

**North Tonawanda Youth, Parks & Recreation
Adult Softball 2020 Rules & Regulations**

Email: phogan@northtonawanda.org

Website: www.playntrec.com/softball



Ground Rules

1. Galassi Field
 - a. Any ball that rolls on the ground into the wooded area will be a double
 - b. Any ball reaching the wooded area in the air will be a homerun.
 - c. 5 home run limit per contest. Once a team exceeds the limit, each homerun will be an out.
2. Gilmore Field
 - a. Any ball that rolls onto the pavement in the air or on the ground will be a homerun.
3. Felton Field
 - a. Any ball that reaches the hill in left or center field in the air will be a home run.
 - b. Any ball that reaches the hill on the ground will be a double.

I. Playing Rules & Game Times

- a) Games start at 6:00pm and 7:15pm respectively. There is no grace period. The umpire's time is official.
- b) No inning of a 6pm game may start after 7:15pm.
- c) No time limit will exist for 7:15pm games. If an injury or other situation occurs which may delay a game, the umpire has the right to adjust game times.
- d) A coin flip will decide home field advantage (regular season only). In the playoffs the team with the best seed ranking will be given home field advantage.
- e) Suspended Game Rule: Rulebook Rule 5 Section 3 F applies to all playoff games. Playoff games that are stopped due to darkness, rain etc will be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped, and when resumed will be played until a winner is determined.
- f) All regular substitution rules apply for suspended games (II, a-l).
- g) **Due to the condensed late season schedule, game times may need to be adjusted in season if the day length does not allow for 7:15pm games to complete prior to darkness setting in. If this is the case, the game speed up rule may be applied.**
 - a. **Game speed up rule:** Fielding team remains on the field for six consecutive outs (2 defensive innings). After 3 outs, bases are cleared and the next defensive inning begins. Game format for speed up rule is as follows (Top of 1st, Top of 2nd, Bottom of 1st, Bottom of 2nd, Top of 3rd, Top of 4th, Bottom of 3rd, Bottom of 4th, Top of 5th, Top of 6th, Bottom of 5th, Bottom of 6th, Top of 7th, Bottom of 7th). Note 15-run rule only applies after the losing team has their last bats into the 6th.
- h) Winning team is responsible to report the game score via email to phogan@northtonawanda.org by noon the next day. All unreported scores will result in a loss for both teams.

II. Rosters/Substitutions

- a) Teams must have 9 players available to play at the start of the game with no penalty being enforced.
- b) Additional players showing up late must be placed in the last spot in the batting order.
- c) If a team becomes one player short for any reason other than ejection, that team may continue to play shorthanded with an out being recorded each time the vacant batting position is scheduled to bat (It is up to the opposing team, not the umpire, to keep track of when the vacant batting position is up).
- d) If a team starts with an extra player (batting 11 players) and drops to 10 batters for any reason, the penalty listed above (II.c) will be enforced.
- e) Men's & Women's teams may exceed the 11 player batting lineup but must finish with the same amount of players as they started with, or penalty (II.c) will be enforced.
- f) An extra player arriving late to a game can be immediately inserted into the vacant batting position.
- g) Any player can be substituted or replaced by a player (who has not yet entered the game) and re-enter once, providing the player occupies the same batting position (Note: This means the player can only re-enter the game in the place of the substitute).
- h) Any player re-entering the game not according to the above rule (II.f) will be considered an illegal re-entry and will be disqualified.
- i) A substitute may not fill the vacant batting position of a player who has been ejected from the game. The batting position will remain vacant and an out will be recorded each time the vacant position is scheduled to bat (It is up to the opposing team, not the umpire to keep track of when the vacant batting position is up).

- j) Courtesy Runners: 3 courtesy runners will be permitted per team, per game. The courtesy runner will be allowed to take the place of a teammate who has reached base safely. Only the player who made the last out can be used as a courtesy runner. The runner is to report their entry to both the umpire and the opposing team. If the courtesy runner is on base when his/her turn at bat comes, an out will occur, unless another courtesy runner is used. If there are no outs (first inning only) the runner shall be the last batter in the batting order.
- k) Changes to rosters can be made through July 31. Any player listed on the roster must sign the liability waiver form in order to play. Any player listed on the roster who has not signed the liability form will be considered an illegal player. Any player playing and not listed on the roster will be an illegal player.
- l) After July 31, players can still be added to the roster; however there will be a \$10 fee for each roster addition.
- m) Players can sign an individual liability waiver at www.ntparksrec.com. The individual must create an account, and from options menu, select Memberships→ Adult Softball Individual Liability Form.

III. Miscellaneous

- a) 15-run rule is in effect after 5 innings. The losing team must have their last bats in order for the 15-run rule to take effect (ex. Team "B" is the home team and is losing by 17 runs after the completion of the top of the 6th inning. Team "B" must get their bats in the bottom of the 6th before the game can be called).
- b) ASA rules apply to all games
- c) No stealing of bases is allowed. (A player may leave the base as soon as the ball crosses the plate).
- d) The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground.
- e) A pitched ball that makes contact with any portion of the plate and/or umpire mat shall be called a strike.

IV. Equipment

- a) All exposed jewelry which is deemed by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed.
- b) Metal cleats are not allowed. Any player found with metal cleats will be removed from the game until they cleats can be replaced.
- c) Any team using illegal equipment i.e. bat, etc will forfeit the game. The umpire will notify the office and if the offense is repeated the team will be removed from further play for the remainder of the season.

V. Suspension/Ejection/Alcohol Policy

- a) The Recreation Department has a written policy regarding penalties for ejection from a game, and other violations of recreation nature of the program. This handout should be provided to you prior to commencement of the season.
- b) Any player or coach who consumes alcohol in the vicinity of a league game (player's bench, playing field) will be ejected from the game. If the players refuse to leave the grounds, the umpire may forfeit the game to the other team. If a spectator becomes unruly the police will be called.
- c) The penalty for player ejections can be found on the Suspension Policy handed out prior to the season.

VI. Forfeit Policy

- a) As indicated in rule (II.a) a team must have a minimum of 9 players at the scheduled playing time. There will be a forfeit fee of \$35.00. Teams that notify the recreation office of their intent to forfeit more than 24 hours before a game will not be subject to the forfeit fee. Teams forfeiting two games in a season will be eliminated from further play and not be eligible to register their team the following season. Failure to pay the forfeit fee will also result in dismissal from the league for the following softball season.

VII. Protest Policy

- a) Protest must be made in writing to the Recreation Department by 4pm of the next business day. A \$20 protest fee must accompany the protest. The fee is returned if the protest is upheld. The protest must follow the ASA policy as dictated in the rule book. We also request that the umpire sign the book at the each team is notified the game is being played under protest. Ineligible player protest must follow the policy listed above and be filed before the last pitch.

VIII. Umpires

- a) Questions about rules, complaints about an umpire or reporting of umpire no-shows should be reported to Umpire-in-Chief Paul Kirchmeyer at 818-1998. Umpire no shows should also be reported to the Recreation Office.
- b) Each team is responsible for paying \$17 game fee directly to the umpire prior to the start of any game.

IX. Cancellation & Rescheduling Policy

- a) On questionable weather days, teams must contact the Sports Hotline 695-8520 x1. Updates will also be posted on our website: <http://www.playntrec.com/softball> as well as on our Facebook (@NTparksrec) and Twitter (@NTrecreation) pages.
- b) Teams will be notified within 3 days regarding rescheduling via email. The website will also be updated with make-up dates.
- c) Designated reschedule days are Wednesday and Friday nights. Teams must play on the assigned reschedule date or forfeit the game.

COVID-19 Specific Rules & Regulations

- Bleachers have been removed from all fields. Players and spectators should bring their own chairs and seat themselves 6 feet apart.
- Anyone not in the field of play that cannot maintain 6 feet of distance should be wearing a mask.
- New York State guidance requires employees (in this case umpires) to wear a face covering.
- Each team will be provided with a bottle of spray hand sanitizer. Individuals should sanitize their hands if sharing equipment (bats, etc).
- Avoid spitting, eating/spitting of sunflower seeds, etc. Violators will be warned by an umpire, and can be removed from the game if persistently violating.
- Each team will maintain their own game ball. Only the defensive team may touch the ball. For instance—for a foul ball, or ball out of play, only the defensive team should go and retrieve the ball. At the end of each defensive inning the team should take the ball off the field with them. Ball should be checked by the umpire to ensure it's an approved game ball.
- Due to the condensed late season schedule, game times may need to be adjusted in season if the day length does not allow for 7:15pm games to complete prior to darkness setting in. If this is the case, the game speed up rule may be applied. (see l.g)
- Following a 6:00pm game, teams must vacate the playing area (we ask they not congregate near the players bench) to avoid congestion and crowding of players/spectators for the 7:15pm game.