed from the league.
- Disrespectful behavior, arguing with umpires, or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and may result in suspension or removal from the league.
- Physical altercations will result in a full season suspension for anyone involved.

## **7. Playoffs**

- The number of teams that qualify for the playoffs varies by season and will be explained to all teams before the start of the season.
- Teams that are tied in the standings will be seeded using the following criteria:
  1. Head-to-head results
  2. If multiple teams are tied with no clear winner in head-to-head, seeding will be determined by run differential.
- Playoff brackets are based on the number of qualifying teams. If 6 teams qualify, the 1st and 2nd seeds will receive first-round byes.
- The playoff bracket is fixed once set and will not be reseeded between rounds.

## **8. League Ground Rules**

- The league has specific home run and ground-rule double rules.
- These rules will be explained to team managers on the first day of games.

## **9. Communication**

- All official communication regarding weather cancellations, schedule updates, and league matters will come from the League Commissioner.
- Questions, registration help, or concerns should be directed to the Commissioner directly.