

Florida First Coast Softball Rules

1. **NO SMOKING** of ANY KIND inside the park. If umpires catch someone smoking, vaping, cigars, etc.; they will have the authority to eject the player. If teams do not have a legal substitute the game will be forfeited ZERO TOLERANCE.
2. We reserved the right to **move games** from Drew Park to Ringhaver Park if any scheduling conflict occur.
3. Must play with **balls** from the concession stand that have our **FFC stamp** on them. No other ball can be used for league.
4. Please get your **rosters** turned in at your 1st game. If you need to add players during the year, there is an add/drop sheet upstairs.
5. **No sunflower seeds on the field.** LET ME REPEAT THAT....NO sunflower seeds on the field.

GAMES & SCHEDULE

1. **Placement Policy:** No guarantee will be granted to any teams regarding placement at any softball complex or field, or playing times for league play. Florida First Coast Softball, Inc. reserves the right, with or without the concurrence of the managers in each league, to do one of the following in the interest of balanced competition and sports promotion generally: (1) refuse an entry; (2) place a team(s) in a league of higher or lower classification.
2. **Managers' responsibilities:**
 - Ensure all team players are familiar with the playing rules & regulations.
 - Ensure all team players are at least 18 years of age to play and has signed the Waiver, Release of Liability, and Indemnification Agreement Roster.
 - Control the behavior of their players and fans. Managers are responsible for all acts of unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - Furnish FFC Softball a valid email address.

All correspondence from FFC Softball will be via email.
3. **Number of Games Played:** Each team will play approximately **10 to 12 games** during the season, depending on the number of teams in the league and weather conditions permitting. **Sunday** and other one-night-a-week leagues will play **6 to 8 games** during the season weather conditions permitting.

4. **Game Times:** Weekday games start at **6:45 p.m.** but may vary from league to league. Game times occasionally change in the schedule and double headers may be added to make up canceled games. Team managers are responsible for checking schedules before each game and make notes on the schedule anytime you receive makeup-game information. **Sunday Co Ed** games will start at **2:35 pm.** except when tournaments are being hosted at game site they may begin at **5 or 6 p.m.**

NOTE: A team that is not ready to start on time will forfeit the game.

5. 60 Minute Time Limit
6. Start with 1 and 1 Count, no courtesy foul, the NET is considered a foul. Hitting the net with two strikes on the batter, will result in an out.
7. Pitching Screen/NET must cover half of the pitching rubber. Pitchers are **NOT** allowed to be the first to make a play on a live ball. Pitchers can **NOT** catch fly balls, nor can they make a play on a slow grounder. If the pitcher is the first to touch a live ball the play will be called dead, and the batter will be awarded 1st Base.
8. Pitch height is 6-10 feet from the ground up.
9. Must toe the rubber
10. Pump Faking is allowed when pitching
11. At 1st Base, player must use safety bag if there is a play at 1st. If player uses wrong bag they will be ruled out. On any attempt to force the runner out at 1st base on the initial throw that pulls the defense off 1st base into foul ground, the defense and the runner may use either the white or orange portion of the base for safety purposes.
12. At Home plate there is a safety plate. Player must touch the safety plate before catcher catches the ball at home. It is **ONLY** a force out at home. Catcher must catch the ball before player steps on safety plate. **NO TAGGING** at Home and **NO SLIDING** at Home. Once a runner passes the commitment line, the runner cannot return to third base.
13. A **strike mat** will be used in all leagues, any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on any part of the PLATE or the MAT will be ruled a strike.
14. A batter must have some part of both feet touching the batter's box. When a batter makes contact, their back foot cannot be in front of the plate. Batter can **NOT** step in front of or on the plate/mat or they will be declared out.
15. Runners will be **ALLOWED** off the base if requested but must re touch before advancing to the next bag.

UMPIRES

FFC strives to provide the best umpiring experience you can have and in doing so we try to provide 2 umpires at all times if staffing permits.

All complaints filed on any of umpires MUST BE IN WRITING.

Please email: Mike@ffcsoftball.com.

OFFICIALS FEES: Each team manager will be responsible for paying game officials before each game is played. Each game will be assigned two (2) umpires and one (1) scorekeeper

Slow Pitch Softball:

*The fees for the **umpires** and **scorekeeper** are **cash only**.*

Sunday:

- Umpire - \$16 per team
- Scorekeeper - \$7 per team

Monday:

Women's:

- Umpire - \$16 per team
- Scorekeeper - \$7 per team

Men's:

- Umpire - \$24 per team
- Scorekeeper - \$7 per team

Tuesday:

- Umpire - \$24 per team
- Scorekeeper - \$7 per team

Wednesday:

- Umpire - \$24 per team
- Scorekeeper - \$7 per team

Thursday:

- Umpire - \$24 per team
- Scorekeeper - \$7 per team

NOTE: Personal Checks **will not** be accepted by the umpire and scorekeeper. Game fees for umpires and scorekeeper subject to change with written notification. Game will be forfeited if a team fails to pay an umpire or scorekeeper **before** each game. Please have exact amount due for umpire fees. Three forfeits will call for expulsion from league play.

Important Note: Once the schedules have been completed and published there will be no refunds processed due to facility, field, or game time assignment. There will be a \$30 administration fee applied to all refunds processed.

HOMERUNS

Homeruns allowed in each league can change from season to season based on the teams who sign up in our leagues. At the top of every schedule the homerun limits are listed for each division. **Women HRs in coed count towards team HR total.**

Sunday:

- Upper – 3 and an out
- Lower – 1 and an out

Monday:

Women's:

- 3 and an out

Men's:

- 3 THEN an (IE) Inning Ending Out

Tuesday:

- 5 then an out

Wednesday:

- 3 and an out

Thursday:

- 3 THEN an (IE) Inning Ending Out

PLAYER EJECTIONS

If a player is ejected by an umpire for any reason, the penalties will be as follows:

1st Offense- Suspended for two weeks and on probation for 12 months. A 2nd ejection during this probationary period will result in a 3-month suspension.

*If teams do not have a legal substitute the game will be forfeited.

EQUIPMENT

No Metal cleats

Any 220 or 240 USSSA Stamped Bats, BANNED BATS ARE NOT ALLOWED

For SENIOR LEAGUE ONLY: Senior Bats are allowed

All game balls will have to be purchased from the concession stand; these balls will have the **FFC stamp**. This is the **ONLY ball** that can be used in any league game.

FFC Stamped Official Softball Price:

- \$85 for a dozen
- \$8 for a single ball

RUNNERS

One runner per inning allowed, for coed one per gender per inning allowed. The player must be in the lineup or a legal substitution. If the player who ran is now up to bat, then the original player can return to the bases to run for themselves.

COED RULES

All Infielders must play on the brown color turf (or in the dirt at Ringhaver Park) when a female is up to bat. 4 outfielders must also be behind the 200' line when a female is up to bat. If a defender is in front of the line or not in the brown colored turf, they will be awarded first base.

LINEUPS

Men can bat up to 12 players in their starting lineup.

Wednesday Coed can bat up to 12 players in their starting lineup. No girls can touch in the starting lineup, and you cannot bat 3 guys in a row in the starting lineup. Teams must always have 4 females in the field. **One exception, a team can start with 9 players if short a FEMALE or MALE. That spot in the lineup will be considered an out.

- 6 males-4 females

- 6 males-5 females

- 7 males-5 females

Sunday Coed can bat up to 12 players in their starting lineup. No girls can touch in the starting lineup, and you cannot bat 5 guys in a row in the starting lineup. Teams must always have 3 females in the field. **One exception, a team can start with 9 players if short a FEMALE or MALE. That spot in the lineup will be considered an out.

- 7 males-3 females

- 8 males-3 females (ONLY
on Sundays can you bat an
extra guy without an extra
female)

- 8 males-4 females

Teams that are short a female on Sundays may only bat a maximum of 9 players (10 if female arrives late) They can NOT bat the extra guy if missing 3rd female. (7 males/2 females)

Exceptions: If a player cannot continue to play due to an injury and the team does not have a substitute then the game is not a forfeit, it will just be an out in the lineup each time the injured player comes up to bat. If a player is ejected, then the team must have a legal substitute for the game to continue. If the team does not have a legal substitute, then the game will be over.

ROSTERS

Rosters must be turned in EACH season to be eligible to play in the end of season tournament. ONLY Rostered players are eligible to play in the end of season tournament. Players are eligible to play in ONLY one MEN'S end of season tournament each season.

RAIN

FFC will attempt to notify teams to the best of their ability as soon as the decision is made to cancel games. Emails will be sent to the coaches.

If games start and rain is in the immediate forecast, umpires will discuss with the coaches at the coaches meeting if they would like to attempt to play. If the game starts, the umpires will be authorized to keep their money. If both coaches decide not to play the umpires will not get paid and no game will be played.

If active rain occurs after the start of the first games the umpires are required to wait 10 MINUTES to see if rain will stop. Only exception, if torrential rain occurs quickly and the Outfields have standing water then the games can be called prior to the 10-minute wait.