



Milwaukee Recreation
2414 W. Mitchell St.
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2024 SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

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SECTION 1: CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the manager to control the behavior of their players on the bench and on and off of the field/park. Managers and players are responsible for their conduct from the time they reach the park until the time they leave.
- B. No person shall interfere with or in a manner hinder, threaten, harass, intimidate any participant or employee of Milwaukee Recreation. This includes affecting the enjoyment and betterment of the leagues. Conduct may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation with Milwaukee Recreation programs.
- C. Derogatory remarks, profanity, obscene gestures, threats, etc. - directed toward any game official, Milwaukee Recreation employee, MPS staff, other players or spectators will not be tolerated. These infractions may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation in Milwaukee Recreation programs.
- D. Fighting is defined as any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage anyone in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact. Any player involved in a physical confrontation (fighting) will be ejected immediately and is subject to further disciplinary action.
- E. Deliberate throwing of the bat or other equipment in anger or disgust will not be tolerated. This will result in immediate ejection from the game without warning and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation with Milwaukee Recreation programs. An incident involving a player tossing or flipping a bat "accidentally" will result in a team warning by the umpire. A repeated violation will result in the ejection of the offending player from the game.
- F. All called balls and strikes cannot be disputed. Arguing on the judgment of balls and strikes will result in a team warning. A repeat offense will result in the ejection of that player, manager or coach and is subject to further disciplinary action. Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final.
- G. The manager is the only person to confer with an official on a disputed play. Such conferences must be kept to a minimum and will be conducted in a sportsmanlike manner. Constant arguing, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated and could mean ejection from the game and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee Recreation programs.
- H. When a player, manager or coach is ejected, the following procedures will be followed:
 - a. The ejected player must produce a valid photo identification. The manager is required to comply with the official's request. Lack of cooperation from any manager or team in regards to such ejection may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation with Milwaukee Recreation programs.
 - b. Ejected players are to leave the field of play immediately. This includes the player bench and the area around the bench. If necessary to control the game, umpires have the authority to eject offenders from the park. When ejected from the park, they are to leave immediately. It is the manager's responsibility to see that the individual abides by such rules. If the manager is ejected, a team representative may fill in.
 - c. If a player is ejected and continues to harass the official, the manager will be warned to control their player's action. If the manager does not comply, the game will be forfeited. In any serious unsportsmanlike conduct incident such as teams fighting or complete loss of control of players by a manager, the umpire shall have the authority to forfeit the game without a warning.
 - d. Ejected players subject to discipline are notified of such action by the Adult Sports Office. The player disciplined has the right to a hearing if a suspension extends beyond three (3) games. Request for a hearing must be made to the Adult Sports Office within three (3) days of notification of such discipline if applicable.

SECTION 2: REGISTRATION & MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **TEAM REGISTRATION:** All teams must register online or submit a Softball Entry Contract (Men's, Coed or Affiliated) along with the associated fees to register a team. Applications can be obtained from the Team Sideline Milwaukee Recreation website (www.teamsideline.com/sites/MilwaukeeRecreation/home), Adult Sports Office (2414 W. Mitchell St., Milwaukee WI 53204), or via email or U.S. mail.



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- A. All registration guidelines, including fees, dates and leagues are outlined on the league specific Softball Entry Contract.
 - B. Information on the contract must be completed and signed by the Manager and/or Sponsor. Falsification of information may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation in Milwaukee Recreation leagues.
2. **PLAYER REGISTRATION:** All players MUST be registered on the Milwaukee Recreation Team Sideline Website & agree to the waiver electronically prior to participating.
- A. **Player Participation:** Players are permitted to register and play on one team per league.
 - B. **Tournament Play:** If players are registered on multiple teams that participate in tournament qualifying leagues, players must declare one (1) team they will participate with and notify the Adult Sports Office. Players found to be participating with more than one (1) team in the All-City Softball Tournament will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament schedule and subject to discipline in future league participation. Managers and players may be disciplined up to and including removal from participation with the Milwaukee Recreation Adult Softball program. Please refer to the Tournament Rules and Regulations for further details.
 - C. **Registration Deadline:** **Players may register to participate at any time. However, in order for players to be eligible to participate in the All-City Softball Tournament, they must have played in a minimum of 50% of the games with the team they are designating they intend to participate with in the tournament.**
***Any falsification of player identification (i.e. player signing in using a different name) will be subject to:**
 1. **Team forfeits the current game.**
 2. **Team will be ineligible for the All-City Tournament.**
 3. **Team Manager and player found to have falsified identification/information will be ineligible for the All-City Tournament.**
 - D. A player cannot register with any other team unless officially released by the manager.
3. **ELIGIBILITY:** Players who are properly registered on Team Sideline and approved by the Adult Sports Office are eligible to participate in leagues governed by Milwaukee Recreation.
- A. All players must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
 - B. Using ineligible players in regular season or tournament play will result in forfeiture of games.
 - C. A team found to have used ineligible players shall forfeit their right to league awards and tournament eligibility.
 - D. If a Coed league is not offered on a particular night, female players have the right to participate in a Men's league. Managers and players who fail to comply with eligibility requirements and/or process may be disciplined up to and including removal from participation with Milwaukee Recreation.
4. **TEAM ROSTER MANAGEMENT:**
- A. Managers are responsible for adding their players on the Team Sideline roster page (First, Last Name + email) and making sure they enroll electronically before playing. Players can be added throughout the season, but only those players who have played in 50% of the team's games are eligible for the All-City Tournament.
 - B. Each player is required to provide all requested information and agree to the player waiver on Team Sideline.
****FAILURE TO ENROLL ON TEAM SIDELINE MAY RESULT IN GAME FORFEITURES WITH A MAX PENALTY OF REMOVAL FROM LEAGUE.**
5. **RELEASES:** When a manager releases a player after the season has started, an official release form must be submitted. The player is then eligible to register with another team if all other registration rules are followed.

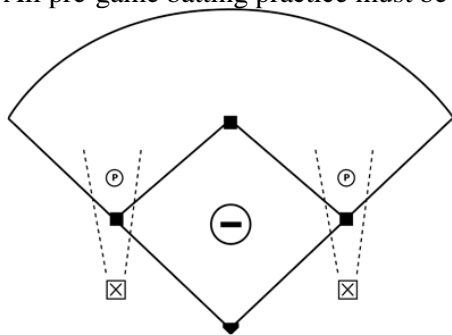
SECTION 3: MPS FACILITY RULES & REGULATIONS

6. **PRACTICE PERMITS:** Permits must be obtained to reserve any athletic field. Permits can be obtained from the Adult Sports Office @ (414) 647-6046.
7. **FIELD/GROUND RULES**

- A. There are no home fields.
- B. The use of field lights is at the discretion of the Umpire and/or Milwaukee Recreation staff. Field lights will be turned off fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the final game.
- C. Inclement Weather/Field Conditions:
 - For up-to-date field conditions of morning leagues, please contact the Adult Sports office after 8:00 a.m. at (414) 647-6046.
 - For up-to-date field conditions of evening leagues, please contact the Weather Hotline after 4:00 p.m. at (414) 475-8192. Updates will also be available via the Adult Sports Facebook page.
 - Please call our night crew @ (414) 852-3163 any time after 5:30 PM for questions or concerns about league play, weather, etc.

D. Pre-game practice:

- Pre-game practice is only allowed if time is available. No scheduled game(s) will be delayed for practice.
 - ****No batting practice is permitted on Wick #6 or Wick #7****
- All pre-game batting practice must be held from the positions shown in the diagram below.



X= Hitter P= Pitcher

- At no time are batters to hit from 1st/3rd base, unless the field is located where it poses a hazard to private property.
 - Pre-game practice is not permitted on the infield.
- E. Field Dimensions:
- Bases: All leagues will utilize 65 ft. bases.
 - Pitching: All leagues will utilize an extended pitching box (5 ft.) that will allow pitchers to pitch from behind the pitching rubber if they choose.
- F. Specific Field Rules:
- Sijan #2
 - A batted ball clearing the Right Field fence on a fly and landing on the tennis courts will be ruled a **ground rule double**.
 - A batted ball traveling over the Right Field fence and tennis courts, landing in the field of play (grass) will be played **live**.
 - Juneau
 - A batted ball landing on the concrete (sidewalk) in Right Field on a fly will be ruled a **Home Run**.
 - A batted ball landing on the concrete (sidewalk) in Right Field after bouncing/rolling in the field of play will be ruled a **Home Run**.
 - Wick #7
 - A batted ball landing on the concrete in Right/Right Centerfield on a fly will be ruled a **Home Run**.
 - A batted ball landing on the concrete in Right/Right Centerfield after bouncing/rolling in the field of play will be ruled as a **Home Run**.
 - A batted ball landing in the trees in Right Centerfield on a fly and landing in the grass area will be played as a **live ball**.
 - Sijan #3
 - If a ball is overthrown and hits one of the two fences, the ball is played as a **live ball**.
 - If a ball is overthrown and goes inside in the dugout the ball is played as a **dead ball**.



- If a ball is overthrown and goes outside the fence or under the fence the ball is played as a **dead ball**.
 - There may be times where two diamonds are playing in close proximity to each other. Teams will be reminded to not make contact with a batted ball from another field and make a discernable effort to allow a defender from the other field to make a play on the ball. These situations will be reviewed during umpire ground rules.
8. **ALCOHOL**: There is a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol on our playfields which is in accordance with City Ordinance 90-39: Alcoholic Beverages on School Premises Prohibited. Because municipal and affiliated adult sport league games are played at locations that fall under Milwaukee Board of School Directors jurisdiction, all games fall under the provisions of this ordinance. Managers are expected to inform not only their players, but also any team followers of the above ordinance and its possible consequences.
9. **BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS**: Any participant who is bleeding or has an excessive amount of blood on their clothing shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until treatment can be administered. Excessive blood on clothing is defined as saturation to the point where blood may transfer to another person or could soak through to the skin. This also applies to a blood-soaked bandage and/or wrap. If medical care/treatment is administered within two (2) minutes, the participant may remain in the game. If the medical care/treatment extends beyond two (2) minutes, the player must be removed from the game.

UMPIRE PROCEDURE:

- Stop the game and allow treatment for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- If necessary, notify the manager that the injured player must be replaced with a legal substitute (one who has yet to participate in the game).
- Player who was forced to leave the game may re-enter after bleeding is controlled/sanitized and wound is properly covered. This is not counted against a team's re-entry substitution(s).
- A player who substitutes for a bleeding player is still eligible to enter the game later in the game as a substitute.
- If a player must leave the game due to this rule, and no substitutes are available, the game will continue with one less player. The player may re-enter the same position in the batting order without penalty. If this occurs in a Coed league, there cannot be more men than women in the game.
- If the player forced to leave the game is a base runner, and no legal substitutes are available, he/she must be replaced by the last batted out. If he/she is the last batted out, the batted out preceding them will act as the substitute.
- **Pinch Runners (Courtesy Runners) are not permitted in any Milwaukee Recreation Softball League. If a player on the bench runs for another player on base, the player being substituted for is out of the game.**

SECTION 4: LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

Official softball playing rules as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) are used in the administration of all Milwaukee Recreation Softball Leagues. Managers and/or participants are strongly recommended to obtain a current ASA Rulebook. Bat Lists can be found at <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-asa/certified-asa-equipment>. The following adaptations listed will be used in the Milwaukee Recreation softball leagues.

10. EQUIPMENT

- A. Milwaukee Recreation does not furnish any equipment (with exception to tournament play).
- B. Milwaukee Recreation determines the ball used for the current year.
 - Men's and Coed Leagues: Dudley .52/300 (4A-066Y) – Composite Cover



- C. For all leagues, each manager must give the umpire one new ball (in a sealed package) before each game. It must be the ball officially adopted by the league. This ball must be purchased from the organization which was awarded the adoption (2024 – Dunn’s Sporting Goods).
- D. In the event both game balls are lost, each manager will supply another ball. Additional balls do not have to be new, but must be in a condition satisfactory to umpire and must be the ball officially adopted by the league.
- E. All bats must be approved for 2024 Milwaukee Recreation Adult Softball Leagues in accordance with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) certified bat list. In addition to being ASA Certified, each bat must be compression tested and display the **2024** Milwaukee Recreation sticker in order to be permitted for use. Team Managers will be notified when their league’s bats will be tested.
 - When a batter is found to be using a banned bat:
 - First Offense: The batter is “out” and disqualified from the game.
 - Second Offense: The batter is “out” and disqualified from the game. The batter is also suspended for the remainder of the season (minimum of five (5) games). If the suspension does not reach five (5) games, it will carry over into the following season.
 - When a batter is found to be using an altered (when the physical structure of a bat has been changed) bat:
 - The owner of the altered bat will be suspended permanently from Milwaukee Recreation programs.
 - Any player discovered using an altered bat will be suspended from further Milwaukee Recreation programs for five (5) years.
 - A team in possession or control of an altered bat may be suspended from further Milwaukee Recreation programs at the discretion of the Adult Sports Office.
- F. Casts and Jewelry:
 - Casts that are made from plaster or other substances in their final form may not be worn during the game. Any exposed metal may be considered legal if covered by soft material and taped.
 - Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, may not be worn during the game.
 - Medical safety bracelets are allowed, but must be taped.
- G. Spikes/Cleats:
 - Metal spikes are not permitted in any Milwaukee Recreation Softball League.

11. PLAYER SIGN-IN

- A. All players participating must supply their legal (first and last) name on the sign-in sheet. All names must be printed and legible.
- B. Each team must have a minimum of nine (9) players listed on the sign-in sheet at the scheduled game time.
- C. Players who arrive after the start of the game will be permitted to sign in when they arrive. No player may sign in after completion of the game or after a game has been officially forfeited.
- D. Managers are responsible for ensuring that all names on the sign-in sheet are printed and legible.
- E. Under no circumstance, are children (under 18 years of age) allowed on a team’s bench or playing area.
- F. All players must be prepared to present a photo ID in the event of an eligibility challenge.

12. LINE-UP (OFFENSE & DEFENSE)/SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. A full team consists of ten (10) players. A team may start a game with nine (9) players. A game may not start or continue with less than nine (9) players. If a tenth (10th) player arrives, he/she may be used but must fill the tenth position in the batting order.
- B. Coed Team Composition: An even male/female ratio must be maintained at all times of five (5) men and five (5) women. At no time may a team play with a 6:4 male advantage
- C. Borrowing Rule: Upon signed mutual agreement by both managers on the back of the sign-in sheet, a team may borrow a player(s) as necessary to avoid a forfeit. Borrowing is only permitted from the opponent for the current game. If more players from the borrowing team arrive late, borrowed players may return and resume play for their own team. The final score will count toward official league standings.
- D. Shorthanded Rule: If at any time a team begins with ten (10) or more players and a player drops from the lineup due to injury, etc., an out shall be declared when the vacant position is scheduled to bat in the lineup. If a team is playing shorthanded and a substitute arrives, he/she must enter the game to fill the vacant spot.

- E. Substitution: ASA substitution rules apply when subbing a player that is not currently in the lineup.
- F. The “re-entry” rule will be utilized in Milwaukee Recreation leagues. Please refer to ASA rules for definition.
- G. Teams may bat an unlimited number of players. If they choose to bat an unlimited number of players and an injury occurs, they must use a substitute to replace that spot in the batting order. If no subs are available, an out will be taken in that spot in the order. The umpire must be informed of the number of batters in the line-up before the start of the game.
- H. The batting order for a coed softball team shall alternate male/female. Two males are not permitted to bat back-to-back. Two females are permitted to bat back-to-back. If a team is playing with only nine (9) players, the batting order will start and end with a batter of the same gender (whichever there is more of). An out will be taken between the 9th and 1st batters when playing with five (5) men and four (4) women.
- I. Defensive Positioning: Players on a team may be positioned anywhere in fair territory (exception: Catcher in the Catcher’s box).
 - EXCEPTION (Coed only): With the exception of the pitcher, only (1) position switch will be allowed per inning once the first pitch of an inning has been thrown.
 - EXCEPTION (Coed only): No more than four (4) infielders are to be positioned in the infield at all times (including the pitcher and catcher position).
- J. Coed Walk Rule:
 - With less than two (2) outs: If a male batter is walked, he goes to 2nd base and the female batter must bat.
 - With two (2) outs: If a male batter is walked, he goes to 2nd base. The female batter has the option to walk or bat.

13. LENGTH OF GAME

- A. An official game consists of seven (7) innings with a 50-minute time limit.
- B. No new inning will start after 50 minutes from the official start time of the game (Umpire will keep official time). Any inning that is started must be completed.
- C. Mercy Rule: If after five (5) complete innings a team is up by fifteen (15) or more runs, the game will be deemed complete. Complete innings must be played unless the home team achieves a run differential of fifteen (15) or greater while at bat. When the visiting team achieves this run differential in the top half of the inning, the home team must have an opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning.
 - EXCEPTION: If the time limit has not expired, the game can continue if both managers agree and sign the back of the score sheet indicating this agreement. Please note that once the time limit is reached in this case, the game is over.
- D. Tie games: Tie games will continue after seven (7) innings have been completed if the time limit has not yet been reached. If a tie exists at the end of the time limit, one (1) extra inning will be played to determine a winner. If a tie score remains, a tie will be recorded as the final result of the game.
- E. Time used up due to weather delay, removal of injured players or light failure will not be charged against playing time.
- F. When a game is started late due to a previous game finishing late or inclement weather, the time limit will run from the actual starting time of the game.
- G. If either scheduled team is at fault for a late start, the time limit will run from the actual scheduled time.
 - Grace Period: The umpire will allow a ten (10) minute grace period before forfeiting a game due to lack of players, or for failing to produce a game ball. As soon as nine (9) players are present or proper game ball is available, the game must begin. The grace period is charged against playing time.

14. POSTPONED GAMES

- A. Milwaukee Recreation is the only authority that can postpone, cancel or reschedule any games. The only exception to this rule is when Field Attendants or an Umpire are forced to do so at the field of play due to unsafe conditions.
- B. Games will be postponed and/or rescheduled only under the following circumstances:
 - a. Inclement weather
 - b. Poor field conditions
 - c. Emergencies

d. Light failure (including loss of daylight on fields without lights)

C. Any game called off due to weather/field conditions before it is considered an official game will be replayed from the beginning if it is rescheduled. A game is considered official when five (5) innings have been completed. Four and one-half complete innings is considered an official game if the home team is winning.

15. PITCHING

- A. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least six (6) feet from the ground and not reach a height of greater than twelve (12) feet at its highest point from the ground. All pitchers have ten (10) seconds after receiving the ball to proceed with the next pitch. If the pitch is not thrown within ten (10) seconds, the umpire will signal an automatic ball and the time will restart.
- a. Strikes – Two (2) called strikes or one (1) swinging strike shall (foul or swing & miss) be an out.
- b. Balls – Three (3) called balls constitute a walk.
- B. A legally pitched ball (within the 6–12-foot arc limit) that hits home plate and/or the mat will be ruled a strike.
- C. Any illegal pitch will be called by the umpire by using both verbal and hand signals. If a batter swings at any illegal pitch, it is nullified and all play stands.
- D. A pitcher may pitch from a maximum of five (5) feet behind the pitching rubber, but one foot must stay within the width of the pitching rubber.
- E. If releasing the pitch while in contact with the rubber, one foot must remain engaged with the rubber at the release of the pitch.
- F. Strike Mat Dimensions: 21 in wide by 34 in long

16. BASERUNNING

- A. Base stealing is not allowed. Each runner may leave a base when a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground or reaches home plate, but must return to that base immediately after each pitch not hit by the batter. A baserunner must be in physical contact with a base at the time of the pitch.
- a. On a fair ball hit over the fence for a home run, the batter and any players on base must run the bases.

17. TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURES

- A. The following procedure will be followed to determine league champions and/or playoff eligibility:
- (1) Head to Head competition
 - (2) Head to Head Differential (If split season series)
 - (3) Total Defensive Runs Allowed: The team that allowed the lowest number of runs compared to the other tied teams will be awarded accordingly. If a team forfeited against the team they are tied with, the forfeiting team will automatically lose the tie breaker.
 - (4) Offensive Runs Scored: The team that scored the greatest number of runs compared to the other tied teams will be awarded accordingly.
 - (5) In the event that all regular season games are not able to be played, the teams' winning percentages will be used to determine the tie-breaker.
 - (6) The Adult Sports Office will carry full discretion in determining position and placement for all teams qualifying for post-season play.

18. FORFEITS

- A. A team shall lose a game on forfeit and be subject to a \$25 forfeit fee if they:
- Do not contact the Sports Office at (414) 647-6046 by 12:00 pm to notify of a forfeit.
 - Do not show up or appear with less than a minimum number of players (9) at scheduled game time.
 - Quit in defiance of an umpire's decision/call.
 - Fail to maintain at least nine (9) players at any time throughout a game.
 - Fail to supply the proper game ball(s) as prescribed by the rules.
 - Do not cooperate with umpire's warning on discipline.
 - Infraction of any Milwaukee Recreation eligibility, registration, or participation rule.



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19. AWARDS

- A. All awards for Municipal leagues will be t-shirts and a sponsor plaque if requested.

SECTION 5: PROTESTS AND APPEALS

20. PROTESTS: Judgment calls made by umpires are not eligible for protest and/or appeal. Protests on rule enforcement and player eligibility must be made within 48 hours after completion of the game in question using the following process:

- The Manager of the team protesting must declare to the umpire that they are playing the game under protest. Once this is stated, this will be recorded on the score sheet by the umpire. The game will be completed.
- A protest must be submitted in writing to Brandon Sweet via email at: brandon@mkerec.net or within 48 hours of completion of the game. No protest will be accepted via phone. The Manager will be asked to submit in writing.
- The Adult Sports Office reserves the right to reject any protest that, if in its judgment, has no direct effect on the subsequent play or in the final result of the game.

Please contact the Adult Sports Office at (414) 647-6046 for further clarification on league rules and/or procedures.