



# Bachman Sports Complex

## 2026 Spring CWF Coed & Non-Coed Softball League Rules & Information

[www.aacounty.org/recparks](http://www.aacounty.org/recparks) Updated 1/21/26

**UMPIRE FEES: \$46 PER TEAM PER DOUBLEHEADER / \$23 PER TEAM PER GAME.**

### **CWF Softball Rules for Coed & Non-Coed Leagues**

#### **Administration**

#### **Rules of Play**

CWF Softball will follow the USA Softball Official Slow Pitch Softball Rules. The only exceptions will be those limited cases in which the USA rules conflict with a local rule described in this document. In such a situation, these local rules take precedence. In any situation which is not specifically addressed in these local rules, the current USA rules will apply.

#### **Game Cancellations**

When games are called prior to close of business (COB), notification of the cancellation will be posted in the banner of the CWF Softball Web Page, to a team's manager(s) via email, and to the answering machine at Bachman (410-553-8996). When games are cancelled after COB, the announcement will be placed on the answering machine only. The decision to cancel games due to inclement weather or adverse field conditions will typically not be made until 1500/3:00pm.

#### **Suspension**

The County reserves the right to suspend or expel from the league any team or player for violating these rules or otherwise engaging in excessively disruptive and/or dangerous behavior. Teams that are suspended from the league will be charged with a loss for each game they are scheduled to play during the suspension.

## Equipment

**Pitcher's Facemasks Required** **EFFECTIVE SPRING 2023** Pitcher's in ANY/ALL adult softball leagues **MUST** wear a facemask to pitch. **FACEMASKS ARE MANDATORY IN ALL LEAGUE GAMES AND IS NOT OPTIONAL!** Shin guards and/or chest protectors may be worn but are not mandatory. **Umpires will be instructed to not let you pitch without a facemask. Mask must be NOCSAE approved for league play!**

### **Game Balls**

The official game ball will be designated by the Board prior to the season. Before the first regular season game, each team will be provided with a dozen official game balls. The home team in each regular season game is responsible for providing a new official game ball; the visiting team is responsible for providing a good official backup ball that meets the same specs (12" ball - .52 cor / 300 compression – for Non-Coed and COED).

### **Uniforms**

Shirts, pants or shorts, and shoes must be worn by players during league play. Matching shirts and caps are encouraged, but not required.

### **Bats**

The league will be using the USA Softball rule regarding legal bats.

### **Prohibited Equipment**

Any items of equipment which is prohibited according to the current USA Softball Official Rules is, by inclusion, prohibited in the CWF league. In the interest of safety, the following items are specifically prohibited from use in the CWF leagues regardless of their USA Softball approval status:

1. Metal cleats.
2. Bats containing titanium or Kevlar.

## Local Rules

### **Game Times and Time Limits**

All efforts will be made to have games start on time. A five (5) minute grace period, from the scheduled start of a game, will be allowed for all games only if one of the team does not already have enough players to start. All regular season games will have a 65-minute time limit. The umpire must announce to both benches the official starting time of the game. No inning may begin after 65 minutes of play. A game will be ended and considered official if it reaches the 65-minute time limit regardless of inning, OR if the run ahead rule comes into effect. If the start of any game is delayed due to extended play of the previous game, the later game must start as soon as possible after the previous game ends. If any game ends early, the next game may begin earlier than scheduled, with the agreement of both managers and the Umpire.

### **Lineup Cards**

Lineup cards are no longer required. Teams should still keep a scorebook to ensure batting order and score is accurate.

## **Starting Short-handed**

A game may start and/or be played with a minimum of 9 players. In the non-coed league, there will be no automatic out for a team starting with 9 players. If a 10th player arrives, they will be inserted into the 10th spot in the lineup. If a team is playing with 10 players (or with EP), a player has to leave the game, the normal USA Softball short-handed rules will apply.

## **Count (Balls & Strikes) New Rule for Spring 2024**

When each batter enters the batter's box, they shall have a one ball and one strike count. **A courtesy 3<sup>rd</sup> strike foul ball will also be implemented.**

## **Home Run Rules**

CWF League follows the progressive home run limit. A progressive limit means that each team is allowed to hit a set number of home runs at the start of the game. Once both teams hit this number of home runs, either team can then hit an additional home run. This process repeated until a maximum number of home runs is reached.

- 1. The Non-Coed league will have a 2-4 progressive home run rule.**
- 2. Coed league will have a 1-2 progressive home run rule.**

Once a home run limit is reached, any additional home runs will be considered an out.

## **Runs Ahead Rules**

The game will end if one team has a fifteen (15) run lead at the end of the fourth (4th) inning, or a ten (10) run lead at the end of any full inning beginning with the fifth (5th) inning.

## **Courtesy Runners**

Teams will be allowed to use 1 courtesy runner per inning (1 per gender per inning for coed). Any person (of the same gender in coed) in the current lineup can be used as a courtesy runner. If someone being used as a courtesy runner is on base and their turn at bat comes up, they will be called out and taken off base. They will then proceed to bat in their normal spot in the lineup. Someone being used as a courtesy runner cannot be substituted for except in the case of an injury. In the case of an injury, the person being courtesy run for may take their place on the base. If someone who is serving as a courtesy runner is replaced on the base because of an injury, they must be replaced in the lineup with an eligible substitute. They are not eligible to reenter later in the game.

## **Extra Players (EP) New Rule for 2024**

No limits on the number of batters allowed. Managers must inform opposing team of its lineup prior to the start of the game. No additions may be made once the game has started. If EP has to exit the game, a new player (of the same gender for coed) may be inserted into the batting position. If EP cannot be replaced, position will become an automatic out. COED must still follow the proper male-female mix.

## **Coed Rules**

### **Field Positions**

There are no restrictions on male/female defensive positions.

### **Playing with Less than Ten Players**

A team may play with nine players provided five players are of one gender, four of the other. However, an automatic out will be taken for the missing player's position each time through the batting order. If a fifth eligible player of the proper gender arrives, they must be inserted into the lineup.

### **Playing with Extra Women**

If a team is short men, they are allowed to play with more than five women. Batting order will still alternate until all men have been accounted for. The end of the order will have women batting consecutively with no penalty.

When starting a game with less than five men, they may still use 12 or 14 EPs (cannot be 11 or 13). When batting more women than men, all men available must be playing on defense.

## **Conduct**

### **Bachman Facility**

CWF League will abide by the guidelines put forth by the Bachman Facility. Failure to follow these rules can result in ejection, suspension, and/or expulsion from the league.

**UPDATED 1/21/26**