

2023 HWCL Softball League Rules

- Balls to be used are Worth 12" ASA Hot Dot Slow-pitch Softballs. League will give each coach 6 game balls. Each team supplies 1 ball to umpire each game.
- Approved bats for male players of HWCL must be wood or wood-composite with ASA/USA/USSSA stamps. Females can use any single wall ASA/USA approved bat. Any questions regarding illegal bats must be brought up immediately. League will supply each team with one wooden bat. Teams may purchase any legal bat for use in games.
- Players participating must be residents of Hamilton or Wenham and 35 year of age or older by the end of 2023 (exceptions to this rule may be approved by the HW Rec Department on a case-by-case basis).
- Players must play a minimum of 3 regular season games to participate in playoffs.
- Maximum of ten players in the field. One female player must be positioned in the field each inning. If there are no female players in line-up, then that team may only play 9 fielders.
- All players will bat with free substitutions in the field.
- A minimum of eight players needed to begin a game. A player from the opposing team will need to play catcher to return balls to the pitcher but is not required to cover home plate to make a play.
- Seven innings will be played in each game, in the event of a tied score after 7 innings in the regular season the game ends in a tie. In playoffs extra innings will be played until the winner is determined.
- In Playoffs, the 8th inning will be played as normal. All extra innings after the 8th will begin with runner on second base (previous final out).
- No new inning (including extras) shall begin after 1 hour 15 minutes, except in playoffs if there is a tie and a winner must be determined.
- Pitching rule: Pitch must be released palm up with no back or side spin.
- Batter starts with 1-1 count.
- After two strikes, batter is allowed two foul balls, a third foul ball after two strikes is an out.
- Pitch must be 6-10 feet in height, pitches that are too short or too high are to be called illegal by the umpire. The batter may still swing at the pitch, but the result then is final. If batter doesn't swing at illegal pitch, it is a ball.
- Pitcher must pitch with one foot connected to the rubber upon delivery, which will be 41' from home plate.
- A ball hit into the street on the first base side in the air and in fair territory is a home run.
- Any ball hit into playground or picnic tables in the air is a home run and on the hop is a ground rule double.
- A ball hit into the basketball courts is a live ball in play.
- If a player is ejected from the game, they must leave the field immediately and are suspended for the for the following game, including playoffs.
- No bunting, stealing or leading. Runner may leave base as soon as the ball crosses the plate. If runner leaves bag early and advances on a batted ball than the umpire may determine that the runner is out.
- Mercy rule- 15 runs by the end of the 5th or 10 runs after the 6th
- Home team is responsible for texting the score to the league commissioners.
- If you are unable to field a team, notify the other team and commissioner no later than the night before.

- Games will only be moved due by a cause determined acceptable by the HW Rec department i.e. weather. If a team cannot field 8 players for a game then that game is forfeited.
- Tie breakers: 1st- head-to-head
2nd- runs allowed for season
- Higher seeds will be home team in playoffs.
- Home team is responsible for paying the umpire at the field. If there is an odd number of games the home and away team will split the cost on the final week of the season.
- No alcohol, marijuana, or illegal substances are allowed at Patton Park