

**West Allis - West Milwaukee Recreation Department**

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# **2019 SOFTBALL**

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**LEAGUE RULES**

**and**

**REGULATIONS**

As manager you are responsible for knowing these league rules and regulations. You are also responsible for passing them on to your players, as they too must abide by them. Before signing players up, pay special attention to Rules 4 through 8 regarding player participation and eligibility.

**IGNORANCE OF THE RULES WILL NOT EXCUSE YOU OR YOUR PLAYERS.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED.**

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## 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 and coach fills out the team registration card before he/she, as manager, affix their signature to it, thereby completing the contract. The manager found guilty of playing an ineligible player, failing to adhere to Rule 18D 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. **Suspensions** will be made by the Recreation Department. A suspension made by the Office for longer than three (3) games may be appealed to the Appeals Board. Action of the Board will be final. An appeal must be made in writing to this office within two (2) weeks after the notice of suspension. ***Suspensions concerning false registration, eligibility, or team contract filing are not appealable.***

F. **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.

- F. **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 case is reviewed. Managers must contact the Recreation Dept. immediately. The final disposition of the case will be made after the Office reviews the case. Managers are required to check with the Recreation Dept. before allowing the player in question to play.

- G. **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.

## 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. **CHANGE OF MANAGER OR SPONSOR**

If there is a change in team sponsor or manager, an official form must be filled out. This form can be obtained from the Recreation Dept.

#### 4. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:**

- A. Every player must be officially registered, having signed a team registration card on file at the Recreation Dept. before being eligible to play.
- B. Individuals who **live in the School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee** are eligible to play by filling out the Team Player Registration Card and paying the **included resident fee**, which is non-refundable.
- C. Individuals who live **outside the District of West Allis - West Milwaukee** are eligible to play by filling out the Team Player Registration Card and paying the **included non-resident fee**, which is non-refundable.
- D. No individual residing outside the State of Wisconsin is eligible to play.
- E. A player must be at least 18 years of age at the time of registration.

#### 5. **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.

#### 6. **TEAM REGISTRATION CARDS**

- A. A player and coach must be officially registered, having a card on file at the Recreation Dept. before being eligible to play or coach. A player must fill out his/her **own line** on the team registration card.
- B. Team registration cards should be on file **one (1) week** after the first scheduled game, unless stipulated otherwise by the department. Players added after the season starts must sign the registration card on file prior to playing in a league game.
- C. Players added after half way through the season must be approved by department.
- D. A formally suspended player cannot file a registration card until expiration of their suspension.

#### 7. **RELEASES**

- A. No player can join another team unless officially released by the manager of the first team signing them. Official release must be used for this purpose. Releases must be filed at the recreation department.
- B. Players who are released are not eligible to play in any league games until a new registration card is filed in accordance with Rule 6-B.

#### 8. **ROSTER LIMITS**

Leagues have no roster limit.

#### 9. **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.

#### 10. **SCHEDULES**

Managers will be issued season schedules at the manager's meeting in sufficient quantity to supply all team members. All rainout schedules will be posted at [www.wawmrec.com](http://www.wawmrec.com).

#### 11. **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.

#### 12. **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 follow the procedure listed below. **Please keep in mind that only the MANAGER should call the recorded message line (604-4900) # 2 or #6 and then pass the information on to their team members.**

##### ***Evening Leagues:***

FROM 4:00 TO 10:00 PM: Call the tape-recorded message for field conditions, it will be updated through the evening.

### 13. **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 cancelled by the recreation staff, program participants do not have the authority to play the game.** Because most of our fields serve as both softball and football fields, and the transition from softball to football takes place the week following Labor Day weekend, our Department makes it a standard policy to make every effort to end the softball season PRIOR to Labor Day Weekend. Other factors affecting this policy include college students returning to school, players involved in football either as players or coaches, weather and general lack of interest at this late stage of the season.

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 as listed below:

1. Our Department will make every effort to reschedule ALL rain outs to give each team a chance to play their full schedule. Games that have NO BEARING on final "awards place" will be rescheduled up to the Labor Day Weekend, but will not be schedule AFTER Labor Day. Games that have a BEARING on the final "awards place" will be rescheduled in accordance with this policy and the policy governing ties. **(PLEASE NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF YOUR TEAM DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE UP GAMES AFTER A GIVEN DATE.)**

### 14. **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. **If the umpire does NOT show up**, both teams must umpire the game themselves or have a mutually agreed upon person serve as the umpire, if the game is played it will count as an official game!

### 15. **SIGN-UP SHEET**

All players should sign the sign-up sheet before the game begins. Only individuals, who are officially registered, having signed the team card on file at the Recreation Dept. 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.**

### 16. **HOME AND AWAY - BENCH**

The team listed as home team on the schedule will occupy the third base bench. If league plays more than twice around, home/away status will continue to alternate accordingly.

### 17. **GAME BALL**

All HOME teams MUST FURNISH A NEW LEAGUE REGULATION BALL FOR EACH GAME. The VISITING team must furnish a playable league adopted softball. For all play-off games, BOTH teams will furnish a playable adopted softball.

A. The HOME MEN'S team must supply a new league specified softball or lose that game on forfeit. The visiting team must supply a playable league specified softball.

B. The HOME team as indicated on the schedule must supply a new game ball, or lose that game on forfeit. The adopted softball for the Co-ed league play is a DeBeer F-12 Clincher softball. All teams will be supplied with enough softballs for league play. The VISITING team as indicated on the schedule must supply a playable adopted softball.

\*\*\*Both teams will supply a new league specified ball the first week of play!

## 18. **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 nine (9) 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 registration card on file with the Recreation Dept. along with the appropriate registration fee and are subject to all rules and regulations.
- 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:** A legal pitch will be considered a minimum of six (6) feet and a maximum of twelve (12) feet. The pitcher foot must also remain in contact with the pitching plate through the release of the ball.
- I. **COURTESY RUNNERS:** will **not** be allowed with the exception of injury or physical limitation. In cases of injury, a courtesy runner will be allowed (the last out made). In such cases, the injured shall not re-enter the game. If 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.

## 19. **BORROWING RULE**

Upon signed mutual agreement by the managers on back of the sign-up sheet, a team may borrow a player(s) as necessary to avoid a forfeit. Borrowing can **only** be done **from the opposing team for that game**. If more players from the borrowing team arrive later, the borrowed players may return and play for their own team. The final score will count for league standings.

## 20. **GRACE PERIOD**

Each team must have the minimum of nine (9) players SIGNED ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT GAME TIME AND READY TO PLAY OR LOSE THE GAME ON FORFEIT. 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 also 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.

## 21. **WRITTEN AGREEMENT**

Any agreements made between the managers and the umpire that is not covered by the rules must be in writing. Such agreements will be filed with the umpire's report of the game.

## 22. **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.
- 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.

### 23. **FORFEITS**

A team forfeiting a game for any of the reasons listed below must pay the forfeit fee **IMMEDIATELY** after the forfeit occurs. An unpaid forfeit fee can result in the team's immediate exclusion from the league. A team with an unpaid forfeit fee at the end of the season will lose its contract renewal privileges for the following season unless the fee is paid before the renewal deadline.

- Failure to have or maintain a minimum of (9) nine players on the field.
- Quitting in defiance of an umpire's decision.
- Playing an ineligible player for the purpose of avoiding forfeiture.
- Failure to supply the game ball as prescribed by league rules.
- Failure to adhere to Rule 18D.
- Players and/or managers found to be making a "mockery" of the game.
- Two (2) unannounced forfeits will result in being dropped from the league.

***Any team with outstanding forfeit fees at the end of the regular season will not have any rained out games rescheduled. Opponents will be credited with a win.***

### 24. **PROTESTS**

No protest will be accepted on the umpire's judgment of play. **Protests on technicalities must be filed no later than 24 hours after the game in question.** Protests on ineligible players may be filed any time during a team's season of play. The season is considered officially completed two (2) days after a team's final game. No protest can be filed against a team after that time. If the season expiration date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, the "deadline" will be extended to the "next working day".

A protest must be submitted in writing and must be filed with the Parkway Office with evidence supporting the protest and must be accompanied with a **\$20.00 filing fee**. No protest will be accepted over the phone. If the protest is won, the fee will be returned to the sponsor/manager, and if lost, the money will be retained by the WA-WM Recreation Department.

The Recreation Dept. reserve the right to reject any protest that, in its judgment, has no direct effect on the subsequent play or in the final result of the game.

### 25. **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.

### 26. **LEAGUE STANDINGS**

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

### 27. **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. Playoff Game – if time permits (as determined by the Recreation Dept.)
3. Runs Differential between teams
4. Coin Flip

A. **Three-Way Ties** will be dealt with as follows: A random drawing will be conducted by the Recreation Staff to determine which team gets a bye to the second round. The winner of round one will advance to round two. The winner of round two will be considered the champion. If more than one place determination is needed, and the champion has defeated both other teams, then these two (2) teams must have a play-off game to determine the next place winner. If not, then the winner of game one gets the next place.

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

# COED/SOCIAL SOFTBALL RULES

## COED 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**

<u>DIAMOND</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>
Dorow	2450 S 68 <sup>th</sup> Street	414-604-3512
Liberty Heights	S. 62 <sup>nd</sup> & W. Lapham Street	414-531-4002
Thomson	S. 116 <sup>th</sup> & Cleveland Ave.	414-416-2852

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.