

Northampton Parks & Recreation

Men's Softball League

2019 Rules and Regulations

- 1) The league shall be known as the Northampton Men's Slow-Pitch Softball League.
- 2) The league shall be under the jurisdiction of the Northampton Parks & Recreation Commission and shall be under the direction of the Director of Parks & Recreation and/or his designate.
- 3) Players will compete at their own risk. The Parks & Recreation Commission will not be responsible for injuries.
- 4) All bats must be on the approved bat list. If a bat is not on the list and you think it meets the criteria you can ask that it be added to the list.
- 5) The **Home Run Rule** is set for **5(five) per game**. Any home run hit after this will result in an out. The rule is in effect and includes extra innings. Players are responsible for getting their team's home run balls and bringing them back to the umpire. This is a temporary rule and it will be re-evaluated halfway through the season.
- 6) A player must be at least 16 years old to play.

Lightning Policy: Adopted May 7, 2012: Northampton Parks & Recreation Commission Lightning Policy

Thunder or lightning necessitates that all outdoor practices and competitions be suspended. Before a practice/game begins, take a look around and have a plan for shelter prior to the start of any contest.

When thunder is heard or when lightning is seen, the following procedures must be executed:

- Suspend play and direct participants to the previously identified shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).
- Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, light towers, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.
- After thunder and/or lightning have left the area, wait 30 minutes after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition.

7) *Adopted as of April 1, 1997: (revised August, 2002)*

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PLEASE NOTE: ALL PLAYERS MUST PAY A \$15.00 NON- REFUNDABLE PLAYER FEE IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FEES

- a) **Residents** - Anybody whose primary residence is in or owns property in Northampton is considered a Northampton resident. Players who are trying to meet this requirement **must** have their residence or property listed on the roster so it can be confirmed. Teams that misrepresent addresses to meet the residency requirement may be dropped from the league.
- b) **Non-Residents - \$10 each** Any player that does not live or own property in Northampton will need to pay an additional \$10

Teams must submit requests regarding eligibility, which will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Staff.

- a. Out of County residents must be listed on the originally submitted roster.
- b. The Recreation Department may decide the player is “too talented” for the level of competition in the division and reserves the right to remove the player from the roster. In this case, any non-resident fees involved will be refunded.
- c) **Proof of residency or place of employment for all new players must be submitted with your roster.** Copies with all copied on the least amount of pages possible, are required. All must be submitted together. Proof may consist of a copy of a pay stub, license, or a recent bill, for example. Information must be current. Official Personnel Director letters only are accepted as a proof letter from a business. Phone book listings must list the full name. City Census will also be checked to verify addresses.
- d) **Maximum of \$100 per team in Non-Resident fees.** (\$15.00 player fee is not included in Non-Resident fees).

Proof of eligibility must be provided for all players. Use of an ineligible player will result in that team's forfeit of all games played with the player in question. Any further penalties will be at the discretion of Northampton Parks & Recreation and could result in the team's suspension from further play. No money will be refunded.

- 8) Each team must have a coach or manager who may also be listed as a player. This person will be responsible for submitting team rosters, and the contact person for the team.
- 9) Each Roster must be submitted with a complete list of all registered players who have signed that they agree and will abide by the guidelines on the player conduct and safety form. Players who are on the roster and have not signed this form will not be allowed to play in the league until they do so. Entire teams will not be able to play until all players have signed this form. Any additions must be done at the Parks & Recreation Department and not at the field.
- 10) In the event that there is not an “A” division, there will be a maximum of three “A” division ability players on the field at a time. The Northampton Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to decide if a player is “too talented” for the level of competition in the division, and the right to remove the player from the roster.
- 11) Each team must have at least 12 players on the roster.
- 12) Copies of official team rosters will be emailed to team managers when games begin and after the completion of the add/drop period. These rosters are also available in the men’s softball binder that is located in the equipment box at Maines Field.
- 13) Players may not be listed on more than one roster, or play in more than 1 division. Players found listed on more than one roster must play on the team they first played for, and/or signed player conduct form with first. Players who are found playing on more than one team will be ejected from the league with no player fee refund, and all games played with that player will be forfeited by team utilizing that player.
- 14) **Roster changes: Roster changes may be made until Monday, June 3rd at 3:00 p.m.** After this date rosters will be frozen for the remainder of the season.
 - a) To add a player to a roster, the manager must present in writing, a \$10 players fee (if over 15), the name, address, and/or place of employment of the new player, as well as proof, to the Parks & Recreation Department at least 24 hours prior to the team's next game. Each new player must also sign that they have read and understand the player conduct policy before participating in any game. Added players must pay the \$15.00 player fee in order to play. **Player fees are non-transferable and non-refundable after season starts.**

- b) All roster changes must be made through the league director at the Recreation Office. **Roster changes will not be accepted at the field.**
 - c) If an added player is "too talented" for the level of competition, the Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to remove him/her from the roster. Any fees involved will be refunded.
- 15) All games shall be played under the rules of the Hampshire Independent Umpires Association (IUA), with exceptions as stipulated in these rules and regulations.
- a) A team must have nine (9) players to start a game. A player who arrives late must enter the game immediately and be placed tenth (10th) in the batting order.
 - b) If an injury occurs to a player during the game, the game may continue with 9 /10 players. The lineup will remain unchanged except for the omission of the injured player from the batting order.
 - c) After 4 1/2 or 5 innings, a team with a 12 run lead will be declared the winner with no further action to be taken.
 - d) Metal spikes are not permitted. Any player found wearing metal spikes will be immediately ejected from the game.
 - e) The additional hitter (AH) can be used at the discretion of the coaches as the 11th batter placed anywhere in the lineup. The "AH" must be decided before the first pitch. The batting order must remain constant; however any 10 of the 11 players can take a defensive position throughout the game.
 - f) All Divisions: We will play under the IUA rule of two strikes for an out and three balls for a walk.
 - g) There can be one courtesy runner per inning for injured players only. If the hitter takes an extra base (ie. goes past first base) then a courtesy runner is not allowed to substitute for the hitter. If a hitter takes a substitute runner at second base due to injury, the hitter is ineligible for re-entry into the game. The courtesy runner must be the last player to make an out. If a runner gets hurt after the courtesy runner has already been used, another courtesy runner may be used but a ghost out will be imposed (again the runner would be the last out). Teams are always allowed to use a substitute.
 - h) If the length of a game reaches an hour and a half, the teams will finish the inning they are playing and the game will be considered complete.
- 16) "Open Wound" rule: No player will be allowed to continue playing with an open wound until the bleeding has been stopped, cleaned and covered. To avoid problems, all teams should carry a first aid kit as part of your equipment. An umpire will give reasonable time to stop the bleeding and cover the wound before a substitute is required.
- 17) Re-entry - Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. The pitcher is governed by the provision in the USSSA official rulebook. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.
- 18) All players, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Any player, coach, or fan whom harasses or abuses a game official or another player is subject to the penalties outlined in the Parks & Recreation Department's policy statement regarding verbal and physical abuse.
- 19) Managers are expected to keep team players in control at all times. It is the manager's responsibility to encourage team members to take responsibility for actions, and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. In an effort to promote team sportsmanship and reduce unsportsmanlike behavior, if a player is ejected from a game, the team manager is automatically ejected as well. Both are subject to the fines and penalties outlined below.
- 20) In line with other league policies, a \$10.00 (\$15 for non-residents) fine is assessed to any player that is ejected from a game. The fine must be paid in cash at the Recreation Office before the player is eligible to play again. There is also a one game suspension as outlined in the player conduct regulations. The fine increases by \$10 each incident.
- 21) ****From Policy Statement-Player Conduct form: In all cases where a player is ejected or suspended he/she**

will be immediately banished from the vicinity of the playing area for the duration of the resulting suspension. For failure to comply, the official will forfeit the game.

- 22) The first game on weekdays will begin at 6:00 p.m. Forfeit time is 6:10 p.m. A team must have 9 players to begin play. The second and third games will begin at 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively. **Game time is forfeit time for the second and third games.**
- 23) No inning may begin after 10:00 p.m. There are no suspended games. The game will be called at the conclusion of the last complete inning.
- 24) The home team will keep the official scorebook. A scorekeeper must be provided by the home team.
- 25) The winning team manager is responsible for calling or emailing the Parks & Rec. Dept. with the score the following day.
- 26) There will be no infield practice before games.
- 27) Forfeits:
 - a) A 10 minute "grace period" is allowed for the first game only on weekdays and Sundays. Thereafter, game time is forfeit time. Any team unable to field 9 players will forfeit that game.
 - b) Teams that forfeit three (3) games during the course of the season will be dropped from the league and no money will be refunded.
 - c) A forfeit caused by an injury to a player (or players) during a game will be recorded only as a loss and will not apply to the two game forfeit rule.
 - d) If a team knows in advance that a game has to be forfeited, and the Parks & Recreation Department is notified at least 24 hours in advance (By Friday for a Sunday or Monday game), the game will be recorded as a loss, rather than a forfeit.
- 28) The Parks & Recreation Division of the DPW and/or the Parks & Recreation Department will determine if fields are in condition to play. In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel games will not be made before 3:30 p.m. on weekdays and 8:00 a.m. on Sundays. You may call the Recreation Departments **cancellation hotline at 587-1044 or check the website, www.northamptonma.gov/recreation.**
- 29) In the event that games are canceled because of poor conditions, no team will be allowed on the field. Any team found in violation of this rule will be suspended from further play and no money will be refunded.
- 30) Once games are underway, the game umpire will make all decisions concerning the condition of the playing surface.
- 31) Games that are postponed because of inclement weather will be played in an available time slot, usually Sundays, or at the conclusion of the season. Most rained out games will be rescheduled within a week of the originally scheduled game.
- 32) One umpire will be scheduled for all regular season games, two in the final game(s) of the playoffs.
- 33) Umpires have consent prior to the start of the game to check any bat that a team will use during the game. All game bats must be checked before used.
- 34) The league will supply a new game ball for each game (52 Core/300 Compression). The home team will supply the

good second ball. The home team will take both balls at the conclusion of the game (the official balls of play must be Worth 52 Core/300 Compression.)

- 35) Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any of the playing areas. Games may be forfeited if alcohol is found in the playing area.
- 36) All teams are responsible for their members conduct arriving at, during, and leaving the game. Any team members found driving in an unsafe manner at any of the playing fields will be suspended from the league. Maines Field closes at 10 p.m. Team members and spectators must vacate by then, or immediately following the conclusion of the game.
- 37) All protests dealing with a playing rule of the IUA must be made before the next pitch to the plate umpire and must be followed by a written protest within 48 hours to the Parks & Recreation Office.
- 38) If there is no umpire at the field, the game will be rescheduled unless BOTH team managers agree that the game was official. The Parks & Rec. Dept. must hear from both managers that they want to count the game.
- 39) Protests dealing with special league rules must be filed in writing by the team manager within 48 hours to the Parks & Recreation Office. Protests of eligibility of players may be filed at the Parks & Recreation Department within 48 hours.
- 40) Any action involving the league that is not covered by these rules and regulations shall be handled by the Director of Parks & Recreation, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, League Coordinator, and/or the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- 41) At all league meetings, all teams will be represented by the team manager or one person acting in his place. All others will be asked to leave unless specifically invited to a particular meeting.
- 42) Due to abuses of game officials, any player observed or suspected of leaving the playing area to consume alcoholic beverages will be warned and/or ejected from the game. Any player who refuses to leave the field or continues to abuse a game official will cause the forfeiture of the game for his or her team.
- 43) **All players must have played in at least 4 regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.**
- 44) Higher seeded team at end of regular season is home team throughout playoff games.
- 45) Teams must supply their own equipment, i.e. bats, gloves, etc. Softballs are provided.
- 46) Teams are not allowed to schedule practices on Maines Field. REF is available during the season to schedule practice on, contact the Parks & Recreation Department. Do not practice on youth fields or baseball fields in the City. Any team found in violation may be dropped from the league with no money refunded.

Safety Regulations

In playing organized sports, the participant must be aware of any and all risks to personal injury. The game of softball carries with it some obstacles that can cause serious injury. Other players, equipment, fences, boundaries, benches, etc. all pose potential areas of injury.

Remember, this is a recreational sport. Keep your body under control to avoid collisions. Be aware of all ground rules. Keep all equipment away from playing areas and be considerate of the safety needs of you and your co-players.

The Parks & Recreation Department strongly recommends the use of facemasks for catchers. Team managers should ask all potential catchers if they would like to wear a mask. If the answer is yes, go out and buy one. Failure to wear one could cause serious injury or death.

Please be aware the DPW- Parks & Recreation Division maintains all City fields. Please report all maintenance problems or any unsafe field conditions to us at 587-1040 and we will report the problem to the Parks & Recreation Division of the DPW.