

PORT WASHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ADULT FALL SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS 2021

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all league play is governed by the rules and regulations of the American Softball Association (A.S.A.). As A.S.A. changes rules every year, any exceptions will be amended as received.

The Port Washington Parks and Recreation Department does not provide hospitalization or medical insurance covering players, officials or spectators. Players competing in our leagues are responsible for their own health. Any injuries incurred are not the responsibility of the Port Washington Parks and Recreation Department. Players compete by THEIR CHOICE and must sign an injury waiver (team roster) before competing in any league. It is strongly suggested that each individual have personal insurance coverage in case of injury.

TEAMS MUST TURN IN PRELIMINARY, COMPLETED ROSTERS AND HAVE LEAGUE FEES PAID IN FULL BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021.

The following is the field scheduling for the 2019 Fall Softball season:

| <u>LEAGUE</u> | <u>DAY</u> | <u>TIMES</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Men's | Thursday | 6:00 – 9:30 pm | Municipal Softball Field |

I. THE SCHEDULE

A. Regular Season Play

- Regular season play consists of a 6 game schedule plus playoffs, with the following exceptions:
 - Partial rainouts (any games in a night cancelled) will be added as a nightly doubleheader and continued each week until those games are made up
 - If partial or full-night rainouts occur more than time slots allow, another make-up night will be added as approved by the team captains
- If two or more teams are tied for any position at the end of the regular season, the following criteria, in order as stated, determine final league standings and post-season seedings:
 - Any team with a forfeit during the regular season automatically loses all ties
 - Head-to-head record against all other teams involved in the tie
 - Highest total runs scored in regular season competition

B. Post-Season Tournament

- Top four (4) teams play in the post-season tournament
- The tournament is single-elimination and played on the first regular game day following regular season and any make-up games
- Player eligibility: In order for a player(s) to participate in the post season, he must have played in a minimum of 3 regular season league games. No exceptions**

II. LEAGUE AWARDS

- A plaque is awarded to the first place finishers of the post-season tournament

III. LEAGUE ROSTERS

- Rosters are limited to 20 players, all of whom must be 18 years old before the first game of the season
- Rosters must be completed with each player's name, telephone number, address, and signature and be turned in to the Parks and Recreation Department by Friday, September 3, 2021. Any individual who a) participates in league play prior to signing an official roster form, or b) fails to include his telephone number and or address on the roster shall be declared ineligible for the entire season
- If an opposing captain or Parks and Recreation Department staff person contests a player's eligibility and the name is not on the roster, he is considered an ineligible player. **All games played with ineligible players are declared forfeits**
- Teams may make roster changes on or prior to September 23, 2021. After this date, changes are permitted only in the event of a player's injury or illness (with a doctor's note). **All requests for changes must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department before any new team member may play.** Any replaced or removed player is ineligible for play on any team until the following season
- Males may play on one team per division

IV. LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Parks and Recreation Department provides field equipment (excluding bats and gloves), reasonably maintained fields, game balls, and rules and regulations to captains
- The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for enforcing all league rules, supervising league play, tournaments, field supervisors, providing umpires, maintaining league standings and equipment, scheduling rain outs and communicating information to team captains. **The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right**

to interpret and/or change any league rules at their discretion

- C. The Parks and Recreation Department staff is responsible for setting up fields, dispensing specific first aid supplies, communicating information to team captains, and overseeing league play. **Umpires and scorekeepers are not responsible for conveying information or complaints from team captains to the Parks and Recreation Department**
- D. Umpires are responsible for maintaining the orderly progress of each game as defined in the A.S.A. Official Rules of Softball and the Parks and Recreation Department league rules

V. FEES

- A. The goal of all adult programming is to establish a fee structure that will not require any tax support
- B. Therefore, one fee of **\$250** has been established for all teams as the league fee. The Department will collect no individual fees. The team captain is at liberty to negotiate the appropriate level of sponsor support. Individual player fees must make up the balance

VI. RAIN OUT POLICY

- A. The Parks and Recreation Department Office will contact captains regarding cancellations, if conditions and weather reports necessitate by 4:00 pm prior to the scheduled game
- B. If a rain out occurs after the start of the first assigned game, Parks and Recreation Department staff will try to notify captains or post a cancellation sign at the site. **If in doubt, GO TO THE FIELD PREPARED TO PLAY!**
- C. All games canceled by weather, suspended due to light failure or time consideration will be official games if 5 innings or 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead of play have been completed. If 5 innings have not been completed the game is null and void and rescheduled for a later date
- D. **ALL PLAYERS MUST LEAVE THE FIELD AND SEEK SHELTER (i.e. CARS) IF GAME IS POSTPONED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. IF PLAYERS DO NOT VACATE THE BALL FIELD AREA, THE TEAM WILL BE ASSESSED A FORFEIT**
- E. The Parks & Recreation Department Office will schedule all make-up games
- F. Make-up games will be rescheduled on nights of league play, if this is not possible alternative solutions will be explored

VII. PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. Team captains are responsible for the conduct of their respective team members and spectators. Team captains (or assistant captains in their absence) and pitchers are the only team members permitted to address or confer with the umpires or field supervisors
- B. Smoking is **not** permitted on the field or in the dugout at any time
- C. Use of alcoholic beverages by participating players is not permitted before or during any game. Alcoholic beverages are **not** allowed in the dugout at any time
- D. Any player displaying signs of intoxication will not be permitted to play and asked to leave the premises
- E. Verbal abuse or profanity perceived by the umpire as being in excess or unsportsmanlike results in (in order):
 1. Expulsion from the game.
 2. Expulsion from the playing area.
 3. Forfeiture of the game.
- F. Any physical contact, threatening verbal abuse or gesture (interpreted by Parks and Recreation Department staff) with an umpire, player of the opposing team, spectator or Parks and Recreation Department staff person results in immediate and permanent expulsion from the league
- G. A player who intentionally throws a bat shall be ejected from the game
- H. Any player ejected from a game for any reason will serve a **minimum** two game suspension, rendering him/her ineligible for the following two games. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to increase or decrease all suspensions at his discretion. Two separate ejections shall suspend the player from the league for the remainder of the season
- I. Any ejected player who refuses to give their name or gives a false name, to the umpire will be suspended an additional two games above and beyond the original suspension. It is then the responsibility of the team captain to report the player's name to the umpire. Failure to do so will result in a two game suspension for the team captain
- J. The Parks and Recreation Department may, upon recommendation from the umpire, expel any player, manager, team, spectator, or individual from league play for the remainder of the season for any action which interferes with the orderly progress of the game (i.e. fighting, flagrant rules violations, harassment of officials, players, spectators, etc.)
- K. The ejected player must leave the playing area, which includes the bench area

VIII. UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

- A. Each team will be allowed one (1) scorer in the bench area and one (1) batboy only. (Bat-boy must be 12 years of age or older.)

- B. Each team, by listing on the roster, may have one or two non-playing coaches, but they must then coach from 1st and 3rd base coaching area when their team is batting
- C. The only other unauthorized person permitted on the bench would be the team sponsor
- D. The umpire will strictly enforce this regulation

IX. LEAGUE PLAY

- A. Forfeit time is ten minutes after the scheduled game time for the first game. Forfeit time is game time for all remaining games
 - 1. **Teams may begin a game with eight (8) players. A limit of 11 to 13 players may be used as an additional hitter (AH) and not be penalized if a player is lost due to injury. The only time an out in the order will be enforced is if a player is ejected from a game. That player cannot be replaced and will be an automatic out in the order for the remainder of the game. No team can ever play with seven (7) players. If a team starts with eight (8) and loses a player, for any reason, the game is forfeited**
 - 2. A decision to declare a forfeit is based upon A.S.A. Rules. When a game is declared a forfeit, both captains shall be notified at once. The official score of a forfeited game is 7 - 0 in favor of the team that does not forfeit
 - 3. **The forfeit team must submit a \$30.00 check to the Port Washington Park & Recreation office 48 hours prior to their next game or face league disqualification**
 - 4. A team that forfeits four games during the regular season is dropped from the league for the remainder of the season and barred from the league for the next season. No team with more than five rostered players from the disqualified team is allowed in the league the following season
- B. The additional hitter(s) (AH) rule is in effect for all leagues
 - 1. Intent to use an additional hitter must be declared to the umpire and opposing team prior to the start of the game and indicated on the team's lineup sheet or score book
 - 2. The "AH" may be substituted for or change positions like any other position player. A substitute for an "AH" must be a player who has not yet been in the game
- C. **Re-Entry Rule**
 - 1. Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once. Such player re-enters in his batting order position and replaces the substitute player who was used in place of him
 - 2. The substitute cannot play again in that game
- D. **Once an inning, team captains reserve the right to request a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner must be requested prior to the first pitch being delivered to the next batter**
- E. Teams are responsible for their own first aid. The field supervisor has ice packs and plastic adhesive bandages
- F. **Mercy Rule** – A game is declared over if the home team is winning by 20 runs after the third; 15 runs after the fourth inning, 12 any inning after the fifth (4 ½ innings if the home team is winning)
- G. **Metal spikes are not permitted. The umpire shall remove from the game any player in violation of this rule**
- H. Teams shall receive one warning in the event a defensive player applies a "fake tag" in order to coerce a base runner into sliding (in the opinion of the umpire). A second incident shall result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team
- I. Any base runner that crashes into a fielder waiting to apply tag, rather than sliding or otherwise attempting to avoid contact, shall be declared out. If the offense is perceived by the umpire as being flagrant and deliberate the runner shall be ejected from the game
- J. After the first inning the umpire shall invoke the "no warm up" rule, which permits the pitcher 3 to 5 warm-ups and no infield or outfield warm-ups
- K. **Batting Rule – No DH allowed.**
 - 1. Walk: 3 balls
 - 2. Out: 2 called strikes
 - 3. One swinging strike (missed, fouled, or tripped) out
 - 4. The plate is within the strike zone, if the pitch hits the plate, it is a strike
- L. No new inning may start after 1 hour has elapsed from the start of the game
 - 1. **Exception:** Post-season tournament games shall have no time limit
 - 2. **Exception:** No games will end with a tie score. Extra innings will be used to complete the game
- M. Five innings (4 ½ if the home team is winning) must be played to make a game official, **except** those called for exceeding the one-hour time limit. Any game not declared official shall be made up in its entirety
- N. If five innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is winning) have been completed and a game is called during the middle of an inning due to loss of field lights or poor weather, the score at the start of the inning shall be recorded as the final score
- O. The official starting time for a game delayed by a previous game is 5 minutes after the end of the preceding game. In these cases, no infield practice is allowed
- P. **Bats**
 - 1. Bats shall not exceed 34", be more than 2 ¼" in diameter at its largest part of the barrel, or weigh more than 38

ounces

2. Anyone caught using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game and suspended for 2 games. In addition, if an illegal bat is brought into the batters box and detected by the umpire, the inning will immediately end
 3. All bats must be in compliance with A.S.A. rules and regulations. Only bats that bear an A.S.A. approved certification mark, or those included on the list published by the A.S.A. National Office, are permitted for use in league play
 4. Titanium bats are not permitted
 5. The bat must have a safety grip of tape for a minimum 10" and maximum 15"
 6. The bat may be wood or aluminum and must be marked with the manufacturer's stamp of "**OFFICIAL SOFTBALL.**" If the stamp is worn off, it will be up to the umpire to decide if the bat is legal
 7. The A.S.A. website is: **www.asasoftball.com/about/getManufacturerDetail.asp**
- Q. Schedule changes are not made to accommodate other league commitments.
- R. Seven home runs is the maximum allowed per team each inning. The eighth and each successive home run hit by a team results in an out being registered
- S. Managers must supply the official scorer with lineups at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of their game. No infield practice will be allowed until the lineups are in. Each team must supply infield ball
- T. No batting practice is allowed on the Municipal Softball Field inside fence area before any games
- U. The umpire carries the official time
- V. Legal Pitch Delivery**
1. **The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six (6) feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of thirteen (13) feet from the ground**

X. PROTESTS

- A. The only protests permitted are over an umpire's interpretation or over an illegal player
1. On a protest of an umpire's interpretation, protest must be filed before the next pitch with the umpire, opposing team captain, and field supervisor. Both captains should note the exact situation and where players and runners are positioned. Judgment calls cannot be protested
 2. A written protest must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department no later than 4:30 p.m. of the second working day following the incident. A \$20.00 check must accompany any written protest. If the protest is allowed, the money is returned; if the protest is rejected, the money is forfeited
 3. The Parks and Recreation Department makes decisions on protests after consultation with the umpire, field supervisor, and team captains involved
 4. The umpire's decision is considered final in all post-season games
 5. Guidelines for filing protests are in the A.S.A. Official Rules of Softball
- B. Player Eligibility**
1. Player eligibility must be challenged prior to the end of the game and may be made by either the opposing team captain or a Parks and Recreation Department staff person
 2. The offending captain must then prove eligibility to the satisfaction of the opposing captain or staff person, or play with the knowledge that if the protest is upheld, the game will be forfeited
 3. A formal protest must be filed by the above guidelines if the offended team captain is not satisfied
 4. If the player proves to be eligible, the game shall continue or stands as played; if ineligible, the game is forfeited immediately
 5. Any failure to follow the above guidelines will nullify the protest