

DES MOINES PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Leisure Sports Office

248-6310

3711 Easton Blvd, 50317

Adult Softball League Rules

I. GENERAL RULES

- A. Teams must comply with the rules and regulations established by the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department to be eligible to participate. Entry fees and new rule additions are established on a yearly basis.
- B. It is the team manager's responsibility to make sure their team obeys all administrative and league rules. The manager's responsibilities also include: maintaining discipline and control over the team and spectators at all times. It is also the manager's responsibility to schedule make up games.
- C. There are no entry fee refunds unless a team cannot be placed in a league. All fees must be paid before play begins, including non-resident fees.
- D. All games must be played as scheduled. Teams may not postpone games or reschedule league games. Only the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department may postpone games or reschedule games for any reason.
- E. A team is not officially entered until the Leisure Sports Office has received a completed application and a completed team roster.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. All players must be residents of the **City of Des Moines corporate limits** or pay a \$10.00 per player non-resident fee. Non-resident fees are good for summer and fall leagues.
- B. It is recommended that all players be 18 years of age when league play begins. If players under 18 years of age are used, a parent release form must be filed with this office prior to that person playing, along with department approval.
- C. Players are allowed to play on more than one team; but only on one team in a league. The non-resident fee will be charged for each team.

III. ROSTERS

- A. Only original Park & Recreation roster forms may be used.
- B. Roster forms must be completed as outlined including name, home address, and phone number, birth date and **signature** of all players.
- C. It is the responsibility of the manager to see that the roster is completely accurate and submitted to the Leisure Sports Office **before the first game or forfeit if protested**. The non-resident fee is due with the roster.

- D. Players are not legal participants until the roster information is complete.
- E. Teams may add up to a 20-person limit on the roster. No rosters may be changed after 70% of the schedule has been played. If you have failed to submit a roster, your team will not be able to participate in any city recreation tournaments.
- F. Players may only be added or released by the team manager. The manager must sign an add or release form and submit it to the Leisure Sports Office. An added player must submit the form at least 48 hours before the next scheduled game he/she will play.
- G. A player dropped by one team may not be added to another team in their league for at least one week from the date of official release. The official date is the date the form is received in the Leisure Sports Office.
- H. If it is proven by a proper protest that an ineligible player has competed for a team, the last game in which he/she participated will be forfeited.
- I. Only current legal league rosters will be valid for recreation tournament play. In tournaments advancing toward a state or national tournament a new roster is required. This roster is not restricted to the league roster.
- J. If a roster is discovered as being forged, it is not a legal roster.

IV. PLAYERS CONDUCT

- A. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner displaying good sportsmanship at all times. The Park and Recreation Department will have the authority to suspend any player, manager or team for improper conduct.
- B. Neither drinking nor the use of drugs is allowed - any person violating this rule may be suspended for the remainder of the season. Drinking or use of drugs at the site of game play or coming to the game under the influence of the same will not be tolerated. No smoking is allowed in the playing area.
- C. Any player physically attacking, pushing or shoving an official in any manner may be suspended for a minimum twelve-month period. This includes all athletics operated by the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department. Offenders will be prosecuted.
- D. The umpire will be in charge and their decisions are final, except in the matter of protests handled through proper procedure.
- E. **A team member ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game.** A second offense may result in suspension for the remainder of the season. Players or managers shall not be allowed to attend any games while under suspension.

- F. The umpire shall have the authority at their discretion to eject any player, coach or spectator for unsportsman like conduct or language, and such person shall immediately leave the area or the game will be forfeited and the person suspended. Managers have the responsibility to maintain control of their players and team representatives. Umpires have the authority to maintain control while preventing injurious conditions.

V. DISQUALIFICATION

A. Acts of Disqualification

A team or team member may be disqualified for a minimum of one calendar year for any of the following:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct which includes verbal threats.
2. Physical violence, such as an attack on an umpire, tournament official or any other person or property immediately preceding, during or following a game.
3. Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to league or tournament officials.
4. Knowingly participating in a league or tournament in which he/she does not meet the eligibility requirements.

B. Hearing and Appeal

1. **Hearing and appeal:** A team or team member will be given an opportunity for a hearing if requested. The official may appoint an acting official to conduct the hearing in their place. The purpose of the hearing is to voice both sides.
2. **Notification:** The team or team member will be notified of the time, place and date of the hearing. Should the accused player fail to attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance. A decision will be made based on the evidence. The decision of the supervisor is final.

VI. PROTESTS

- A. All protests must be made directly to the umpire and opposing manager immediately at the time the infraction occurs or is discovered. Eligibility of legal players is also a protest situation.
- B. An official written protest form, completed and signed by the manager or representative must be submitted to the Leisure Sports Office by 5:00 p.m. of the following workday. The scorebook should accompany the protest. A \$10.00 protest fee is required; which is returned if the protest is upheld. Protests of the umpire's judgment will not be accepted.

- C. Eligibility protests may be made to the umpire and opposing manager at the start of the game or as soon as the infraction is discovered. Eligibility Protests will not be accepted after a game is over, but may be reported to the Leisure Sports Office within 24 hours after the game for investigation and possible suspension. First and last names are required in all scorebooks (**NO NICKNAMES**).
- D. A decision will be made on a protest within seven days after it has been submitted to the Leisure Sports Office and all parties will be notified immediately. If a game must be replayed as a result of the decision, it will be rescheduled by the Leisure Sports Office.

VII. PLAYING RULES

- A. League games will require the below number of players to start a game:
 - Fast Pitch - 9 (may start with 8)
 - Slow Pitch - 10 (may start with 9)
 - Coed - 10 (may start with 9)

If not enough players are present to start it is officially a forfeit.

In slow pitch, a team may continue a game with one player less than ten when the vacancy was created by injury or illness (not ejection). Teams may never play with 8 in slow pitch.

- B. Time Limit: No new inning will start after 55 minutes in slow pitch and 1 hour 20 minutes in fast pitch. If the inning is started it is to be completed. It is a good idea to have the managers and umpires agree on the actual time when the game starts.
- C. The 15 run rule is in effect after the 3rd inning in slow pitch.
The 10 run rule is in effect after the 5th inning in slow pitch.
The 7 run rule is in effect after the 5th inning in fast pitch.
- D. All games are played as scheduled. If no umpire shows, the game is officially postponed, unless both teams mutually agree to use a pick-up umpire. Both teams need to call in the results.
- E. **No grace period**- game time is playing time.
- F. The home team is the team on the right side.
- G. Each team provides a ball for each game. The ball must meet current A.S.A. requirements.
- H. All slow pitch leagues will use the 1 ball and 1 strike count.
- I. Coed leagues follow A.S.A. rulings.
- J. Masks with throat protectors must be worn by catchers in fast pitch.
- K. All steel cleats are banned in recreation league games.

- L. On rainy days, the decision to play or postpone is made at 4:00 PM (Mon.-Fri.) and 10:00 AM on weekends. The **RAINOUT HOTLINE number is 256-2434.**
- M. To schedule make-up games, both team managers should get together and tentatively find a day suitable for both teams. One manager should call the Leisure Sports Office and set up the game. **The other manager then calls in and confirms that his/her team will be there.** No umpire will be sent unless both teams confirm.

Games must be confirmed by **4:00 p.m. Thursdays** for the weekend games, so umpires can be scheduled. An unconfirmed game will not have an umpire.

N. CITY ORDINANCE:

Alcoholic Beverage is illegal at any softball field **except Savage Softball Complex and Greater Des Moines Softball Park when purchased at the concession stand.**

These rules will be enforced at Savage/Des Moines complexes.

1. No cooler or bottles allowed in complex.
2. No pets.
3. No tailgating in parking lots. (Authorities will issue tickets.)
4. Alcoholic beverages may be purchased at concession stand.

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