



**Publix Sports Park**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALL SLOW PITCH LEAGUES**

**A. TEAM ROSTER AND PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY**

1. All teams must have an official league roster on file with Publix Sports Park.
2. All players, coaches, managers etc. must be on an official league roster to participate in league games. Any player participating in a game who is not on an official league roster will be an ineligible player and will result in the offending team forfeiting the game. On the second offense of any player of said team playing without being on a valid and current official roster, the ENTIRE team will be suspended for the remainder of league play.
3. Any manager who allows, and any player who participates without being on an official league roster, will be suspended for one year.
4. NO PLAYER will be allowed to change LEAGUE teams after the captains meeting.
5. USA Rule - The deadline for adding players to a team's roster will be the captains meeting. Under NO circumstances will a team be allowed to add players after this date. (League or USA)
6. USA Rule - Men will play on Men's teams ONLY and Women will play on Women's teams ONLY. Exception: Co-Ed play.
7. USA Rule - All league players must be 16 years old before participating in an Adult League game.
8. Any player who gives falsification of address will be suspended PERMANENTLY from the LEAGUE - all games in which he/she participated will be forfeited.
9. IDENTIFICATION - requests must be met within fifteen (15) minutes after protest. A Florida Driver's license, Florida I.D. card, or military I.D. card will be accepted.
10. A team roster may include eighteen (18) players.
11. PLAYERS MUST SIGN THEIR OWN PLAYER CONTRACT FORMS.
12. It is the manager's responsibility to inform his/her players of all Publix Sports Park rules and regulation **\*\*Any player not added to the roster will not be allowed to play\*\***



## **B. GAME TIMES**

1. Game times are: 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm.
2. There will be a ten (10) minute grace period for the first game, and it will be counted as playing time. If the team does not have eight (8) players on the field by the end of the grace period, the game is forfeited.
3. There will be no grace period for the second and third games. Teams playing these games should have their teams prepared to start immediately following proceeding game; thus, **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME**.
4. Games will be limited to one hour and ten minutes (1 hour, 10 minutes) with no new inning to begin after this time except tied games.

## **C. RULES FOR LOCAL LEAGUES: 2023 ASA SLOW PITCH RULES WILL APPLY TO ALL LEAGUE GAMES, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:**

1. Approval of the Leagues and Programs Coordinator will be required for a team to continue participation in the league after forfeiture of two (2) games.
2. A team must have eight (8) players to start and finish a game, one of which must be a **CATCHER**. The ninth and tenth batting positions will be **OUTS**.
3. EH Rule - if at any point, the EH is unable to continue, and a substitute is not available, a forfeit **WILL NOT** occur, but an **OUT** will be declared in that batting position. Teams may bat twelve (12) players but no player can be added after the game starts.
4. ASA Rule 8 - Section 8(s) - When a defensive player has the ball and the **RUNNER REMAINS ON HIS FEET** and deliberately, with great force, crashes into the defensive player, the runner is to be declared out. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected from the game.
5. **10-RUN RULE**. If a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more after five (5) innings, 4½ innings in case of home team, the game will be called. Rule applies to all leagues.
6. **15-RUN RULE**. 15-run rule after four (4) complete innings. Rule applies to all leagues.
7. **20-RUN RULE**. 20-run rule after three (3) complete innings. Rule applies to all leagues.



8. Managers will have their lineups turned in to the scorekeeper ten (10) minutes before scheduled game time. **LINEUPS MUST HAVE LAST NAME, 1<sup>st</sup> INITIAL AND JERSEY NUMBER PRINTED LEGIBLY.**
9. Teams are permitted one (1) courtesy runner per inning, per gender if co-ed. His/her at bat must not come up while they are on base. Effect: out is called and they are forced to take their bat.
10. USA Rule book section 4- Forfeited Games. E- **If a team employs tactics noticeably designed to delay the game, only one warning will be issued. Umpire will call time and speak with offending coach only. Next time game will be forfeited. Park supervision will be called to observe after first offense.**
11. **MOLDED CLEATS** will be allowed. **NO METAL CLEATS OR METAL-STUDED** in league play, but shoes must always be worn.
12. In case of games in progress being called due to inclement weather, games which have played five innings (4½ if home team ahead), or games which have completed 40 minutes of playing time, shall be declared official games and will not be rescheduled.
13. Managers are responsible for having the PROPER softball in play at the beginning of their team's turn at bat, or when one is fouled out of play. The legal softball used at Publix Sports Park will be a 12" Red Stitch ball stamped USA approved COR.44 for men & 11" Red Stitch ball Stamped USA approved COR.44 for women. The USA Insignia shall be in black ink. Ball compression shall be. 300-.375. Any other type ball used will result in the offending team forfeiting **That inning to include any runs scored.**
14. Use of **PROFANITY** will be strictly **PROHIBITED**. Umpires will be required to remove from game any player or manager guilty of this infraction.
15. Publix Sports Park is a smoke free/tobacco free/vapor free environment. There is no smoking in the park complex. There will be **ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING!!!!!! THIS INCLUDES ALL VAPOR PRODUCTS! ABSOLUTELY NO CHEWING OR DIPPING!**
16. **ALL PLAYERS ON A TEAM SHALL WEAR UNIFORMS ALIKE IN COLOR, TRIM AND STYLE (JERSEY).** Numbers of contrasting color, at least six inches high must be worn on the back of all uniform shirts. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers (example: 3 & 03). Players without numbers should not be permitted to play in the game (note: administrative rule and failure to administer shall not be protestable).



#### **D. PROTEST**

1. Any protest must be lodged with the umpire at point of infraction. Umpire will instruct official scorer who will make notation in score book.
2. Protesting manager must turn in a written protest to Leagues and Program Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours after the protest is made. Report will be accompanied by a \$50.00 cash protest fee.
3. Fee will be returned if protest is upheld. If not, fee will be deposited to general treasury, Panama City Beach. Protest Committee will meet within one week. (Committee TBA)

#### **E. PLAYER CONDUCT AND CITY OFFICIALS/UMPIRES**

1. Publix Sports Park always expects all players to conduct themselves with sporting behavior. Each manager shall be responsible for the conduct of his/her players. Players must at all-time act in a manner becoming good sporting behavior under liability of expulsion from the game and/or league. Regardless of Sanctioning or Sponsorship.
2. The Manager-On-Duty, umpire-in-chief, and umpires shall have complete authority over the game and the players thereof and may expel any player from the field for unsporting conduct of a gross and willful nature. If a player commits an intentional flagrant or malicious act, he/she will be ejected from the game.
3. Any player, coach, or fan that physically touches, pushes, threatens physical harm, or strikes an official, scorekeeper, or supervisor, will be suspended for one year from that date.
4. If a player is ejected from the game, first offense will be a two consecutive game suspension. Upon the second ejection from a game, the player will be suspended for one year from that date. If a player commits a major infraction (example, fighting), the player will be suspended for one year from that date. **LEAGUES AND PROGRAMS COODINATOR/ MANAGER ON DUTY HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN A SUSPENSION AFTER HEARING FROM ALL PARTIES INVOLVED OR IF THEY WITNESSED THE EJECTION.**
5. **SUSPENDED PLAYERS MUST UMPIRE IN AT LEAST 2 GAMES BEFORE THEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RESUME LEAGUE PLAY.**





6. **IN CASE AN UMPIRE EXPELS A PLAYER AND SAID PLAYER REFUSES TO LEAVE THE COMPLEX WITHIN ONE MINUTE AFTER EXPULSION, THE UMPIRE SHALL FORFEIT THE GAME TO THE OPPOSING TEAM.** Player has the right to appeal; the appeal must be in written form within 24 hours and will be reviewed by the appeals committee.
7. Umpires are instructed to discuss matters ONLY with team managers or team captains.

#### **F. METHOD OF CALLING OFF GAMES**

1. Games will NOT be postponed or rescheduled.  
EXCEPTIONS:      A. Death of immediate member of family of player involved  
                         B. Very extenuating circumstance

#### **PLEASE DO NOT EXPECT SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM Publix Sports Park!!!**

2. In case of inclement weather (ie thunder storms), please call Panama City Beach Sports Complex at 850-588-4907 for the latest information available. Decisions on weather will be at game time. Rain-out games will be rescheduled if possible.

#### **G. PLAYOFF DETERMINATION FORMULA**

1. Teams already in playoffs
  - a. Head-to-head results
  - b. Fewest runs allowed between all tied teams
  - c. Most runs scored between all tied teams
  - d. Coin toss
2. To determine teams for playoffs (teams that are tied)
  - a. In case of 2 teams tied for fourth place, a playoff game will be played
  - b. In case of 3 teams tied for fourth place, draw will determine bye team to play winner of other two teams
  - c. In case of 3-team tie for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> place determined as in 1-b and then 1-c above. If not determined by formula, then draw.
4. Other two teams play for 4<sup>th</sup> place.



5. In case of 4-team tie, A 3-game playoff will be drawn -  
Team A playing Team B  
Team C playing Team D
6. The two winners will play each other.  
Please note that teams A, B, C, and D will be determined by lot.
7. NOTATION FOR PLAYOFFS. Home team shall be the team with the highest finish in the league. Regular time limit will apply to all play-off games except championship game. This game shall have a 1-hour 10-minute time limit plus one (1) inning or 7 innings whichever occurs first.

#### **H. PARK RULES**

1. **NO ALCOHOL IN THE PARK**
2. **NO PROFANE OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE WILL BE TOLERATED.**
3. Only personnel directly connected with the team shall be allowed on the player's bench.
4. **PLEASE KEEP YOUNG CHILDREN OUT OF THE DUGOUT - FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY. Players must be completely in the dugout with the gate closed during live ball action. Only two base coaches & one on deck batter can be out "NO EXCEPTIONS"**
5. All players are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children while participating in Publix Sports Park sponsored programs.
6. **NO PETS OF ANY KIND** (dogs, cats etc.) will be allowed on the synthetic fields. This includes service dogs and/or animals on a leash.
6. **TREAT FANS, OTHER PLAYERS, AND UMPIRES AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED.**
7. **INSURANCE:**  
The Publix Sports Park assumes NO RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY for injury while participating in tournament or league play. Team managers are ENCOURAGED to secure some type of insurance coverage for their respective team.



**PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS PARTICIPATE AT THEIR OWN RISK.**

**I. Tie-Breaker Rule (Code Article 510 N)**

1. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. (e.g., if the number five batter is the leadoff batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner). For scoring, see Rule 11, Section 10.
2. If a team is in the tiebreaker and the absent player is the one who should begin the half inning at second base, do not declare an out. Instead, place on second base the player whose name precedes the absent player's name in the line-up.
3. If game is still tied to start the 10th inning place runners on 2nd and 3rd base with no outs.

**J: Home Run Limits: Over the fence with an out there after.**

1. **Men's Open:** 10
2. **Senior 45+:** 6
3. **Co-Ed:** 3 per gender

**K. Adding Players after season starts:**

1. Must comply with section A. above, Team roster and player eligibility number 4 and 5.

**L. Officiating:**

1. When available: two umpires will be assigned to each game, but may be one.

**M. Pitching & Base Length:**

- A. Distance - 53 feet pitch and 70-foot bases.
- B. Batters start with a one-one count.
- C. Three balls will constitute a base-on-balls. A strike-out will consist of any combination of two strikes:



1. Two called.
2. One called - one swing and miss.
3. One called - one fouled.
4. Two fouled balls.
5. One swing and miss and one foul ball.
6. Two swinging misses.

D. **SP Pitching Rule** - Arc limits will be a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of **10 feet** from the ground.

E. A 12" **optic yellow** softball 44, core 375 compression will be used for Male batters. A 11" **optic yellow** softball 44, core 375 compression will be used for Females batters.

**N. The Game:**

A. Games will be seven innings or a one-hour ten-minute time limit whichever comes first. No new inning shall be started after the time limit expires unless the game is tied.

B. TIE BREAKER- Anytime the score is tied, and the time limit has expired, the next inning will begin using the tie breaker procedure.

**C. TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE**

1. See Section J. Tie-Breaker rule (Code Article 5.10) Number 1,2, 3...

D. **Metal spikes** may not be worn. (*Penalty: removal to continue participation in game and legal shoes must be worn*)

**O. Rain-Out Games:**

ALL games that are rained-out will be re-scheduled at the end of the regular season and managers will be notified. It is possible that teams will be asked to play "triple-headers" to complete the season in a timely fashion.

## **CO-ED LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

NOTE: The current edition of the U.S.A. Official Playing Rules, along with the "Publix Sports Park Local - Softball Rules and Procedures," will be the official rules governing this program. Co-ed rule modifications will supersede all others, where applicable. Publix Sports Park slow pitch pitching rules, as outlined above will be used for co-ed play. Two competing teams or managers may not agree to alter any rules.

1. Two umpires assigned to each game but can be officiated with only one.



## **2. Pitching & Base Length:**

A. Distance - 53 feet pitch and 70 foot bases.

B. Batters start with a one-one count.

C. Three balls will constitute a base-on-balls. A strike-out is any combination of two strikes:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Two called.                      | 4. Two fouled balls.                     |
| 2. One called - one swing and miss. | 5. One swing and miss and one foul ball. |
| 3. One called - one fouled.         | 6. Two swinging misses.                  |

D. PCBSC local rule – SP Pitching Rule - Arc limits will be a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 10 feet from the ground.

E. A 12" optic yellow softball 44, cor 375 compression will be used for male and 11" for female batters.

**3. The Game:** Games will be seven innings or a one-hour ten-minute time limit whichever comes first. No new inning shall be started after the time limit expires unless the game is tied.

A. TIE BREAKER- Anytime the score is tied, and the time limit has expired, the next inning will begin using the tie breaker procedure.

### **TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE**

1. The visiting team will place a runner (the last batter from the previous inning) on second base. If available, a legal substitute may be used.
2. The visiting team has 3 outs with which to score as many runs as possible.
3. After 3 outs, the home team will follow the same procedure as outlined in steps 1 & 2.
4. Whichever team scores the most runs is declared the winner. If the score remains tied at the completion of each additional inning, the procedure will be repeated from step 1.

## **4. Batting Order:**

A. Teams must alternate by gender in the batting order.

B. A team may begin and play a game with only eight (8) or nine (9) players. This must be four (4) women and no more than five (5) men. If the ninth and tenth spots in the lineup come up before a legal player arrives those spots will be declared an out. When (or if) the ninth and tenth



player(s) arrive, they may be added to the bottom of the batting order without penalty, provided there are not more than five (5) of any one gender.

C. If there are nine (9) players present at the starting time, the game can start providing there are four (4) women.

D. If there are at least five (5) men and five (5) women players present at the starting time, a team must list a minimum of ten (10) in the batting order.

E. Teams may elect to bat a maximum of twelve (12) players provided that they are present at the start of the game, but under no circumstances, to start the game, can more than two consecutive men or women be listed in the batting order. If a player for any reason must be removed from the lineup and there is no legal substitute that spot in the lineup will be an out.

F. If there is a base on balls to a male batter the female has the option to go to first base or take her turn at bat. If she bats no runners on base advance.

Note: Batting two consecutive players of the same gender is allowed only as in 4- B, C, E

## **5. Fielding:**

A. There will be ten (10) players in the field, five (5) men and five (5) women. Exception: 4-B, C & E

B. For players who are listed in the batting order, there is total free substitution in the field on defense.

C. Teams must have two (2) men and two (2) women positioned in both the infield and outfield and a male and female at pitcher and catcher per A.S.A. rule 4-1-C-3e.

**6. Substitution:** Any substitution must be on a man for man or woman for woman basis.

**7.** Metal spikes may not be worn. (Penalty: removal to continue participation in game and legal shoes must be worn)



## **MENS 45 AND OVER LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

NOTE: The current edition of the U.S.A. Official Playing Rules, along with the "Publix Sports Park Local - Softball Rules and Procedures," will be the official rules governing this program. Men's 45 and over, rule modifications will supersede all others, where applicable. Publix Sports Park slow pitch pitching rules, as outlined above will be used for 45 and over play. Two competing teams or managers may not agree to alter any rules.

### **A. Eligibility:**

1. Must turn 45 during the league year.

### **B. The Game:**

1. Two umpires will be assigned to each game but may be officiated with only one.
2. Any player on the roster can be a courtesy runner once during an inning. If that players time at bat comes up while he is on base an out is declared, and he is forced to take his time at bat.
3. There is no runs restriction for an inning.
4. Strike zone mat will be used.
5. Pitching Safety Net is Mandatory.
6. The 30-foot commit line will be used.
7. There will be a scoring line.