



As Revised October 2024

HONOLULU MAKUA ALI'I SOFTBALL LEAGUE SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

The Rules for the Honolulu Makua Ali'i Softball League will be in accordance with the Hawaii State Senior Softball Rules and Regulations and the Senior Softball Guide and Playing Rules except for the following rules.

I. Dues:

Forty dollars (\$40.00) per player for league. Dues are to be paid before participating; the amount of dues will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. **Exception: No dues will be assessed to players eighty (80) years and older.**

II. Team Uniforms: Dress Code:

A. All team players shall wear a uniform: If a player wears a hat, it must be alike in color and trim and worn properly. Jerseys need to be alike in color and trim. Pants and shorts need to be of same color, excluding trim. Hats are optional but if worn, it must be worn properly, must be alike in color, and trim. **Exception:** Other head covers may be worn for health reasons and approved by the League President prior to participating in the game.

B. Any player not in proper uniform is ineligible to participate. Two weeks (playing time) allowed to have uniforms for new player(s). If a player transfers from another team, he/she must be in the proper uniform before participating in the game.

C. If player(s) participates with an improper uniform, that team will forfeit the game.

III. The Game:

- A. A team must be ready to play at game time or lose by forfeit.
- B. There is “No” Forfeit Fee.
- C. Second scheduled game will start immediately after the 1st game, not earlier than 9:45 a.m. Third game will start immediately after the 2nd game, not earlier than 11:00 a.m. **Fourth game will start immediately after the 3rd game, not earlier than 12:15 p.m.** All games will start at 8:30 a.m.
 - 1. All games will be played with 3 balls and/or 2 strikes, and all batters will start with a 1-1 ball/strike count. There will be a “waste foul” available to a batter after there are two strikes in the count.
- D. Seven (7) innings, no time limit. If tie after 7 innings, play until tie is broken (international rule), last batter at bat occupies 2nd base, and cannot be replaced until he/she advances to third base.
- E. **Maximum Runs in Inning: Five (5) Runs maximum per inning, except in the 7th inning. If the game is tied after seven (7) completed innings a five (5) runs maximum per inning shall be used in the extra innings until the tie is broken.**
 - 1. A 12-run TKO rule will be in effect for all games. Teams must complete five (5) or play 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead
- F. Eleven (11) players may be used on defense by the bottom five (5) teams in the standings against the top five (5) teams in the standings in the first round of the schedule. Final standings from the prior year will be used until the fifth (5th) week of the first round, and the current league standings thereafter.

IV. Playing Rules:

A. Field Dimensions:

Pitching Distance: Forty-Six 46 feet to Fifty-Two 52 feet from home plate.

1. The use of a pitcher's mask is mandatory for all pitchers. A pitcher who refuses to use a mask shall be prohibited from pitching.
2. **Bases: Sixty (60) feet**

B. Ball: 14" softball, inseam will be utilized.

C. Over Running Bases: Over running bases is allowed, but a runner or runners shall not be allowed to overrun the bases in reverse order. In overrunning a base, if a runner should continue to run towards the next base, he/she must retouch the overrun base before advancing. Appeals may be made.

D. Leave the Base after pitch: A base runner shall be called out if he/she does not remain on the base until the ball is hit, whether the ball is fair or foul. However, if the batter swings and misses, the runner will not be declared out for leaving the base. Note: When the pitch crosses the plate and touches the ground, it will be declared a dead ball and runners will not be out for stepping off the base.

E. A strike is called for each foul ball, including the third strike. Batter is out. A caught ball is a live ball. Foul tip ball caught must go over the batter's head to be an out.

F. Throwing the Bat:

1. Unintentional
 - a. First offense will be a warning to the batter.
 - b. Second offense will be an automatic out.
2. Flagrant
 - a. Player is out and ejected from the game.
3. When a batter runner advances to first base on a batted ball, he/she must drop the bat before reaching first base. Penalty: Out

- G. Equipment: No equipment shall be left out on the playing field or foul territory.
- H. Protests:
Protests will not be received or considered if they are based solely on the judgment of an umpire. Any official protest must be made prior to the next pitch to the Chief Umpire and a written protest must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours to the League President.
- I. Sliding: No sliding allowed. If a base runner slips or falls, he/she must not use his/her hands to touch the base or will be declared out.
- J. When a base runner intentionally interferes with a thrown ball and if in the judgement of the umpire it is an obvious attempt, the player shall be called out. If flagrant, the players shall be ejected from the game. If the player is physically or verbally abusive, the Board of Directors shall take action.
- K. Smoking and Drinking: There shall be absolutely no smoking on the playing field. Drinking of alcoholic beverages on the field, bench area and bleachers area is prohibited. Any player found smoking before or during the game will be suspended for that day. If found smoking after his/her game, they will be suspended for the following week's game.
- L. The scorekeeper has the authority to announce correct batter if the batter is batting out of order.
- M. Courtesy Runner:
1. Unlimited runners are allowed each inning.
 2. Any player on the official line-up sheet including available substitutes may use as a courtesy runner.
 3. A courtesy runner is in the game when he/she touches the base.
 4. A courtesy runner whose turn at bat comes up while he/she is on base will be out. He/she will be removed from the base and come to bat. A second courtesy runner cannot be substituted at this time.
 5. A player may be a courtesy runner only once per inning
 6. A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner except for an injury.

7. A runner who is replaced with a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.
8. Only an under 60-year-old male player can courtesy run for another under 60-year-old male player.
9. Only a female 55 years or older or a male 60 years or older can courtesy run for an under 60 female players.

N. Scoring Line

1. The scoring line shall be placed 9.5 feet from the left corner of the home plate. The scoring line shall start 2 feet from the left back corner of the left batter's box.

O. Commitment Line:

1. This line should be six (6) feet in length and centered on the foul line twenty (20) feet from home plate towards third base.
2. A runner who advances from third base and touches or crosses the commitment line must advance towards the scoring line. If he/she retreats to third base, he/she will be declared out, and the ball is alive.
3. It will be judgement of the umpire to determine if a runner has passed the commitment line.

P. Rosters:

1. A player will be eligible for league play only when he/she reaches 55 years old.
2. A player who is fifty-nine (59) of age and who will become sixty (60) years of age in the calendar year may be added to a team's roster and shall be eligible to play.
3. Anyone meeting the age requirement, 55 years may play provided his/her registration/waiver form and league fees are turned in. A new player must provide a copy of their driver's license or an official picture identification.
4. For purposes of these rules, the term "under 60" shall refer to players 55-59 years of age. Teams may exercise their option to use male and female players under 60 years of age provided that only one male under 60 shall be used in a single game. A female player under 60 shall be considered and treated as a 60-year-old player.
5. Substitution rules governing players under the age of 60: A male player under 60 years of age can only substitute for another under

60 players in the lineup and must bat in the same position. A substitution for a female player under 60 must be a female 55 years or older or by a male 60 years or older.

6. Teams using an ineligible player will forfeit all games in which the player participated.
7. A player who participates in the new season with a particular team shall be considered rostered with that team until the end of the scheduled first round. Players may transfer to another team at the beginning of the second round and shall be rostered with that team for the season.

Exception: If the two managers from each team agree, a player may transfer to another team during the first round of play. No player may transfer to another team during the second round of the schedule.

- a. A player may transfer to another team only one time during the season.
- b. Penalty: If a player transfers to a team not in accordance with this rule, the team shall forfeit each game that the player participated in.

Q. 70 Division

- 1. A player will be eligible for league play in the 70 Division only when he/she reaches the age of 70 years old.**
- 2. A player who is sixty-nine (69) of age and will become seventy (70) years of age by July 31st in the calendar year may be added to a team's roster and shall be eligible to play in the 70 division.**
- 3. Teams may play with eleven (11) players on defense.**
- 4. Players in the 70 division may also be rostered on a team in the open division.**

V. Removal from Game:

No unnecessary physical play, roughness, or unsportsmanlike or improper conduct will be tolerated. Offending players or coaches are subject to immediate ejection and possible further league sanctions. Any player(s) involved in a physical confrontation, violent contact or verbal abuse with another player, umpire or team may be barred from the league.

VI. Awards:

There will be no monetary awards.

- VII. Rules shall prevail until revised or rescinded by the Board of Directors.
 - A. Any changes or modifications to the league rules for the following year must be submitted to the President in writing, no later than May 1st. Rule changes or modifications will be voted on at the general membership meeting.

- VIII. Equipment and Field Manager:
Balls are provided and related equipment are delivered in accordance with the schedule.

- IX. If the game is about to start or in progress during stormy weather or very wet conditions the League President or his designee will determine if the field is playable.