

2018 Recreation Softball Rules

GENERAL RULES

The league fees this year is as follows: \$300 for any team on which all players are from inside Ottawa City limits (Naplate is considered inside city limits). \$400 for any team with any player from outside the Ottawa City limits. There is no limit of out of limits players on teams that pay the \$400 fee. There will be a \$25.00 fee to add a Player to the roster after week # 1 through the 4th of July; after the 4th of July you may only add a Player due to injury. Players are only allowed to play for ONE Team!

MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING A COPY OF EACH PLAYER'S PHOTO ID IF SO REQUESTED BY THE SOFTBALL DIRECTOR. PLAYERS UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN ID OR WHOSE ID DOES NOT CORRESPOND WITH HIS OR HER TEAM'S DESIGNATION AND PAID FEE WILL BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL AND THE TEAM WILL FORFEIT ALL GAMES IN WHICH THAT PLAYER HAS PARTICIPATED.

1. A team may have any number of players on roster, but must have a base of 12 players. Teams may add players up to your first game. Do this at ballpark the night you play. **PLAYERS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO PLAY FOR ONE TEAM PER SEASON IN REC OR COMPETITIVE LEAGUES. PLAYERS MAY BE ON SEVERAL ROSTERS, BUT THE FIRST TEAM PLAYED FOR IS THE PLAYER'S TEAM FOR THAT SEASON. ILLEGAL PLAYERS CAUGHT PLAYING FOR ANOTHER TEAM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AS SOON AS THEIR CHEATING IS DISCOVERED. A PLAYER IS ALLOWED TO PLAY ON ONE ADDITIONAL TEAM ONLY FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN LEAGUE. WE MUST GET AT LEAST 6 TEAMS FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHT LEAGUE TO OCCUR.**
2. There will be four or five games per night, beginning no earlier than 6:00 p.m., scheduled at 45 minute intervals, for the Men's league and the Women's league. Wednesday North and South will start at 6:15 on each diamond.
3. All games will be seven innings or one hour long unless the score is tied at the end of the game. If a game must be terminated because of time, the home plate umpire will notify both managers. Teams should note the start of their game.
International Tie Breaker Shall be used after 7 Innings regardless of game time: Each team starts with a runner at Second Base (Last Out is Runner) and with no outs. This will be used during the City Tournament.
4. Players should be at the ballpark 15 minutes before game time so that if possible the next game can start as soon as the previous game ends. Games will not start early without agreement from both captains. Games will not be delayed unnecessarily. Commissioners/announcers will decide if delays are unnecessary and will declare a forfeit if delays are unnecessary. Teams will be expected to have line ups turned in by their start time or face a forfeit.
5. No warm-ups between innings.

6. YOU MAY START A GAME WITH 8 PLAYERS. YOUR BATTING ORDER HAS A MINIMUM OF 9 SPOTS, SO IF ONLY 8 PLAYING, ONE SPOT IN BATTING ORDER WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC OUT. A team may field ten players and bat eleven. Teams may remove players from the lineup due to injury or leaving to go to work.
7. EH may bat anywhere and may rotate fielding positions with anyone in the lineup but will stay in the same spot in the batting lineup.
8. If a game is a forfeit, the next game will be played at scheduled game time. FORFEIT FEE \$35.00, payable before you play next game. Pay fee to the commissioner of your field for your night.
9. Player replacement may be made for \$25.00 after Week # 1 until the 4th of July, after the 4th of July you may only add a player due to INJURY ONLY. Player must have doctor's excuse before roster change can be made. The Recreation Director and Softball Director must approve the replacement.
10. Team captains can expect a text from the softball director or call the softball director at **(815) 252-8698** after 4:30 to find out if games have been postponed due to weather. Make-up dates will be announced ASAP.
11. GAMES INTERRUPTED DUE TO RAIN WILL BE COMPLETED AS FOLLOWS:
1ST OR 2ND INNING: START GAME OVER
3RD OR 4TH INNING: CONTINUE GAME FROM THAT POINT
AFTER FIVE COMPLETE INNINGS OR IF HOME TEAM IS WINNING AFTER 4 ½ INNINGS, GAME IS COMPLETE. Check with scorekeeper for your make-up game.
12. Team listed last will be home team. (The schedule will try to balance number of home and away teams.)
13. Breaking league ties:
 - A. Head to head playing each other.
 - B. Runs ALLOWED by tied teams - forfeits count 7-0.
 - C. Total runs scored in season - forfeits count 7-0.
14. Upon the start of the season the Recreation Director shall assign the Softball Directors and Commissioners/ announcers for all games/leagues played on each field. The Director shall be responsible for all rules interpretation each night. If the director is not present, the officials call stands.
15. Courtesy Runners: Shall be allowed through agreement between game Managers, The League stresses that the use of Courtesy Runners should only be used for injured players, If this is deemed abused by Game announcer and Umpires, then the use of Courtesy Runners will be disallowed for the remainder of the game.
16. Scorekeeper/ Announcer shall watch all runs scored and may assist the umpire in determining runs scored should the umpire ask for help OR ANY OTHER ISSUES IF NEEDED.

17. A batter who hits a Home Run does not have to run the bases, and any runners on bases may simply run to the dugout. There is a 7 Home Run Limit per game League Wide, Recreation and Competitive.

LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

1. Fourteen inch A.S.A. softball rules and recreation rule will be followed for Men's league. Twelve-inch A.S.A. slow pitch softball rules will be followed for Women's league. Some rules will be recreation rules.
2. Ottawa Recreation will use a 65-foot base path **and 43' pitching rubber.**
3. A MAT BEHIND HOME PLATE WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE BALLS AND STRIKES in both summer and fall leagues.
4. Officials will indicate illegal pitches by saying OR SIGNALLING either "high" or "flat" to indicate that a pitch is illegal.
5. There will be no batter's box. The batter may not stand beyond the front of the plate or behind the mat and may not be in front of the plate when swinging.
6. When the umpire signals ready for play, it is up to the batter to be up to the mat and ready to hit.
7. Recreation Department furnishes softball, officials, scorer, bases, etc. (We suggest each team keep a scorebook, plus your game starting time.)
8. Anytime a team is down by 10 runs the game is over as long as they have batted 5 times regardless of being visitors or home. The game is over if a team is behind by fifteen runs after both teams have batted four times. The home team will always get last bat during a ten-run rule game **UNLESS THEY ARE WINNING.**
9. After two strikes, the next foul ball will be an automatic out. We will start each batter with 1 ball and 1 strike.
10. UMPIRE calls automatic out if player misses base or leaves base too early **EXCEPT FOR A HOME RUN.**
11. Sliding is Optional, **BUT** any contact with a defensive player caused by the runner will result in the runner being called out. Flagrant or uncalled-for physical contract will result in automatic ejection - one game suspension. Player may not be replaced.
12. There will be **NO STEALING** in any league - north or south.
13. No **METAL** spikes may be worn by men or women.
14. Some type of team oriented uniform is **HIGHLY** recommended. Men and women may wear softball game shorts. **NO** cutoffs or bathing gear (i.e.: bikinis-swimsuits) is allowed. All players must wear shirts. This rule will be strictly enforced.
15. Throwing of bats and gloves, **PROFANITY, DRINKING,** or any unsportsmanlike gestures of conduct **ESPECIALLY DIRECTED AT OFFICIALS, ANNOUNCERS OR FANS** will be punished by:
 - A. 1st offense in a season - automatic ejection from game if ejected in inning 1-4; if ejected in inning 6- 7, the ejection also applies to the next game.
 - B. 2nd offense - automatic ejection from the current game and the next game.
 - C. 3rd offense – automatic ejection from the league and the tournament for the current season.
 - D. **ALL EJECTIONS WILL BE LOGGED IN ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH**

16. The Softball Director(s) (Tim Trumbo) will resolve all complaints. The Softball Director's decision will be supported by the Recreation Director. If further review is required, the Recreation Board will review and resolve the situation at its next meeting. The decision of the Recreation Board is FINAL. Team managers are the only persons who may make complaints.
17. Game will be delayed when the lightening detector 3-8 mile indicator lights up three times or when a lightning strike is confirmed visually. Games will also be delayed if the weather radio reports dangerous weather is imminent. Games may resume 30 minutes after the delay is announced. Delay will continue until the lightening detector confirms that lightening is not striking within the 3-8 mile limit.

Commissioners will make note of the times of the strike and the official decision on postponement and/or delay in the score book. Announcers will announce decision and postponements three times over public address. The announcement will also include an advisement to clear the field and seek shelter. If the game can be resumed, it will pick up where it left off. If the game must be rescheduled, see rule 11 under General Rules.

18. **All bats must have a current ASA or USSSA logo APPEARING ON THE BAT with a BPF of 1.2 or less. All bats will be inspected by the softball director or umpire coordinator before being allowed in a game. All legal bats will then have an Ottawa Rec sticker placed on it indicating it is a legal bat; that bat does not have to be inspected again unless the sticker falls off.**
19. Penalties for using illegal bats will be as follows:
 - A. The first batter using an illegal bat will be out, and the team will be warned.
 - B. If the bat appears in the same game again the game will be forfeited, and the Forfeiting team must pay the forfeit fee to play in the next game.
 - C. If the bat should appear in subsequent games the batter will be disqualified for the rest of the Softball season, and the game will be declared a forfeit. The forfeit team must pay the forfeit fee to play in the next game. The umpires and softball directors will examine the bats and they will make the final decision.
20. If at any time the Game Announcer and Umpires determine that a Team is deliberately trying to extend a game by allowing the other team to score runs in a ten run situation to be able to bat one more time, the game will be immediately called Final at that point.
21. If anything arises not covered by these softball rules, Softball officials, announcers, the Softball Director, and the Recreation Director will make their best decision at the time.
22. FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN LEAGUE [six teams must sign up for the league to be played]
 - A. FRIDAY LEAGUE WILL USE A CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER (everybody who shows up bats). THIS IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THAT EVENING IN THAT ALL PLAYERS ON THE TEAM WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE BATTING ORDER.
 - B. ALL PLAYERS HAVE OPEN SUBSTITUTION FOR PLAYING THE FIELD TO GO ALONG WITH THIS RULE. THIS IS IN THE SPIRIT OF OTTAWA RECREATION THAT EVERYBODY PLAYS!

C. WOMEN MAY BE INCLUDED ON THE ROSTER OF A FRIDAY NIGHT TEAM, BUT MEN'S RULES WILL APPLY.

D. THIS LEAGUE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY TOURNAMENT NOR WILL IT HAVE AN EXTRA TOURNAMENT AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

LIABILITY

The Ottawa City Recreation umpires, league directors, or workers will not be held responsible or liable for any accidents, injuries, or theft which might occur before, during or after practice, warm-ups, league games, etc.

ALL PLAYERS ON THE ROSTER MUST SIGN THE LIABILITY/RULES SHEET BEFORE PLAYING IN A GAME. THIS WILL BE TURNED IN TO THE SOFTBALL DIRECTOR.

CITY TOURNAMENT

THE CITY TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD AFTER THE REGULAR SEASON. THIS YEAR WE WILL SPLIT THE TOURNAMENT INTO **TWO** MENS TOURNAMENTS, RECREATION, COMPETITIVE.

THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS AND ANNOUNCERS, WILL GET TOGETHER AND TRY TO MAKE A FAIR EVALUATION AND DRAW UP THE TOURNAMENT USING A SEEDING SYSTEM.

NOTE FROM THE PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION BOARD

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS OTTAWA RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL. WE REALIZE EVERYONE LIKES WINNING, BUT LET'S REMEMBER WE ARE OUT THERE TO HAVE FUN.

IF ANYONE NEEDS TO CONTACT SOFTBALL DIRECTOR TIM TRUMBO WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR IDEAS, HE MAY BE REACHED AT:

Tim Trumbo
Cell (815) 252-8698