

SPORTSPLEX USA – POWAY

Park Policies & League Rules

Revised 2/25/2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

<i>Page</i>	<i>Section</i>
2	Section 1 - Park Policies
3	Section 2 - Manager's Responsibility
4	Section 3 - Player Eligibility
5	Section 4 - League Information
8	Section 5 - League Rules
15	Section 6 - 5pm Coed and 6pm Coed Leagues
16	Section 7 - Federal, State and Local Concussion Laws
18	Section 8 - Player's Code of Conduct



Section One: Park Policies

In an effort to ensure public awareness and safety, the following park policies and information have been compiled.

1. SPORTSPLEX USA's staff will determine the fitness of all fields in inclement weather and make decisions whether to play or not. SPORTSPLEX has a link on our web site in the SOFTBALL dropdown menu called "Softball Field Playing Conditions" that brings you to our Twitter updates. You may follow our Twitter account to receive updates when the weather changes. There is also a phone extension for updates by calling (858) 679-4000. Field updates are made at 3:00pm Mon - Fri and at 2pm Sundays.
2. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the fields or in the dugouts at any time. There is one designated smoking area located at the picnic down the foul lines in between Bill Howe Field and SunGenia Field.
3. Any person(s) found to be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that could cause the person(s) to be at risk to themselves and others will be removed from the park and could result in further suspension from the park.
4. No food, beverages, pets, bikes, roller skates or skateboards are allowed in the park. Please read and follow all park policies posted at the park entrance.
5. There is a \$3.00 entrance charge to enter SPORTSPLEX USA for everyone 16 years and older. In return, you receive a token worth \$3.00 towards a purchase of any beverage at our Sports Pub.
6. SPORTSPLEX USA reserves the right to make any amendments or adjustments deemed necessary to promote fairness (i.e. equalizers, run spots, etc.).
7. SPORTSPLEX USA will not be responsible for injuries sustained by team managers, players or spectators during league or tournament play. SPORTSPLEX USA does not provide insurance coverage for managers, players or spectators.
8. SPORTSPLEX USA aims to provide a professional, knowledgeable and courteous staff, and this includes our umpires. Please contact the manager on duty or call our office if any of our staff does not meet these standards.
9. Any person(s) that does not conduct themselves in a manner that complies with SPORTSPLEX USA's policies or rules can be removed, ejected or suspended from the facility for any length of time to be determined by SPORTSPLEX USA management.
10. Any person striking or attempting to strike any umpire, park management, staff, player, manager or spectator can and will be suspended from the facility and could face legal repercussions for their actions.

11. SPORTSPLEX USA reserves the right to refuse service to anyone.

Section Two: Manager's Responsibility

The team manager is the principal link between SPORTSPLEX USA and their team. It is the manager's responsibility to obtain all information regarding league play at SPORTSPLEX USA. The team manager should:

1. Provide a current email for all league information and updates.
2. Know all rules and policies and to inform his or her players of them.
3. Make sure that all team fees are paid in full by your team's third week.
4. Make sure that each player is on his or her roster and that each player has completed a player waiver and is on file in the league office.
5. Help avoid any forfeits by having your team members arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the game time.
6. Be responsible for the conduct of his or her players. Good sportsmanship is expected by all managers, players and spectators.
7. Receive the ground rules prior to the start of the game from the umpire.
8. Obtain all league paperwork pertaining to schedules, tournaments, make-up games and any other pertinent information.
9. Inform the office of any change in his or her address, email address or phone number.
10. Any manager who fails to have their team's full balance paid will be subject to suspension until such time as the fee is paid.

Section Three: Player Eligibility

1. Minimum Requirements: Men and Women must be at least 18 years of age and must be legally registered on your roster in order to participate in Sportsplex USA leagues. Players also must sign a player waiver of liability that is to be kept on file in the League office. Each player must be registered to the team(s) that he or she plays on. Teams must have at least 10 players registered on their roster.

2. Number of Teams: Players may be on as many teams as they wish in one season. Exception: No player will be allowed to play on two teams in the same division on the same night.

3. Roster:

(A) Rosters may be obtained either at the office or on the Sportsplex USA website. It is the manager's responsibility to make sure that every player fully fills out their portion of the roster at their first game which includes the following: **full name**, phone number or email, **date of birth** and **signature**. A manager may add players to the roster but that player will not be considered a legally rostered player until all such information has been filled out. Teams may carry up to 20 players on their roster. The team roster must be turned into the office by the end of the night of the team's third week. Players can be added to the roster through week 5. Players can be replaced on the roster through week 7. Rosters are final after week 7. Any player who does not sign the roster by week 7 is ineligible for playoffs. Rosters must be turned in by the end of the night of the team's third week. If the roster is not turned in by the end of the night of the 3rd week that night's game will be forfeit. The 4th week will not start until the roster is turned in. ***Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to play in any league game without completing their player waiver.***

(B) Players must be able to produce a valid picture ID at anytime. Rosters and ID's may be checked throughout the season.

(C) Please check your roster weekly to ensure that all your players have completed their player waiver and your roster is considered legal.

(D) If a team roster is protested for any reason and Sportsplex USA does not have the roster or a player(s) have not completed their player waiver the protest will be upheld. Roster protests may not be allowed until the 2nd game of league play.

4. Player Add Eligibility: If a team has a player(s) or attempts to add a player(s) that in the management's feelings will make the team too dominant for the division that they have been classified for, Sportsplex USA reserves the right to either move the entire team to the next higher division or not allow that player(s) to play for the remainder of that season. This will help in keeping an equal level of competition for each league.

5. Illegal Player: The following situations can make a player ineligible:

- (A) A player who is not on your team roster.
- (B) A player who has not completed their player waiver.
- (C) A player who is not able to produce a valid picture ID.
- (D) A player playing on two teams in the same division.
- (E) A player helping a team from forfeiting by playing for them one time.
- (F) Any circumstances in which Sportsplex USA feels a player is ineligible.

Section Four: League Information

1. Registration Fees: - Registration is on a first come first serve basis. A \$100 deposit must be paid online before your team's first game. Priority is given to returning teams provided they register for the upcoming season by the last game of the current season with payment in full. After that game, teams from the waiting list will be allowed to register. Full team fee must be paid by week 3. Games will not begin week 4 if league fee isn't paid in full.

- As of 1/1/21, team registration fees do not include Officials Fees, which are required to be paid in cash before the start of each game, directly to the umpire on the field.

- Upon registration, and before their first game, teams are required to pay a Refundable Forfeit Deposit of \$50.00. If no forfeits occur during the season for a particular team, the forfeit deposit "rolls over" to the new season, or is returned to the team if requested. If a team forfeits a game during the season, they will be required replenish their deposit prior to the next game.

(A) The team fee is not refundable or transferable.

(B) Team managers must submit to the league office their roster with all of his/her player's waiver cards prior to your 2nd game.

2. Format: Your team will play on the night that you sign up for. Make up games may be played on different nights if needed. Each team will receive 10 league games and playoffs for the top finishing teams. Specialty league formats may vary, please check the league office for details. Sportsplex USA reserves the right to alter the league format based on the # of teams registered per league and night.

3. Schedules: Your first game time will be available 3 days prior to your first night of play. Game times are available on this website. Team managers will not be contacted for game times. It is the team manager's responsibility for calling and obtaining his/her team's game time. If needed, Managers can request a paper copy of the schedule at the League Office. Please note schedules are subject to change

and as manager it is your responsibility to confirm your teams schedule each week.

4. Playoff Format: The playoffs will be played on your regular night of play. The top 4 teams per Division will qualify for playoffs. The teams will then be seeded in the format (listed below) by their standings after league play is over. If tiebreakers are needed, we will refer to section #9. All teams must use their league roster and all players must be legally registered and have participated in the current league. 5pm & 6pm leagues have 3rd place games.

Game 1: 2nd place Vs 3rd place

Game 2: 1st place Vs 4th place

Game 3: Winner of Game 1 Vs Winner of Game 2 (highest remaining seed is home team)
(Loser of Game 1 Vs Loser of Game 2) – 3rd place game for 5pm & 6pm leagues.

5. Start Times: Games start Monday through Friday at 6:00pm through 10:00pm. On Sundays the games start may start earlier or later pending the number of teams registered. Games for the 5pm leagues begin at 5pm.

6. Grace Period: There will be a grace period for all rounds of games. The grace period lasts from the start of the game until the clock reaches 39 minutes. This time comes off the game time. At the end of the grace period, if one or both teams do not have the minimum number of players required, the game will be declared a forfeit. If a team is required to use the grace period, they will lose their first at-bat. If both teams are required to use the grace period but neither team forfeits, there is no penalty.

7. Rain Out Policy: In case of questionable weather, the team manager can call the field information line (858) 679-4000 ext *714 which will be available after 3:00pm weekdays and 2:00pm on Sundays. If games are canceled, the manager will not be notified. When games are canceled, the schedule line, field condition line and website Twitter link will be changed stating so. Sportsplex USA does not take responsibility for the weather. In the event that rain occurs between the time you call and the time you arrive, please be understanding. Sportsplex USA's goal is to play ball, but your safety is more important.

(A) Games called due to rain, inclement weather or circumstances beyond Sportsplex USA's control will be a regulation game if 5 or more complete innings have been played or if a team is ahead after 4 1/2 innings. At the point in which the game is called, the last complete inning will determine if the game is regulation or not. If the home team is at bat and they have taken the lead or tied the score, then that inning will be considered complete. In games that cannot be considered a complete game, the following will happen:

(1) If less than 3 complete innings have been played, the game will start over.

(2) If 3 complete innings or more have been played, the game will continue from the point in which it became suspended until time expires or 7 innings have been played.

8. Make Up Game Policy: All games canceled due to rain, inclement weather or circumstances beyond Sportsplex USA's control will be made up at the earliest opportunity pending field availability. Revised schedules will be available 3 days after the cancellation on the website. **Team managers are responsible for calling in or checking the website to find out this information.**

9. League Standings: Game scores are posted on the website by 5pm the following day and updated standings are posted in the Post Game Pub daily. The team manager should check to make sure that the standings are correct. If necessary, ties in the league standings will be broken by the following process:

(A) Head to head competition of previously played games between the teams involved.

(B) Run differential in games played between the tied teams. Run differential will be determined by subtracting runs given up from the total runs scored.

(C) Run differential from all games played in the season for the tied teams.

(D) If still tied, Sportsplex will flip a coin with both team managers.

10. League Awards: At the completion of the league playoffs the 1st place team will receive 14 individual awards.

11. Forfeits: In the event that your team must forfeit a game for any circumstance please have your team manager contact the league office so the opposing team can be notified. Forfeited games are nonrefundable.

Section Five: League Rules

The following rules govern all teams and players participating in Sportsplex USA leagues. Sportsplex USA leagues play under the rules of the United States Specialty Sports Assoc. (USSSA) Official Rule Book with explanations and exceptions in this Rule Book. Some rules may not apply to certain specialty leagues. Please check for an additional rule sheet if playing in a specialty league. Sportsplex USA shall have the power to make decisions on any points in the rules or to revise any rule as it deems necessary at any time. Final decisions shall be made by Sportsplex USA.

1. Playing Field: On fields where the fence does not run completely across the outfield, an imaginary line exists. If a batted ball goes across the imaginary line, the umpire will call the ball dead and a ground rule double will be awarded. Bases will be awarded accordingly to the runners.

(A) The line closest to the home plate extending from the fence is the on-deck batters' line. Only one on deck batter is allowed in this area. All other players are to remain in the dugout or behind the out of play fence. Each team is allowed one base coach at 1st base and one base coach at 3rd base.

(B) Any ball hit in the air that leaves the Coors Field in the foul area on the 3rd base side, which goes over the netting and batting cages will be declared an out. If a ball that is hit in the foul area and hits the netting or batting cages and bounces back towards the field will be declared a "foul ball". This foul rule is only in effect on the Coors Field on the 3rd base side. (B.1) Any ball hit in the air that leaves the Arch Health Care Field in the foul area on the 1st base side, which goes over the netting, will be declared an out.

2. Equipment: Sportsplex will supply the game ball. The home team must furnish a usable backup ball. Teams that hit balls out of play will be required furnish balls to keep the game moving. All leagues use a 12" softball rated .52 COR, 275 lb.-300 lb. compression.

Bats

SPORTSPLEX USA uses USSSA & USA/ASA as a basic standard for bat approval. SPORTSPLEX USA reserves the right to ban the use of any piece of equipment that SPORTSPLEX USA feels is dangerous and/or not acceptable for fair and safe play. Must have current USSSA thumb print 1.20 bpf stamp or current USA/ASA stamp. SPORTSPLEX USA reserves the right to ban such equipment immediately. All senior bats are **illegal** in league play. If you are not sure if your bat meets these specifications, please contact the league coordinator.

3. Protests: The manager has a right to protest if he/she feels that the team has been the victim of a misinterpretation of the rules or an illegal action on the part of the opposing team. All protests will be handled on the spot by the league director. The team manager must protest immediately at the point in question. Protests lodged after the game will not be accepted. The team manager must protest to the umpire and state the cause of the protest. The umpire will stop the clock and call for a league director. The protest will be decided by the league director on duty before the game continues.
Judgment calls cannot be protested.

Illegal Player Protests: Players not listed on the roster or who have not filled out their player waiver will be considered an illegal player and will cause the team on which they are participating to forfeit. The suspected illegal player(s) must be protested before the last out of the bottom of the 5th inning. The opposing team manager must protest to the umpire and notify the league director which player(s) he/she wishes to protest. Only one illegal player protest is allowed per game, but up to 2 players may be protested. The league director on duty will check a picture ID and Drivers License against the team roster to prove eligibility. Illegal player(s) will be removed and that game will be forfeited. **The illegal player(s) and the team manager are subject to a thirty-day suspension from all league play.**

Player Pick Ups: Sportsplex USA understands that teams will occasionally need to pick up players to avoid a forfeit, and one of our goals is to avoid forfeits wherever possible. If substitute player(s) are needed, they must be identified to the umpire and the opposing team manager. (Any Exceptions must be approved by League Director)

- The substitute player(s) **cannot** pitch or play offense.
- Players caught playing without being identified will receive up to a 30-day suspension.
- If the extra sub is a female her spot in order will not be an out. (if multiple female subs one may hit must notify umpire)
- **5pm & 6pm coed leagues** Substitutes approved through director may be allowed to hit. (expanded rosters allowed in these leagues up to 30)
- **Substitute player(s) will not be allowed during playoffs.**
- Rosters may be edited through week 5* (Injured players may be replaced after week 5)
- The opposing team cannot waive or alter any of these rules.

4. The Game: The home team will be designated on the schedule. The home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout and has the option of being the official scorekeeper.

(A) A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings or 55 minutes. To help cut down the number of games starting later than their scheduled times, no new inning will be started after time has expired even if the game ends in a tie. The current inning will be completed. A game that is tied after 7 innings will result in a tie.

(B) Playoff game's that are tied at the end of 7 innings or 55 minutes will start the next inning with the visitors placing the last batter (not last out) from the inning before on 2nd base. The same will apply for the home team's at bat. Play will continue until the tie is broken.

(C) USSSA rules start with a one-ball and one-strike count rather than a no-ball and no-strike count. The batter is allowed one foul ball after two strikes, and then must hit it fair.

(D) After the clock reads 4 minutes a 12-run rule will be in place. During classification games (if used) there will be no run rule in effect.

(E) In the co-ed leagues there will be a 9-run per-inning cap in effect during the first four innings of the game. During the first four innings, no team will be allowed to score more than 9 runs unless one of the following is true:

- The team at bat is trailing by more than 9 runs. In this case, they will be allowed to score enough runs to tie the game.
- The game is in its final inning. If time has run out during the first four innings, the 9-run cap is no longer in effect.
- During the 5th inning and beyond, there is no limit to the number of runs that may be scored in one inning.
- There is no run cap for men's leagues.
- Women's leagues will follow the above rules but with a 5-run per inning cap for games first 4 innings.
- Women's league run restrictions end after the 4th inning unless otherwise stated. (i.e. equalizers).

(F) In a forfeit situation, the team being awarded the forfeit will receive a score of 7-0.

- If a team forfeits two games in a season that team will be ineligible for that season's playoffs.
- If a team forfeits more than two games in a season that team may be subject to further disciplinary actions. (i.e. Removal from the current schedule and/or future seasons.)

(G) Leadoffs: Leadoffs will be allowed only in the co-ed divisions. Men cannot lead off in the men's or co-ed divisions. No one is allowed to lead off in a men's game. Base stealing is not permitted in any league.

1) A female base runner shall be permitted to lead off from any base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand, but is subject to being thrown out trying to return to the base. This will be treated as a force play, (live appeal) not a tag play.

2) If a pick-off attempt is made on any female base runner at any base by the catcher after a legally pitched ball, the base runners may advance only if the pick-off throw is dropped by the fielder or overthrown. Once dropped or overthrown, the ball remains live until time is called by the umpire.

3) If a female base runner advances to the next occupied or unoccupied base, prior to the pick-off attempt that runner is considered out.

4) The ball must return to the pitcher after each pitch not hit except on a pick-off attempt by the catcher.

5) Any runners preceding a woman on the bases shall only move up to the next base if forced to do so by a female runner advancing as a result of an overthrow or dropped ball on a pick-off attempt. Runners may not advance if a base runner is not "forcing" them to.

6) Once the ball is returned to the pitcher the pitcher must allow adequate time for the runner to return to the base that they previously occupied prior to the pitch.

7) After a legal pitch which is not hit, if the return throw to the pitcher results in an overthrow or an error (pitcher dropping the ball, catcher throwing the ball over the pitcher's head, etc.) the ball shall be declared dead and the female base runner(s) may not advance. This is not deemed to be a pick-off attempt.

5. Players and Substitutions: All players must be able to produce a valid picture ID and Drivers License upon request.

(A) Any player can take a defensive position during any point of the game, as long as they are in the batting order.

(B) The minimum number of players to start or finish a game is eight. Any number less than eight at any time during the game is a forfeit.

(C) No player can be added to a batting order or defensively after the 5th inning.

(D) The following actions may warrant a player's ejection from the game:

The umpire need not give advanced warnings. This is your team's first and last warning!

1) Fake tags or similar unsportsmanlike conduct.

2) Rough tactics not limited to fighting.

3) Obscene gestures or objectionable demonstrations towards an official, opponent, spectator or Sportsplex USA staff member.

4) Saying the "F" word.

- 5) Intentional or unintentional throwing of the any piece of equipment in a forceful manner.
- 6) For being under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that could cause the player to be at risk to themselves and others.
- 7) Flagrant rule violations.
- 8) Any actions deemed by Sportsplex USA as not being compliant with the park's positive atmosphere. Remember, Sportsplex USA is a family-oriented park, any obscene language loud enough for the umpire to hear is loud enough for the spectators to hear. Sportsplex USA reserves the right to eject or remove any coach, player or spectator at any point before, during or after a game and apply any appropriate penalties including but not limited to a suspension from Sportsplex USA.
- E) If a player or manager is ejected from a game, that player will be required to leave the park immediately without further abuse to prevent harsher penalties that may be imposed. The ejected player may be subject to further disciplinary actions. If a player is ejected for a second time during a season, that player will be disqualified from all play for at least 30 days. When a player is ejected from a game his/her position in the batting order will be considered an out every time that your spot comes up for the remainder of that game, no substitutions will be allowed for that spot in the lineup. The opposing team must notify the umpire each and every time that spot comes up in the lineup. The opposing team must make the call before the first pitch is thrown to the next batter in the lineup.
- F) If 2 players from the same team are ejected from the same game, that team will forfeit the game.
- G) If a player, manager or spectator lays a hand on, shoves, strikes, threatens or abuses a Sportsplex USA official or employee before, during or after a game he/she will be suspended from the park immediately and could face suspensions with a maximum penalty of permanent banishment from Sportsplex USA. If shoving, striking, attempting to strike or abusing another player or spectator, you will be suspended for a minimum of 30 days pending the results of the investigation by the league office. Further legal action may also take place.
- H) Unsportsmanlike conduct by players and spectators is cause for a forfeit. The team is held responsible for all of the actions of its spectators and players.
- I) Any player(s) may leave during the game for any reason (i.e., injury, personal emergency, etc.). If the team does not have a substitute(s) for the departing player(s) the lineup will move up to cover the open spot; this will not result in the team being forced to take an out for that position (unless the player leaving was ejected). Once the umpire has been notified of the player(s) departure, that player or those players will not be eligible to return to that game for any reason. If the number of players gets below the league minimum at any time the game will be declared a forfeit. Sportsplex USA does not recognize player substitutions or the offensive re-entry rule, so any player added after the game has begun (and before the end of the 5th inning) will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order.

6. Pitching Rule: The plate-and-mat style of pitch will be used for all leagues unless otherwise noted. The pitched ball must be delivered at slow speed and have an arc of at least 6 feet off the ground, but be no higher than 10 feet at its peak. A strike is called if the ball hits the plate or the mat (plate extension). The pitcher has 5 seconds to release the ball once he/she has presented it. The pitcher is allowed to juke prior to releasing the pitch during these 5 seconds. The umpire does NOT say “illegal” or give a hand signal if a pitch has been delivered unfairly.

A) Pitcher’s Box: Sportsplex USA will be implementing the use of a pitcher’s box. The box will be chalked six feet wide and extend eight feet back from the front of the rubber. The following rules pertain to the box:

- **Pitchers can pitch from anywhere in the box but must have both feet inside it at the time of release UNLESS THEY ARE ACTUALLY PITCHING FROM THE RUBBER. If pitching from the rubber, the pitcher may keep their pivot foot on the rubber and their plant foot in front of the box and still be in compliance with the box rule. The penalty for not complying with either of these stipulations will be a “ball” declared by the umpire for an unfairly delivered pitch.**
- **Any line drive hit through the middle of the infield which clears the rubber AND puts a defenseless pitcher at risk of physical harm will be declared an out by the umpire. The pitcher does not have to remain in the box to get this call. The spirit of the box rule is to protect the pitcher, so the umpire has sole discretion to enforce this rule whenever he deems it appropriate.**
- **The box rule is not enforced on balls hit by women unless during women’s league.**
- **If, in the opinion of the umpire, a line drive through the middle that puts the pitcher at risk of physical harm was intentional, the responsible batter will be ejected immediately and be subject to possible suspension from Sportsplex USA.**

All box rule calls are judgment calls and cannot be protested.

7. Home Runs: Home run limits are used to aid in classification of teams. Any home runs above these limits will result in an out. These limits apply to balls hit fair untouched over the home run fence. The home run limits are:

Men's C = 7 Home Runs per team, then one-up

Men's and Co-Ed D = 5 Home Runs per team, then one-up

Men's D1/D2 and Co-Ed D1 = 3 Home Runs per team, then one-up

Men's E/E1 and Co-Ed E/E1 = 1 Home Run per team, then one-up

5PM and 3-Pitch Leagues = 1 Home Run per team, then one-up

All Classification Games - 3 home runs total per game

8. Base Running:

A) One batter, per gender per inning, is allowed a base runner. The runner is the last out of that gender. If the runner is coming up to bat, then it's the next previous out who will assume the courtesy runner position on the base. It's always the umpire's discretion to award a courtesy runner. If the same batter that used a courtesy runner comes up a second or third time in the same inning, he/she is still allowed a runner. If the runner's spot in the line up comes up while performing base running duties, there is NOT an out.

B) In order to prevent injury, Sportsplex USA requests that when at all possible, base runners make an attempt to get out of the way or give themselves up at a base or home plate instead of colliding with a fielder or trying to attempt to jar the ball loose. If the base runner collides with the fielder, the umpire may call the player out and the ball dead. Any flagrant act by the runner is subject to an ejection or removal from the game. Fielders blocking the base or making fake tags are subject to ejection or removal from the game. The umpire need not give advanced warning. This is a judgment call on the part of the umpire and there are no protests on judgment calls!

C) Safety 1st bases are used in all Sportsplex USA Leagues. All base runners must touch the orange portion of the bag while the fielder must touch the white portion. On base hits that could lead to extra bases, the runner will be allowed to touch the white portion. It will be the umpire's judgment whether the base runner touches the correct portion of the bag.

D) A) There will be a commit line halfway between 3rd base and home plate. Once a base runner crosses this line (any part of the line) they must continue home; they cannot return to 3rd base. Exception: If the runner crosses the commit line and then a fielder makes a catch on a fly ball then the runner will be allowed to go back to 3rd to tag up but that runner must continue to home plate or they will be called out. Commit line infractions are handled like any other appeal play by the defense, either live or dead.

E) There will be a line drawn to the 3rd base of home plate. (This line is an extension of first base line.) Base runners must cross this line instead of touching home plate.

F) The play at the plate will be a force out. The fielder, being in possession of the ball, must touch home plate prior to the runner crossing the line. Between the commit line and the scoring line the fielder may not tag the runner. If the fielder tags the runner between these lines the runner is safe.

G) Base runners must go to the scoring line. Any player who touches home plate while scoring (live ball) will be called out. This rule is not enforced on plays where the ball is dead (i.e. overthrown ball, homerun, or walks). The spirit of this rule is to protect the catcher. If the umpire feels that the runner put the catcher in danger, regardless of a play at home, the runner may be called out. Therefore, the umpire has sole discretion to enforce the rule whenever he deems it appropriate.

H) There is absolutely no sliding or **diving** at the home line, the runner will be called out if he/she slides across the line.

I) Female batters cannot be forced out at first base on a throw from an outfielder or rover. Any other baserunner may be thrown out at any other base, but a female batter-runner may not be forced out at first from the outfield. This includes any unusual circumstances, such as a series of relay throws, or an injury situation where the batter-runner is unable to complete her base running duties under her own power. ***Without exception***, if a female batter hits a ball that reaches the outfield grass, she will be safe at first base.

9. Coed Rules: Coed rules may be altered or changed for specialty leagues, please check league information sheet for details.

A) When a woman is at bat all outfielders (including rovers) must be on the grass until the ball is hit. If an outfielder violates this rule and becomes involved in the play, the umpire will award the batter at his discretion at least one base.

B) In the batting order, females cannot bat back to back unless the team has more women than men. If two females bat back to back an out will be declared. When this occurs manager of batting team is allowed opportunity to adjust their lineup so females do not hit back to back. Failure to adjust lineup will result in a frozen lineup and an out each time through the order. When this happens if a pitch is thrown and manager adjusts lineup the correct batter assumes the count.

C) Defensive positioning does not matter; any player can take a position anywhere on defense. Pitcher/catcher does not have to be male/female.

D) The minimum number of players to start or finish a game is eight. Co-Ed games can never begin with less than two women present. If the total of eight players includes only two women, the opposing team has the option to force a forfeit by protest. If the game is not protested and allowed to continue, the team that has only eight players will not have to take any automatic outs for the empty spots in the batting order. If a seventh man is added, he may play defense but the tenth spot in the batting order would then be an automatic out, or he may bat but remain on the bench defensively to avoid the automatic out. There can never be eight men on defense in a co-ed game.

E) When a male batter with a female batting next receives a base on balls or is intentionally walked, he will be awarded 1st and 2nd base. The female batter must bat.

Section Six: 5pm Coed and 6pm Coed League

Any rules or policies not covered in this section will revert back to Sportsplex USA rules and/or USSSA Rule Book.

Games:

A) Game time is 5:00pm sharp. Games are 9 innings (coed), 7 innings (men) or no new will start after 55 minutes has expired whichever comes first.

B) No players can be added to a game after 5:30pm or after 30 minutes has expired from the game clock.

C) Regular season games can end in a tie.

D) There is a grace period for all games. Please refer to Section Four #6.

E) The run rule is 12 runs after 50 minutes has expired from the clock.

F) The 9-run rule is in effect but only in the 5pm Coed League. Please refer to Section Six Part E.

Batting and Pitching:

A) In the coed 5pm leagues Sportsplex will use the 3-pitch format. The batting team will pitch to themselves and each batter must hit a ball fair in one of three pitches or he/she will be declared an out. In the men's league the format will be the same as described previously in this rule book.

B) Women will be allowed 1 foul on their 3rd pitch (one to waste).

C) In the coed league a pitcher hit by a batted ball is a dead ball and then re-pitched. If in the umpire's opinion the pitcher fails to make any effort to avoid being hit by the ball then the batter will be declared an out.

Fielding (Coed League Only):

A) There must be at least 3 women in the field at all times during the game.

B) A line of cones will exist when a female is at bat. All 5 outfielders must remain behind the cones until the batter swings. There will be no rovers when a female is batting. If, in the umpire's opinion, a fielder crosses the cone line early, it will be called a dead ball and the batter will be awarded 1st base. Dark green markers will be placed on the foul line fence area, the outfield cones should line up with the markers.

Section 7 – Sportsplex USA Policy Re. Federal, State and Local Concussion Laws

Sportsplex USA shares the concerns being raised on a national and local level regarding concussions and concussion symptoms in participants, coaches/managers and umpires/referees at Sportsplex USA Facilities. Sportsplex USA encourages its directors, umpires, coaches, referees, teams, team managers, and all adults involved in youth activities and participants to learn all they can about concussions in

athletics and requires each of them and all Sportsplex USA management staff to follow all federal, state and local laws (including concussion training and reaction laws) with regard to athletic competition at Sportsplex USA. In addition, Sportsplex USA hereby adds the following to the rule books of each Sportsplex USA sport league or activity which does not defer to another organization for its rule book.

Upon becoming aware that a participant, player or coach/manager of his team has received a suspected concussion (or has been struck in the head area with any significant force), the Team Manager, or acting Manager will not allow that person to participate in any Sportsplex USA event, league or activity. If suspected concussion occurs during a Sportsplex USA event, league or activity, the Team Manager or acting Manager shall have that person removed from the playing field, or contest immediately. Upon becoming aware that a participant, player, or umpire/referee has received a suspected concussion (or has been struck in the head area with any significant force), a Sportsplex USA umpire/referee or director will have that person removed from the playing field or contest at Sportsplex USA immediately. Without a written medical clearance from a licensed medical doctor to return to play, such persons will not be allowed to return to participate in any Sportsplex USA event, league or activity.

For umpires/referees, the medical written consent must be presented to the Team Manager and retained permanently by the Sportsplex USA league management office. For participants and coaches/managers, the medical written medical consent must be presented to the Team Manager and retained permanently by the Team Manager. Any Team Manager, who allows an injured player to participate during a Sportsplex USA event, league, activity or playing field without first obtaining the required written consent, may be suspended by the Sportsplex USA League Director for up to one year and upon request of the Sportsplex USA League Director or Sportsplex USA General Manager, may be suspended for a longer duration.

In the event of severe head trauma during a Sportsplex USA event, league or activity, the injured person will not be moved and an ambulance will be called, unless otherwise directed by a qualified medical professional. The parent or guardian of the injured person, however, will not be bound by this protocol and may choose a different approach consistent with their legal rights as the parent or guardian.

Section 8 – Player’s Code of Conduct

The following Players Code of Conduct has been adopted by SPORTSPLEX USA and will be strictly enforced. Please remember that SPORTSPLEX USA is a family-oriented recreation facility, which will make every attempt to maintain these standards for the good of all of those who use the park.

Any player, manager or spectator that does not conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive with SPORTSPLEX USA’s policies or rules can be removed, ejected, suspended from the facility for any length of time and/or face possible legal action to be determined by SPORTSPLEX USA Management.

NO PLAYER SHALL:

- 1) At any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, bump into, strike, or threaten to strike any player, manager, spectator, official or employee of the park.
- 2) Refuse to abide by an official’s decision.
- 3) Display objectionable demonstrations by throwing any piece of equipment in a forceful manner.
- 4) Excessive verbal abuse upon any player, manager, spectator or official for any reason.
- 5) Discuss with any official in any manner the decision reached by such official, except the team manager or captain.
- 6) Use unnecessary rough tactics in the playing of the game against another player.
- 7) Be the aggressor in any physical attack upon any player, official, employee or spectator.
- 8) Verbally abuse any player, official, employee or spectator.
- 9) Use profane, obscene or vulgar language at any time.
- 10) Appear on the field of play at any time in an intoxicated condition.
- 11) Smoke while going onto, coming off of, or while in the field of play.
- 12) During the game discuss aloud with the spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner any play, decision or personal opinion of officials or other players.

13) Be relinquished of financial responsibility for his or her team until the entire team fee has been paid in full to the league office. If the team fee is not paid in full, all players on that roster will be subject to suspension from Sportsplex USA facilities until the fee is paid in full.