



## Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department Adult Softball Leagues Rules, Policies, and Procedures

### A. General Information

1. Team fees are due in full when a team registers for a league. Fees are established by the Parks and Recreation Department and shall cover the cost of supervision, game officials, awards, and facilities provided. Fees, once paid, are not refundable. All fees include state tax.
2. Participation in the Adult Softball League is completely voluntary. Each individual participating in the league assumes the risk for any harm or injuries caused by any negligence or intentional acts. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that each person have sufficient health insurance coverage before participating in a league. If someone is injured, report it to the home plate umpire and scorekeeper. They will arrange necessary assistance and make out a report for the Parks and Recreation Department.
3. The Parks and Recreation Department shall assign two qualified umpires for each league game. In the event that a game umpire does not appear as scheduled, the game will be officiated with one umpire. The fall league is a one umpire league.
4. Participation in this league is a privilege that may be denied or suspended for just cause.
5. No alcoholic drinks or smoking is permitted on the field, in the playing area, or on the bench.
6. Good sportsmanship and good discipline are a must in this league.
7. All participants are reminded that children are playing in Starin Park while games are in progress – so please drive slowly and carefully.

### B. Eligibility & Rosters

1. Players must be at least 18 years of age and his or her high school class has graduated.
2. Roster forms must be completed and submitted prior to the season with your registration payment.
3. Rosters must have a player's first and last name on the roster form. The required information on the roster must be written legibly.
4. Team managers will be able to make additions and changes on their rosters until the halfway point of the regular season. All rosters become frozen after this date, unless teams need to add a player to meet minimum roster limit.
5. A player must be placed on the roster at least two working days prior to playing in his/her first game after roster due date.
6. Team rosters are unlimited; however, a minimum of 12 players must be carried throughout the season.
7. A player may be listed and compete on only one team per night.
8. No player may transfer to another team in the same league after playing in a game; no crossovers after the third scheduled game.

9. Rosters will be checked by the Parks and Recreation Department if a question arises over the status of a given player. Any players who fail to conform to the eligibility and roster rules will be deemed illegal. All games won in which an illegal player is protested will be forfeited.
  - a. A manager who knowingly uses an illegal player or a player who plays under an alias may be suspended for the remainder of the season.
  - b. Any team found using an illegal player will be ineligible to receive a first or second place plaque in their division or season ending tournament depending on time of infraction.
  - c. In addition, an illegal player is anyone who plays under suspension.

If an opposing manager believes an illegal player is being used, he/she should bring the concern immediately to the attention of the umpire and scorekeeper after the player in question has entered the game. He or she should then follow the protest procedure as outlined in the rules. **Any question that arises after the game's conclusion will not be considered.**

### C. Rules and Regulations

The NFHS Official Rulebook will be followed for the official playing rules of this league except for the following exceptions and/or additions.

1. Games will be limited to 60 minutes in regulation 7 innings. No new inning will begin after 55 minutes. A twelve run rule is in effect after 4 ½ innings.
2. Tie games will be played until a winner is decided.
3. Base runners may advance only on a batted ball and shall be out if they lead off before the ball is hit. On an "illegal" pitch, if the runner leaves base, they are to be called out. An illegal pitch in slow pitch is not a dead ball situation.
4. Substitution:
  - a. A starter can be removed from the line up and be returned to his or her original position in the batting order once during a game.
  - b. The player that goes in must play at least one complete inning on defense.
  - c. In the event of an injury, any player not currently in the line-up may go in but the injured player may not return. In case of Player A who had already been in the game, replaces an injured Player B, then Player A has to take the place in the lineup of the injured Player B instead of batting in Player A's original spot.
  - d. Unlimited Batting/Free Substitution. The managers submit a batting line up without positions marked. The team then may exchange defensive players every inning if they wish. If this option is used all players must be put in the batting line up. A player may be taken out of the line up, without penalty, only if he is injured and unable to play the rest of the game. Late arrivals can be added to the bottom of the batting order.
  - e. A courtesy runner can be used, courtesy runner must be the last out.
5. A mat will be used behind the plate to rule balls and strikes.
6. No metal spikes are allowed.
7. Line ups are given to the scorekeeper must include first and last names.

8. Ground Rule Double: When a "Fair" batted ball bounds or rolls under or through a fence or other boundary of the playing field, base runners are awarded two bases without liability to be put out.
9. Pitching: At the beginning of each half inning a maximum of 1 warm-up pitch is allowed between innings. A new pitcher is allowed up to 3 warm-up pitches. The umpire has the discretion to modify if they feel a deliberate attempt is being made to delay the speed of play. The minimum arc must clear the pitchers head; maximum of 12 foot arc. Violation results in illegal pitch. **The plate and the mat are considered the strike zone.** The Pitcher may release the ball with one foot within the width of the pitcher's plate.
10. No bat exceeding a BPF of 1.2 is eligible to be used in Recreation Department Softball Leagues. **Any** bat not in compliance with current ASA standards is ineligible.
11. Due to field limitations, there will be a progressive home run rule in effect. Each team is allowed a three (3) Home Run limit. Once a team has reached their 3 home run limit, any additional out-of-park home runs will result in the batter being called out with no runner advancement.  
In the event BOTH teams reach their 3 home run limit before the end of play, a progressive home run rule will immediately come into effect. At this time, both teams will be allowed to hit 1 additional out-of-park home run. Once the progressive home run rule takes effect, teams may only exceed their opponent's home run total by 1 at any given point during the remainder of the game. A second home run in addition to their opponent's total will result in the batter being called out with no runner advancement. In the event BOTH teams hit an additional home run, the progressive home run rule will come into effect again and will repeat itself every time BOTH teams have reached an EQUAL amount of home runs during a game.  
**NOTE: The home team cannot exceed the away teams home run total in the final inning.**
12. A homerun has to clear the fence for a homerun. This includes the scoreboard, where the ball must clear the fence to be ruled a homerun.
13. An "extension" plate will be used at home plate, along with a "force out" line 15 feet from home plate along the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line.
14. The game ball will go to the team listed as home on the schedule at the game's conclusion.

#### **D. League Schedule and Awards**

1. The Parks and Recreation Department shall schedule league games according to available public facilities.
2. Current league schedules are available from the scorekeeper and the city website, [www.whitewater-wi.gov](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov)
3. The team listed as Home on the game schedule for each game is designated as Home Team. Home Team uses third base player benches.
4. Severe weather/Rain-out Policy: The Parks and Recreation Director will make a decision based on playability of softball fields by 4:00 pm. Call the department at 473-0520 after 4:00 pm. Once games have been cancelled, they will not be played even if the weather changes. If the games are not cancelled at 4:00 pm and the weather gets worse, the decision to play or cancel the game will be made by the game official at the field.

5. Rained out games will be made up unless late season game has no bearings on standing, or both team managers agree not to reschedule the game. Make up games will automatically be rescheduled on your regular night of play, continuing weekly until the champion is determined. Your team must be ready to play on these nights or forfeit the game.
6. If there is a tie between two teams for first place only in a league that does not have an end of season tournament (end of season record) will follow the tie-breaker procedures listed below. A league that has an end of season tournament will establish seeding for the tournament based on the following tie-breakers:
  - a. Head-to-Head
  - b. Total Runs Allowed
  - c. Total Runs Scored
  - d. If a tie still remains a coin-flip will break the tie

### **E. Forfeit, Protests, and Suspensions**

1. Teams will be given a five-minute grace period after the scheduled game time to field a team of no less than 8 registered players. Failure to have 8 registered players at the expiration of this time shall result in a forfeit.
2. Once the game has been forfeited, due to a team being short handed or using an ineligible player, the game may be played if both managers agree. Scorecard will indicate the forfeit score. A game being played as forfeit must end when next game is scheduled to begin no matter how few innings have been played. Officials have the authority to call a game even if it is in the middle of an inning.
3. Protests of an umpire's judgment of play will not be accepted.
4. The team managers must make protests on interpretations of or violation of rules at the time of the incident by notifying the umpires. A written protest must be sent to the Parks and Recreation Office, accompanied by a protest fee of \$25.00 within 24 hours of the time of the protest. This fee is not refundable unless upheld.
5. League Awards: The tournament champion and tournament runner-up will receive plaques. A donation on behalf of the league and winning team from each league will be made to the Whitewater Food Pantry.
6. The Parks and Recreation Director, and the officials of the game will rule on protests.
7. Players who are dismissed from a game for unsportsman like conduct such as arguing, swearing, foul gestures, drunken behavior, throwing bats, etc., will be suspended from play for the next scheduled game. Upon a second offense, the player involved will be suspended from the team roster for the remainder of the season. If an unsportsman like act is considered severe, a player may be ejected for the balance of a season at the discretion of the umpire with agreement of the Recreation Director. The player will have the right to appeal, but is ineligible to play until the Director hears the appeal.

### **F. Co-Ed League Policies & Procedures**

1. Official Lineup: A full team consists of ten (10) players. No team shall be permitted to start a game with less than eight (8) players, without forfeiting that game.  
Teams must alternate men and women in batting order, but players may play at any defensive position. There will be an equal number of men and women in

defensive positions at all times. In case of an odd number of players, there must be more women than men.

It is required that managers provide first and last names when line-ups are given to the scorekeeper prior to each game.

2. **Ball/Strike Rule:** The plate and mat are considered strike area. Any combination of two (2) strikes is an out, three (3) balls is a walk.  
A male batter will be awarded two bases for a walk only if the pitcher fails to throw a strike during that at-bat. A male batter will only receive one base on a walk in which at least one strike was delivered.
3. **Game Length:** An official game will be seven (7) innings or 60 minutes. No new inning may begin after 55 minutes. A 12-run rule will be in effect after the 4 ½ innings.
4. **Base Runners:** Base runners may advance only on a batted ball and shall be out if they lead off before the ball is hit. **Sliding is permitted, but not required.**  
A line will be drawn ¾ of the distance from third base toward home plate. Once a runner has crossed that line, the runner shall be committed to running home.
5. **Plays at Home Plate:** All plays at home plate shall be a force out. The runner does not have to be tagged for the out. The catcher will have an extension at home plate, so they should not block the base runner coming into home plate.
6. **Balls and Bats:** Teams must use the 12" ball and use regular length bats. Men may not use a bat longer than 28" in length and no heavier than 21 ounces. If detected, the batter is automatically out.
7. **Legal Pitch:** The arch limitations shall be no more than 12 feet from the ground. Minimum arc must clear the pitchers head.
8. An arc approximately 120 feet from the pitchers mound will be painted/mowed in the outfield. Outfielders are not allowed in front of this arc until the ball has been hit. To clarify, each team can have a maximum of five infielders. The remaining defensive players must be positioned in outfield beyond the arc. Penalty for being in front of line: Batter will automatically be safe at first, the ball will be called dead and all runners on base will advance one base.
9. All other rules explained in information for Adult Softball Leagues will be enforced for the Co-Ed League if not already mentioned here.

**Note:** Any matter not covered in these rules, policies, and procedures, shall be left to the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Last Revised: February 18, 2013