Softball Rules

2016 USSSA Slow-pitch Softball Rules and Bylaws will be in effect with the exception of the following ground rules. Any clarifications will be made by the umpires and supervisor on duty.

- When the thrown or batted ball goes out of the established limits of the playing field (the fence line), a runner or batter/runner will be given two bases from the time of the throw. A base is not considered made until it has been touched. If batted, the ball is dead once it crosses the fence line in front of The Coop.
- All at-bats begin at one ball and one strike. With two strikes, each batter is allowed one foul ball. A second foul ball results in the batter being ruled out.
- All games will be limited to seven innings or fifty-five minutes - no innings start after 55 minutes unless there is a tie. Make sure to request the game starting time from umpire or supervisor.
- In the event of extra innings, the International Tie Breaker will be used. In which, the player who made the last out from the prior inning shall occupy 2nd base to begin the inning.
- There will be a 20-run mercy rule after three innings; 15-run mercy rule after four complete innings and a 10-run mercy rule after five complete innings.
- There will be no feet-first sliding allowed. Anyone sliding feet first will automatically be called out and may be disqualified from the game if the umpire deems there was intent to injure.
- The original placement of the base is considered the base, even if it slides away or is moved. If a runner was safe and the base slides away, the runner cannot be tagged out if they are in close proximity of where the base was. If a runner approaches a base that has been moved due to a previous play, that runner does not need to go out of his/her way to find the base. Runners only need to go into the area where the base would have been. If a sliding runner grabs the base and during his/her slide, carries the base past the intended location, the runner may be tagged out. This is a judgment call and cannot be appealed.
- Batters are declared out and a dead ball will be called when a batter steps on or in front of home plate while making any contact with the pitched ball.
- A safety base will be placed on the foul side of first base. All batter/runners are required to run at that base on a close force play at first. The safety base is no longer in play after the batter/runner has run through it.
- All bats must meet ASA or USSSA Certification, have a mark bearing certification, cannot have a difference greater than 7 between length and ounce, and must be single wall only. The umpires prior to the game will inspect all bats. Balls will be provided by the IM Sports Program will be have a .40 COR.
- There is a 20-person roster limit.
- Any ball hit over the second line (“fence”) and pylons in the air shall be a homerun, and any ball that rolls past the second line (on the ground) shall be dead and considered a ground rule triple.
- For Co-Rec, there will be a 150-foot line marked from home plate. The defense must play behind this line until a female batter makes contact with a pitch.
- In the playoffs, the home team will be the higher seeded team.
- If a team plays with eight players, an out will be recorded for the ninth batter’s spot only. If a team plays with nine players, no out will be recorded for the tenth batter’s spot.
• Lineup and batting order must be submitted to the scorekeeper 5 minutes prior to the start of the game

• **Pro League/Women**
  - Teams must use at least eight (8) players in the field
  - The extra hitter (EH) will be used (optional); however, the most a team may bat is eleven. The EH may switch with any player in the field at any time during the game. Once a player leaves the batting order, he/she cannot re-enter the game. Teams starting with the EH must finish with the EH or an out will be recorded at the EH's turn at bat
  - Homerun rule is five (5) per game. Any homerun after 5 (over the fence) will result in an out

• **Rookie League/Co-Rec/Greek**
  - Teams must use at least eight (8) players in the field
  - In Co-Rec, there must be a male/female on either side of second base in the infield and the outfield plus the battery must be male/female.
  - All players are eligible to hit. Players do not have to play in the field to hit. Once a player leaves the batting order, he/she cannot re-enter the game and an out will be recorded in their spot unless another player subs in.
  - In Co-Rec, the lineup must alternate male/female or vice versa.
  - Homerun rule is three (3) per game. Any homerun after 3 (over the fence) will result in an out.