

**City of Clinton Recreation and Parks**

**Softball Rules and Guidelines**

* ***Machine pitch***  7-9 years old
  + Must turn 7 **on** or **before** the deadline and cannot turn 10 **before** the deadline.
* **Machine Pitch**
* Games will be 6 innings in length or 1 hour.
* New inning will not start after the 45 minute mark.
* Mercy rule is 10 runs after 4. If the home team is ahead after three and one half innings they will not bat.
* The umpire will control and run the pitching machine. The distance and speed will be set by a City of Clinton staff member and is not to be tampered with by any coach, player or parent. If an umpire is not present for the game, then the coach of the offensive team will operate the machine and make all calls on the field. (speed set on 8; 40mph and distance at 46’- baseball; 35mph and distance of 42’-softball)
* All players will be put in the batting order.
* All players must play for a total of 6 outs on defense and have at least 1 at bat.
* Teams can only bat around once per inning. (\*regular season only)
* Players are not allowed to steal bases.
* Defense will consist of 10 players. Pitcher, catcher, 4 infielders and 4 outfielders. The pitcher must stand inside the circle even or behind the machine.
* If a batted ball hits the machine, it is ruled dead and the batter and every base runner is awarded one base.
* Play is live until the pitcher has possession of the baseball inside of the circle.
* Runners must return to the previous base if they fail to make it past the halfway line. They are awarded the next base if they are over the halfway line.
* All outfielders must stay behind the outfield line until the baseball is put into play.
* One coach allowed on the field during defense (must remain in the outfield grass)
* Players who arrive late can be added to the bottom of the batting order. If a player is not present when the lineup is submitted to official scorer, that position in the order will be an out each time it comes up.
* **Practices**
* Will be limited to one hour each day.
* **Practices will be scheduled by Clinton Recreation staff.**
* No more than 3 practices per week**.**
* **POSTPONED GAME AND INCLEMENT WEATHER**
  + Coaches will be notified by CRP staff of a game postponement and it is his/her responsibility to contact their players and notify them of the change.
  + Only the Clinton Recreation staff will have the authority to postpone a game due to inclement weather. Once the game begins, it is up to the umpire crew to make a decision.
  + Any make up and or unfinished games with less than 4 innings completed will be rescheduled by the CRP staff at the earliest convenience.
  + If there is inclement weather, call the City of Clinton Recreation and Parks Department at 299-4906 to find out the status of that evenings games.

**\*\*ALL PLAYERS PRESENT FOR THE GAME MUST PLAY. FAILURE OF THE COACH TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT AND A ONE GAME SUSPENSION. A SECOND OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN THE COACH BEING REMOVED FROM THE TEAM. \*\***

**ALL COACHES, HEAD AND ASSISTANTS, MUST FILL OUT A COACHES APPLICATION AND BACKGROUND CHECK FORM. VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE PROPER PAPER WORK CANNOT BE ON THE FIELD DURING PRACTICE OR GAMES.**

**\*\*CITY OF CLINTON RECREATION STAFF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISCIPLINE ANY PLAYER, COACH OR PARENT IN ATTENDANCE AT THE PARK. ANYONE ACTING UNRULY WILL BE WARNED, AND SECOND OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE PARK AND A POSSIBLE SUSPENSION FROM FURTHER CLINTON RECREATION AND PARKS EVENTS\*\***

**WE ARE HERE FOR THE KIDS. PLAYERS PLAY THE GAME; COACHES COACH THE PLAYERS AND PARENTS WATCH AND SUPPORT THE PLAYERS. THERE WILL BE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR UNRULY AND DISRESPECTFUL PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS. RESPECT THE CRP STAFF AND UMPIRES.**