

**West Allis - West Milwaukee Recreation Department**

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# **2024 SOFTBALL**

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# **LEAGUE RULES** **and** **REGULATIONS**

## 1. **LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

In order to function smoothly, a league must have rules and regulations. League rules must be understood by managers, coaches and players. Violations of league rules may bring serious results to a player, coach, managers, sponsor or the whole team. For instance:

- A. Anyone who violates the league eligibility or registration rules or is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct is liable to be suspended.
- B. The manager is held responsible for the conduct of team players and coaches at all times and for playing only eligible players. The manager must be sure that each player is registered on the league site prior to the start of the season; this includes subs. The manager found guilty of playing an ineligible player, or of unsportsmanlike conduct is liable for suspension.
- C. A team found guilty of having an illegal player in the lineup will have all games in which the ineligible player participated forfeited to the opposing team. In addition, any team found to have used an illegal player will be disqualified from any post-season play and will forfeit the right to any league awards for that sport season regardless of their record.

**NOTE:** Team Manager is ultimately responsible for certifying the legality and proper registration of their players.

D. **Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products:** It is a School Board and Department policy that NO alcoholic beverages of any kind be brought on or consumed on any fields/gyms/parks/buildings/ under the jurisdiction of the W.A.-W.M. School Board. Smoking is NOT allowed in the School Buildings or on the School Grounds at any time. This includes parking lots on School District property. **Failure to comply can result in dismissal from the league without a refund.**

E. **Temporary Suspensions:** Anyone ejected from a game or the field by officials for unsportsmanlike conduct will be temporarily suspended from all activities conducted by the Recreation Department until the incident is reviewed. Managers must contact the Recreation Dept. immediately. The final disposition of the case will be made after the Office reviews the incident. Managers are required to check with the Recreation Dept. before allowing the player in question to play.

F. **Behavior:** All program participants (team members, coaches, team supporters) are expected to respect, abide and behave in accordance with the decisions rendered by game officials and recreation site staff. Persons found guilty of violating this policy will be dealt with accordingly. **The Recreation Dept. along with the West Allis - West Milwaukee School District supports a "zero tolerance" policy in regard to any actions by managers, players and fan supporters deemed verbally or physically threatening toward officials or field staff.**

G. **Protests:** All protests must be in writing and turned in to the site supervisor after the game, or emailed to the Program Manager within 24 hrs. Protests pertaining to an official's judgment call will not be considered. Any concerns with the performance or professionalism of the official can be considered, but can be best addressed with the site supervisor following the game. The site supervisor will then contact the Program Manager with concerns.

## 2. **TEAM DISBANDMENT**

In the event that a team disbands before the season is completed, all games will be credited to the scheduled opponents.

## 3. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:**

A. Every player must be officially registered on the team roster form prior to teams first game

B. A player must be at least 18 years of age at the time of registration.

4. **PLAYER PARTICIPATION: (Local Rule-School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee)**

A. A player may register and play on only one (1) team per evening, Monday through Friday.

B. **EXCEPTION:** The Recreation Department reserves the right to schedule rain-out/make-up games, play-offs or tournament games on alternate days if necessary, including weekends.

C. Any player, playing on multiple teams, is only eligible to play for one team in league tournament. Players must declare a team prior to the start of the tournament.

5. **ROSTER LIMITS**

Leagues have no roster limit.

6. **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms are optional. **Metal spikes are not allowed** in the women's or coed leagues, and it is strongly recommended that the other leagues use soft rubber or molded cleats as well.

7. **SCHEDULES**

Managers will be sent league schedules, which will also be posted on the league website. League websites can be found at [teamsideline.com/sites/wawmrec/home](http://teamsideline.com/sites/wawmrec/home)

8. **POSTPONEMENTS**

Under no circumstances will the Recreation Department permit postponement of games or schedule adjustments of any kind after the official schedule has been printed.

9. **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If there is any question as to whether or not a diamond is in playable condition, it is the MANAGER'S responsibility to notify their team if games are canceled. All players registered will receive communication via text and/or email from the Recreation Dept.

10. **CALLED-OFF GAMES**

Games called off due to weather conditions will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Recreation Department, usually after the regular schedule has been completed. **If a game has been canceled by the recreation staff, program participants do not have the authority to play the game.**

A. RAIN OUT POLICY: All rain outs will attempt to be rescheduled during the season or at the completion of the season and games may be rescheduled at different ball fields.

1. Our Department will make every effort to reschedule ALL rainouts to give each team a chance to play their full schedule. Games that have NO BEARING on final "awards place" may not be rescheduled if schedules do not allow it. Games that have a BEARING on the final "awards place" will be rescheduled. **(PLEASE NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF YOUR TEAM DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE UP GAMES AFTER A GIVEN DATE.)**

11. **OFFICIALS**

The Recreation Department will assign one (1) umpire to each league game. The umpire shall be the official scorer and timekeeper for each game.

12. **SIGN-UP SHEET**

All players are required to sign the sign-in sheet before the game begins. Only individuals, who are officially registered are eligible to play. Players that arrive late may sign the sheet upon arrival. **NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO SIGN IN AFTER THE GAME IS COMPLETED.** Managers are responsible for this procedure and for seeing that only eligible players sign the sign-up sheet. **Signatures must be legible and signed by each individual.**

13. **GAME BALL & BATS**

The umpire will furnish one (1) new game ball each game as well as two (2) used playable balls. We will utilize the banned bat list developed by USA Softball in its entirety. The USA Softball list incorporates both an approved bat list and a non-approved bat list that will dictate what will be allowed for play. You may access this list by visiting their website at

www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball and checking their certified equipment page. Umpires will have this information.

#### 14. **PLAYING RULES**

The Adult Softball Program follows the current edition of the Official Slow-Pitch Softball Rules as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), except for several adaptations by the Recreation Department.

- A. **OFFICIAL LINE-UP:** A team shall consist of ten (10) players. A team will not be permitted to start or continue a game with less than eight (8) players.
- B. **STRIKES & BALLS:** Men: Two (2) called strikes or one (1) swinging strike shall be an out; Women: Two (2) called strikes or two (2) swinging strikes shall be an out; three (3) called balls constitute a walk. A strike mat will be used for all leagues. Any ball that lands on any part of home plate or mat will be considered a strike.
- C. **FOUL BALLS:** Any foul ball is an out for Men and the second for Women. A foul ball that is caught shall be played as in regular official softball - batter is out and base runners may advance at their own risk.
- D. **BENCH RULE:** Only OFFICIALLY REGISTERED managers, coaches and players may be in the team's bench area or on the field of play. Violation is cause for forfeiture of game.
- E. **COACHES** must be officially registered on the team roster form.
- F. **COED LEAGUES:** See Coed Softball Rules - Page 6
- G. **EXTRA HITTER:** Teams are allowed one (1) extra hitter in the line up for a maximum of 11 in the batting order. That player can sub defensively for any positional player at anytime.
- H. **PITCHING ARC:** 6ft minimum and 12ft maximum. The pitcher's foot must also remain in contact with the pitching plate through the release of the ball.
- I. **COURTESY RUNNERS:** Teams will be allowed 1 courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner will be the last out from the current inning or the last out from the previous inning. In cases of injury, a courtesy runner will be allowed (the last out made). If the last out is already on base, then the last out from the previous inning will become the courtesy runner. Anyone with limitations that would require a courtesy runner shall make it known to the umpire and opposing manager prior to the game.
- J. **HOME RUN LIMIT:** Teams are only permitted to hit 5 home runs per game. Any home run hit after 5, will be considered an out. Inside the park home runs do not count towards the home run limit.

#### 15. **BORROWING RULE**

Upon agreement by the managers prior to the start of the game, a team may borrow a player(s) as necessary to avoid a forfeit. Borrowing is allowed if a team will not meet the minimum of 8 players to begin the game. A team may borrow enough players to field a team of 9 players. No team borrowing players may have a team of 10 players. If more players from the borrowing team arrive later, the borrowed players must exit the game. The final score will count for league standings.

#### 16. **GRACE PERIOD**

Each team must have the minimum of eight (8) players to begin the game. A 5 minute grace period will be given if a team with less than 8 players knows additional players are arriving shortly. No game may begin earlier than the scheduled time unless both managers mutually agree to do so. No team can be credited with a forfeited game unless they don't meet the minimum requirements as spelled out in this rule. If both teams have an insufficient number of players, the game shall be declared a double forfeit.

\***Eligible players** are those players who are in the general field area and ready to play. Those players still in the parking lot or in their cars are **not** considered eligible.

#### 17. **LENGTH OF GAME**

- A. Official seven (7) inning games, but with a time limit.
- B. No new inning will start after fifty (55) minutes from the **SCHEDULED** starting time of the game.
- C. **Tie games** will continue until a winner is determined. The first extra inning will be played

like any other normal inning. Any extra innings beyond that will start with a runner on 2nd base. The player who made the last out from the inning prior will start on 2nd base.

D. Umpire will keep official score, and use his/her watch for official timing of game.

E. Run Rule: 12 runs after 5 innings or 4 ½ if the home team is winning.

**RAIN SHORTENED GAMES:** Games will be official after 4 innings or 3 ½ innings if the home team is winning when the game is called.

#### 18. **FORFEITS**

Any Manager that cannot field a team for a given night must notify the Rec Department before 4 pm. If a team does not notify the Rec Department of a forfeit, it may be disbanded from the league. Teams that repeatedly forfeit games or “no show” for games may not be allowed to participate in future leagues.

#### 19. **INJURY**

The West Allis - West Milwaukee Recreation Department shall not be responsible for any injury that may be incurred by players during official games. The Recreation Department recommends that all players should be covered by some type of his/her own insurance.

#### 21. **LEAGUE STANDINGS**

Standings will be posted online at [teamsideline.com/sites/wawmrec/home](http://teamsideline.com/sites/wawmrec/home). Managers are encouraged to keep records in case questions arise concerning the accuracy of the official standings.

#### 22. **AWARDS**

Awards will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> Place teams in each league.

#### 28. **TIES IN STANDINGS-**

Only those ties that affect awards or tournament placement will be dealt with. Tie-breakers will be determined as follows:

1. Head-to-Head Results
2. Runs Differential between teams
3. Coin Flip

A. **Three-Way Ties:** Standings determined by total run differential

B. The manner in which tie-breakers will be handled is determined by the Recreation Dept.

## **CO-ED/SOCIAL SOFTBALL RULES**

### **CO-ED DEFENSIVE POSITIONING**

- A. A team may START AND END a game with nine players. If that team goes to ten or eleven players during the course of the game, those players must bat in the number ten and/or eleven spot in the batting order.
- B. At no time may there be less than 9 players, if this does occur the team will forfeit the game!
- C. CO-ED: Five men and five women will be the maximum number of players on the field. A team may start with 4 men, but not less than 5 women.
- D. BATTING ORDER: Male, Female, etc., starting with either one. A male or female may bat consecutively once, when a team is using the additional hitter rule, or two additional hitters may be used with male/female batting order.

**Any player may play any position on the field regardless of gender. There are no restrictions or stipulations to player positioning!**

### **CO-ED BATS**

All Co-ed teams must provide their own bats for league play. Bats for women will be any official softball bat (34 inches). **Bats for men must be 31 inches** in length or

shorter, and the bat must be an official softball bat or a marked LITTLE LEAGUE bat. Any altered bat or baseball bat NOT MARKED "LITTLE LEAGUE" will not be allowed.

### **STRIKES & BALLS**

Women - Two (2) called strikes or two (2) swinging strikes shall be considered an out.

Men - Two (2) called strikes or one (1) swinging strike shall be considered an out. Three (3) balls shall constitute a walk.

All foul balls will be considered outs regardless of gender.

### **Extra Hitter Rule (clarified)**

Teams may bat 11 or 12 players in the line-up if desired! This means an extra male and female for 12 players or either a male or female for 11 players. See batting order rule above. At no time can three males bat consecutively.

## **DIAMOND LOCATIONS & PHONE NUMBERS**

### **DIAMOND**

### **ADDRESS**

### **PHONE #**

Thomson

S. 116<sup>th</sup> & Cleveland Ave.

416-2852

Call the respective field house only **AFTER 5:30 PM** regarding field conditions!

### **I M P O R T A N T**

Rules & Regulations should be read by all players, coaches and managers. Bring this copy to all league games.