



## 2016 Adult Softball By-Laws

### PURPOSE

1. The primary purpose of the Morristown Parks and Recreation Department Softball League is to provide recreation for players and spectators during a definite schedule of regulation play. This will be terminated at the end of a round-robin schedule, and the team with the highest percentage of games won will be declared the winner.

### LEAGUE SCHEDULE

1. The league schedule will be drawn up by the Parks and Recreation Department. Schedules will be posted on our website ([www.mymorristown.com](http://www.mymorristown.com)). Any updates to the schedule will be posted on our website. Schedules will be updated throughout the season with game results.
2. There will be three games each night. The first game is scheduled for 6:00 p.m.; 7:15 for the second; and 8:30 for the third. There will be no new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes playing time. There will be no grace period for players to arrive. Games must start promptly. There will be no infield practice between games. No warmups on blacktop allowed.
3. League Standings will be based on a team's Win/Loss record. In case of a tie between teams, head-to-head record will be used to break the tie.
3. Coed games will take place on Wednesday nights.
4. If the time limit is exhausted, the game is considered as regulation regardless of number of innings played. However, if the game is tied, one more inning will be played to try to determine a winner.
5. There will be no league tournaments following the season.

### GAME LOCATIONS

1. All games will be played at Frank Lorino Park or Wayne Hansard Park. No pets are allowed at any of our parks.

## **TEAMS, PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES**

1. All teams will be allowed 20 players on their roster. **ONLY PLAYERS WHO'S NAMES APPEAR ON THE TEAM ROSTER FILED IN THE RECREATION OFFICE ARE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY.** Manager's name must be listed if a playing manager.

***Teams are required to submit rosters to Parks & Recreation before the season begins. Rosters will be present at each field to resolve any illegal player issues. Before a game begins, Game official(s) will ask each manager if they have an issue with the opposing team's players. If either manager has an issue with the opposing team then player(s) in question must show photo ID to verify they are on the roster. If both teams say they are good with other team's players then the game will be played and no protest for illegal players will be allowed. If a player is on the lineup and is not present before the game begins, he or she may be asked to show photo ID when they arrive to their game.***

2. **IF A PLAYER'S RESIDENCE IS FALSIFIED, THE TEAM WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE LEAGUE.**
3. No player will be allowed to change teams after he/she participates in a game. **(Being in the lineup of a game that is forfeited will not count as participating in a game.)** The first team a player plays with is the team he/she is bound to for the season.
4. Players may be added to the roster provided the player has not played in the league this season. There will be a \$30 fee for each player added to the roster if the player lives outside Hamblen County. All players added who live within Hamblen County must provide proof of current residence. Acceptable proof of residence will be driver's license, current utility bill or voter's registration card with the player's name and address on it. If the player does not have proof of residence they will either pay the \$30 fee or not be added to the roster. Only the manager or assistant managers listed on the team roster may make roster changes. To make a roster change, the manager or assistant manager and the player being added (or their parent or legal guardian if a minor) must both be present at the Parks and Recreation Office (closes 5:00 p.m.) **AT THE SAME TIME.** Pickup players are subject to be classified by Parks and Recreation staff as to what league they can play in. Military personnel on leave are eligible to be added to a roster provided their permanent residence is in Hamblen County or they pay the \$30 fee.
5. Players must be fifteen (15) years of age by April 1, 2016.
6. No professional player who is under contract is eligible to play in the league.
7. Any player who plays for a team other than the one they normally play with, or, if they use an assumed name, player and manager will be declared ineligible for one year.
8. Any players involved in physical conduct are subject to suspension. MPRD Staff will determine will determine all discipline issues of all involved. Suspension may/will carry over to next season.
9. Any player or manager who uses profanity, obscene language, constant bickering or griping, misconduct, etc., will not be tolerated. The player or manager may/will be suspended for the remainder of the season or next season. Any player or manager who is written up by the umpire or and is judged to have cursed or threatened an official will be suspended for a minimum of one year.
10. Any player who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be suspended for the team's next two (2) games.
11. Players will not be considered as having missed a game if that game was forfeited to their team, however, if the player's own team forfeits, which would count as missing a game.

12. Any player or manager suspended from local league or ASA will be suspended from participation in local league play and tournaments. Suspensions will carry over to all sports, i.e., softball, volleyball and basketball. If suspended, an individual could not coach or play during time suspended in any sport.
13. Any manager who plays a player who is suspended will automatically be suspended for one year.
14. Three forfeits for failure to have enough players present to start a game will result in that team being automatically dropped from league.
15. Smoking on field is prohibited; this includes the E6 and other vapor or smokeless cigarettes.
16. A manager shall not play any member of their team who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The umpire or Parks and Recreation Staff shall have the authority to remove a player or manager who is, in their opinion, under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
17. No insurance coverage is carried on teams. Teams must provide own insurance coverage if desired.
18. Girls playing Senior Little League are not eligible to play in women's league until their season is completed.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

1. Spikes are approved. Track, golf and football shoes are not approved. Molded cleats are legal.
2. Top grade softballs of any manufacturer may be used in play which meet specifications of Rule 3, Section 3 of the Official Softball Rules. **The ball must be a .52 core with 300 or less compression and the ASA logo for men. The ball for women is .44 core and 375 compression.**
3. Shirts and shoes must be worn by all players.
4. Jewelry is not permitted with the exception of wedding bands and medical alerts. **PENALTY: First batter in batter's box with jewelry will be called out. All others will be called out and ejected.**

#### **FORFEITED GAME**

1. A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault, and the score shall be recorded as 7-0 in the following cases:
  - a. If a team fails to appear upon the field or being on the field refuses to begin a game.
  - b. If after warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game is constantly, willfully and intentionally violated.
  - c. If, after the game has begun, one side refuses to continue play, unless the game has been suspended or terminated by umpire.
  - d. If a team employs tactics obviously designed to delay the game
  - e. If the removal of a player is not obeyed within one (1) minute.
  - f. If a team does not have enough players present to start a game.
  - g. A team found to have an ineligible player will automatically forfeit the game in question. Only the last game will be forfeited for an ineligible player.
  - h. Player is ineligible if hold-harmless affidavits are not signed --Result Automatic Forfeit.
  - i. Any other cases covered by the rule book.

#### **PROTESTS**

1. Protests will be discouraged if you have little or no chance to win the protest. In all protests, proof of burden is on the accuser, especially in the case of illegal players.
2. Protest must be received in the Parks and Recreation Office within 24 hours (Monday for Friday or Saturday games). The protest must be clearly written, and point of protest fully explained. No protest, with the exception of the eligibility of a player, will be honored after the game is over. Intention to protest must be made before the next pitch and must be entered in the official scorebook.

3. A sum of \$50 must accompany the protest. If the protest is valid, the \$50 will be refunded, but if the protest is not valid, the \$50 will not be refunded.
4. Only a manager may protest.
5. A protest cannot be entered involving judgment. Only points of rule may be protested.
6. All protests will be submitted to a protest committee and the decision of that committee will be final.

#### **OFFICIAL RULES**

1. The 2016 edition of "Official Rules of Softball" shall govern the play of the league.
2. There will be no home run limit in Men's A League. Players hitting a home run (over the fence) will run to first and return to the dugout. Players on base when a home run is hit will advance one base and return to dugout.
2. Home Run Limit in Men's C Division is Four (4) home runs. Any home runs hit after that will be considered an out.
3. Home Run Limit in Coed League will be Two (2) home runs. Any home runs hit after the limit has been reached will be considered an out.
3. The home team will be listed second on the schedule.
4. The run ahead rule will be as in the rule book. Slowpitch rule is 20 after 3 innings; 15 after 4 innings and 10 after 5 innings. Modified rule is 15 after 3 innings, 12 after 4 innings or 10 after 5 innings.
5. Each batter will begin with a 1 and 1 count. Each batter will be allowed three (3) foul balls. On the third foul ball, the batter will be ruled out; dead ball.
6. **COURTESY RUNNER:** Each team is allowed one (1) courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner shall take the place of a runner after "time" is called on the previous play. Courtesy runners may be used for any reason. The team may select any player to be the courtesy runner; however, an "out" will be recorded if the courtesy runner is due to bat. Teams cannot substitute to get around the automatic "out". The courtesy runner may also be a player who is not currently in the game.
7. **STRIKE MAT RULES:** A "strike mat" will be used to determine balls and strikes. If the softball touches any part of the mat on a legal pitch (6'-10' arc), it will be considered a strike. Pitches touching any part of the plate WILL BE considered a strike as well. \*\*IMPORTANT DISTINCTION\*\* The strike mat is only used for calling balls and strikes. The strike mat is not home plate. Therefore, when a runner is trying to score, he or she must touch home plate in order to score. If he/she touches the strike mat and not home plate, and then is tagged, the runner will be tagged.
8. **PITCHERS NET RULES:** A pitching safety screen will be used. Each time a batted ball hits the pitching screen, it will be ruled a "foul ball." If the ball hits the net on a batter's 3<sup>rd</sup> foul ball, the batter will be ruled out; dead ball. On thrown balls hitting the screen the ball will remain live.

## **SPECIAL COED RULES**

1. Co-ed softball is played with ten or twelve players - five males and five females and one additional male and female if a team would like to bat 12 players (See D below). Co-ed teams may not begin a game with eleven players in the batting order. If a team begins a game with ten or twelve players and for any reasons other than a player ejection that team can finish the game with one player less than they started, either 9 or 11 players, an out will be recorded each time the missing player's turn at bat occurs.
2. **MINIMUM TO START GAME / PLAYING SHORT:** A co-ed team may begin the game with eight players (3-5 male / 3-5 female). Defensive positioning would require at least one of each gender in the infield and outfield.
  - a. **FEMALES MAY FILL IN FOR MALES.** A team may play additional females in place of a male(s). For instance, a team that has 3 males and 7 females could play the game. The males would be placed in alternating spots in the batting order. Gender rules still apply. Defensive positioning shall not exceed ratios listed below.
  - b. For a male to enter the game, he must replace a player listed in the "male sequence" in the batting order. Substitution rules apply where the player removed from the game can only re-enter in that place in the batting order.
3. **EXTRA PLAYER (EP):** "EP" is optional and if used in co-ed, all twelve must bat and any ten, (five male and five female) can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed as long as the following ratio 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.
4. **BATTING ORDER:** Batting orders must alternate sexes. Either a male or female lead off and must alternate after that.
5. **DEFENSIVE POSITIONING.** Players must be positioned by gender in the following manner: Outfield: 2 Males/ 2 Females Infield: 2 Males/ 2 Females Pitcher/Catcher: 1 Male/ 1 Female or 1 Female/1 Male
6. **COURTESY RUNNERS:** A courtesy runner must be the same gender as the player being replaced.
7. **STEALING:** No player may steal a base during a co-ed game.
8. **MALE BASE ON BALL:** Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award.
  - a. Provision: With two outs, the female batter has the option to "walk" or bat if the male in front of her "walks"
9. **EQUIPMENT:** Teams are required to provide one (1) new game ball for each game they play. Men will use a Men's Ball (.52/300 compression) and Women will use a Women's ball (.44 core/375 compression) during their at-bats. Teams are required to provide one (1) new game ball for each game they play (this includes a men's and women's ball).

## **POSTPONEMENTS**

1. All postponements will be made by and will be rescheduled by the Parks and Recreation Department.  
**Games that are rained out while in progress will be started from the beginning unless it is a regulation game.**  
All games that are rained out will be rescheduled at least one time. If they are rained out a second time, they will not be rescheduled unless they have a bearing on first or second place. Any tie games that do not have a bearing on the final league standings for a trophy position will not be played.
2. The Parks and Recreation will notify you of any cancellations via text alert after 4:00 pm. Please sign up for this free service at [www.citizentribune.com](http://www.citizentribune.com). Cancellations will also be posted on Twitter (@mprdathletics) and on our Facebook page. No news is good news!

## **OFFICIALS**

1. The officials will be in complete charge of the game.
2. Any player or manager who strikes, pushes, manhandles or threatens any official in any way before, during or after a game will be disqualified from the league for the remainder of the season. Disqualification may carry over to the next season, or permanently, or be prosecuted in a court of law.
3. Each manager shall write his line-up and give it to the scorer prior to game time.

**The Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to rule on any situation not covered in this constitution.**

Any changes of and/or additions to this constitution shall be made on the Master Copy on file in the Parks and Recreation Office.

## **MORRISTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT INFORMATION**

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