



HARTFORD COUNCIL FOR RECREATION

Softball General Rules

- 1) Age determination will be as of January 1st of the current calendar year.
- 2) No smoking is allowed at Indian Pride Park. Designated areas are located just outside of the park. Anyone in violation of this rule will be subject to being removed from the property.
- 3) Managers are responsible for the behavior of other coaches, players, parents and fans. Only the manager may question an umpire about a rule interpretation. At no time shall any participant question a judgment call by an umpire. Any participant that is considered arguing any judgment call will receive one warning. If the arguing continues, they will be asked to leave, and play will stop. If they do not leave within ten (10) minutes, the game will end with the team in violation forfeiting the game.
 - a) Spectators who publicly criticize staff, umpires, managers, coaches or players will receive one warning. If the arguing continues, they will be asked to leave, and play will stop. If they do not leave within ten (10) minutes, the game will end with the team in violation forfeiting the game, and local law enforcement will be called.
- 4) All equipment must stay in the dugout or out of the field of play.
- 5) The designated home team will use the third base dugout and will be considered the official scorebook. Before each game, the coach or scorekeeper shall provide a lineup card to the opposing team's coach or scorekeeper. All players, substitutes and the player's numbers must be listed on the lineup card. Late players may be added to the lineup at any time but must be added to the end of the batting order.
- 6) The home team manager or park director will be responsible for having the field ready (with bases out, field lined, pitching machine set up, etc.). After the last scheduled game on a field, the home team manager or park director will be responsible for putting all the equipment away and raking the infield in preparation of the next day's games.
- 7) All regularly scheduled games at Indian Pride Park will start at either 5:45 or 7:15. There may be games scheduled periodically throughout the season that begin at an alternate time. Coaches, players and parents are advised to check the schedule often for any changes throughout the course of the season.
- 8) **WEATHER POLICY:**
 - a) If inclement weather affects the fields during the day before games are set to begin, a decision whether games will be played as scheduled will be made by a Head Umpire or Park Director no later than 3:30 PM.
 - b) If inclement weather is in the area during a game, the following steps will be utilized:
 - 1) Teams will be called off the field, and players, coaching staff, parents and fans will be encouraged to take shelter until the significant weather has passed.
 - 2) Games will be suspended at-least thirty (30) minutes after the last reported lightning strike or rumble of thunder have been seen or heard.
 - 3) If weather causes a delay of greater than thirty (30) minutes in length, a game may be deemed official (if enough innings have been played for an official game). A game that is considered not official may be postponed or suspended until a later date.
 - 4) Any decision regarding weather related games at Indian Pride Park will be a group decision, with the decision-making process including both teams' managers, park directors and umpires. All decisions will be based on the best interest of everyone involved, including staff, players, coaches, parents and fans.
- 9) All players shall receive at-least one (1) at-bat per game and play a minimum of three (3) defensive outs per game. All players shall play at-least two (2) complete games per season.

- 10)** There will be no appeals. A delayed dead ball signal will be signaled by the umpire, with their arm in a horizontal position. (Example – a runner missing a base will result in a delayed dead ball and an out will be recorded if the runner does not return to tag the base before the play is ruled dead).
 - a)** Any appeals or protests must be made by a manager only. Protests will be handled on the field and resolved prior to the resumption of play.
- 11)** Managers, coaching staff and players must be dressed appropriately. Players shall be in uniform, including a hat or visor. Jerseys must always be tucked in. Any shorts, Bermuda shorts or funny hats will not be allowed. Managers and coaches are expected to be dressed appropriately, as well. A team shirt is preferred, while dress shorts or pants are acceptable. No flip flops, sandals or shoes exposing the foot will be allowed.
- 12)** Bat checks will be performed before each game by the umpires. Only Little League Softball approved bats, with a stamp, will be allowed. The bat must not be longer than 33 inches in length, have a barrel bigger than 2 ¼” in diameter and shall be labeled with a BPF of 1.20. Any illegal bats will be thrown out of the game. Use of any illegal bats after they are thrown out of the game will result in the batter being called out.
- 13)** Each division of baseball has their own set of rules. Managers and coaching staff are encouraged to check out their specific divisional rules before arriving at the park.
- 14)** Any rules not covered in these general rules or individual division rules will be covered by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Rulebook.