

# WASHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## WOMEN'S RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL

### LEAGUE RULES

Rules governing the 2021 City Women's Softball League shall be the official slow-pitch rules as sanctioned by the 2019-2020 Slow-Pitch softball rule book adopted by the Amateur Softball Association of America and the special rules adopted by the Washington Parks and Recreation Department as listed below:

#### **ELIGIBILITY RULES:**

- Players may live inside or outside the city limits of Washington.
- Rosters are limited to 20 players
- If a substitute is needed, you may ask another person from a different team. No more than 3 substitutes will be allowed. She must play right field or catch and must bat last.
- If a player gets disabled, quits, or is disqualified from play, he or she may be replaced on the roster.
- Any player dropped from a team may not play on any other team for the remainder of the season.
- All players must be 18 years of age.

**LOCATION:** All games will be played at McLaughlin Field

**SCHEDULE:** The team listed first on the schedule is the home team.

#### **DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Any player removed from a game twice in one season will be dropped from their team roster and the league for the rest of the season. Removal from a game will be left up to the discretion of the umpire. Reasons for removal are such things as bad sportsmanship, bad language, and arguing with the umpire or another team.

#### **CANCELLATIONS:**

Each Team Captain will be notified. Every effort will be made to hold games. It is the responsibility of each Team Captain to notify their players of these cancellations. Rain-outs during a game are called by the umpire. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if five or more complete innings have been played.

#### **PROTEST:**

Notify the officials at the time the incident in question occurs. A written protest of the incident must be brought to the Parks Department Office within 24 hours (5:00 p.m. on Thursday following a Wednesday night game) after the protest occurs with a \$50.00 protest fee. If the protest is granted, your fee will be refunded. If it is not, the fee will go into the operating budget. There shall be no protest of an official's judgment. The Protest Board will be made up of 2 captains, the umpire and the Washington Parks and Recreation Department.

#### **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:**

Each team will be required to purchase and keep an official scorebook, showing inning-by-inning play indicating outs and runs scored.

#### **SCORES:**

All scores will be obtained from the scorebook provided by the Parks Department. Each captain must list the players by name and at the end of game write in the score, sign scorebook, & indicate winner. The official also needs to sign the scorebook. The Parks Department will pick up scorebook the following day for scores.

## **STARTING TIMES:**

- **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME!** No grace period. All teams must show up for their scheduled game time. If a team does not show up – **forfeit**. If both teams do not show up – **double forfeit**. The team forfeiting will not receive reimbursement for that game.
- All games will be one (1) hour in length. The official time is the umpire's watch. No new inning will begin after one (1) hour of play.

## **THE TEAM:**

- A team must have 8 players present to start the game. Players arriving late may have their name added to the bottom of the order
- No designated hitters or runners will be permitted, unless injury occurs.
- Players must be at the ball diamond and ready to play before the start of the third inning to be eligible to play in the game.

## **BATTING:**

- Batters start with a 1 & 1 count.
- A foul ball after the first strike (3<sup>rd</sup> strike), the batter will be declared out, the ball is dead, and runners cannot advance if a fielder does not catch a fly ball.
- Every player listed in the scorebook shall bat.
- When a batter hits a ball and, during the ensuing play, the ball is overthrown at first or third base, the batter would receive the base she is trying for plus one base.

## **GENERAL:**

- Players cannot leave the base until the ball is hit.
- **NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED!!**

## **OFFICAL SCORE:**

The run rules will be as follows:

- 10 runs after 5 official innings
- 15 runs after 3 official innings

## **PITCHING:**

- There will be a 12- foot maximum arch and a 6- foot minimum arch on the ball when pitching to a batter.
- Balls and strikes will be called. In order for a pitch to be called a strike, the ball must be within the arch limits listed above and must also land on a strike carpet. The carpet will be 17 inches wide and 3 feet long and be located behind home plate.

## **UMPIRING:**

- If a ball is hit under the fence, it shall be called a ground rule double.
- There shall be a maximum of two time-outs per game, not to exceed one minute each.
- Official time-outs for injuries or emergencies (equipment failure, field problems, etc.) will not be charged to either team, and would extend the playing time, if necessary, the amount of time required during the official time-out.

## **WAIVERS:**

All players must have a signed release on file at the Washington Parks Office prior to the second scheduled game and/or prior to participating in any league games. Failure to do so will result in that team member being classified as ineligible and will result in a team forfeiture.

You will need to drop your signed releases off at the Parks Office after the first game. *You may leave them with the umpire the first night but you must put them in a large manila envelope with your team name on the front. This is necessary so that they do not get lost, etc.* Any releases that have to be signed by subs during the season should be given to the umpire and placed in the PARKS DEPT. SCOREBOOK at the playing field that night.

**ROSTER CHANGES:**

If you need to replace a player on your roster you must call this change into the Parks Office (390-1080) before 5:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

**NOTE TO ALL TEAM CAPTAINS:**

Any debate or discussion of a rule with either the official or opposing team manager shall not delay the game in any way. If an interpretation of a rule is being questioned, a protest should be filed in accordance with the official list of rules governing the league. If any incidents are reported of a team or manager delaying the game because of an interpretation question disciplinary action will be taken by the Parks and Recreation Department against said team or player.