

Park District of Oak Park Spring/Summer 2016 Softball Manual

League Administrator: Chad Drufke 708-725-2109 chad.drufke@pdop.org

League Coordinator/Umpire in Chief: Bob Mullin 708-514-7257
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Player Eligibility and Rosters

*Players must be 18 years of age at some point during the course of the season.

*Roster forms, captains please type player info except for signatures which you will obtain the 1st couple of games on-site. Once completed please email roster form to chad.drufke@pdop.org.

*The captain has the ability to make changes to his/her final season roster. This roster must be e-mailed to Chad no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 20th. (Please e-mail, mailed or faxed documents have a tendency to disappear before reaching me.) No changes will be allowed to your roster after that date.

* A Tue. mens league team can roster a maximum of 3 Monday players. These players should be noted with an asterisk on the roster.

*Players on Friday can only be rostered on one team, they cannot play in both Friday leagues.

*The maximum players on a roster will be 20 players for mens, 22 for co-ed.

Roster Protests

*Roster protests may be made at any time prior to completion of the game. See protests.

The umpire reserves the right to check the rosters at any time prior to the completion of the game.

*If a player from a team is deemed an illegal player that team automatically forfeits that game.

*In the play-offs, rosters will be checked prior to the game by the umpire. All players need to bring a photo I.D. with them. The field attendant will match the I.D. with the players name on the roster. If a player comes late, he or she will have to check-in with the field attendant before entering the game.

Player substitutions

*Any starting player may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up. Substitutions may not re-enter once withdrawn. The starting player and substitute may never be in the game simultaneously.

Line-ups

*A written line-up must be recorded on the official score sheet for each game. The line-up will be the batting order and must list first initial followed by full last name.

*A team may begin a game with nine players. A team may not continue play with less than eight players in its line-up. A team may add players to get to ten, at any point in the game.

*An Extra Player, referred to an "EP" is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game, and be listed on the score sheet in the regular batting order. If the "EP" is used, he must be used the entire game.

The "EP" must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.

If an "EP" is used, all eleven must bat, any ten can play defense. Defense positions can be changed, but the batting order must remain the same.

The "EP" can only be added to the end of the lineup if the team has not batted through the order yet. Once the team has batted through the order, any new players beyond ten may only be added as substitutes.

The "EP" may be substituted for at any time, either by pinch-runner or pinch-hitter, who then becomes the "EP". The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting "EP" can re-enter.

Metal Cleats

*No metal spikes are permitted in any league. Players found wearing metal cleats must change shoes immediately or be ejected from the game.

Uniforms/Gloves/Footwear

*All teams are encouraged to wear a uniform jersey or shirts of the same color, this is not mandatory however.

*All players should have a glove and proper footwear. No one will be allowed to play barefoot, boots, sandals, or dress shoes.

Bats

*For the 2016 softball season, the Park District of Oak Park will adhere to the ASA non-approved bat list.

The bat must bear **either** the ASA approved 2000 certification mark , **the ASA 2004 certification mark** as shown below, or the **ASA 2013 Certification Mark (Slow Pitch ONLY)** as shown below and must not be listed on an ASA Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks.



*Any player caught with an illegal bat:

Team first offense-player is ejected and suspended for the following game.

Second team offense-same as above plus team will forfeit game.

Third team offense-team is suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.

*The illegal bat protest needs to be made immediately as we will not be able to determine who used the bat beforehand in the game.

*For more information regarding approved bats, log onto

http://www.asasoftball.com/about/build_batlist_one_page.asp

*The Park District of Oak Park reserves the right to ban any bat at anytime.

Courtesy Runner Rule

*Teams will be permitted to designate one player who is in need of a courtesy runner.

*If an additional player should get hurt during the course of the game, a courtesy runner will be granted at the discretion of the umpire.

Official Game Status

*Five full innings must be completed before the game will be recognized as official (4.5 innings if the home team is leading.) An official game of a 4.5/5 innings will not be completed at a later date so the score after 4.5/5 innings will stand. (This could potentially change for play-offs.)

A team that is ahead by 20 runs after 4 innings or 3.5 innings if the home team is leading, 12 runs after 5 innings or 4.5 innings if the home team is leading. A team that is ahead by 10 runs after 6 innings or 5.5 if the home team is leading.

*An unofficial game will be picked up from the exact point that the game was cancelled.

Game Length and Rescheduling

*All scheduled games will be seven innings. If the game is tied after seven innings, the game shall continue using the international tie-breaker rule. Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.

Each batter will start with a 2-2 count (two balls and two strikes) and there will be one out to start the inning.

*Note: Due to the nature of the game and that no inning will be comparable to another, umpires and Park District of Oak Park staff reserve the right to announce time or last at bats depending on a given situation during the regular season.

Rain-out Information

*All game decisions will be made by Park District staff. On questionable days, call our athletic league weather hotline @708-725-2720, option #1 after 5:00 pm for game decisions. If the weather is bad all day or if field conditions are very poor we will attempt to update the line earlier than 5:00 p.m. There will be times when the inclement weather will hit us relatively close to game time, in this case we will try to give you updated information as fast as we can. Please do not assume anything regarding weather or field conditions; please call the hotline.

Rain-out Schedules

*Rain-out dates will be tacked on the back end of your season schedule or on nights where open game slots are available. Rain-out dates will no longer be made up on Sundays. All regular season games must be finished the week of July 11th. All play-off games must be finished by the week of July 25th. Depending on where we are in relation to the league end-date we will determine if a one game championship or best of three championship will be played. Make-up information can be found on the website @ www.quickscores.com/oakpark

Forfeits

***New rule** If a team has eight players at game time they can officially start the game. The 9th spot in the batting order will be an automatic out until the 9th player arrives. If a team does not have eight players to begin at game time; the game shall be considered a forfeit. Game time is when the umpire declares "play ball."

* A team cannot continue to play with less than eight players.

*If a team goes to seven players due to an ejection, it is considered a forfeit. A team can continue to play with eight players if the ninth player has to leave the game due to injury.

*Please be proactive if you know you will not be able to field a team giving the league administrators advance notice as soon as possible so they can try and relay that information to the other team. Rescheduling of games is at the discretion of the league administrator and/or the other captain of that game, due to full leagues the probability of available field space to reschedule is minimal.

Game ball

*The game ball will be awarded to the home team after the completion of the game.

Official Scorebook

- *Both captains in a game are responsible for keeping track of the score. If there is a dispute with the score, it should be brought to the umpire's attention immediately.
- *The scorebook should be recorded in a legible manner.

Base running

- *Lead-offs are allowed in all leagues.
- *No stealing is allowed in this league.
- *Runners cannot advance on pick-off attempts. Exception: If a pitcher attempts to pick off a runner and the throw goes out of play, the runner will be awarded one base.

Safety Base

- *On the initial throw to first base from the infield or outfield the batter-runner must touch the orange portion of the base. The defensive player must always touch the white portion.
- *This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base which does not include:
 - Returning to the base after overrunning
 - Returning on a base hit to the outfield (runner may touch the orange or white part)
 - Re-tag to advance on a fly ball.
- *If the base runner uses the orange position at any time after the first attempt at first base and is not in contact with the white portion, then he is considered off the base.

Avoiding Contact/Sliding

- *Players must try to avoid contact or slide on a close play at any base.
- *Sliding is not mandatory, avoiding contact is most important.
- *At no time may a base runner flagrantly run, block, roll and/or crash into a fielder. Persons will be penalized to the maximum degree.
- *We encourage base runners to slide when it is appropriate and not to slide when it isn't!
- *Plays at the plate will not require an "automatic slide" situation. However, persons may not make any attempt to jar a fielded ball or break-up a play at any base.

Strikes and Balls

- *Each batter will start with a 1-1 count. A foul ball after the 2nd strike results in an out.
- *Limited pitching arc is 12' max and 6' min. Pitched balls judged not to meet the minimum or exceeding the maximum arc limit will be immediately declared an illegal pitch by the umpire.
- * A pitch hitting home plate, including the black border is a ball.
- *Illegal pitches will be called a ball to the batter unless the batter attempts to hit the ball.
- *Most common illegal pitch judgments;
 - Pitched ball does not meet legal arc requirements
 - Pitch delivered with excessive speed
 - Pitched ball not delivered in a legal manner
- *An illegal pitch call only protects the batter from a called strike. An illegal pitch will be called a ball UNLESS the batter attempts to hit the called illegal pitch. In this instance, the play is live and the illegal pitch waived

Ex: illegal pitch called, the batter pops up to the shortstop that makes the putout, batter is out.
*Remember, an illegal pitch call is a judgment decision by the umpire, no protests or appeals.

Pitcher

*The pitcher must start with both feet firmly on the pitching rubber. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitching rubber throughout the delivery. The pitcher must come to a complete stop facing the batter, the ball held in both hands in front of his body. This position must be maintained at least one second before starting pitching.

*The pitcher must deliver the ball with the same hand as used in the first motion to pitch.

*The pitcher may release the ball in any manner as long as the follow through motion of his/her pitching hand is below the hip and is released on the same side of the body as the pitching arm.

*The pitcher may not use more than two fakes or two pick-off attempts or any combination of either. After the second fake or pick-off attempt the pitcher must deliver the ball to the batter or the batter will be rewarded a ball.

Chopping/Bunting

*No bunting or chopping a pitched ball will be allowed. A batter called for bunting or chopping the ball will be declared out and any base runners must return back to the original base.

*A bunt is a tapped ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the ball and tapped slowly within the infield.

*A chopped ball hit occurs when the batter strikes downward with a chopping motion of the bat so that the ball bounced high into the air.

Home-run Rule

*All over the fence home runs hit in excess of limit shall be declared an out.

Mon. Mens League 3

Tue. Mens League 2

Fri. Co-ed League 2

There is no limit on inside the park home runs.

Play-off Specific rules

Roster Checks

*In the play-offs, rosters will be checked prior to the game by the staff. All players need to bring a photo I.D. with them. The staff will match the I.D. with the players name on the roster. If a player comes late, he or she will have to check-in with the staff before entering the game.

Slaughter Rule

*Regular season slaughter rules apply to all play-off games including the championship.

A team that is ahead by 20 runs after 4 innings or 3.5 innings if the home team is leading, 12 runs after 5 innings or 4.5 innings if the home team is leading. A team that is ahead by 10 runs after 6 innings or 5.5 if the home team is leading.

Co-ed league rules

- * The co-ed league will follow all of the appropriate rules above as well as the following additions.
- *The short center has to be positioned behind second base as the pitch crosses the plate. If the short center is not in this position the umpire will call an illegal pitch and the pitch will be called a ball if the batter does not swing. Positioned behind second base means the player can be positioned in the Infield dirt or Outfield grass as long as it is behind 2nd base in regards to distance.
- *The batting order should alternate between male and female. Two males can never bat back to back, while females can. You can bat as many people in the lineup as you wish, just be aware of the consequences.
- *At least two outfielders and three infielders must be female, the short center is considered an outfielder, and the catcher is considered an infielder.
- *Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (female) must bat. Exception:
- *With two outs the female has the option to walk or bat.
- *A maximum of 5 males and a minimum of 1 male on the field at all times.
- *You must have at least 5 females on the field at one time.
- *A game must start with 4 women but the 5th woman must arrive by the top of the 3rd inning. If the 5th woman does not arrive it will be called a forfeit. If the umpire feels a team is delaying the game he may call a forfeit anytime before the top of the 3rd inning.
- *If a team starts with 8 players there must be 4 women and 4 men to start the game. If this team were to add a 9th player at any point of the game the 9th player must be a female. The 10th player would be a male.

Alcoholic Beverages

- *No alcoholic beverages are allowed. If any members of a team or the team's fans are seen consuming alcohol on park property, during or after the game risk forfeiture and disciplinary action up to and including removal from the league.
- *Teams are responsible for their fans. It is up to the team to inform their fans of this policy.

Site Specific Rules

- *No outside food or beverages
- *No pets
- *No glass bottles/containers
- *No sunflower seeds
- *No gum
- *No smoking or tobacco products

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct Policy

- *No player at any time bump, shove, strike, or threaten to strike an official or individual.
Max Penalty: One year suspension
- *Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent by throwing equipment or any other forceful action.
Min Penalty: Warning by the umpire
Max Penalty: Ejected from the game and playing field area.
- *Discuss with an official, in any manner, the decision reached by such official except the captain.

Min. Penalty: Warning by the umpire
Code of Conduct cont;

Max. Penalty: Ejected from the game and playing field area.

*Be guilty of unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of a game.

Min. Penalty: Ejected from the game and field playing area.

Max. Penalty: Two game suspension

*Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player.

Min. Penalty: Ejected from the game and playing field area.

Max. Penalty: Two game suspension.

*Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any official or player on or off the field.

Min. Penalty: Ejected from the game and playing field area.

Max Penalty: Two game suspension

*Using profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner, at any time, on or off the playing field directed at a player or official.

Min. Penalty: Warning by the umpire

Max Penalty: Ejected from the game and one year probation.

*Using profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner, at any time, on or off the playing field in an undirected manner.

1st offense of game: Warning by the umpire

2nd offense of game: Ejection from the game.

A second ejection during the course of the season: The player and captain will have to show up to Sport Court with a looming suspension of up to four games.

A third ejection during the course of the season: The player and captain will have to show up to Sport Court with an automatic season suspension. The player and captain must show up to the Sport Court if the player wishes to play the following season. Season suspensions will carry over to the next season to meet the amount of required games.

Enforcement: An ejected/suspended player shall be allowed two minutes to remove himself/herself from the field area. If this limit is not met, the game shall be forfeited to the offended team.

The Park District of Oak Park reserves the right to modify any penalty as necessary.

Captains' Responsibilities

*All teams should send a captain or team representative to the captains meeting.

Note: Modifications to the league, including, but not limited to rules and awards, may take place at the captains meeting. Failure of a team representative to attend shall not exempt that team from any modifications that may be made.

*All captain's are expected to inform their players concerning all rules, and regulations, prior to the first game and as many times thereafter as necessary to make sure that no violations will occur.

*It is the captain's responsibility to make sure all league fees and rosters are submitted.

*All captains are expected to inform their players of scheduled games, schedule changes, make-ups and standings. Note: All captains should be checking their e-mail on a frequent basis for information re: softball. If no access to a computer a captain can be called with info updates.

*Captain's are responsible of contacting the Adult sports supervisor of a change in address, e-mail address or phone #.

*It is the captain's responsibility to check the score each inning to insure accuracy and to check the final score which is listed on the official score sheet.

*Team captains are responsible for the conduct of their team members and any team spectators at all times, including prior to, during, and after completion of the game.

*Only team captains are to discuss a disagreement with an umpire.

*If it is unknown that the captain will be unavailable during a certain period of time, it is the responsibility of that captain to call the Adult sports supervisor and submit another contact name, if other then the co-captain.

Protests

* Only protests based on rule interpretation or player eligibility will be considered. The umpire must be notified immediately of the team's intention to protest. Protests must be declared to the umpire prior to completion of the game. A completed protest form must be submitted to the Park District's office with a \$100.00 protest fee within 24 hours after the completion of the game.

Website

*To check out season and play-off schedules, rain-out make-up schedules, standings, league information, please log on to www.quickcores.com/oakpark

Tie Breakers

*In the event of a tie between teams, here are the tie-breakers:

Head-to-head

Head-to-head run differential

** If there are three or more teams tied, the head to head tie breakers may not apply as all teams involved may have not played each other or the same amount of times. Therefore the tiebreaker would be avg. run differential.

Average run differential

Explanation: Essentially the total number of runs scored by this team in all games, minus the total number of runs scored by the team's opponent in all games. Some league administrators are hesitant to use Run Differential as a tie breaker because it could encourage dominant teams to run up the score on weaker opponents. To counter this tendency, the administrator can specify a **Max Differential**, which is the maximum number on the run differential that can be earned in any single game. In this league the max diff. will be 12.

Total runs against

Coin flip

Winnings

Winner \$425

Runner-up \$260

*There are no trophies only cash winnings.

*A captain who has not received winnings in the past few years will have to fill out a mandatory I-9 form for the Park District of Oak Park to receive winnings.

The Park District of Oak Park reserves the right to change or adapt any rules or regulations at anytime in the best interest of the game and the Park District.