

**GREAT BEND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES  
GENERAL RULES FOR RECREATION SOFTBALL LEAGUES (MEN & WOMEN)**

Games will be played by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) official rules with the following emphasis and exceptions:

1. **Player Eligibility:** Players must be a sophomore in high school or at least 16 years of age by August 1 of current year. No player who is a member of a college or high school squad is eligible to play during their respected seasons. Women are prohibited from playing in the men's league, visa versa.
2. **Registration:** We have three ways to register: On the internet at greatbendrec.com, at the Great Bend Recreation Commission at 1214 Stone St. or call 620-793-3755.
3. **Team Rosters:** To be eligible to participate as a player with a team in league play, a player must be properly registered listed on the team roster. Team rosters will be limited to 20 players. Managers do not need to acquire the signature of every player. The form allows you to sign up your entire team yourself.
  - a) **Dropping Player(s):** Teams wishing to drop a player may do so by filling out a drop slip form at the GBRC office.
  - b) **Adding Player(s):** Any manager wishing to add a player may do so by placing that player on their roster at the Great Bend Recreation Commission office either by phone or in person between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Once a player is listed on a roster, he/she is obligated to play with that team. Player additions can be made up until the halfway point of the season. Additions after this point will be based upon certain criteria; injury, moving, forfeits, etc., and must be a player that is not on any current GBRC softball roster and must be approved by the Sports Supervisor and Softball Committee. No player can be added for the tournament.
  - c) Any player who plays in a league game and has not paid their player fee will cause that game to be forfeited. **Adding Player(s) Restrictions:** Lower league managers may not add upper league player's names to their roster after the softball determination meeting has taken place.
  - d) **Roster Restrictions:** Lower league managers may not have more than three (3) players whose names appear on the roster of a higher league team at any given time (Penalty: forfeiture of all games those players participated).
  - e) **Player Restrictions:** If leagues combine, players may not participate on more than one team in those leagues combined. Participating on more than one team in the same league will result in a forfeit loss for each team that player participates on.
4. **Refunds:** Prior to the deadline for late registration, the total entry fee will be refunded if a team withdraws from the program. After the closing of the late registration deadline, no refunds will be issued to teams requesting to withdraw from adult team sports programs.
5. **League Play:** Each team will play no more than a 14 game regular season. There is a possibility of playing fewer regular season games with the addition of a post-season tournament.
6. **Games:** Games will be played at Great Bend Sports Complex and Veteran's Fields and will start in accordance to the game schedule, unless otherwise notified.
7. **Game Time:** Game time is forfeit time. All games should begin at their scheduled starting time. Teams not ready to play at the designated time will forfeit. Three (3) forfeits by any team will result in the forfeiture of the remainder of the team's schedule.
8. **Game Length:** Seven (7) innings or an hour time limit, whichever occurs first. No new inning will start after the time limit has expired, except in a tie game (no tie games). If a tie game occurs, then extra innings will go straight to a 3 – 2 count on the batter. A foul ball will be considered an out. A strike thrown will be a strike out and a ball thrown will be a walk for the batter. If a game is delayed because of injury, inclement weather or other reasons, the time limit will resume from the time the game was stopped. A game called due to weather or other reasons will be considered official after four (4) innings of play (3 1/2 if home team is leading).
9. **Home Team:** The home team is the second team listed on the schedule who occupies the third base dugout.

10. **Run Rule:** Games will be called after five (5) innings and beyond, if one team is leading by ten (10) runs or more. If after three (3) innings a team is leading by 15 or more runs, the game is considered a win for the winning team and the game will be considered over. Both teams may continue to use the field until the next game time but the umpire and scorekeeper will not be in use.
11. **Field Dimensions:** Base lengths will be 65 feet. Pitching distance will be 50 feet. Some leagues use a strike zone mat. If the ball hits the mat then it is a strike.
12. **Ball Dimensions:** Teams will hit their choice between ASA approved red stitch white or optic cover not to exceed .44 core 375 lb compression softballs or USSSA not to exceed Classic M (mens) or Classic W (womens). **Penalty: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Offensive Out, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Forfeit Game.** Men will use a 12” and women will use a 11” softball. Any team starting the game with optic covered softballs, must play with the optic color throughout the game. Teams will present at least 4 same colored legal game balls to the umpire before the game begins.
13. **Bat Dimensions:** Teams will hit with approved ASA or approved USSSA bats. Bats with the appropriate stamping and testing will only be allowed. Bats must be on the approved bat list that can be seen on the ASA or USSSA websites. Some older bats may now be on the non-approved list. If you have any questions before buying or playing with a bat then please ask. **Penalty: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Offensive Out, 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Forfeit Game**
14. **Line-ups:** Teams are to report to the field 30 minutes before game time with official lineups (using last names) turned into the scorekeeper and the opposing manager no less than 10 minutes before game time. NO EXCEPTIONS! No infield warm-ups on the game field between innings.
  - a) **Minimum Players:** Each team may start the game with eight (8) players. If they are unable to field eight (8) players by game time, they will forfeit that game.
  - b) **Automatic outs:** Will not be charged for a team playing with less than a full line-up.
  - c) **Adding Players:** Additional players up to a total of 10 may be added at the bottom of the line-up at any point in the game.
  - d) **Maximum Players:** A team may start the game with 10 or 11 (if the EP is used) players. If a team starts the game with a full line-up and one is **injured** or ejected, a player may be added anytime during the game in the **vacant** batting position.
  - e) **Extra-Player (EP):** Using the EP is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known in the starting batting line-up and may not be added after the game begins. If the EP is used, he/she must be used the entire game. If EP is used, all eleven (11) must bat and any ten (10) can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed, but the batting order must remain the same. The EP may be substituted for, however, the substitute must be a player who has not entered the game. The starting EP can re-enter.
  - f) **Injured Players:** If a batter-runner is injured on the bases, then there can be a courtesy runner for that trip around the bases. The courtesy runner would be someone on the bench that is not in the line-up and they would continue to bat in that spot in the line up just like a normal substitute. If there are no extra players, then the courtesy runner can be the player that made the last out. If a courtesy runner is used then that injured player cannot return to play (they are hurt). That spot in the order will be skipped for the rest of the game with no automatic outs being recorded.
15. **Jewelry:** No jewelry such as watches, rings, earrings, neck chains or bracelets are allowed (Exception: medical alert bracelets). Metal medical alert bracelets must be taped.
16. **Uniform:** The following uniform code must be followed: Players must wear shirts; Shorts or pants may be worn; Caps may be worn, but are not mandatory in league play; Shoes must be worn (No one will be allowed to play barefooted); No steel spikes permitted (Rubber molded cleats are encouraged).
17. **Equipment:** Catchers are not required to wear masks behind home plate, but it is recommended. Female catchers are not required to wear body protectors although it is recommended. Batters, on-deck batters, base runners and catchers may wear a helmet.
18. **Pitching Limitations:** Five (5) warm-up pitches are allowed in the first inning with two (2) pitches each additional inning.
19. **Pitching Delivery:** The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a minimum of six (6) and maximum of ten (10) feet from the ground.
20. **Batting Count:** All batters will assume a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count as they step into the box.

21. **Courtesy Foul:** All batters will be given a courtesy foul ball to use after two strikes have been earned. Any foul ball after the courtesy foul will be declared a dead ball out.
22. **Courtesy Runner:** Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.
23. **Expecting Mothers:** Female players who learn that they are an expecting mother are encouraged to drop out of league play. This is a safety factor of the mother, child and other players.
24. **League Results:** Weekly results of all league games can be found at <https://greatbendrec.com/sports-and-leagues/adult/>
25. **Requests for Postponements and Rescheduling League Games:**
- a) The team requesting the reschedule will contact the opposing team manager to get their approval to reschedule the game. After contacting the opposing team manager, the requesting team will contact the Sports Supervisor for approval and reschedule options. Both teams must agree to the rescheduled date and time or the original game will take place as scheduled. The request will need to be approved by the Sports Supervisor 10 days in advance of the scheduled game requested for. A formal reschedule letter will be mailed to the managers. A request for postponement fee that equals the prorated cost of one game will be paid 48 hours prior to the rescheduled game. If the fee is not paid within 48 hours prior then the game will be considered a forfeit for the requesting team.
26. **Protests:** Protests that shall be received and considered, concerning matters of the following types:
- A. Player Eligibility:**
- a) Players not properly signed on team's roster.
  - b) Players participating on more than one team in the same league.
  - c) Players participating without signing the team roster
  - d) Players participating under a false name.

The participating teams are responsible for protesting ineligible players at game time. The protest must be made before the last out of the game is recorded. If you know you are going to protest a game, then please do so once you know you are going to protest. If no protest is made before the last out is recorded, THE GAME WILL BE OFFICIAL AND NO LATE PROTEST WILL BE ACCEPTED. To protest player eligibility, the manager must notify the umpire, who will inform the opposing manager and scorekeeper. Managers involved in player eligibility protests will be notified after 4 p.m. the next working day, of the decision of the Sports Supervisor. The player in question will be recorded on the game summary and turned into the Sports Supervisor. The inquiry must contain the first and last name of the player in question. The opposing team must cooperate and provide this information.

**B. Rule Interpretation:**

- a) Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
- b) Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
- c) Failure of an umpire to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
- d) No judgement calls can be protested against.

In all cases, the protest must be made at the time of play (before the next pitch) in question, verbally to the chief umpire on the field that the remainder of the game is being played under protest. The umpire is to immediately notify the opposing manager and scorekeeper. For a protest to be considered by the GBRC, the protest must be 3 typed copies and must be accompanied by a \$25.00 cash protest fee which will be returned if the protest is upheld, but forfeited if not upheld.

A formal protest must contain the following information:

- a) The date, time and place of the game.
- b) The names of the umpires and scorekeeper.
- c) The rule and section of the official rule(s) under which the protest is made (if player eligibility, list the player's first and last name).
- d) The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
- e) All essential facts involved in the matter protested.

27. **Softball Committee:** A softball committee will be set by the Recreation Commission to decide all protests, ejections, suspensions, league team placement and all disciplinary actions that are to be invoked against players, managers, and teams. The men's committee and women's committee will consist of individuals selected by the Recreation Commission from the players and managers of the league. All decisions made by the committee will be final, with the approval of the Sports Supervisor.

28. **Scheduling Practices:** Practices can be scheduled by calling the Recreation Commission office and submitting the appropriate fees. Please stay off the little league fields! These fields are for little league players and are not built for adult use. The little league teams have priority scheduling practices over the adult teams. Youth coaches are instructed to report to the Recreation Commission office if there slow pitch team(s) using youth facilities or practicing on facilities not scheduled. There should be no alcoholic beverages on school facilities.
29. **Recreation Commission Priority:** All regular scheduled league games will have priority over ASA, USSSA or any other sanctioned tournament games. Any team(s) playing ASA or USSSA sanctioned tournaments or any other tournament conflicting with regularly scheduled league play, must make agreeable arrangements to reschedule to both teams involved and the Sports Supervisor. If agreeable arrangements cannot be made between both parties, the game will be forfeited.
30. **Sponsoring Tournaments:** An additional charge for field preparation, equipment and lights will be payable to the Great Bend Recreation Commission. The sponsoring organization should call the Recreation Commission about reservations and tournament costs, 793-3755.
31. **League Awards:** League awards include Championship t-shirts and will be awarded according to the following guidelines:
- a) Top team in all the leagues for the season if no tournament is played. Or, team winning the post season tournament. Team receiving championship shirts will then be required to move up to the next highest league offered.
32. **League Tie Breaker Procedure:** The tie breaker procedure for teams in league award positions will be as follows:
- a) Head to head competition.
  - b) Largest positive margin in runs scored vs runs given up in games between the teams that are tied.
  - c) Largest positive margin in runs scored vs runs given up in total games played.
  - d) Play-off game will be used to determine League Champs only. This procedure takes into account only the games that count toward league standings.
33. **Homerun Limit:** The following homerun limit will be applied to all leagues:
- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| a) Men's/Women's Open | 3 |
| b) Men's/Women's A/B  | 3 |
| c) Men's/Women's C    | 3 |
| d) Men's/Women's D    | 3 |
| e) Men's/Women's E    | 3 |
| f) Men's/Women's F    | 3 |

**Homerun Definition:** Any fair ball, which is hit and clears the outfield fence. In-the-park homeruns will not count against the homerun limit.

**Homerun Penalty:** Any ball which is hit in fair territory that clears the outfield fence after the limit has been met, will result in an out being called and no advancement by any base runners being allowed.

**Homerun Option:** When a homerun has been hit, the batter **is not required to touch first base and the baserunners are not required to touch the next base. Once the batter/runner enters the dugout they can't re-enter the field if the ball does not end up being a homerun, they would be out.** Players may run the bases as normal if they so choose.

34. **Spotting Runs:** When a Men's Open/Women's B league is playing a Men's E, F/Women's C league team, the Upper league team will spot 5 runs to the Lower league team.
35. **Bench Decorum:** Eligible team personnel who are properly registered with the team playing shall be the only personnel in the dugout during the game. Uniformed members of competing teams are not permitted to sit in the bleachers during their game. These individuals must remain completely in the dugout and out of the playing area with the following exceptions:
- a) The on deck batter in appropriate circle.
  - b) One bat boy/girl who must wear a helmet on the playing area which includes the dugout.
  - c) 1st and 3rd base coaching boxes.
  - d) Playing defense.

- 36. Alcoholic Beverages:** All players are encouraged to refrain from the use of alcohol or intoxicating drugs. Consumption of alcohol or intoxicating drugs during participation in Recreation Commission sponsored events is prohibited by team members (coaches, managers, and players). The umpire or supervisor in charge will eject any player violating this rule. The offending player(s) will be asked to leave the facility. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE PLAYING FIELD, IN THE DUGOUTS OR BLEACHER AREA. THE OFFENDING TEAM WILL FORFEIT THE GAME.** Teams are encouraged to pick up their cans or trash before leaving the facility.
- 37. Offensive Out:** After a warning has been issued, an umpire may impose an offensive out to a team for misconduct, arguing, vulgar language or any unsportsmanlike act. Once the offensive out has been issued, the current batter or next batter, depending on when the offensive out was issued, is out. The offensive out is a team penalty and effects the next batter or current batter in the batter's box. That batter is then out and cannot bat again until their next turn in the batting line-up occurs. Teams will need to self-regulate their behavior or the offensive out will be used. If the offensive out is issued to the defensive team, the first batter up the next time the defensive team bats, is out. The offensive out counts toward the three outs to end a half inning.
- 38. Malicious Contact:** If in the umpires judgment, a runner may not make malicious contact with a fielder, whether the fielder is in or out of the base path, or whether the fielder has or doesn't have the ball. **Penalty:** Interference, the ball is dead, the runner is out, and other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the interference. If in the umpire's judgment, the interference prevented a double play, the umpire will award the second out.
- 39. Ejection:** Any player or coach displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, flagrant rule violations, vulgar language, fighting or obviously attempting to hurt another player, will be ejected from the game (crash play included). **The offending player must leave the facility within 2 minutes or his/her team will forfeit that game. That player will be gone for the remainder of that game and will not be allowed at the softball complex for the next two games also.**
- 40. Behavior Towards GBRC Personnel:** Managers, players and spectators should avoid any conversation with the scorekeepers, umpires and supervisors unless absolutely necessary. Supervisors, scorekeepers, and umpires are official representatives of the Great Bend Recreation Commission. Team managers, players, and spectators will abide by their decisions. Verbal abuse, threats, physical attacks or battery from any participant or spectator involved with the recreation program will not be tolerated. Such conduct is grounds for suspension and possible ejection from the facility and/or suspension from the league.
- 41. Suspensions:** Anytime there are less than 2 games left in a season, all game suspensions will carry over into the next season regardless of the league the player was participating in when the suspension was received.
- 42. Inclement Weather:** For postponements due to inclement weather, call the Rainout Line at 620-792-3214 after 4:00 p.m., log on to [www.greatbendrec.com](http://www.greatbendrec.com) or look for us on Facebook. Make-up games will be scheduled as soon as possible through notification of the team managers. Games could include playing another day of the week and not necessarily on the regular game day.
- 43. Code of Conduct:** Players, Coaches and Spectators in the GBRC programs are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Unsportsmanlike behavior directed toward other players, teams, officials, coaches and fans will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, obscene gestures, cheating, hitting, disrespect to officials, or other behavior deemed inappropriate. If a player, coach or spectator is ejected from a game by an official or supervisor, then that person is automatically ejected from the next two scheduled GBRC games, and all practices occurring within this time period. A player may be warned; second warning results in automatic ejection. The Sports Supervisor will notify the players and coaches of the suspension.
- 44. Drugs and Alcohol:** There will be no use of drugs or alcoholic beverages on or near the game/practice field or facility premises by managers, coaches, players, officials, GBRC staff or anyone concerned with GBRC teams during games, pre-game activities, or practices. One warning may be issued; or the person in question will be asked to leave the field and face indefinite suspension from any GBRC event or program
- 45. Weapons:** Weapons of any kind are not allowed on or at any GBRC site or facility. (at the discretion of the GBRC Staff.)
- 46. Music:** Music is not allowed during live play. Once a team has thrown the first pitch of a half inning the music must stop until the last out is made of that same half inning.