

City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department

Men's Softball League Rules 2021

Board Information

This League shall be called the Kingston Recreation Men's Softball League.

This League shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of members (coaches, players, etc.) that have volunteered to serve.

The Director of Recreation will act as the Chairman of the Softball Board of Directors. A liaison may be appointed by the Director of Recreation to act in his absence.

Recreation Leader – Chris Connolly – 845-481-7337

The President of the Board will be responsible in making all emergency rulings if committee members are unable to meet for any reason. The Director of Recreation will serve as the Chairman on the Men's Board of Directors and be considered a member on all sub committees. All policy, practices and decisions shall be made by Board Committees with the final approval in agreement with the Director of Recreation.

The Board will present all rule changes to the Recreation Department prior to the start of each season for final approval.

League Safety

The Kingston Recreation Department is not responsible for any injuries that may occur to teams or players while participating in the Kingston Recreation Department Softball League.

USSSA rules will prevail except in cases covered by league rules.

Team insurance is available through USSSA. Contact Kingston Parks and Recreation Office if interested.

First aid is the responsibility of the team. The City of Kingston, the Kingston Recreation Department and the Men's Board of Directors are not responsible for providing first aid for team.

If any blood is showing on uniform or player, the umpire will stop the game to allow the injured player to change clothes and/or cover any blood. See USSSA rule #5, section 4.

Managers are responsible to make sure each player is aware of all rules before first game of the season.

League Information

1. The team manager is responsible for all players appearing on their roster to sign a city waiver form before playing any games. Any player participating in a game must appear on the official roster. To register for a team and sign a waiver visit us online at www.kingstonparksandrec.org
2. Rosters must be submitted on or before April 8, 2021. All addition to rosters after board meeting to discuss leagues must be approved by the board. Rosters are frozen 1 week before opening day.

3. All residents listed on roster must prove residency. Proof of residency can be a current NYS driver's license, tax bill, or utility bill. A city tax map is used to define the incorporated city limits. If your general property taxes are paid to the City of Kingston Treasurer, you are considered a city resident
4. A \$40.00 non-resident fee will be assessed to any player listed on the roster and living outside of the incorporated city limits. This fee is transferable until June 1st, but is not refundable. New non-residents added after half of the current league games played will pay half price for non-resident fee.
5. All players must be 17 years old by April 8th, 2022 to participate.
6. Industries and/or Corporations in the City of Kingston may enter their own corporate teams into the league and employees will be considered a resident upon verification of their employment by the Department of Recreation prior to the start of the season. This pertains only if all team members work for the corporation.
7. Team franchises can be held by an individual as long as they obtain a written release prior to the start of the season from the previous years' sponsor.
8. Teams may reserve fields for practice at any time from the Recreation Department. Fields reservations are \$5 per field for a 2 hour time slot. Teams are limited to 2 preseason practices. No fields will be given until team registration is complete.
9. A player may participate on only 1 team in the entire league. Any player caught violating this rule will be suspended for one calendar year.
10. All non-playing coaches must be listed on team roster and signed a waiver to be permitted on the field online at www.kingstonparksandrec.org
11. Teams will have 4 roster changes. Any player participating in a game must appear on the official roster.
12. All roster changes must be approved by the Board of Directors and must be submitted within 24 hours prior to play.
13. A player can appeal to the softball board if he decides or if the captain/manager/sponsor decides he can no longer participate with that team. In order to change teams there needs to be a unanimous decision by the softball board and 100% manger approve from the league they are transferring to with the final decision being made by the recreation department.

Game Play

1. All league games will be played as scheduled. All schedules, standings, and other league information will be posted online at www.kingstonparksandrec.org
2. Regularly scheduled game times will vary depending on the number of teams. Men's league will play on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Field in Ulster County may be utilized. There will be a 15-minute grace period for the first game only during regularly scheduled games, make up games, and playoffs.
3. All teams are expected to assist the Kingston Recreation Department in cleaning up their area at the completion of their games. Team captains are encouraged to check behind their player to ensure no items are left behind.
4. There will be NO smoking, alcohol consumption, drug use, gambling, or fighting on or around the playing field or in the bench area before, during, or after the game. A violation of these terms will be an

immediate ejection by the umpire and \$25 fine paid to the Recreation Department. The player will be suspended for the next game automatically and unable to play in the league until the fine is paid.

5. All games must begin when a MINIMUM of 8 players are present at scheduled starting time.
6. If a team has less than 8 players and the opposing captain agrees that they may use an ineligible player that player must bat 8th. When an eligible player arrives that ineligible player must leave the game. Both managers **must** sign the score book before the ineligible player enters the game.
7. In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel a game will be made at 4:00 pm by the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department. Call the Recreation Office at 481-7330 or 802-4362, check the Parks and Recreation Facebook/webpage, or listen to WKNY Radio station to see if games are cancelled.
8. Any game not called before 4:00 pm will go on as scheduled. All teams should report to the field and the umpire will decide as to starting the game.
9. Games scheduled after 1st game will be played as scheduled if possible depending on weather.
10. Once the team has been notified, the make-up game will be played as scheduled or a loss given to the team not able to make assigned date and time. No forfeit fee will be charged. **Make up games will be scheduled once a month on Saturdays during the regular season.**

Rules of Play

1. The ground rules shall be reviewed by the team manager or field captain with the umpires prior to the start of each game.
2. Four (4) balls constitute a walk. Three (3) strikes is an out. When a batter has two (2) strikes and hits a foul ball, the batter is out. The ball is dead
3. A new inning will not start after an hour and fifteen minutes of play according to the scorekeeper clock. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit the game will continue until there is an official winner. Umpires will have the discretion to stop the clock for injuries or teams intentionally playing against the clock. The time limit will not be in effect during any play-off game.
4. No new innings can be started after 11 o'clock.
5. A legal pitch may be presented with a spin or any similar method as long as the pitch is delivered underhand and is 3 ft. from point of release or 10 ft. from ground.
6. Pitchers will be allowed to pitch from up to 6 feet behind the pitching rubber, as long as they are aligned with the rubber.
7. Pitchers are strongly recommended to wear a safety mask while pitching. If a ball hits the safety mask at any time it is a live ball.
8. All batters must use orange safety base unless they want to obtain 2nd base. The white base can be used to round first base. A live ball appeal can be used on runners that miss the orange bag and over run 1st base.

9. All base runners must slide or give up the attempt to obtain that base if there is a play.
Example: On 2nd base, any interference with a defensive player could result in a double play.
Anyone crashing or interfering with a defensive player may be ejected from game.
10. On a home run, players have the option to run out the bases. No penalty will be given to the batter or bases runners on their decision.
11. There will be a 10 Run Rule in a game after 4 or more completed innings.
12. Once per inning a courtesy runner is allowed, the player is the last recorded out from the previous inning or in the case of the 1st inning, the courtesy runner is the 12th batter in the line-up.
13. Additional Hitter Rule- A team may insert 2 AH'S in its line-up, they are used as an 11th & 12th batter. The intention to use an AH must be at the start of the game and must be carried through-out the entire game. The difference between an AH and a DH is the AH can go in the game and play defense. The batting order must remain constant for the entire game.
EXAMPLE: A team at start of a game turns in a line up with 12 batters, this means one of his 12 players will be designated as an AH. IE: in the 4th inning the manager wants to take his 2nd baseman off the field and replace him with the AH, if so desired the 2nd baseman now becomes the AH and keeps his same batting position in the line-up, or he can be substituted for and can re-enter once providing he gets back in the same batting order. AH is an automatic out if not continued throughout the game.
14. Home Run Rule- Ball must be over the fence. Inside the park home runs do not count as part of rule.
A Division: 8 per team per game, all others will be an out
B Division: 5 per team per game, all others will be an out
C Division: 5 per team per game, all others will be an out
D Division: 4 per team per game, all others will be an out
E Division: 3 per team per game, all others will be an out

Umpire/Scorekeeper Information

1. Payment of \$40.00 in cash only must be paid along with the line-up to the scorekeeper 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time by each team. No game will be started until such money is paid. It is the responsibility of the team manager to collect and submit the fee. Any team that does not pay the fee will receive a forfeit.
2. If a scheduled game is postponed because of inclement weather before it is an official game: if a game is stopped in the first inning umpires receive \$5 each, stopped during the 2nd inning umpires receive \$10 each, if stopped after two full innings before it become official umpires receive \$20 each. Scorekeepers will be paid \$10. When the game is made up, teams shall be responsible for paying the normal game fees.
3. If the game is official and suspended and circumstances dictate the need for the game to be completed, the umpires will be paid \$4.00 per inning and the scorekeeper \$1.00 per inning up to a maximum of 7 innings. No money is given back if game being played is suspended again.
4. If only one assigned umpire shows, or if only one umpire is assigned, they will call the game alone, and will be paid \$45.00 for the game. Scorekeepers shall have authority to award a forfeit in the absence of both umpires. If no Umpires show and both teams are available to play, the game will be rescheduled at the convenience of both teams.
5. In case of a forfeit, the plate umpire will consult with both team managers and representatives, and will inform both that the game is official. Teams must start and finish with a minimum of 8 players.

6. In the event of a disputed play, the manager shall discuss the play in question with the umpire(s). Any player not directly involved in a disputed play and questions an umpire's judgment, will be subject to ejection.
7. **Physical violence and profane language will NOT be tolerated.**
8. The umpire(s) shall have the power to **immediately** eject any player, coach and/or manager from the game if they use force or verbal abuse on any other player, spectator, scorekeeper, umpire or others. Anyone associated with the league and involved in any incident will be subject to disciplinary action.
9. Any time a player gets ejected from a game, he will be suspended for the next played game. Review of his actions via umpire and coach's reports will be reviewed by a 5-member discipline committee consisting of 2 Members of the Kingston Umpire's Association and 2 Members of the Men's Board of Directors, and the Recreation League Director who will be responsible for all suspensions and expulsions from league. Additional suspensions and termination may be implemented due to the severity of the player's actions. Additional suspensions may be warranted.
10. When a team player(s) is ejected, he will be considered an automatic out if there are no other substitutes available to play that are listed on the current roster. A team must have 8 players to continue play.

Forfeiture/Protest

1. There is no fee for a roster inquiry regarding a player's eligibility. Inquiry must be made within 24 hours of game in question. Use of ineligible player(s) will result with a loss given to the offending team. The team manager will be held responsible for ineligible players and suspended for the next game played.
2. In the event of a forfeit, the entire amount (\$80.00) due to the umpires and scorer will be deducted from the forfeiting team's account.
3. Teams that forfeit two games in any season will be removed from the league unless the forfeit fee has been replenished within 2 business days of the second forfeit. If removed from the league, said team must remain out of the league as least one season plus the remainder of the current season. All remaining games will be considered loss.
4. Teams will have 24 hours to submit a roster to the Recreation Department for review from time of official forfeited game to request attendance for players on non-forfeiting team at the discretion of the Board.
5. All protests must be made in accordance with USSSA Rules and Regulations and submitted to the Kingston Recreation Department within 24 hours of the protested game. In order for a protest to be official, the following steps must be taken:
 - a. The protest has to be made during the game or before the game ends to the umpire and scorekeeper.
 - b. The score book must be signed by both managers playing that game.
 - c. Protest Paperwork must be completed. Please see scorekeeper or Kingston Recreation department for necessary paperwork.
 - d. Protest fee of \$25.00 must accompany each protest. Should the protest be upheld, said fee will be returned.
6. Protests will be reviewed by the Board of Directors within 2 business days. All decisions shall be final with the committee consulting the National USSSA Umpire in Chief if necessary.

7. Once the game has officially started any team can concede the game without penalty. No forfeit fees will be charged and no nightly fees will be returned.

Equipment

1. All softballs will be determined by and must be purchased through the Recreation Department to ensure consistency of play.
2. If both game balls are lost a replacement ball may be used at the discretion of the plate umpire until game balls are recovered. All balls re-entering the game must be checked by the home plate umpire
3. Bat Rule –Composite bats are NOT permitted. All softball bats that clearly state “Official Softball” single wall aluminum, Scandinavian alloy, steel or wooden are permitted. The Kingston Umpires Association will inspect all bats prior to the start of games. Players caught using an illegal bat will be ejected immediately from that game and suspended from the next played game. Also, players deemed to use an illegal bat will be fined \$25 for the first offense. The second offense will result in ejection from the league.
4. USSSA Umpires and Directors are authorized at their discretion to remove from play any bat which shows wear such as worn off or cracked graphics or damaged barrels, handles, tapers, plugs, caps or knobs. Players must put the bat away and not use it in USSSA play or umpires/directors will remove the offending bat from the game and return it at the end of play. If the bat is brought back in to USSSA play, the owner and user of such a bat may be suspended from USSSA play for up to one year.
5. In keeping with USSSA rules, protective helmets will not be required. The Board wishes to clarify, however, that protective helmets, for batters and base runners are permitted by league rules and is encouraged for those individuals concerned about their own safety. Any team or participant wishing to use protective helmets must purchase them at their own cost and expense.

Playoffs

1. Top 4 teams in each division will qualify for playoffs. All playoff series games will be played best 2 out of 3 games.
2. Games 2 and /or 3 will start immediately after conclusion of the prior game. Higher seeded team will be home team in the 1st and 3rd games of 3 game sets.
3. All players must play in at least 5 games to be eligible for playoffs.
4. Should a player be ejected from a playoff game, he shall be suspended for the entire set of games that evening.
5. Should a tie exist between teams for 1st or last playoff positions, regular season records between teams will prevail. If ties still exist head to head, then total runs scored against each other will be used. If ties still exist, post season game will determine playoff seeds. This playoff game will be played as soon as possible before the playoff series begins. A coin toss will determine the team if a game cannot be played
6. All playoff games postponed due to inclement weather will be played from the point of postponement providing they have not gone the necessary number of innings to constitute a regular game. Any game ended by 10 run rule is considered a complete game.

7. First place regular season champs and playoff champs may be required to move up one conference and/or division for at least one season. The Board of Directors will review rosters, team entries, rule changes, restructuring of divisions etc. In order to balance the level of play within conference/divisions if a team is unwilling to move as indicated by the board, the team will be dropped from league play. (All fees will be refunded)