



WNCSSA
Player's Guide

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WNCSSA

24 / 7 HOTLINE

**In the event of rain on a scheduled game day
530-478-8040**

In case of questionable weather, team managers and players should call the **HOT LINE at 478-8040** for cancellations and schedule changes. The decision will be made, if possible, by approximately 4:00 pm. If you hear the normal message, assume that the games are on. In changing weather keep checking the **HOT LINE at 478-8040**.

The manager of each team is responsible for picking up new scheduled dates for rained out games. New game times will be posted to the website - **www.wncssa.com** within 24 hours of the cancellation. **Do not wait for a call from your league representative.**

Games called due to rain, inclement weather, or circumstances beyond WNCSSA's control will be a regulation game if: 4 or more innings have been played; or if the home team is ahead after 3 1/2 innings; or if the time limit has expired. In games that cannot be considered a complete game, the game will start over.

Approved Bats & Bat Restrictions

In all Coed and Men's leagues except B1, men must use bats made of single piece, all aluminum bats or wood bats (example: corndog is acceptable). Any bat made of composite material, steel, or any multi-wall, multi-shell, or multi-layered bat is prohibited.

No bat is legal for WNCSSA play if it is badly worn, dented, abused, damaged, altered, or shaved. Bats shall not have rough or sharp edges, or anything that would present a hazard.

WNCSSA Umpires or Board Members reserve the right to remove any bat we feel is altered, damaged, or made to enhance ball/bat performance.

Only **single wall or wooden yellow stickered "coed legal"** bats and bats with the **USSSA thumbprint mark** will be permitted for **ALL** league play. **Co-ed men's bat restrictions remain the same. No ASA bats are allowed.**



Once the season begins, contact **Jayson McDaniel** Umpire-in-Chief 916-805-4304 or jaysen@wncssa.com or see **your umpire** for bat approval.

Transferring a WNCSSA/USSSA approved bat sticker from one bat to another is strictly forbidden. Any bat bearing an unauthorized WNCSSA/USSSA approval sticker will be considered an altered bat.

Anyone batting with a **PROHIBITED** bat will be recorded as an out. If a player uses an illegal bat and injures another person, that batting player shall be subject to consequences at the discretion of the Board.

Team Selection

Who Plays?

In the past, we have had to cut teams from a season of play due to field availability. Accordingly, we have set specific parameters for determining team selection.

1) In the event of overflow in a division, teams that are paid in full will have first priority. Returning teams will be prioritized over new teams if fully paid on time.

3) If there is room, late team registrations **may** be accepted on a first come, first serve, compatibility basis **prior** to the printing/posting of schedules.

4) We **will not** accept Posted Dated Checks. We **will not** accept Personal Checks to hold in exchange of Sponsor Checks in the mail. Any team with Sponsor checks in the mail will have to make arrangements with their league representative, in the form of an IOU note. A position for the team will be made subject to room and availability. Non-payment of fees will result in forfeiture of play.

Seating of Teams

Seating of Teams

- 1) Teams are listed according to past standings upon receipt of their **complete** registration form.
- 2) Field time and number of games available per night are considered and divisions are then broken down into the most competitive and efficient (mathematically feasible) way possible.

Shifting of teams into other divisions may occur when a team has taken first place or last place in their current division for 2 seasons or at the discretion of the Board. Shifting of teams may occur each season.



WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES OF CONDUCT

It is the purpose of Western Nevada County Slo-pitch Softball Association to conduct the best possible playing season from all aspects. To achieve this ob-jective, the WNCSSA must have the cooperation of each player, manager, coach, and sponsor.

It is required that all teams comply with the following rules during play and practices.

1. Team managers must have full control of their players at all times. This means “on” and “off” the field.
2. In case of a disputed play or decision, team managers or captains may consult the game officials. All other players and coaches or sponsors are to be kept out of the discussion.
3. Managers, coaches, and players are not to fraternize with spectators while on the playing field.
4. **AT NO TIME** will players be allowed to smoke/vape on the field, dugout or in the coaching boxes.
5. **AT NO TIME** will players be allowed to drink or have in their possession any open alcoholic beverage during the entire course of the game.
6. Managers are to report any unsportsmanlike or derogatory acts by players or spectators to the league representative. The purpose here is to prevent any serious situation developing that would be harmful to the participants.

7. If a player or manager lays a hand on, shoves, strikes, threatens, or abuses **any WNCSSA official or staff** any time throughout the season he/she will be suspended from WNCSSA play for a minimum of **one calendar year**. If shoving, striking or abusing another player or spectator occurs, that person will be suspended for a minimum of **30 days**, pending the results of the investigation of the Board. Further actions may be taken if warranted.
8. Players may not show aggression or get in the umpire's face. This will result in expulsion from the game and may result in more severe action at the Board's discretion.
9. The umpire reserves the right to eject any player, coach or spectator from the game/off the premises at any time and for any reason. Anyone ejected from a game or the premises shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors.
10. Managers, coaches, players, sponsors, and teams are liable for suspension by not adhering to the playing rules in effect. This could mean suspension for a game or games, the season, or a longer duration depending on the act of violation.
11. Managers may bring issues to the Board of Directors at any time by contacting their league representative by email or phone.
12. Board members with team/teammate issues may still attend the board meeting to discuss the issue, but will not be given a vote for decisions on that issue.
13. If a team has more than one issue per season, the manager will be issued a warning. If the issues continue, the manager may be subject to suspension at the discretion of the Board.

14. Be careful of your conduct. Be sure that no action occurs that could reflect adversely on your sponsor or team. Remember that the wrong actions of even one player can reflect upon your entire team and the game of softball.

15. Any teams submitting bad checks to the WNCSSA will be subject to disbarment.

16. In our efforts to maintain the best possible program, it is the responsibility of all participants and staff to act in the best interest of the game of softball. The Board of Directors reserves the right to disqualify and or refuse registration. All participants agree to abide by the Rules of Conduct and Play- ing Rules as outlined in WNCRS /WNCSSA Program Guide.

17. WNCSSA/WNCRS Amendment

Effective April 5, 2004, any Participant, Team, Coach, Sponsor, Related Party, WNCSSA/WNCRS Affiliate, etc., who threatens in writing to hire a lawyer or to otherwise take legal action against the WNCSSA/WNCRS, files a legal action against the WNCSSA/WNCRS, or has a lawyer contact WNCSSA/WNCRS regarding a dispute, shall automatically be suspended from all WNCSSA/WNCRS activities until such legal discussions with the WNCSSA/WNCRS are concluded to the satisfaction of the WNCSSA/WNCRS. In addition, if a legal action is filed against WNCSSA/WNCRS or a WNCSSA/WNCRS Affiliated Person by a Participant, Team, Coach, Sponsor, Related Party, or any other person, the person filing the action, that person's (or any Related Party's) team and each of its members may be suspended from all WNCSSA/WNCRS activities until such legal actions with WNCSSA/WNCRS are resolved to the satisfaction of the WNCSSA/WNCRS.

WNCSSA

League Rules and Regulations

1. MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The team manager is the principal link between WNCSSA and their team. It is the manager's responsibility to obtain all information regarding league play. The team manager must:

- 1) Attend the manager's meeting at the beginning of the season.
- 2) Know the rules and regulations and to inform their players of them.
- 3) Make sure that each player is properly rostered under their team. Any manager fielding an illegal player may be barred from WNCSSA play for **one calendar year**. The illegal player will also be barred from WNCSSA play for **one calendar year** and the game will result in a forfeit.
- 4) Make sure all fees are paid.
- 5) Avoid forfeit, by having your team members arrive at least 30 minutes prior to game time to warm up for the game.
- 6) Be responsible for the conduct of their players. **GoodSportsmanship** is expected of all managers, players, and spectators.
- 7) Obtain all league paperwork pertaining to deadlines, schedules, tournaments, make-up games, and any other pertinent information.
- 7) Inform all players of team insurance coverage and be sure players initial their roster card accordingly.

8) Inform the league of any changes in address or phone number.

2. REGISTRATION FEES

Registration is on a first come first serve basis. Priority is given to returning teams in good standing. The Board reserves the right to accept or deny a team's registration due to availability and a team's level of play. Registration forms are available @ www.wncssa.com. Please email your form to your league representative.

Extra roster cards may be picked up and fees may be paid at the Litton field drop box.

3. SCHEDULES

You may view your schedule on-line @ www.wncssa.com within a week of the close of registration.

4. PLAYOFFS

The regular summer season will be followed by a postseason play **IF** weather permits and **IF** fields and personnel are available. The **top teams** from each sub-division will move on to post season play. Note: Post season play may be altered due to weather and/or field conditions. Regulation brackets will be used for all playoff events. All league rules will be in place for postseason play games. The Championship game (two (2) teams remaining) will be played to 7 innings, with no run limits.

5. GAME TIMES & FORFEITS

GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME. If repeat forfeiture occurs a **\$30.00** forfeit fee may be required to be paid to the **LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE** before your team's next week scheduled game to continue playing in the league. Failure to pay forfeit fee may result in loss of priority or eligibility.

6. RAIN OUT POLICY

In case of questionable weather, team managers and players may call the **HOT LINE at 530-478-8040** for cancellations and schedule changes. The decision will be made, if possible, by approximately 4:00 pm. If the normal message is on, assume the games are on as well. In changing weather keep checking the **HOT LINE at 530-478-8040**.

The manager of each team is responsible for reviewing the schedule on the website

due to rained out games. New game times will be posted on the website - **www.wncssa.com** within 24 hours of the cancellation.

DO NOT WAIT FOR A CALL FROM YOUR LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE.

Games called due to injuries, games called due to rain, inclement weather, or circumstances beyond WNCSSA's control will be a regulation game if: 4 or more innings have been played; or if the home team is ahead after 3 1/2 innings; or if the time limit has expired. In games that cannot be considered a complete game, the game will start over.

7. RESCHEDULING

THERE WILL BE NO RESCHEDULING OF GAMES BY TEAMS.

Options to avoid being charged a **\$30.00** forfeit fee.

- 1) Give the league representative and opposing team notice in a timely manner. Your team will be given a loss. The score is recorded as 7-0.
- 2) Play with 8 players (Co-Ed must field 4 men and 4 women.)

8. LEAGUE STANDINGS

Every effort will be made to post updated standings on the WNCSSA website every Monday. The team manager should check to make sure the standings are correct.

Standings will be calculated under the following steps:

- 1) Win/loss record of games for the season.
- 2) In case of a tie, head to head win/loss record of teams involved.
- 3) If the teams split games, a run differential will be determined between teams that are tied. [Total runs scored minus total runs allowed between head to head games of the tied teams]
- 4) If a tie still occurs a total run differential system will be used. [Total runs for all season games scored minus total runs allowed in all games played].
- 5) If a tie still exists a coin toss will be used.

6) In the case of a three way tie the win/loss record of head to head games of the teams involved will be used.

7) If a tie still exists, or if a clear winner cannot be determined, i.e. an uneven number of games have been played, see steps 3-5.

9. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players residing in or working full time in, or owning property in Nevada County are eligible to participate in league games. It has been amended that each team may have non-resident players “on approval” and if there is room.

Men and women must be at least 16 years of age at registration and must be legally rostered under your team. Players aged 16 & 17 **must** submit a completed Parental Consent Form.

Players may participate on **ONLY ONE** team per league: Men’s, Women’s, and Co-ed. Any player dropped from a team **MAY NOT** return to that team for the remainder of the season without approval.

A completed roster card and accompanying player fee must be turned in prior to participating in any WNCSSA regulation game.

NO PLAYER MAY BE ADDED TO ANY TEAM AFTER THE CUT- OFF DATE AS SHOWN ON THE SCHEDULES. IF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE EXISTS, CONTACT YOUR LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE FOR APPROVAL.

If two players from the same team are ejected from that same game that team will forfeit the game.

10. PROTESTS

- 1) Any team without a scorekeeper, manager, or player'(s) keeping proper score in an approved format, will forfeit the right to file a protest. The protesting team manager will provide the game official the scorebook for documentation. Ineligible player protests may be filed without a book.
- 2) All protests must be noted to the umpire at the time of infraction. (Not later that night...) A judgment call may not be protested. There is a **\$10.00** refundable protest fee required before the Board will consider the matter. No protest will be considered unless it has been formerly placed with the umpire, along with a scorebook documenting all stats of the game at time of protest.
- 3) All protests must be made in writing and accompanied by a **\$10.00** fee (refundable only if the protest is upheld). The protest and fee must be filed with the Commissioner or League President within 48 hours after completion of the game in question.
- 4) A committee consisting of the Commissioner, League Representative, and the Umpire In Chief shall decide the validity of the protest. This decision shall be rendered within five days of filing.
- 5) Ineligible player protests may be made to the umpire anytime during the game. The umpire will print the name of the player in question on the back of the game card. The player will sign their name to the card. Failure to sign the card will result in immediate ejection from the game.

(a) If the protest is upheld and the player is found ineligible, the offending team is subject to penalties outlined by WNCSSA. See Section **1 - MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

(b) If an ineligible player is discovered to have been playing in games after the games are complete, the team who the ineligible player played for is subject to their games being changed to forfeits for every game that the ineligible player played.

11. RULES OF THE GAME

The rules governing the actual play of the teams shall be those outlined in the Official Rules for the current season as published by the AWS and amended by WNCSSA. Any rules not covered will be subject to a USSSA book interpretation.

- 1) No team will be allowed to start or continue a game with less than eight players.
 - a. Teams may borrow up to 2 players from another team to make a legal team of eight or nine (cannot borrow a player to make 10) teams may only add up to 2 players as long as,
 - 1 - the borrowed player(s) is currently rostered in the same division.
 - 2 - the borrowed player(s) is restricted to right field, 2nd base or catcher position.
 - 3 - the borrowed player(s) is restricted to 1st base on any fairly hit ball not resulting in an out or walk.
 - 4 - all borrowed players must be reported to the umpire and the opposing manager prior to the game. Otherwise any borrowed player will be considered an ineligible player, resulting in a game loss.
 - 5 - all borrowed players must bat in the last position(s) of the lineup
 - b. If a borrowed player hits a legally hit fair ball over the fence, base runners may only advance 1 base. This homerun still counts in the home run count for the team. 1 and 1 home run rule is still in

effect.

c. Base runners may advance at their own risk on all other fairly hit ball not resulting in an out or walk. If a rostered player arrives, they shall replace the borrowed player.

- 2) There will be a **55 minute** time limit on all games. The game clock will start at the published game time, or 5 minutes after previous game.
- 3) If there is time left on the clock and an inning ends, the next inning must be played no matter which team is winning. If the home team is ahead and is batting when the time expires, the home team wins, and the game is over.
- 4) All players at the game may bat. All batters must bat in the specified order on the official team lineup.
- 5) **Home run rule:** A team may never be more than **ONE HOME RUN** ahead of the opposing team per gender. Example- A man from Team A hits a home run in the first inning ~ no man from Team A may hit another home run until a man from Team B hits 1 or 2 home runs. A woman from Team A may still hit a home run. An illegally hit home run will be an out. Under this rule, there is no limit to the number of home runs hit in a game.
- 6) The ten run rule: Any team ahead by ten runs after the completion of five innings of play will be the winner and the game is over.
- 7) The seven run rule: A seven run rule may be applied to specific teams at the umpire's discretion. If the seven run rule is mandated by the umpire, each team shall be limited to scoring seven runs per inning, no matter the number of outs when the 7th run scores. Once the 7th run scores for that half inning, the half inning is over. Once there are twelve minutes or less left in the game AND a new inning starts (visiting team is coming up to bat), the game becomes "open" meaning that there is no longer a limit to the amount of runs scored by either team. Every inning played after that first "open" inning shall remain "open" until the game is over.

- 8) No steel spikes are allowed.
- 9) Any female player who is pregnant must sign a release form to continue seasonal play. Forms may be obtained from the League Representative, on-line at www.wncssa.com.
- 10) Players arriving late to league games may enter the game at any time providing:
 - (a) They enter only between batters.
 - (b) They are fully dressed and ready to play.
 - (c) The game is not stopped or disrupted by their entry.
 - (d) They assume the last available position in the batting line up.

- 2) Pitchers may pitch from up to 6 feet directly behind the 50-foot pitching rubber. All USSSA pitching rules will be in effect.
- 3) **Men's, Women's, and Coed Leagues:** Teams may use one pinch runner per gender per inning. The runner must be the last same gender batter out. Or the first available same gender preceding runner. If the same batter that used a pinch runner comes up to bat a second time in the inning they must run bases. Batter should inform umpire the need for a pinch runner prior to batting. Please have pinch runner ready to run.
- 4) Players added to the roster after schedules are set **may be declined**. League Representative's may decline approval of late adds if the new player(s) significantly change(s) the dynamics of a team to the point that it no longer fits in the set division.
- 5) There will be a 3' disc at home in place of the strike zone. The disc is placed directly over home plate and is treated as home throughout the play of the game.
- 6) A legally delivered pitch must have an arc with a minimum of **6'** from the ground and no greater than **12'**, and must hit any part of the disc. The pitch must have a 3' arc from the point of release.
- 7) The batter may step on the disk to hit a ball. The batter may **NOT** cross the white line with both feet in front of home plate and should treat it as the front line of the batter's box.
- 8) A unfairly delivered pitch (too high or too low) will be vocalized as **"ILLEGAL"** by the umpire. The batter may choose to swing and play resumes.
- 9) All men's divisions playing at Memorial Park will use a restricted (stickered) bat. The same bat restrictions that are currently used in coed.

12. RULES PARTICULAR TO COED

- 1) All teams must have a minimum of 4 men and 4 women to start a game.
- 2) Teams may field 4 men and 5 women or 5 men and 4 women, however, no team may field 6 players of either gender.
- 3) A 12” ball will be pitched to male players, an 11” ball will be pitched to female players on all fields.
- 4) Teams may use one pinch runner per gender per inning. The runner must be the last same gender batter out. Or the first available same gender preceding runner. If the same batter that used a pinch runner comes up to bat a second time in the inning they must run bases. Batter should inform umpire the need for a pinch runner prior to batting. Please have a pinch runner ready to run.
- 5) Teams are allowed unlimited defensive substitution at all positions while maintaining rule 12.2
- 6) A player may leave the game due to injury with no penalties. A player ejected from a game will be removed from the batting order or substituted with another rostered player.
- 7) If a man is walked intentionally or without one pitched strike, he is awarded second base. The woman batting behind him **must** bat unless there are two outs. When a man is walked after receiving at least one pitched strike he shall be awarded first base and the woman **must** bat.
- 8) The halfway line between third and home is the line of no return and runners must go home after crossing or touching this line.

9) Sliding is allowed **EXCEPT** at home plate. Base runners are out if they step on or over home plate. A run is scored when a base runner's foot is **ON THE GROUND** past the scoring line, before the catcher catches the ball with their foot on the plate. Please continue to avoid collisions.

All plays at home plate must be treated as a force. Any runner that passes the commit line (between third and home) **MUST** be treated as a force. **NO TAGS ALLOWED** between the commit line and home.

10) From USSSA, Rule 2, new Sec. 4 – Permits the defense and the batter- runner to use either the white or colored portion of the base on any attempt to force the batter-runner out at first base if the initial throw pulls the defense off first base.

11) The following actions may warrant a player ejection/removal from the game:

THE UMPIRE NEED NOT GIVE AN ADVANCED WARNING. THIS IS YOUR TEAM'S FIRST AND LAST WARNING!

- a. Fake tags or similar unsportsmanlike conduct.
- b. Rough tactics not limited to fighting.
- c. Obscene gestures or objectionable demonstrations towards an official, opponent, or fan.
- d. Intentional throwing the bat/equipment.
- e. Being under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that could be a risk to the player and/or others.
- f. Consuming **ANY ALCOHOLIC** beverage during game time. **IN OR OUT OF THE DUGOUT!**
- g. Flagrant rule violations.
- h. Use of the **F***** word or any excessive profanity.
- i. Use of trash talk in an attempt to incite unsportsmanlike conduct.
- j. Any action deemed by WNCSSA as not being conducive to the

recreation of playing ball.
k. Arguing balls and strikes.

13. FIELD RULES

<u>Field</u>	<u>Home Run Rule</u>	<u>No Alcohol Allowed</u>
Litton	X	X
Memorial	X	city permit required
Condon		X

Any player drinking or in possession of alcohol at a “no alcohol” facility (Litton, Condon) may be suspended from all WNCSSA play for 4 games or 30 days, whichever is greater.

A second offense may result in a full season suspension from WNCSSA play. (Post Season Play games do not count toward the suspension to- tals.)

**KEEP IN MIND THIS IS RECREATIONAL
SOFTBALL. PLEASE PLAY ACCORDINGLY.**

Please watch your children. You are responsible for their actions.

Please clean up the trash at all fields.

Please **DO NOT** park in the Litton Building parking lot.

WNCSSA Facilities

A Brief History

Memorial Park is a 7.6 acre park that was developed in 1922 for the residents of Grass Valley and dedicated to the Veterans of World War I. In 1930, the park was purchased by the City from the Empire Star Mines Company for the sum of one dollar.

The softball field was one of five original park amenities. The field was dedicated to Les Eva in 1990 for his many years of service as scorekeeper and the “Voice of Memorial Park”.

Condon Park - In 1954 Lulu Condon donated 76 acres of land to the City of Grass Valley for parks & recreation purposes. The City purchased additional land in the area to create the current 80 acre park site.

In 1956 the community pulled together to develop two Little League fields. By mutual agreement, the turf grass and restrooms are maintained by the City while the Grass Valley Little League and Western Nevada County Recreation Services is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the other ball field amenities.

Litton Field - In the early 1990’s, members of the Litton men’s team secured permission to “scratch out” a practice field on a star thistle and berry bush covered parcel near the building.

Later, through the generosity of the Litton family, WNCSSA was given permission to develop the field for league use. A nearly impenetrable wall of berry bushes served as the outfield “fence”, with a ball flying into the bushes deemed a home run, while a ball that rolled in was a ground rule double.

In the spring of 1995, outfield fencing was installed, expanding the field to its current size. That same year, a major fund raising program began to light the field. “Let’s Light Litton” was a huge success and by the late summer of 1996, lights had been installed on Litton Field. Nevada County’s premier softball facility was created and is maintained by the contributions of our sponsors, players and staff.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of the Litton family.

For over 30 years, WNCRS/WNCSSA, a non-profit organization, has been dedicated to providing family friendly recreation and entertainment to the residents of Western Nevada County. We continue to be the largest private provider of adult recreation in Western Nevada County, offering recreational opportunities to over 1,200 people.

Over the years, the softball players of the WNCSSA have built and continue to maintain a great reputation throughout the area. Thank you for showing respect for the facilities where we play. Please continue to demonstrate good sportsmanship both on and off the field.

