



North Tonawanda Youth, Parks & Recreation

Adult Softball 2025 Rules & Regulation

Email: NTRecsoftball@gmail.com

Website: www.playntrec.com/softball

I. Ground Rules

1. Galassi Field

- a. Any ball that rolls on the ground into the wooded area will be a double
- b. Any ball batted by a female and reaching the wooded area in the air will be a homerun. Any ball batted by a male and reaching the wooded area in the air will be a double.
- 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. The hill is in play, both for balls in the air and on the ground.

II. 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 7:10pm
- 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 (1, a-l)
- g. Winning team is responsible to report the game score via email to NTRecsoftball@gmail.com by noon the next day or on the website www.playntrec.com/softball all unreported scores will result in a loss for both teams.
- h. No base stealing is allowed (player can leave the base on contact only)
- i. A pitched ball that makes contact with the plate or mat shall be called a strike

III. Rosters/Substitutions

- a. Teams must have 9 players available to play at the start of the game with no penalty being enforced. Co-Ed will require 9 total players, 4 of which are female, to start the game.
- b. Additional players showing up late must be placed in the last spot in the batting order (Co-Ed must adhere to male/female ratio).
- 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 (11.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 (11.c) will be enforced. Co-Ed teams may not exceed 12 players in the batting lineup and must bat a 5th female in order to bat a 7th male.
- f. An extra player arriving late to a game can be immediately inserted into the vacant batting position (Co-Ed must adhere to ratios)
- 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 (11.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 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. A team is permitted one designated hitter to bat in place of one of the ten defensive players. This allows a defensive player to play in the game but not have to bat. If a DH assumes a role on defense, such a move will terminate the DH position for the remainder of the game.
- k. Teams are allotted 3 courtesy runners per game. In addition, a team may designate 1 player to receive a free courtesy runner anytime they reach base that will not count against the 3 per game total (Co-Ed this will be 1 player only, not one per gender). This player must be designated at ground rules. All courtesy runners must be the last out (gender specific in co-ed, 3 total runners, not 3 per gender).
- l. In a Co-Ed game, the pitcher and catcher must be made up of 1 male and 1 female. There is to be a minimum of 1 female in the infield (not counting pitcher or catcher) and 1 female in the outfield at all times.
- m. A Co-Ed batting order shall consist of back to back male batters no more than twice (this includes the bottom to the top).
- n. A player must be 16 years old as of January 1, 2025 to participate in any game.

IV. Cancellation & Rescheduling Policy

- a. On questionable weather days, updates will also be posted on our website: www.playntrec.com/softball, as well as 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. Make ups will be attempted to be played as doubleheaders when possible. Other designated reschedule days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Teams must play on assigned reschedule date or forfeit the game.
- d. Once the schedule is released, it is official. Teams that have any conflicts with specific dates or times should put those conflicts on their original team roster application. We will do our best to accommodate.

V. 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. USA/ASA rules apply to all games. Link to rulebook is available online.
- c. No stealing of bases is allowed. (A player may leave on contact—when the bat contacts the ball).
- 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.

VI. 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 their 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.
- d. A legal bat must have a USA/ASA certification stamp AND not appear on the "USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks" (link provide on website).

VII. 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) is subject to ejection from the game. If the player refuses 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 posted on the league website.

VIII. 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 \$40.00. 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 may 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.

IX. 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 USA/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.

X. Umpires Contact

Umpire in Chief: Paul Kirchmeyer 716-818-1998 pakirch3115@yahoo.com

Assistant: Mike Thursam 716-861-1892 mthursam@roadrunner.com