Adult Softball League

2015 Softball Rules Addendum

There were no rule changes for the 2015 season

AMHERST COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

SOFTBALL LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

Amherst County Recreation & Parks organizes plans, supervises, and manages all Softball Leagues. It is the responsibility of the Sports League to administer and provide: Officials, facility supervisor, safe playing conditions, and fair play. ACRP also reserves the right to make changes to the Softball League when it is in the best interest of the overall program.

SPORTSMANSHIP

ACRP's philosophy overview for the Softball League participants is to exemplify "Sportsmanship." Sportsmanship conduct by managers, players, officials, and spectators is mandatory and requires everyone to remember that this is a recreational league. Altercations with sports officials or other participants will not be allowed or tolerated.

Amherst County Recreation & Parks shall have the authority to penalize any individual; player, manager, and team for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. All players must be of amateur status. Any ex-professional baseball or softball player must meet with the Commissioner to determine if he/she can participate in the league.
2. Participants must be at least 18 years of age to be eligible to play in the mens league and 16 to play Co-ed. *Team Manager's are responsible for the conduct and behavior of their team at all times.*

A) INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

1. An ineligible player is defined as:
   a. A player not listed on a team roster.
   b. A player participating under an incorrect name.
   c. A player who falsifies his/her residency.
2. Players should have positive identification available should they be questioned about their identity.
3. Forfeits due to playing with an ineligible player will result in a team loss and any additional forfeits will disqualify that team from the league.

4. A player found guilty of being listed on more than one roster will be immediately ineligible to play for any team until the Commissioner makes a final determination on the player's eligibility.

SANCTION PLAYING RULES

1. ACRP uses ASA sanctioned rules for softball play.
2. Local rules will supersede all sanctioned rules for all league play (when applicable)
3. ACRP reserves the right to modify sanctioned rules for local league play in the best interest of the league and participants

SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

*A) **EQUIPMENT***

1. T-Shirts, shorts or sweatpants, and proper shoes (tennis shoe or rubber cleated athletic shoe only) are required by all participants. No metal cleats are allowed!
2. Gloves, bats, and balls must conform to ASA regulations and standards. **Any bat barrel showing excessive wear or rattles when shaken will be considered illegal.**
3. All leagues will use a 52-core softball, (300 compressions or less) **which is new for the 2014 season**. All teams will hit there own ball. **If a new ball is not used the umpire must be able to read the core and compression of the ball being used. (new for the 2014 season)**

*B) **SCHEDULES***

1. ACRP will create all league schedules and announce changes to any schedule at least one week in advance. Since leagues may vary in number of teams, schedules may be unbalanced.
2. An ***unbalanced schedule*** is one that does not provide the same number of home and away games or participation against the other league teams an equal number of times.
3. All leagues are scheduled fourteen (14) games. We will try to make up all postponed games when possible, however there is no guarantee they will be made up.
4. Visit **www.countyofamherst.com** for updated schedules, scores, standings, and cancellations

TEAM ROSTERS

1. Team managers are to follow instructions when filling out the roster and incomplete rosters will not be accepted.
2. A team must have a minimum of 12 players listed on its roster.
3. Each team must submit their original roster at the time of registration.
4. Players can only be listed on one team's roster. Team managers are to make sure that players are only on their team roster. This is the team manager's responsibility.
5. Players are allowed to play on one team in their respective league (Men's and Co-Ed).
6. **Any manager caught playing an illegal player will forfeit that game. The**

player and manager will also be ejected and could be banned from participating for the remainder of the season.

7. The manager is responsible to ensure that the score cards, player contracts and team rosters are completely filled out. Every player must have submitted a player contract with a legible name and phone number, in order to prevent the team from forfeiting games. If a score card is turned in and is incomplete or illegible then the team will have to forfeit.

WAIVERED PLAYERS

1. Once a player signs with a team they are not eligible to switch teams until the manager "releases" the player.
2. Any player released from a team, by the Manager, is eligible to sign with another team after a 24 hour waiting period.
3. If a team releases a player, they may not pick that player back up for the remainder of the season.

GAME SITUATION RULES

All men's and co-recreation softball leagues will play under ASA rules, except for rules that have been modified by ACRP for a specific league.

1. In the co-recreation league, Females will hit 11" balls. Positioning defensive players can be any where in field of play. Batting order must alternate.
2. **Innings -** All league games will consist of 7 innings, or one hour. If rain or darkness occurs, games will be called official after 4 innings.
3. **Rain out** - If a game is rained out before 4 innings have been completed, the entire game will be re-played. The game is official after 4 innings or 3 and a half if the home team is ahead.
4. **Time Limit** - No inning will start after the umpire has announced the fifty-five minute time limit. If the game is tied; it will be played until a team has won.
5. **Extra Innings** - If a game goes into extra innings or beyond the time limit, every batter will come to the plate with a 2 balls - 1 strike count and the game will continue under the one pitch rule.
6. **Home Run Limit** - There will be a home run limit rule in effect for all leagues:

Men's	4 home runs per team per game
Co-Rec.	3 home runs per team per game

7. ***Home Run Rule*** - When a homerun has been hit all players, batter and base runners return to the dugout.
8. Any home runs that are hit, after the limit is reached, will be an automatic out.
9. **Third Strike Rule** – This means after the batter has one strike the second foul ball hit will result in a strike out.
10. **Fence rule** - If a ball bounces over or rolls under the fence, the fielder must raise his hands and it will be considered a ground rule double.
11. **Jewelry Rule** – No jewelry will be allowed, other than wedding bands. Players will not be allowed on the field until all jewelry has been removed.

12. **Profanity Rule** – Players using profanity will receive a team warning. Any player on that team, after being warned, using profanity will be removed for the remainder of that game.

TEAM PARTICIPATION RULES

1. Teams must have nine players present at the start of the game.
2. Teams may play with nine players. If the tenth player is ejected from the game by the umpire the open spot in the batting order will be considered an out.
3. Teams may not finish a game with less than nine players. If a team has less than nine players, the team will forfeit the game. .
4. The (EP) extra player rule will be used in league play only if you start the game with one. If a team loses the extra player from the line-up, the open spot in the batting order will be considered an out. Teams are allowed to play up to 14 players (4 EP'S).
5. No manager or player disputes may be registered on judgment calls made by umpires All decisions handed down by umpires are final.

PRE-GAME PREPARATION RULES

1. Mandatory pre-game talk between the umpire and opposing team coaches should take place before the start of the game.
2. During the mandatory pre-game talk, the umpire must be made aware of the designated team manager who will act as sole communicator with the umpire.

PRE-GAME TEAM WARM-UP RULES

1. There will not be a pre-game practice by any team.

SCORE KEEPER

1. The HOME team will keep the official score book.
2. If the home team cannot furnish a scorekeeper and the visiting team can; they then will become the home team.
3. After the game the umpire will sign the game card to make it official.

SLAUGHTER RULE

- 20 runs after 2 1/2 innings
- 15 after 3 1/2 innings
- 10 after 4 1/2 innings

EJECTION:

1. If a team member or spectator is ejected from a game he/she is to leave the **property** immediately.
2. If an ejected player continues to disrupt a game in any way, he/she may be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and his/her team may forfeit the game.
3. Any team member or spectator who strikes an umpire, player, spectator, or an employee will be expelled from the league for the remainder of the season ***and beyond!***

EJECTION PENALTIES:

1. **First Offense** – Suspended for the next two games.
2. **Second Offense** – Suspended for the next four games.
3. **Third Offense** – Suspended for the remainder of the year.
   - Once a player receives a third offense they will be requested to attend an arbitration hearing with the Commissioner and Advisory Committee. That hearing will determine if any additional penalty is justified towards the offending player.
   - Any player ejected from Bedford County, Campbell County, Amherst County, Lynchburg City, or Nelson County softball leagues are subject to being ejected from the ACRP.

AMHERST & MADISON HEIGHTS COMPLEX RULES

THE FOLLOWING RULES MUST BE OBEYED: (Rules will be strictly enforced)

1. All team managers, players, spectators, and umpires must respect and adhere to the field rules.
2. All players, spectators, and umpires must park in designated areas.
3. There will be absolutely no littering; alcoholic beverages; fighting; gambling; or illegal activities.
4. ***Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed on property or any field used by this league. Any player, manager, or umpire who is caught drinking, before or after a game, will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season***

CANCELLATIONS

1. If the weather looks questionable, it has recently rained and/or rained the evening before, team managers should contact the ACRP cancellation line at **946-9371**, after 4:30 p.m. for information about field cancellations. No phone calls should be made prior to 4:30 p.m.
2. The Softball Commissioner will reschedule canceled games. Once games are rescheduled, no changes will be made to the schedule.
   - **No softball players are to use the fields if the games are cancelled!**

FORFEITS

1. Forfeits are to be avoided at all times. If a team forfeits the minimum number allowed (4 games), they are ineligible for league championship. If a team forfeits the maximum number allowed (6 games) they will be dismissed from the league and forfeit the remainder of their playing schedule.

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO ALL LEAGUES:

1. Any team that is found guilty of playing with an ineligible player will automatically forfeit games in which the individual played.

2. If a team does not have nine players present at game time, the game will be forfeited.
3. If both teams do not have enough players, at game time, the umpire will rule a double forfeit.
4 **Doubleheader Leagues: Once the first game has been forfeited teams have only 30 minutes to begin play or forfeit the next game.**
5. If the umpire does not show up at the time of play, the game will automatically be postponed and rescheduled at a later date.

PROTESTS

The Commissioner will not receive or consider any protest based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgement of an umpire. *Protests will only be considered concerning matters of the following types:*

1. Misinterpretation of a playing rule
2. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
3. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
4. Ineligible player

Every attempt should be made to resolve rule disagreements between the manager and umpire on the field. If the disagreement cannot be resolved on the field the protesting manager should file a formal protest.

Protest Rule Procedure :

A. The protesting manager will inform the umpire that he/she desires to file a protest
B. The umpire will immediately call the Site supervisor to inform him that a protest has been requested.
C. The Site supervisor will then provide the protesting manager a Protest Form Sheet to be filled out completely.

The following information will be recorded on the Protest Form Sheet at the time of the protest:

1. Inning.
2. Number of outs.
3. Number of balls and strikes (if applicable)
4. Position of runners.
5. Reason for protest.
6. Umpires Signature.
7. Managers Signature.
8. Site Supervisors Signature.

D. The Protest Form Sheet will then be submitted to the commissioner for review.
E. The Commissioner will notify the protesting manager within three days of the ruling.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

The playoff format will be the top six teams in each league advancing to a post season tournament. This will be single elimination with two teams advancing to the championship game. The higher seed will be the home team. **If for any reason the playoff cannot be held the team with the best regular season record will be deemed the league champion**. Tournament rosters will be the same as the roster during the regular season. Players must play in at least one third of your team's games to be eligible for tournament play**.**