

CLARENDON HILLS PARK DISTRICT



MEN'S 16" SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS 2026

The Clarendon Hills Park District will use official ASA 16" softball rules. The Clarendon Hills Park District has many "Home Rules" which contain some "Exceptions" to the A.S.A. Rules. Rules may be added or deleted by the league Director at any time, but not without proper notification to the team captains and officials.

EMAIL

Captains will be notified by email, rainout line, or Quick scores of game cancellations, forfeits, etc. All Captains must provide a valid email that is checked regularly. It is the captain's responsibility to inform players of cancellations.

EQUIPMENT

1. Open bat rule - must be taped at least 10". Maximum of 15" of tape.
2. Official ASA 16" game ball provided by Park District before each game.
3. ***Matching uniforms are required.*** All players on a team shall wear jerseys of alike color, with a number in contrasting colors, number shall be different from other team members. No other uniform requirements apply.
4. NO GLOVES! No gloves will be allowed during regular season play or tournament play.
5. NO METAL SPIKES! No metal spikes will be allowed during regular season play or tournament play.

PLAYERS AND ROSTER

1. Rosters have a minimum of 10 players and maximum of 20 players and players must be 18 years or older at the start of the season.
2. Players are not permitted to play on more than one team.
3. Players must carry a driver's license with them at all times; in case a player's eligibility is questioned during a game. Failure to show his license before the final out of the game could result in a forfeit of that game. See Protest for further detail.
4. **ROSTERS WILL BE COLLECTED WITH SIGNATURES AT TEAM'S FIRST GAME.** Roster is considered a waiver - therefore must be collected prior to the start of game. A copy of the roster will be sent to Captains to make changes by the July 3rd deadline (5th week of games). Rosters must be 75% residents to receive resident rates.
5. **ROSTER CHANGES:** Final Roster - Players may be added or dropped from the roster until July 3rd. Team captains must petition the Park Office by letter to allow additional players on the team, subject to approval by the league director after the July 3rd deadline. If a resident team no longer meets the 75% resident limit by the deadline they will be forced to pay the non-resident rate.

UMPIRE

All umpires are representatives of the Clarendon Hills Park District and have the power to order a player, coach, captain, or manager to do, or omit any act(s) which in their judgment is necessary to maintain an orderly game. Once a game begins the umpire has control over the entire playing area - including the area where the spectators may be located. Most importantly, all umpires must be treated with respect. If any player, coach, manager, or team captain attempts to hassle any umpire - before, during or after the game, that person will be suspended from the league. The suspension will be determined by the league director.

THE GAME

1. Home team listed on the schedule will receive the ball after the game.
2. After two strikes a foul ball will be considered a "dead" ball and base runners may not advance. The batter is out in all situations.
3. Teams must have **eight players** to begin and continue the game - ***if you have eight players you must start the game***. If a team starts with eight or nine players, the team will not be charged with any outs if they do not fill those extra spots in the lineup. Additional players may be added at any time. There is a **fifteen (15) minute** forfeit time for all games.
4. **Slaughter Rule** - If the visiting team is ahead by 12 or more runs after five complete innings, or 10 or more runs after six complete innings; OR the home team is ahead by 12 or more runs after four and a half innings, or 10 or more runs after 5 ½ innings, the game shall be declared over. Please Note: If the home team is behind in the score, the slaughter rules are always enforced after their at-bats.
5. A softball scorecard will be completed after each game by the umpire and collected by the softball supervisor. This scorecard will be the official score and reported to the League Director for league standings.
6. There may be occasions that a Captain is contacted to report or confirm scores.

EXTRA PLAYER

A team may have 11 players in their line-up, one of whom is called the "EXTRA-PLAYER" (EP). EP must be declared prior to the start of all games. In the event that any spot in the batting order cannot be filled, that spot in the batting order will be designated an out for the remainder of the game. All eleven players can bat, but only 10 can play defense at any time. The batting order can never change. Defensive changes can be made each inning - with any of the ten players playing defensive position.

For example: The EP could sit out the first inning, play outfield in the second, 1st base in the third, etc. Players must always bat in the same position in the batting order. The EP is a starting player. He can leave the game and return one time.

SPECIAL GROUND RULES

Unless there are fences, the "OUT OF PLAY" lines extend indefinitely. Any objects (*including trees, bushes, shrubbery, houses, garages, pavement and gravel driveways, persons, animals, cars, and playground equipment, etc.*) which are in the field of play, but are judged to be far enough from home plate so not to interfere with play of the game, become part of the field of play should a thrown or batted ball come in contact with the object(s). If, in the judgment of the umpire, a foreign object in the playing field is close enough to home plate that it will interfere with the playing of the game, it shall be removed before the next pitch.

BASELINE DISTANCES

The distances between bases are 60 feet. The distance between the pitcher's plate and home plate is 38 feet. The three-foot line, on deck circles, coaching, batter's and catcher's boxes and pitcher's circle are not outlined.

BASERUNNING

It is the sole responsibility of the base runner to avoid any unnecessary contact with a defensive player, when that player is in the process of making a play on that runner. Unnecessary conduct will result in that player being declared out. (*Crash Rule*). Base runners may lead off from any base, at any time, at their own risk. Base stealing is not permitted, unless the runner advances under the rules.

RE-ENTRY RULES

Any of the players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup. NOTE: The original player and the substitute cannot be in the line-up at the same time. Violation of this rules results in a forfeit. EXCEPTION: Courtesy Runner - We at Clarendon Hills Park District feel that courtesy runners are sportsmanlike gestures and should be granted for all injured and ejected players. The person who made the last out will be the courtesy runner.

PITCHING

Drag pitching is allowed.

- a. The pitcher must present the ball with one or both hands on the ball, and one or both feet in contact with the pitching rubber. Pitcher may take one step in any direction off the pitching rubber. The first foot that contacts the ground becomes the pivot foot and the pitcher may not advance from that point - in any direction with either foot - until the ball has been released from his hand as either a pitch to the batter, or in an attempt to pick a runner off base. Movement of the pivot foot before releasing the ball will result in an illegal pitch. The non-pivot foot can move but not in advance of the pivot foot.
- b. The ball must be delivered with a limited arc, and must reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground when delivered or a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground when delivered.
- c. **Pick-Off Rule:** Should the pitcher, while on or near the pitching rubber, throw to first base in an attempt to put the runner out, that base-runner may advance one base at his own risk, unless the preceding base is occupied prior to the throw. Only the base runner played on may advance. This same rule does not apply to any attempt by the catcher to put a runner out. If the catcher throws to any base, the base runner may not advance. The pitcher shall not attempt a pick off after the 2nd hesitation, the effect will be an illegal pitch called and the ball is dead.
- d. Any pickoff attempt on a runner by the pitcher will be counted as a hesitation.

ALCOHOL & PARK RULES

The Park District has the right to stop any game because of any violations of park ordinances, illegal parking, alcohol, etc. Beer and alcohol are not permitted in the parks. Consumption of alcohol in the park before, during or after games violates Park Rules. ***Team Captains are responsible for enforcing Park Rules with their players.*** Violations of the STATE LAW will be handled by the police. Players/Teams that violate Park Rules or State Laws may be suspended or dismissed from the league.

CONDUCT OF PLAYERS & SUPPORTERS

Unnecessary and unsportsmanlike conduct (*including swearing and fighting*) are not permitted. The rule includes communication with umpires, players and supporters. Any player, team or team supporter not conducting themselves properly will be suspended or dismissed from the league. Any player, team or team supporter that participates in a fight, no matter to what degree, will be dismissed from the league and banned from all sports leagues at the Clarendon Hills Park District for one year. **NO PLAYER, COACH, MANAGER, OR CAPTAIN IS ALLOWED ON THE FIELD UNTIL THE UMPIRE SUMMONS THEM.** Team captains should make their players and supporters aware of this policy.

PROTESTS

FOR ANY PROTEST THE UMPIRE MUST BE NOTIFIED AND A WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM THE TEAM CAPTAIN MUST BE FILED WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE GAME TO THE PARK OFFICE. Any other method will not be considered. If protesting a player's eligibility, the Umpire or Softball Supervisor should obtain that player's name and drivers license number and place it in the score book. **Protest Fee** - a \$100 protest fee must accompany the written protest within 24 hours after the game to the Park Office. If the protest is deemed invalid, the \$100 fee will not be returned.

FORFEITED GAMES

Captain may notify League Director if need to forfeit a game. With advanced notice, and if other team agrees, a game may be rescheduled without penalty. A team may only forfeit one game without any penalty. After a second forfeited game, the team will be charged \$50 Forfeit Fee which must be paid before team's next scheduled game. A Team with multiple forfeits may be dropped from the schedule of all remaining games by majority vote of other team captains. Also, any team that forfeits two games will not be eligible for post-season tournament play and the League Director will determine the destiny of the team as whether or not, the team will be returning for next year's season. ***A team that forfeits three games will be removed from the league and not eligible to return the following season - no fees will be refunded.***

If there is a tie in the amount of forfeited games between teams, the team with the best record will go into tournament.

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

The Clarendon Hills Park District is committed to conducting its recreation programs and activities in the safest manner possible and holds the safety of participants in the highest possible regard. Participants registering in recreation programs must recognize however that there is inherent risk of injury when choosing to participate in recreation activities. The Clarendon Hills Park District continually strives to reduce such risks and insists that all participants follow safety rules and instructions which have been designed to protect the participant's safety. Please recognize that the Clarendon Hills Park District does not carry medical accident insurance for injuries sustained in its programs. The cost of such would make program fees prohibitive. Therefore, each person registering himself or a family member for a recreation program/activity should review their own health insurance policy for coverage.

It must be noted that the absence of health insurance coverage does not make the Clarendon Hills Park District automatically responsible for the payment of medical expenses.

Due to the difficulty and high cost of obtaining liability insurance, the agency providing liability coverage for the District requires the execution of a Waiver and Release. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

RAIN-OUTS

Rain-out games will be scheduled as double header if possible. Captains will be given notice as early as possible by the league director. Fridays are slated for rainout on the schedule to assist teams in planning. If additional days are necessary, they will be scheduled. Saturdays at 10am may be added if necessary.

In case of bad weather during the day, every effort will be made to make fields playable. We will attempt to have game information available by 4:45p.m. Captains will be contacted via email if games are cancelled prior to 5pm - players should contact their Captain for an update (*or see below for information about a new notification system RainoutLine.com*). Umpires are responsible for calling games due to field and weather conditions after 6pm

Rainout Line. Captains and players have option to **call 630-348-8005** or add the RainoutLine.com app for instant notifications. When using the mobile app enter account Clarendon Hills. The Rainout Line will be updated by 5pm.

DOUBLE HEADER RULE

The following rules will apply for any scheduled double header game at the Clarendon Hills Park District. Both games will be a seven inning game with a one and one count on the batter (weather/light permitting).

STANDINGS/SCHEDULE

Clarendon Hills Park District will use Quick Scores to keep teams updated on standings and game schedules. Standings will be updated weekly and make-up games will be scheduled and posted on Quick Scores. The link to the website is www.quickscores.com/clarendonhills.

Post Season Tournament

The top six (6) teams participate in the post season tournament. There will be no playoffs at the end of the season. Seeds will be determined by the team's overall record. If a tie occurs between two teams, the winner will be determined by head-to-head record. If each team has one win and one loss, then the winner will be determined by whatever team scored the most runs. If a tie occurs between three teams, the winner will be determined by whatever team beat the two teams. If each team has one win and one loss, then the winner will be determined by whatever team scored the most runs, only between those teams included in the three-way tie.

AWARDS

Sponsors trophies will be awarded to the **regular season** champion and runner-up.

The end of season tournament is a single elimination tournament. The top six teams in good standing in the League will compete. The top two seeds receive bye for the first round. The **tournament** winner and runner-up will be awarded sponsor trophies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

2026 League Director: Katie Gock, Assistant Director
630-323-2626 (office)
katieg@clarendonhillsparkdistrict.org