

ROCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
201 4 ST. S.E. - ROOM 150
ROCHESTER, MN 55904
(507) 281-6160

Ted Dow - Umpire in Chief - 280-8980
McQuillan Field Supervisor (285-8910)

RAIN: In the event of rain, no decision on cancellation of games will be made until 5:00 p.m. After that time, you may call McQuillan Field at 285-8910 to see if games are still schedule.

GAME TIMES: The times are as follows: 6:15; 7:15; 8:15; 9:15. With the change in start times, the grace period for the first game of the evening has been eliminated. Teams not on time for the start will forfeit.

- I. UMPIRE/TEAM NO SHOW/ARRIVING LATE: If an umpire fails to show for a regularly scheduled game, you have two options.
1. If both managers agree to play the game without an umpire, the teams can umpire their own game. The game will count in league standings. Call in the score the next morning.
 2. Have the Park and Recreation Department re-schedule your game.
 3. If a team is not present at starting time, a victory will be awarded to the opposing team.
 4. Any team not showing up for a scheduled game not notifying the Recreation Director by 4:00 p.m. on game night shall be penalized \$25.00. Failure to do so will mean receiving a loss and also forfeiting all games until the \$25.00 is paid.
 5. Teams bringing in an umpire from outside of Rochester to work a game: If two teams make an agreement to schedule a make-up game, they must contact the Park and Recreation Department or the Umpire in Chief so they can provide an umpire to do the game. Teams will not be permitted to bring in an umpire who is not an employee of the Rochester Park and Recreation Department. Any team providing such an umpire will automatically be given a forfeit.

II. ROCHESTER SOFTBALL RULES:

1. Equipment

- a. Warm-up bats The key to remember is that the bat must be marked WARM-UP BAT or stamped WB and have a barrel diameter of two and one-half inches so that the bat ring will not fit over it. The bat must be of one piece construction and have a 1/4 inch knob on the handle protruding out at a 90 degree angle.

The silver warm-up bat made by Pine Island Plating is not a warm-up bat and is therefore illegal. Please remove it from the game.

- b. Bats The Rochester Park and Recreation Dept. will allow the use of multi-wall bats in its mens and womens softball leagues. However, multi-wall bats will not be allowed in any of the co-rec leagues. This rule will be strictly enforced. As in the past, there must be at least 1/4" knob on the bat handle protruding at a 90 degree angle. Cone shaped handles are illegal if they do not meet this requirement. The Rochester Park and Recreation Dept. will **NOT** allow the use of any bat made of Titanium or Titanium alloy. In addition, there must be at least 1/4" knob of the bat handle protruding at a 90 degree angle. Cone shaped handles are illegal if they do not meet this requirement.
- c. Shoes must be worn by all players. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather uppers or similar materials. The sole may be either smooth or soft or hard rubber cleats. Steel spikes are not permitted.
- d. Mats The Rochester Park and Recreation Department will be using a mat behind home plate in all adult slow pitch leagues. The main reason behind the use of the mats will be to assist the umpires in the calling of ball and strikes.

The pitched ball must land on the mat in order for it to be called a strike. If the ball lands on the plate, it will be called a ball. The ASA

Guidelines of 6 - 12 foot arc limits must be strictly enforced. If a pitched ball lands on the mat, but does not in your estimation reach the required 6 ft. or exceeds the maximum 12 limits, the left hand is extended out and a verbal illegal pitch is called. The masts will be kept in the umpire's shack. Each individual umpire is responsible for getting their game cards, balls, and a mat for their fields and returning them to the shed when they turn their cards in.

2. Ground Rules:

- a. Once the game has begun, batters warming up will be limited to the person who is going up to the plate, and the person who is in the on deck area. No one will be swinging a bat outside of the dugout for any reason. Softball at McQuillan Field is a family event. Children are running around, playing catch, and generally not paying much attention to what is going on. So by following this rule we will help to eliminate the chance of someone being hit by a person swinging a bat outside of the playing field.
- b. The offensive team must send someone off their bench to retrieve the homeruns that are hit. The games are started with two balls and will not continue until they are retrieved.
- c. Jox-Box Batting Box Mats have been installed in all of the fields at McQuillan. They are very expensive. With this in mind the following rules will be enforced. There will be no digging in permitted. The first time will involve a verbal warning. The second violation will be an out.
- d. On an over-throw by any fielder, the two base award is determined by the position of the runner at the time of the throw.
- e. A ball going past the fence on a bounce or rolling that was hit fair has a award of two bases to the hitter and runners (this applies whether touched by a fielder or not). NOTE: "Intentional" kicking or forcing ball into a Dead Ball Area is a Home Run.

- f. If a ball is caught in the playable area and then the fielder's momentum carries him into a Dead Ball Area - the batter is out BUT all runners are awarded one base from the time the ball was caught.
- g. If one foot is out of play in a Dead Ball Area, it is NOT an out and is either a Foul or a Home Run. NOTE: Both feet in Live Ball Area to have an OUT!!! (This applies to both Fouls and potential Home Runs.) When a player catches a fair ball which goes over the fence, it is an out. If the defensive player touches the ground before the catch, it is a Home Run.
- h. A ball going over the outfield fence fair on the bounce, or through the fence or stuck in the fence, is a double - runners get two bases. On a stuck ball, outfielder should signal Umpire and "NOT" move the ball.

III. ADULT SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES

1. Games will be played in accordance with the official Slow Pitch Softball Rules of the Amateur Softball Association with the exception of local regulations which differ with A.S.A. rules as follows.
2. A team must have a minimum of nine (9) eligible players present to start a game. The game will start on time if there are 9 eligible players available. Teams cannot pick up spectators or other players from another team to start a game.
3. The game shall be called anytime after five (5) innings if a team is leading by ten (10) runs or more.
4. The league, will be using a 3 ball/2 strike rule. On the 2nd strike, the ball must go fair - players may advance on 2nd strike if the batted ball is caught.
5. Leagues may use either the Hoffman Rule or Extra Player.
HOFFMAN RULE - If teams desire an unlimited batting line-up, they are allowed to do so. However, the batting order may not be changed during the entire game (with the exception of an injured player). Only ten

(10) players can play on defense. Late players must be added to the batting order provided there is no change in the batting order. Managers must bat everyone.

EXTRA PLAYER (Slow Pitch Only) - An Extra Player, referred to an "EP is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game, and be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order. If the "EP" is used, he must be used the entire game. Failure to complete the game with the "EP" results in forfeiture of the game.

- a. The "EP" must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
 - b. If an "EP" is used, all eleven must bat and any ten can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed, but the batting order must remain the same.
 - c. The "EP" may be substituted for at any time, either by a pinch-runner or pinch-hitter, who then becomes the "EP. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting "EP" can re-enter.
 - d. If the "EP" are used in Co-ed, all twelve (12) must bat and any ten (10) - five male and five female - can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed as long as the following ration is used: two male/two female in the outfield, two male/two female in the infield, and one male/one female as pitcher/catcher. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
6. All players must be seventeen (17) years of age or older.
 7. Make-up games will be whenever diamonds are open during the weekdays or weekends. Managers will receive letters regarding any make-up games.
 8. Protests - Protests concerning player eligibility must be given to the Recreation Director in writing within 24 hours of the game being protested and must include the name of the team and player who is being protested for ineligibility. Protests on the interpretation of game rules shall be decided on the playing area. Judgement plays may not be protested. Decisions of the

umpire are final. The \$25.00 protest fee will be returned only in cases where the protest is allowed. Managers must notify the game official that the game is being played under protesst. This protest must be done within the one hour game time.

- a. All games will be one hour in length. A clock has been installed in the umpire's shed. This is the official clock. Please set your watches exactly to this time.

8-RUN RULE

In the slow pitch leagues from the Men's Eastern League and down, Womens and all Co-ed Leagues, the following is a description of the 8-run rule:

- 1) the leading team can only score 8 runs in an inning.
- 2) the trailing team can only score 8 runs plus whatever it is behind.

The only exception would be if the hit that produces the 8th run is a home run (untouched ball which leaves the outfield fence on a fly), then all runners including the hitter count for the run total. For example, if 7 runs were in with runners on 2nd and 3rd when the batter hits a homerun, the run tally for that half inning would be 10. However, had the batter hit a ball in the alley, only the runner from 3rd would count bringing the total to 8.

The 8-run rule will be lifted in the 7th and all extra innings as not to restrict the visiting team from building an insurmountable lead on their final at-bats.

HOME RUN RULE

MEN'S

A/B	C - 3	D - 0
Centennial - A/B - 7	Southern - C	Pacific - D
American - B - 5	Midwest - C	Cheyenne - D
		Metro - D
Hiawatha - B - 5	Eastern - C	Suburban - D
Western - B - 5	Northwest - C	Mohawk - D

Southeast - C	Apache - D
Maple Leaf - C	Pontiac - D
Viking - C	Sioux - D
Dakota - C	Chippewa - D
Cherokee - C	Atlantic - D

CO-ED - FRIDAYS

A/B	C - 3	D - 1
Centennial - A/B - 7	Southern - C	Cheyenne - D
		Pacific - D

CO-ED - MONDAYS

C - 3	D - 1
Southern - C	Pacific - D
Midwest - C	Cheyenne - D
	Metro - D
	Maple Leaf - D
	Viking - D
	Southeast - D
	Northwest - D

IV. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR CO-ED LEAGUES

1. If a man is walked intentionally the batter is awarded second base. If at the time of the walk there is two outs, the team batting has the option to have the next batter (woman) placed on first base.
2. Men and women must alternate in batting order.
3. No defensive player may play in front of the pitcher.
4. If there are any runners on base, no defensive change may take place, with the exception of the pitcher.
5. Outfielders must play beyond the skinned infield area until the ball is hit; this includes the short fielders. Infielders are only restricted to play in front of the outfielders.

6. When using the Hoffman Rule, teams must bat an equal amount of men and women. If a team has 16 players, 8 men and 8 women - example; 6 men and 10 women - the batting order must have 6 men and 6 women. The remaining 4 women can be substituted into the line-up, but only once.
7. Starting this year we will allow a co-ed team to play with nine players. At the start of the game, the managers will either declare they're playing with eight, nine, or ten players. If they play with eight, there are no penalties other than if they lose one player the game ends. If they start with nine players, the ninth player has to play in the outfield so that it stays 3 men and 3 women on the infield. The penalty for having the ninth player play is that the tenth spot in the batting order is an automatic out. If a team starts with ten players, there is no penalty unless they would drop to nine players. If that should happen, that person's spot in the batting order becomes an out.
8. 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 in the pitcher/catcher positions.
9. Sliding is permitted at all bases and home plate.

V. PLAYER/MANAGER CONDUCT

1. There will be no drinking or smoking during the game. Either on the bench or behind the dugout, no warnings will be given by the umpire. Violation of this rule will result in immediate eviction from the game and the complex, of the violating player and the coach that was in the pre-game meeting with the umpire. The games are one hour long, please wait that one hour to have your smokes and your beer... The smoking and drinking rules are the same if you are a player or a coach, or anyone else that is on the teams bench. There are no exceptions.
2. If a player or coach is removed from any game for any reason i.e. fighting or misconduct, that player has

five minutes to leave the field and complex completely. There are and will be no exceptions. Failure to follow this rule will result in the offending player/coaches team to forfeit the game. Any player/manager ejected from the game for fighting with an opponent will also not be eligible to return for a minimum of three games. Re-instatement to play after the three game suspension will be based on a meeting with the Recreation Director and the Umpire-in-Chief.

3. The casual profanity rule will be strongly enforced in all Rochester Leagues. Violation of this rule will result in an out for the violating team. Remember this is a family park/atmosphere. KNOW THE RULES! Any profanity directed at an opponent or an umpire will result in the immediate eviction from the game and the complex.

NOTICE: Participation in the Rochester Park and Recreation Department programs for pregnant women is limited to the first six (6) months of pregnancy. After six months, women may participate in programs if a written consent form is presented to the Park and Recreation Department from the attending physician.

HIV/BLOOD RULE:

Aggressive treatment of open wounds or skin lesions should be followed. In particular, whenever an athletic participant suffers a laceration or wound where oozing or bleeding occurs, the contest must be stopped at the earliest possible time, and the athlete must leave the field of play and may not enter until: (1) the bleeding has stopped and (2) the injury is covered. It is highly recommended that all teams have a first aid kit at their disposal.

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WELCOME- The Rochester Park and Rec. Department would like to welcome back all of the veteran umpires. We also extend a special welcome to the new umpires who have signed up to work this year. Throughout the year, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Steve Browning at the Park and Rec. offices at 281-6160. You may also call the Umpire in Chief, Ted Dow at 280-8980.

UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. As an ASA sanctioned umpire working in the Rochester leagues, you are considered a part-time employee of the City of Rochester. With this comes the responsibility of finding a replacement for yourself if you cannot make it to work on any given evening. You will be required to find a replacement for yourself. This can be done by calling names on the list. You must also call the Park and Rec. office if you are having problems finding a replacement.
2. All umpires must be ASA/MSF sanctioned and have attended a State Umpires Rule Interpretation Meeting.
3. All umpires must be wearing the proper uniform. It includes: ASA Logo cap, three stripe (blue) white umpires socks, and a blue or gray ball bag.
4. Know the rules! Be aware of the ASA Rules and the different rules that the Rochester Park and Rec. Leagues use. Do not make up rules as you go. If you have a question, don't be afraid to ask!

5. If there is an injury out on the field, get help immediately! If someone says they are a Dr., let them help while you get someone to call the authorities.
6. Umpire/Manager pre-game meeting. It is very important that you have a meeting with the person who is in charge of the team before the game. Explain the no drinking rule, the casual profanity rule, and the bats that are illegal, (all titanium, and in co-ed all bats listed). Explain that if you are violating the no drinking rule the player will be removed from the game.
7. The games are one hour in length. A clock has been installed in the umpires shed. This is the official clock. Please set your watches exactly to this time.