

LAKE FOREST RECREATION DEPARTMENT
12" ADULT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT HOUSE RULES AND REGULATIONS

All tournament play will be played under the rules and regulations of the National Softball Association (NSA) Handbook, which can be viewed on www.playnsa.com, with the exception of the following local rules:

I. ROSTERS

- A. Rosters must have at least 10 players and is limited to 20 players at any time during the softball tournament.
- B. All players listed on a teams roster must be 18 years of age or older and must sign the roster/waiver.
- C. Any player may only be listed on **ONE** team roster.

II. PLAYING REGULATIONS

- A. The Official Scorebook will be handed back and forth with the batting team keeping score. The umpire will also be keeping score.
- B. Each team must field a minimum of 8 players to begin and end a game. Teams can field up to ten players. If a team wants to enter a player who arrives after the start of the game, three requirements must be made:
 - The player must immediately report to the umpire and...
 - The player must enter the game at the beginning of the TOP of the inning and...
 - The player must be inserted at the end of the batting order.

- C. Metal cleats are not allowed. If a player is caught with metal cleats, they will be asked to remove them by the umpire. The player must wear rubber cleated shoes or sneakers. Players will not be allowed to play without shoes.
- D. The pitcher's rubber will be 50ft. All pitches must not exceed 10' and must not be below 6' or they will be called illegal at the umpires discretion.

E. BATS

Baseball bats are **not allowed**, all bats must state "official softball bat", be NSA stamped/certified and must not exceed 1.20 BPF. Any player in violation of using an illegal bat will be disqualified from the game where they have been accused as well as disqualified from the remainder of tournament play. That player's spot will be an out for the remainder of the game.

F. BATTER'S BOX

There are no batter's boxes in Lake Forest Recreation Department's Adult SoftballTournaments but, the batter will not be able to start further back than having their front foot even with the back corner of the strike mat. The batter, may move prior and during the pitch however, once the batter is in the confines of a "batter's box" (to the umpire's discretion), the pitch may be delivered and it will be considered a legal pitch. If at any time the umpire considers a player to be abusing this they may be called out.

G. SPEED UP RULE

The speed up rule will be used for all games, except the championship games and can be described as follows: At the top of the inning, the count will switch from a 1 ball, 1 strike count to a 2 ball, 2 strike count. This means that the next ball swung at must be fair. This rule will enable us to keep all games on schedule and **will be effective 55** minutes after the start of the game.

H. CONTACT RULE

It is the baserunner's responsibility to avoid a collision at all bases including home plate. The baserunner will be automatically out if, by the judgment of the umpire, he fails to slide in order to avoid a collision, when the fielder has control of the ball. The ball is dead, and any other baserunners may not advance.

I. SLAUGHTER RULE

League & Tournament play at the Lake Forest Recreation Department will use a tier format for the slaughter rule. 20 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if home team is ahead), 15 runs after 5 innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead) and 10 runs after 6 innings (5 ½ if home team is ahead).

J. COURTESY RUNNER

A team may only designate **two** players by which that team will be allowed a courtesy runner and must be stated in the pre-game meeting with the opposing team captain and the umpire. The courtesy runner will be the batter that made the last out in the line-up. If any other player, other than the two designated players, needs a substitute runner, they must only do so by going through the proper substitution procedures.

K. SUBSTITUTION RULE

In order to allow maximum participation for all rostered players an **UNLIMITED SUBSTITUTION** rule will be in effect. The manager must list all players in the scorebook that are going to hit (this can be any number). A manager may then freely substitute any of those players listed in the scorebook as long as the **BATTING ORDER STAYS THE SAME**.

IV. RAIN/WEATHER

If in the event of unplayable weather, lightning, etc., the Recreation's Thor-Guard system will sound a single a horn, which means all players/spectator/umpires must clear the baseball/softball fields. If this happens, we will wait inside the Recreation Department until 3 horns sound, signaling the "all-clear" notification, meaning play may resume on the Deerpath Ball Diamonds. All player are expected to wait until games have been called if necessary.

V. FORFEITS

Once a forfeit is called by the umpire, it cannot be reversed. If a team forfeits a game, that team will forfeit the remaining games of the tournament and no refunds will be given.

VI. FINAL DECISIONS

The Program Supervisor has the right to make all FINAL decisions regarding rules, interpretations, enforcement, and any other subject as it pertains to the Adult Softball Program(s). All players are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the Lake Forest Recreation Department. This Code of Conduct specifically details the expected behaviors of players and spectators as well as the consequences if the expected behaviors are broken.