

Co-Ed 14" Softball League (Summer)
Rules and Regulations



OBJECTIVE

- To provide an opportunity for interested adults to play organized recreational softball, stressing fair play and sportsmanship.

MANAGEMENT AND AUTHORITY

- The general management and authority of this league shall be vested with the Niles Park District and final authority with the Park District Board.
- The league director shall be appointed by the Niles Park District.
- Once payment has been made and the 1st week of the league has been played, there will be no refunds given.
- The league director and/or the Superintendent of recreation shall handle all protests and such matters of conduct to the league.

PLAYER COMMITMENTS

- Rosters must have the captain designated. All communications between the league director and teams will be relayed through the captain. Captains are responsible for relaying league rules and policies to their teammates. If rules are not followed, teams will be penalized.
- A minimum of ten (10) players on the roster is required per team. The maximum is twenty (20).
- Rosters will be present for playoff games and non-rostered players won't be allowed to play. All players should have an ID on hand in the event of a roster check for the playoffs. A final roster is due before the start of your 2nd game.
- A player who begins with a team must play with that team for the entire season. A player may only play on one team.

PLAYERS CONDUCT

- A player who is ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct is automatically suspended for the next scheduled game at the umpires discretion. If the ejected player leaves the field calmly, and there are no other issues after the ejection, the umpire may elect to allow the player to proceed without further punishment.
- Any player ejected for physical abuse to another player shall be ejected for the next two scheduled games.
- Any player ejected for physical abuse to an umpire shall be suspended from the league for the entire season.
- The umpire has the right to remove any player that was ejected from the game from the park grounds.
- Any player ejected from a game must sit out one full game prior to playing again.
- No profane language or gestures will be tolerated.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted on Park District property. Any player, team or fan of a team that violates this rule may be suspended for the entire season.

PROTESTS

- There are no in game protests. Umpire decision is final.
- The only protest allowed will be for player eligibility in playoffs. If a team protests a player, it must be brought up to the umpire and opposing captain prior to that player's first at-bat. The Niles Park District will determine that player's eligibility by a roster check.

LEAGUE INFORMATION

- An adult league is defined as a players who are 18 and over before the start of the league.

- The Niles Park District reserves the right to suspend any team for not following the league rules. Suspensions will be without refund.
- The league structure will be announced during a preseason meeting or a leaguwide communication sent via email.
- If identical records appear and there is a tie for 1st and/or any other place then tiebreakers will be in this order.
 - Head to head play will determine place setting
 - Head to head least amount of runs given up.
 - Season total number of runs scored.
 - Season total number of runs allowed.
 - Athletic Staff will have the final decision
- **Make-up games or rain-outs will be played on Tuesdays or Sundays.**
- A minimum of ten (10) players on the roster is allowed per team. The maximum is twenty (20). Rosters will be present for playoff games and non-rostered players wont be allowed to play. All players should have an ID on hand in the event of a roster check.
- All players must be listed on the league roster to be eligible to play. A final roster is due before the start of your 2nd game.

LENGTH OF GAME

- A game shall consist of seven (7) complete innings, weather conditions permitting, of which the umpire shall be sole judge. In the event of an umpire calling a game after five complete innings, the score shall revert back to the last complete inning as stipulated in the A.S.A rules book.
- In the event that one team is ahead by twelve (12) runs after four (4) complete innings or ten (10) runs after five (5) complete innings, the game will be called due to slaughter rule.
- Any game called before three (3) innings have been completed, must be played over. If after three (3) innings have been completed and the game is called, the make-up or continuance of the game will be from the spot reached at the time the umpire called the game. Any time after four and a half (4 ½) innings have been completed and the game is called with the home team leading, the game shall be considered a complete game.
- Game time is forfeit time. The umpire's watch is official.
- All games will have a 1:10 drop dead time limit. No **new** inning may start 1 hour after the first pitch.
- In the event of a tie after 7 innings or the 1 hour time limit, we'll go to an "International Tie-Breaker Rule" for the 8th inning or any inning thereafter. The inning will start with the last batter from the previous inning on 2nd base and then all other rules apply.
- Park curfew is 10:45pm. The lights will automatically shut off at 11:00pm.

LOCAL RULES

- Starting a game with less than 10 players:
 - In order to continue to make the game enjoyable, a team will be allowed to play with 5 males and 4 females, **BUT** at the expense of a **ONE PENALTY OUT** for the absent female player in the batting order. If a team starts with 5 males and 4 females, defensive alignment must be females at 1st base, 3rd base, center field and pitcher or catcher.
 - A team will be also allowed to play with 5 males and 3 females, **BUT** at the expense of a **TWO PENALTY OUTS** for the absent females player in the batting order. If a team starts with 5 males and 3 females, defensive alignment must be females at 1st base, 3rd base and left-center field.
- In case an umpire fails to report, the game can be played with the Niles Park District Scorekeeper as the umpire. The game will count as an official game.
- A batter having two strikes is automatically out if they hit a foul ball.

- Pick Offs: A runner may advance from 1st base to 2nd base (if 2nd base is unoccupied) on a pitcher's pick-off attempt via throw. A runner cannot steal or advance to 3rd base or home plate on pick-off attempts. Never can a runner advance on the catcher's throw.
- The pitcher must make the pitch with one foot in contact with the pitching rubber until the release of the pitch.
- There is no batters box, but a player can not hit a fair or foul ball if they crossed or steps on home plate. He /she will be out and no runner advancement.
- No intentional crashing over an opponent during a tag play. A player never has to slide but they always have to avoid contact. A runner will be called out if they fail to avoid contact and they can possibly be ejected from the game if the umpire rules unsportsmanlike conduct. This call is an umpire's judgment decision.
- Strikes must clear the plate.
- Pitches can have an unlimited arc. There is no minimum arc as long the umpire deems the pitch to be slow.
- Teams will be allowed to place all of their players present for the game in one big batting order and use free substitution in the field. The batting order must still go male, female in order.
- All batters begin with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
- Batting order must alternate male, female, male, female etc.. If more than 10 players are present, all players can bat but the order must still remain male, female, male, female etc.
- *NOTE: Males don't have to lead off.*
- Positions: The Pitcher and Catcher must be different sexes.
The rest of the fielding must be as follows:
1B- Female
2B- Male
Short Center- Female
SS- Male
3B- Female
LF- Male
CF- Female
RF- Male
Short Center may float out to the outfield, but they must remain in front of regularly positioned outfielders.
- Walk Rule: When a male batter is walked, the batter will have the option of taking the walk or clear the count and have another at-bat. If the batter is walked a second time, the next batter in the order will have the option of taking a free walk or taking her at-bat.
- The Squish Rule: The pitcher or any other member of the team can not pound, reform, mush or in any other way reshape the ball so as to make it harder to hit when pitched.
- A bat must meet ASA standards.

GROUND RULES

- **Pioneer Diamond 4 (south)**
 - Any ball the bounces over the short fence in right centerfield by the bushes/trees or into the gated area in dead center will be a ground rule double.
 - Any ball that lands on the roof of the field-house, over a fence in right/right center or into the gated area in center on a fly will be a home run.
 - Any ball that bounces off the field-house wall facing west will be in play.
- **Pioneer Diamond 5 (north)**
 - Any ball that lands or rolls out of sight in right field will be a home run.
- Dugout gates must be closed. Any ball that makes its way into the dugout on an overthrow will be a dead ball with runners getting one extra base.

With the exception of the above rules, the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) will be the leagues official playing rules.

Niles Park District Zero Tolerance Policy

Recreational leagues across the country have seen a dramatic change in issues dealing with parents, coaches, spectators, umpires, players, and league officials' conduct at sporting events.

With this in mind, the Niles Park District Board of Commissioners have taken a "Zero Tolerance" stance in handling severe situations occurring on and within leagues operating on Park District facilities. The Zero Tolerance Policy regarding behavior is as follows:

A. General Unsportsmanlike conduct:

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall verbally confront or argue with an official, coach, player or other fans before, during, or after a game.
 - i. Penalties for such unsportsmanlike conduct will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. General Unsportsmanlike Conduct: 1 calendar week suspension from all activities including practices and games, plus probation for the remainder of the current season.
 - a. The suspension must include at least one missed game.
 2. Second Offense: suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season.
- b. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall use profanity at an Niles Park District Facility.
 - i. Penalties for Profanity will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Profanity: 1 calendar week suspension from all activities including practices and games, plus probation for the remainder of the current season.
 - a. The suspension must include at least one missed game.
 2. Second Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season

B. Drinking/ Possession of Alcohol:

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall consume or possess alcohol at any Niles Park District Facilities except at Park District liquor permitted events.
 - i. Penalties for Drinking will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Drinking/Possession of Alcohol: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season. This will also include a ban from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities.
 2. Second Offense: permanent suspension from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense. A final decision will be made by the Board of Commissioners.

C. Fighting/Physical Abuse/Sexual Abuse:

- b. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player, or umpire shall engage in any type of behavior that could constitute physical assault. The term physical assault includes but is not limited to: Hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking, or striking in any way any part of the body or any physical implement ¹.
 - i. Penalties for Fighting/physical Abuse will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Fighting/Physical Abuse: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season. This will also include a ban from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities.
 2. Second Offense: permanent suspension from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense. A final decision will be made by the

Board of Commissioners.

ii. Penalties for Sexual Abuse:

1. Sexual Abuse: Offender will be permanently suspended from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities. Offender will not be eligible for reinstatement.

D. Possession of Weapon:

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, board member, player or umpire shall possess a weapon of any kind at any Niles Park District Facilities.
 - i. Penalties for Possession of Weapon will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of:
 1. Possession of Weapon: Offender will be permanently suspended from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense. A final decision will be made by the Board of Commissioners. ²
 2. Concealed Weapon Permit Holders will not be allowed to carry a weapon at Niles Park District facilities.

E. Social-Media

- a. No spectator, adult, parent, coach, player or umpire shall engage in any type of written or implied social media posts (to include Facebook, twitter, text message or email, etc.) deemed detrimental to the Niles Park District or its programs.
 - i. Penalties for written or implied posts detrimental to a program/league will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of
 1. 1 calendar week suspension from all activities including practices and games, plus probation for the remainder of the current season.
 - a. The suspension must include at least one missed game.
 2. Second Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season.
 - ii. Penalties for written or implied threats will be at the discretion of the Niles Park District at a minimum of
 1. Suspension for the remainder of the current season, plus probation for the following season. This will also include a ban from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities.
 2. Second Offense: permanent suspension from all Niles Park District Facilities and activities for one year from the date of the offense A final decision will be made by the Board of Commissioners.

Any person who has been suspended pursuant to the above may, within 7 days of receipt of the suspension, seek a hearing with the Park Board Commissioners provided they timely submit said request in writing and include a brief explanation as to why he/she disputes the suspension or whether he/she believes mitigating circumstances exist.

The Park Board will consider the appeal and may sustain, amend, or revise the previous suspension in its sole discretion.

It is the goal of the Niles Park District that participation in recreational programs be individually and cooperatively a wholesome, fun, and personally rewarding experience. Each participant, along with the coaches and parents should try to achieve a more positive attitude for the sport or program so it is a more enjoyable experience.

¹ Any person who physically attacks officials, coaches, fans, or players may be subject to criminal prosecution as well as a civil suit for money damages.

² Licensed Law Enforcement Officers on duty or while on call will be allowed to carry a Department issued service weapon.