

WARRENVILLE PARK DISTRICT
SUMMER 2024
12” MEN’S SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

Welcome to this season’s offering of Men’s Slow-Pitch Softball. Games will be played on Field #1 at Summerlakes Park- 3S010 Talbot Ave. The length of the regular season will be 10 games. All teams will participate in a double elimination end of season tournament to end the season.

The following pages contain the rules & regulations you will be playing under. Any rules not listed are found in the USA Softball Rulebook under Slow-Pitch listings. Some of the rules are formulated to meet the unique demands of the Park District facilities, time constraints and roster requirements. These rules are adhered to strictly by the Warrenville Park District. We ask that you read and go over these rules & regulations with your entire team.

I. Objective

- A. To provide an opportunity for interested parties to play organized recreational softball. Fair play and sportsmanship is the responsibility of every player, manager, umpire, and spectator.

II. League Director – Dave Weiner

- A. The League Director will handle all protests and matters of conduct within the league.
- B. Contact information-
Warrenville Park District
3 South 260 Warren Ave.
Hours - Monday-Thursday 5:30a.m. – 9:00p.m., Friday 5:30a.m.-7:00p.m., Saturday 8:00a.m. – 3:00p.m., and Sunday 8:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.
 - 1. Office- (630) 393-7279
 - 2. Fax- (630) 393-7282
 - 3. E-mail- davew@warrenvilleparks.org

III. Registration Procedures

- A. A \$100 non-refundable deposit must be submitted at time of registration. Failure to pay all fees in a timely manner may result in game forfeiture, suspension of non-resident players, and other appropriate penalties.
- B. Accepted entries must provide the following:
 - 1. Include a completed application form.
 - 2. Include team rosters (due prior to your first game)
 - 3. Any Warrenville resident listed must be ready to submit proof of residency (copy of driver’s license). The Site Supervisor has the authority to ask for proof of residency at any time during the season.
 - 4. Have resident team registration dues (due by the end of the captain’s meeting).

IV. Policies

- A. Teams are required to meet league payment deadlines, as well as roster and player identification deadlines, which are set by the Warrenville Park District.
- B. Any team member or captain submitting a check which is not negotiable due to insufficient funds, account closed, etc., will be assessed a \$25 administrative service charge and will jeopardize the team's position in the league. If satisfactory payment is not made immediately upon notification, then the team will be ejected from the league and a new team from the waiting list will be accepted.
- C. All money should be submitted directly to the park district registration office. The Site Supervisor will not be allowed to accept funds at the field.
- D. Rosters and League Registration must have the captain and co-captain designated. Any communication between the League Director and the teams will be relayed through the captains, or in lieu of the captain, the co-captain. Captains are responsible for relaying league rules and policies to their teammates. If rules and policies are not followed, teams will be penalized.
- E. A minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 players are allowed per team.
- F. All players must be listed on the roster by the first game in order to be eligible for play during the season. Also, address, phone number, emergency phone number, and signature should be listed for each player listed on the roster. Players must play in 2 regular season games to be eligible to play in the tournament. Once rosters have been turned in than no additional players will be allowed to be added to your roster.
- G. The Park District will provide an official scorekeeper, if possible. His/her score will be official. If no scorekeeper is present, the home team's scorebook is official.

V. Rosters and Line Ups

- A. All players must sign the team roster and be prepared to submit proof of identity and residence. All players should read the hold/harmless waiver on the reverse side of the roster form before signing the roster.
- B. A team must be able to place 8 players on the field at the official start of the game or they will forfeit. When only 8 players are present, the 9th spot in the batting order will be an automatic out.
- C. If a team has 11 or more players and wishes to bat all of them in order they may do so. The opponent does not have to do so. If a team bats more than 10 players at a time (bat around rule), they may substitute freely on defense. They are still restricted to playing 10 on defense at all times. A team that starts the game using the bat around rule must continue to use it throughout the game. A team must tell the umpire before the game that they are using this optional rule. Teams using this special rule will not be penalized if a player leaves the line up as long as at least 10 players are present.
- D. A player who begins the season with a team will not be allowed to move to another team during the season without the league director's written approval.
- E. A team whose line-up falls below the minimum 8 players due to ejection will automatically forfeit.

- F. A team whose line-up falls below the minimum 8 players due to injury or personal emergency will be allowed to finish a game already in progress.
- G. If a player is injured during gameplay and cannot return leaving the team with less than nine batters then the spot in the line-up will be skipped over without an out being recorded in that spot in the line-up.
- H. Any team forfeiting 2 dates during the regular season will not be eligible to continue the season. They will not be eligible for the league play-offs either.
- I. A player must play in 2 regular season games in order to be eligible to participate in the end of season tournament.
- J. All players must be 18 years or older.
- K. There will be no player additions allowed once the team roster has been turned into the scorekeeper prior to the second game.

VI. Player Conduct

- A. *A player who is ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct is automatically suspended from the next game. A second violation will result in ejection from the League.*
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct can result in game forfeiture.
- C. A player receiving league ejection may not be replaced on the roster.
- D. A player being ejected for physical abuse will automatically be suspended from league play for one full year from the date of occurrence.
- E. No profanity or profane gestures will be tolerated. The umpire will be instructed to remove from the game any player whose actions and words are considered to be unsportsmanlike and abusive.
- F. Smoking within the fenced boundary of the field is not permitted.
- G. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on Park district property. Any player, team, or spectator that violates this rule will be suspended indefinitely from the league without a refund.
- H. All players, coaches, fans, and spectators are expected to abide by the Warrenville Park District's official Code of Conduct which governs behavior at all park district sponsored events.

VII. Rules

- A. Official USA softball rules will govern league play with the exception of the following in-house rules.
- B. In the event a team is ahead by 22 runs after 3 innings, 18 at the end of 4 innings, 12 after 5 innings or 10 after 6 innings, the game is declared over, (Slaughter Rule). Teams should compare scores after each inning. Exception- The championship game and if necessary game will be 7 innings without any time limit, but shall not exceed 10:45p.m. Also, all playoff games that are tied after 7 innings will start the inning with a runner on second base.

- C. Any game called by weather or curfew before 3 innings, or 45 minutes of play have been completed will be replayed. If the game is called by weather or by curfew during the 3rd, 4th, or 5th innings, or 45 minutes of play have been completed, the continuation of the game will be from the spot reached at the time the umpire called the game. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation once the visiting team has made 15 outs (five innings) and the home team is leading, or once the home team has made 15 outs regardless of score.
- D. Game time is forfeit time. Team captains cannot extend the game time. The umpire's watch is official. A new inning will not start after 55 minutes of play. However, the first game of the evening has a 10-minute grace period. By agreement of the captains, a team with less than 8 players may bat first and avoid forfeit. The eighth player must be present before the start of the other team's time at bat.
- E. No inning can begin after 10:15 p.m.
- F. All softball bats used in league play must meet USA Softball regulations. The official bat, made up of the knob, handle, grip, taper, barrel and end cap shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, rattles, and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat shall be marked official softball by the manufacturer, and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion. The official bat must bear either the ASA 2000 Certification Mark, ASA 2004 Certification Mark, or ASA 2013 Certification Mark (see images below) and must be included on a list of approved bat models published by USA Softball. These bats are strictly prohibited from league play.

Any bat used in gameplay will need to go through a bat test to deem if the bat is legal or illegal. Bat testing will only occur prior to the start of the game or at the captain's meeting (not during gameplay). Bats that pass the test will have a blue Warrenville Park District sticker placed on them. Bats must have this sticker in order to be used during gameplay.

Any player using or attempting to use an altered bat will be immediately ejected from the game and called out. In the event the infraction is not noticed until after the ball has been put in play, the ball shall be declared dead and the batter out. If that player tries using the same bat again then an indefinite suspension will be given, team forfeit will occur, and the team may not be eligible to participate in the league for the remainder of the season. All bats will be checked by the scorekeeper prior to the game to ensure one of the ASA or USA Softball stamps below is clearly marked on the bat and the red Warrenville Park District sticker is on the bat:



- G. Bats shall not be thrown during the game. Player's will be warned by the umpire the first time this happens. A second violation during the game will result in an immediate ejection of the player.
- H. A Glove/Mitt may be worn by any player. The dimensions of any glove/mitt used by any fielder shall not exceed the specifications set forth below:
- Palm width (top) 8 in.
 - Palm width (bottom) 8 1/2 in.
 - Top opening of web 5 in.
 - Bottom opening of web 4 1/2 in.
 - Web top to bottom 7 1/4 in.
 - 1st finger crotch seam 7 1/2 in.
 - Thumb crotch seam 7 1/2 in.
 - Crotch seam 17 1/2 in.
 - Thumb top to bottom edge 9 1/4 in.
 - 1st finger top to bottom edge 14 in.
 - 2nd finger top to bottom edge 13 1/4 in.
 - 3rd finger top to bottom edge 12 1/4 in.
 - 4th finger top to bottom edge 11 in.
- F. A strike mat will be used to determine balls and strikes. The mat will be 2 ½ feet behind the plate and extended along the diagonal edges of the plate.
- G. Base length will be 70ft. The pitcher's rubber will be 50ft. from the plate.
- H. There will be no marked batter box. If a batter steps on or over the plate to hit the ball (fair or foul) he will be called out with no advancement of any runners.
- I. Metal cleats will not be allowed.
- J. Batters will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count.
- K. Foul balls with a 2-strike count will be an out with advancement by any base runner at his own risk if the ball is caught.

- L. One additional inning may be played if the score is tied at the end of seven innings and has occurred 45 minutes or earlier to break the tie. Each team will begin the inning with a runner on second base and one out. That runner will be the player who made the last out in the previous inning. This rule is designed to eliminate the likelihood of tie games.
- M. A runner may not crash into a fielder during a tag play. The runner will be called out for failing to avoid major contact and could possibly be ejected from the game if the umpire rules unsportsmanlike conduct. The fielder is not required to have secured the ball for this rule to be in effect but the fielder may not block the base if he is not in the act of catching the ball. This is a judgment call and is not subject to protest. Runner has four options: 1) avoid major contact 2) stop and walk into the tag 3) slide or 4) retreat.
- N. Arc Rule –minimum of 6ft, maximum of 12ft. No step-offs allowed. Illegal pitch is a ball to batter. Pitcher needs to touch the pitching rubber either at the start of his pitch or during the follow through.
- O. Only Warrenville Park District provided softball (Dudley SB, 375 lbs, .44 cor) will be allowed for gameplay.
- P. Teams may designate a player for whom a courtesy runner may be used. This should only take place if a player has a minor injury and cannot run at the umpire’s discretion. The courtesy runner must be the player making the last previous batted out. The umpire and the opposing team must be made aware of this situation before the game. Only three players per team can have courtesy runners. The opposing team has the right to refuse this request.
- Q. There will be a limitation of 5 home runs over the fence per team per game. No individual will be allowed more than 2 over the fence home runs per game. Any violations of either of these rules will result in an out being called. The ball will be immediately called “dead,” and no base runners will be permitted to advance. The batter or baserunners will not be required to run the bases when a home run is hit by the batter.
- R. A batted ball “pushed” over the fence by an outfielder in an attempt to manipulate the home run rule will be regarded as a case of defensive obstruction with runners awarded the bases the umpire feels they would have achieved if the obstruction had not occurred.
- S. No stealing or advancing on the bases after an errant pitch or return throw from the catcher to the pitcher will be allowed.

VIII. Protest

- A. The only legal protests are ones that involve a rule violation or the use of an ineligible player.
- B. Use of an ineligible player must be brought to the attention of the umpire. At this time a roster check will be done by both captains with the umpire overseeing the process. Proof of identification must be produced. If proper identification cannot be produced, that player will be considered ineligible and the team will forfeit.
- C. All protests must be made to the umpire prior to the next play.
- D. A protest cannot be made concerning a judgment call by the umpire, i.e., ball, strike, fair, foul.

E. A protest must be submitted by letter or email by 6:30 p.m. on the following business day. The game will be played over from the point of infraction unless a forfeit is declared. The game will be played over from the point of infraction unless a forfeit is declared.

IX. League Information

- A. The Warrenville Park District reserves the right to suspend any team for not following the league rules. Suspension will be without refund.
- B. Ties in the standings will be broken by head to head results of all teams tied for that spot in the standings. If still tied, records against teams above them in the standings will be decisive. If still tied, run differential against teams that are tied will be the tiebreaker. If still tied, run differential against the entire league will be used. Finally a coin flip will be used.
- C. The League Director will draft all schedules and reschedule any games that are canceled due to weather.
- D. There shall be no postponement of any game for any reason except in case of weather. In case of rain, please call **(630) 454-6033** for information regarding games. Also, you may go to www.quickscores.com/warrenville, www.rainoutline.com (see separate rainout line document for instructions), or www.warrenvilleparks.org under the Weather Updates tab.
- E. Make-Up Games may be scheduled on a night that you usually do not play on. We will try to schedule make-up games on the night you usually play on at the end of the season. If we fill these dates and times up you will be asked to make-up your game on another night.
- F. The Warrenville Park District will post game results on www.quickscores.com/warrenville or www.warrenvilleparks.org under the Baseball/Softball Section. The park district and quickscores.com have created a website to post league standings, postseason tournament brackets, weather information, and league news and notes that will be regularly updated.
- G. The winning teams of the Regular Season and Postseason Tournament will have the option of either receiving a large trophy or a \$50 check.
- H. Field lights will be turned off no later than 10:30 pm per city ordinance except for tournament championship game(s).
- I. If your team is playing the earliest game of the day, the infield may be used for warm-ups. Teams should split the time evenly among themselves. For any later games, the teams must warm up away from the playing area.

X. Responsibilities

- A. Captains and Co-Captains are the only team representatives allowed to act in an official capacity with the umpire and League Director. This will alleviate any problems concerning communication between the League office and the teams. If one of your players is acting out of line then it is your responsibility to immediately interject and calm the situation down.
- B. Before each game the team captains should review with the umpire all ground rules, pitching rules and submit roster line-ups to the scorekeeper.

- C. Captains are responsible for enforcing unsportsmanlike conduct rules (i.e. swearing, drinking alcohol, alcoholic containers, and/or abusive behavior). In most cases team captains will be warned one time by the League Director or umpire to control their team members before action is taken. This may include automatic forfeiture or indefinite suspension.
- D. The team captains will be responsible for passing along all communications from the league office to their teammates.
- E. No Smoking is allowed inside the fences bordering the playing field.
- F. Finally, captains must stress to all players that this is a recreational league, and to show consideration for other players and league officials.

DISCLAIMER:

The Warrenville Park District reserves the right to review and change rules as needed before and during the season.