

# COVID Recreation Softball Rules

## GENERAL RULES

**Play at your own risk. Recreation cannot guarantee your health if you choose to participate.**

MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING A COPY OF EACH PLAYER'S PHOTO ID IF SO REQUESTED BY THE SOFTBALL DIRECTOR or ANNOUNCER. PLAYERS UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN ID WILL BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL, AND THE TEAM WILL FORFEIT THE GAME.

## COVID RULES

- Dugouts are off limits. Players waiting to bat will wait outside the fence spread out toward the outfield on their team's side of the diamond. They should bring chairs and individual waters since water will not be available and the concession stand will not be open. **We REQUIRE the use of face masks that cover the nose and mouth at all times.** If this requirement is a problem, do not participate.
- Players sharing bats should sanitize their hands after using the bat. Players/teams should supply their own hand sanitizer. Players should sanitize their hands often.
- Announcer's booths are off limits to players. Rosters may be submitted via text or through a remote delivery system (a bag on a rope dropped down from the booth).
- Umpires will not touch the ball. The catcher will place returned balls in areas specified by the umpire.

## SPECTATORS

Spectators should stay in their groups and observe distancing. Recreation is NOT encouraging spectators

## General Ottawa Recreation Softball Rules.

1. A team roster must have a base of 10 players and include no more than 15. 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. PLAYERS MAY BE ON SEVERAL ROSTERS, BUT THE FIRST TEAM PLAYED FOR IS THE PLAYER'S TEAM FOR THE TOURNAMENT. ILLEGAL PLAYERS CAUGHT PLAYING FOR ANOTHER TEAM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AS SOON AS THEIR CHEATING IS DISCOVERED.**
2. There will be four games per night, beginning at 5:30 p.m., scheduled at 60 minute intervals, for the Men's and the Women's leagues.
3. All games will be five innings or 45 minutes long unless the score is tied at the end of the game. International Tie Breaker Shall be used after 5 Innings regardless of game time: Each team starts with a runner at Second Base (Last Out is Runner) and with no outs.
4. Teams should note the start of their game. We are NOT encouraging teams to come to the field excessively early to watch or warm up in the area between the fields. Teams and players should stay appropriately distanced as they warm up.

5. Players should be at the ballpark on time so that the next game can start on time. Games will not be delayed unnecessarily. 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.
6. No warm-ups between innings.
7. **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.
8. 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.
9. If a game is a forfeit, the next game will be played at scheduled game time.
10. Team captains can expect a text from the softball director or call Dave Marvin, softball director, at **(815) 830-1677** 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:**  
 1<sup>ST</sup> OR 2<sup>ND</sup> INNING: START GAME OVER  
 3<sup>RD</sup> OR 4<sup>TH</sup> 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. The Softball Director shall be responsible for all rules interpretation each night. If the director is not present, the officials' call stands.
14. 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.
15. 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.**
16. 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.

## 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 Ottawa 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.** A pitch that hits any part of the plate or the mat is a strike.
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. 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** of bases.
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. 1<sup>st</sup> offense in a season - automatic ejection from game if ejected in inning 1-3; if ejected in inning 4 or 5, the ejection also applies to the next game.
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - automatic ejection from the current game and the tournament.
  - C. **ALL EJECTIONS WILL BE LOGGED IN ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH**
16. The Softball Director (Dave Marvin) or Recreation Director (Mark Astle) will resolve all complaints. The Softball Director's decision will be supported by the Recreation Director. 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 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 offending team will forfeit.
  - C. If the bat should appear in subsequent games the batter will be disqualified for the rest of the game. The umpires and softball director will examine the bats, and they will make the final decision.
  - D.
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 fifteen 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.

LIABILITY: Play at your own risk. Recreation cannot guarantee your health if you choose to participate.

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

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 AND STAY SAFE AND WELL.

Softball Director:  
Dave Marvin  
Cell (815) 830-1677