

**CITY OF TEMECULA
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
League Rules**

SCMAF Rules are in effect with the following exceptions or emphasis:

PLAYER BEHAVIOR - Each team manager must keep his/her players' behavior and verbal comments in line with acceptable standards of player conduct. If a manager fails to do so, he/she may be subject to ejection from the game. **Only a manager** is allowed to question (in a courteous manner) the call of an umpire. **Non-Sportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.** Any player ejected will be automatically suspended a minimum of one (1) game. Players are responsible for the behavior of spectators, friends, & family members in attendance. Players associated with any unruly spectators, friends, or family members will be warned for the first offense, then player and manager will be ejected if behavior continues.

EMPHASIS: Any player threatening to hit ball at the pitcher will be issued a warning by the umpire. If warned player hits ball back towards pitcher at any time during the remainder of game, player will be ejected immediately. **Any player that throws a bat will be automatically ejected from that game.**

MERCY RULE - A game shall be called due to mercy rule when all of the following apply.

1) A team is losing by fifteen (15) or more runs.

2) The losing team has batted at least four times.

3) The number of at bats by the losing team is equal to or exceeds the number of at bats by the winning team.

NOTE: Any team starting a game with less than ten players will have a twelve (12) run mercy rule – if other team has at least 10 players, their mercy rule will still be fifteen (15) runs. **CORPORATE DIVISION: Must have at least 3 females (and 10 players) to be eligible for 15 run mercy rule. If less than 3 females present, 12 run mercy rule in effect.**

TIME LIMIT – No new inning after one hour and five minutes from game time. Games are seven innings or one hour and five minutes, whichever is less.

COMPLETED GAME - 4 innings (or 3 ½ if home team is winning) will be a completed game if game is called.

INFIELD PRACTICE - Allowed while the pitcher is taking warm-up pitches in the first inning only. Infield practice is not allowed before game or between innings.

FORFEITS - A team has a five (5) minute grace period to field **8 players**. The umpire's watch is the official time. A team must play with eight or more players. Visiting teams may start batting with 7 players, but 8th player must arrive by the time his/her turn in batting order is up or when 3rd out is made, whichever occurs first. If the home team has only 7 players at game time, the visiting team has the option to switch to home team to allow the other team's 8th player to show up to avoid a forfeit. If 8th player does not arrive by the time it is his/her turn to bat, or when 3 outs are made (whichever happens first), game will be logged as a forfeit. If both teams have at least 8 players, no swapping of home/visitor will be allowed. **If a team "no shows" for a game without first providing notice to league director at least 3 hours in advance, that team will be issued an automatic forfeit for the next game on their schedule (including playoffs).**

BATTING ORDER - All defensive players must bat. COED teams must alternate sex of batting order. If number of female batters is different than males, females may bat in different spot of lineup as long as female order stays the same. **CORPORATE DIVISION: No more than 3 males may bat consecutively before a female must bat.**

COED FIELDING - Either sex may play any position on the field. The only adjustment to this is when a female is batting, at least 3 outfielders must be behind the outfield cones. The 4th outfielder who is allowed in front of the cones must be a female. Teams that use a "5 player infield" must have a female as the extra infielder when a female is batting. **If a team has less than 10 players, all outfielders must stay behind cones while a female is batting, and no "5 player infield".** If a COED team has nine (9) roster players, they may play with no more than five (5) of either sex. (Example: 4 women/5 men; or 5 women/4 men). If more or less than 9 players, team must have equal number of female players on field playing defense as male players.

CORPORATE DIVISION: No more than 7 males may be on the field at one time.

SCOREKEEPER - The home team shall provide a volunteer scorekeeper for the game. Score sheets will be provided for each game by the umpire and then returned to the umpire at the completion of the game. **NOTE:** All teams must "verify" the score each half inning with both managers/scorekeepers and the umpire in agreement. **The score is final once it is verified and cannot be changed later.**

LEAD-OFFS - Runners may lead off after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

NO UMPIRE - If an umpire does not show up, games will be played with volunteer umpire agreed to by both teams. Games will be official.

UMPIRE CONCERNS/COMPLIMENTS- Please type a letter and email to league director. The letter will be forwarded on to umpiring association.

ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR SMOKING - Alcoholic beverages and smoking is not permitted in any city park before, during, and after games. Forfeiture of game may result if this occurs, along with expulsion from the league. Players violating this rule will be suspended immediately.

COURTESY RUNNERS - One courtesy runner per inning. Courtesy runner must be the last out. This rule may be modified if agreed to by both teams & umpire before game starts. In COED, runner must be same sex. **Slide or avoid at any base.**

HOME RUN RULE (ALL DIVISIONS) - One (1) up home run rule. Teams cannot at any time have more than one (1) more home run than the opposing team. Home runs hit when one (1) up will be an out. Inside the park homeruns will not count against the one (1) up count. After a homerun, the batter is not required to touch any base and may walk back to dugout.

HOME/VISITING TEAM - Listed on the schedule and score sheet. First team listed on schedule is Visitors and the second team listed is Home.

ALLOWED ON FIELD - Only rostered players and/or managers are allowed on the field of play at any time. Each offensive team is allowed only one (1) on-deck batter and two (2) total base coaches in addition to the batter on the field at any time.

TEAM ROSTER - All players must be at least 18 years old. IDs are required for all players. **If a player has not signed roster, they are not on the team.** Only rostered players are eligible to play for the team they are registered on. **Players can only play for one team each night.** If a team discovers that an unrostered player is illegally playing, the manager of the opposing team has the right to play that game under protest. Intent to protest must be made before the last out of the game (See protest form for filing procedures). No protest involving player eligibility will be allowed after the game has concluded. **In corporate division, any team found to have falsified proof of employment will not be eligible for playoffs and those players found to not actually be working for said company will be declared ineligible for remainder of season.**

MANAGERS - Teams must have (2) managers. At least one (1) manager must be a rostered player.

PROTEST RULES & PROCEDURES- (See protest form for more details)

- Have 24hrs to turn in or by the next working day.
- \$30.00 protest cost
- If challenge is won, \$30 is refunded

BATS - **The City of Temecula will provide bats for all games.** Players may not use their own bats. Any player who steps into the batter's box with a non-city issued bat will be called out for the first offense. If any player from that team steps into the batter's box with a non-city issued bat again that game, the penalty will be an automatic ejection for that player and the team manager.

BALLS & STRIKES - All batters will start with a one and one count.

Four strike rule in effect: When after having 2 strikes the batter hits a 2nd foul ball, the batter will be out.

COED DIVISIONS: If a male is walked on 3 straight balls with no strikes thrown, they will be awarded 2nd base.

CORPORATE DIVISION: If male is walked on 3 straight balls with no strikes thrown, batter may only go to 1st base.

BASES - Base distance is 65 feet for all divisions. 1st base will have a double (safety) bag. For plays at 1st, runner must touch outside (red) bag. Defensive players must make play touching inside (white) bag or by tagging runner. It is not an out if defensive player touches outside (red) bag.

PITCHING HEIGHT- A pitched ball must arc a height of at least 6 feet and may not exceed 12 feet from the ground.

PITCHER'S BOX - There will be a 4 foot wide X 6 foot deep pitcher's box. **The pitcher must pitch from the pitching rubber.** Any ball that is hit in the air through the box up to 6 feet, or up to pitcher's height (whichever is higher) will be a dead ball out. Ground balls that hit the ground before the pitching rubber will be a live ball. This rule will be enforced based on the umpire's best judgment.

TIE GAMES - International Tie Breaker rules will be used for one inning if time permits. Last out of previous inning takes second base with following batters until three outs are made. Home team does the same. If after that, the game is still a tie, it will be recorded as such and will not be replayed.

LEAGUE STANDINGS- For updated standings, please visit the City of Temecula's sports webpage at: www.temeculaca.gov/sports.

PLAYOFFS- For all divisions, except the Corporate division (see below), the top 4 teams will qualify for playoffs. The top 4 teams will be determined by the final standing at the end of the season. **IF** there is a tie, it will come down to head to head matchup. **IF** a tie still, it will be determined by the total runs scored against each other for the teams in question. **IF** a tie still, it will be determined by the runs scored for the whole season.

All teams in the Corporate Division will qualify for playoffs. Divisions will be split up so that the top 4 teams play each other in playoffs, and the bottom 4 teams will play each other.

ALL DIVISIONS WILL HAVE MANDATORY ROSTER CHECKS FOR PLAYOFFS.

Playoffs will be following week after regular season unless otherwise notified on schedule.
(Details will be emailed & posted on website)

If you win 2 consecutive seasons, you will be moved up to the next division. To avoid moving, you **MUST** change 65% of your roster (**no exceptions!**).

Teams may be moved to a higher division sooner at the league director's discretion.

AWARDS - 1st place will receive sweatshirts & 2nd place will receive T-shirts (Can substitute sweatshirt for t-shirts or long sleeve shirts). First place team can put your logo on front or back. If on back, teams can put City of Temecula softball logo on front chest. **No other options will be offered.**

ADD/DROPS - Teams have until the middle of the season to add or drop players. (See add/drop deadline on website) \$10.00 non-resident fee still applies. **No refunds for dropped non-residents, and cannot credit \$10.00 to another player.** Must turn in add/drop form 3 working days prior to next game. Manager **MUST** bring in, or call or email league director to confirm before brought in. If a player is dropped from a team, no other team playing that night may pick player up for remainder of season.

RAIN OUTS - Wet fields and/or other inclement conditions: Information will be available on the day of the scheduled game by calling the **city's sports information hotline at (951) 694-6447, or by visiting the City of Temecula's sports webpage listed at bottom of this page after 3:00 p.m.** It is the responsibility of each manager/coach to call the hotline in the event of possible rainouts. Umpires will make decision to continue or postpone games in progress once rain starts.

NO SWAPPING GAMES - Once the schedule is posted, there will be no swapping of games to accommodate a scheduling conflict. Team may request a certain bye week prior to schedules being completed, but the schedule will not change once it is posted. Bye requests are not guaranteed.

GAME LOCATIONS - All games played at Patricia Birdsall Sports Park. Fields 1-3 have signs indicating field number. Jacob Nelson Championship Field is #4 (entrance gates for #4 outside bullpens)

SHOES- Shoes (sandals not allowed) must be worn at all times. **No metal cleats allowed.**

SOFTBALL USED- Yellow Dudley Thunder Hycon SY 4A-069Y .52COR/300lb Compression

Lights turn off @ 10:00pm sharp!

For questions, comments, or concerns please contact league director:

Andrew Formentera
(951) 302-4195
Sports@temeculaca.gov
www.temeculaca.gov/sports