

## 2006 SONY PICTURES SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

**Rules and conditions for League Play shall follow the rules outlined for regular softball in the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (S.C.M.A.F) softball rulebook. The Sony Pictures Softball Rules take precedence over the S.C.M.A.F softball rulebook where contradictions exist.**

### GAME SITE

- Syd Kronenthal Park (3459 McManus Ave. Culver City, CA 90232)

### GAME TIMES

Game times will be determined according to the Official League Schedule with the HOME TEAM listed last.

- Warm-Up Time: Warm-ups may be taken if time permits and are the RESPONSIBILITY of each team. 'Time Available' factor may be determined by the umpires in charge.
- All regular season games will be 7 innings or 1 hour and 10 minutes (even if they start late), whichever comes first. No new inning may start after 1 hour and 10 minutes.
  - The Umpires in Charge will hold the "official" time of the game. The game's umpire is required to notify the scorekeeper and both captains of the exact start of "game time." In cases in which time is disputed, the clock monitored by the scorekeeper will be used as a secondary measurement. Once 1 second has past per minute, game time is rounded to the next minute.
- In ALL GAMES, if a game is tied at the end of regulation play, play will continue until the tie is broken (EXTRA INNINGS).
- In ALL GAMES, if either team is unable to field a minimum of nine (9) legally rostered players at game time, a combination grace period (*which comes off game time*) and 'Flip-Flop' rule will apply. For each minute delayed, up to a five minute maximum, starting with the first partial second beyond the officially scheduled game time, a run shall be awarded to the non-offending team.

#### (FLIP-FLOP RULE)

At the conclusion of the grace period, if the offending team can field a minimum of seven legally rostered players (at least two players must be of the same sex) it will AUTOMATICALLY become the visiting team and MUST take its turn at bat. The offending team MUST be able to field a minimum of nine legally rostered players prior to the completion of it's turn at bat (three outs, or prior to the completion of one rotation through the batting order). If the offending team is unable to comply, the game shall be ruled a forfeit and the official score shall be recorded as 7 - 0.

At the conclusion of the grace period, if neither team is able to field a minimum of nine legally rostered players (at least two players must be of the same sex) an additional five minutes will be allowed without any run penalty. If, during this second five-minute period one team is able to produce a minimum of nine legally rostered players the 'Flip Flop' rule as described above will apply. If neither team is able to field a minimum of nine legally rostered players at the conclusion of the second five minute period the game shall be ruled a double-forfeit and the official score shall be recorded as 0 - 0.

### FORFEITS

We do not like forfeits-and neither do our participants. Please contact the Sony Pictures Athletic Club ASAP if you think your team will forfeit. All forfeits count as an additional .5 loss. (when used as the tie-breaker)

## **CALLED GAMES / RAIN OUTS**

If an umpire deems it necessary, a game may be 'called' due to ANY unsafe condition arising with field and/or equipment. 'Called' games may or may not be rescheduled at the end of the season if time permits and or if PLAYOFF standings are affected.

Once a game is called due to weather or any other circumstances that would prevent further play, the following rules will be in effect:

1. If the teams have played less than four complete innings and the score was not tied (at the end of the last completed inning), the game will be rescheduled and play will resume from the point where the game was called.

If the teams have played less than four complete innings and the score was tied, the game will be rescheduled and replayed from the beginning.

2. If the teams have completed at least four innings, and the score was not tied, the game score will be considered final – no replay will be necessary (the score at the end of the last completed inning will be used to determine winner of game).

If the teams have played at least four innings and the score was tied, the game will be rescheduled and play will resume from the point where the game was called.

The original schedule should be followed to the end of the regular season's games. The scheduled playoff weeks will be postponed while the first 'called'/postponed/rained out games will be played with all game times to be followed as originally scheduled.

### **\*\*\*GAME STATUS LINE (310) 244-3665\*\*\***

If we need to cancel games due to weather conditions (i.e. rain, fog) or special events, we will make every effort to notify each team captain. Decisions on whether to play when weather or field(s) are bad will be made between 8:00 am and 9:00 am on the day of the game.

Team Captains are responsible to inform players of the Game Status Line number. This line will provide information on game times, rainouts & field status updates periodically beginning at noon of the day in question.

## **TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Learn all rules and regulations contained herein AND in the S.C.M.A.F. (Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation) rulebook AND convey such information to all players. Knowledge of the S.C.M.A.F. rules and the Sony Pictures Softball League Rules is the responsibility of each player. Ignorance of the rules will not reduce penalties for rule(s) violations.
- Attend the MANDATORY Manager's meeting or send a well informed representative.
- All captains must have an operating email address.
- Almost all league communication is done via email. Therefore, your timely response is not only greatly appreciated, but required.
- Present a starting line-up to the 'Official' League Scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes prior to the start of each game.
- Communicate with all members of the league and team, sharing game info, rallying participation, making sure all members are in attendance and play league minimums.
- MAKE SURE THERE IS NO ALCOHOL CONSUMED ON THE PARKS BY ANY PLAYER OR SPECTATOR. THIS IS A CITY ORDINANCE. IF A TEAM OR THEIR SUPPORTERS ARE IN POSSESSION OR CONSUMING ALCOHOL, THAT TEAM WILL FORFEIT THE GAME. THIS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE UMPIRES IN CHARGE.

- MAKE SURE THERE IS NO ANIMAL OF ANY SORT ON THE PARKS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE ON A LEASH. MANAGERS SHOULD INFORM HIS/HER PLAYERS OR SPECTATORS THAT THE GAME WILL NOT CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME THE ANIMAL IS REMOVED FROM THE PARK AND COULD ALSO RESULT IN A FORFEIT.

\*\*Any team violating a City Ordinance a second time will not be allowed to play in the League for a designated period of time determined solely by the Sony Pictures Athletic Club.

**If a team captain is failing to maintain his/her responsibilities listed above, the Sony Pictures Athletic Club may remove him/her from team captain duties.**

## **WAIVERS**

Team Waivers: **MUST** be turned into the scorekeeper at the game site before the team's first game. (Including Preseason)

A minimum of nine rostered players **MUST** be on the field and in the batting line up at **ALL TIMES**. Teams may play a maximum of ten players on the field defensively while batting all players in attendance.

## **ROSTER CHANGES**

**ALL ROSTER CHANGES WILL BE DONE SOLELY BY THE SONY PICTURES ATHLETIC CLUB. ANY PLAYER THAT NO LONGER WANTS TO PARTICIPATE MUST NOTIFY THE SONY PICTURES ATHLETIC CLUB IN ORDER TO REPLACE HIM/HER ON THE TEAM ROSTER**

## **ILLEGAL PLAYER(S)**

Any team found using an illegal player (a player who has not filled out a Waiver form, and is not on the team's 'Official' League Roster) will be penalized in the following manner:

First Offense:

- One game suspension for the team captain on record of the offending team REGARDLESS if he/she was at the game or not AND one game suspension for the acting manager when the team captain of record was not present.
- Forfeiture of the game

Second Offense:

- Team Captain of offending team is suspended remainder of the season.
- Team Captain will not be allowed to be a captain the following season.

## **PROTESTS**

**Reminder:** A protest CANNOT be made on a judgment call, only rule interpretations. We do not like protests. We hope all questions can be answered on the field, during the game.

A protest **MUST** be reported to the umpire in charge by the team captain of the protesting team prior to the next pitch.

A written protest **MUST** be submitted to the Sony Pictures Athletic Club by the protesting team no later than 5:00 p.m. up to two working days AFTER the game in question.

A formal protest should include the date, time, place of game, names of Umpires and Scorekeeper, the rule and section of the S.C.M.A.F. rulebook, and all essential facts involved in the protest.

## **OFFICIAL LEAGUE SOFTBALL**

The league will provide the 'Official' ball for play. Teams are required to provide a decent backup ball.

## SONY PICTURES SOFTBALL IN-HOUSE RULES

- **ALL PLAYERS MUST BE SPE EMPLOYEES OR DESIGNATED ELIGIBLE BY SPAC.**
- Male/Female Minimum on field:
- All games are to be played 7:3 ratio-when available. Otherwise:
  - **When one team has 2 females:**
    - If one team has 2 females, they may play 7 males:2 females (only 3 outfielders). If both teams have 2 females, both must play 7 males:2 females.
- Batting Order:
  - Separate male and female batting orders.
  - A female bats every third at bat.
  - Teams with only two females get an out every third female at bat.
  - These rules stand regardless if teams have equal number of females in attendance.
- There will be NO BATTING PRACTICE before the game.
- ABSOLUTELY NO FENCE HITTING!
- Tape applied to any bat must be a continuous spiral. It does not have to be a solid layer of tape. All bats shall have a safety knob of a minimum of 1 inch protruding at a 90-degree angle from the handle. It may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened. A "flare" or "cone" grip attached to the bat will be considered altered and illegal.
- Any player who throws their bat may be called out or ejected from the game on the first offense at the discretion of the umpire. A second thrown bat will result in an automatic out and ejection.
- Dugouts: Visitors - first base side / Home - third base side
- Pitchers are allowed five (5) warm-up pitches in the first inning with two (2) warm-up pitches every inning thereafter.
- No infield ball after the first inning.
- Batter(s) start with a one-strike count.
- The maximum allowable arc of a pitched ball is 12 feet while the minimum allowable arc is the top of the batter's head. Any pitch outside the above mentioned strike zone not swung at will be considered dead. Any pitched ball that drops short of the plane of the plate will be considered dead regardless if swung at or not.
- The second foul ball after two strikes on a batter will be an out. (A caught fly ball supersedes this rule)
- Courtesy Runner Rule: Each team will be allowed two courtesy runners per game. Courtesy runner(s) will be the player with the last recorded out, or if in the first inning and no outs have occurred, the last player in the 'Official' line-up. An injured player may have an additional courtesy runner run for him/her at any time.
- Runners may take a leadoff AFTER the ball is released from the Pitcher's hand.
- No base-stealing.
- **Collision Avoidance** – Any baserunner(s) **MUST** slide **OR** avoid contact with any fielder who is in possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag or is in the process of receiving a thrown ball. In cases where a double-play possibility exists, any/all baserunner(s) **MUST** slide **OR** avoid contact with the fielder to allow the fielder **ATTEMPTING** a double-play an **UNOBSTRUCTED** throw to complete the double-play.
- After a legal pitch which is not hit, if the return throw to the pitcher reaches the outfield grass, the ball will be considered 'live' and in play. Runner(s) may advance at his/her own risk.
- No fake tags – any fake tag will result in a warning OR upon umpire's discretion, ejection from the game and possible suspension from the league.
- **Definition: Fake Tag** - ANY action that induces a runner to slide unnecessarily.
- A new or 'best' ball will be put into play at the bottom of the fourth (4th) inning.
- Any time a team leads by 20 runs or more before the fifth inning, that team MAY NOT exceed one rotation through their batting line-up in any single team at-bat (half inning).
- **Run per Inning Rule:** A team may not score more than 10 runs per inning except for the last inning of play or if you are trailing by more than 10 runs.

- **Mercy Rule:** A game will end anytime after five innings, when a team is behind by 15 runs and has completed its turn at bat.
- **Cleats:** Only rubber cleats allowed.
- **Bats:** **NO** triple-walled bats.

### **BASE ON BALLS**

A male batter who is walked on four (4) consecutive balls with no strikes thrown during his time at bat or is intentionally walked prior to any pitches shall be awarded two bases, when followed by a female in the batting order. Base runners advance only if forced to vacate their bases. After a male batter receives one (1) or more strikes in his at-bat, he shall only be awarded first base.

### **COURTESY RUNNERS**

Courtesy runners **MUST** be of the same gender as the individual being replaced.

### **ARCED AREA**

When a female is at bat, a minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind the outfield restriction line (160-foot arc from home plate) until the batter hits the pitch. The short fielder (rover) **MUST** be a female.

Penalty: Batter is awarded first base unless she reaches base safely otherwise.

### **DEFENSIVE RESTRICTIONS**

When only two (2) female players are on the field, there can be no short fielder (rover) at any time and the 7<sup>th</sup> male must play catcher.

### **LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY**

Any player on the roster that has not participated in either game 1 or 2 of the regular season will be removed from his/her team and replaced by someone on the waiting list, unless one of the following criteria are met.

- There is no waiting list
- The player has a medical condition, along with proper documentation, and has presented it to the Sony Pictures Athletic Club.
- The Sony Pictures Athletic Club has waived this requirement for the player.

### **PLAYOFFS**

To be eligible for playoff participation, a player must be on the roster by May 15, 2006.

All playoff games adhere to the following characteristics:

- No Time Limit
- 10 minute grace period (no run penalty, no flip-flop rule)
- 15 run rule (mercy rule) is in effect after the completion of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. (not in championship game)

In cases where teams are tied at the end of the regular season, the following criteria will be used to break the tie(s) (in order):

1. Each forfeit counts as an additional half loss
2. Head-to-Head record of tied teams
3. Run Differential (runs scored minus runs allowed) of tied teams (Head-to-Head)
4. Run Differential (runs scored minus runs allowed) within League
- 5.** Coin Flip

## **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

**Reminder:** Officials have jurisdiction **BEFORE, DURING,** and **AFTER** all games.

Any player(s) and/or team involved in fighting or unsportsmanlike conduct during a game upon ejection will **automatically** be suspended from that game plus the next scheduled game. Any player(s) and/or team involved in fighting or unsportsmanlike conduct after a game upon post-game ejection will **automatically** be suspended for the next two scheduled games. When a player is ejected, suspension applies to all teams the player is rostered on and all sports conducted by the Sony Pictures Athletic Club.

Additionally, the Sony Pictures Athletic Club will review the case for possible further disciplinary action and or penalties. Human Resources will be notified and disciplinary actions, including loss of employment, will be determined. After case review, disciplinary action(s) taken may fall anywhere between the waiving of further suspension and/or penalties/fines to the permanent suspension for the player(s) and/or team from the Sony Pictures Softball League.

## **GROUND RULES – SYD KRONENTHAL PARK**

### **Parking Lot**

Any batted ball that enters the parking lot (right field) shall be declared dead and the batter shall be awarded a home run.

### **Sidewalk and Park Office**

Any batted ball that hits the sidewalk and/or park office building shall be declared dead and the batter shall be awarded a home run.

***The Sony Pictures Athletic Club reserves the right to pursue any action deemed necessary to preserve the integrity of the League. This includes ruling on all conditions and regulations set forth for League play, and interpreting these rules where/when needed.***

## **LEAGUE CONTACTS**

Octavio Cueva, League Commissioner  
Dean Hotop, Athletic Club Director

244-3665  
244-3665