

**Westover Sports
Men's and Co-ed Softball League
2024 BY-LAWS**

GENERAL RULES

1. Play will be governed by the 2024 USA Official Rule Book & Westover Hills Sports By-Laws.
2. Ball will be ASA/USA, Cor .52 with 300 Comp. Ball must be yellow in color with red stitching. Women's ASA/USA, Cor. .52, 300 Comp. Teams are responsible for supplying their own softballs (softballs will be available for sale at concessions, if needed) All softballs will be inspected by the umpire.
3. The maximum number of players on team rosters will be limited to 15. (No additional players can be added after a roster is submitted. Rosters will be frozen after the 3rd game of the season. (NO EXCEPTIONS.)
4. Teams are allowed to have 12 batters (extra hitters must be from team rosters and not pick-up players).
5. All players MUST play in a minimum of two games to be eligible to participate in the tournament. The score keeper will keep a record of all players playing in each game.
6. The home team will be determined by a set schedule. (Home team is the 2nd team listed and will take the 1st base dugout.) The home team will designate someone from their team to pray before the game begins. A prayer before each game is MANDATORY.
7. Teams will be allowed to start the game w/ a minimum of 8 players w/o ghost outs. (Teams may pick up players to fill player slots 9 & 10, pick up players. Must play right field and/or catcher and must bat 9 & 10 in the lineup.)
8. Batters will start with one ball, one strike, and NO COURTESY FOULS.
9. Time limit will be 50 minutes or seven innings. If extra innings are needed, a one-pitch format will be played, and no courtesy fouls given. The extra inning will start with the runner on 2nd being the player who was last out. (During regulation time, NO inning will start at one minute or less remaining on game clock.)
10. RUN RULE: 20 runs after three innings, 15 runs after four innings, 10 runs after five innings. (Flip/Flop rule will be used for all leagues - In the inning when the Run Rule for that particular game is exceeded (after the second inning) and the home team is losing, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team.
11. Courtesy runner (any player) is allowed once per half inning (COED: two courtesy runners/one male, one female) only if there is a last out in affect at the time of request. Note: a courtesy runner DOES NOT need to be last out. If a courtesy runner is on base and that player is up to bat, the team will be given an out in place of his spot, the original runner will be placed on the base and the courtesy runner who was called out will return to the dugout.
12. HOME RUN LIMIT: COED: Homeruns will be limited to three per game. After the limit is exhausted, each homerun will be counted as an out. MENS: Homeruns will be limited to three per game. After the limit is exhausted, one up rule play will be in effect. (One up rule will NOT be in effect at the bottom of the last inning being played.)

13. COED: Batting order must be male/female until the end of the line up. If playing shorthanded either male or female there will be an out at that spot. (ie. If you bat with only 9 players, the 10th batter will be an out. you get an out unless the 9th batter is a female).
14. COED: Fielding- Must field a minimum of 5 men and 5 women. Two females and two male in the infield and two females and two males in the outfield. Male pitcher / Female catcher or vice versa.
15. Current ASA/USA approved bats are allowed. All bats must have a visible ASA/USA stamp. The score table will have an updated non-approved bat list with certification marks. Any bats on this list are illegal and will not be allowed. Senior, shaved, or rolled bats are NOT allowed at any time. Umpires will make a call on any bats in question.
16. No metal cleats or open toe shoes are allowed. All players MUST WEAR SHOES.
17. NO PROFANITY RULE. Any player/team heard using profanity on the field of play will be given a first offense which is an automatic out for their team. A second offense by the same person/team will result in an out for their team and a possible ejection of the player(s). Call to be made by the officiating umpire. (Profanity includes expletives not directed at umpires or an opposing player but uttered by a player or coach who is frustrated with themselves, a teammate or an opposing player or fan).
18. Player ejections regarding sportsmanship: League Directors will decide if the player can return for the next game. If ejection causes a team to go to less than 8 players needed to play, the game will result in a forfeit.
19. Fighting is automatic ejection from the league and tournament. (Player may not be on park premises for the remainder of season and tournament.)
20. Teams are given a 10-minute "Grace Period" for the first game of the night only. After the first game of the night there will be no "Grace Period". Game time will be forfeit time. In the event of a double forfeit, both teams will be given a loss. Lineups to be turned in 10 minutes prior to start game time.
21. Verbal abuse of umpires and league officials will not be tolerated and will result in removal from premises.
22. NO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, ILLEGAL DRUGS, OR VAPING products will be permitted on the premises or church property.
23. UNIFORMS: In order to provide accurate keeping of the books, Westover Hills will require all teams to have a number on the back of their shirt or jersey. Sponsor advertisements highlighting beer or indirect messages will NOT be allowed on field of play, (to include any shirt or jersey worn by any player).
24. No outside food or drinks will be allowed. The concession stand will be available. If the concession stand is closed, Westover Sports will allow outside food and drinks.
25. No pets are allowed on the premises.
26. Any person who enters Westover Hills with an animal will be asked to take the animal off the property. The only exception to this rule is APPROVED SERVICE ANIMALS.

GAME CANCELLATIONS

1. Potential game cancellations will be sent to coaches via GroupMe no later than 4 pm on game day.

2. In the event a game is cancelled due to inclement weather or conditions beyond Westover Sports's responsibility, the game will be played on a future day. The future day may not necessarily be played on normal week game days. If the make-up game is not able to be made up due to scheduling conflicts or insufficient time, Westover Sports has the right to cancel the make-up game indefinitely. Westover Sports will do everything possible to make sure the game is made up, but if it is not possible, team coaches will be notified with a reasonable explanation.
3. RAIN RULE: In the event of rain, five innings (four and one-half if the home team is ahead) will constitute a game. If the minimum inning has not been met, the game will be made up at a future time. Play will resume where the game was previously stopped.

SUBSTITUTIONS

1. A starter may be withdrawn from the game and re-entered in the same spot reflected on the batting order one time. Players may not re-enter a second time. The starter and the substitute may not be in the game at the same time.
2. To bat an Extra Hitter (EH), a team must have 12 players present at the start of the game.

UP THE MIDDLE RULE

1. Any ball hit up the middle while the middle is closed, and is within the pitcher's reach, will be declared a dead ball out. All runners must return to their previous bases in these occurrences.
2. Any ball considered a hazardous safety issue by the umpire that is hit up the middle, whether in the air or on the ground, will be declared a dead ball out.
3. If the ball hits the chalk or the line, the ball will be declared dead, and the batter will be out.
4. It does not matter if the pitcher is in the box when the ball is hit through it; the ball will still be declared dead, and the batter will be out.
5. As soon as the ball goes up the middle the umpire will verbally declare the dead ball dead, and the batter out.
6. The umpire's ruling is final and indisputable on any ball hit through the pitcher's box.
7. Any player who repeatedly questions an umpire's dead ball ruling on a ball hit up the middle will be subject to ejection and or suspension.

STEALING RULE

1. COED: Stealing NOT allowed.
2. Stealing is allowed in Men's and Women's leagues.
3. The runner may leave base as soon as the ball reaches the front edge of home plate. If the runner leaves their base before the ball reaches home plate that runner (whichever runner left first if more than one) is out and the ball is dead – no pitch is declared.
4. If the ball does not reach home plate (bounces in front of the plate or on the plate), the ball is dead, and the runners must return to their last base touched.

WARM UP/PRACTICING

1. There will be no warming up on the infield before any game. Volunteers prep the field before each game, and we would like to be considerate of their time and effort. No warming up on infield at any time.
2. All pre-game warm up shall be done in the outfield (before the first game only) or outside of the fenced-in area in the designated warm up spots.
3. Infield warm-up may only be conducted at the start of each game before the first inning of play. During this time, each pitcher is also allowed to warm up at the pitcher's mound until the on-duty umpire or official calls time. At no time will infield or outfield practice be allowed after the first inning of play. Unless there is a change of pitching status, this applies to warm up pitches as well.

FAKE TAGS

1. Fake tags are illegal in ASA/USA and at Westover Sports. They are considered an obstruction, bad sportsmanship, and may cause serious injury to players.
2. Any Fake tags will be considered a warning to the player and team. The umpire(s) will make any necessary calls in regard to "Fake Tags".

TIES AND FORFEITS

1. Games will not be declared a "Tie". Each game will end with one team as the declared winner.
2. In the event a team has less than 8 players to start a game and the game time has begun, the team will forfeit the game, and will be awarded a loss.
3. Each team MUST have 8 of their own roster players to be an official game.
4. In the event the ending season standings there is a tie between multiple teams, the tie breaker will be determined by the total runs scored between the two teams to determine the higher seed.

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Tournament bracket will be determined by seeding of each Team (EX. 8 team season, 1 vs 8, 2 vs 7, 3 vs 6, 4 vs 5) or a "Blind Draw" single elimination tournament. If there is an odd number of teams, the first seed will be awarded a bye for the first round of playoffs.
2. In tournament play, the home team is determined by seeding for all rounds of play.
3. If a team has at least 8 players for the tournament and has confirmation that nobody else from their roster is going to make the tournament, Westover Sports will allow the team to pick up 2 players to complete the 10-player team (the team they play with must be out of tournament to be considered pick-up players).
4. If a team has only 10 players and a player gets injured, the team may replace a player who is no longer in the tournament from another team. The league director will be notified and determine approval.
5. Teams are not allowed to pick up non-roster players at any time. Any violation will result in a forfeit for that game.

PLAYER CONDUCT

1. ALL roster players are to display a CHRIST-LIKE attitude at all times.

2. ALL roster players are to agree that while on the grounds of Westover Hills they are to exemplify the Westover Hills culture.
3. League directors and staff will not tolerate misconduct. Directors and staff have the right to ask any player or spectator exemplifying excessive misconduct to leave the premises.
4. Westover Hills would like to encourage all teams to fellowship with each other and among other teams.

COMPLAINTS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS, OR SUGGESTIONS

1. If any team, player, or spectator has a complaint, comment, concern, or suggestion, please feel free to email our sports league directors.

SENIOR HOME PLATE RULE

For safety purposes, home plate has a mat used for the “no contact rule”. The white chalk line from the mat to the fence needs to be crossed by the runner going home.

There are two white chalked lines running home. The first chalked line is the commitment line. Once passed, you must run home. The second chalked line is the safe line in which runner must run through, to be ruled safe and earn a point.

Runner must run past the white line to be safe. NO SLIDING, AND RUNNER IS NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH PAD! The SAFE or OUT call will be determined by the home plate umpire's discretion.

Catcher must be on the plate with possession of the ball, before the runner crosses the second white chalk safe line for the runner to be called out. (One foot is all that matters.) Runner cannot be tagged by fielder after runner has passed the commitment line. If the runner is tagged after crossing the commitment line, he or she will be deemed safe at home plate.