



Revised Edition  
3-30-11

*Township of Woodbridge*  
*John E. McCormac, Mayor*  
*Department of Recreation & Resident Services*  
**2011 Adult Softball League Rules & Regulations**

**Rule 1- League Administration, Organization and Structure**

**Section 1. League Management**

A. The Adult Softball League is operated under the direction of the Woodbridge Township Department of Recreation & Resident Services.

**Section 2. Team Registration**

A. League fees are **\$400.00** for teams with all township residents and **\$500.00** for teams with non-resident players. **Full** payment and team application are due at the time of registration. **\$80.00** of your entrance fee is held as a forfeit fee deposit and will be refunded at the end of the season provided that your team does not forfeit any games.

B. To be eligible to participate in the league, all players must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older.

C. Teams are accepted on a **first come, first serve basis only** and space is limited. Prior participation does **not** guarantee your team a place in the league for the following season. Your team must re-apply every season. The Recreation Department will not and cannot verbally reserve a place in the league for any team.

D. The Woodbridge Township Recreation Department Adult Softball League has four (4) separate divisions. The Ladies Division plays on Monday's and the men's division play's Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The men's divisions are **not** separated into different levels of competitiveness.

The Tuesday Night Men's Division plays under a 6 to 12 foot limited arc pitch rule. See page 4 for specific rules that pertain to this league only. All other leagues are unlimited arc.

**Section 3. Rosters**

A. Teams must have the application section completed at the time of registration. All teams will have up until **Friday, May 6, 2011** to submit their final team roster and player information for the season. All of this information must be on your **one (1) official** township team roster (*Copied or faxed rosters are not your official township team roster and will not be accepted*). Teams **cannot** submit players on any additional roster sheets. All rosters will be date stamped after May 6, 2011 and no additions can be made after that. It is the responsibility of the each team manager to make sure that everyone who will be playing on their team in listed on their roster. Any team that does not have their roster turned in by May 6, 2011 will receive a forfeit for each subsequent game until roster is received. There is a limit of twenty (20) players per team roster.

**B.** Teams who are paying the Township entry fee must provide a copy of a driver's license for each player to prove residency.

**C. PROTEST OF ILLEGAL PLAYERS AND/OR ROSTERS**

Any protest on the grounds that a team is using illegal, non roster players must be done **prior** to the start of the game (unless the player(s) being challenged arrive late and attempt to enter the game). This protest must be done by the opposing team manager to the umpire. In a best two out of three game playoff series, it must be done prior to the start of the first game (unless the player(s) arrived late). The umpire will notify both teams that the game is being played under protest.

**D. IDENTIFICATION FOR PLAYOFF GAMES**

All Players must have a personal photo ID with them at the field for all playoff games in the event their status on their team's roster is challenged. The umpire will write down all of the names of the players being challenged as it appears on their ID on the lineup card for verification. If a challenged player either does not have or refuses to produce a personal photo ID, he/she will not be allowed to play.

**E.** Any team found using a non- rostered player(s) during a league game will receive a forfeit.

**F.** Player's are permitted to play on only one (1) team per division.

**Section 3. Scheduling**

**A.** The official schedule for all regular season games will be distributed to all team managers. Schedules are also posted on the official league web site.

The Internet address is: [www.quickscores.com/woodbridge](http://www.quickscores.com/woodbridge)

The site will be updated each week with all information pertaining to your league including current standings, rainout schedules, special announcements, etc. It shall be the managers responsibility to know when, where and whom his/her team is scheduled to play and inform all team members.

**B.** Home and Away Teams are listed on the schedule.

**C.** Games are played at **William Warren Park (Florida Grove Road in Woodbridge) & Boynton Park (North Grand Avenue in Port Reading)**. The Recreation Department cannot and will not consider any requests from any team to play their games at a certain time or field.

**D.** Games that are rained out are re-scheduled ASAP. Rainout schedules will be posted on the league web site and mailed to all team managers.

**E.** Rainout games are scheduled randomly at dates and times that fields are not being used for regular league play. Rainout games may be on a night other than your normal playing day. The Recreation Department cannot and will not re-schedule rainout games around team's participations in other leagues, divisions and/or other activities.

**F.** The status of all games will be announced daily on the Game Day Information Hotline **after 2:30PM**. The phone number is **732-602-6045**. Do not call the Recreation Department for the status of games. All players should call this number **(regardless of weather)** before reporting to the field, as there may be changes and/or a cancellation or forfeit for their game. The umpire will make final determination as to field conditions in all other circumstances. Failure to report to the field will constitute a forfeit. They may be instances that the weather may become inclement late in the day after the original message has been left stating that all games are on. If this does happen, please call the hotline again to see if the message has been changed.

**Rule 2- Playing Rules, Regulations and Points of Emphasis**

**Section 1. Supplies & Equipment**

**A.** Before the season starts, team managers must pickup their team information and supplies. Team supplies shall include but are not limited to the following:

**2011 Adult Softball League Rules & Regulations, League Schedule, Official Softballs & Lineup Cards.**

**B.** Each team is responsible for providing a new softball that was supplied by the league. Used balls are allowed in game play provided that they are approved by the umpire. Since a limited supply of softballs are available, it is necessary for teams to retrieve home run and foul balls in a timely manner. For safety and liability reasons, all softballs must be of the same COR, compression, color and manufacturer as originally supplied by the league.

**C.** All catchers **must** wear either a **face mask** or **safety goggles**. Regular eyeglasses and/or sunglasses are **not** considered safety goggles. Catchers in the ladies league must also wear a helmet. Metal spikes and bat “doughnuts” are prohibited.

**D.** Pregnant women may participate only with written approval of a physician.

**E. BATS: (MEN’S LEAGUES ONLY)** All bats that will be used in the league play will be provided for you at the fields. No outside bats are permitted in league games. Any player found using an outside bat will be ejected from the game and suspended for the next game.

Since these bats are property of Woodbridge Township there is to be no deliberate and/or intentional throwing, mishandling or damaging of bats. Any player who in the opinion of the umpire deliberately and/or intentionally throws, mishandles and/or causes physical damage to a bat will be ejected from the game and suspended for the following game.

**LADIES LEAGUE:** All players in the ladies league may use their own bats in league play. However, all bats must be ASA approved aluminum. **No composite or titanium bats whatsoever are allowed.** ASA approved aluminum bats with composite handles are permitted.

## **Section 2. The Game**

**A.** The umpire shall conduct a pre-game conference with the team managers to discuss ground rules. A lineup card listing the legibly printed first and last names of the starting lineup and substitutes **must** be turned in to the umpire at that time. Players who show up late may be added to a lineup card upon arrival.

**B.** Umpire fees are **\$20.00** per game per team for each game. Each team will pay the umpire **prior** to the start of the game. In event of a forfeit, the umpire will be paid **\$40.00** by the Recreation Department from the forfeiting teams account. If after two (2) innings a game is called due to inclement weather or any other circumstances, umpire fees are still paid. When game is re-scheduled, payment is once again due. The Recreation Department will pay umpire fees for the Championship Round of the playoffs (Teams pay umpire fees for all other playoff games).

**C.** There is a **ten (10) minute grace period** for **6:15PM** games only.

For all other games, there is **no** grace period (Game time is forfeit time).

**D.** In order to start a game each team must have at least nine (9) players present and ready to play at game time or by the end of the ten minute grace period (6:15PM games only). Less than 9 players will result in a team forfeit. Teams may use a maximum of ten (10) fielders and may bat up to twelve (12) players. Teams must continue to maintain at least nine (9) players on the field. If a team has started with nine (9) players, other players may enter the game and be added to the batting order on the condition that his/her team has not batted through the order. Those players **must be added to the bottom of the batting order**. If the team has batted through, **additional players may only be added as substitutes**.

**E.** The pitcher must deliver the ball at moderate speed, underhand and with an arc of **at least six (6) feet (from ground)** from when it leaves the pitchers hand to when it reaches home plate. A legal pitch **that** hits any part of home plate and/or the softball mat will be considered a strike.

**F.** Five (5) warm up pitches are allowed in the first inning. Only one (1) warm up pitch is permitted each subsequent inning with the exception of a substitution for a new pitcher. A new pitcher will be permitted five warm up pitches.

**G.** Only the on deck batter is permitted in front of the dugout area.

**H.** Runner(s) may not leave the base until after the ball has been hit by the batter. Violation will result in the runner(s) being out. The pitch will count as called by the umpire.

**I.** A batter is out on the third strike (**including a foul ball**). However, if the foul ball is caught, the ball remains in play and runners may advance at their own risk.

**J.** Courtesy Runners. Each team is allowed to use a courtesy runner for **NO MORE THAN TWO (2) DESIGNATED PLAYERS PER GAME**. These player(s) **must** be declared to the umpire and the opposing team manager before the start of the game otherwise no courtesy runner(s) may be used. Teams may **not** change their designated player(s) once the game has started. These player(s) must use a courtesy runner each time they reach base or forfeit that privilege for the remainder of the game. The courtesy runner **must** be the last player to make a **batted** out. The only exception is if the game is in the first inning and there are no outs. In that case the last player in the batting order will become the courtesy runner.

**K.** All runners will be awarded two bases from the start of play on a ball thrown **“out of play”**. Players positioning **when the ball is thrown out of play** will govern base advancement.

**L.** **Hit ans Sit Rule**: Batters and runners **DO NOT** run the bases on any home run ball that is hit over the fence.

**M.** **Double First Base**. A double first base will be used. On any ball hit in the infield the battter must run to the orange base in foul territory.

**N.** **Run Ahead (Mercy) Rule**. The following Run Ahead (Mercy) Rule is in affect:

**Ten (10) runs after 5 innings of play (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by Ten (10) runs or more).**

**O.** Forfeiture of two (2) games by any team will result in removal from the league. Any subsequent games will be recorded as a “7-0” win for the opposing team. Teams will not be charged an official forfeit provided that they notify the Recreation Department that their team will not be present by **no later than 12:00PM** on the day of the game. The game result will still be recorded as a 7-0 loss. If a team does calls ahead of time to notify the Recreation Department that they will not be able to field a team, the game will be made up **ONLY** if **ALL** other games are cancelled for that particular night.

**P.** All games (including playoffs) are considered regulation after 5 innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS**. If a game is called after five (5) innings but before (7) seven innings, the final score will revert back to the last completed inning.

**Q.** Any game that is not considered regulation and cannot be completed will be re-played in its entirety.

**R.** Any game that is tied after regulation (**5 or more complete innings**) and cannot be completed will be continued at the **start** of the inning that followed the last **completed** inning that was played. **Example**: If a game was 7-7 after 5 innings and was called in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, the game would resume in the beginning of the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning.

**TUESDAY NIGHT MEN’S LEAGUE**  
**RULES SPECIFIC TO THIS LEAGUE ONLY**  
**ALL OTHER LEAGUE RULES APPLY**

**A.** The arc of the ball thrown by the pitcher to the batter must be a minimum of six (6) feet (from ground) and a maximum of twelve (12) feet. The umpire will indicate an illegal pitch, but batter has the option to play pitch.

**B.** Each batter will start with a one (1) and one (1) count. The batter **will** be called out on the first foul ball after two (2) strikes.

**C.** There is a five (5) over the fence home run limit for each team per game. Any subsequent home run ball hit over the fence will be called an “out”.

## **Section 3. Post-Season Play**

- A.** Post-season (*playoff*) play will start after the conclusion of the regular season.
- B.** The amount of teams who make the playoff will be as follows:
- 1) Eight (8) teams will qualify for the playoffs in leagues that have 14 or more teams.**
  - 2) Six (6) teams will qualify for the playoffs in leagues with 10-13 teams.**
  - 3) Four (4) teams will qualify for the playoffs in leagues with less than 10 teams.**
- C.** Please be advised that we will make every effort to play all games that are canceled due to inclement weather. However, if there are an extraordinary amount of rainouts, all games may not be able to be played in order to complete the season without major delays. If all games are not played, this may cause a change in the playoff format.
- D.** In the event of a tie for post-season seeding, the final standings and playoff seedings will be determined by the following criteria:
- 1) "Head to Head" Competition.
  - 2) Total Runs **AGAINST**
  - 3) Team Forfeits
  - 4) Coin Toss
- E. The post season will be as follows:**
- 1) All rounds of the playoffs are the best two out of three games with the exception of the first round of the ladies league which is single elimination. All three (3) games (if necessary) will be played on the same night. The Higher Seed will be the Home Team for Game 1 and Game 3 (if necessary).**
  - 2) THE FIRST ROUND FOR AN EIGHT (8) TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT IS:**
    - a) Team One (1) will play Team Eight (8).
    - b) Team Two (2) will play Team Seven (7).
    - c) Team Three (3) will play Team Six (6).
    - d) Team Four (4) will play Team Five (5).
  - 3) THE FIRST ROUND FOR A SIX (6) TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT IS:**
    - a) Teams One (1) and Two (2) receive a first round bye
    - b) Team Three (3) will play Team Six (6)
    - c) Team Four (4) will play Team Five (5)
  - 4) THE FIRST ROUND FOR A FOUR (4) TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT IS:**
    - a) Team One (1) will play Team Four (4)
    - b) Team Two (2) will play Team Three (3)
  - 5) Teams are Re-Seeded for the Second Round.**
  - 6) Recreation Department pays umpire fees for the Championship Round only.**
  - 7) The Run Ahead (Mercy) Rule is still in effect for all post-season games.**
  - 8) All post-season games are considered regulation after 5 innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**
  - 9) Post season play may be on a night other than your normal playing day.**

## **Section 4. Game Protests**

**A.** After an alleged infraction, notification to protest must be made **immediately** before next pitch. The manager of the protesting team shall be the only person to notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest. The umpire will notify the opposing manager. All protests must then be submitted in writing, within twenty-four (24) hours of the game to the Director of Recreation, who will review all decisions concerning protests within forty-eight (48) hours.

**B.** To appeal a play to the umpire the ball must be returned to the pitcher and the appeal made by the pitcher. **With verbal acknowledgment from the umpire,** the ball will be declared a “Dead Ball”, and runners may not advance. The appeal must be exact, and only requested by the pitcher. There will be only one (1) appeal per play. **Umpire’s decision is final.**

**C.** No protests will be allowed on any decision of any umpire on the grounds that the umpire was incorrect in as to whether a batted ball was fair or foul, a runner safe or out, a pitched ball a ball or strike, or any play involving accuracy of judgment.

## **Section 5 Player and Team Code of Conduct**

**A.** This is a Woodbridge Township sponsored league **strictly for recreation,** and as such, un-sportsmanlike conduct does not belong. ***Foul and abusive language towards other players, spectators, umpires and township officials will not be tolerated. Physical threats and/or actions will result in expulsion from the league, and other possible Recreation Department activities.***

**B.** Any player ejected from a game will receive a **minimum** one (1) game suspension. **A second ejection will result in expulsion from the league for the remainder of the season.**

**C. *Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the field or surrounding area, as per league rule, Township of Woodbridge and Middlesex County Ordinances.***

***Any team found violating this policy will have their game stopped without warning and forfeited to the opposing team.***

***A second offense will result in the team’s removal for the season.***

**D.** **Each team is responsible for their players, and spectators, leaving the field and surrounding area clean and free of debris.**

**E.** Smoking is prohibited on the playing field.

**IT IS THE MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITY**  
**THAT ALL PLAYERS ON HIS/HER TEAM**  
**ARE MADE AWARE OF ALL OF THE**  
**RULES & REGULATIONS OF THIS LEAGUE !!!!**

## **PHONE NUMBERS & CONTACTS**

### **RECREATION OFFICE**

**732-596-4048**

**(DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE IN REGARD TO THE STATUS OF GAMES)**

### **GAME DAY INFORMATION LINE**

**732-602-6045 AFTER 2:30PM**

**INTERNET: [www.quickscores.com/woodbridge](http://www.quickscores.com/woodbridge)**

**All of your team information such as schedules (*including rainout games*), updated standings, bulletins and special announcements will be posted on the site.**

### **Our Mailing Address is:**

**Woodbridge Township Recreation Department**

**One Main Street**

**Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

**Thank you for your participation in the Woodbridge Township Recreation Department Adult Softball League.**

**We hope you have a fun season of playing recreational softball.**