Each Men’s and Women’s team will consist of ten players. Each team must have a minimum of nine players present at game time to begin a game. Each Co-Rec team will consist of ten players (five men and five women). Each Co-Rec team must have a minimum of nine players present to begin a game (five men and four women or five women and four men).

**Game Factors, Time, and Length**

1. Each game will consist of either seven innings or 50 minutes (whichever occurs first). No new inning will begin once the 50-minute time limit has expired; however, any inning which has started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed.

2. Bases will be 60 feet apart. The pitching rubber will be 50 feet from home plate. There will be no fence or any other designated area for homers.

3. Mercy rule: If a team is ahead by 20 runs after three complete innings (two and a half if the home team is ahead), 15 runs after four complete innings (three and a half if the home team is ahead), or 10 runs after five innings (four and a half if the home team is ahead), then the game will be considered complete. This rule will apply to all championship games.

4. Extra Innings: If the score remains tied at the end of regulation play, extra innings will be played to determine a winner.

5. Substitutions: A substitute may enter the game in place of a starter. This substitute will bat in the same spot in the lineup as did the starter he or she is replacing. All starters are eligible to return once in their same spot in the lineup. Once a substitute comes out of the game, he or she is no longer eligible to return. There will be no courtesy pinch runners at any time.

**Rules of Play**

1. **Batting:** Each batter will assume a one ball/one strike count at the start of every at bat. The batter will walk when the count has a total of four balls. The batter will strike out after three strikes. If a batter has two strikes, and hits a foul ball, then he or she will be allowed to have one more (courtesy foul). A strike or another foul ball after the courtesy foul will result in the batter being declared out.

2. **Pitching:** Players will pitch to the opposing team by rolling the ball towards home plate. Each pitch must bounce at least two times before reaching home plate. After the ball first contacts the ground, it may bounce no higher than one foot off the ground (unless the batter kicks it, in which case it will remain live).

3. **Stealing and leading off bases are not permitted.**

4. **Force outs:** Any play may become a force out by hitting the runner with the ball below the head and shoulders. Base runners may not deliberately attempt to
deflect a thrown ball in order to allow another base runner to advance further. Time will be called in this instance and all runners will return to the base occupied at the time of interruption.

5. A runner will be declared out when
   a. Running more than three feet out of the base path to avoid being tagged;
   b. Touched by a fielder who has possession of the ball while not on a base;
   c. In a force-out situation, the fielder contacts the base before the runner reaches it;
   d. Passing another runner that has not already been called out;
   e. Leaving a base before a fly ball has been touched by a fielder or dropped to the ground, provided the play is properly appealed by the defense;
   f. Interfering with a defensive player’s effort to field a ball or attain proper position;
   g. Struck by a fair, untouched, batted ball if not on a base;
   h. Intentionally crashing into a fielder or intentionally failing to avoid being hit with a thrown ball;
   i. Leaving a base before a pitch is hit; or
   j. Sliding head first or cleats-up into a base.

6. A runner will not be declared out when
   a. Defensive obstruction occurs or
   b. When sliding into a base safely, the base is dislodged from its proper position.

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**Lineup**

1. Each team’s lineup must be given to the supervisor and/or umpires assigned to each game before it begins.

2. If a team is found to be batting out of order
   a. While the incorrect player is still batting: the correct player must enter and assume the current ball/strike count;
   b. After the incorrect player has batted and before the next pitch is thrown: the batter will be declared out, and any advancing base runners must return; or
   c. After the incorrect player has batted and after the next pitch is thrown: the at-bat stands.

3. Any team who begins a game with nine players may add the tenth player at the bottom of their lineup, regardless of when the player shows up and signs in to play.

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**Additional co-pec rules**

1. Teams must alternate males and females in the batting order. If a team bats nine players, an out will be recorded in the lineup where two males or females are batting consecutively. Note that the difference between the number of males and females may not exceed one.

2. Position requirements are as follows:
   a. The pitcher and catcher must be of opposite gender
   b. The infield and outfield must each have two males and two females