

**PONTIAC AREA VICARIATE ATHLETIC LEAGUE
(PAVAL)
Adult Coed Softball League Rules**

The Pontiac Area Vicariate Athletic League (PAVAL) has been created for all Catholic parishes/institutions within the Pontiac Area Vicariate to promote fellowship, to build community, to enhance communication, and to foster Christian values through athletic endeavors which will accommodate a variety of age groups in healthy, caring and enjoyable activities. Activities are meant to take place in a family atmosphere, individual families as well as parish/institution/vicariate families. PAVAl, therefore, fosters family involvement and participation as well as that of singles and couples. All persons of the Pontiac Area Vicariate are invited and welcome to participate.

I. LEAGUE RULES (1972)

A. Eligibility

1. PAVAl is open to the members of all the Catholic parishes/institutions in the Pontiac Area Vicariate.
 - a. Each parish/institution will be responsible for developing a roster of eligible players. The roster will contain the following information:
 - name of parish/institution
 - name of each player
 - name of manager/coach
 - b. The roster shall be limited to twenty (20) players, plus the Parish priest.
2. Team members must be registered members of the parish/institution for which they play.
3. Players must be at least fifteen (15) years of age.
4. The pastor/institutional head will sign the roster to verify eligibility.
5. Eligibility rosters must be filed with the league commissioners prior to the first match.
 - a. If a roster has less than twenty (20) players, extra names may be added until the limit of twenty (20) is reached. However, the league commissioners must receive the name(s) on a roster signed by the pastor/institutional head before a player may participate in a game. (In cases of injury or presenting the above signed roster to the umpire at game time.)
 - b. If a player is to be removed from a roster, that player's name must be turned in to the league commissioners before a new player can be added to the roster if the roster is already at the limit.

B. League Board

The League Board shall be composed of the commissioners.

II. SOFTBALL RULES

- A. ASA Co-ed softball rules will be in effect unless a league rule supersedes it.
- B. **No metal spikes** are allowed.
- C. A twelve (12") inch gold stitch softball (restricted flight) will be used for all players. (2002)
- D. Each team will field a maximum of ten (10) players. A minimum of four (4) females must play in the field, with a least two (2) females playing in the infield and one (1) in the outfield (2005). Twelve (12) players may bat in the line-up. The first batter in the batting order must be female (2007) and at least every third batter in the line-up must be a female. A team may start with a minimum of eight (8) players, three of which must be females. If a team is unable to field a minimum of eight (8) players (3 of which must be females), the team shall forfeit the game. Add players nine (9) through twelve (12) to the line-up in the manner described above. If a team is starting the game with less than ten (10) players, that team cannot add a tenth player until a fourth female player is available (2007). Substitutions in the line-up must be for the same sex for the first four (4) females. All substitutions must be reported to the umpire who will notify the official scorer. (It is not necessary to report field changes.) A team must finish with eight (8) players (3 of which must be females). If a team is batting with a minimum of eight (8) players and a baserunner is injured, the last person called out may become the baserunner. If anyone leaves the game, the vacated spot in the batting order will be an automatic out.
- E. **The Grace Rule (1995)/Courtesy Runner (2006)**
A substitute runner will be permitted under circumstances determined by the umpire to justify a substitute runner at any time in a given game. In this case, the last female out would be substituted for a female runner and the last male out would be substituted for a male runner.

F. The Arc Rule (1994)

For all female batters, the defensive outfielders must position themselves behind a line that forms an arc 160 ft. from home plate until the ball is hit. If at any time the umpire sees a misalignment in the outfield not meeting the above requirements, time will be called and the players will be repositioned. If a ball is hit and an out is made, but in doing so, the umpire recognizes that the above requirements were not met, play is stopped immediately. The out is erased and batter is awarded first base, regardless of where the out was made. All runners go back to the base they occupied previous to the play or advanced one base if forced to do so by the awarded base (free hit).

G. The Orange Base Rule (1993)

An orange base will be staked directly next to first (1st) base to allow the batter to tag the orange base when it is obvious the play will be at first (1st) base. In this case, **the runner must use the orange base.** For all other plays, including an overrun, the runner will be allowed to use the white first (1st) base.

H. Home Run Limit

Three (3) unassisted home runs will be allowed per team per game without penalty. Any ball thereafter which is ruled fair and leaves the playing area unassisted shall be ruled a dead ball and an automatic out. Assisted home runs will not be counted as part of this rule. All balls hit outside the playing area (fair or foul) must be retrieved by the offending team.

I. Mercy Rule

1. Fifteen (15) runs after five (5) innings.
2. Fifteen (15) runs after four and one half (4-1/2) innings if the home team is ahead.
3. There will be no mercy rule in a championship game.

J. Time Limit

1. **Game time is forfeit time – except for the first game,** which will have a (5) minute grace period.
2. **Forfeit fee of \$20.00 will be required prior to the team's next scheduled game.** The fee is payable to the softball league commissioner. Failure to pay a forfeit fee before the next game will result in continued forfeitures.
3. Games have a time limit of seventy (70) minutes. No new inning shall start after seventy (70) minutes. Innings begun will be completed unless the home team is ahead. There is no minimum inning requirement.

K. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed by players during the game – automatic ejection. No alcoholic beverages allowed on ballpark or parking area premises.

L. No smoking on the playing fields or in the dugouts.

M. All ejections from the game will be reviewed by the league commissioners and appropriate action will be taken, ranging from game suspension to removal from the league. (This does not include ejection due to illegal substitution.)

N. Protests

All protests will follow ASA guidelines and must be filed with the league commissioners within forty-eight (48) hours after the scheduled time of the contest. Accompanying the protest will be a \$25.00 fee which will be returned if the protest is upheld.

O. Eligibility for Tournament (1996)

Players must be on the team rosters and have played a minimum of two (2) games during the regular season to qualify to play in the tournament. If this rule is not abided by, all games played during the season are forfeited. This will not affect the standings during the regular season.

P. Tournament Rosters (1996)

Teams are required to submit a tournament roster of players to the league commissioners at least one (1) week prior to the tournament.

Q. Safety (1999)

No watches or sharp jewelry shall be worn.

R. Automatic Walk Rule (1999)/ Male Walk Rule (2007)

Any female who is preceded in the line-up by a male batter who is walked during his turn at bat, will have the option of accepting a free walk during her at bat. The male batter will be awarded second base upon his walk, regardless of the decision of the following female batter to walk or bat.

S. Tournament Home/Visitor Designation: (2010)

Teams will be seeded based on the final season standings with all tiebreakers decided as laid out in Rule U. The home team for the tournament will be the higher seed.

T. Rain Make-up Days: (2000)

Rained out games will be re-scheduled for the following week Wednesday unless that Wednesday is within a 'holiday' week, or is already in use by another make-up game rematch. The Softball League Commissioner will contact the team managers to reschedule the make-up games.

U. Season Tie Breaker Hierarchy (2000)/(2010)

- 1) Overall Record
- 2) Head to Head competition
- 3) Run Differential of involved teams
- 4) "Rock – Paper – Scissors"

V. Balls and Strikes: (2007)

4 – 3 ball and strike count. The next foul ball, after the batter has two strikes, will be considered as the third strike and the batter will have struck-out.

W. Home Run Running: (2003)

In order to speed up play, the batter who hits a homerun has the option of not running the bases. This is contingent upon the homerun being hit within the home run limit.

X. Bat Pool (2007)/Shared Bats (2009)

Any bat that is to be used in a game must be ruled, and marked, as legal prior to the start of that game. Legal bats must be ASA slow pitch sanctioned. Players can use any bat that is marked as legal; however, any bat that is used by a team must be made available to the opposing team for that single game. If a player uses an unapproved or illegal bat, they will be called out.

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