

SPARTA PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT SOFTBALL  
RULES AND REGULATIONS

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# POINTS OF EMPHASIS



## COACHES/MANAGERS:

- All adult bases will be at 70 feet
- Managers must write out a line-up on the official/line-up card provided by the umpire 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. **First and Last names must be on the cards. NO NICKNAMES!**
- ASA approved bats are allowed for all leagues. Bats altered in any manner, including cracked bats, are illegal. The Park & Recreation Department will have final jurisdiction on any bat which is deemed to be unsafe for recreational play in the City of Sparta. No titanium bats allowed.
- **You must provide your own ball** - All balls must be Optic Yellow and ASA Approved  
12" .52 core, 300 Compression
- Co-Ed League will use the Suicide Line.
- Men's and Women's League must slide at home plate to avoid contact with catcher. You will be called out if you don't slide.
- Coulee Region Ejection Rule.
- Co-Ed - Courtesy Runner – only allowed at 1<sup>st</sup> base and a man will replace a man and a women replace a women.
- Sub fee's of \$2.00 per week can be paid at the time of your game to the umpire. All subs must be on your roster prior to playing, you can not add them to the roster at the time of your games. A sub must play in at least 4 regular season games to be eligible to play in the end of season tournament.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Umpires have discretion to immediately eject participants for DEROGATORY REMARKS, PROFANITY, OBSCENE GESTURES, THREATS, OR PHYSICAL FORCE directed toward any game official, park employee, department official, or players or spectators. Profanity whether directed at an

opponent, a game or department official or merely at one's self WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and could mean immediate ejection and probable suspension.

- B. FOUL LANGUAGE/SWEARING directed toward an umpire will not be tolerated, the person/persons/teams involved WILL BE IMMEDIATELY EJECTED from the game and asked to leave the PARK. If ejected parties do not leave the park, the game will be stopped and officially ruled a forfeit. IF BOTH TEAMS create problems, the contest will be declared a double forfeit.
  - C. Person/persons/teams ejected from a game will automatically be suspended FROM PLAY IN THE NEXT SCHEDULED LEAGUE or PLAY-OFF GAME (cancellations will not apply as a penalty date.)
  - D. **COULEE REGION EJECTION RULE:** In a collaborative effort to uphold sportsmanship/fair play in the Coulee Region, the cities of La Crosse, Onalaska, Sparta, and the Village of Holmen have agreed that players suspended for severe inappropriate behavior (i.e. Fighting, Language, Conduct) will not be allowed to participate in any Coulee Region League until their suspension is fulfilled.
  - E. A player who physically attacking or attempting to strike or pushing the official or staff will be barred from any further play in any or all City of Sparta Park & Recreation programs for a minimum of one year from the date of incident.
  - F. Any player ejected from three games will be suspended for one year from the date of the last incident.
  - G. Any team found playing a player under suspension will forfeit all games said player took part in while under suspension.
  - H. Use of ineligible players during any league games will result in automatic forfeiture of those games.
- For information regarding rainouts/cancellations please call the hotline at 269-9016. A message will be placed on the hotline around to 4:00pm. If there isn't an updated message, report to the field as scheduled. If inclement weather arises after 4:00pm it is the umpire's discretion if the field is playable.
  - Courtesy runners are only allowed at 1<sup>st</sup> base. Therefore, if the batter/runner hits a double he/she will not be able to get a runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. He/she must stop at 1<sup>st</sup> base if they need a runner.
  - **A player must be 16 years of age or older to play in the Adult Softball Leagues by June 17, 2016. If any player is caught playing in the league before they are 16 years of age they will be suspended from the league**

**for the remainder of the season. All games that the player participated in will be forfeited and counted as a loss.**

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

- A. A player must be 16 years of age or older to be eligible to play in any softball league conducted by the Sparta Parks & Recreation Department. All players must fill out and sign the Player Waiver, Release of Liability, and Indemnification Agreement and pay the player fee **before** the player may participate in any **game**. Violation of this rule will result in forfeit for each and every game in which the ineligible player has participated.
- B. The player fee for **each** softball team played on is \$16.00 for residents, and \$28.00 for non-resident players. Each team manager is responsible for getting the fees and rosters in on time. Player registration fees are non-refundable.
- C. A player can not be registered with more than one team in each league.
- D. If a player originally registers with one team and decides they wish to play on another team, we need to have permission from both team captains to either remove or add a team member. Players are not able to change teams once the season has started.
- E. Participants must assume full responsibility for injuries incurred while taking part in the activity. NO activity insurance is provided through the City of Sparta.
- F. Team managers must have all players fill in the information on the Player Waiver, Release of Liability, and Indemnification Agreement (this is your roster). The agreement (signed by all your players) and player fees must be turned in to the Recreation Office by Thursday, April 23. **The roster must have a minimum of 10 players signed and fees paid to be turned in to the office.** After the season has begun, player fees must be paid at the Recreation Office. **Players fees will not be collected at the softball fields!**
- G. New players may be added to teams for any reason up until June 17, 2016.
- H. No new players may be added to any team roster after June 17, 2016. However, if a season ending injury occurs, or is deployed for military duty, the said person must be dropped from the roster. The team may replace that player and add another to their roster. The new player must pay a player's fee to be eligible.
- I. If the team manager is a playing manager, he is included in the list of active players. If the manager is a non-playing manager, the team is allowed the designated number of players per team in addition to the manager.

- J. Sub fee's of \$2.00 per week can be paid at the time of your game to the umpire. All subs must be on your roster prior to playing, you can not add them to the roster at the time of your games. A sub must play in at least 4 regular season games to be eligible to play in the end of season tournament.

## SEASON SCHEDULE

- A. Schedules will **not** be handed out until a minimum of 10 player fees are paid.
- B. 

Co-ed	Monday	First Game: May 2
Men's 12"	Wednesday	First Game: May 4
Women's	Thursday	First Game: May 5

## TIME AND PLACE OF GAMES

- A. All games for the Sparta Recreation Softball League will take place at the Sparta Memorial Park Sports Complex.
- B. Starting times will be 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00pm. If more teams enter the league and another time slot needs to be added, the starting times will be 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30pm.

## CANCELLATIONS

- A. Information regarding rain-outs/cancellations can be obtained by calling the **Sports Hotline at 269-9016**. Please encourage your players to call the hotline and not the office!
- B. Cancellation information will also be announced over WCOW radio and updated on Facebook.
- C. **TEAMS/UMPIRES:** When in doubt about play status, **REPORT TO YOUR SCHEDULED SITE.**
- D. **GAMES WILL BE CANCELED or SUSPENDED** if one or more of the following conditions exists:
  - 1. Steady/Hard Rain, which leads to unplayable/unsafe conditions
  - 2. Lightning in the area
  - 3. High/dangerous winds associated with serve weather
  - 4. Any other conditions in which program officials deem unsafe and/or dangerous
- E. **MAKE-UPS:** The first two games that are canceled due to inclement weather will not be made up. In the event more than two games get canceled, the first game canceled will be made up.

## PRE-GAME LINE-UPS

- A. Teams should report at least 10 minutes prior to their scheduled game. Managers **MUST** write out a line up on the Officials Scorecard provided by the umpire. Please give the umpire both the first and last name of players. Please print any information given.
- B. Teams must report the use of an EXTRA PLAYER prior to the start of the game.

## STARTING/ENDING A GAME

- A. The first game of each evening or any single game shall start promptly as scheduled. No grace period will be allowed. Game time is start time unless one or more of the following conditions occur: 1) Weather/field conditions delay the start 2) Game official arrives late 3) Previous game(s) have for one reason or another “backed up” the schedule.
- B. Teams may use a maximum of 10 players. Teams must have at least eight (8) of their own registered players before the game starts. Games will not start or continue with less than eight (8) players on a team.
- C. If a team does not have eight team members at the scheduled starting time, a forfeit shall be declared. If both teams have less than eight players present, the team with the least amount of players will receive the loss. If both teams have less than eight players but have the same amount of players, both teams will receive a loss. Players present may use the field for a practice session. Umpires are not required to umpire practice games. **Teams may not pick up additional players on site to prohibit a forfeit.**
- D. A team forfeiting four games will be eliminated from the league. The remainder of their games will count as wins for their opponents.
- E. Teams may continue and/or end a game with less than the required minimum of players if a player or players become injured and he/she is unable to continue and no available legal player are present.
- F. If a player cannot continue because of an injury or emergency circumstances and/or a substitute is not available to take his/her batting position that position in the batting order will be erased with the next scheduled batter due up to bat. That player will be unable to re-enter the game.
- G. Teams starting with 8 or 9 players may add players arriving late to games into the line-up in the last position of the batting order at any time during the game.
- H. Out of courtesy, managers not able to field a team should call the Parks and Recreation Office and the opposing team manager. Advance notice allows time for late games to be moved to an earlier time slot.

- A. A team with four forfeits will be released from league play indefinitely.
- B. Forfeits communicated to the Parks and Recreation Office at least 24 hours in advance, thus giving us a chance to notify the opposing team, will not cause team expulsion.

## GENERAL PLAYING RULES

- A. The rules governing the Sparta Recreation Softball Leagues (Men's 12", Women's, and Co-ed) are found in the 2015 Official ASA Softball Handbook. Where rules adopted by the Sparta Park & Recreation Softball Leagues conflict with these, the local rules will prevail.
- B. Games are scheduled for 7 innings or one (1) hour time limit. However, once a new inning begins and time expires prior to the completion of the inning, that inning must be completed until a winner is decided.
- C. The run rule for all league play will be: A team which is ahead by **15 runs** or more, and has played a minimum of 4 ½ or 5 complete innings (depending upon lead/home team), will be declared the winner.
- D. Three (3) balls constitute a walk. With two (2) strikes (any combination of called, swinging, or foul balls), the batter is out.
- E. No bunting allowed.
- F. Rule 10, section 6 ... "Umpires Judgement" is emphasized and quoted: "No player or person has any legal right to appeal an umpire's decision involving accuracy of judgement. Only the manager or captain of either team has any legal right to seek the reversal of an umpire's decision based on rule interpretation".
- G. **NO STEEL SPIKES ALLOWED**
- H. An E.P. can be used (batting 11 and playing 10), or a team may bat all players and play 10. In all cases, your batting intentions must be made known to the umpire prior to the start of the game. (If a team is unable to finish the game using the E.P., they may do so without penalty. No automatic out must be taken.) In Co-ed Roster batting, if there is an uneven amount the extra player must be a female.
- I. **Pitchers must remain in contact with the pitching rubber until after the release of the ball.** Any pitcher jumping during the release will be called for an illegal pitch.
- J. The plate and mat are the strike zone.

- K. Pitching Distance – 50 feet, Base Distance – 70 feet
- L. A courtesy runner will be allowed for an injured player at first base only. The courtesy runner will be the last person who made the last out of the previous inning, if that person is up to bat or on deck it will be the second to last out of the previous inning.
- M. **Blood Rule:** A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has fresh blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. Teams must continue the game whether short handed or by entering a player from the bench without regard to the re-entry rule.
- N. **SLIDING** - The major concern related to the issue of sliding is focused on the dangers of crashing into a fielder (be it the catcher or any other fielder). Plays at the plate will require an “automatic slide” situation. Persons may not make ANY attempt to jar a fielded ball or break up a play AT ANY BASE. Base runners must slide directly into the base they are advancing to OR avoid any contact. NOTE TO FIELDERS: Remember that you must not obstruct any base runner. This means...stay clear from the base runner UNLESS YOU ARE: 1) In possession of the ball attempting to make a putout. 2) In position, and have a reasonable chance to receive a thrown ball.
- N. **LEAVING THE BASE:** For all leagues, runners may not leave a base until contact is made with the bat and ball. No courtesy step.

### MEN’S 12” LEAGUE

- 1. Arc Limit – 12’ Upper, 6’ lower.
- 2. **A limit of six (6) home runs per game. The batter will be ruled out for any home runs in excess of 6.**

### WOMEN’S LEAGUE

- 1. A 12” softball will be used
- 2. Arc Limit – Unlimited Upper, 6’ lower

### CO-ED LEAGUE

- 1. A 12” softball will be used for men and women.
- 2. All plays at home are force-outs with the runner touching the mat and the catcher touching the plate.
- 3. Any walk to a MALE batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
- 4. A team can play with an odd number of people. If a team plays with an extra man, an automatic out must be taken between the two consecutive male batters. If a team plays with an extra woman, no automatic out must be taken. If a team plays with 6 women and 4 men, no automatic out must be taken.

5. If a team starts a game with 4 men, they must also have 4 women to avoid forfeiture.
6. Positioning – There are no limits to the areas where players may position themselves on the field in fair territory. However, with 10 players, five females and 5 males, two males and two females in both the infield and outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher and catcher.
7. There will be a 10' arc limit for women and unlimited for men, 6' min.
8. **A limit of six (6) home runs per game. The batter will be ruled out for any home runs in excess of 6.**
9. Courtesy Runner – only allowed at 1<sup>st</sup> base and a man will replace a man and a women replace a women.

## ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

No beer or alcoholic beverages permitted in the dugout area. There will be NO drinking alcoholic beverages by a player during his/her game. No smoking on the playing field at any time. Anyone using profanity or any such unsportsman-like acts is subject to immediate removal from the game.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

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- D. A player who physically attacking or attempting to strike or pushing the official or staff will be barred from any further play in any or all City of Sparta Park & Recreation programs for a minimum of one year from the date of incident.

- E. Any player ejected from a game will be automatically suspended from his or her next scheduled game.
- F. Any player ejected from three games will be suspended for one year from the date of the last incident.
- G. Any team found playing a player under suspension will forfeit all games said player took part in while under suspension.
- H. Use of ineligible players during any league games will result in automatic forfeiture of those games.

## PROTESTS

UMPIRE DECISIONS ARE FINAL! NO APPEALS/PROTESTS ALLOWED.

## TEAM DISBANDMENTS

If a team disbands and drops from the league before the schedule is complete, games by such team will be counted in the standings. All games that said team does not play will be forfeited to their opponent as they were scheduled.

## SCORING

Each team will be required to keep their scorebook.

## STANDINGS

Up-to-date league standings will be available in the parks and recreation office.

## CHAMPIONSHIP AND PLAYOFF GAMES

The following method will be used to determine league champions and runner-up.

1. If there is a tie in overall records, then the tiebreaker would go to the best head to head record.
2. If the head to head records are the same, then there will be a coin flip

## UMPIRE/GAME OFFICIALS

One umpire/game will be furnished by the Sparta Parks & Recreation Department to official each game. It is understood that the umpire is in complete charge of the game at all times and must receive full cooperation from both managers and players. Managers are not only expected, but also instructed to assist the umpire in controlling his/her players at all times.

This section will only serve as general reminder to game officials of their basic requirements, duties, and responsibilities. Specific and greater information will be presented at required in services.

- A. All umpires are encouraged to register with A.S.A.

- B. The Recreation Director will evaluate all umpires, at random, during the course of the season. Evaluations will serve as partial basis for re-employment for next season.
- C. All umpires should wear proper apparel (shirts, caps, etc.). No jeans or cut-offs.
- D. Umpires should arrive at the site **at least 15 minutes prior to game time.**
- E. **UMPIRES HAVE FINAL JURISDICTION OVER THE FOLLOWING:**
  - 1. Cancellations of games at the site
  - 2. Removal/ejections of players/teams (due to conduct, language, drinking, etc)
  - 3. Official game-time, line-ups, and official score
  - 4. All judgement calls (balls, strikes, safe/out, etc.)
  - 5. Any other decisions that must be resolved at the site.