

2023 OCEAN CITY TUES/THURS MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

- A. To provide an opportunity for interested individuals to play softball in an organized manner.
- B. To provide wholesome recreation play and not merely to declare a league champion.

II. MANAGEMENT AND AUTHORITY

- A. The overall management of the softball program and all teams involved in each league shall be the responsibility of the OCRPD and final authority on any matter pertaining to the program resides with the OCRPD.
- B. Upon entering a league, each team and all players agree to abide by the rules and regulations stated in these by-laws.
- C. Teams must have one team representative that attends all league meetings and is the point of contact between the team and OCRP

III. FEES AND REFUNDS

- A. League fees must be paid in full before your games to be played the third week of season. Any team that does not have league fees paid by said date will forfeit games until paid in full. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- B. No team fees will be refunded after registration has taken place, unless a replacement team is found.
- C. Fees will not be refunded to any player or team expelled from the league.

IV. PARTICIPATION & ROSTERS

- A. Age Requirements: Players must be at least 18 years old.
- B. Team registration forms must be completed and turned into the OCRP office or League Director prior to the first game of the season. All players must complete a registration/ waiver form to be eligible to play in any games.
- C. Teams may have up to 20 players. **Players may be added and dropped at any time prior to the playoffs.**
- D. Players may be listed on the roster of one team only. In the event that more than one team has submitted the same player, the team that the player first plays for in a game shall be considered the legal owner.
- E. If a player chooses to change teams they must have a verbal conference with the league director.

- F. A team that uses an illegal player will forfeit all games the player participated in. *Four forfeits may suspend a team from further league play.
- G. Playoff eligibility: Must be on official roster and must be present to at least 1 of a team's regular season games. If an ineligible player is found playing, an automatic forfeit will be awarded. Team coaches must be responsible for number of games that players have participated in during the regular season. No pick-up players may be used during the playoffs.

V. SPECIAL RULES OF CONDUCT

- A. Refer to Player Conduct Guide. Please contact League Coordinator or League Director if you did not receive a guide. Any player ejected from a game will be suspended from play for the remainder of the game, plus their next scheduled game. *Exception if a player is ejected for the first time because of standing outside the dugout.*The second time a player will sit out the remainder of that game and the next game.
- B. The Ocean City Recreation & Parks Department's staff reserves the right to implement any penalty deemed appropriate; however, guidelines have been set and will be used to render such a decision.
- C. No profanity is to be used on or around the field, after the first warning the offender will be ejected from the game. If extreme language is used there will be automatic ejection (f@ word).
- D. NO CHILDREN or anyone under the age of 18 will be allowed in the dugouts or on the playing field.
- E. All players must remain in the dugouts. Only one on deck hitter, 2 base coaches, a batter, and runner(s) may be out of the dugout while a team is on offense. All defensive substitutes must remain in the dugout. Players not following the rule will be warned once and then ejected from the game.
- F. Smoking is only permitted in designated areas of Northside Park near the smoking stations.
- G. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed at any time at Northside Park. This includes the playing field, the bleachers, and the parking lots. Players are subject to ejection if use of alcohol is suspected. The consumption of alcohol in the dugout is grounds for immediate forfeit.

VI. EQUIPMENT, AND SCORE KEEPERS

- A. Teams are to supply their own equipment. Catcher's gear is optional. Practice helmets and face guards are allowed. Pitchers mask is required and provided.
- B. Shoes: Shoes must be worn at all times. Metal cleats or open toed shoes are not permitted. Rubber cleats or turf shoes are recommended for all leagues.
- C. All players must wear a shirt and either pants or shorts. Uniforms are optional. Numbers on uniform are very helpful.
- D. Game balls: Two dozen will be provided by Ocean City Recreation and Parks. After that each team will have to purchase any additional balls needed to complete the league. Please see the

programmer or coordinator for balls. Additional balls will be provided at our cost and must be the official league balls.

- E. All equipment, **trash**, and clothing must be removed from dugout following each game.
- F. A scorekeeper will be provided for every game by the OCRPD.
- G. Each team should have a first aid kit at every game; however OCRPD will have a supply of first aid products available.

VII. TIME LIMITS

- A. All games will be seven innings or until designated time limit is up. Time will be kept by the plate umpire and on the scoreboard.
- B. If time expires while the home team is the winning team and the home team is at bat, the game will be declared over. If the losing team is at bat when time has expired, they will be allowed to complete their half of the inning. Both teams must have equal number of bats.
- C. The time limit will be one (1) hour and (15) minutes from the start of the game for all games.
- G. There will be no time limit during all playoff games.

VIII. FORFEITS

- A. It is the responsibility of each team to be on time. A forfeit shall be called if a team does not have nine players on the field and ready to play at game time.
- B. Forfeits shall be recorded as a 7-0 score.
- C. Four accumulated forfeits may result in immediate suspension of that team. This will be under the discretion of the league coordinator. After suspension, the team may re-enter the league after paying \$100.00 suspension fee, but will lose priority registration.
- D. Teams who start with ten or eleven players will be permitted to finish with nine if injury or ejection occurs and no substitution can be made. Teams must take an out for the injured or ejected player. Any less than 9, the game will be forfeited.
- E. Line-up must be given to the scorekeeper five (5) minutes before game time on the league issued line-up card.
- F. At 6:30 p.m. game will start (clock) regardless if both teams have lineups turned in. A ten-minute grace period will be given for the first game of the night only.

IX. LEAGUE GAME RULES

- A. Official USSSA slow pitch rules will be in effect for all games, unless otherwise provided for within our by-laws.
- B. Substitutions: Any starter can re-enter a game once in the same position in same batting order.

- C. Pace of play... Both teams must be in position to start the next half inning 90 seconds after the previous half inning ends. If a team is not ready a ball or strike will be assessed as appropriate. After each additional 10 seconds an additional ball or strike will be called.
- D. No practice will be permitted prior to the game on the infield surface
- E. There will be a (15) after four complete innings, (12) run after five complete innings, and (10) after six innings slaughter rule. No change for playoffs. **Flip/Flop shall be utilized.**
- F. 1-1 Rule: Each batter will have one (1) ball and one (1) strike when they enter the batter's box. One "waste" foul ball is allowed with two strikes.
- F. Slide Rule: Any player obviously out must slide or give himself up by running outside the baseline.
- G. Courtesy Runner Rule: The USSSA Courtesy Runner rule is in effect. In addition, any player over the age of 40 may have a courtesy runner at any time. If the courtesy runner's turn to bat comes up and he is on base an "out" shall be recorded.
- H. Extra Players: Team will be allowed to have an EP, however the EP must remain in the same batting position the entire game. He may enter on defense. If the EP or another player is injured and there is no eligible substitution, an "out" will be called every time the player "bats". Team will be allowed to have up to **17** players batting.
- I. Line-Up cards must be submitted prior to **each game**. You cannot just say "Same line-up" to the scorekeeper. Line-up cards are used to track game attendance.
- J. Should a team intentionally stall or slow down a game, it will first receive a warning from the umpire and finally forfeit the game.
- K. If both teams fail to have nine players, there will be a double forfeit scored as a tie.
- L. Teams who start with nine roster players may add a tenth roster player once the game has started. Teams who start with ten roster players may add an eleventh or twelfth roster player if their team's leadoff batter has not batted a second time.
- M. Homerun Rule: There is a five homerun limit. If a ball hits an outfielder's glove and goes over the fence, this will not be counted as a homerun. Any other ball that goes over the fence in fair territory will be counted as a homerun, regardless of any appeal on the bases. If a team hits more homeruns than allowed, an out will be recorded each time a homerun is hit. Exception: Unlimited homeruns on Field #1.
- N. Teams will be divided into divisions for post season provided a minimum of 8 teams are in the league.
- O. Playoffs: At the end of the season all teams' records will be reviewed and teams will be seeded in the playoffs based on their final standings in the regular season by division.
- P. Blood Rule: An attempt to stop any bleeding must be done immediately, plus all cuts and wounds must be covered. It is recommended that each manager have first aid supplies and extra uniforms or change of clothing if necessary.
- Q. If a batted ball hits any player and there is a delay in the game because of an injury (as deemed so

by the official of the game) the bat used by the batter will be immediately tested by Ocean City Recreation and Parks.

- R. All bats are subject to the attached “Bat Testing Protocol” and will be tested prior to use in the OCRP softball league. In addition, random testing may be done throughout the season.
- S. Pitcher Protection Rule
 - a. All pitchers must wear a helmet with both head and face protection. Ocean City will provide helmets if a team or player do not have the proper equipment.
 - b. Any dangerous batted ball that is hit up the middle and hits the protective screen shall be an immediate dead ball. All runners will return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. This includes, but is not limited to line drives, sharply hit ground balls, and one hoppers and is at the umpire’s judgment.
 - c. For the pitcher to qualify for the following protection he must remain with-in the pitching area lines, the pitching area lines are marked as two feet on either side of the rubber.
 - d. For any violation of this rule the bat will be immediately pulled and tested.
 - e. Penalties
 - i. 1st Occurrence (each team) - Dead ball. Batter is out.
 - ii. 2nd Occurrence (each team) - Dead ball and Offensive Player Ejection (An OUT in that batting spot for the rest of the game) can play defense
 - iii. 3rd Occurrence (each team) – Dead ball and Offensive Player Ejection (An OUT in that batting spot for the rest of the game) can play defense
 - iv. 4th Occurrence (each team) - Dead ball. Forfeiture of game.

X. RESCHEDULING GAMES

- A. Games will only be rescheduled at the discretion of the league coordinator.

XI. RAIN OUTS (RAIN HOTLINE # IS 410-250-2124) Also in the Facebook group.

- A. Decisions as to rain cancellations shall be made at 4:30 p.m. the day of the game.
- B. If the game is complete (four innings) and the game is called because of rain, fog, lightning, stormy weather, etc., then the game is final. This rule doesn’t apply to playoffs (including the championship game) in that case, the game is considered suspended and is resumed from the stopping point.
- C. Any game that is not complete/regulation during regular season will be replayed from the start.

XII. TIE BREAKING

- A. Head to Head
- B. Average Runs against
- C. Average Run Differential
- D. Coin Flip

XIII. AWARDS

- A. Trophies will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each division with 6 or more teams. Trophies for 1st and 2nd place will be awarded for divisions with 5 or less teams.

XIV. PROTEST

- A. Notification of intent to protest must be made by the coach or team rep. immediately before the next pitch (except player eligibility). Protest must be written and turned in to the OCRPD within 24 hours after the incident of protest. A \$50.00 fee must accompany the protest. Only teams that have their protest upheld will be refunded their \$50.00 fee. The League Coordinator will review all protests.
- B. Protest must include names of umpires and team managers; date, time, and location of the game; and all essential facts involved in the matter protested.

XV. UMPIRES

- A. Umpires have final decision during the game. The umpire has full authority to take any action or remove any players or spectators from the playing area when, in his/her judgments, such action is necessary to maintain proper playing conditions. Following the game umpires will complete an Umpire's Incident Report.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT THE RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT AT 410-250-0125.