NAPERVILLE PARK DISTRICT
2026
Adult Softball League - 14" Co-Rec. "Mushball" League

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Naperville Park District has developed the following set of rules and regulations to govern softball leagues organized or controlled by the Park District. Rules not covered herein will be determined by the 20256 A.S.A. "Official Rules of Softball."

These rules have been developed as a guide to enjoyable participation. The spirit of the rules is extremely important. To apply a positive approach it is essential that each participant abide by these rules and enlist the support of all other members of the team.

LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The league commissioner has final power in decision making in all matters pertaining to the league. The league supervisor will call all meetings of team representatives. Any special meetings desired by teams should be requested through their team representative who will contact the league supervisor.

Placement of teams in leagues and the number of teams in leagues shall be determined by the Park District.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each team shall designate a representative who will be the sole liaison between that team and the Park District. Since there are over 2,000 participants in the Adult Softball Program, only the designated representative should communicate concerns with the Park District. To avoid confusion players should speak with their team representative on all inquiries and not contact the Park District directly. The team representative may be either a player or a non-player.

   Each team representative will receive:
   a. 1 copy of these Rules and Regulations.
   b. 1 hard copy of the league schedule.

2. It is the team representative's responsibility to distribute these to their players.

3. Team representatives are expected to inform their players of all rules and regulations prior to the first game, and as often thereafter as necessary to ensure no violations occur.

4. Team representatives are expected to inform players of the game schedule, make up dates, etc. and pass along any other information from the Park District.

ELIGIBILITY & ROSTERS

1. All players must be 18 years of age or older or have graduated from high school. June, 2026 graduates may participate., however, a parent or guardian signature will be required on the waiver/roster and the participant must be 18 years of age.

2. There will be no more than 24 players per team per roster.

3. Each player is responsible for signing the online team roster/registration/waiver form, prior to participating in a game. Every player who does not reside within the Naperville Park District must pay a non-resident fee of $20. Proof of residency in the form of a copy of a drivers' license, tax bill, etc. must be provided by residents to avoid the $20 fee.

4. Non-resident fees are not refundable.

5. No player may participate in a Naperville Park District League if, during that season, they play for any professional or semi-professional softball or baseball team.

6. Additions to the roster may be made until July 1 provided:
    a. The roster limit of 24 has not yet been reached.
    b. The team continues to meet residency requirements.
    c. The added player signs the roster/registration/waiver form and pays any non-resident fees, either online or in person at the Fort Hill Activity Center, prior to their participation in a game.

7. Replacement of players is allowed until July 1 if:
    a. A player is going into military service.
    b. A player is moving out of the area.
    c. A player has been injured and is out for the season.

    Requests for replacement must be submitted in writing to the league supervisor and accompanied by a health care providers' written statement, change of address statement, etc.

    If approved, the new player must come into the Fort Hill Activity Center to sign the roster/waiver/registration form and pay any non-resident fee prior to playing in a game.

8. Roster additions or changes may not be made for any reason after July 1.

9. Use of ineligible players will result in forfeiture of the game.

10. Persons deemed to have played as an ineligible player will be ineligible to play in any Naperville Park District Softball League for the remainder of the season.

11. No player may participate on more than one Naperville Park District Co-Rec. team per season.

12. Players will be required to sign a waiver of liability prior to their participation in the league.

EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

1. All teams provide their own equipment. (Bats, etc.)

2. The Park District will provide:
    a. Game ball (home team keeps)
    b. Home plate
    c. Pitching rubber
    d. Bases
    e. Lights
    f. Playing field
    g. One umpire (A.S.A. registered)
    h. One scorekeeper (Park District employee)
    i. Maintenance and preparation of playing fields
    j. League registration in A.S.A.

3. All bats must conform to the 2026 A.S.A. Official Rules of Softball, Rule #3. For more information on legal and illegal bats, go to the A.S.A. website at www.softball.org and look under "certified equipment".

4. **Any player who enters the batter's box with an illegal or altered bat (as defined by the ASA) shall be ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. (See Player-Team conduct section below)**

FORFEITS

1. A team shall consist of five men and five women (10 players) [or six men and six women if the E.P. rule is used].

2. A team may play with as few as four men and four women and avoid forfeit. A team cannot participate with less than four men and four women (8 players). A team may play with 5 women and 4 men. **A team may play with five men and four women. When the missing woman's spot comes up in the batting order, an out shall be recorded. Should neither team be able to field a legal team, both teams will be credited with a loss.**

3. Extra Player Rule - *A.S.A. Rule 4, Sec.4*. Two Extra Players (E.P.) may be used at each team's option - one male and one female. All twelve must bat and any ten-five male and five female-can play defense. Defensive positions may be changed with another player of the same gender at any time; the batting order shall remain the same throughout the game.

4. In the event that a team starts with 10 or 12 players and one is injured or ejected - and no substitute is available, there will not be an automatic out when their position comes up to bat.

5. In the event that a team starts with 8 or 9 players, there will not be an automatic out when their position is up to bat. The exception would be item number two above (5 men 4 women)

6. Any game in which ineligible players take part will be an automatic forfeit regardless of whether a protest is filed.

7. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME - (Assuming the field is ready for play) Time is as determined by umpire or scorekeeper. There will be a 10-minute grace period allowed for the first game of the day only. After that, game time is forfeit time. The opposing team does not have the right to waive this rule or to grant any grace period.

8. Any team forfeiting three games during the season will be dropped from the league for the following year and will lose returning team status.

POSTPONEMENTS

1. There will be no postponement of a game for any reason, except 1) dangerous field conditions, 2) inclement weather, 3) causes beyond our control, such as failure of lights to operate.

2. All postponements will be called by the commissioner, league coordinator or umpire, depending on the circumstances.

3. Inquiries as to postponements may be made after 5:00 p.m. by visiting www.napervilleparks.org and clicking on the "Weather Cancellations and Closures" tab or by calling (630) 883-4242. Participants may opt in to receive email or text alerts by following the instructions on the website. Rain out information can also be found on the Naperville Park District phone app.

4. If the umpire calls a game before the losing team has batted 4 times, it shall be replayed from the beginning.

   If a game is called by the umpire after the losing team has batted 4 times, the game shall be considered official. (If the score is tied, it shall go into the records as a tie.)

5. Make-ups will be posted to the web site within 7 days. If a team representative cannot find the information online, it is their responsibility to contact the League Commissioner for the information. It is the team representatives' responsibility to inform their team of the revised schedule. Schedules on the website will be adjusted to reflect make-up dates.

6. Rescheduled games will be made up when and where fields are available, including Saturdays and Sundays. An attempt will be made to give 10 days notice whenever possible.

PROTESTS

1. Protests based solely on a decision that involved accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire will not be considered.

2. Protests that shall be considered concern matters of the following types:
   a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
   b. Failure of the umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.

c. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
d. Use of an ineligible player.

3. The intention to protest must be made known by the manager or captain of the protesting team to the umpire immediately and before the next legal pitch, intentional walk, illegal pitcher action or before all players have left fair territory. The umpire receiving the protest shall notify the opposing captain and the scorekeeper. This will allow everyone to note the circumstances of the protest.

4. All protests must be in writing and be filed with the league supervisor personally no later than 48 hours after the game being protested.

A protest fee of $25.00 must be submitted with the written protest. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the team protesting the game. If it is not upheld, the fee will be forfeited to the Park District.

4. The Park District reserves the right to initiate action in any situation where an ineligible player plays in a game.

INJURIES

1. Players who are injured during a game should report to the scorekeeper who will have first aid supplies available. An accident report form is to be filled out by the field attendant after any injury.

2. Participation in the game of softball carries with it some inherent risk of injury. The Park District does not provide accident insurance, as the costs would make program fees prohibitive. Team members are advised to review their own health insurance policies.

PLAYER-TEAM CONDUCT

1. Any unsportsmanlike demonstration such as swearing, fighting, abuse of equipment etc., displayed in a game, or after a game shall disqualify the offending player or manager for the next consecutive game on a first offense, and for the rest of the season (including any post-season play) for the second offense. These are automatic suspensions. The umpires, league coordinator and league supervisor are empowered to suspend players when necessary.

2. Persistent poor behavior, including harassment of umpires or other teams, by a team may result in the dismissal of that team from the league and loss of returning team status. Teams exhibiting such behavior will receive a written warning from the league supervisor. Issuance of a second warning for team misbehavior will result in that team being placed on probationary status.

3. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.

4. Any controlled substances (unless prescribed by a physician) and/or alcoholic beverages (including beer) of any kind are prohibited on Park District property. The following applies to parking lots as well as playing fields:
   a. Player caught with alcoholic beverages will be suspended from the game and the next game.
   b. Player caught with alcohol after the game will be suspended for the next game.
   c. The second time a player has been caught with alcohol, he will be suspended from the league.
   d. Players caught with controlled substances will be reported to Police and suspended as above.
   e. If the problem continues, the team will forfeit a game.
   f. Spectators can and will be escorted from the park if caught with alcohol.
   g. Park District and City Police are empowered to issue tickets to violators in addition to the penalties listed above.

5. Any player who threatens or strikes another player or spectator will be suspended for not less than 6 games.

6. Any player or manager who strikes an umpire, scorekeeper, and league official or other park district employee will be suspended for not less than one year.

GENERAL RULES

1. All rules not specified in the general rules will follow the 2026 A.S.A. "Official Rule Book".

2. Once the game begins, changes cannot be made without application of the re-entry rule.

3. Games should start at the exact time designated on the league schedule, but 2 minutes of infield practice will be allowed to each team in any case. Between innings, teams are limited to 3 warm-up pitches.

4. Uniforms may be worn, but are not required. However, shirts and shoes must be worn at all times. If purc hasing uniforms, we recommend that they be numbered.

5. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather uppers or similar material with rubber soles. Any cleats are to be of 1-piece molded construction. Screw-in or screw-on cleats are illegal. ABSOLUTELY NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED.

6. Any starting player, removed from the batting order, may re-enter the game once in their original position in the batting order.

7. Teams may secure commercial sponsorship for uniforms and entry fee.

8. A twenty-run lead at the end of the fourth inning or a fifteen-run lead at the end of the fifth inning, or a twelve run lead after the sixth inning shall constitute a game. In the event that the trailing team is down by twenty or more runs after it has batted four times, the winning team will be declared the winner, and the game is over.

9. It is the Park District's prerogative to require all players to sign a team card or otherwise verify a players I.D. for the purpose of checking their eligibility at any time.

10. Players will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.

11. A foul ball hit after two strikes is an out.

12. If a defensive player has the ball at any base awaiting a runner, the runner must walk into a tag, slide, or otherwise avoid contact with the defensive player without leaving the base line. Otherwise, the umpire shall call the runner out. Flagrant abuse of this rule is unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in expulsion from the game. **When a fielder not in possession of the ball, or not in the act of fielding a batted ball impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases, obstruction shall be called.**

13. The batting order shall alternate between men and women, with a female batting first. If there are an odd number of players, the extra batter will be last in the batting order.

14. ANY walk to male batter will result in a 2 base award to the batter. The next batter (a female) will bat. EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. (ASA Rule 8 Sec.1.C.3)

15. Field positions shall be as follows: Captains will decide on positioning based on strategy and not gender. Infield and outfield must be made up of 2 male and 2 female players.

16. A scoring line will be drawn in foul territory at a 90-degree angle to the third base line in line with home plate. Runners coming into contact with the ground on or beyond the scoring line shall, in effect, be touching home plate. If there is a play at home plate, the runner shall be called out if he touches or crosses over any portion of home plate.

17. All outfielders must remain in the outfield grass and in their assigned order (LF, RF, CF).

18. Male defensive players may not wear gloves or mitts. Female defensive players may wear a glove.

19. Ground rules for each game will be discussed prior to the game and will not be questioned after the game commences.

20. **A.S.A. Rule 6-3H - Changed Maximum Height of Pitch from twelve feet to ten feet beginning in 2013.** A pitched ball shall be delivered with a perceptible arc at moderate speed while not exceeding a maximum height of **10'** from the ground.

21. The use of courtesy runners is discouraged. If a player cannot run the bases they should not be playing. Teams should not feel pressured into allowing them. If, however, a courtesy runner is allowed, they MUST be of the same gender and:

a. the last batted out (female for female male for male).
b. a maximum of one courtesy runner will be allowed per inning

22. The double first base will be used. 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.

23. For all games in the Naperville Park District Adult Softball Program, there will be a time limit. Once a game has become official, no new inning may begin after sixty (60) minutes of play. Games tied prior to the expiration of the sixty (60) minute time rule will follow the tiebreaker rule as listed in the 2025 "A.S.A Official Rules of Softball". Once sixty (60) minutes has expired, no new inning may begin. Games tied after the time limit has expired will be ruled a tie, EXCEPT in playoff games, where a final result is required.

24. **Final Standings/Playoff Seeding - Tie-Break Procedure** In case of a tie, the following tie-break is used:

1. ANY TEAM FORFEITING A GAME THIS SEASON AUTOMATICALLY LOSES ALL TIE-BREAKERS
2. Head-to Head Win/Loss record in all games between tied teams.
3. Head-to-Head Runs Scored vs. Runs allowed (percentage) in all games between tied teams.
4. Win/Loss Record vs. Teams that finished higher in the standings.
5. Runs Scored vs. Runs Allowed vs. Teams that finished higher in the standings.
6. Coin Toss.
7. In the event of a 3-way (or more) Tie: Once a team is calculated to be first, revert to Rule # 2 to break the tie between remaining teams.

RETURNING TEAM STATUS

1. To qualify as a "Returning Team" a minimum of 60% of the players must return from the prior season team roster.

2. Returning team status for the 2025 season will be based on your final 2024 roster, and registration will follow the format listed:
   a. Returning Resident Team. Those teams with 5 or less non-residents of the Naperville Park District on their final 2024 roster.
   b. New Resident Team. New teams with 5 or less non-residents of the Naperville Park District. These teams will register after teams qualifying under part A.
   c. Returning Non-Resident Team. Those teams with 6 or more non-residents on the final 2024 roster. These teams may register after teams qualifying under part A & B.
   d. New Non-Resident Teams. New teams having 6 or more non-residents. These teams will be allowed to register after teams qualifying under parts A, B, and C above.

3. Team Splits - Returning team status shall be granted to the group with the largest number of returning resident players from the prior season roster.

   Team Splits, Equal Number of Players per group wish to return - Returning team status shall be granted to the group hosting the team representative from the prior season. In the event the prior season team representative does not return, returning team status will be granted to the team retaining the prior season sponsor.