



RENAISSANCE CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2026 RULES OF PLAY

ALL USA AND IPRIDE SOFTBALL RULES SHALL APPLY EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN

1. LEAGUE DIVISION FORMAT

- **Division 1**
 - Cruisers, Hustlers, Renegades, and Riptide
 - Maximum Team Rating of **115** (Team Rating is the sum of the 10 highest rated players on the team).
 - No Individual Player Rating Limit.
- **Division 2**
 - Bad News, Big Ol' Hitties, Critical Hits, Spartans, and Wingmen
 - Maximum Team Rating of **105** (Team Rating is the sum of the 10 highest rated players on the team).
 - No Individual Player Rating Limit.
- **Division 3**
 - Black Sheep, Dill Doughs, Fireballs, No Prob Llamas, Quahogs, and Sluggers
 - Maximum Team Rating of **75**.
 - Individual Player Rating no higher than **8**.
 - Players who have Ratings Question 3 are not allowed to participate in Division 3 (ability to hit 250'+ at least 20% of time).

2. QUALIFYING TEAMS

- **To qualify for League Play, all Teams must:**
 - Submit a preliminary Roster and signed Team Registration Form to the Membership Director by the date set by the Board.
 - Be considered in good standing and **receive membership approval from the Board.**
 - Pay their Team Fees in full by the date set by the Board.
 - Have at least 13 but no more than 20 Registered Players of whom no more than 50% identify as Non-LGBTQ+ by the date set by the Board.
 - A Team may have an unlimited number of Registered Non-Players.
 - Be within the total Team Rating Limits of their respective divisions (see **Section 1** above).
 - **Adhere to the league Code of Conduct and Rules of Play.**

3. QUALIFYING PLAYERS/NON-PLAYERS

- **To qualify for League Membership, all Players/Non-Players must:**
 - Be considered in good standing.
 - Be at least 18 years of age and, if applicable, contribute towards their Team's Entry Fee.
 - Players under 18 must be approved by the Executive Board.
 - Register as a Player or Non-Player by the Registration Deadline.
 - **Adhere to the league Code of Conduct and Rules of Play.**

4. UMPIRES

- Must be USA Certified and hired by the Umpire in Chief (UIC).
- Must wear appropriate attire authorized by the UIC.
- One Umpire per game, except for later playoff brackets determined by the Board when there will be 2 provided.
- Umpire Fees will be \$45.00 per game.
- Must receive at minimum 24 hours' notice of any cancellation of game(s), otherwise cancellation fees previously agreed to by the Board will be made.
- **Must adhere to the league Code of Conduct and Rules of Play.**

5. LEAGUE PLAY

- **During League Play including Playoffs, TEAMS:**
 - must ensure that all Players and Non-Players within the field of play, including dugouts, have registered and are listed on their Team Roster.
 - may make a request to the Board to add a Player(s) to their Roster during the season due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - must ensure all players have similar jerseys with numbers unless a waiver is requested.
 - **may not have more than 6 Non-LGBTQ+ Players in their Lineup or 5 Non-LGBTQ+ Players in the Field of Play.**
 - **must identify all Non-LGBTQ+ Players with an asterisk (*) on the Lineup Card as well as identifying Non-LGBTQ+ Hall of Fame members with an "H".**
 - Non-LGBTQ+ Hall of Fame members are considered as honorary LGBTQ+ players.
 - will play with 10 Position Players.
 - **must list substitutes on Lineup Card.**
 - **may play with 9 Position Players without penalty (non-LGBTQ+ restrictions apply) and may add a 10th player prior to going completely through their lineup.**
 - must finish with the same number of Players in the lineup as they started with.
 - If a Player is removed from the lineup for any reason, a listed substitute must enter in their place otherwise **an automatic out will be recorded in that lineup spot.**
 - Teams may list up to 2 Extra Hitters (EH) in games with 10 Position Players and 1 EH in games with only 9 Position Players (**non-LGBTQ+ restrictions apply**).
 - **Teams must Forfeit if they have less than 9 Players or less than 4 LGBTQ+ Position Players.**
 - Teams are not allowed to **pick up Players** to prevent a forfeit **except for Division 3 (Pitcher only).**
 - Teams that **FORFEIT with less than 24 hours' notice** to the Board are responsible for a **\$50 Reimbursement** of Umpire and Field expenses **PER GAME.**
 - During playoffs only, Teams will be immediately disqualified from playoffs if they forfeit a game.

- **Game Rules**
 - **Coaches and Umpires are not permitted to suspend, change, or alter any game rules without the consent of the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner.**
 - Smoking is not permitted on the field of play or in the dugouts.
 - Metal cleats are not allowed.
 - Only USA-Approved bats and League provided game balls are permitted.
 - Leading and/or Base Stealing is prohibited.
 - Game Time.
 - All Games will be 50 minutes and start on the hours between 9A & 4P.
 - There is a 10-minute grace period for all 9A games but only 5-minutes thereafter.
 - Exceptions will be allowed for Teams that may still be playing on another field. These teams will be allowed a 5-minutes grace period once they arrive at the field for their next game.
 - The time starts once the umpire tells the home team to take the field.
 - No new inning will start after 50 minutes.
 - Scorebooks/Lineup Cards
 - Lineup Cards must be provided to the opposing team's Scorekeeper or Coach prior to the start of each game.
 - Players must be listed by FIRST NAME and if necessary, the initial of their LAST NAME.
 - All Players on the Lineup Card, including Substitutions, **must be listed with their JERSEY NUMBER.**
 - All **Non-LGBTQ Players** must be identified with an asterisk (*) and all **Non-LGBTQ+ Hall of Fame members** must be identified with "H".
 - **Non-LGBTQ+ Hall of Fame members are considered as honorary LGBTQ+.**
 - No substitutions are allowed if the player was not listed as a Substitution on the Lineup Card.
 - Scorebooks must be completed by both teams for every game and be made available to the Board upon request.
 - **Scores must be reported by text to the Assistant Commissioner (Jim G) by 7PM each Sunday (401-965-8075).**
 - **Count/Strike Zone Mats/Courtesy Foul**
 - All batters will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
 - A courtesy foul ball is allowed.
 - Once a batter has 2 strikes, they will be called out on strikes after hitting 2 foul balls.
 - When a Strike mat is used, **any pitch reaching a 6-12' arc** that lands on any part of the mat is a strike.
 - **For Divisions 1 & 2 ONLY** - Home plate is considered a ball **unless the pitch grazes any part of the mat.**
 - **For Division 3 – the plate is considered part of the strike zone.**
 - **Foul Tip**
 - **A foul tip caught by the catcher is not an out unless the tipped ball reaches a height over the shoulders of the batter.**
 - A Foul Tip counts as a Foul Ball towards the Courtesy Foul Rule.
 - **Infield Fly**
 - Once the umpire calls an infield fly, the batter is out, and the play is dead.
 - There can be no advancement by runners on a called infield fly.

- **Courtesy Runners**
 - **Two (2) courtesy runners** are allowed per inning per team (in lieu of ADA Rules).
 - Any player on the Lineup Card including substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner.
 - An out will be recorded if a courtesy runner is on base when it's their turn at bat.
 - **Every batter must make it to a base before a courtesy runner is allowed unless special arrangements are made with the Board and opposing teams.**
- **1st Base Safety Bag**
 - **Runners must hit the orange bag when running to 1st base on a hit to the infield.**
 - **On an outfield hit, the runner has the right to the white part of the bag.**
 - On an overthrow to 1st base, the runner **does not** have to go back to touch the white part of the bag to advance to 2nd base.
 - The defensive player must always use the **white part** of the bag.
- **Slide Rule**
 - When there is a play to be made at any base other than 1st, including home plate, meaning that the **ball arrives ON TARGET AT THE BASE** either before or at the same time as the runner, **the runner must slide into the base or give themselves up to the defensive player.** If the runner does not slide or give themselves up to the defensive player, **the runner is out.**
 - In a double-play attempt, if the ball is **ON TARGET AT THE BASE** and arrives before or at the same time as the runner, **the runner must slide** into the base **or turn out of the basepath** to allow the throw to another base. **If the runner doesn't slide or turn out of the basepath, the runner is out and the runner at the base behind them is also out.**
 - **Runners DO NOT have to slide** into any base if they can safely reach the base before the incoming throw or if the throw is off-line, OR THE DEFENSIVE PLAYER receiving the throw is not at the base.
- **Home Runs**
 - **Division 1** – Each team is allowed **1 over the fence Home Run** and any subsequent ball hit over the fence is an **automatic DOUBLE.**
 - **Division 2** – Each team is allowed **1 over the fence Home Run** and any subsequent ball hit over the fence is an **automatic OUT.**
 - For **interdivisional games**, **Division 2 Rules will apply.**
 - **Division 3** - Any over the fence Home Run is **an inning-ending out** and the batter must be reported to the Board.
 - In addition, any ball that hits the fence in the air is **an automatic out** (not inning-ending) and the batter must also be reported to the Board.
- **Run-Rules (Regular Season and Playoffs)**
 - **All Divisions**
 - Games will end after a fully completed inning in the following scenarios:
 - 20-Run Lead after 3 innings.
 - 15-Run Lead after 4 innings.
 - 10-Run Lead after 5 innings.
 - **Division 3 ONLY:**
 - In addition to the League Run-Rules above, there is a **7-runs-scored limit** per team per inning for the **FIRST 2 INNINGS ONLY.**
 - Regular play resumes at the start of the 3rd inning.

- **Tied Games**
 - No game shall end in a tie.
 - The international tie-breaker rule will be used in the event of a tie.
 - The last batter scheduled for the inning will be placed at 2nd base with no outs (ex., if the 5th batter in the lineup is scheduled to lead off, the 4th batter in the lineup will go to 2nd base).
 - The team may use their allowed courtesy runner or make a substitution for the runner placed at 2nd base.
 - The game will continue until there is a winner.
- **Playoff Qualification**
 - **All Players**, except those in the Military, **must play in at least 10 games or 50% of their Team's Regular Season games** (whichever is lower).
 - **Military Players must play in at least 5 games. *NO OTHER EXCEPTIONS***
 - Being listed as a substitute but not entering the game in anyway, does not qualify as playing.
- **Protests**
 - **Regular Season**
 - Protests can only be made by a Coach or Assistant Coach.
 - Protests must be made known to the Umpire during or immediately following the game.
 - The Coach or Assistant Coach must notify the Board as soon as possible that the game has been protested and why.
 - The Board will make a decision prior to the following week's games.
 - All decisions by the Board are final and may not be appealed or referenced in any future protests.
 - **Playoffs**
 - Protests must be made known to the Umpire during or immediately following the game and a Board Member must be notified as soon as possible.
 - **Player or Team Rating Protests are prohibited.**
 - If the protest is regarding player eligibility, **coaches must be prepared to provide proof of eligibility** by way of their regular season scorebooks.
 - The Board will make a decision as soon as possible - **All decisions are final and may not be appealed or referenced in any future Protests.**

***The Board reserves the right to amend the Rules of Play by majority vote at any time.**

RCSL HALL OF FAME

PLAYERS/COACHES

***Frank Andrade *Frank Beradis *Mark Cardarelli *David Carr**
***Lori Chandronnet *Keith Christian *Paul Dean *Neal Degala**
***Jason Deutsch *Chris Gaulin *Jim Gilligan *Bruno Goncalves**
***Billy Gorman *Liz Grande *Mario Grande *Roger Houle**
***Dave Johnson *Tom Labrosse *Phil Lagoy *Mike Leitao**
***Allie Letendre *Curtis Mason *Stephen McGuire *Dave McPhail**
***Deb Mecchi *John Morse *Dave Motta *Deb Nicoll *Jimmy Page**
***Matt Paiva *Roger Paquette *Lori Pawlitschek *Rob Rannin**
***Jonathan Ricci *John Richard *Brian Rodgers *Cary Rominger**
***Adam Silvia *Ricky Silvia *David Squillace *Renee Torres**

SPONSOR/FRIEND OF LEAGUE

***Buck Aspirino *Rande Diantuono *Mike Digioia *John Dorr**
***Frank Ferri *Mark Lavalee *Paul Murphy *Ralph Napolitano**
***Michael Slade *Billy Svetz *Ricky Twomey *Jack Witkop**

UMPIRE/SCOREKEEPER

***Ray Buonfiglio *Smokey Chechanian *Bill Hull *Dave Marshall**
***Linda Paolozzi**