

APL LEAGUE LOCAL PLAY-OFF RULES

1. USA Softball Rules will be used unless modified below.
2. Game times are 5:45 and 7:15. If it is a 3 game night the third game is 8:45. Game time is forfeit time.
3. There is no time limit in play-off games. All games must have a winner. There is a drop dead time of 10:30.
EXCEPTION: For the championship games there is a 1 hour 25 minute time limit since there is the possibility of needing to play 4 games.
4. Batter will enter the batter's box with a 1-1 count. They will be out on the second foul after 2 strikes.
5. Run Ahead Rule: If after 1 hour 25 minutes a team is ahead by 15 or more runs at the end of the inning the game is over no matter how many innings have been played.
6. A strike zone mat is used. The back point of the plate is painted black. A pitch with legal arc (6-12 feet) that hits the mat or the black part of the plate is a strike. A pitch which hits on the line between the black and white portions of the plate is a strike. A pitch which does not hit the mat or the black part of the plate is a ball.
7. Plays at the plate are handled similar to plays on the batter-runner at 1st with the double base where the plate serves as the white bag and the mat as the orange bag. All plays are like force outs with the fielder on the plate and the runner going to the mat.
There is a commit line 1/3 of the way from home to 3rd (about 22' from the plate since there bases are still 65'). If a runner touches the commit line they must continue on to the plate. Attempting to return to 3rd results in an out.
Unlike with senior ball, the catcher is allowed to tag the runner coming home.
8. On plays at the plate the mat is considered part of the plate.
9. The league will use a 12" .52 cor / 300 compression ball.
10. There is an 11" ball. When a woman is batting, she has the option of which ball she wants to hit.
11. Short-handed rules:
 - A) Teams must have at least 8 players.
 - B) If a team has 8 players, the opponent will supply a catcher for purposes of returning pitches. This person is not expected to make any defensive plays.
 - C) With 9 players a team must supply their own catcher.
 - D) If a team has less than 10, there is no automatic out taken in the batting order. The exception to this is if a team drops from 10 to 9 (or 9 to 8) due to an ejection with no eligible substitute. In this case an out must be taken for the vacated spot in the order.
 - E) If an additional player arrives they may enter at any time. They do not have to wait until the end of the half inning, or even the end of an at bat.
11. The batting order may have between 8 and 12 players. There will be at most 10 players in the field defensively. The number of people in the batting order may vary during the game.
12. In order to reenter the game a player must sit out at least 2 innings AND 1 time through the batting order.
13. Home run rule: Teams will be allowed 4 over the fence home runs per game. If both teams reach 5 home runs, the 1-up rule will be in effect.
14. Teams are permitted to have beer on the bench but not in the field of play.