



DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT

2023 FALL ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all league play is governed by the rules and regulations of the USA Softball Association (U.S.A.). As U.S.A. changes rules every year, any exceptions will be amended as received.

The Downers Grove Park District does not provide hospitalization or medical insurance covering players, officials or spectators. Players competing in our leagues are responsible for their own health. Any injuries incurred are not the responsibility of the Downers Grove Park District. Players compete by THEIR CHOICE and must sign an injury waiver (team roster) before competing in any league. It is strongly suggested that each individual have personal insurance coverage in case of injury.

It is Park District policy that no alcoholic beverage be present on district properties. Offenders risk penalty of the law. Any player drinking before, during or after the game on Park District property is ineligible to play the next game, and their team shall forfeit their game on that particular evening. Spectators drinking may also cause forfeiture of the game.

TEAMS MUST TURN IN FINAL ROSTERS BY THE THIRD WEEK OF THE REGULAR SEASON

I. THE SCHEDULE

A. Regular Season Play

1. Regular season play consists of an 8 game schedule (16 game schedule for double header league) followed by playoffs
2. If two or more teams are tied for any position at the end of the regular season, the following criteria, in order as stated, determine final league standings and post-season seedings:
 - a) Team with the most forfeits during the regular season automatically loses all ties
 - b) Head-to-head record
 - c) Head-to-head differential
 - d) Largest total margin of victory in regular season competition
 - e) Least runs scored against in regular season competition
 - f) Highest total runs scored in regular season competition

B. Post-Season Tournament

**Number of teams who make playoffs will depend on the number of teams signed up for each league*

1. The playoffs are single-elimination and played on the first regular game day following regular season and make-up games.
2. Before playoff games the Park District will randomly choose teams to roster check. Failure to bring a photo ID with you to the playoff game with result in that player being ineligible.

II. LEAGUE AWARDS

- A. DGPD Issued Check is awarded to the first place finishers of the regular season. - \$150
- B. DGPD Issued Check and a Trophy are awarded to the first place finishers of the post-season tournament. - \$100

III. LEAGUE ROSTERS

- A. Rosters are limited to 24 players, all of whom must be 18 years old before the first game of the season.
- B. Rosters must be completed with each player's name, telephone number, address, and signature and be turned in to the Downers Grove Park District by the team's first scheduled game. Any individual who:
 - a) participates in league play prior to signing an official roster form or
 - b) fails to include his/her telephone number and or address on the roster shall be declared ineligible for the entire season.
- C. If an opposing captain or Park District staff person contests a player's eligibility and the name is not on the roster, he/she is considered an ineligible player. All games played with ineligible players are declared forfeits.
- D. Teams may make roster changes on or prior to the completion of the team's second game. After this time, changes are permitted only in the event of a player's injury or illness (with a doctor's note). All requests for changes must be made on a Park District roster change form and submitted to the Recreation Supervisor before any new team member may play. Any replaced or removed player is ineligible for play on any team until the following season.
- E. Players can only play on one team in their league. Players cannot play on multiple teams in same league.

IV. LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Park District provides field equipment (excluding bats and gloves), reasonably maintained fields, game balls, and rules and regulations to captains.
- B. The Recreation Supervisor is responsible for enforcing all league rules, supervising league play, tournaments, field supervisors, providing umpires, maintaining league standings and equipment, scheduling rain outs and communicating information to team captains. The Recreation Supervisor reserves the right to interpret and/or change any league rules at his/her discretion.
- C. The field supervisor is responsible for setting up fields, dispensing specific first aid supplies, communicating information to team captains, and overseeing league play in the absence of the Recreation Supervisor. Field supervisors are not responsible for conveying information or complaints from team captains to the Recreation Supervisor.
- D. Umpires are responsible for maintaining the orderly progress of each game as defined in the U.S.A. Official Rules of Softball and the Downers Grove Park District league rules.

V. RAINOUT POLICY

- A. Cancellation information may only be obtained by calling the Downers Grove Park District Rainout Line at 630-225-7272 extension 63 AFTER 5:00. ONLY use EXT. 63 for this
- B. If a rain out occurs after the start of the first assigned game, Park District staff update the Rainout Line message immediately after a decision to cancel the evening's games has been made. If in doubt, GO TO THE FIELD PREPARED TO PLAY!
- C. All games canceled by weather, suspended due to light failure or time consideration will be official games if 5 innings of play have been completed. If 5 innings have not been completed the game is null and void and rescheduled for a later date.
- D. If the lightning prediction system ThorGuard sounds, all fields must be cleared. If, after 20 minutes has passed and the all-clear signal has not sounded, the games will be official if 5 innings or 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead of play having been completed. If 5 innings have not been completed the game is null and void and rescheduled for a later date.
- E. ALL PLAYERS MUST LEAVE THE FIELD AND SEEK SHELTER (i.e. CARS, PARK PAVILION) IF THORGUARD SOUNDS OR GAME IS POSTPONED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.
- F. Make-up games are scheduled in the order they were canceled and typically played on Sunday or after the last week of the regular season.

VI. PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. Team captains are responsible for the conduct of their respective team members and spectators. Team captains (or assistant captains in their absence) and pitchers are the only team members permitted to address or confer with the umpires or field supervisors.
- B. Any player displaying signs of intoxication will not be permitted to play and asked to leave the premises.
- C. Verbal abuse or profanity perceived by the umpire as being in excess or unsportsmanlike results in (in order):
 - 1. Expulsion from the game.
 - 2. Expulsion from the playing area.
 - 3. Forfeiture of the game.
- D. Any physical contact, threatening verbal abuse or gesture (interpreted by the umpire, field supervisor, or Recreation Supervisor) with an umpire, player of the opposing team, spectator or Park District staff person results in immediate and permanent expulsion from the league.
- E. A player who intentionally throws a bat shall be ejected from the game.
- F. Any player ejected from a game for any reason will serve a minimum two game suspension, rendering him/her ineligible for the following two games. The Recreation Supervisor reserves the right to increase or decrease all suspensions at his discretion. Two separate ejections shall suspend the player from the league for the remainder of the season.
- G. Any ejected player who refuses to give their name or gives a false name, to the field supervisor will be suspended an additional two games above and beyond the original

suspension. It is then the responsibility of the team captain to report the player's name to the field supervisor. Failure to do so will result in a two game suspension for the team captain.

- H. The Recreation Supervisor may, upon recommendation from the field supervisor or umpire, expel any player, manager, team, spectator, or individual from league play for the remainder of the season for any action which interferes with the orderly progress of the game (i.e. fighting, flagrant rules violations, harassment of officials, players, spectators, etc.).

VII. LEAGUE PLAY – ALL LEAGUES

- A. Forfeit time is ten minutes after the scheduled game time for the first game. Forfeit time is game time for all remaining games.
 - 1. Teams may begin a game with nine or ten field players. **Teams can bat all rostered players if they choose**, and not be penalized if a player is lost due to injury. The only time an out in the order will be enforced is if a player is ejected from a game. That player cannot be replaced and will be an automatic out in the order for the remainder of the game. No team can ever play with eight players. If a team starts with nine and loses a player, for any reason, the game is forfeited.
 - 2. A decision to declare a forfeit is based upon U.S.A. Rules. When a game is declared a forfeit, both captains shall be notified at once. The official score of a forfeited game is 7 - 0 in favor of the team that does not forfeit.
 - 3. **Each team is allowed one forfeit. A second forfeit will result in a \$50 fine assessed to that team. This fine is due at 4:00 p.m. the Friday prior to that team's next scheduled game. Failure to pay before the next regularly scheduled game, or a third forfeit, results in that team being dropped from league play, with no monies returned to that team.**
 - a) **EXCEPTION: If a team captain notifies the Athletic Supervisor by 4:00pm two days prior to a game that they will forfeit the game, no fine will be assessed.**
- B. Team captains reserve the right to request a courtesy runner in the event a player is unable to run the bases due to an injury. In all cases the courtesy runner shall be the individual making the last batted out.
- C. The home team keeps the official score. The home team shall notify the umpire of the scores at the end of each inning. It is the captains' responsibility to check the score periodically to insure accuracy and to check the final score and sign the scorecard.
- D. Teams are responsible for their own first aid. The field supervisor has ice packs and plastic adhesive bandages.
- E. A game is declared over if the home team is winning by 20 runs after the third; 15 runs after the fourth inning, 10 any inning after the fifth (4 ½ innings if the home team is winning).
- F. Metal spikes are not permitted. The umpire shall remove from the game any player in violation of this rule.

- G. Teams shall receive one warning in the event a defensive player applies a “fake tag” in order to coerce a base runner into sliding (in the opinion of the umpire). A second incident shall result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- H. Any base runner that crashes into a fielder waiting to apply tag, rather than sliding or otherwise attempting to avoid contact shall be declared out. If the offense is perceived by the umpire as being flagrant and deliberate the runner shall be ejected from the game.
- I. After the first inning the umpire shall invoke the "no warm up" rule, which permits the pitcher 3 to 5 warm-ups and no infield or outfield warm-ups.
- J. All batters start with a one and one count. A foul ball with two strikes renders the batter out.
- K. No new inning may start after 1 hour has elapsed from the start of the game. All games that exceed the one-hour time limit shall be declared final and official.
 - 1. Exception: Championship games shall have no time limit.
 - 2. Exception: (Sudden Death Rule) – No games will end with a tie score. If the 1 hour time limit is declared, or extra innings are necessary to complete a game, the following will occur:
 - a) Each team will start with a runner on 2nd base with no outs. Full innings will be played until one team outscored the other. The runner on 2nd base will be the last batted out from the previous inning.
- L. Five innings (4 ½ if the home team is winning) must be played to make a game official, except those called for exceeding the one-hour time limit. Any game not declared official shall be made up in its entirety.
 - 1. If five innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is winning) have been completed and a game is called during the middle of an inning due to loss of field lights or poor weather, the score at the start of the inning shall be recorded as the final score.
- M. The official starting time for a game delayed by a previous game is 5 minutes after the end of the preceding game. In these cases, no infield practice is allowed.
- N. Bats
 - 1. All bats must pass the bat compression tester and must have a DGPD Athletics sticker on the bat at all times. All bats must be tested before the 1st game of the regular season. If a bat is used in a game that has not been through the compression tester and does not have a DGPD Athletic sticker, then the result in the play will be a dead ball and the batter will be out and all base runners will go back to their bases. The batter will also be ejected from the game and the spot in the order will be an out for the remainder of the game. If the same player is ejected for a 2nd time for using an illegal bat, then the player will be suspended from the league.
 - 2. Bats shall not exceed 34”, be more than 2 ¼” in diameter at its largest part of the barrel, or weigh more than 38 ounces.
 - 3. All bats must be in compliance with U.S.A. rules and regulations. Only bats that bear a U.S.A. approved certification mark (and pass the bat compression tester),

or those included on the list published by the U.S.A. National Office, are permitted for use in league play.

4. Titanium bats are not permitted.
5. The bat must have a safety grip of tape for a minimum 10" and maximum 15".
6. The U.S.A. website is:

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/certified-equipment>

- O. Schedule changes ARE NOT MADE TO ACCOMMODATE OTHER LEAGUE COMMITMENTS.
- P. When a home run is hit out of the park, the batter and all base runners can go directly to the dugout. No appeals may be made for missed bases.
- Q. Pitchers may pitch 5 feet directly behind the pitching rubber. No "Jump Step" will be allowed. Pitcher must be directly behind the rubber, not to either side of the rubber.

VIII. LEAGUE PLAY – MEN'S 12"

- A. Five home runs is the maximum allowed per team each game. The sixth and each successive home run hit by a team results in an out being registered.
- B. U.S.A. Rules apply unless otherwise noted.

IX. LEAGUE PLAY - CO-REC 12"

- A. Pitching- A strike zone mat will be not be used for this division
- B. Teams must field 5 men and 5 women at all times. See exceptions below.
 1. If a team starts with 5 women and 4 men, the 10th batter will not get an automatic out.
 2. If a team starts with 5 men and 4 women, the 10th batter will get an automatic out.
- C. Teams may play with more women than men, example: 6 women and 4 men.
- D. Batting lineups must alternate man, woman, man or vice versa.
- E. Co-Rec defensive positioning shall include 2 males and 2 females in the outfield, 2 males and 2 females in the infield, and 1 male and 1 female as pitcher/catcher.
- F. There must be 4 outfielders with 10 players on the field.
- G. The pitcher and catcher must consist of a man/woman combination.
- H. Fielders may play at any position at any time, except the pitcher and catcher must consist of a man/woman combination.
- I. Any "walk" (base on balls) to a male player will result in the male player being awarded second base. With zero outs or one out the female player up next will still need to bat.
Exceptions:
 1. With two outs in any inning the female player will have the option to hit or walk.
 2. In the final inning of a game (either 7th inning or final inning declared by the umpire due to time limit) regardless of the number of outs the female player will have the option to walk or hit. The male player would go to second every time regardless.
- J. Courtesy runners will be allowed within the same gender. (See "courtesy runner" in above section.)

- K. A team may bat all rostered players, but only field 10. Same rule applies as above; man, woman, man or vice versa. Example: If there are 7 men and 6 women, an automatic out will occur in the 14th batter spot. There is a maximum of 10 men in the batting order that must rotate man/women. Teams may never have 2 men bat in succession without an out, however, you may bat women back to back.
- L. Two players may hold the same spot in the batting order as long as they alternate each time up to bat. These players may rotate freely on defense.
- M. Women will be allowed one extra foul ball on the second strike.
- N. When a woman or man is batting, the outfielders must play in the outfield grass. Once the ball is hit into play, the outfielders may enter the infield.
- O. Five home runs is the maximum allowed per team each game. The sixth and each successive home run hit by a team results in an out being registered.

X. PROTESTS

- A. The only protests permitted are over an umpire's interpretation or over an illegal player.
 - 1. On a protest of an umpire's interpretation, protest must be filed before the next pitch with the umpire, opposing team captain, and field supervisor. Both captains should note the exact situation and where players and runners are positioned.
 - 2. A written protest must be submitted to the Recreation Supervisor no later than 4:30 p.m. of the second working day following the incident. A \$35.00 check must accompany any written protest. If the protest is allowed, the money is returned; if the protest is rejected, the money is forfeited.
 - 3. The Recreation Supervisor makes decisions on protests after consultation with the umpire, field supervisor, and team captains involved.
 - 4. The umpire's decision is considered final in all post-season games.
 - 5. Guidelines for filing protests are in the U.S.A. Official Rules of Softball.
- B. Player Eligibility
 - 1. Player eligibility must be challenged prior to the end of the game and may be made by either the opposing team captain or a Park District staff person.
 - 2. The offending captain must then prove eligibility to the satisfaction of the opposing captain or staff person, or play with the knowledge that if the protest is upheld, the game will be forfeited.
 - 3. A formal protest must be filed by the above guidelines if the offended team captain is not satisfied.
 - 4. If the player proves to be eligible, the game shall continue or stands as played; if ineligible, the game is forfeited immediately.
 - 5. Any failure to follow the above guidelines will nullify the protest.