



2010 ADULT SOFTBALL LOCAL PLAYING RULES

MEN ~ WOMEN ~ CO-ED

There are some changes in the A.S.A. Softball playing rules as well as our own local rules.

Please read the changes in the A.S.A. RuleBook and our local playing rules. If you need clarification of any rule (A.S.A. or Local) call (612) 230-6487.

Teams will be scheduled for 12 games with no make up games. Teams that do not play at least 10 games will be refunded one half of the game official's fee of \$23.00 for each of the games under 10 that were not played.

All slow-pitch games played evenings, Monday through Friday will be scheduled for 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. with no new inning starting 55 minutes after start of game. Tied games remain tied.

Starting time after the first game is approximate.

June 1st through July 31st

Because of increased daylight, weekday games will be scheduled at 6:15, 7:15, 8:15 and 9:15 p.m.

Sunday evening doubleheader games will be scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m., with no inning starting 55 minutes after start of game.

LOCAL PLAYING RULES

Minneapolis operates under closed competition (allows exception from Amateur Softball Association (A.S.A.) Guide Book to fulfill our recreational needs). A. S. A. Rules will govern all play locally with the following exceptions.

All Slow Pitch games will be played with 3 ball (batter takes first base) 2 strike (batter must hit fair on second strike.)

All modified pitch games will be played with 3 balls (batter takes first) 2 strike (unlimited foul balls).

Teams may begin, play and finish with 9 players. Co-Ed must have either combination of 5 and 4. Teams batting order shall start with whichever gender has 5. An out will be taken in the 10th spot.

A team cannot play with less than 9 players. If for any reason a team has been reduced to 8 players, a forfeit will be declared.

If a player is ejected a team must have a substitute or the game will be declared a forfeit. In the event of an injury to a player a substitute is not necessary.

If an injury occurs to a base runner a courtesy runner maybe used. The courtesy runner must be the last person to make an out.

Casual Profanity: The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT against the offending team for the use of casual profanity which shall be defined as expletives (vulgar or profane language) not directed at umpire or opposing players, uttered by a player, manager/coach, or individual within the dugout, involved with the play of the team, frustrated with themselves, a teammate or fan. All outs will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. The casual profanity penalty out will be assessed as a team out and will not affect any batter or base runner.

Only ONE “Casual Profanity” out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two per term at bat.

Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will be considered beyond casual and will subject the individuals responsible to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct.

OTHER LOCAL RULES

1. A run ahead rule will be used as follows:
 - a. Twenty runs after four innings or ten runs after five innings in all Slow Pitch games.
 - b. Eight runs in Modified after five innings

2. Shoes with metal cleats ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SLOW PITCH

3. Home team is the team listed last on the schedule.

4. THE CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER may be used by all slow-pitch leagues.

The Continuous Batting Order is optional - either team may exercise their option to use or not to use the Continuous Batting Order. But when used:

- a. Teams MUST inform umpire PRIOR to start of game, that the Continuous Batting Order will be used and may not change their option once the game starts.
 - b. Teams may add additional batters to the batting order once the game has started.
 - c. Teams may not drop a player from the original batting order line up after the game starts, unless under the substitution rule.
 - d. Teams may list up to 20 players in the Continuous Batting Order.
 - e. When using the continuous batting order in Co-Ed, teams must have an even number of batters and an equal number of males and females
 - f. Any 10 players in the Continuous Batting Order may play defense at any time. Change between “continuous hitters” and defensive position is not considered to be a substitution. Players must remain in the same position in the batting order throughout the game unless substituted.
 - g. The RE-ENTRY rule applies to all players listed in the Continuous Batting Order.
 - h. The player’s eligibility rule applies to all players listed in the Continuous Batting Order.
 - i. When void in the batting order is created due to a player being removed from the game other than injury, the manager must insert another player (under the substitution rule) in their place. If no player is available, forfeit will be declared.
5. Courtesy Runners: Prior to the start of the game, teams may designate to the umpire a maximum of three (3) players who will utilize a courtesy runner for the entire game. The courtesy runner will always be the player who made the last out in that inning.
6. The home run rule will not be used in regular season play.
A.S.A. PLAYING RULES (with the above exceptions) will govern regular season play in Minneapolis.

POST SEASON METRO TOURNAMENTS

Teams desiring to participate in post-season competition leading to a regional, area or national tournament can do so by entering the Minneapolis Metro Softball Tournament.

All teams desiring to enter the Metro Tournament must register on or before JULY 9TH (with entry fee of \$100) to be eligible. Team must have a roster on file and participate with same roster as regular season.

Metro Tournament registration forms are available at the Recreation Office, and will be mailed with team's season schedule.

League Champions DO NOT EARN a spot in the Metro Tournament. All teams pay the \$100.00 entry fee.

All teams that are properly registered and meet the eligibility requirements will be eligible for the Metro Tournaments.

Metro Tournaments will be held for all Divisions and Classifications

Any team desiring to play in a classification above them may do so, provided they meet the eligibility requirements. Example - E teams may play in Class D, D teams may play in C, but they can play in ONLY ONE classification. Teams must indicate this on the tournament registration form.

League Director has the authority to re-classify teams for Metro Tournament.

Metro Tournament will be double elimination with winners and/or runner up advancing to designated Regional, Area, or National Tournament, or State.

Due to no Regional, Area or National Tournament for teams playing in Minneapolis Leagues classified Men's and Women's E, *Industrial D, Co - Ed C, D, E, will play for the Metro Championship in their respective classification.

*Industrial C championship team qualifies for Industrial A National Tournament. *Co-Ed C championship team qualifies for the Co-Ed B National Tournament.

Berths to state tournaments may be available, check with league director for more details.

Reminder:

League Champions must also register and pay entry fee of \$100.00 to be eligible.

Teams playing in Doubleheader Leagues must submit tournament registration form to be entered.

METRO TOURNAMENT DATES

Co Ed

July 29, 30, 31, Aug 1

Men's & Women's Open C & D

August 5, 6, 7, 8,

All other Metro Tournament games will be played during the week beginning the week of July 26th.

If entering the Metro Tournament, teams must register for the same classification or higher as the leagues highest classification. Note: League Director may re-classify teams for Metro Tournament.

Players may play on only 1 team within a Division; however he/she may play in more than 1 Division.

Example: A player may play in the Co-Ed as well as the Men or Women's division.

A player playing in the Men's or Women's "C" division may not play on a "D" or "B" team within the same division.

Refer to A.S.A. Guide Book for complete listing of all National Tournaments dates and location.

Men and Women's B, C and D Slow Pitch teams have a revised National Tournament format.

DUTIES OF TEAM MANAGERS

Managers are liaisons between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and their teams. Managers are requested to fill out team registration cards completely. If the manager cannot be reached by phone during working hours, he should include name and phone number of someone who is available, so pertinent information can be given. The office MUST be informed of any change of manager during the season. Managers are responsible for sending in the entry fee, the team coaching, equipment and conduct of players, and distribution of schedules to their players, proper registration and **ELIGIBILITY OF THEIR PLAYERS**, initiating and writing protest, reading rules and regulations governing our athletic leagues.

A NON-REGISTERED OR INELIGIBLE PLAYER PARTICIPATING IN A GAME IS AN AUTOMATIC FORFEITURE PROVIDED PROTEST IS FILED WITH PARK AND RECREATION BOARD OFFICE AND PROOF GIVEN WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS. PROTESTS MUST BE FILED BY NOON OF FOLLOWING DAY DURING METRO TOURNAMENT.

Challenging Eligibility of Players

In case of doubt as to the using of ineligible players, managers may at any time during the game request that a player of the opposing team sign their name and other information requested for comparison with roster on file in the Park and Recreation Office. Make the above request in the presence of the umpire and witnessed by umpire's signature. Should a player refuse to cooperate by signing their name, it will be assumed that the player in question is ineligible and the game will be forfeited. Players are asked to have driver's license and/or other I.D. card for verification when protest is requested. Our files are also open for inspection.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF ELIGIBILITY RULES

THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATING THE ELIGIBILITY RULES IS THE SUSPENSION OF THE PLAYER FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON AND ALSO THE SUSPENSION OF THE MANAGER IF THEY WERE AWARE OF THE VIOLATION, AND THE LOSS OF ALL GAMES THE TEAM WITH WHICH THEY PARTICIPATED WHILE INELIGIBLE PROVIDED WRITTEN PROTEST HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SOFTBALL WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS OF THE DAY OF THE GAME WHEN VIOLATION WAS COMMITTED, AND MUST BE FILED BY NOON OF THE FOLLOWING DAY DURING METRO TOURNAMENT. Losses of games previous to the protested game does not alter the standings of the other teams.

Pick Up Players: Refer to the A.S.A. Guide regarding rosters and pick up players for Slow Pitch, Fast Pitch and Modified.

PROTEST ON PLAYING RULES

On playing rules, it is mandatory that teams lodge their protests immediately with the umpires and the other manager so everyone knows that the game is being played under protest from that point of the game. This will enable all interested parties to take notice of the conditions surrounding the making of the decision, and will aid in the proper determination of the issue. It will give the officials an opportunity to correct their mistakes if any have been made. Proof of protest must be furnished by protesting team.

Consult rulebook, and follow instructions accordingly regarding protest. Protests involving interpretation of rules shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee. If the protest is granted, fee will be returned, if not it will be forfeited and turned into tournament fund. Player registration violations will be enforced on protests or eligibility.

Protest on violations of eligibility, rules or regulations ARE INITIATED BY THE MANAGERS OF TEAMS.

A protest must be filed in writing, in the Park and Recreation Board Office, within forty-eight (48) hours of the day of the game.

MANGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TEAM'S CONDUCT ON THE FIELD OF PLAY. THE PARK POLICE WILL MONITOR FIELDS DURING GAMES AND WILL ISSUE TICKETS, NO DRINKING OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES OR BEER PERMITTED AT BALL GAMES/FIELDS. Umpires are instructed not to umpire where these conditions exist. Drinking of intoxicating beverages or beer during a game by a participating player shall result in the immediate removal of that player from the game and/or team manager. It is requested that teams playing the LATE games at the lighted facilities leave the area in a reasonable time upon completion of their game.

Consumption of beverages and other post game activities must be moved to other facilities more adequately equipped to handle such large gatherings. The Park Police will monitor the parking areas and will take corrective action of violations to assist in relieving the congestion. Your cooperation is essential.

PARKING

We are reminding managers to inform their team members, as well as fans, that all parking rules and regulations will be enforced.

There are specific areas that we request your cooperation:

NOKOMIS - The parking lot on the east side of the fields next to the beach area is a pay lot.

NSP - Do not use the Despatch Company's parking lot across the street from the fields. That is private property. There is ample parking space in the lot on the west side adjacent to the field for your use. Do not use the boulevard.

TOILET FACILITIES - Toilet facilities are provided for teams and spectators use. Using public or private property is inappropriate and poor public relations for the softball program and your sponsors.

EQUIPMENT

OFFICIAL SOFTBALLS will be used in all league competition. Official softballs are those which come under the specifications of the A.S.A. Guide and RuleBook.

Men & Women Slow-Pitch home team supplies one (1) new ball, and one (1) good back up ball.

Men's Slow Pitch - Red Stitch 12 inch ball ASA .440 core 375 compression - A.S.A. Logo, White or Optic Yellow

Women's Slow Pitch - The Red Stitch 11 inch ball ASA .440 core 375 compression - A.S.A. Logo, White or Optic Yellow

Co - Ed Leagues

Women will hit the 11-inch ball, men will hit the 12-inch ball
Home team will supply one new 11" ball and one new 12" ball

Home team responsible for all backup balls

OFFICIAL BATS will be used in all league and tournament competition. Official softball bats are those which come under the specifications of the A.S.A., see Rule 3 - Equipment, Section 1. The official bat, A through J. Please check www.ASAsoftball.com click on certified equipment for a current list of approved and banned bats.

The on deck batter may loosen up only with official softball bats or an approved warm-up bat. (See rule 3, Equipment section 2, warm up bat
Nothing may be attached to a bat such as a donut, bat ring, fan, etc., when loosening up.

PLAYERS UNIFORMS

Waiver A.S.A. Rule. Local requirement: All players **MUST** wear some type of footgear; they may not play bare footed. All players **MUST** wear some type of upper and lower garment. (Long or short pants).

Number on uniform will not be enforced during league play or Metro Tournament. Teams advancing to State, Regional or National Tournament play must adhere to uniform code. (A.S.A. rulebook).

BASES

Bases will be provided at all locations:

Where bases are provided - Home team of the 1st game will be responsible for setting them in place. The team that ends the last game of the evening in the field will be responsible for picking bases up and returning them to the storage facility provided. We must have everyone cooperation in this venture.

Managers are requested to exchange line-ups, first and last names of players and their position, two minutes before game time.

BASE AND PITCHING DISTANCES

BASE LINE - Pitching Distances - A.S.A. Rules will apply.

Base Distance - Pitching Distance

MEN & WOMEN	65 Feet	50 Feet
CO ED	65 Feet	50 Feet (Playing with 11" & 12" Softball)

FORFEIT AND CONFLICT

If for any reason you cannot make your scheduled game, be considerate enough to notify our office and your opponents that you are forfeiting the game. Forfeits are frowned upon by teams.

IMPROVISING FIELDS

Slow pitch can be played without backstops. If it is necessary to improvise, managers are requested to assist umpires in laying out an alternate field.

SOFTBALL INFORMATION - PHONE

Starting March 1st, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., call (612) 230-6493 for any questions regarding softball and leave a message if necessary.

Starting April 25th, and during the softball season, cancellation information can be obtained by Internet at, www.minneapolisparcs.org and click on activities/programs, adult sports softball, look for the weather update link.

RESERVATIONS FOR PRACTICE FIELDS

All ball diamond reservation permits made through either the Community Services Section or the Neighborhood Recreation Center will have to pay \$25.00 for each reservation. Reservations shall not be made more than seven (7) days (one week) in advance. Reservations shall begin on Friday for the upcoming Monday through Sunday. An additional \$25.00 will be charged for the use of lights and \$5 for bases. When not permitted, fields are used on a first come first serve basis.

Example: Friday, April 3rd - reservations are taken for Monday, April 5th through Sunday, April 11th. Reservations may be taken at any time during the week for that week if fields remain unscheduled.

Reservations shall be taken in 1 - hour time blocks. Reservations will begin April 5th, 2010 weather permitting. Reservations for the following diamonds must be made in-person through the Softball Director.

For further information call Scott – (612) 230-6487.

Bassett Creek #2,3,4	Northeast #2,3,4
Bossen #3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Jackson Square #2
Bryn Mawr #6, 7,8,9,10,11, 12	
Nokomis #3, 4, 5, 6,7,8,9	

Please Note after regular season begins (Monday, April 27 and continuing for the softball season); reservations will be taken for weekends only.

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

All Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board teams will be registered with A.S.A. & USSSA organizations. Teams are eligible to participate in sanctioned tournaments hosted by either organization. Teams participating in tournaments outside of Minneapolis can obtain necessary documentation from our office. Teams looking for tournaments can contact our office for a book listing both A.S.A. & USSSA sanctioned tournaments.

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Members of A.S.A. teams or players automatically suspend themselves from further A.S.A. competition when they participate in unsanctioned tournament. For particulars regarding sanctioned invitational tournament, refer to A.S.A. Rule Book.

TRAVEL PERMITS

Teams traveling out of State to an A.S.A. sanctioned invitational tournament are required to obtain a travel permit. Request for travel permits can be made by phone to Director of Softball but must be picked up at Recreation Office. There is no charge for Travel Permits.

A.S.A. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SITES

Refer to A.S.A. Guide and Rule Book

The A.S.A. conducts National Tournaments, contact our office (612) 230-6487 for further information.

TOURNAMENT HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS

Organizations that conducted Invitational Tournament last year in Minneapolis and desire the same dates this year should apply by April 9th. Contact the Recreation office, (612) 230-6487 for particulars.

TEAM INSURANCE

Available through the Amateur Softball Association of America, contact this office at (612) 230-6487. Refer to A.S.A. Rule Book, or contact your local insurance company.

UMPIRES

Players, managers and interested parties of softball, we are looking for umpires. It's a good time to get in on the action. The umpire pay rate is \$23.00 per game. The M.U.A. - Minneapolis Umpire Association will train. Contact our office at (612) 230-6493.

Emergency Umpires

If umpire does not show, managers should select emergency umpire immediately. Have umpire get an official score pay card (\$23.00 per game) from nearby umpire and mail to the Park and Recreation Office at:
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227

ASSAULTS AND INDIGNITIES TO PLAYERS OR OFFICIALS IS AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATING IN MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD ATHLETIC COMPETITION UNTIL REINSTATED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS MUNICIPAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

For Standings

For LEAGUE STANDINGS CALL (612) 230-6493 WEEKDAYS AFTER 1:00 p.m., PLEASE KNOW YOUR LEAGUE NUMBER WHEN CALLING FOR STANDINGS. If no answer, please leave a message with your phone number and league number and someone will return your call.

If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, affectional preference, disability, marital status, or status with regard to public assistance he or she may file a complaint alleging to discrimination with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board 612-230-6400, or 2117 West River Rd. Minneapolis, MN 55411.

Rulebooks and Scorebooks

Free rulebooks and scorebooks are available at our Recreation Office, 2117 West River Road 2nd floor (next door to Broadway Pizza) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sorry, due to cost restrictions we are unable to mail rulebooks and scorebooks.

Scott Gagnon Softball Director, (612) 230-6487