

APRD ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Official 2026 Home Run Derby Rules & Regulations

Date: Sunday, June 28, 2026

Location: Arbuckle Little League Field

Schedule: 11:00 AM Check-in | 12:00 PM Start

Registration Fee: \$30 per hitter

League Manager: Mary Grimmer

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1. ELIGIBILITY & TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS

- **Age Requirement:** All participants must be 16 years of age or older.
- **League Requirement:** All hitters must be actively registered in the current APRD Adult Softball League.
- **Division Field Caps:** To ensure proper scheduling, division entries are strictly limited:
 - **Women's Division:** Maximum of 10 participants.
 - **Men's Division:** Maximum of 35 participants.

2. EQUIPMENT & BALL SPECIFICATIONS

Women's Division Ball Specs

Official Ball: **Dudley - USSSA - Thunder SY**
Size: 11-inch softball

Men's Division Ball Specs

Official Ball: **Rawlings - Incredi-ball Softball**
Size: 12-inch softball

Bat Regulations: Participants must supply their own bats. Bats must be regulation softball bats stamped with a visible, approved **ASA certification mark** and must not appear on the official ASA banned bat list. **Baseball and wooden bats are strictly prohibited.** Any violation of the bat criteria will result in immediate disqualification.

3. PITCHER & DELIVERY REGULATIONS

- **Designated Pitchers:** Batters must provide their own pitcher. Pitchers can be either male or female. The same pitcher may be utilized for multiple different batters.
- **Warm-Ups:** Pitchers are permitted a maximum of 5 warm-up pitches immediately before their hitter's round begins.
- **Roster Adjustments:** Once a batter starts their round, no pitching changes are permitted unless an official injury occurs to the pitcher.
- **Legal Delivery Height:** Pitches must be delivered underhand at a slow-to-moderate speed. The ball must attain a minimum arc height of **6 feet** and must not exceed a maximum height of **12 feet** from the ground.
- **Illegal Pitches:** Any pitch falling below **6 feet**, exceeding **12 feet**, or thrown with excessive speed (in the judgment of the event official) will be declared illegal. An illegal pitch counts toward the hitter's total pitch limit, and any hits resulting from it will be nullified.
- **Pacing:** The pitcher cannot deliver the next pitch until the previously hit ball has completely landed.

4. COMPETITION FORMAT & SCORING

- **Tournament Structure:** The derby will operate as a single-elimination, head-to-head bracket competition.
- **Time Limit:** A strict 3-minute countdown clock will begin for each matchup upon the release of the 1st pitch.
- **Hitter Limits:** Each player's turn consists of a maximum of **10 swings** or **20 pitches**, whichever threshold is met first. Batters are not penalized for taking pitches outside of their swing limit.
- **Swing Tracking:** A missed swing, foul ball, or foul tip all count officially as one of the 10 allowed swings.
- **Scoring a Home Run:** A home run is awarded for any ball hit within fair territory that clears the outfield fence on the fly or strikes the scoreboard.
 - The official distance is measured from home plate to the precise location where the ball first lands.
 - A ball that bounces or rolls over the fence will be recorded as an out, not a home run.
- **Outs:** Any swing that fails to result in a home run is scored as an out.

Round Transitions & Breaks: Scores from the 1st Round do not carry over. All hitters advancing to the 2nd Round begin fresh with a score of 0. The participant who hits the highest number of home runs in the 1st Round earns the strategic choice of batting first or last in their subsequent 2nd Round head-to-head matchup.

5. TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURE

In the event of a tie score at the end of a head-to-head matchup, a **Sudden Death Round** will be enforced immediately:

- The tie-breaker will consist of a **1-minute continuous swing-out** period.
- The batter with the most home runs secured within that 1-minute window will advance.

Thank you for your sportsmanship and participation. Good luck to all players!