



Champaign Park District Adult Softball League Rules (Updated 4/03/2011)

The following rules and regulations are established to clarify the Amateur Softball Association Rule Book, and to introduce Champaign Park District league regulations. League rules are reviewed with the team managers during pre-season meetings. Managers are responsible for informing their players of all league rules.

** indicates that the rule has been altered for play in the fall season. See Section X for details.

Section I: Team Rosters

1. Official rosters are due at each team's first day of games. Each team members must provide his/her first name, last name, address, phone number, and signature to be considered a rostered player. If a team plays with a non-rostered player, the game will be declared a forfeit and the player will be subject to suspension.
2. The eligibility of a player must be protested by the opposing team prior to the end of the game. A player's eligibility cannot be questioned after the game is over. See Section V for protest procedures.
3. Anyone caught falsifying an address to avoid the non-resident fee will be suspended from league play and all games in which that player participated will be forfeited. The same disciplinary action applies to anyone who falsifies his/her name.
4. The Champaign Park District (CPD) reserves the right to request a player's identification at any time. If no identification is presented, the game will be held in forfeiture for 48 hours or until ID is presented, whichever comes first.
5. A player must be fifteen (15) years of age by May 1st of the current year to be eligible to play. (i.e. for the summer of 2009, they must be 15 by May 1st, 2009).
6. **** Drop/Add Policy:** Team rosters are limited to twenty (20) players. A manager or assistant manager may add/drop players to his/her roster by coming to the Bresnan Meeting Center and completing the appropriate form no later than closing time the day of the game. On the form, the addition's name, address, and phone number are needed. The manager will receive two (2) copies of the completed form. The player(s) are officially added when the manager gives both forms to the field supervisor at the game site and receives one copy back (initialed by the supervisor). The added player must then sign the team roster waiver at the site. The manager's copy is his/her receipt for the add/drop. As an added convenience, managers are able to e-mail the Adult Sports Coordinator with their roster additions. This addition will not be official until the manager receives a reply back. If the add/drop is done through e-mail, the new player must still sign the waiver onsite.

Once a player has played with a team, he/she cannot switch to another team within the same league.

7. New players may be added until **June 1st** of the current year. (i.e. for the 2009 season, the drop/add deadline is June 1st, 2009.)

8. After June 1st, teams will be allowed to add two additional players to their roster WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION OF THE ADULT SPORTS COORDINATOR. These two additions must be requested in writing with an explanation as to how the additions will keep the team from forfeiting due to lack of players.
9. ** For same gender leagues, players may only play in leagues that are adjacent in ability. Men can only play in one doubleheader league since they are of different skill levels. Women must choose between Recreational and Semi-Competitive play. If CPD offers two Semi-Competitive Men's leagues, a player can play in both leagues. This rule also applies for women's leagues. This rule does not apply to Singleheader, Co-rec, and Golden Glove Leagues.

Section II: The Game

1. Game time is forfeit time.
2. Game times will be Sunday through Friday at 6:15, 7, 8, and 9 pm. Game times on weekends will begin at 8:00 am and continue until 9:00 pm. (tournament games may be scheduled later depending on the weather, number of teams, etc.) The senior and church leagues will start at 6:00 pm.
3. Lineups with players' first and last names and uniform numbers must be submitted to the field supervisor no later than ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled game time. This rule will be strictly enforced. Any team without a lineup ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled games times will be subject to a forfeit. Lineups may be changed until game time.
4. Co-rec games can start with a minimum of eight (8) players. For all other leagues, the minimum number of players to start is nine (9). If the minimum number of players is not met, the game will be forfeited. If at any point during the game the number of players falls below the minimum, the game will be declared a forfeit.
5. If a ninth (9th) or tenth (10th) batter arrives, he/she must bat in the ninth (9th) or tenth (10th) spot in the batting order (depending on the order in which he/she arrived).
6. For same gender leagues ONLY: For teams playing with 9 players, the 10th spot in the batting order is NOT an out. However, if teams start with 10 (or 11) and go down a player, that spot in the line-up will be an out (see rule 8).
7. Extra Hitter Rule (optional): At the **beginning** of each game, the manager will have the option of using a ten (10) or eleven (11) player batting order (12 for 11"/12" co-rec). The option the team chooses stands for the remainder of the game and cannot be changed. If the Extra Hitter Rule is used, any ten players in the batting order may take the field on defense provided that the gender rules are followed.

To utilize the "extra hitter" option, teams must start the game with eleven (11) players (twelve (12) for co-rec). Once the game has started, teams cannot add an extra player to the line-up.

8. If a player is removed from the batting order for any reason and the batting position cannot be filled by a legal substitute, the vacant batting position shall be an automatic out each time that batting position is scheduled to bat. This still applies if a team chooses to use the extra player option.

If the "extra hitter" option is used, same gender leagues can only take one out (go down one player).

9. Re-entry rule (ASA): Any substituted player may re-enter the game one time providing he/she bats in the same position in the batting order.
10. The softball staff will determine if the games are postponed due to inclement weather. Call the Champaign Park District Leisure Line at 398-2589 ext. 810 after 4 p.m. for pre-game time cancellations. For a weekend activity, a decision will be made two hours prior to the event.
11. Once games begin, if the weather is threatening, the site supervisor will determine if the game is postponed. If lightning is observed in the vicinity, teams will be asked to leave the playing area for ten (10) minutes. If the lightning disappears after ten minutes, the game will continue. If the lightning continues after ten minutes, the game will continue to be postponed until the area is lightning-free for ten (10) minutes.

A lightning detector will aid the site supervisor in making lightning decision. One long 15-second horn means lightning is in the area and teams and fans should clear the field. Three short horns mean the lightning has cleared the area.

12. Any game terminated because of weather will be completed at a later date from the exact point at which the original game was stopped. If a game reaches 5 innings or 4 ½ innings with the home team winning, the game will be considered a complete game.

If a team starts a game with eleven (11) batters, but only has ten (10) batters when the game is completed, no out will be recorded in the vacant spot. However, if a team only has nine (9) players, an out will be recorded.
13. The count on the batter will begin at one ball and one strike. The following courtesy foul rules will be followed for Champaign Park District Leagues only:
 - a. Women's and Co-rec 11"-12" Leagues: A batter hitting a second foul ball is out.
 - b. All Other Leagues: A batter hitting a foul ball on the third strike is out.
14. Ground rules for each game will be discussed with the umpires and team managers prior to the game and will not be questioned after the game commences.
15. All appeal plays will be considered dead ball plays. No runners will be permitted to advance.
16. Time Limit: All games will have a 55-minute clock.
 - a. When the clock expires, the inning will be completed unless the home team is batting and they are ahead.
 - b. If time expires before the first pitch of a new inning, the game will be called complete. An inning is not considered started unless a pitch is thrown.
 - c. No new inning can start after time has expired, unless it is to break a tie.
17. The international tie breaker rule will be used to break ties. The player who was the last person up to bat in the previous inning will take second base.
18. ** Men's Doubleheader Leagues will be allowed to steal. Runners cannot leave the base until the pitch crosses the **front** of home plate. There are no leadoffs. To maintain the recreational atmosphere of Fall Softball, there will be no stealing in the fall leagues.

19. ** Progressive Homerun Rule: All leagues will play with a progressive home run (over the fence) rule. Either team may go one (1) homerun up as long as the other team has hit the allowed number of home runs. The home team may not go one up in the 7th inning or later if both teams have hit their limit. **Exception** – If home team has not hit allowed number they can hit up to allowed number of homeruns. Any homerun hit over the limit will result in an out.
- a. Semi-Competitive Leagues will be allowed four (4) home runs per game
 - b. Recreational Leagues and Men's single-header leagues will be allowed two (2) homerun per game.

Exception: Since the fence is short, Men's leagues playing at Dexter are allowed one extra over the fence homerun.

20. The team at bat that hits a softball over the fence will be required to retrieve it. That team is also required to give the umpire a softball in good condition while retrieving the ball so that a delay in the game can be avoided. If a team delays the game by hitting balls out of the park and not retrieving them immediately, the team will be subject to a game forfeiture by the umpire or the site supervisor.
21. The field:
- a. Base paths will measure 65' and the pitching distance will be 50' in all leagues.
 - b. Breakaway bases will be used at all bases at all fields.
 - c. There will be a double-base at first base.
 - i. If there is a play at first base, the runner must use the orange base and the fielder must use the white base.
 - ii. If there is no play at first base, the runner may use either base.
22. All leagues will play by the "avoid contact" rule. If a defensive player has the ball, the runner must slide or make an obvious attempt to avoid contact with the defensive player.
- a. If the runner remains on his feet and crashes into the defensive player, the runner is to be declared out. The runner will be ejected if the act is flagrant.
 - b. Defensive players obstructing a base without possession of the ball will be issued a verbal warning for the first offense. If the player continues to obstruct the base, the defensive player will be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and the runner will be ruled safe.
23. There will be no pre-game infield practice.
24. The home team is the first team listed on the schedule. For doubleheader leagues, the home team for the first game will be the first team listed. For the second game, the visiting team from the first game becomes the home team.
25. Overthrow rule: When the ball is in play and is thrown beyond the boundary lines, all runners will be awarded two bases. The award will be governed by the positions of the runners when the ball left any fielder's hand. If two runners are between the same bases, the award is based on the position of the lead runner.
26. In order to prevent batter's boxes from becoming dangerously pitted, excessive digging will not be tolerated. A team warning will be issued by the umpire after the first instance, and subsequent violations will result in strikes being called on the offending batters. This rule will be enforced during all league play.

27. A forfeit fee will be charged to teams who forfeit a league game (including make-up games) without giving a two (2) working day notice to the Sports Coordinator. The first time a team forfeits, they will be charged \$10, the second time \$20, and the third time the team will be dropped from the league. Teams must pay the forfeit fee one business day before their next game or that too will be declared a forfeit.
28. Once the game has been completed, please exit the dugout immediately so the next team can enter and get ready to start the next game. The team manager or another designated person from that team must also sign the score book verifying the final score of their game. If the team does not sign the score sheet and later finds that the score was recorded wrong they lose the ability to protest the score of that game.

Section III: The Uniform

1. Only basketball shoes, tennis shoes, and plastic or rubber-cleated shoes will be allowed in this program. A person may not play without shoes, in open-toed shoes, or street shoes. Golf shoes, track shoes, steel cleats, or similar type spiked shoes will not be allowed. This rule applies to all events on Champaign Park District fields.
2. Jewelry is not permitted and must be removed, with the exceptions of Medic Alert bracelets and necklaces and finger rings that cannot be removed. Jewelry that cannot be removed must be concealed to the umpire's satisfaction.
3. All players are encouraged to wear full-length softball or baseball pants. Short softball pants may be worn at the player's risk. If short softball pants are worn, it is recommended that knee length socks are worn with them.
4. Player Uniforms:
 - a. Teams are not required to have matching uniforms
 - b. Each player is required to have a shirt with a permanently affixed 6" number.
 - c. Only one player is allowed to play without a number.

Section IV: The Equipment

1. Only ASA approved softball bats will be used and the handles must be taped to regulation. A list of approved bats is available from the league coordinator and will be filed at each game site. The list is also available on CPD's website www.champaignparkdistrict.com or on ASA's website www.softball.org
2. Each team will furnish its own bats.
3. The Park District will furnish two restricted flight softballs for each game. The winning team will receive one game ball after the game. The first game of each night will start out with two (2) new softballs. Each game after that will start with one (1) new softball.
4. The Park District will not replace balls hit out of play. A team that hits a ball out of play is responsible for retrieving that ball and if necessary throwing another ball into play. If the ball is not retrieved or the game is delayed, the team will be subject to a forfeiture declared by the umpire or the site supervisor.

Section V: Protests

1. Only the team manager may discuss a protest with the umpire(s). Anyone else may be ejected for interference.
2. All protests must be filed at the time of occurrence and before another pitch is made. The protest is initially filed with the umpire. After the game has ended, all parties involved in the protest should gather and assist the site supervisor in formulating a report that lists all of the facts. This will be given to the league coordinator. The procedure in #3 below must be followed for a protest to be considered.
3. To be considered, a written protest and \$10 deposit must be brought to Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, by 5:00pm the next business day after the incident. If the incident needs further review, a panel will be formed. The deposit will be returned if the protest is ruled valid. If the protest is not allowed, the deposit will be kept to cover the cost of processing.

The written protest should be as specific as possible and include: First and last names of everyone involved, a complete description of the **FACTS**, why you feel a protest is necessary, etc.

4. Judgement calls by the umpire are not protestable.
5. Any team not providing a representative at the mandatory manager's meeting will forfeit its right to protest any game.

** Section VI: Run Rules

1. If at the end of five (5) complete innings of play, one team is ten (10) runs or more ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.
2. If at the end of four (4) complete innings of play, one team is fifteen (15) runs or more ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.
3. If at the end of three (3) complete innings of play, one team is twenty (20) runs or more ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.
4. If at any point during the game (at the end of a complete inning), one team is thirty (30) or more runs ahead of its opponent, the game will be called complete.

Section VII: Sportsmanship / Player Behavior

The Champaign Park District Softball Program is intended to be a RECREATIONAL activity suitable for attendance by the whole family. The following actions and other actions which detract from the recreational nature of this activity will result in suspension or expulsion from league play:

1. The Park District has a strict **NO ALCOHOL** policy in all of its parks. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, drugs and drug paraphernalia, or being in an intoxicated condition on Park District property by any participant or spectator will not be tolerated. This rule applies to parking lots, spectator areas, dugouts, etc. Offending teams may be subject to game forfeiture.

2. Demonstrative behavior in protesting an umpire's or Park District employee's decision by any team member or a team's fans.
3. Resorting to behavior that threatens or assaults any player, coach, umpire, or staff member. (i.e. throwing a bat, verbally threatening another player, coach, umpire, or staff member, taunting other players, etc.)
4. Players who throw a bat, intentionally or not, will be warned by the umpire. After the player has been warned by the umpire, the warning must be recorded with the scorekeeper, site supervisor, and/or the tournament director. The warning will be in effect for the entire evening of games, or for the entire length of a C.P.D. sponsored tournament.
5. Instituting a fake tag is considered unsportsmanlike conduct. If this act continues after the first warning by the umpires, the player faking the tag will be ejected from the game.
6. Obscene and abusive language has no place on or off the field, regardless of whether or not it is directed at someone else.

Section VIII: Ejections / Suspensions

To enforce player behavior that is consistent with the established purpose of recreational softball, the following action may be taken:

1. The umpire or the field supervisor may eject any player or manager in violation of any of the above rules. Upon ejection of a player for unsportsmanlike conduct, the umpire will inform the manager and field supervisor that the player has been ejected. The manager will then be responsible for removing the player from the park within one minute. A player remaining in the vicinity of the ballpark (including the parking lot) after being ejected for the game will cause his/her team to forfeit the game and will be subject to a long suspension.
2. Any player or manager ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will face an **automatic** seven-day (7) suspension. If a team has a bye during the seven (7) days, or if the games scheduled during that seven day period are rained out, the suspension will be altered to cover the team's next scheduled game. The suspension will begin immediately and includes all league and tournament games sponsored by the Champaign Park District or held on Champaign Park district fields within that seven day period. A suspended player may not attend nor participate in the game(s) affected by the suspension. Following the ejection, the team manager for the player that was ejected will be notified that that player is suspended for the next 7 days.
3. Any player or manager who, after being ejected, acts in such a way as to offend or endanger anyone, including spectators or families of players, will be automatically suspended for a minimum of four (4) weeks. Examples of such behavior include but are not limited to carelessly or recklessly swinging a bat, offensive language, or mooning teammates. The maximum penalty is permanent expulsion from the Champaign Park District adult sports program.
4. Any player or manager caught with an alcoholic beverage, drugs, or drug paraphernalia on Park District property (including the parking lot) will forfeit his/her team's current or next scheduled game. Spectators caught with such substances will be asked to leave.
5. Any player or manager ejected twice during the year will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season.
6. In flagrant cases of unsportsmanlike conduct that are reviewed by a panel, an entire team can be held responsible for the actions of an individual on the team.

7. A player or manager may appeal a suspension to the League Coordinator in writing. Formal protest procedures in Section V must be followed. If the appeal warrants a hearing, the League Coordinator will form a panel. The panel will meet with all persons involved in the incident to further discuss it.
8. Player suspensions may result in suspension from participation in other Park District programs that the agency deems appropriate. Player suspensions at the end of the season will be carried over to include other Champaign Park District adult sports.
9. The umpire's and field supervisor's jurisdictions will begin when they arrive at the field and continue until league participants have left the park following the last game of the night. Both umpires shall have equal authority to make all decisions. Umpires will follow standard umpire field mechanics as described in the ASA Umpire's Manual. Field supervisors have the authority to eject players or managers, or forfeit games according to ASA or league rules.
10. All player behavior suspensions are subject to being overruled by the softball staff.

Section IX: Co-Rec 11"/12" Rules

1. At no point shall there be more males than females playing.
2. The batting order shall alternate male and female.
3. If the Extra Hitter Rule is utilized, 12 batters must bat. See Section II, number 6 for further detail.
4. If a team is unable to field ten (10) players, the team can play with fewer than ten (10) as long as the number of women is greater than or equal to the number of men. However, Co-rec teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players to play. For example, if a team has five (5) men and four (4) women, the team must play with four (4) men and four (4) women. If a team plays with five (5) women and four (4) men, all five (5) women must bat.
5. On any walk to a male batter, intentional or not, the batter will be awarded two bases. If there are two outs, the next female batter has the option to hit or take an automatic walk.
6. Co-rec defensive positioning shall include two (2) males and two (2) females in the outfield and two (2) males and two (2) females in the infield. The pitcher and catcher position must be opposite genders. Once determining positions, the players must be stationed on fair ground, except the catcher, who should be positioned in the catcher's box.

Section X: Adult Fall Softball Rule Differences

The fall leagues will use the league's rules as listed EXCEPT for the following changes:

- All Leagues are considered recreational, so there are no awards given for the fall season.
- There will be no stealing allowed.
- A two (2) home run progressive rule will be used for all leagues. Games at Dexter will be allowed three (3) over the fence home runs because the fences are short.
- There will be no roster addition deadline, but all players must be on the team's roster to play.
- The season is seven (7) or fourteen (14) games, weather permitting.
- Players may play in multiple leagues but will not be allowed to be on two rosters within the same night of play. Ex. A player can play in both Monday Co-rec Orange and Blue but not be on two teams in the Orange division.

Section XI: Rainout Rescheduling

1. Champaign Park District will do everything possible to make sure that games that were cancelled due to inclement weather are rescheduled.
2. Because there is limited time to reschedule games, games may be rescheduled on weekends to get all of the games in. A make-up schedule will be available closer to the end of the season.
3. Teams are required to play make-up games as scheduled or accept a forfeit.
4. Make-up games will be scheduled with special consideration given for teams participating in ASA and USSSA tournaments only. To be eligible for this special consideration, teams must notify the league coordinator of their participation in these tournaments at least four (4) weeks prior to the tournament/make-up games.

Section XII: Tie Breaking Procedures

If there are any ties for the top three finishers in league play, the following tie breaking procedures will be used in the order that they appear:

1. Results of head to head competition during the season
2. Run differential in games between the teams who are tied
3. The team with the fewest number of forfeits will be declared the winner.
4. Whether either team has had a player ejected for misconduct. The team with the ejected player will be removed from the tie breaking procedures.
5. A playoff game will be played.

League standings will be kept on our website www.champaignparkdistrict.com and will be submitted to the *News Gazette* each week to be printed in the Sunday Sports section.

**** Section XIII: Awards**

League Champion Policy: Teams will not be allowed to win a league championship in consecutive (back to back) seasons unless the team moves up one league in skill level. If moving up a league is not a possibility, the team will still be able to compete for awards. For all leagues that have 2 divisions each night the winning team of the lower league will be required to move up the following year. For example the Wednesday Men's Blue League champion will be required to move up to the Wednesday Men's Orange League the following year.

All teams will be award up to 15 team jackets. Order forms will be sent out at the conclusion of the season to all of the winning teams. Teams that do not return their order forms by the stated deadline will not receive their jackets.