

# **Robson Ranch 2021 Spring League Softball Rules and Organization**

18 March 2021

## **1. Composition and organization of the Robson Saturday League.**

The league will consist of 3 teams comprised of all skill levels. Only Robson Ranch Softball Club members are allowed to participate.

### **a) Substitutions:**

If a team's roster drops to 10 or fewer for any game due to injury or absence, that team may use a player of equivalent or lesser ability from one of the other teams. For example, a B player substitute can only be used as a replacement for a B player but a C player can be used if the coach chooses to do so. A C player substitute can substitute for either level player.

Substitute players must bat at the end of the line-up and may not be used as courtesy runners. Teams may not sit a healthy player on their roster in order to use a substitute player. In addition, if a player is injured and can't continue to play, that team's line-up is immediately reduced and no penalty is incurred when the injured/removed player's spot is due to hit in the batting order.

### **b) Courtesy Runners:**

Any player on a team's roster and present for the game may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at the beginning of the next player's at bat (or at any time in the case of an injury), but the courtesy runner may not be used more than once per inning. No player that is a substitute can be used as a courtesy runner.

### **c) Field Specifications:**

It is understood that games at the Robson Ranch Softball Field are played with a 300-foot fence and 65-foot baselines.

### **d) Equipment:**

ASA or USSSA approved 1.20 BPF bat will be used.

NO 1.21 senior bats allowed.

Champro (or equivalent) .44 cor, 375 compression softballs will be used.

12" balls for male hitters and 11" balls for female hitters.

### **e) Pitching Screen:**

The pitching screen WILL be used but pitchers are REQUIRED to wear a protective facemask. Pitchers may wear additional protective equipment if they choose to do so.

**f) At-bat Starting Count:**

All at-bats will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. There will be ONE foul ball “to waste”. This means if you hit a foul ball with two strikes you are out.

The first batted ball to hit the pitching screen during any at bat is a dead ball. Any subsequent batted balls hitting the pitching screen during the at bat will be counted as a foul ball.

**g) Home Runs (over-the-fence):**

There will be a “2 up” home run rule. Any home run hit by a team with a 2-home run advantage will be scored as a walk.

**h) Runs Limit per Inning**

Teams are limited to 5 runs per inning except for the final inning of the game. In the “open” inning each team may score an unlimited number of runs. Game time limit will be 60 minutes.

**i) Mercy Rule:**

If a team is ahead by 12 or more runs at any time after 5 innings have been completed, or four and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, the game will be declared over.

The “flip flop” rule will take effect when the visiting team has a lead of 8 or more runs going into the open inning.

**j) Tie Breaker: Visitors start game with ½ run lead.**

**k) 165-foot Outfield Arc:**

Outfielders must be positioned behind the 165-ft line and he/she may NOT throw out a batter at 1<sup>st</sup> base on a batted ball put into play.

**l) Base on Balls to a Male (with female to follow):**

When a male batter is walked without the pitcher registering a strike and next the batter is female the male batter will automatically advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. With 2 outs, the female may elect to take 1<sup>st</sup> base. With less than 2 outs she must take her turn at the plate.

**m) Commitment Lines: Running Bases**

Tag plays are once again allowed at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

There will be a commit line marked across and perpendicular to the foul line and placed thirty feet from home plate. Once a runner has crossed the commit line, he/she must continue home and a force out is in effect at home plate for the defensive player who must be touching the strike zone plate for the out. The ball remains live.

**2) Umpire Costs:**

**Volunteer umpires will be used for this league.**

**The most recent SSUSA Rule Book will be used for all additional rules for the Saturday league.**