



CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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Softball Rules 2021

Thank you for joining us this year! Please see the last page for special COVID Requirements.

Function of the Parks & Recreation Department

The Laramie Parks and Recreation Department shall be responsible for securing a field supervisor, scorekeeper, balls, and scorebooks; general organization of the league, registrations, scheduling, make up games, etc. Each team will receive a Season Schedule, League Rules, and Announcements.

Registration Information

All league players must sign a City of Laramie League Roster and Liability Waiver prior to playing in any game.

- Players must be 16 years of age by the first game to play in City League. Any participant under 18 years of age must have a legal guardian sign the Liability Waiver. Any individual who plays a High School sport (including American Legion Baseball) that plays at any time during the league season must provide a letter from the High School Sport signed by their Coach before they are allowed to play.

Uniforms

- Teams must have shirts of the same color for each player.

Game Times and Players

- Games will start on time according to the assigned schedule.
- Teams will have a 10 minute grace period before a forfeit is given.
- A team will become ineligible to continue league play after forfeiting two (2) games unless they pay a forfeit fee of **\$40.00 per forfeit** to the Laramie Parks and Recreation Department. Fees must be paid before the next regularly scheduled game or they will be removed from the remainder of the season and the schedule would be remade for the other teams.
- All League Games may begin with two (2) players missing (eight players). **All players on the roster are allowed to bat.** Each player missing will constitute an out.
 - The outs may be taken in any order but must be placed at the start of the game within the lineup. Once the team has been through the lineup one time it will collapse, and they will no longer be required to take an out. If after the lineup has been condensed the player arrives they will be added to the end of the lineup.
- Players arriving late will be allowed to enter the game at the first dead ball situation. The player entering the game will be allowed to enter the vacant defensive position.

- If a team begins with 10 players on their lineup and drop below 10 players for any reason they must take an out the following time through the lineup.
 - If they drop below the ten players due to injury the lineup may be condensed after the out, and they will not have to take an out the remainder of the game.
 - **If a player becomes injured, they must report the injury to the field supervisor prior to leaving.**
 - If a team drops below 10 for any other reason, the team will be required to take an out for the individual each time they come up on the lineup.
- If a team has a player ejected from a game the team will not be allowed to provide a legal substitution. They will not be permitted to replace the ejected player in the field, and the players batting position will constitute an out each time up for the remainder of the game.

Game Length, Schedule and Make-ups

- All games will be seven (7) innings with no new inning beginning after **50 minutes**. The game clock will begin after the coin toss. The inning begins with the last out of the previous inning.
- All Leagues will begin with a 1-1 count. There will be one courtesy foul given, any additional fouls constitute a strikeout.
- A 20-run rule will be in effect after three innings, a 15-run rule will be in effect in the fourth inning and a 10-run rule will be in effect in the fifth inning during all games.
- During the regular season if teams are tied after seven (7) innings or 50 minutes the game will go to a Texas Tiebreaker (last batter from previous inning on 2nd base with two outs. Both teams have an opportunity to bat, game is determined when one team is ahead after a completed inning). If the time has reached 50 minutes and the home team is ahead (minimum 4 innings), the game is over.
- Rainouts/Make-up Games:
 1. All rained out games will be rescheduled at the sole discretion of the Recreation Program Coordinator this can include Friday nights. It is the team manager's responsibility to find out when games have been rescheduled. The Laramie Parks and Recreation Department will have games rescheduled as soon as possible.
 2. We will try to get all makeup games in by the end of the regular season. If for some reason we are unable to make up games by the final Friday, remaining games will not be made up.
 3. Team Managers may request a sun-delay on Aragon East Field. Games must be resumed within 30 minutes.

Ground Rules

All ground rules and rule changes are contained herein, with USA Softball rules governing anything not covered specifically.

1. All bats must be checked prior to use and must have the designated tape indicating that it is legal. They must appear on the approved USA SOFTBALL/ASA list. Players attempting to use a non-approved bat will be subject to the following disciplinary process (note that bat use is for the season)
 - 1st offense batter is out, and team is warned that repeated use of the illegal bat will face disciplinary issues
 - 2nd offense the batter is out, the batter is ejected, and the team captain will be ejected and suspended the following game.
 - 3rd offense the batter is out, ejected, and both the player and the team captain will be suspended the remainder of the season.
2. Teams may hit +3 home runs in all divisions.

3. The hitting team will be responsible for retrieving all balls hit out of play. Please send someone to get the ball immediately after it is hit. Recreation Field Supervisor will issue one (1) new USA Softball approved softball to begin each game. They will also provide three previously used softballs as backups. Coed games will be issued one 12" and one 11" game ball.
4. Strike Zone
 - a. "That space over any part of home plate, when a batter assumes a natural batting stance adjacent to home plate, between the batters:
 - b. B: (Slow Pitch) Back shoulder and the front knee
 - c. "The ball shall be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a high of at least six feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 10 feet from the ground"
 - d. **NEW! The ball must also hit the strike plate (not home plate).**
5. **Players hitting a home run over the fence may return to the dugout. They are not required to touch every base in order. Players on base need only return to the dugout.**
6. Batting order must alternate genders. They may have two extra hitters (one of each gender). Any time that there are two male hitters back to back there will be an out between.
7. We will follow USA SOFTBALL positioning (pitcher/catcher do not need to alternate genders, the infield must contain three males and three females at all time, and there must be two males / two females in the outfield at all times).
8. Games will be played with the 175' line, with the exception of the Rover (extra outfielder) who may be placed anywhere.
9. Courtesy Runner: each team will be allowed one (1) courtesy runner per inning.
 - a. The courtesy runner will be the last batter who was out and must be put on base before the next pitch. If there are no outs, the runner will be the last person in the batting order that is not on base.
 - b. In Coed, a team will be allowed 2 courtesy runners per inning, one male and one female runner. In Coed play, women sub for women and men sub for men.
10. If a Male Batter walks they are awarded 2nd base. If there are two outs when he walks he is awarded 2nd and the female batter that follows has the option to take 1st base instead of hitting.
11. Runner may only overrun first base using the orange base which will be designated as the runner's base. First baseman may only use the white base for in play calls, if a baseman is touching the orange bag, the runner may be determined safe.

General Game Regulations

1. Line up cards should be picked up and turned into the scorekeeper **at least 10 minutes prior** to scheduled game time. Line up cards will not be accepted by the scorekeeper unless First name and last initial for all listed players are shown. **If a team has not turned their lineup card into the scorekeeper by 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time, they will be assessed one automatic out for their first scheduled turn at bat.**
 - **Players may only play on one (1) team.**
 - **Players may only participate in City leagues as the gender that they identify as.**
 - Those identifying as men cannot participate in Women's Leagues and those who identify as women cannot participate in Men's Leagues and applies to Coed batting orders.
 - If any player is deemed illegal during the course of the game the team will forfeit the game and both the player and captain could face further disciplinary action.
 - Individuals, who are suspended, ejected, or exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior will be subject to a disciplinary hearing with the Recreation Supervisor.
 - Any player ejected has three minutes to gather their possessions and leave the park. The Field Supervisor will begin a timer upon ejection, and if they remain on the grounds at the end of three (3) minutes their team will forfeit the game.

2. Teams will take the field to play at scheduled time. No warm-ups for hitting on infield will be allowed, and this policy will be enforced by the field supervisor.
 - a. A maximum of five warm-up pitches will be allowed to start the game and to any new pitcher entering the game. Thereafter, a maximum of one warm-up pitch will be allowed per inning.
 - b. Only official game balls are allowed on the field after the first inning.
3. Field Supervisor or Scorekeeper will notify team representatives as to the starting time of games. If you have not been notified as to the official starting time, it is the team captain's responsibility to ask for the official time.
4. The team winning the flip of the coin, with both team representatives present, will choose to be home or visitor.
5. If a bat is thrown backwards after a hit, and strikes the catcher, the batter will be called out and given a warning. If repeated, the player will be ejected and may face further suspension.
6. If a player is placing other participants in danger of being hurt by continuous unintentional throwing of a bat, that player may be to protect other participants. Intentional throwing of a bat will result in immediate ejection from the game. Further sanctions against ejected players will be handled on an individual basis.
7. If substitutes are used: substitutes must be reported to the scorekeeper.
8. Fake tag is making the motions of a tag without the ball. No player is allowed to fake tag any other player. This may be considered obstruction, and the offender may be ejected from the game.
9. **Interference** is an act of players or others that interferes with a player's opportunities.
 - a. Offensive Interference - When a player interferes with or impedes or confuses a defensive player, while he is attempting to make a play, by either physical or vocal act.
 - b. Impeding players will be called out, along with attempted double play.
10. **Obstruction**
 - a. When a fielder does not have the ball and is not in the act of fielding a batted ball, an obstruction occurs if that fielder impedes the progress of a base runner.
11. When a defensive player clearly has the ball and is waiting for the runner and the runner deliberately with great force crashes into the defensive player, the runner is out. The runner shall also be ejected, the ball is dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.
12. Whenever the catcher or any fielder clearly has the ball and is waiting to tag the runner, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact. If the runner deliberately and forcefully runs into the defensive player, the runner is declared out and could be ejected from the game. The ball is declared dead and all the other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.
13. The ball will remain live until the ball is thrown back to the pitcher and the pitcher is in control of the ball.
14. Stealing bases is NOT allowed in any league.
15. Dead Ball Territory
 - a. When a live ball is unintentionally or intentionally carried or thrown by a fielder from live ball territory
 - b. EFFECT: The ball is dead and runners are awarded two (2) bases from the last base touched at the time the fielder left live ball territory."
16. There will be no walks awarded to batters hit by a pitch.
17. A batter must keep one foot in the batter's box at all times, if a batter steps out of the batter's box or steps on the home plate they will be called out.

Warm Up Policy

1. Hitting balls against chain link fences is absolutely prohibited.
2. For protection of spectators and children all teams must limit all of their players to the pregame warm-up areas.
 - a. Players may warm-up on the playing field prior to their game as time allows.

Equipment

1. No steel cleats will be allowed
 - a. A player caught wearing metal cleats will be ejected from the game immediately.
 - b. If a player is caught in a following game wearing metal cleats they will face further suspension.
2. The on-deck batter can use only one official softball bat or an approved warm-up bat for loosening up. Attachments, i.e., bat rings, or lead pipes are illegal.
3. For a bat to be considered official or legal it must conform to current USA Softball standards, marked by specific tape which a staff member will mark before each game.
4. For a Glove or mitt to be considered official or legal it must conform to current USA Softball standards

Wet Grounds

On weekdays prior to 3:30 p.m., Laramie Parks and Recreation Staff will make the determination. If you have a question about field conditions, please call the field hotline **307-721-5269 (Ext. 5)** for current field conditions. Field Hotline is updated between 3:30-4 p.m. on weekdays. After 3:30 p.m. determinations will be made by the Field Supervisor. Remember if you feel unsafe about playing; please bring it to the attention of the Field Supervisor.

Zero Tolerance Policy

The purpose of this policy is to help coaches, managers, and players make appropriate choices without punitive actions. The zero-tolerance policy affords all participants direction in developing self-discipline, leadership, integrity, character, commitment, teamwork, a healthy attitude, and respect for rules and regulations.

The City of Laramie supports the zero tolerance rules. The position of the Laramie Parks & Recreation Department is that abusive or excessive behavior by any coach, manager, or player will not be tolerated. All persons associated with any City of Laramie recreational activity must understand that situations will arise during the course of the season, which may upset them. However, we must work through these occasions to set an example for the entire organization and the community through appropriate conduct.

Any violation of this policy constitutes conduct detrimental to the spirit of sportsmanship and makes the player, coach, manager, team or official subject to disciplinary action, with possible suspension from recreational activities. A minimum suspension of one (1) game will be imposed if a violation is found to be justified. A second finding of a violation constitutes a minimum of a two (2) game suspension. A third violation will receive a minimum four (4) game suspension from all associated City of Laramie activities. All violations are subject to probation.

Any person charged with a zero-tolerance violation has the option of accepting the punishment; or has five (5) days in which to notify the Recreation Program Coordinator to request a hearing. The Coordinator will make their best effort to conduct a hearing within ten (10) days. Upon receiving the results of the hearing, you have the further right to appeal to the City of Laramie Recreation Manager. Players, coaches, and officials need rules and regulations by which their actions are guided. When they violate these rules, there must be consequences.

Types of Abuse:

1. Verbal Abuse (serious, repetitious dissent to provoke an argument, criticism or demeaning language but which does not include offensive, insulting, or foul language) – first offense one (1) game suspension.
2. Serious Verbal Abuse (e.g. using offensive, insulting, or foul language or repeated incident of less serious abuse) – two (2) game suspension – Disciplinary Committee hearing to consider additional sanctions and/or remedial actions.
3. Stepping onto the Field or Other Threat (by word or action) – four (4) game suspension – Disciplinary Committee hearing to consider additional sanctions and/or remedial actions and, if required, by a letter of apology to the players, employees, managers, and/or coaches of the teams affected by the conduct.

Alcohol Policy

According to City Ordinance 5.08.210 Open Containers, no person shall consume or carry in open containers alcoholic liquor or malt beverage on any street or highway, in any vehicle, in any restaurant, hotel dining room or any other public place or public area whatsoever within the city, except places where the sale or service of alcoholic liquor or malt beverages is authorized by Wyoming State Law or city ordinance.

Smoking Policy

According to City Ordinance 8.56.030, smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed areas of public places with the City including sports arenas. A sports arena is defined as stadiums, swimming pools, roller and ice rinks, and other similar places where members of the general public assemble to engage in physical exercise, participate in athletic competition or witness sports or other events. Further, all enclosed areas, including buildings and vehicles leased or operated by the City are subject to the smoking ordinance. Therefore, it is illegal for individuals to smoke within the Aragon Softball Complex. The parking lot is not applicable to this ordinance.

Weather Policy

The Parks and Recreation Field Supervisor will alert all field users when the fields need to be cleared for lightning. If after 30 minutes the lightning has not moved to a safe distance, all games will be cancelled / postponed for the remainder of the evening. If the lightning has moved to a safe distance, the field scorekeeper will notify users that games may resume. If fields are wet from the storm, games may be called for unsafe conditions or to save the condition of the fields. Field Supervisors will make the call on field conditions.

The City of Laramie web site offers a text/email service called Notify Me. Make sure to sign up for the “Parks & Rec” list. This allows you to receive a text message or email from Laramie Recreation about timely, important information. We will be using this service to notify of field closures, game delays, or cancellations. If you would like to subscribe to this service, go to: <http://www.cityoflaramie.org/list.aspx> and follow the instructions to sign up for Notify Me, Parks & Rec, to receive softball notifications.

For updated information about field conditions and closures please call 307-721-5269 (Ext. 5).

Contact

Adult Recreation Coordinator, Cynthia Dywan, 307-721-5261, cdywan@cityoflaramie.org

City of Laramie COVID-19 Changes

Updated 4/17/2021

Due to COVID-19 there are a number of changes that have been made to be in compliance with the State & County Health Department's Rules for gatherings.

- Stay home if you are feeling sick or have a temperature above 100.4F
- Face coverings are optional at the fields.
- Stay 3 feet or more apart unless it is absolutely necessary to be closer.
- Dugouts will be open to teams, but please maintain physical distancing.
- Spitting of any kind will result in the closing of fields and cancelation of programs. This includes shells from seeds and nuts.
- Bathrooms will be open and sanitized daily; and sanitized between games if possible.
- There will be no umpires, teams will call their own games.
- A strike plate will be provided.
- Balls will be disinfected between games.
- Disinfectant wipes will be provided at each field.
- Bring your own food and water from home. Do not share.
- Games have been shortened by 10 minutes to allow teams to leave before the next game's teams arrive.