



League Commissioners
Megan Gearhart
mgearhart@stamfordct.gov
203-977-5221

Jack Lyons
JLyons@stamfordct.gov
203-977-4645

Women's Open League

Message from Stamford Parks & Recreation

- The Recreation Adult leagues are about having fun and competing, in a sport we all enjoy, with family, friends and/or co-workers. The rules below are set up to help ensure that teams do not have unfair advantages over their opponent. As the league evolves over time, the rules will evolve with the league.
1. Eligibility
 - A. All women players are welcome
 - B. AGE REQUIREMENTS: Participants must be at least 16 years old by May 1 of current year.
 2. Officials
 - A. Umpires will be scheduled for this league. The league will do everything possible to schedule 2 umpires per game. In circumstances where this is not possible, 1 umpire will be scheduled. Umpires will be paid at the field by the teams each week by cash. Each team will pay \$40 to one umpire. In the case where 1 umpire is scheduled, each team will pay that umpire \$30. Any abuse towards the umpires will not be tolerated. Any abusive behavior may result in suspension and/or expulsion from the league. Protests/ Call disputes will be brought to the attention of the league director at the field, before the next play.
 3. League Directors
 - A. League Directors are responsible for all on field matters. They are there to help you at the field and make sure the league is running smoothly.
 - B. All League Director decisions made at the field are final.
 4. Schedules
 - A. Schedules are created by the commissioners on QuickScores.
 - B. Team managers should be checking QuickScores weekly, for most up to date schedules. Team Managers are responsible for monitoring emails from Commissioners and sharing information with their players.
 - C. Once schedules are posted, they are final. Schedule change requests will not be accepted.
 - D. Game times are set at the beginning of the league and may only be changed at the discretion of Stamford Parks & Recreation Department.
 - E. Teams may be scheduled for any time slot throughout the season and game time change requests will not be accepted.
 - F. Double header WILL be scheduled at the discretion of the Stamford Parks & Recreation Department. Double Headers played on an unlighted field starting at 5:45/6:00pm will play for one hour. At the one-hour mark, the current inning will be completed but NO NEW INNING will

start. Games may end in a tie and will only be finished if necessary. The second game shall start immediately after game one and does not have a time limit.

- G. Teams must arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled game time. Games will start promptly at the scheduled time. Game time delays are at the discretion of the League Director and all decisions are final. If a team does not have enough players to start the game at game time, that team will AUTOMATICALLY become the VISITING team. That team will begin hitting. If the 9th player does not show up by the time the 3rd out is made, **the game is a forfeit**.
- H. If a team cannot field a team for a scheduled game they must email both or 1 of the commissioners, with more than 24 hours' notice. Failure to provide notice with more than 24 hours' notice will result in a forfeit and the forfeit fee owed before their next scheduled game.
 - i. Failure to pay the forfeit fee will result in a second forfeit and therefore removal from the league. 2x forfeit will be owed and the team will be suspended from all Stamford Parks & Recreation leagues until fees are paid.
- I. Stamford Parks & Recreation cannot guarantee any and all cancelled games to be rescheduled. If cancelled games can be rescheduled they will be added to the end of the season. However, Stamford Parks & Recreation reserves the right to reschedule games when possible, including alternative days, times and doubleheaders. Rescheduled games will be communicated to the league via QuickScores.
- J. Playoffs will start the week after the regular season ends. See playoff information before (Section 5)

5. Playoffs

- A. Playoffs will start after the final regular season game has ended. This may include on the same night or the next week.
- B. Single Elimination or Double Elimination games will be decided on the end date of the regular season. The deadline will be determined by the Stamford Recreation Department.
- C. **All** teams will advance to the playoffs
- D. In the event that 1 or more teams have a similar record the following tie breakers will be used
 - i. Head to Head record
 - ii. In the event that H2H does not settle or that 2 teams have not played each other: Runs scored will be used.
 - iii. In the event that H2H and runs scored does not settle, due to 1 or more tied teams having a forfeit win for example. Runs scored will be used between the tie breaking teams only.

6. Weather Policy

- A. Weather cancellations are at the discretion of Stamford Parks & Recreation Department.
- B. Team Managers must check emails for weather notifications. Team Managers must not contact the Stamford Parks & Recreation office for weather updates.
- C. If Team Managers do not receive an email via QuickScores regarding weather cancellation, the games are still on as scheduled.
- D. No weather cancellation decision will be made prior to 3pm. Again, DO NOT contact the Stamford Parks & Recreation office for weather information. We will contact you. If you do not receive a cancellation email via QuickScores it is still your responsibility to have your team ready to play at the field by your scheduled time.
- E. At the field cancellations- umpire fees
 - i. Umpires shall return the fee to the teams if less the two (2) full innings are completed due to adverse weather or field conditions

- ii. Umpires shall be paid one-half (1/2) of the regular fee for all games which are stopped after two (2) full innings completed and in which a legal, complete game is not accomplished due to due to adverse weather or field conditions.
- iii. Umpires shall be paid the regular fee for all games which are stopped, and complete game is accomplished due to adverse weather or field conditions.

7. Game Rules

- A. RULES AND REGULATIONS: All league games will be played by the Official USA. Rules and Regulations, except where local Stamford Rules and Regulations apply. Per the USA Rulebook, RULE 12, USE OF USA PLAYING RULES: "The use of all or part of such rules is strictly a local matter, and such rules may be altered as league officials deem it appropriate or necessary to conduct Non-Championship play". Therefore, where necessary, the City of Stamford alters the rules for our Local Leagues.
- B. 1 AND 1 RULE Each player shall start his time at bat with the count of One Ball and One Strike. On a two-strike count, the ball must be put in play in "fair territory" or the batter will be out.
- C. FORFEITS: A forfeit is defined as failure to provide at least 9 players on the field at game time without notifying the Stamford Recreation Services Division at least 24 hours in advance. See *section 4G*
- D. RUN AHEAD RULE: To maintain the integrity of the league, a run ahead rule (Mercy Rule) has been implemented which follows USA guidelines.
 - i. If the home team is ahead 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings, the game will not continue.
 - ii. Game is complete – When the losing team has completed an appropriate number of innings.
- E. SOFTBALLS: A 52 COR/300 Compression (yellow) 11' ball will be used. Teams are required to provide their own balls. New ball if at *HOME* and a gently used ball if *AWAY*
- F. BATS: The City of Stamford will provide bats for all teams. No player may use his/her own bat.
- G. NO METAL SPIKES: No Metal Spikes will be allowed during league and championship play. Players that wear metal spikes will be asked to remove the metal spikes. Players must wear athletic shoes or plastic or rubber cleats.
- H. UNIFORMS: All teams are required to wear a T-shirt or factory-made sleeveless shirt. No cutoffs or tank tops are allowed.
- I. JEWELRY: Wear at your own risk.
- J. HOME RUN RULE:
 - i. **One-Up Rule**: At fields that have a fence, 4 progressive home runs will be allowed per team. Once both teams have reached the home run maximum, either team may hit an additional home run; however, no team may go more than one home run up on the other team once the team has reached the limit. Any additional home runs above the one-up will be scored as an out. The HOME team MAY NOT go one up on the visitor in the bottom of the last inning.
 - ii. **HIT AND SIT**. Players that hit a home run, "over the fence" or on a "four base award" – The batter and any runners on base are not required to touch the bases. **This eliminates any appeal play on the runners.**

- K. **PROFANITY RULE:** Participants in recreational softball leagues are not allowed to use profane language during the game. The umpire may or may not warn the offending player. The player will be ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, plus suspended for one game.
 - L. **SPEED UP RULE:** To keep the games on schedule, teams are allowed a limited number of warmup pitches.
 - a. 1st inning -3 warmups.
 - b. after first inning - 1 warmup pitch.
 - M. **SHORTHANDED RULE:** Teams may play with 9 players without penalty, but when and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the line-up at the 10th batting position.
 - N. **COURTESY RUNNER:** Team will be allowed 1 courtesy per inning but only from first base, the courtesy runner will be the last batted out.
 - O. **EXTRA PLAYERS (EP):** A team may use up to 2 EP's in a game. In other words, a team may have up to 12 players in the lineup.
 - i. If a player is injured, a substitute may replace the injured player or a team may finish with less than the original lineup, however, an out will be taken in that spot in the lineup.
 - ii. If a player is ejected from the game and there is no replacement, then the game is a forfeit.
 - P. **PROTESTS:** *See section 2A.* Any protest that does not follow the procedure outlined in 2A will be rejected. If the protest is upheld, the game will be replayed if necessary. Protests cannot be made for a judgment call (fair/foul ball, strikes/balls, trap/catch...etc.)
 - Q. **PITCHERS BOX:** A pitcher may pitch from an imaginary box with width of the pitching rubber (24 inches x 3 feet back). Essentially a pitcher may pitch from 53'. All USA pitching rules apply.
 - R. **CRASHING INTO A FIELDER WITH THE BALL:** To prevent injury and protect a defensive player attempting to make a play on a runner, a runner WILL be called out when they remain on their feet and crash into a defensive player who is holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. To prevent the out ruling, the player may slide, jump over the defender, go around the defender, return to the previous base or slide into the defender.
8. **ROSTER/WAIVER:** The roster/waiver must be submitted by the stated date to register your team. All players must sign the roster/waiver to play in the league. The roster must be on QuickScores, no paper copies will be accepted. The roster may exceed 24 players but have no less than 12 players. Playing manager/coach, or anybody else on the bench, must be included on the roster.
- A. **INELIGIBLE PLAYER:** An ineligible player is defined as a person not on the roster that attempts to play or plays in a game, a person who misrepresents eligibility to play in a game, or a person that uses a fake name. Teams that use an ineligible player will automatically forfeit all the games that the ineligible player participated in. The ineligible player will be ejected from the Stamford leagues for the rest of the year plus one year. The eligibility of a player will be determined on the field. All players must have a photo ID at the game to verify eligibility. Failure to provide a photo ID at a game, if questioned, will result in automatic removal of that player from that game. The game will be declared a forfeit, and the offending team will receive a loss. If a player is legitimately on the roster, but failed to show ID on the field, team will still receive a loss, but the player will not be ejected from the league.
 - B. **COACHES/INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:** Coaches that put an ineligible player into a game will be suspended one game. They will not be allowed on the player's bench or on the field of play for

the next game. Coaches that use an ineligible player in two separate games will be suspended from the league for the rest of the year plus one additional year.

- C. **NEW PLAYERS:** must be added to the roster in advance before they can play. All player information must be submitted, and the player must sign the waiver before they can play
- D. **DEADLINE FOR NEW PLAYERS:** No new players may be added to the roster after the date that is set by the recreation department. In extenuating circumstances, players may be added to the roster but are not eligible for the playoffs. Requests to add players to the roster, after the deadline, must be done so in writing to the commissioners.

9. Player/ Team Conduct

- A. Team and Players in Stamford Parks & Recreation leagues are expected to play with good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure the behavior of their team mates is of the highest standard. Any abusive behavior or language to any Recreation Staff/ City Employee, fellow players will not be tolerated and will result in either suspension or expulsion from all leagues.
- B. The manager of the team is responsible for the conduct of the players and fans. If the conduct of players or fans becomes unruly, the manager will be warned to get the players or fans under control. If they do not, the game will be a forfeit and a loss in the standings. The manager will be suspended for one game.
- C. Any player, manager or coach will be ejected from the game for use of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- D. Acts of Disqualification (Minor) A team, team member, manager or team official found guilty of a minor disqualification will be received for an 8-day suspension. That player cannot play on any team for the next 8 days. For example, if a player gets ejected from a Tuesday game, he cannot play on any team in Stamford until the following Wednesday (8 days later). Any player ejected from 2 games in one season may be permanently suspended from Stamford Softball.
 - i. **Unsportsmanlike conduct:** Any conduct deemed unsportsmanlike by the League Director or Umpire.
 - ii. **Commission of any illegal act** while participating in City of Stamford and/or USA. such as, failure to pay indebtedness, destruction of property, or violation of state/local laws.
- E. Acts of Disqualification (Major) A team, team member, manager or team official found guilty of one of these acts will be suspended for a minimum of the rest of the season plus one year. Dependent upon the severity, the alleged offender may be permanently banned from all Stamford Recreation activities.
 - i. **Physical Violence or Attempted Physical Violence:** Any person that attempts physical harm or commits physical harm on an opponent, teammate, League Director, fan or umpire will automatically be subjected to the consequences above. Furthermore, the Stamford Police will be contacted by League Director and/or umpire.
 - ii. **Threats of Bodily Harm:** Any person that threatens to harm an opponent, League Director, fan, teammate, or an umpire will be subjected to the consequences above.
 - iii. **Extreme Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** If a player continues to display unsportsmanlike conduct after an ejection or at any other time, they will be subject to a Major Disqualification.

10. Park/ Facility Rules

- A. All participants in Stamford Recreation Leagues are expected to keep all City of Stamford Parks & Facilities with care. While you are using the parks and facilities it is your responsibility to keep them in good condition and when exiting, leaving the park/ facility in the same condition you found it.

