

2021 Recreational Girls Softball Rules and Policies

The League is Governed by the “Rules of Play” in this document

Playoffs are scheduled for **Week of July 19th or July 26th** at Walden Ponds. Double elimination format. Playoff seeding will be determined by “Winning %”.

House League Play

Division of Play (age as of January 1st)

- Combined High School (ages 14 - 20) Ball used in play 12”

General Rules of Play

- 1) During the regular season and playoff season the International Tie Breaker rule will be in effect provided that the 7th inning occurs. The extra innings can be called due to darkness by the umpire. **In the playoffs** if the game is called then seeding will determine the winner.
- 2) No Jewelry is permitted, including earrings and rubber band bracelets. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.
- 3) Team Managers/Coaches must report injuries within 24 hours of the incident to their Division Coordinator.
- 4) Smoking is not permitted within 50 feet of the players benches. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the park while games are being played.
- 5) No metal cleats are allowed to be used on any fields during games.

High School Specific Rules (ages 14 - 20)

- 1) A complete game consists of 7 innings. An official game may be called after 4 full innings. Double headers will consist of two 5-inning games. There is no mercy rule for a 5-inning game
- 2) A Team must play with 9 fielders on the field. However, a team with less than 9 players may play with a minimum of 7 to avoid a forfeit. All efforts must be made to get the game played. This includes one team lending an available player to the other team while on defense until that girl comes up to bat and then the process is repeated with the furthest girl in the batting order. Teams must play with a maximum of 6 infielders (including the pitcher and catcher). The outfield position shall play no closer than the edge of the grass. No out shall be taken for a team with less than 9 players.
- 3) Each team will have the ability to have a courtesy runner for a pitcher and a catcher with any amount of outs in the inning. Unlimited defensive substitutions will be allowed.
- 4) There will be a 6 run team limit or 3 outs for every half inning until the 7th inning. The 7th inning will have unlimited runs, 3 outs or “Mercy Rules” can apply. The defensive team must record 3 outs in inning 7 as well as any extra innings. In a 5-inning double header game, the 6 run team limit will apply to innings 1-4. The 5th inning will be unlimited.

- 5) The "Mercy Rule" for the league will be 12 runs after 5 innings. There will be no mercy rule for a 5-inning game.
- 6) Teams must bat their entire line-up.
- 7) Stealing of ALL bases, including home is permitted. The runner must remain on the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 8) Bunting and Sliding are permitted. The defensive player cannot block the bag without having possession of the ball.
- 9) The "Dropped 3rd Strike" rule IS in effect. The "Infield Fly" rule IS in effect.
- 10) Pitching rubber is set at 43 feet. The pitcher must start with both feet on the pitching rubber when starting her motion.
- 11) Players "called-up" from another division can play the pitcher or catcher positions. No regular member of the team using a "called-up" player shall sit for more than 3 innings.
- 12) The Lightning Policy applies to all practices, games and team events. If activity has been suspended due to lightning, in accordance with State Law, the designated umpire or league official will wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before resuming activity. Each time additional lightning is observed the minimum 30 minute waiting period should be reset. A clear sky or lack of rainfall is not adequate indicators for resuming play.
No lightning safety guidelines can guarantee absolute safety. It is the responsibility of every person to be aware of weather conditions and take appropriate action to be safe. Use common sense and good judgment, plan ahead and make safety your number one priority.
- 13) These rules supersede all house rules of all affiliated leagues.
- 14) Players must attend 50% of games in the regular season to be eligible for play offs.
- 15) The Home team will use the field starting at least 30 minutes before the game start time for 15 minutes for pre-game warm ups. The visiting team will use the field for roughly the remaining 15 minutes.
- 16) Darkness and/or weather may stop a game at any point as determined by the umpire.
- 17) While there may be a need for a few Travel players to be on teams here and there, the purpose for the REC league is to provide a larger forum for older aged House girls to be able to play and that there should not be and WILL NOT BE ANY travel teams admitted to the league.
- 18) There will be a "Default Rule book" added to these rules for a back up reference to rules that are not already stated and/or covered in the General Rules of the REC League. The Default Rules will be NSA rule book.

Schedules

Each team will play a 10 game Regular Season. Each team should do their best to reschedule any rainouts. Coaches are responsible for contacting their opposing coach to schedule.

Rained out games can be rescheduled for any available dates, HOWEVER, every attempt to re-schedule the rain out needs to occur within 1 week of the original date. FAILURE TO RE-SCHEDULE YOUR GAMES WITHIN THIS TIME FRAME WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT. Notify your Division Coordinator of any re-scheduled games. (Coordinators, please send to Patti Fermo p.fermo@northtownauto.com)

Teams must contact Bob Flynn @ flybob11@yahoo.com with all rain out cancelations. Bob will then notify teams of game cancellations no later than 1 hour prior to the start of their game.

All managers and coaches, use your House call up lists if you have a shortage of players. Get the games played.

Umpires

In all cases the HOME team will provide trained umpires for the High School division.

The home team is responsible for paying the umpire fee.

Managers and Coaches Responsibilities

Managers must respect all players, umpires and opposing coaches.

Managers are expected to be providing clear and accurate communication to players and parents.

Managers are responsible for the conduct of their fans and spectators and may be required to enforce umpire ejection of same.

Managers are responsible to maintain his/her scorebook for each game. The scorebook allows Managers to keep players in their batting order and track outs.

Managers are responsible for reporting wins, losses, and final game scores to the division coordinator.

Managers are responsible for the proper condition and cleaning of the dugouts and diamond area before leaving the park.

Fans and Spectators (Cheers and Jeers)

All fans and spectators are expected to conduct themselves with good sportsmanship at all times.

The league promotes cheers that are favorable and positive.

Negative cheers should not be tolerated.

All fans and spectators are subject to ejection from the park for inappropriate behavior and not complying with League rules.

Parents Responsibilities

Parents are expected to respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators and conduct themselves appropriately.

Player Responsibilities

- Play for Fun.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player – get along with your teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time for practices and games.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents and officials.
- Never argue with an official's decision.

- No taunting of opposition players.
- Homework and schoolwork come first.

Equipment

All players are required to wear softball pants or shorts and team uniform shirt during games.

Shirts are recommended to be worn tucked in.

No metal cleats are allowed.

All batting helmets must be equipped with a face mask. Defensive face guards are **STRONGLY** recommended.

No Jewelry is permitted, including earrings and rubber band bracelets. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.

Final Note:

This booklet was created as a guide to be used by the team Managers and Coaches during the 2021 season. Information contained herein may change during the course of the season and all Managers and Coaches will be notified by their respective division coordinator of any such changes. Please also do your best to send game results to the local Bee News.

Let's Play Ball!