



League Director

Elliott Srnick | (847)782-3631 esrnick@waukeganparks.org

General Rules

1. All softball games will be played in accordance with the National Softball Association (NSA) 12" slow pitch with the exception of any changes specifically stated in this document or on the team schedules as pertaining to local situations.
2. Full payment is due before the first game of the season. Teams who do not pay in full before the first game will forfeit until payment is received.
3. The League Director will arrange all schedules and assign all umpires.
4. ALL lights (including ballfield lights) inside the SportsPark will be turned off at 10:45p each night. Patrons are not allowed to remain in the facility past 10:30p unless deemed necessary by the on-site supervisor and umpire.
5. All teams registered for the regular season are eligible to play in the end-of-season playoff tournament. Teams **MUST** confirm their participation in the tournament with the League Director via email.
6. The minimum/maximum pitch arc is set at 6'/10'.
7. Arguing with an official or patron in the facility is deemed an offence worthy of suspension and expulsion.
8. Physical altercations can and will result in suspension and/or expulsion from Waukegan Park District programs and properties. **FIGHTING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. VIOLATORS MAY FACE PROSECUTION.**
9. Alcohol is **strictly** prohibited at the Waukegan SportsPark.
10. Smoking is **strictly** prohibited at the Waukegan SportsPark.
 - a. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes.

Rosters

1. All team members must sign the Sports Contract (“roster sheet”). Team managers must return this sheet to the League Director in order to be eligible to play in the 2024 Men’s Softball Season. All participants’ full proper names (no nicknames), address, date of birth, and signature must be on the roster sheet. If any of the aforementioned items is missing, the player will be deemed omitted from the roster.
 - a. All roster sheets will be locked on **Friday, May 31, 2024** – meaning that these will be the rosters that teams must play with for the remainder of the season (including the playoff tournament).
 - b. Requests to add/remove players after Friday, May 31, 2024 must go through the League Director via email. The League Director will review the request and give approval or denial.

2. All team managers must always have an approved roster sheet on them while engaged in formal league play. If the manager is asked to provide his/her roster sheet by the League Director or umpire, the manager will have five (5) minutes to do so. If the player in question is not on the roster, he/she will be removed from the game and the team will forfeit the game.
 - a. If the protest is made, reviewed, and acknowledged in the second game of a double-header, the first game's result will remain unaffected.
 - i. The second game will result in a forfeit for the violating team.
3. All protests against ineligible players must be made in the same inning that the player first appears in for that game. These protests should be made with the umpire (or League Director if applicable). The umpire (or League Director) will then request the team in question provide an approved roster sheet.
4. ALL players must be able to show photo ID at games in the event that there is a protest against the player. Any player who is unable to provide photo ID in the event of a protest will be ineligible to play the remainder of the game.
 - a. If the player in question is found to be omitted from the team's roster sheet, the team will also receive a forfeit for the game in which the protest took place.
 - i. Protests made during the second game of a double-header will not count towards the first game.
5. Players may be released from a team and omitted from the team's roster sheet. A player will not be considered released until an official dated notice has been received by the League Director from the team's manager and the player involved.

Substitutions

1. Three (3) substitutions ("subs") are allowed on each team's roster. These three substitutions must be included in the roster sheet, and they must be properly designated.
2. Each player is only allowed to sub for one (1) team per night – meaning they are allowed to play for their original team plus one (1) more team each night if necessary.
3. Substitutions are NOT allowed during the playoff tournament. All players are allowed to play on one (1) team only.
 - a. Teams found to be in violation will face forfeit. The player also faces expulsion from the remainder of the tournament.

Forfeits

1. Teams are allowed **one** attendance-related forfeit for the season. Any attendance-related forfeit thereafter will result in expulsion from the league, and a refund will not be given.

2. The League Director must be informed of a forfeit AT LEAST 24 hours before the scheduled game time.
3. The winning team is allowed to use the field for the scheduled game time.
 - a. Other teams are allowed to utilize the field during the scheduled game time, but the team that won by default has priority access over all other teams.
4. Forfeits may be rescheduled for a later date if the opposing team makes a request. The game will then be rescheduled for the end of the season at the discretion of the League Director.
5. All games that are forfeited ahead of the start time will be scored at 7-0 in favor of the winning team

League Playing Rules

1. All games are scheduled to begin at 6:15p, 7:15p, 8:15p, and 9:15p. Teams who are not on the field and ready to play by the aforementioned times will be given 10 extra minutes. After the additional 10 minutes, the team will receive a forfeit.
 - a. Both teams are still allowed to play and utilize the field to scrimmage.
2. In the event that the assigned league umpire does not appear, the two managers have the privilege of agreeing upon an umpire selected at random; the selected umpire shall be considered official, and the result of the game(s) will count.
 - a. In the event that the chosen umpire for any reason refuses to complete the game and no agreeable substitute is found, the game is replayed in its entirety at a later date unless five (5) complete or 4 1/2 innings by the losing side have been played – in which case the game will be deemed final.
 - i. The game may be considered a forfeit if the umpire leaves due to harassment or abuse.
 1. The forfeit will apply to both teams if both teams are found guilty of harassing/verbally abusing the umpire.
 - b. In the event that an umpire cannot be found, the game shall be declared postponed.
 - c. All teams are asked to notify the League Director via email in the event there is no official umpire.
 - d. **ALL UMPIRES WILL BE COMPENSATED.**
3. The **home team** for the first game of a double-header will be designated on the schedule and will have the **third base dugout**.
4. All leagues will play regulation seven (7) inning games as long as time permits.
 - b. See Section 8 under Playing Regulations

5. Scorebooks shall be properly completed for **each** game by **each** team.
 - c. The official scorebook is kept by the home team. It is the responsibility of the visiting team manager to verify the score in the official scorebook inning by inning if necessary.
 - d. Full proper last names and first initials of all players and substitutes must be legibly shown.
 - e. In the case of protest over an ineligible player, any recognizable alterations to the scorebook will be construed as a decision against the offending team.
 - f. In the case of protest, both team managers must submit their scorebook either via email or in-person to the League Director right after the game.
 - i. The designated time may be extended at the discretion of the League Director.
 - ii. If the protesting team does not submit their scorebook within the designated time, they face the protest being dismissed.
 - iii. If the team in question does not submit their scorebook within the designated time, they face a potential forfeit for the game(s) in questions.
 - iv. Game reports will be filled out by the umpire and team managers after the completion of each game.
 1. Team managers will also be required to contact the League Director via email with an official statement regarding the protest.
6. It is **highly** recommended that team managers sign off on each other's scorebooks at the end of each game – twice for double-headers.
 - g. This is to prevent any disputes/protests from arising.
7. All official scoresheets must be signed by **both** team managers. Any team manager who does not sign a scoresheet faces a forfeit for the game in question.
 - h. The final decision will be made by the League Director.
8. Each team is allowed four (4) home runs per game. All home runs after the 4th will result in an out.
 - i. If a fifth (or more) home run is hit with a player, or players, on base, the home run will count as one (1) out. The players on base will not be counted as out.
 - j. Exception: Each team is allowed one Designated Homerun Hitter (DHH) who may hit home runs without penalty. These home runs will not count towards the 4-home run limit.
 - i. If a DHH is walked, the team may hit one (1) home run free of penalty before the DHH's next at-bat. This privilege carries over innings if applicable.

Rain-Out Policy and Postponements

1. The Waukegan Park District prioritizes the health and safety of its patrons above all else. Therefore, games may be postponed due to hazardous weather conditions such as excess rain, lightning, wind, etc...

2. All decisions regarding game postponements will be made by 5:00p day-of.
3. All game postponements will be communicated to team managers via email. Team managers and players can also call the Field House front desk at 847-782-3300.
4. The waukegansports.org website will also be updated with rainout information by 5:00p on days with questionable weather.
5. Teams are HIGHLY recommended to sign up for text message updates in regards to rainouts. To sign up, please go to www.waukegansports.org and opt in for Text Alerts. This can be found on the home page.
6. All games that have been rained out will be rescheduled for the end of the season by the League Director.
7. All managers will be notified of rescheduled games by email and website (www.waukegansports.org).
8. It is the team manager's responsibility to notify all team members, as soon as possible, of canceled and/or rescheduled games.
9. If weather conditions become threatening after 5:00p, the assigned on-site supervisor and umpire will decide whether games can continue or if they need to be postponed.
10. If the Thor Guard Lightning Detection System sounds, all play will be suspended for AT LEAST 15 minutes or the "ALL CLEAR" sounds off. If lightning remains in the area for an excessive amount of time, the game may be postponed and rescheduled for a later date.
11. A game called off by the umpire will be final if five (5) or more complete innings have been played or if the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team in four and one half (4½) innings.
 - a. A game that is postponed before 4 ½ innings have been played will be rescheduled for a later date. The rescheduled game will then pick up in the same scenario it left off on.
12. Games will be played as per schedule. No arrangements will be made between team managers for postponements. The League Director is the only personnel authorized to postpone or reschedule games.

Playing Regulations

1. A team must have at least eight (8) players to start and eight (8) to finish. If the ninth or tenth player arrives before the completion of the game, he/she may be inserted into the line-up at no penalty.
2. If a team loses players (either by ejection or injury) at any point during the course of the game and does not have a substitute, the missing player's turn at bat will be counted as an out for the remainder of the game.
 - a. Exception: the missing player's turn at bat will not count as an out if the previous batter is walked. Ex. Free not awarded.

- b. A team may insert two (2) additional hitters (11th & 12th hitter) into its line-up. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 of the 12 players can take defensive positions throughout the game. It is not mandatory for a team to use additional hitters, but failure to declare such a hitter prior to the game precludes the use of an additional hitter in the game.
3. A five (5) minute warm-up period will be given between games. Teams must be ready to play at assigned game time or five (5) minutes after completion of the previous game – whichever comes second. This will be part of the 10-minute grace period. Ex. 5pm start time, game **WILL HAVE** to start at 5:10pm.
4. Pitchers are allowed up to five (5) warm-up pitches prior to the first inning. Pitchers are allowed up to two (2) warm-up pitches prior to each inning thereafter. If a pitcher exceeds his/her allotted number of warm-up pitches, each additional pitch will be declared a ball by the Umpire.
5. A pitch must be delivered with a **6'** minimum and **10'** maximum arc.
6. Team managers and umpires will discuss ground rules prior to the start of all games and the umpire's decision will be final.
7. If the home team is leading by twenty (20) runs at the end of 3 ½ innings or any inning thereafter, or the visiting team is leading by twenty (20) runs at the end of three (3) innings or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated and the team with the most runs declared the winner.
8. If the home team is leading by fifteen (15) runs at the end of 4 ½ innings or any inning thereafter, or the visiting team is leading by fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated and the team with the most runs declared the winner.
9. If the home team is leading by ten (10) or more runs at the end of 5 ½ innings or any inning thereafter, or the visiting team is leading by ten (10) runs at the end of five (5) innings or any inning thereafter, the game will end and the team with the most runs declared the winner.
10. The count at the plate is 1-1 unless stated otherwise. If the batter has one strike and hits a foul ball, he will then have two (2) strikes, and the next time he swings, the ball must be fair, or he is out. Pitches that land on the strike-mat will be automatic strikes. Any pitch that leads to the ball hitting the mat first will be deemed a strike; however, the umpire may call the pitch illegal if it is not between 6-10 feet.
11. A 2-2 count will start at the top of the inning that begins after the 45th minute mark (7:00p, 8:00p, 9:00p, and 10:00p) for **ALL** games.
12. The team manager and players on the roster are permitted in the designated dugout area. It is the responsibility of the team manager to keep all other persons out of this area and in the stands.
13. To speed up the game, players may head back to their dugout after touching first base if they hit a homerun. This is strictly optional and not a requirement.

14. At the beginning of each game, the umpire may ask each team captain to determine if the "courtesy runner" rule will be in effect. A courtesy runner will only be allowed if both team managers have agreed and stated so to the umpire. A courtesy runner will be granted for two players **per game** that has an injury limiting the mobility of the player from running. 2 runners per team for the entire game. If courtesy runner is injured, team may replace that runner with a new one.
15. Due to the lines disappearing in the batter's box shortly after the game beginning, the out of the batter box rule will not be enforced; however, the umpire may warn you of being out of the box & if you do not follow the umpire's instructions the umpire has the right to call you out. Any player stepping on the plate during a swing will be called out.
16. Fair/Foul rule: If player is in fair territory and touches the ball that is in foul territory, the ball is foul and not in play. The line and judgement of ball placement will be determined by umpire.

Equipment & Bats

1. All bats must be on the National Softball Association (NSA) approved bat list and tested prior to league play.
2. All game balls will be provided by the Waukegan Park District. There are no exceptions to this rule.
 - a. A new ball will be used at the start of each game.
3. Metal spikes are not allowed. Violators will be ejected and face expulsion.
4. Any player that is found to have used an illegal bat (after tested by League Director or on-site supervisor) or used a bat with a WPD sticker that has been altered will be suspended for the season and may face further consequences including expulsion.
5. If bat is legal, but not checked, just an out for that at bat.

Rules of Conduct

1. Team managers will be held responsible for the conduct of their team players and are responsible for their team's observing of rules and regulations. Team managers must always maintain complete control of themselves and their team.
2. Officials and their decisions will be respected and not interfered with at any time.
3. Bats are not to be thrown. If a bat is thrown, the umpire will decide whether it was a slip or not. If a throw is deemed deliberate by an umpire, the offending player faces suspension.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct, disrespect, vulgarity, and profanity will **NOT** be tolerated.
 - a. If this rule is repeatedly violated, the offender faces suspension and possible expulsion from Waukegan Park District property and programs.
5. Any player ejected from a game faces suspension for multiple games and possible expulsion.
 - a. Any player ejected from multiple games is automatically suspended for the remainder of the season – including the playoff tournament.

- b. Any player ejected from a game must leave SportsPark property and will receive a call from the League Director to discuss their actions.
6. A game will be forfeited in the event a team fails to respect the official's authority or decisions; **one warning will be given prior to such action.**
 - a. Personal harassment of Park District personnel (umpires, on-site supervisor, League Director) may result in suspension and/or expulsion. This includes spectators.
7. All discussion of calls with an umpire must be made by the team manager **ONLY**. In the event that a player violates this rule, they will receive one warning before facing ejection and suspension/expulsion.
8. Threats made towards other individuals can and will result in suspension/expulsion from Waukegan Park District property and programs at the discretion of the Waukegan Park District and its Board of Commissioners.

Protests

1. Protests involving the umpire's judgement of balls, strikes, and/or outs will not be taken into consideration.
2. When misinterpretation or ignorance of the rules and regulations may have caused the loss of a game, a protest will be considered.
3. The umpire and opposing team manager must be notified immediately after the play in question if a protest is going to be made.
4. All protests must be submitted in writing to the League Director within 24 hours of the protested action. All information pertinent to the protest must be included in the written protest. No other statements will be accepted.
5. Upon receipt of the protest, the opposing team manager will be notified by the League Director and will then have 24 hours to submit a written reply.
6. The written protest, written reply, and a written statement from the game officials will be taken into consideration by the League Director when the *final* decision is made. Protests involving an official's judgement or call will not be considered.
7. The officials and opposing team manager must be made aware of a protest on a play immediately.
8. All legal protests will be acted upon by the Protest Committee, and their decisions will be **final**.
 - a. The protest committee will consist of the League Director, Superintendent of Sports, Fitness, & Aquatics, and one more individual at the discretion of the League Director.