



Wheeling Park District Adult Softball League Manual

Thank you for your interest in the Adult Softball Leagues at the Wheeling Park District. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about our program, please feel free to contact Josh Handelsman at jhandelsman@wheelingparkdistrict.com.

The Wheeling Park District reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary during the course of the season. The Wheeling Park District reserves the right to bracket teams based on past seasons' records.

Heritage Park

This park is fully equipped for you, your friends, and your families to enjoy. At this facility, there are four lighted softball fields, open grass areas, a picnic area, a playground, an outdoor aquatic center, and a concession stand.

The park is located at 109 Community Blvd. There is access to the park off of Wolf Road and Community Blvd.

The concession stand is open on evenings when games are played. Beer, popcorn, hot dogs, polish sausage, pretzel bites, nachos, candy, and pepsi products are sold at the stand. If you purchase beer, an ID must be shown every week. We card everyone.

Methods of payment:

Cash (Guest Service Desk)

Credit cards

Personal Check/Sponsor Check*

*\$25 fee for returned checks

Full payment is due at the time of registration.

Additional Procedures

Players may play on multiple nights, but not on two teams in the same league.

Please be ready, at the time of registration, to provide the Wheeling Park District with the captain's name, email address, cell phone number, and home address.

Official Rules and General Rules

After in-house rules, ASA rules apply.

Pitching:

League	Pitching	Base
12"	53	70
14"	38	60

All leagues play with a one-and-one count. Every batter starts with one ball and one strike.

Illegal Pitches – An illegal pitch will not be called in the air. Illegal pitches will be called a ball once the ball lands.

12-inch - The pitcher shall take a position with one foot firmly on the ground and one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the pitched ball leaves the hand. The pitch must have a 6' to 10' arc and must clear the white of the plate. A pitch may hit the black on the back of the plate and may drop in the well for a strike. Orange Home Plate Extensions must be used for all games.

14 inch - The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pitch must have a 6' to 12' arc and be pitched with moderate speed. The ball may hit on the black of the plate and fall in the well for a strike. Orange Home Plate Extensions must be used for all games.

Appeal Play

An appeal play is one in which an umpire cannot make a decision until requested to do so. (Examples: Missing a base; leaving too soon on a caught fly ball.) The appeal may be verbal or non-verbal, may be made when the ball is live or dead, and must be made before the next pitch.

Infield Fly

An infield fly is a fair fly ball which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when 1st and 2nd, or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, bases are occupied, before two outs. The pitcher, catcher, and any outfielder who positions himself/herself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders. The ball is alive, and runners may advance at the risk of being caught, or tag up and advance after the ball is touched.

Interference

An act of an offensive player (batter, batter-runner, base runner, on-deck batter, coach, or teammate) that impedes, hinders, or confuses a defensive player is considered interference. Defensive players must be given the opportunity to field the ball anywhere on the playing field.

Obstruction

The act of a fielder while not in possession of the ball or not in the act of fielding a batted ball, which impedes the progress of a base runner who is legally running bases, is obstruction. The obstructed runner and any other runners affected by the obstruction will be awarded the base(s) he/she would have reached had the obstruction not occurred.

Overthrow

If a ball is thrown out of play, time will be called. The umpire shall award the base runners two bases from the base last touched when the throw was made.

Eligibility Protests

Eligibility protests may be made at any time prior to the end of the game. Eligibility protests should be made as soon as the ineligible player is discovered. It is very difficult to prove ineligibility if the player has left the field. ALL players should have a photo I.D. showing name and address.

Rosters

A complete roster must be turned in prior to the first game of the season. Changes and additions can be made to the roster up until the fourth week in the season, but after that, the roster is locked, and no additions can be made. There is a max of 20 players allowed per team.

Substitution/Re-entry

Any starting player or substitute may be withdrawn and re-entered, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up. The starting player and substitute may never be in the game simultaneously.

Base Running

12-inch - No lead-offs are allowed.

14-inch - No lead-offs are allowed.

Courtesy Runner (12" Men Only!)

Must be designated prior to the game

Those designated to have a runner can only:

- Walk
- Hit a Home Run
- Hit a Single
- Make an Out

Players (last out) who run for the designated players are allowed to move up as many bases as they can get prior to the stoppage of play. If a player is injured during the game, they can be added to the list at the time of the injury.

For co-ed, the courtesy runner will be the last out.

Batting

Teams may bat a minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of 12 players. A team must have eight (8) players present to start a game. At the captain's meeting prior to the start of the game, captains must inform the umpire of the number of players that they are batting (8-12). A forfeit will occur if a team doesn't have eight (8) players present.

The batter cannot contact the plate or step completely across the plate when contacting the ball. This is the umpire's discretion.

To prevent a loss of balls, and game delays, the Wheeling Park District will follow a "3 and 1 up" Home Run rule. The "one-up" home run rule is defined as follows: once both teams have reached their home run limits, either team may hit an additional home run. No team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team after their team has hit their limit. Any additional home runs above the "one-up" will be scored as an out.
**All teams are responsible for retrieving their own home run balls.*

Starting Time/Player Eligibility

Game time, as indicated on the schedule, is forfeit time.

Minimum to play: Teams need eight (8) players present to start the game. At the captain's meeting prior to the start of the game, the captain must inform the umpire of how many players they are batting. Not all players need to be present at the meeting. An out will be recorded for players who are in the batting order but are not present at the time of their at-bat. A team that starts with eight (8) players will have a dead spot in the 9th until the 9th player is present. There will be additional outs for the 10th, 11th, and 12th players if the captain says they are batting that specific number of players. The opposing team will provide a catcher until the 9th player has shown up for the game.

Game Length and Rescheduling

All scheduled games are seven innings in length. No new inning will start after 55 minutes.

If the game is tied after seven innings, extra innings will be played until a winner is decided. A 3-2 count will be used for all extra innings, and the last out is placed at second base.

In the playoffs, if a game goes into extra innings, the first full inning past the time limit will begin a 2-2 count.

A game called by the umpire due to rain shall be a regulation game if five or more complete innings (4½ if the home team is ahead) have been played. A team that is ahead by 20 or more runs at the end of four (4) innings, 15 or more runs at the end of five (5) innings (4½ if the home team is ahead), or 10 runs at six innings shall be declared the winner. An unofficial game will be picked up from the exact point at which the game was suspended.

Rainout Information

All game decisions will be made by Wheeling Park District staff. On questionable days, call 847-241-4001 after 4:00 pm for game decisions and rescheduling information. Or, go to rainoutline.com or download the app on your smartphone and search Wheeling Park District.

Forfeits

If at any time a team does not have at least eight (8) players, the game will be forfeited. The umpire's decision on all forfeits is final.

Teams must pay a \$50.00 forfeit fee before they will be allowed to play another game. This fee may be paid to the field supervisor or at the Community Recreation Center.

Any team that forfeits three games during the season will forfeit its entry fee and will be ejected from the league for the remainder of that season. If a team knows in advance that they must forfeit, they should contact the program Manager at the Community Recreation Center at least 24 hours before the scheduled game so the umpire and the opposing team can be notified. Teams doing so will not be charged the \$50.00 fee.

Alcoholic Beverages

No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park at any time. If any team member or the team's fans are seen consuming alcohol purchased elsewhere, the team risks forfeiting that week's game or the following game. Teams are responsible for their fans. It is up to the team to inform their fans of this policy. Alcohol is only allowed if approved by the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners and sold by the Wheeling Park District. Every player and fan who consumes alcohol must show their ID and receive a wristband. Wheeling Park District IDs everyone regardless of age.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any team or individual exhibiting unsportsmanlike acts towards members of another team, any umpire, or any Wheeling Park District representative before, during, or after the game risks forfeiture of the game. The Wheeling Park District reserves the right to forfeit any game following complaints by the umpire's association or Wheeling Park District representatives, even if the umpire does not do so. Any team or individual the Wheeling Park District feels is not displaying a high degree of sportsmanship will be suspended or expelled, with the potential of losing their right to participate in the Wheeling Park District Adult Softball Program.

League Fines and Suspensions

Listed below are fines and suspensions for players, managers, and coaches in all Wheeling Park District programs:

- Fighting anywhere on the facilities or grounds of Wheeling Park District-sponsored events: Season suspension plus \$50 fine for each individual involved.
- Under the influence or possessing alcoholic beverages (other than those sold by the Wheeling Park District): One game suspension plus \$25 fine.
- Involvement in rough tactics: Two-game suspension plus a \$25 fine for each individual involved.
- Threatening an official or supervisor: Season suspension plus \$25 fine.
- Improperly listed as Wheeling Park District resident, not listed on roster, or playing without signing roster: Two game suspensions for player plus \$25 team fine.
- Touching, pushing, or striking an official or supervisor: Two-year suspension from all Wheeling Park District athletics plus a \$50 fine.
- Player caught participating in a league during a suspension: One-year suspension plus \$50 fine.

Ejection from game:

- First offense - \$25 fine and at least a 2-game suspension
- Second offense - \$50 fine and at least 4-game suspension
- Third offense - \$50 fine and one full year suspension from all Wheeling Park District athletic programs (effective the date of the offense)

Team forfeiting:

- First offense - \$50 forfeit fee (to be paid by your next scheduled game)
- Second offense - \$75 fine
- Third offense - Suspension from league for remainder of season. \$100 fee must be paid in order to sign-up for the next season.

NOTE: Ejected players must leave the premises immediately and their place in the batting order will be an automatic out for their team. Team forfeiture will result from non-compliance. (Premises means the facility or Wheeling Park District grounds where programs are being held.)

Liability Statement

The Wheeling Park District, its employees, or appointed agents assume no responsibility for any personal injury or loss that any team member or spectator may incur as a result of this program. Individuals are encouraged to have their own personal health/accident plan for any such injuries which occur.

Eligibility

Players must be 18 years of age as of the start of league play to be eligible.

If a player is ruled ineligible, all games in which he/she participated will be forfeited and the player will be suspended for the remainder of the season. No player can be on more than one roster within the same league.

Game Cancellation/Postponements

We do not like to postpone or cancel games, but if, in our judgement, one of the following situations exist, we will be forced to postpone games:

- Fields are not playable.
- The player's safety is in question due to condition of weather and/or fields.
- Rescheduled games will be updated on the Quickscores website only.

League Schedules

League schedules will be available one week prior to the start day of each league.

Team captains will be notified via email. Any dates your team may have a conflict must be communicated at the time of registration (there is no guarantee your team will receive a BYE). Schedules will not be changed due to your team not having enough players. Schedules can be found at: Quickscores.com/wheelingil

League Standings & Tie Breakers

Teams are initially ranked according to regular season winning percentage. In the event there is a tie, the following tie breakers will be applied in order: head-to-head, head-to-head run differential, total runs against.

All Wheeling Park District leagues will be using the ASA sanctioned rules.

Approved Bats

For the current softball season, the Wheeling Park District will adhere to the most current USSSA or NSA rule for approved bats. Please note: Any bat type or bat model that cannot be determined will be deemed illegal.

The Wheeling Park District reserves the right to ban any bat at any time.

The Wheeling Park District reserves the right to change or alter any rule in order to improve the quality of the league. The Wheeling Park District reserves the right to make any decisions necessary to complete the league and/or the tournament.

**WHEELING PARK DISTRICT
14" CO-REC LEAGUES
RULES**



1. All games are played at Heritage Park Sports Complex.
2. Rules: Official ASA rules will be observed. House rules will override any situation not specifically covered by league rules or the official softball rules will fall under the decision of the umpire, softball supervisor, or Wheeling Park District staff.
3. Ground rules - Ground rules will vary with each diamond. Rules will be established with umpire before each game. League rules may not be suspended. Ground rules may change with different umpires. Captains, make sure you are fully aware of any discrepancies and go over them with the umpire before the start of the game. If there is a major problem contact the supervisor on site.
4. All games will have (1) hour time limit. No inning will start after one (1) hour has expired. No game can end in a tie. Games will be played until there is a winner. International rule will be used for extra innings. The one-hour limit will start when the umpire says "Play Ball". The umpires and/or supervisors watch will be the official time keeping device. The umpire does not have to give the team time-remaining accounts. In the playoffs, if the game goes to extra innings, the first full inning past the time limit will begin with a 2-2 count.
5. All games are scheduled for seven innings, unless called due to inclement weather or time, at the discretion of the umpire.
6. Game time is forfeit time.
7. Completion of (5) five innings will constitute a legal game. A game being terminated by inclement weather will be a completed game if five (5) innings have been completed or, if the home team is leading after 4-1/2 innings. The umpire and field supervisor shall have the authority to determine the continuation or calling of games due to inclement weather.
8. Base distance is 60 feet. Pitching distance is 38 feet. Pitching Arch Limits 6' minimum and 12' maximum.
9. Number of players – Teams must have at least eight (8) players to start a game. All players must be on the official roster. A team consists of five (5) men and five (5) women; however, a team may play with more women than men (i.e. if you have eight (8) players to start the game, four (4) must be women). If the game starts with the defensive team only having nine (9) players, the tenth player can enter the field at any time. If the nine (9) players consist of five (5) men and four (4) women, an out will be recorded for the fifth woman.

10. Courtesy Runners – The player who makes the last out may be designated as a courtesy runner. However, men must run for men and women must run for women. Please note only the players that made the last out may return as a courtesy runner (i.e. last male out runs for male runner.) Courtesy runners do not have to be approved before the game and may be used at any time.

11. Make-up games – Rainouts will be rescheduled on regular game days whenever possible. A minimum of one-week notice will be given. Dates will be final.

12. All field positions, including the catcher, are at the discretion of each team. Field positions may not change during an inning.

13. Lineups are also made at the discretion of each team. Men will bat natural-handed. Must bat an even number of men and women.

14. If a male batter is pitched four balls, he has two (2) options:

- Take a walk to first
- Take another 1-and-1 count. If he walks again, he takes second base. (This does not automatically walk the next batter. Next batter has the choice)

15. A third strike dead ball is a dead ball. Runners cannot advance.

16. To prevent a loss of balls, and game delays, the Wheeling Park District will follow a "3 and 1 up" Home Run rule. The "one-up" home run rule is defined as once both teams have reached their home run limits, either team may hit an additional home run. No team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team after their team has hit their limit. Any additional home runs above the "oneup" will be scored as an out.

17. One-on-one count will be used for all leagues. In playoffs if a game is past the time limit the next first full inning will begin with a 2-2 count.

18. Rosters

- Rosters can have a maximum of 20.
- Players must sign roster before participating. Rosters and signatures are subject to a spot check.
- Changes may not be made after the third game of the season.
- All players must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- Players may play for one team only.
- If eligibility is questioned on a player, the umpire shall have all players show their ID that it matches and corresponds to what is on the roster.

19. Game Ball - The home team will receive the game ball.

20. Equipment

- Shoes - Only rubber softball spikes or tennis shoes may be worn. No metal or removable cleats permitted.

- Gloves - Only women are allowed to use gloves.

21. Bats

- Any bat may be used if marked "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" by manufacturer and/or if it fits through bat ring and has not been altered. There must be 10"-15" of tape for a safety grip. If there is any doubt concerning bats, it is the responsibility of each team manager to bring these bats to the attention of the umpire and opposing team manager for approval. Final decisions are made by the umpire.
- Aluminum bats are permissible if they conform to the rule and are in one piece.
- All bats must fit through the bat ring.
- No baseball or Chicago thick barreled bats are allowed.



Wheeling Park District Softball League SUMMARY OF RULES AND GUIDELINES

ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENTS & SPORTSMANSHIP

A high level of sportsmanship is very important to the Wheeling Park District to maintain in all athletic leagues. Any player or team that is abusing a referee, player, or spectator; physically, verbally or acting in any threatening way is subject to discipline. Wheeling Park District referees have the right to remove a player/team from a game due to unsportsmanlike behavior. If a player is removed from a game the player has three (3) minutes to leave the gym or the game will be forfeited.

Teams will not be allowed to play without a signed copy of the league rules and their respective team rosters filled out.

The Wheeling Park District reserves the right to advance winners of any league to the appropriate level.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the Wheeling Park District's Adult Softball League Rules. Any violation to the rules may have an impact on the participation of my team in the league. As well, my signature does hereby certify that I have hard/digital copy of these rules.

Team Captain Name/Signature/Date