



Hyland Hills Adult Slow Pitch Softball League Rules (Updated March 2026)

Governing Rules

All games will be played under the USA Softball Official Playing Rules unless otherwise noted in these Hyland Hills league rules. Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation reserves the right to interpret or modify rules as necessary for recreational league play.

Equipment

- **Bats:** Must display a USA Softball, USSSA, or ASA certification mark and must not appear on the USA Softball non-approved bat list. Maximum: 34 inches, 38 ounces, 2.25" barrel diameter. Altered bats are not permitted.
- **Softballs:** 12-inch slow pitch softballs meeting USA Softball standards.
- **Gloves:** Permitted for all defensive players.
- **Protective Equipment:** Optional but allowed.
- **Footwear:** Closed-toe shoes are required at all times while participating in games. Metal cleats are not permitted.
- **Jewelry:** Removal of jewelry is strongly encouraged during games for safety reasons. If an umpire or Hyland Hills staff member determines that jewelry presents a safety hazard, the player may be asked to remove it before continuing play.

Playing Field

Games are played at **Hyland Hills Sports Complex**.

- **Base Paths:** 70ft
- **Pitching Distance:** 50ft
- **Bases:** Standard 15-inch bases
- **Home Plate:** Standard home plate with strike mat/plate used to determine the strike zone.

Teams and Lineups

- Teams may have a minimum of 8 and up to 20 players on their roster, including substitutes. However, only 12 players from the team's roster may participate in any given game.
- 10 defensive players on the field.
- A team may start a game with a minimum of 8 players. Teams with fewer than 10 players may still begin play but must meet the minimum player requirement.
- Teams may bat up to 12 players in the lineup.
- **Coed Divisions (E Rec & D Rec):** Teams must use a male/female alternating batting order whenever possible. Two female players may bat consecutively if necessary.

Game Length and Run Rules

Regulation Game

- A regulation game will consist of 7 innings or 55 minutes, whichever occurs first.
- No new inning may begin after 50 minutes from the scheduled game start time. If the time limit is reached and the home team is trailing, they will be allowed to complete their at-bat.
- Each half inning will end after three outs.

Regulation Game Completion

If a game is called by the umpire after four (4) completed innings of play (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead), the game will be considered complete and official. If four innings (or 3 ½ innings with the home team leading) have not been completed before the game is called, the game will be resumed and made up at a later date, pending available field space and league end dates.

Weather Delays

If inclement weather occurs before or during a game, the umpire will determine whether field conditions are safe and playable. A rain delay of up to 10 minutes may be allowed, and the delay time will count against the game clock. If a game is cancelled due to inclement weather, make-up games may be scheduled on a different day than the normal league schedule depending on field availability and league timelines. Managers will be notified by email, and updates will be posted on the league schedule on the website.

Run Rule

A game may end early if a team leads by:

- **20 runs after 3 innings**
- **15 runs after 4 innings**
- **10 runs after 5 innings**

Both teams must have had equal opportunities to bat before the mercy rule is applied. If the home team is ahead by the required number of runs after the visiting team completes their half of the inning, the game will end and the home team will not bat in the bottom half of the inning.

Home Run Limits:

- **E Recreation Division:** Two (2) home runs allowed per game.
- **D Recreation Division:** Three (3) home runs allowed per game.
- **D Open Division:** Three (3) home runs allowed plus a one-up rule (maximum of four home runs)

Any home run hit exceeding the division limit will be ruled an out.

International Tie-Breaker

If a game is tied after regulation play, the International Tie-Breaker Rule will be used. At the start of each extra inning, the last recorded out from the previous inning will be placed on second base, and the inning will begin with the next batter in the lineup. If the game remains tied, the same procedure will continue each inning until a winner is determined.

Pitching

- All pitches must be thrown underhand.
- The pitch must have an arc between 6 and 10 feet.
- The pitcher must have one foot on the pitching plate at release.

Pitcher Safety: After delivering the pitch, the pitcher must be given a reasonable opportunity to field a batted ball. Umpires may address situations where a batter intentionally attempts to hit directly at the pitcher in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Batting

- Batters begin with a 1 ball / 1 strike count. The courtesy foul counts only after the second strike.
- A legally pitched ball that lands on any part of the strike mat without touching the ground first will be called a strike.
- A pitch that does not contact the strike mat or plate will be called a ball.
- Bunting the ball is not allowed.
- **E Recreation Division:** Batters are allowed one courtesy foul ball with two strikes. After the courtesy foul is used, the next foul ball will result in an out.
- **D Recreation / D Open / Coed D Divisions:** A foul ball with two strikes results in an out.
- **Coed Walk Rule:** If a male batter is walked and a female batter follows, the male batter will advance to second base.

Base Running & Sliding

- Stealing bases is not permitted.
- A runner is out when tagged with the ball or forced out at a base.
- Courtesy runners must be identified before the game during the manager's meeting.
- The player requiring a courtesy runner must be reported to the umpire before the game begins.
- Once a courtesy runner is established for a player, that player must use a courtesy runner for the remainder of the game.
- The courtesy runner will be the last out of the inning. If there are no outs in the inning it will be the last out of the previous inning.
- Courtesy runners may also be used for injuries during the game.
- Sliding is permitted at second and third base only.
- Sliding into home plate is not allowed.
- Runners are not required to slide, but they must avoid contact with defensive players attempting to make a play.
- A runner who does not avoid contact may be called out at the umpire's discretion.

Infield Fly Rule

- Applies with less than two outs and runners on first and second, or bases loaded.

Ball Return Rule (Home Run & Foul Balls)

- Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation will provide the game balls for each game. It is the responsibility of the hitting team to retrieve foul balls and home run balls.
- All foul balls and home run balls must be returned at the end of each half inning.
- If balls are not returned, the hitting team will be responsible for retrieving them before the next half inning begins, while the game clock continues to run.
- If a team fails to retrieve the balls in a timely manner, or intentionally delays play to run out the clock, the team may be subject to forfeiture of the game.

Officiating

- All games will be officiated by assigned umpires.
- Umpires are responsible for enforcing rules, calling balls and strikes, making safe/out calls, and maintaining the pace and safety of the game. All judgment calls made by umpires are final.
- Players and managers are expected to treat umpires with respect and sportsmanship at all times.

Umpire Communication

- Only the team manager or a designated player may approach the umpire regarding rule interpretations. Players who argue with umpires may be warned or ejected.

Scorekeeping

- Umpire will maintain the official game score during league play.
- Each team's manager is responsible for keeping their own scorebook, or appointing a team member to keep score.
- If a team wishes to question or dispute the final score of a game, they must have their own scorebook available for review.
- Teams without their own score record will not be permitted to challenge the final score recorded by the umpire.
- Any score discrepancies should be brought to the umpire's attention before the next inning begins.

Game Protests

Game protests must follow USA Softball Rule 9 – Protests. Only certain situations may be protested, including:

- Use of an ineligible or illegal player
- Use of illegal equipment

Judgment calls by umpires cannot be protested. Examples of judgment calls include balls and strikes, safe or out calls, and fair or foul decisions.

Protest Procedure

- A protest must be made by the team manager at the time the play occurs.
- The manager must notify the umpire immediately before the next pitch or play begins.
- The umpire will review the situation and apply the correct rule if necessary.

If the issue cannot be resolved on the field, play will resume and the protest may be reviewed by Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation staff, whose decision will be final.

Field Supervisors

Hyland Hills Field Supervisors will be present during games and will:

- Verify player identification and roster compliance
- Monitor sportsmanship and field safety

Field Supervisors may assist with league-related issues, but umpires maintain authority over game play decisions.

Rosters and Player Identification

- All players must be 18 years or older.
- Only players listed on the official team roster may participate.
- Field Supervisors will verify players using photo ID before games.

Roster Additions

- Any roster additions must be submitted and approved prior to the day of games.
- No roster additions will be accepted on-site on game day.

Roster Deadline

Teams may add players during the early portion of the season only. For Spring (8-week) and Fall (6-week) seasons, rosters will be locked after the second week of league play. For the Summer (12-week), rosters will be locked after the fourth week of league play. After the applicable deadline, no additional players may be added for the remainder of the season unless approved by Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation under special circumstances.

Use of non-rostered players will result in:

- Player removal from the game
- Game forfeiture
- Additional disciplinary action if necessary

Minimum Players/Forfeits

- Teams must have at least 8 players to start and finish a game.
- Late arriving players will be added to the end of the batting order.
- If a team does not have enough players to begin, the opposing manager may allow an additional 10-minute grace period for players to arrive.
- The game clock will continue to run during the grace period.
- Umpires do not officiate forfeits.

Safety and Sportsmanship

All players, managers, and spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect toward umpires, opponents, teammates, and Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation staff at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and may result in warnings, ejections, game forfeiture, or suspension from league play. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include but are not limited to:

- Arguing excessively with umpires or staff
- Abusive language or threatening behavior
- Fighting or attempting to initiate physical confrontation
- Intentionally interfering with game play
- Damage to park property or equipment

Ejections and Disciplinary Action

- Any player ejected from a game will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension.
- A second ejection during the season will result in a minimum three (3) game suspension.
- If a player's actions are deemed severe or detrimental to the league, Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation reserves the right to remove the player from the program.
- Any player who is ejected must collect their belongings and leave the facility within 2 minutes and may not remain in the dugout or spectator areas.
- The game clock will continue to run during this time.

Injuries

Player safety is a priority during league play. If a player becomes injured during a game, play may be stopped at the umpire's discretion to allow the player to be attended to. An injured player may be removed from the game for and may return to play once it is safe to do so. If a player is bleeding or has blood on their uniform The player must leave the game until the bleeding is controlled. Any blood on uniforms or equipment must be cleaned or replaced before the player may return to play. Umpires and league staff may stop play at any time if a situation is considered unsafe for players or participants.

Approved Bat Certifications

Bats used in league play must display one of the following approved certification stamps:

- USSSA
- ASA/USA Softball
- SSUSA

Below are examples of the approved bat certification stamps:

Adult Slowpitch	USSSA	1.20 BPF	
	ASA / USA Softball	98mph BBS	
Senior Slowpitch	SSUSA	1.21 BPF	

For any situations not specifically covered in this rule sheet, USA Softball Official Playing Rules will apply.