



CITY PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Municipal Building

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****DRAFT** 2020 CITY SLO-PITCH LEAGUE RULES**

These rules are set up for the purpose of giving equal opportunities to all and to furnish certain standards of play. Your ability and sportsmanship will be reflected in the way you observe these rules.

1. SIGNING OF PLAYERS/TEAM CONDUCT

- A. ****NOTE** EACH TEAM MANAGER MUST SUBMIT A LIABILITY RELEASE/CONTRACT FORM SIGNED BY EACH MEMBER OF HIS/HER TEAM, PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED GAME OF EACH SEASON. WITHOUT THIS SIGNED FORM, A PLAYER IS INELIGIBLE AND A TEAM MUST FORFEIT. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE ON THE 4TH FLOOR OF CITY HALL IN JAMESTOWN.**
- B. All players in this League shall be signed on **two** waiver forms - one that will be kept by the team manager and the other must be filed in the City Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department.
- C. Waivers/rosters should be filed in the City Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department by Friday, May 15, 2020 or turned over to your Division Representative at the games on May 15th. **THIS IS A MUST.** The Parks and Recreation Office will not allow teams to play on Sunday, May 24th if their roster is not on file in the Parks and Recreation Office.
- D. All changes must be made on the waivers filed in the City Parks, Recreation and Conservation Office. Teams failing to comply do so at the risk of playing with ineligible players and shall forfeit all games in which unsigned players participated.
- E. New players can be added at any time **ONLY** if they sign the contract/waiver on file in the City Parks and Recreation Department **OR** at the ball field in the presence of the umpire and opposing team manager **prior to the game**. Signed roster **MUST** then be turned into the Recreation Office the next work day – if not turned in, the **PLAYER IS INELIGIBLE**.
- F. Players can sign off one roster and sign onto another roster **AS LONG AS THE PLAYER SITS OUT ONE WEEK OF SLO-PITCH GAMES**. If the “sit out week” is rained out, the player has to sit out the next week of actual Slo-Pitch games. This can only happen **PRIOR TO THE MID-SEASON TOURNAMENT (NO JUMPING teams after the Mid-Season Tourney)**.
- G. All players in this league must be at least 15 years of age and at least 16 years old to play in the infield.
- H. In the event that a team disbands prior to the end of the season, members of the team may join other teams. Those team members may play in the play-offs as long as they have played 3 regular season games whether with their old team or new team.
- I. **Abusive and/or vulgar language, game misconduct (includes intentional**

throwing of bats in a fit of rage) and abuse of other players WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

- i. Players ejected for a “minor,” such as swearing, are allowed to play in the next scheduled game. The 2nd time that player is ejected for a “minor,” they must sit out an entire week of games (including any scheduled for Sunday) and pay the \$50 fine.
 - ii. If a player is thrown out of the game, the team can still play with 9 players and take an out when that 10th player comes up to bat.
 - iii. Any member of a team ejected from a game for malicious bat throwing or abuse of other players will sit out two (2) weeks of games, including all other City Softball Leagues and (if applicable) the Mid-Season Tournament; and must pay \$100.00 directly to the Parks & Recreation Office before the player will be allowed to return to the team. If this happens a second time, the same procedure will follow. Should this player be involved in a 3rd incident during the season, he will be ejected from the League for the remainder of the season.
- J. According to City code, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are allowed in any City Park. While this law is hard to patrol, it will be strictly enforced during the ball games. Any member of a team caught possessing or consuming alcohol in a City Park will result in the dismissal of that team member from the league for the season and a fine of \$50.00 to be paid directly to the Parks & Recreation Office. In addition, in the instance where a playing team member is ejected for possessing alcohol, the game will be terminated and the involved player’s team will lose by forfeit. The 2nd infraction by a member of that team will result in the dismissal of the entire team from the league and a fine of \$50.00.
- K. **According to City Code, NO SMOKING, use of tobacco products, or e-cigarettes may be used in any City Park.** Those ticketed for this offense will face a \$50 fine for a first-time offense, \$100 for a second offense, and \$250 for a third or subsequent offense. In addition, any tobacco-related materials may be seized or disposed.
- L. Any member of a team who is ejected must immediately leave the City Park upon the umpire making the ejection call. For the Mid-Season Tournament, a team member ejected from a game is allowed to play in the next games along as the ejection is only for a “minor” (see I- i).
- M. Any member of a team who is involved in a fight will be suspended for the season and fined \$100.00. It is recommended that any fight is immediately reported to Jamestown Police at 483-7593 or by calling 9-1-1.
- N. Appeals: Appeal requests must be submitted within 72 hours (3 days) of the game where a disciplinary action has been taken (96 hours-4 days if Parks Offices are closed on Monday) to the Parks & Rec Office. An Appeals Committee will be made available to those wishing to appeal disciplinary rulings. This committee will include the Acting Parks Director, Recreation Coordinator, the A & B Division Presidents, the Assigning Umpire and the City Coordinator Umpire. The player in question will be allowed to bring 1 witness/supporter to the hearing and written/signed letters of support from other witnesses. The accusing side may present 1 witness and written/signed letters by other witnesses. A decision will be made within 24 hours of the Appeals Hearing and mailed to the Team Manager of the affected player.

- O. The B Division league champion and B Division play-off winner will move up to the A Division for 1 year. The A Division team with the lowest win-loss record will be given the option to move down to the B Division. This rule is retroactive to the 2016 season.

2. PLAYERS

- A. The Official Slow Pitch Softball Rules shall govern all league play, unless superseded by a local rule.
- B. A team may consist of no more than twenty-five (25) players.
- C. A playing team shall consist of ten (10) players.
- D. A team may start a game with eight (8) players, without a forfeit being called. The game will end if 15 runs are scored in three (3) innings.
- E. A team may play its entire roster.
- F. Commitment Line Rule: Once a runner passes the Commitment Line (30 feet between Third Base and Home Plate), the runner has to commit to running Home. All plays at Home Plate are a forced out if the player returns toward Third Base after crossing the line. The catcher simply has to touch home plate once a player crosses that line between Third and Home. The runner must avoid contact at home plate.
- G. Sliding:
 - a. Players may slide to the carpet at home with no contact. If light contact is made with a fielder, it's an out. If a player barrel/collides with a fielder, the player is ejected for the rest of the day.
 - b. No sliding at home during Mid-Season Tournament.
- H. All games are 1-and-1 Count. Games will be scheduled for one hour and 30 minutes in order to accommodate teams traveling between Bergman and Jones & Gifford Fields.
- I. . There will be no warm-up pitches after the 1st inning.
- J. THE DESIGNATED PINCH RUNNER must be named prior to each game. He will cease to be the pinch runner once he enters the game permanently. He may not be included in the batting lineup if you are using the option of batting all players rule. He may be entered into the game however, but at that time he ceases to be a pinch runner and he must be entered at the bottom of the lineup.
- K. DESIGNATED HITTER – Teams may use a designated hitter and extra hitter.
- L. The OPTION RULE OF BATTING ALL PLAYERS WHO DRESS FOR THE GAME means that you may bat all players who dress for the game. A team can choose not to play all players on the roster. If a manager notifies the opposing manager and the umpire that a player is hurt and cannot play, he does not have to include that player in the lineup, but he must understand that that player may not play in that particular game under any circumstance.
- M. The re-entry rule is in effect at all times and applies to everyone except the designated runner.
- N. Courtesy runner is allowed if agreeable to both teams (must use last out)
- O. Metal spikes are prohibited in all City softball leagues. Anyone caught wearing metal spikes during a game will be tossed from and suspended for balance of weekend. A \$25.00 fine must be paid to the City Parks and Recreation Office before player can play again in any City league.
- P. Special rules concerning individual fields:

- a. Danielson – All balls are in play beyond bleachers.
- b. J & G 2 – right field – if ball goes into weeds, it remains in play and runner should keep running.
- c. J & G 3 – a white stake will be placed in right field (at bushes). If a ball is hit to the right of the pole, it is a double (whether in air or rolls). If a ball is hit to the left of the pole, it is a home run (in the air) or a double (if it rolls there)
- Q. If batter swings and misses and the base runner leaves the base, the runner is not out.
- R. Even if umpire calls an ‘illegal pitch’, batter can still hit ball (at batter’s discretion).
- S. On Bergman 2 field, once the ball goes over the hill or is hit out of the umpire’s view, it’s considered a home run.

3. FORFEITURES

- A. A team that is scheduled must be on the assigned field, in full playing strength and ready to play, not later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time. There will be no warm-up pitches after the 1st inning.
- B. A playing team shall consist of ten (10) players; a team may start with nine (9) players without a forfeit, but also must finish with at least nine (9) players.
- C. If a team plays with an ineligible player, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
- D. The score of a forfeited game shall be 7-0. The forfeiting team will owe the umpire the full amount of \$32.00; the forfeiting team must then replenish their account with the Recreation Office by the following Wednesday (you cannot play again until you pay)
- E. If a team knows in advance that they will not have enough players for game(s) on Sunday, they can avoid the forfeit fee by notifying (**speaking to or leaving voicemail**) the Assigning Umpire by 5 p.m. Friday before games (By 5 p.m. Thursday for Mid Season/Play-Offs). Teams being played against must be notified as well by team managers.
- F. If a team cancels games because they desire to play in a tournament elsewhere, this will be considered a forfeit of the games canceled. No fee shall be assessed as long as the teams give the Assigning Umpire and other scheduled team(s) appropriate notice.

4. FEES

- A. The entry fee of \$370 will be used for the operation of the League and includes a user fee, trophies, a scorebook, and umpire’s fees for the Mid-Season Tourney and double-elimination play-offs.
- B. The deadline for entry fees is **Thursday, April 2, 2020**. Money received after that date will be assessed a **\$50.00 late fee**.
- C. In addition to the above fee, each team will be responsible for paying the umpire **\$16.00** at every league game, prior to the start of the game. If a game is called after a couple of innings, the umpire keeps the money, and when the game is rescheduled, the umpire is paid in full again.
- D. **No refunds** shall be made to any team once the playing season starts.

5. PROTESTS

- A. If a team desires to protest (this includes ineligible players), the protest must be filed in writing in the City Parks, Recreation and Conservation Office not later than 48

- hours following the completion of the game, and also with the umpire before play resumes. Umpires shall also mark the scorebook.
- B. The protest fee shall be \$5.00 and if the decision is won by the team entering the protest, the fee shall be returned.
 - C. A competent board of three (3) experienced men shall be appointed by the Parks and Recreation Office to serve as the Protest Committee.
6. GAME LIMITATIONS
- A. A game shall consist of seven (7) innings.
 - a. For the B-Division: **10 run rule is in effect after 5 full innings, unless the visiting team scores the 10th run in the top of the 7th inning, then the full game is played out.** B-Division games played in the morning shift will be limited to 1 hour, 30 minutes which includes time needed for teams to switch fields/parks.
 - b. For the A-Division **10 run rule is in effect after 5 full innings, but the home team will get the last up in the 5, 6, or 7th inning.** In case of a tie at the end of seven innings, the game shall be continued until a winner is declared.
 - c. The 10-run rule above applies to the Mid-Season Tournament and the Play-Offs.
 - B. A game may be called by the umpire in case of rain, darkness, etc.
 - C. A fifteen (15) minute leeway must be given from the starting time before a forfeit can be called.
 - D. Mid-Season and Play-Off games will start over if interrupted by inclement weather. The winning team gets home.
7. POSTPONEMENTS
- A. There shall be no postponements unless caused by an Act of God. The only legal excuse is for tournaments (2 games maximum) and in this case, 72 hours notice must BE GIVEN by contacting the other team **AND THE ASSIGNING UMPIRE.**
 - B. Postponed games (because of rain) must be decided upon by the managers at the playing field. If the first scheduled game of the day is postponed because of rain, teams should report to the field for the next scheduled game and determine if field is playable. If first two games of the day are postponed, all remaining games are cancelled for the day.
 - C. **Field condition phone number: 661-6477**
 - D. Thunder and Lightning ARE considered the same. Wait 30 minutes.
8. BALLS
- A. Each team shall furnish a new ball for each game and any other balls be needed.
 - B. **Official balls must be purchased at the Parks and Recreation Office at a cost of \$46.00 per dozen (\$23.00 half dozen).**
9. BATS
- A. Composite bats, including “half and half” bats, are now prohibited in all City softball leagues. Aluminum bats (aluminum alloy included) are the bats now sanctioned by the City for use in City Softball Leagues. The bats must be clearly marked and ASA stamped. In addition, the Mizuno Techfire Crush 2004 ("Orange Crush") and the Easton CV12 SCR1 Slow Pitch Softball bat are not allowed per manufacturer’s confirmation that the bats contain composite materials.

- B. Anyone caught using a composite bat (illegal bat) during a game will result in that player's team forfeiting that game and any of games for that day in addition to forfeiting the next week's games. The team is responsible for paying the full umpire fees for all games forfeited. The second time a player on a team is caught using an illegal bat will result in that team being ejected from the league for the remainder of the season.

10. MID-SEASON TOURNAMENT

- A. The Mid-Season Tournament will be played on Saturday, June 13th – Sunday, June 14th, 2020.
- B. The drawing to seed the tournament bracket will be done by close of business, Monday, June 1, 2020.
- C. Teams that will not be playing in the Mid-Season tournament must give notice by 8:00 a.m., Monday, June 8th in order to not be charged a forfeit fee. Teams that do not give notice before that date and do not show up for the tournament games will be charged a \$64 forfeit fee.
- D. In the Mid-Season Tournament, whoever is in the winner's bracket gets their choice of home or away in the Championship game.
- E. Players may not change teams after the Mid-Season Tournament. New players may be signed up.

11. PLAY-OFFS

- A. All teams qualify for the double elimination play-offs.
- B. TIES IN POSITION - for Play-offs, League standings will be determined by the outcome of the regular season games played between the two teams. (No play-offs for position).
- C. The 10-run rule is in effect for all play-off games, including championship games.
- D. A player must participate in one set of Sunday games to be eligible for the playoffs. (Major injuries will be taken into account). Active members of the Military are exempt from this rule. Both FIRST AND LAST NAMES must be used in scorebooks.
- E. The League President will receive copies of the rosters for all teams after the Regular Season concludes but before Play-Off's commence.
- F. For any rain delay, a 30 minute waiting period is mandatory
- G. Any member of a team who is ejected from a Play-Off game will be fined \$50.00, which must be paid directly to the Parks & Recreation Office, and must sit out the first week of games that take place the following season. The player also is out for the remainder of games scheduled for the play-offs.
- H. The top seeded team has the choice of home or away until it comes to the winner's bracket. The winner's bracket team then has the choice of being away or home.
- I. In the Play-Offs, whoever is in the winner's bracket gets their choice of home or away in the Championship game.

12. UMPIRES

- A. Umpires from the Chautauqua County Softball Umpires Association will be used. One (1) umpire shall be used. The scheduled fee is **\$32.00 in 2020**.
- B. Except for during the Mid-Season Tournament and Play-Offs, all umpires will be

- paid at the start of the game (**\$16.00** from each team).
- C. Umpires will not officiate games in which family members play.
 - D. The **ONLY** time that two (2) umpires will be used (Mid-Season and Play-offs) will be in the finals of the Winners' and Losers' Brackets.
 - E. Umpire complaints should be submitted in writing to:
 - Bo Bello
719 Harding Avenue
Jamestown, NY 14701
 - Don Peterson
11 Peterson Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

13. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. The home team scorebook shall be the official one. Scorebooks are included in entry fee.
- B. Prior to the start of every game, a line up card must be given to the opposing coach that he will keep for player eligibility records.**
- C. Trophies/plaques shall be awarded to the League Champion and Runner-Up plus Play-off Champion and Runner-Up.
- D. The manager of the winning team shall call the news media with the game results.
- E. Players and Umpires **cannot** work on the ball fields