

## WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

### 2011 MENS & WOMEN'S 12" SOFTBALL LEAGUES

#### LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

1. All softball games will be played in accordance with the National Softball Association 12" slow pitch with the exception of any changes specifically stated in these rules or on the team schedules as pertaining to local situations.
2. All team members must sign the Sports Contract, at the Field House Sports and Fitness Center. Managers must have all players sign the sport contract which is located on the back of the roster sheet and return this sheet prior to the season in order to be eligible to play in the 2011 Softball League. The Sports Contracts for each team will be on 1 sheet. All participants full proper names (not nicknames), must be on the Sports Contract. An approved contract must be on file before a player may participate in his/her first game.. The final roster is due before 5:00 P.M., Friday, June 10; however, an up-to-date roster/sports contract must be on file before the season begins. If players have not completed their Sports Contract prior to the fourth week of competition, the player(s) will be withdrawn from the roster and will not be eligible to play for the said team (NO EXCEPTIONS.) Verbal, telephone, or any other type of notification will not be accepted.)

All team managers must have an approved Sport Contract on them at all times while engaged in formal league play. If the manager is asked to produce his/her Sports Contract by the Athletic Supervisor, on-site supervisor or umpire, the manager will have only five (5) minutes to do so. If the player is not on the contract, he/she will be removed from the game. Players starting the game cannot be questioned or asked for Sports Contracts after the conclusion of the first inning; only new players entering the game may be questioned in the later innings. Each team's manager should have the sports contract on them for games. New this year the contract will be one sheet that is attached to the roster; therefore, it is the manager's responsibility to have this form instead of each player carrying separate contracts like in years past. Since players are not required to come into the rec center and show proper ID for sports contracts players should always have proper ID at games to prove their identity and address.

3. There shall be a definite starting time established by the League Director. Any team that is not ready to play with in ten (10) minutes of the time scheduled shall have the game forfeited to the opposing team by the Umpire. For the second game, forfeit time is twenty (20) minutes after grace period.
4. In the event that regular league Umpires do not appear, the two Managers have the privilege of agreeing upon an Umpire selected at random; the selected Umpires shall be considered official and the result of the games will stand as played. In the event that an Umpire cannot be found, the game shall be declared postponed. In the event the chosen Umpire for any reason refuses to complete the game and no agreeable substitute is found, the game is postponed unless five (5) complete or 4 1/2 innings by the losing side have been played, in which case the game shall stand. The game may be considered a forfeit if the Umpire leaves due to harassment or abuse. All teams are asked to notify the Park District recreation office in the event there is no official Umpire. ALL UMPIRES WILL BE COMPENSATED.

**League Playing Rules Continued**

5. The home team for the first game of a doubleheader or single game will be designated on the schedule and will have the third base dugout.
6. All leagues will play regulation seven (7) inning games.
7. The Athletic Supervisor shall arrange all schedules and assign all Umpires directly or through a contracted officials organization.
8. Scorebooks will be properly completed for each game by **each** team. (The official scorebook is kept by the home team. It is the responsibility of the visiting team manager to verify the score in the official scorebook inning by inning if necessary.) Full proper last names and first initials of all players and substitutes must be legibly shown. In the case of protest over an ineligible player, any recognizable alterations will be construed as a decision against the offending team. In the case of protest, both Managers must submit their scorebook to the Athletic Supervisor within 24 hours. Game reports will be filled out by the umpire, on-site supervisor (if present) and the two opposing captains after the completion of each game.
9. SportsPark lights will be turned off no later than ten (10) minutes after the conclusion of the final game.
10. Players may play in more than one 12" league in the Waukegan Park District softball program, but only one team per/league. A player on two (2) separate teams, from two (2) separate leagues may participate in the playoffs, but only for **ONE team**. If the team is eliminated the player **may not** join the second team if still in the playoffs.
11. **IN MEN'S 12" OPEN LEAGUES HOMERUN LIMITS WILL BE SET.**

**THE FOLLOWING LEAGUES HAVE HOMERUN LIMITS:**

<b>MONDAY AMERICAN</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>
<b>TUESDAY A&amp;B:</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY A:</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>
<b>CONTINENTAL:</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>
<b>LITTLE FORT "A"</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>
<b>LITTLE FORT "B"</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>
<b>FALL NATIONAL</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>
<b>FALL AMERICAN</b>	<b>4 HOMERUNS PER GAME PER TEAM</b>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY HOMERUN AFTER THE LIMIT IS AN OUT!!!**

13. **Playoffs:** All teams in the men's open leagues finishing with a .500 winning % of better will receive a spot in the city tournament. The tourney is a double-elimination tournament in mid-August.

**RAIN-OUT POLICY AND POSTPONEMENTS**

1. In the event of rain the previous evening or during the day of the scheduled games, conditions of diamonds MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 4:00 P.M.
2. Teams should call the Field House Sports and Fitness Center after 4:00 p.m. to check on playing conditions. **The softball hotline number is 360-4785.** (Please note that weather can be unpredictable and decisions may be delayed because of that.)

3. All games that have been rained out will be rescheduled, as soon as possible, at the discretion of the Athletic Supervisor.
4. All managers will be notified of makeup schedule by memorandum and/or by telephone.
5. It is the Manager's responsibility to notify all team members, as soon as possible, of canceled and/or rescheduled game(s).
6. If weather condition become threatening after 5:00 p.m. the assigned On-Site Supervisor or Umpire will be the sole judge as to whether the softball diamond is playable or game called on account of inclement weather. **If lightning is visible, games must be delayed 15 minutes & depending on the situation games may be cancelled.**
7. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if five (4) or more complete innings have been played, or if the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team in four and one half (3 1/2) innings.
8. Games called and that are not regulation games will be replayed as a new game, as if the game was never played at all. By establishing this rule there will be no conflicts as to game standings.
9. Games will be played as per schedule. No arrangements will be made between Managers for postponements. The Athletic Supervisor only is authorized to postpone or reschedule regular league games.

### **PLAYING REGULATIONS**

1. A team must have at least eight (8) players to start and eight (8) to finish. If the ninth or tenth player arrives before the completion of the game he/she may be inserted into the line-up.
2. Games will not be forfeited due to player shortage once a game has legally started as long as they have the minimum of eight players to finish. If a team loses players (either by ejection or injury) anytime during the course of the game, and doesn't have a substitute, the missing players turn at bat will be counted as an out.

**Exception:** The missing players turn at bat will not be skipped and counted as an out if the previous batter is intentionally walked. Note: An intentional walk is defined as 3 straight balls without throwing a strike.

A team may insert 2 additional hitter (11<sup>th</sup> & 12th hitter) into its line-up. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 of the 12 players can take defensive positions throughout the game. It is not mandatory for a team to use an additional hitters, but failure to declare such a hitter prior to the game, precludes the use of an additional hitter in the game.

3. A five (5) minute warm-up period will be given between. Teams must be ready to play at assigned game time or five (5) minutes after completion of the previous game.
4. There will be a maximum of two (2) warm-up pitches after the first inning and each pitcher will receive (5) in the first inning. If a pitcher exceeds his/her allotted number of warm-up pitches, each additional pitch will be declared a ball by the Umpire. (A pitch must be delivered with a 6' minimum an 12' maximum arc.)

5. Managers and Umpires will discuss ground rules prior to the start of all games and the Umpire's decision will be final.
6. If a home team is leading by fifteen (15) or more runs at the end of 3 1/2 innings or any inning thereafter, or the visiting team is leading by fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated and the team with the most runs declared the winner.

**OR**

If a home team is leading by ten (10) or more runs at the end of 4 1/2 innings or any inning thereafter, or the visiting team is leading by ten (10) runs at the end of five (5) innings or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated and the team with the most runs declared the winner.

7. The count at the plate is **1 ball & 1 strike**. If the batter has one strike and hits a foul ball he will then have 2 strikes and the next time he swings the ball must be fair or he is out. New this year will be the strike-zone mat. If the ball hits the mat it is a strike (no questions asked); however, the umpire may call the pitch illegal if it is not between 6 to 10 feet.

**8. ALL OPEN MEN'S LEAGUES:**

**Due to a lot of games lasting much longer than the 2 hours given, there will be change in the count at the 2-hour mark. At 2 hours the count goes to 2 balls & 2 strikes, once the top of a new inning begins. The 2 hour rules is only in effect on the early games, games that start at 6:15pm. Example: the 8:15pm games will play two-7 inning games without a time-limit because there is no game to follow. Umpires may change the count to speed up the game in situations of darkness on the fields or extra long games.**

9. NO SMOKING on the playing field. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are allowed on the Park District at any time. Rules will be strictly enforced. Any player caught with alcohol on park district property will be suspended at the Athletic Supervisor's discretion.
10. The manager, coach, players on the roster, scorekeeper, and bat boy/girl are permitted in the designated bench area. It is the responsibility of the Manager to keep all other persons from this area. Only one bat boy/girl per dugout.

**EQUIPMENT & BATS**

1. All bats must be on the NSA approved bat list and tested before all league.
2. The park district will provide game balls for men's open 12" and co-rec leagues. This ball is the only type of ball allowed to be played with, no exceptions. Each game there will be a new ball. The older balls may be used if the game ball was hit out of bounds but it will be of the same make as the game ball. If a team uses a different ball the team will forfeit the game.
3. Metal spikes **will not** be allowed in any Waukegan Park District leagues. Any player caught with metals on will be ejected.

## RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Each Manager will be held responsible for the conduct of his/her team players and is responsible to see that all rules are observed. The Managers must maintain complete control of themselves and his/her team members at all times; this includes conduct while registering and signing Sports Contracts.
2. Officials and their decisions will be respected and not interfered with at any time. Unsportsmanlike conduct or other serious violations will not be condoned. Unsportsmanlike conduct, poor attitude, disrespect, vulgarity, or profanity will not be tolerated at any time. Any Manager or player removed from a game will receive an automatic two (2) game suspension (the next two consecutive games of scheduled play). A longer suspension may be given by the Athletic Supervisor depending on the severity of the offense. If the same player is ejected again during the season he will be removed from the league for the rest of the season and possibly longer depending on the severity.

**\*Any player that is ejected must meet with the Athletic Supervisor before they can participate in league play.**

A report will be submitted to the Athletic Supervisor whose disposal of the matter is final. This includes improper conduct before, during, or after a game, or while observing as a spectator.

3. A game will be forfeited in the event a team fails to respects the official's authority or decisions; one warning will be given prior to such action.

Personal harassment of officials (Umpires, Athletic Supervisor, on-site supervisor) may be cause for either team or individual to be suspended from league play and/or tournaments. A player does not have to be in the game for this rule to be in effect. He/she could be a spectator of a team.

4. In any discussion on the playing field with an official, only the manager will be permitted to enter the discussion.

A) Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

B) The threatening of an official or On-site Supervisor will have an automatic removal for the season, both league and tournament play.

5. Any player, coach, or spectator guilty of physically striking an official will be immediately suspended for the season and the team put on probation with possible suspension resulting. The player may also be prosecuted if the umpire wants to press charges. Suspension for such an infraction is a league suspension for one (1) calendar year from the date of infraction.

In the event that a more serious battery takes place toward an official or supervisor, expulsion up to life can be directed after referral and review by the Board of Commissioners of the Waukegan Park District.

6. If a player throws a bat during the game, the umpire has been instructed to eject him/her from the game. It will be the umpires decision if there was a slip or not. Game suspensions may be in effect.

## **PROTESTS**

1. All protests must be made in writing to the Field House Sports and Fitness Center within 24 hours after the time of the game. (The umpire must be notified prior to the next pitch!) All information pertinent to the protest must be included in the initial written protest as no other statements will be accepted. Upon receipt of the protest, the opposing Manager will be notified by the Park District and will then have 24 hours in which to submit a written reply. The written protest, written reply, and a written statement from the game official will be considered in determining the result of the protest. No protests will be considered involving the Umpire's judgement of balls, strikes or outs. When misinterpretation or ignorance of the rules may have cause the loss of the game, a protest will be considered. The Umpire and Manager of the opposing team must be notified immediately after the play if a protest on a play is going to be made. **ALL PROTESTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A \$25 FEE** which will be returned if the protest is upheld. All pertinent information must be included in the written protest and reply as this is the only information that will be considered.
2. All legal protests will be acted upon by the Protest Committee. Protests will be processed in accordance with the 2011 Official Softball Rules. All decisions of the Protest Committee are final. Protest Committee will consist of the league supervisor, superintendent of recreation and one more member at the discretion of the league supervisor.

### **TRANSFER - NEW PLAYERS - RELEASES**

1. A team roster consists of a maximum of twenty (20), minimum of ten(10) players on the date of registration.
2. A player will not be considered released until an official dated notice has been received by the Park District office from the team's manager.
3. In transferring from one team to another, a player's release and new player entry must be on file at the Park District office prior to the first game in which he/she plays.
4. All new players' entries, releases, transfers, and other matters pertaining to team roster must be transacted in person at the Field House Sports and Fitness Center by the **MANAGER AND NEW PLAYER INVOLVED**.
5. In the event a team breaks up during the season, players may be permitted to be assigned to another team. No more than three (3) players from the expired team may be assigned to any other team. No player will be allowed to join teams that are playing in the same league in which they originally played. They must switch leagues.

### **FORFEITS**

1. If teams forfeit a game the fine will be \$20 per game. Fines will be waived under the following conditions.
  - A) If the league supervisor is notified at least 24 hours in advance to a teams forfeiting.
  - B) If a forfeit is a direct result of an injury to a player or players.

Forfeits in which the fee has been waived will still be recorded as losses for the forfeiting team.

2. Any team that forfeits 3 unexcused nights,(6 games if double headers are played) in the season, the team will be dropped from the league. In the case of a forfeited game due to an injury of a player or players, a team will not be charged, however the games will be recorded as losses.
3. Forfeit fines must be paid before the next scheduled game the following week or the team will receive another forfeit that week and will be subject to additional forfeit fines.

#### **RULE EXCEPTIONS**

Any ball that passes under or bounces over an outfield fence will be a ground rule double.

No re-entry of starting players will be allowed for all Waukegan Park District leagues.

The pitcher can wear tape or sweatband on his pitching arm, but no bracelet, etc.

A runner leaving the base before a caught fly is touched by a fielder, that runner can be put out on a proper appeal.

Any pitched ball that hits the ground or plate cannot be legally swung at by the batter. The ball is dead.

At the beginning of each game the Umpire will canvas each team captain to determine if the "courtesy runner" rule will be in effect. A courtesy runner will only be allowed where both managers have agreed and stated so to the W.P.D. Umpire. A courtesy runner will be granted for one player **per/game** that has a injury limiting the mobility of the player from running.

To speed up the game players may only touch first base if they hit a homerun. This is up to the player and the team.

Due to the lines disappearing in the batters box shortly after the game beginning, the out of the batter box rule will not be enforced; however, the umpire may warn you of being out of the box & if you do not follow the umpire's instructions the umpire has the right to call you out. Any player stepping on the plate during a swing will be called out.

Waukegan Park District **WILL NOT** allow stolen bases.