



**WNCSSA**  
**Player's Guide**

# Approved Bats & Bat Restrictions

Only single wall yellow stickered “co-ed legal” bats and bats with the USSSA thumb print mark will be permitted for all league play in 2024.

In all co-ed and at Litton and Memorial Park, men must use bats made of single piece all aluminum. 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 Directors reserve the right to remove any bat we feel is altered, damaged, or made to enhance ball/bat performance.

## 2024 WNCSSA Board of Directors

**Ronnie Warmerdam**  
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Player Representative  
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# WNCSSA

## 24 / 7 HOTLINE

**In the event of rain on a scheduled game day  
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 **HOT LINE at 478-8040** and the website - **www.wncssa.com** within 24 hours of the cancellation. **Do not wait for a call from your league president.**

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.

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

Only **single wall yellow stickered “co-ed legal”** bats and bats with the USSSA thumb print mark will be permitted for **ALL** league play in 2024. **Co-ed men's bat restrictions remain the same.**



Once the season begins, contact **Jayson McDaniel** Umpire-in-Chief 916-805-4304 or see **Shannon @** Litton Field during league play 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.

# Team Selection

## Who Plays?

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

- 1) All teams that register with a **complete packet** on or before the final registration date are considered equal as far as priority goes -- returning or not.
  
- 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) If more teams register with a **complete packet** than space allows, all teams (new and returning) that register on or before the final registration date, but after the priority registration closure date will be put into a random draw. The number of teams to be eliminated will be drawn and their money refunded.
  
- 5) 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 staff, 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 packet.
- 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.
- 3) Shifting of teams into other divisions may occur when a team has taken first place or last place in their current division for one (1) or two (2) seasons.
- 4) Shifting of teams will occur with the fluctuation of teams at each registration.



# 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 objective, 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. **AT NO TIME** will players be allowed to smoke on the field or in the coaching boxes.
4. **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.
5. Managers are to report any unsportsmanlike or derogatory acts by players or spectators to the league president. The purpose here is to prevent any serious situation developing that would be harmful to the seasonal play.
6. 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.

7. A player, coach, manager, or sponsor may be suspended for fighting, abusive tactics or unbecoming acts that are detrimental and not in the best interest of the Western Nevada County Slo-pitch Softball Association and seasonal play.

8. 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.

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

10. 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 Playing Rules as outlined in WNCRS /WNCSSA Program Guide.

#### **11. 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.



# 2024 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 his/her players of them.
- 3) Make sure that each player is properly rostered under his/her 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 his/her players. **Good Sportsmanship** is expected of all managers, players, and spectators.
- 7) Receive the ground rules prior to the start of the game.
- 8) Obtain all league paperwork pertaining to deadlines, schedules, tournaments, make-up games, and any other pertinent information.
- 9) Inform all players of team insurance coverage and be sure players initial their roster card accordingly.

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

11) Home team managers are to provide a line-up card to the umpire.

## **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. On-line registration is available @ [www.wncssa.com](http://www.wncssa.com).

Extra roster cards may be picked up and fees may be paid at the League office @ Litton field.

## **3. SCHEDULES**

You may view your schedule on-line @ [www.wncssa.com](http://www.wncssa.com) within a week of the close of registration.

## **4. PLAYOFFS**

The regular summer season will be followed by a post season 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 post season play games. The Championship game (two (2) teams remaining) will be played to 7 innings, with no run limits.

## 5. GAME TIMES & FORFEITS

Game start times are 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00. **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME.** If a forfeit occurs a **\$30.00** forfeit fee must be paid to the **LEAGUE PRESIDENT** 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 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 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 **HOT LINE at 478-8040** and on the website - **www.wncssa.com** within 24 hours of the cancellation.

## **DO NOT WAIT FOR A CALL FROM YOUR PRESIDENT.**

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 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 standing at the League office and 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 two players from the same team are ejected from that same game that team will forfeit the game. Fees will be due before that team’s next scheduled game.

If a player or manager lays a hand on, shoves, strikes, threatens, or abuses **any WNCSSA official or employee** 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.

## **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, Player Representative, and the Head of Umpires shall decide the validity of the protest. This decision shall be rendered within five days of filing.

5) (a) 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.

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

## **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 a player from another team to make a legal team of eight as long as,

1 - the borrowed player is currently rostered in the same division.

2 - the borrowed player is restricted to right field or catcher position.

3 - the borrowed player 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.

b. If borrowed player hits a legally hit fair ball over the fence, base runners may only advance 1 base. 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. The borrowed player must retire if and when the 8th player enters the game.

**For Coed** - You may only use enough substitutes to make a team of 9.

- If a 10th rostered player arrives the “sub” player must leave the game and the rostered player adds to the bottom of the batting order.
  - You must inform the Umpire and opposing manager of the substitute player.
  - The sub must be rostered on another team in your division.
  - The sub must play **right field** or **catcher** and is limited to a single when at bat.
- Note: all other runners may advance normally with the result of the subs at bat.

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) All players at the game may bat. All batters must bat in the specified order on the official team lineup. A substitute player bats in the same lineup position.

4) **Home run rule**: A team may never be more than **ONE HOME RUN** ahead of the opposing team. Example- A Player from Team A hits a home run in the first inning ~ no player from Team A may hit another home run until a player from Team B hits 1 or 2 home runs. 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.

5) 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.

6) No steel spikes are allowed.

7) Any female player who is pregnant must sign a release form to continue seasonal play. Forms may be obtained from the League President, on-line at [www.wncssa.com](http://www.wncssa.com).

8) Players arriving late to league games may enter the game at any time providing:

- (a) He/she enters only between batters.
- (b) He/she is fully dressed and ready to play.
- (c) The game is not stopped or disrupted by their entry.
- (d) He/she assumes the last available position in the batting line up.



9) Pitchers may pitch from up to 6 feet directly behind the 50-foot pitching rubber. All USSSA pitching rules will be in effect. The ball must be released from the same point the presentation of the ball and windup began.

10) **Men's, Women's, and Coed Leagues:** Teams may use one pinch runner 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.

11) Players added to the roster after schedules are set **may be declined**. League Presidents 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.

12) 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.

13) 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.

14) The batter may step on the closest half of the disk to hit a ball. The batter may **NOT** cross the white line in front of home plate and should treat it as the front line of the batter's box.

15) 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.

16) All men's divisions playing at Memorial Park will use a restricted (stickered) bat. The same bat restrictions that are currently used in co-ed.

## 12. RULES PARTICULAR TO CO-ED

- 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 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.
- 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 an out in the batting order.
- 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 runners foot is **ON THE GROUND** past the scoring line, before the catcher catches the ball with his/her 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) If an outfielder attempts to throw a runner out at first on a base hit, and hits the runner, the runner will be awarded 2nd base.

**13. 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!**

1) Fake tags or similar unsportsmanlike conduct.

2) Rough tactics not limited to fighting.

3) Obscene gestures or objectionable demonstrations towards an official, opponent, or fan.

4) Intentional throwing of the bat/equipment.

- 5) Being under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that could be a risk to the player and/or others.
- 6) Consuming ANY ALCOHOLIC beverage during game time. IN OR OUT OF THE DUGOUT!
- 7) Flagrant rule violations.
- 8) Use of the F\*\*\* word or any excessive profanity.
- 9) Use of trash talk in an attempt to incite unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 10) Any action deemed by WNCSSA not being conducive to the recreation of playing ball.
- 11) Arguing balls and strikes.

#### **14. 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, which ever 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 totals.)**

**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.

