

CRESTED BUTTE SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026

Updated 5/5/2026

Captains are responsible for ensuring their teammates are aware of and abide by the rules and regulations contained in this packet.

Our website www.crestedbuttere.com contains all relevant information regarding softball.

Rules not clarified here will be interpreted from the 2026 USSSA Slowpitch Softball Rule Book

Rule #1: HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE!!!!

Rule #2: Obey all Town of Crested Butte Park Rules.

Alcohol: See [resolution no. 18, series 2018](#).

Dogs: Dogs are not allowed at any Crested Butte ball field.

Sec. 1 SPORTSMANSHIP:

1. All participants will exhibit good sportsmanship. Captains are ultimately responsible for the conduct of their players and fans.
 - a. Verbal or physical abuse of any kind will not be tolerated and violator(s) may be ejected at umpires' discretion. Ejected person(s) must leave the grounds.
 - b. The use of profanity and abusive language is prohibited.
2. The Parks & Recreation Department empowers umpires to enforce good sportsmanship. Games may be stopped at any time for enforcement and players or spectators may be ejected from games/park facilities.
 - a. Any Player or Manager who is ejected from a game, will not be eligible to participate in the program until a (minimum) one game suspension is served. CB PROST has the authority to suspend or expel players as necessary.
 - b. Notify the PROST office of all offenders and make a note in the scorebook.
3. In an emergency, call 911. For non-emergencies, local law enforcement can be reached via **Gunnison Dispatch at 970-641-8200**.

Sec. 2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTERS:

1. Players and Managers are not rostered until they complete and sign the Liability Waiver.
2. If anyone participates in a game prior to signing the waiver and turning in the waiver to the PROST office:
 - a. The game will not count towards the player's eligibility for playoffs.
 - b. The team that plays an ineligible player will receive a zero for that game.
3. Participants must be 18 years or older by their first game.
4. Players and Managers must participate in a minimum number of games to be eligible for playoffs, which is half the number of games your team played, minus one
 - a. If there is an odd number of games in the season, the half will be rounded down
5. Spectator attendance does not count towards eligibility for playoffs.
6. Player and Manager participation will be tracked throughout the season.
7. Roster Crossover Rule: Only four players from a T/TR league roster may appear together on a Wednesday league roster. Everyone can play in both leagues, just not on the same team.

8. Players may count games towards their playoff eligibility under the following conditions:
 - a. Acting as team manager
 - i. Players may only manage one team per season, no exception
 - ii. Only one player may count a game towards their eligibility per team, per game
 - iii. It must be clearly and legibly marked on the signed scorecard for who was the team manager for that game, otherwise no game will be counted. You may not retroactively add a team manager for any reason.
 - b. Umpires for youth programs may earn one game towards their eligibility per game umpired.
 - c. Youth program coaches who coach their program during a scheduled softball game may count that game towards their eligibility. The PROST Department will track these instances.

Sec. 3 THE SEASON:

1. Regular season schedules will be available at www.crestedbuttere.com
2. All games will start at either 5:15 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
3. The regular season will be played:
 - a. Tuesdays & Thursdays or Wednesdays
4. Games will be played on Pitsker, Gothic and Tommy V Fields.

Sec. 4 REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS:

1. Win Percentage
2. Head-to-Head Record
3. Point Differential
4. Points Against

Sec. 5 PLAYOFFS:

1. Playoffs begin immediately following the regular season. Both leagues will use a double elimination format.
2. Playoffs will conclude August 20 or before.
3. The higher seeded team will be the home team for the post-season except for the following:
 - a. Final Game(s): In the final game the team from the winner's bracket will be the home team for the first final game. If a second final game is needed, the home and visiting teams will flip a coin to determine home field advantage.

Sec. 6 UMPIRES:

1. During regular season play, each team will provide one umpire for the other game at the same field of the same night (e.g. Team A & B play at 5:15 pm, they each provide one umpire for the 6:30 pm game at the same field and vice versa for the late game)
 - a. Umpires may be assigned by PROST to facilitate other games.
2. Failure to meet your team's umpire responsibilities may result in penalties to your team's record.
 - a. First offense: 10 run deduction on "points for" record going into playoffs.
 - b. Second offense: an additional 20 run deduction on "points for" record going into playoffs.
3. Umpires are responsible for knowing the Crested Butte Softball and USSSA rules.
4. No show umpires must be recorded in the scorebook and the PROST Department must be notified promptly.

Sec. 10 FORFEITS:

1. An ineligible player constitutes a forfeit.
2. A forfeit will be given at 5:30pm and 6:45pm to teams with 7 or fewer players present.
3. A team may start with a minimum of seven total players, three (or more) of whom must be coed players.
4. Teams that forfeit still need to supply umpers for the other game.
5. After three no shows/forfeits, the delinquent team will be banned from the league. No refunds are issued for removal from the league.
6. In a forfeit, the entire winning team gets credit for playing the game.
7. The losing team gets credit only for the players that were present and accounted for on the score sheet.
8. Forfeits will be recorded as 10-0 as the final score.

Sec. 11 RAIN OUTS & LIGHTNING:

1. Lightning: See [lightning policy](#).
2. Violation of the [wet field policy](#) will result in both teams forfeiting their most recent win
3. Rainouts
 - a. A game called by the umpire, during regular season play which cannot be resumed within 30 minutes, may be regulation if four or more innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored more runs during the uncompleted 4th inning. These games will not be made up and will be considered a complete game.
 - b. Contact the Rec division for available makeup days/times.
 - c. Games that have already started and are not considered complete will pick up where they left off on the make-up date, if necessary.
 - d. Captains are responsible for arranging umpires for make-up games.

Sec. 12 DISPUTING A CALL:

1. Only team captains can confer with umpires about a call.
2. Captains may only approach the umpires to review an interpretation of a rule. Captains and players may not question an umpire's judgement, such as safe or out.
3. If a captain feels the other umpire had a better view of a play, they may request a conference.
 - a. Only the umpire who made the initial call can change the call after a conference.

Sec. 13 WARM UPS:

1. Pitchers get five warm-up pitches at the beginning of the game and will be allowed three warm-up pitches between innings, (except for new pitchers who will be allowed five warm-up pitches)

Sec. 14 TIME CONSTRAINTS AND TIE BREAKERS

1. If one team is ahead at 6:30pm or the end of 7 innings and the inning is completed, the game is over and the team ahead is awarded the win
2. If the game is tied at 6:30pm or the end of seven innings, one more inning is allowed with the following rules:
 - a. All batters start with a 3 ball, 2 strike count.
 - i. There is no courtesy foul
 - b. The last batter from the previous inning starts as a runner on 2nd base.
 - c. If the game is still tied after this last inning, the game is over & it will be recorded as a tie.
 - i. In playoff games, teams will continue with this format until there is a winner
3. Umpires must ensure games begin on time and are efficient so they finish on time.

Sec. 15 HOME RUNS:

1. An out-of-the-park home run is awarded **ONLY** when the ball clears the safety nets, **except** at Tommy V Field where a home run is any ball that clears the eight-foot chain link fence, in fair territory.
2. All balls that hit the nets are live (except at Tommy V Field). If a ball is caught off a net or fence, it does not count as an out.
3. Any ball deflected off a glove or any part of a defensive player and over the homerun fence will be counted as a four-base hit, not a home run.
4. 4 and 1 up homerun rule. Either team can hit up to 4 home runs, the next home run is an out unless the other team gets to 4 home runs as well. For example, Team A can hit 4 home runs and if team B has not hit 4 yet, then team A's next home run is an out. If team B gets to 4 home runs, then team A can hit an additional home run. The max difference between home run count will remain at 1.

Sec. 16 TEN RUN RULE:

1. If a team is up by 30 runs after the minimum requirements of a "complete game", 3.5 innings; the game is over.
2. 10 runs by a team will retire the side for innings 1-5, then unlimited runs for innings 6 & 7
3. It is the batting team's scorekeeper's responsibility to inform the umpire and opposing team when they have reached 10 runs. If they fail to do so...
 - a. Only 10 runs scored for the inning will be counted.
 - b. All at bats by any players (even those that shouldn't have batted) will be counted, they will not be allowed to bat immediately again in the next inning.

Sec. 17 GAME BALLS:

1. Teams will each be given 12 game balls at the start of the season. Teams must use balls provided by PROST.
 - a. If teams would like more game balls, then they are available for purchase at the PROST Office, Town Hall.
2. If a team uses illegal balls, then they will be penalized with the game recorded as a forfeit.
3. The PROST Department will provide two game balls per game during the playoffs.

Sec. 18 BATS:

4. All bats must have the USSSA or ASA stamp of approval.
5. Pitsker Field bats for Men:
 - a. Any wooden bat or specific single walled bats may used by males at Pitsker.
 - b. Single wall aluminum bats with MSRPs less than \$100.00 will be permitted for play at Pitsker Field upon department approval.
 - c. To get bats approved you need to acquire a Crested Butte Parks & Recreation sticker from our office. Bring the bat and a printout of the bat and its MSRP with picture to our office during regular office hours, Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.
 - d. If a team uses illegal bats:
 - i. Then they will be penalized with the game recorded as a forfeit. The forfeiting team will be recorded as 0 and the winning team will be recorded with either 10 runs or their total run tally if greater than 10.
 - ii. The player responsible must serve a minimum (1) one game suspension.

Sec. 19 SAFE BASE (1st BASE):

1. The White Bag (left side) is the fielder's bag; the fielder must use this bag for the tag.
2. The Orange Bag (right side) is the runner's bag; the runner must tag this bag to be safe.
3. The Fielder must use the orange bag to play from in foul ball territory; in this case runner must use white bag.
4. Once a runner reaches 1st base, the orange safe base no longer exists.

Sec. 20 SAFETY LINE:

1. Once the runner has passed the "20ft Scosment line" from home plate, the runner cannot return to 3rd base. The runner must touch the ground on or past the line to be considered committed.
2. The runner must touch the ground on or past the "safety line" to be safe at home.
3. The safety line is an extension of the 1st base line past home plate to the backstop.
4. Only defensive players can touch home plate.
5. If the runner touches home plate, the runner will be out, and the ball will remain live.
 - a. *The runner may touch home plate for:*
 - i. *Out-of-the-park homeruns*
 - ii. *If there is a play at the plate and the runner needs to touch the plate to avoid a collision*
6. All plays at home plate are force outs. As soon as the player passes the commitment line, the defensive player cannot make a tag. The defensive player must touch home plate to put out the scoring player.

Sec. 21 FORCE PLAY:

1. A runner who has been forced out at a bag must get out of the way of a defensive player attempting to make another play, or the runner closest to home will also be called out
2. A runner is out when a defensive player has the ball and the runner deliberately interferes with the defensive player.

Sec. 22 SUBSTITUTES

1. Roster substitutions may only be made at the half inning as teams transition from batting to fielding or vice versa.
 - a. Substitutions are permitted at any time in the event of a player injury.
 - b. If a player is ejected, then no substitution is allowed until the end of the half inning.

Sec. 23 COURTESY RUNNER:

1. Refer Rule 8, Section 13 USSSA Rulebook.

Sec. 24 DEAD BALL RULE:

1. Any ball batted, thrown, deflected, or carried over the out of play line immediately stops play.
 - a. A batted ball caught in the out of play area is dead and the batter is given a strike; the batter is not out. The ball is dead if it is beyond the out of play line even if the fielder's feet are in play, except where a ball can be caught over the fence while the player remains in the field of play.
2. If an umpire determines a defensive player intentionally puts the ball out of play, all runners on base will be awarded two bases from their stopped position.

Sec. 25 FALLEN RUNNER:

1. Only another base runner can help a fallen runner. If someone falls and needs help getting up, no base coaches are allowed to help. As soon as the fallen runner is touched by anyone other than another base runner, the fallen runner is out.

Sec. 26 FAKE TAG:

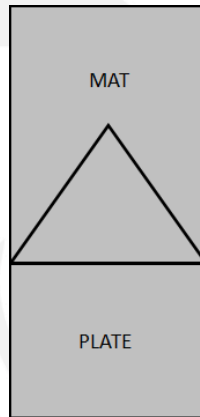
1. A defensive player may be called for making a fake tag when they knowingly do not have possession of the ball
 - a. The umpire may decide to award the base runner one base.

Sec. 27 BATTER'S BOXES

1. The Batter's box is an imaginary box three (3) feet wide, on either side of home plate. The box length is determined by placing a bat at the back point of home plate and laying the bat on the ground. The front of the box is even with the end of the bat while it's toward second base. The back of box is even with the bat when it is flipped toward the backstop.

Sec. 28 STRIKE ZONE & PITCHING

1. The pitcher must release the ball with one foot on the pitching rubber. The other foot may be placed anywhere.
2. Pitches must be between 6 – 12 feet in height at the peak of their arc.
 - a. The umpire will declare if a pitch is unfair once the ball has crossed the front of home plate.
 - i. If the umpire declares a pitch unfair, then the batter will be awarded a ball.
 - ii. The ball is in play if batted by the batter.
3. The ball **must hit** any part of the black mat, or home plate to be ruled a strike. See gray area of diagram.



Sec. 29 INFIELD FLY

1. Infield Fly: Is a fair batted ball (not a line drive) that can be caught in flight by an infielder with ordinary effort. Any defensive player may catch the ball in the infield area. The ball cannot be dropped on purpose.
 - a. The batter is out if they hit an infield fly with runners on first and second base or first, second, and third base with less than two out.
 - b. If a declared infield fly falls to the ground untouched and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball.
 - c. If a fly ball falls to the ground untouched outside the foul lines then bounces fair, before reaching first or third bases it is an infield fly.

Sec. 30 MISCONDUCT & PENALTIES

1. Players that engage in misconduct include but are not limited to tripping; charging; striking; spitting; pushing another individual.
2. Players at fault will be immediately ejected from the game and must serve a minimum suspension of one (1) game in each league they participate in.
 - a. If the player's team is eliminated from the season or playoffs, then their suspension will be served the following season.
3. If a player engages in misconduct two (2) times within a program season, then they are banned from program participation.
 - a. All misconduct history carries over, regardless of a new league, season, or program.
4. There are no appeals for misconduct.
5. The PROST Department reserves the right to establish guidelines for all rules/infractions not covered in the league manual. Notification of new rules or infractions will be shared in writing or verbally. Any Individual or team not following the rules & regulations set fourth or generally not participating with good sportsmanship will be removed from the program.