

**ARDEN PARK RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. All softball teams must complete an official roster at or before the first game.
2. Roster limits are 16 for Men's league.
3. No roster additions may be made after the middle of the season.
4. A player can play for more than one team in the same league, but when the two teams play each other, the player must choose one team. If a player is playing on more than one team, the player must sign each roster/waiver.
5. "Pick-up players" may be used in an official league game. If a team cannot field eight /nine players at game time, the game will be declared a forfeit. After a forfeit has been declared, a practice game may be played with the remaining time. Umpires and scorekeepers are not required to officiate forfeited games.
6. If a team has the required number of players to begin the game, **no one may be added to the line-up after everyone on the team has batted through the batting order.** The new player must be added to the substitute list. If a team is short players, the new player must be added to bottom of line-up and vacant spot will count as an out. No new player can be added past the third inning.
7. After 2 forfeits, the League Commissioner has the right to drop any team from the league and all fees will be forfeited.
8. All players must sign the Agreement, Waiver, and Release statement before playing. Players cannot play for a team until the waiver has been signed and turned into the District. Any team using a player who has not signed a waiver will forfeit the game.
(Please see Rule #3)
9. One umpire and one scorekeeper will be supplied per game. If scorekeeper does not show up, it is up to the home team to keep the official score of the game.
10. The District for each game will supply one NEW softball and one USED softball per game.
11. **If there is a possibility that a game will be canceled because of poor weather, the team manager will be notified by email.**
12. **FIRST PLACE**
T-shirts will be awarded to individuals on teams who finish first in their league. We will allow a maximum of 16 shirts for winning team. Players must be on the roster/waiver form to receive a shirt.
13. All rosters will be checked for validity throughout the season. Any team found guilty of falsifying information on its rosters or waivers will be disqualified from further participation. All program fees will be forfeited.
14. Injuries or accidents which occur to players, officials, spectators or park participants as a result of an official softball game are not the liability of the Arden Park Recreation and Park District.

15. Each team must furnish their own bats, catchers mask (if desired), gloves or any other USA Softball approved equipment.
16. If a game is tied at the end of time limit, one more inning will be played to break the tie. If the game is still tied, the game will end and will only be rescheduled if it has a bearing on the league standings.
17. Rainouts may be rescheduled at the discretion of the League Commissioner. Make-up games may be rescheduled on a day that is different from the normal league play.

GENERAL RULES:

1. All games shall be governed by USA Softball rules and regulations. The district reserves the right to alter any USA Softball rule(s) for the good of the Arden Park program.
2. Batters will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count. After two strikes, a batter will be allowed only 1 foul ball; next foul ball constitutes an out.
3. A mat will be placed behind home plate and will be used to determine balls and strikes.
4. A game will consist of 7 innings or 55 minutes. If a player is injured on the field, time will be suspended until the player is removed or is able to continue to play.
5. Eight players are needed to start a game (Men's Division). The game will begin at the scheduled time. If the defensive team does not have eight players on the field, it will be a forfeit. In case of injury or ejection a team may continue with fewer players; however, each ejected player will count as an out in the line-up. A minimum of eight players is required to continue a game. Dropping below eight players will result in a forfeit. When playing short of players, the vacant spot at the bottom of the line-up will be considered an automatic out. When the missing player arrives, he/she must fill the empty spot at the bottom of the line-up. **Game time is forfeit time.**
6. **No drinking alcoholic beverages is permitted during or before the game by team players.** Teams in violation of this rule will forfeit the game. **Use of glass containers will not be allowed in Arden Park.**
7. There will be no protests of an umpire's judgment call. Official protests must be filed at the district office on the first working day following the game. The umpire and scorekeeper are to be notified immediately by the manager of the intent to file protest. Do not wait until the game is over. The fee for the protest is \$50.00 and is refundable if the protest is won.
8.
 - a. No metal cleats may be worn.
 - b. No bunting or stealing.
 - c. No advancing bases after the third strike.
 - d. No leading off by base runners.
 - e. Sliding is okay in Men's play only.
 - f. A runner may request to retouch 1B (left-handed batter) or 3B (right handed batter)
 - g. **NO SLIDING INTO HOME PLATE IS ALLOWED**
10. The umpire / scorekeeper will keep official time.

11. When a defensive player has the ball and is waiting for the runner and the runner remains on his feet, with the intent to cause damage or personal injury, crashes into the defensive player, the runner will be declared out regardless if the defensive player drops the ball.
12. **Conduct** - The league will be governed by the "Player Code of Conduct" of the Arden Park Recreation and Park District. A photo ID may be used to check for legal players on team rosters.
13. The umpire before each league game will cover specific ground rules and check bats.
14. A forfeit shall be declared for non-appearance and tardiness, as well as flagrant violations of league rules and regulations.
15. If an umpire believes a team is stalling for time, he/she can call the game a forfeit and award the win to the opposing team.
16. League games cannot be postponed; therefore, there are no provisions to make up postponed games.
17. The pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter. **The pitching height for Arden Park Recreation and Park District minimum is 6' and the maximum is 10'.** To comply with USA Softball pitching rules the minimum is 6' and the maximum is 10'.
18. All players are required to wear rubber cleats or athletic shoes. **NO STEEL CLEATS ARE ALLOWED!**
19. The UMPIRE and SCORE KEEPER have authority during and after the course of a game. Any player(s) or spectators swearing, threatening, or in any way interfering with the game officials before, during or after the game constitutes grounds for suspension or dismissal from the Arden Park Recreation and Park District League.
20. If the pitcher wishes to walk a batter intentionally, he/she will notify the umpire, and the batter will advance to first base without any pitches being made.
21. Throwing the bat will not be tolerated at any time and ejection is automatic.
EXCEPTION: When bat is accidentally released on swing.
22. **Lineups must be given to the scorekeeper 5 minutes prior to scheduled game time.**
23. If an official USA Softball umpire does not show up for a game, the District will decide if the game will be played and under what condition.
24. Multiple wall bats and bats with a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of greater than 1.20 are not permitted. For USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List go to <https://www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/>

A player using an illegal or non-approved bat will be ejected from the game and the team will receive an out.
25. All teams must follow USA Softball rules for a double first base as listed in the 2024 USA Softball Rulebook

ARDEN PARK GROUND RULES

RIGHT FIELD

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| 1. Ball hits the closest trees on a fly | Home Run |
| 2. Ball rolls through the closest trees
(2 trees in from the right field foul line) | Ground rule Double |
| 3. Ball hits the line of trees on a fly | Home Run |
| 4. Ball rolls through the line of trees | Ground Rule Triple |

CENTER FIELD

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ball hits the back fence on a fly | Home Run |
| 2. Ball rolls to the back fence | Ground Rule Triple |

LEFT FIELD

- | | |
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| 1. Ball hits the trees on a fly | Home Run |
| 2. Ball hits the Tennis Court Fence on a fly | Home Run |
| 3. Ball hits the Basketball Court on a fly | Home Run |
| 4. Ball rolls through the trees | Ground Rule Triple |
| 5. Ball rolls to Tennis Court Fence | Ground Rule Triple |
| 6. Ball rolls onto the Basketball Court | Ground Rule Triple |