

FLAGG-ROCHELLE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT

Rules and League Information

Field INFORMATION:

1. Please leave the fields in respectable condition each night by picking up all of your team's water bottles, equipment, etc. Please do not allow children to be unsupervised. Thank you!

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

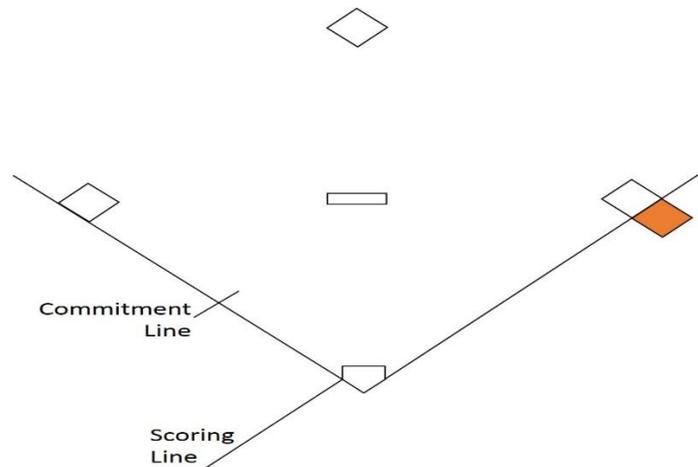
1. Responsible for reviewing the rules and the schedule with their players. Schedule can be found at quickscores.com
2. Responsible for their players and spectators' conduct at all times.
3. Responsible for completing all roster information (*including players' signatures.*) All fees must be paid to register for leagues including non-resident fees if applicable. Teams who have not paid the league fee in full by the 3rd week of play will be considered for drop out of the league.
4. Captains are the only player allowed to address the umpire during play.
5. All telephone calls and emails and league info will first go to the captain; if the captain is not available the information will go to the co-captain.
6. If any questions or concerns you may contact the Softball League Coordinator, Scott Stevens at 815-764-0700 or z1780887@students.niu.edu.
7. If your team must forfeit contact the Scott Stevens no later than 4:00 pm on game day.
8. A team that has to forfeit a game will be placed on probation and any teams that forfeit 2 games throughout the season must pay \$25.00 fee to the Park District or the League Coordinator before the team's next game. Upon a 3rd forfeit the team will be considered for withdrawal from the league.

GENERAL PLAYING RULES:

The Slow Pitch rule book of the United States Specialty Sports Association (U.S.S.S.A.) will govern all play with the exception of any local rules established by the Flagg- Rochelle Park District.

1. Teams must have a ratio of 4 girls to 6 guys. This ratio may not be exceeded. However, you may have more girls than guys. Each team must have at least 3 girls to begin a game in the field (4 girls to begin batting).
2. Home/Away will be decided on what is listed on the schedule.
3. Teams must have at least eight players to field a team. A team with only eight players may bat as the visiting team in the first inning, if the 9th spot comes up in the order, it will be an out if the 9th player has not shown. As the ninth player shows he will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. If you lose a player during the game due to injury, the game may continue with eight players.

4. All games will last 7 innings. No new inning will start after 60 minutes. Once 4 complete innings have been reached it will be considered an official game (3 ½ if the home team is winning). If the game is a complete game the result will stand. In addition to the 60-minute time limit, no new inning will begin after 10:30pm. If a game is not complete it will only be completed at the end of the season if there is a standings issue.
5. In the event of a tie within the final 5 minutes of the allotted 60-minute time frame, one additional “California Rule” inning will be played. This means that the last batted out from the previous inning shall begin on second base with one out already recorded. The batter shall still begin with a one and one count and play will commence from there. If no teams score, then the game will end in a tie.
6. Rosters will remain open during league play and will be considered “frozen” at the conclusion of the regular season. If you want to add players to your roster you must inform the League Coordinator, Scott Stevens. You may have only 15 players listed on your team roster. All players must sign the roster prior to playing.
7. Players are not required to slide, but they are required to avoid contact. A runner may not plow over a fielder, and if they do they will be automatically out and ejected for the game.
8. Plays at home plate will be a force out. If a runner proceeds to cross the halfway line, between home and 3rd base, that runner must cross the scoring line extending from home plate. The play then becomes a force out at home. The defensive player must have control of the ball and be touching the plate before the runner crosses the scoring line to record the out. Players must avoid contact at home plate. If there is a play at the plate, they must not touch home, but cross the scoring line. Layout illustrated below:



9. Players may not be on more than one team’s roster. If a player plays a game for another team that team will forfeit their game.
10. Game time / forfeits: Game time is forfeit time. **Your team will forfeit your game if you are not on the field and ready to play by your scheduled game-time.** If a team forfeit’s the first game and has a 2nd that night, team’s 2nd game will not automatically be forfeited. If a team can get together enough players by the scheduled start time of the 2nd game, the 2nd game will be played. If a team forfeits both

teams will have their scheduled time slot to use for practice, however the umpires will not officiate the game/practice.

11. High School players are eligible to play with a limit of no more than one HS player on your team. (High School players are prohibited to play in the league during the high school baseball/softball season due to IHSA eligibility rules; contact your coach or Athletic Director if more information is needed). Captains need to mark "HS" next to player's name on roster. **Must be at least 18 years of age.**
12. The Two Additional Hitter Rule will be in effect. Each team may designate an 11th & 12th additional hitter in the lineup at the start of the game. Only 10 of the 11/12 hitters may play the field at any time. A tenth player can be added, to the bottom of the batting order, at any time during the game.
13. Free player substitution is allowed.
14. Each team may use up to two "courtesy runners" during the game. This does not include "courtesy runners" for injured players. The runner must be the last batted out.
15. There must be at least 1 woman in the infield at all times, and one woman in the outfield at all times. (Catcher or pitcher does not count as infield position) and there must be a minimum of 3 women on the field.
16. The batting order must alternate male/female, until the team does not have any women left.
17. Any walk to a male batter, will result in the female batter having the choice to either take a walk or bat.
18. The Park District will supply softballs. Men shall hit a USSSA official 12-inch softball; women shall hit a 11-inch official USSSA softball.
19. Each Batter will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count. If a batter reaches 4 balls he/she is awarded 1st base. For Men a foul ball with two strikes will be an out. Women will be given 2 courtesy foul balls with 2 strikes. A 3rd foul ball with two strikes will result in the woman being called out.
20. A 6-foot to 12 foot arc from the ground with the plate and mat a strike. A ball deemed by the umpire as too high or low is a "dead ball" and any resulting play will not be counted, but this is up to the **discretion of the umpire**. A pitch hitting the mat OR plate will be deemed a strike.
21. No metal spikes are allowed.
22. Slaughter Rule for all leagues is: 15 runs after four innings or 10 runs after five innings. The U.S.S.S.A. Flip Flop Rule will be in effect. (See U.S.S.S.A. Rule book for official Flip Flop Rule).
23. Homerun Limit: 5/game, plus the "1-up Rule." This rule allows any team that has reached its homerun limit to hit another homerun as long as they are not more than one homerun head of the opposing team. For example, If team "A" has hit their 5 homeruns and team "B" has not hit their 5 homeruns, team "A" is not allowed to hit anymore homeruns; but if team "B" has hit their 5 homeruns, team "A" would be allowed to hit a 6th homerun (and if they do so, team "B" would be allowed to hit their 6th and 7th homerun- then "A" would be able to hit their 7th and 8th, etc...) NOTE: The home team in

their last at-bat may only pull even in homeruns with the visiting team (this means that the home team cannot 1-up in their last at bat-they can only tie).

24. Rain outs or cancellations will be rescheduled if possible (*excluding forfeits*). Team captains will be notified with this information.
25. After the last game of the night teams are required to help the site supervisor bring the bases, and clean their own dugout area.
26. No refunds will be given.
27. **Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.** The umpire and/or League Coordinator has the authority to warn or eject a player. If a player is ejected, the offender is disqualified from further participation in the game and must leave the field immediately. That player will be suspended for a minimum of one game.
28. The Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District has the right to make any changes to schedules, rules, etc. Some changes may be needed throughout the year due to scheduling conflicts.

INJURIES/INSURANCE

1. The Flagg-Rochelle Park District is not responsible for any injuries incurred while on the premises before, during or after a game or practice.
2. All teams and individuals should be commercially insured. The Flagg-Rochelle Park District provides no insurance.
3. A player who is bleeding, or has an open wound, or has an excessive amount of blood on his uniform must leave the game and may not return until the specific problem has been addressed.

STANDINGS:

Standings will be kept throughout the season based on the following:

1. Best game record (*or best win % if the amount of games played is different*)
2. A two-way tie in the standings will be broken by:
 - a) The winner/loser of head-to-head competition throughout the league
 - b) If still tied, total runs allowed throughout the season
 - c) If still tied, total runs scored throughout the season
 - d) If still tied, a coin flip will determine winner
3. A three-way tie in the standing will be broken by “b” and “c” in #2 above.
4. Game scores will be posted on www.rochelleparkdistrict.org, scroll down and click on the QuickScores link.

Awards: League champions will be given the option for a sponsor plaque or money given as a donation to a scholarship fund/organization. T-shirts will be awarded to the championship team in the post-season tournament. All sponsors will be posted on our Facebook post “We Love Our Sponsors”.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The League Coordinator will determine postponements in case of inclement weather such as rain, thunder, lighting, etc. after 4:00pm. Please call the Park Office at (815) 562-7813 or check the Park District Facebook page. If there is any question the Park District will error on the side of safety.
2. No casts or jewelry will be allowed other than stud earrings
3. Swearing, yelling or arguing with any umpire will not be tolerated. Any unsportsmanlike behavior will result in ejected and possible suspension from the next game, or the league.
4. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premise!
5. Any player showing signs of intoxication will be asked to leave the premises.
6. Use of tobacco products is prohibited on Park District property THIS INCLUDES SMOKELESS TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTES!
7. It is the responsibility of the captain and his team members to make their respective spectators aware of all rules of conduct at the fields and abide by them.
8. The League Coordinator/umpire on site has full authority to issue warnings to anyone who violates the above rules, followed by a request that they leave the premises, if the violation continues. The umpire will deem any player or team ineligible for the game if the above equipment regulations, time limitations or any other rule is not followed. **All umpire decisions are final. There will be no game protests.**
9. The League Coordinator may deem other rules necessary to provide a safe and quality league.

Flagg Rochelle Community Park District

Jackee Ohlinger, Recreation Supervisor

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Scott Stevens, Softball League Coordinator

815-764-0700