



## NORTHBROOK PARK DISTRICT CO-REC LEAGUE RULES

All rules are played and governed under ASA rules with the following local rules.

Park District rules supersede ASA rules.

**Team captains are responsible for providing rules to their entire team.**

### I. General League Rules

- a. Forfeit time is 5 minutes after game time for the first game. Game time is forfeit time for all remaining games on the schedule.
- b. Any team that forfeits **TWO** games will be eliminated from the season ending tournament. **THREE** forfeits will result in team being eliminated from the league for the remainder of the season. No refunds will be given in any event.
- c. All protests must be in accordance with ASA rules. Protests must be submitted in writing to the Park District office within 48 hours, Tuesday by 5:00pm for Friday games. Protests must be accompanied by a \$25.00 protest fee, returned only if the protest is granted. Judgment calls by the umpire cannot be protested.
- d. Any player involved in fighting before, during, or after the game will be subject to discipline by the Park District. Any player involved in fighting or touching an official or Park District staff member at any time will be automatically suspended from the current league and will not be allowed to play in any Park District leagues for the next two year. The Park District reserves the right to remove any player or team from the league if the situation warrants such action.
- e. Any player ejected from a game during the season or playoffs will be suspended for the next scheduled game and must leave the park immediately. Players ejected in the last regular season game will be suspended for the first game of the playoffs.
- f. Makeup games will be played during a prearranged week or as a double header.
- g. If you are unable to field a team for a game you must notify the Park District no later than 3 full working days in advance in order to retain your forfeit fee. Forfeited games will not be made up.
- h. Both teams are responsible for keeping score with the scorebooks provided by the Park District. If a team fails to supply a scorekeeper, the score kept by the opposing team will be the official score. Any discrepancies in the scorebook will

be handled in between innings between the umpire and both team captains. The home book is the official game scorebook.

- i. Players and spectators are asked to park their cars in legal spaces. The Northbrook Police Department will ticket all illegally parked cars.
- j. The Rainout Line number is (847) 281-3370. A message will be placed on the machine at 4:00pm daily. In the event of questionable weather, please call the Rainout Line number after 4:00pm or download the Rainout Line app.
- k. Alcohol and illegal drugs are not allowed on any Park District Field. Violators will be asked to leave the park. Police will be contact if violators do not leave in a timely manner.

## II. Game Play

- a. Nine players are required to begin a game. The tenth player may be added when he/she arrives with no penalty. This player must bat 10<sup>th</sup> in the batting order. If neither team has enough players, both will receive a loss by forfeit and will lose their forfeit fee.
- b. No game will be considered valid unless worked by an assigned umpire. If no umpire is present, teams may agree on a person to officiate the game. Such a game will be considered valid. If teams cannot agree on an umpire, the teams must vacate the field, and the game will be rescheduled.
- c. The Park District will supply two balls, home team keeping one ball. If both balls are lost, teams must supply the game ball. Teams will be required to assist in tracking down foul balls and home run balls. If a forfeit occurs and the home team is present, they will be given one ball. \*All games are played with a restricted flight ball at all times.

### d. Extra players

- i. Teams may designate extra players at the start of the game (this must be done before the game begins). A team may bat as many players in the lineup as it desires. Extra players must be indicated on the lineup.
- ii. Any ten of the players may play any position in the field at anytime during the game.
- iii. The extra players may be replaced by a player not yet in the game.
- iv. If the extra player is not able to bat, he will be called out.

### e. Any starting player may be withdrawn and re-entered at any time, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up.

- f. Females are permitted to wear gloves in the field. Males are not permitted to wear gloves.
- g. Metal spikes are not allowed. Any player caught wearing metal spikes while batting or running the bases will be called out. Any fielder caught wearing metal spikes in the field will result in a dead ball situation with each base runner given the next base. Additional players wearing spikes will be ejected and suspended for the next scheduled game.

### **III. Standings and Completed Games**

- a. Complete games are 4 ½ innings or 5 innings if called because of darkness or weather. No new inning (visiting team bats) can begin after the time limit of 55 minutes. Games that are called after this point will be considered complete.
- b. A new inning shall not begin 55 minutes after the game starts unless the score is tied. In the case of a tie, one extra inning will be played. “International Rule” will be used for all extra inning games. In an extra inning game, the last batter from the last inning starts at second base. All batters begin with a 3-2 count. The game will finish as a tie if the score remains tied after one extra inning.
- c. If the lightning system sounds or lightning is spotted, all fields must be cleared. If after 20 minutes has passed and the all clear has not sounded the game will be official if 5 innings or 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead of play have been completed.
- d. If a game is not completed the game will be replayed from the point of stoppage of the game. Stoppage point will be recorded on scorecard and initialed by team captains.
- e. Mercy Rule – Any team leading by 20 runs after the fourth inning (3 ½ if the home team is ahead), 15 runs after the fifth inning (4 ½ if the home team is ahead), 10 runs after the sixth inning (5 ½ if the home team is ahead).
- f. Tie Breaker for League Standings
  - i. Game Back
  - ii. Winning %
  - iii. Head to Head
  - iv. Head to Head Run Differential
  - v. Average Run Differential
- g. Max Differential - 15 runs

- h. During the playoffs, games must produce a winner. If the game is called after 4 ½ or 5 innings, and is still tied, the game will be continued at a later date from the exact point in which the game is called. “International Rule” will be used for all extra inning games in the playoffs. In an extra inning game, the last batter from the last inning starts at second base. All batters begin with a 3-2 count. Time limits are in effect for all playoff games with the only exception being the championship game.

#### **IV. Rosters**

- a. Rosters must be turned into the Park District prior to the first game. Teams will not be permitted to take the field until a completed roster is submitted to the league office or softball site director. Additions to the roster must be made no later than the fifth scheduled game of the season. Only the first 20 names on the roster are valid players.
- b. Teams without a roster will not be allowed to participate and game will be recorded as a forfeit.
- c. Teams may ask for a roster checks. Any roster check must be done prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. Park District staff will be on hand with rosters to verify eligibility for both teams. All teams must cooperate with staff. Any player found playing and is not on the roster will result in a team forfeiting the game.
- d. **Random Roster Checks** may be done prior to any regular season or playoff games. Park District staff will be on hand with rosters to verify eligibility for both teams. All teams must cooperate with staff. Any player found playing and is not on the roster will result in a team forfeiting the game.

#### **V. Batting and Fielding**

- a. Batting/Fielding Positions
  - i. The batting order must rotate male-female. In the event of an odd number of players, a female must leadoff.
  - ii. Players must alternate male-female in the battery (pitcher & catcher), in the infield, and in the outfield. Teams can play 6 infielders or 4 outfielders, but must alternate female-male without changing between batters. Two females may be next to each other only when situations dictate.
  - iii. Below are the options you can have for defensive positions. You are required to pick one of the four columns.

Position	3 Outfielders		Position	4 Outfielders	
1 <sup>st</sup> Base	Male	Female	1 <sup>st</sup> Base	Male	Female
2 <sup>nd</sup> Base	Female	Male	2 <sup>nd</sup> Base	Female	Male
*Short Center	Male	Female	Shortstop	Male	Female
Shortstop	Female	Male	3 <sup>rd</sup> Base	Female	Male
3 <sup>rd</sup> Base	Male	Female	Left Field	Male	Female
Left Field	Female	Male	Left Center	Female	Male
Center Field	Male	Female	Right Center	Male	Female
Right Field	Female	Male	Right Field	Female	Male

iv. Teams must have equal or a greater number of females playing the field

v. Teams can choose from the following for number of players batting:

1. Bat 10 fielding players
2. Bat 12 with 2 extra players
3. Bat everyone that is there that game with alternating male/female, unless the number of males is less than five (two females would bat back to back.) If everyone is batting the females and males must follow the same female or male in the order set at the beginning of the game. (i.e. two separate lists of females and males must be followed with alternating gender.)

b. Walk Rule

- i. In the event a male batter receives four balls, he may take the walk or elect to receive a new count.
- ii. If the male batter elects to take a new count, and receives four more balls, the male batter walks and the following female may elect to bat (the male batter would remain at first base), or take an automatic walk (the male batter moves to second base.)

c. All bats must have taped handles and meet league and ASA standards (shall not be more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces, shall not exceed 2 ¼ inches in diameter and must not be end loaded.) Must be marked "Official Softball" by the manufacturer.

d. Batters using illegal bats will be called out. Anyone using the bat after the first offense will be ejected from the game and be suspended for the next scheduled game.

- e. When playing at Techny Prairie Park and Fields, teams are allowed to hit 4 home runs over the fence per game. Any home run hit after that will result as an out.

## **VI. Pitching**

- a. **A strike mate will be used.** 6 feet to 12 feet pitching arc. **Pitch count starts at 1-1, 1 ball and 1 strike.** A foul ball after 2 strikes will count as strike 3. If a foul ball is caught for an out making the second or less outs, the runners can tag and advance after the catch.
  - i. 6-12' Pitching Arc for Corporate and "B" League for all genders
  - ii. 6-12' Pitching Arc for females in Open League
  - iii. 6' to Unlimited Arc for males in Open League
- b. Pickoff attempts are not allowed. Any pickoff attempt by the catcher or pitcher will be counted as a ball assessed to the batter.
- c. Pitching rubber will be at 40 feet.

## **VII. Base Running**

- a. Base distance will be 60 feet.
- b. Base runners must avoid contact with fielders who have possession of the ball. Runners will be declared out for failing to avoid contact.
- c. Double first base rules will be in effect, runners must tag the orange side of the base when running through first base or on infield balls. The runner should tag the white side of the base on extra base hits or outfield hit balls.
- d. Courtesy runners should be discussed at the beginning of the game. Opposing teams may deny a courtesy runner if the rule is not discussed. The courtesy runner must be the player who made the last out and same gender.
- e. Runners may leave the base when the ball is hit.

**The softball supervisor reserves the right to change or alter any rule in order to improve the quality of the league. The softball coordinator reserves the right to make any decisions necessary to complete the league and/or the tournament.**