

UPDATED 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: We encourage players to use face masks and social distance as best they can while present in the dugouts. Face Masks WILL NOT be required on the field during play.
- Water will not be available and the concession stand will not be open.
- We Encourage players sharing bats to sanitize their hands after using the bat. Players/teams should supply their own hand sanitizer.
- Announcer's booths are off limits to players. Lineup may be submitted at the doorway, in a designated area.
- It will be up to the Umpires if they want to handle game balls, if they choose not to 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 20. Teams may add players up to your first game. Do this at ballpark the night you play.
 - (a) PLAYERS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO PLAY FOR ONE TEAM. PLAYERS MAY BE ON SEVERAL ROSTERS, BUT THE FIRST TEAM PLAYED FOR IS THAT PLAYERS DESIGNATED TEAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF LEAGUE PLAY AND CITY TOURNAMENT
 - (b) A PLAYER MUST PARTICIPATE IN HALF OF THE LEAGUE GAMES IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CITY TOURNAMENT COMPETITION.
 - (c) ILLEGAL PLAYERS CAUGHT PLAYING FOR ANOTHER TEAM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AS SOON AS THEIR CHEATING IS DISCOVERED AND THE TEAM WILL FORFEIT THE GAME THAT THE ILLEGAL PLAYER PARTICIPATED IN.
2. There will be four games per night, beginning at 5:30 p.m., scheduled at 60 minute intervals for all games
3. All games will be 7 innings or 60 minutes long (DROP DEAD), unless the score is tied. (IF the League Director and or Umpires determines a team is purposely extending a game past the time limit, it is his discretion to terminate play.
4. If the game is a TIE, the International Tie Breaker Shall be used. (Either after 7 innings or time limit.) Each team starts with a runner at Second Base (Last Out is Runner) and with no outs.

5. Teams should note the start of their game. If teams warm up in selected practice areas they are encouraged to stay social distanced during those warm ups.
6. Players should be at the ballpark on time so that the next game can start on time. Games will not be delayed unnecessarily. Field Booth Directors 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 before the start time or face a forfeit.
7. No warm-ups between innings.
8. **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.
9. 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.
10. If a game is a forfeit, the next game will be played at scheduled game time.
11. 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.
12. **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.
13. Team listed last will be home team. (The schedule will try to balance number of home and away teams.)
14. The Softball 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. 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.

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 contact 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. 1st 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. 2nd 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