

City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department

Women's Softball League Rules 2022

Board Information

This league shall be called the Kingston Recreation Department Women's Softball League.

This league shall be governed by a Board of Directors represented by experienced players and/or managers with at least two (2) years experience in the league to be selected by the Recreation Department and the existing Board.

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

A representative of the Recreation Department will act as Chairman of the Softball Board of Directors. A liaison may be appointed by the Director of Recreation to act in his/her absence. A Board Member will act as secretary of the Board of Directors.

A quorum (3) of the Board of Directors 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 of the Board of Directors and be considered a member of all sub-committees. All policies, practices, and decisions shall be made by Board Committees with the final approval in agreement with the Director of Recreation.

League Safety

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

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

Team insurance is available through USSSA. Teams may contact the Recreation Department for information.

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

If any blood is showing on a uniform or a 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 his/her roster to sign a waiver form before playing any game. 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 the registration date April 22nd, 2022. A team may add to its roster before this date without it being considered a roster change.
3. A \$40.00 fee must accompany all non-resident listed on the roster and any roster changes. This fee is transferable until August 1st, but is not refundable. New non-residents added after half of the current league games played will pay half price for the non-resident fee.

4. 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
5. All players must be at least 17 years old by May 3rd, 2022 to participate.
6. Sponsors will hold team positions, but the Recreation Department and the Board of Directors will have the final decision on who gets the team position in the event that a current team wants to come in with a new sponsor. The Recreation Department and the Board of Directors will formulate a decision based on what will best benefit the league and/or players.
7. 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.
8. A player may only play on one team. Anyone caught violating will be suspended for 1 calendar year.
9. All non-playing coaches and scorekeepers must be listed on the team roster and must sign a waiver form to be permitted on the field at www.kingstonparksandrec.org
10. A total of four (4) players can be added or replaced during the course of the season. The Board of Directors must approve all roster changes with less than 5 games remaining on the schedule.
11. Only players, coaches, and scorers are allowed in dugouts and must appear on the current team roster.
12. No pets or children are permitted in the dugouts during play.

Game Play

1. All league games will be played as scheduled. All schedules, standings, and other league information will be posted on the City of Kingston website at www.kingston-ny.gov/adultsoftball
2. Regularly scheduled game times will vary depending on team's league. Women's league will play on Mondays and Tuesdays. All games are limited to an hour and a half time limit. There will be a 15 minute grace period according to the scorekeepers watch for the first game only during regularly scheduled games, make up games, and playoffs.
3. If a tie game reaches the time limit one inning will be played to decide a winner each team will start the inning with a runner on second base the runner is the last recorded out
4. 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.
5. 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. These are City of Kingston park rules. 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. These are City of Kingston park rules. 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 payed.

6. All games must begin when a minimum of 8 players are present. If a team wishes to add a 9th and 10th player, the player must be inserted at the end of the completed inning only. This does not include the Additional Hitter(s). A team must finish with eight (8) players or the game will be forfeited.
7. 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 and if/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.
8. 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 845-481-7330, check the Parks and Recreation Facebook/webpage, to see if games are cancelled and for announcements. Check with your Captain/Manager for group text messages.
9. 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.
10. Games scheduled after 1st game will be played as scheduled if possible depending on weather.
11. 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.

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. If both game balls are lost, a replacement ball may be used at the discretion of the plate umpire until game balls are recovered.
4. If a pitcher decides to walk a batter intentionally, she may do so by notifying the umpire. The umpire will award the batter first base. The ball is dead.
5. Teams will have one (1) minute, or three (3) pitches between innings for warm-up pitching. If the team has not completed their warm-ups after this period of time, the umpire will call batter up and the play will begin. Additional warm-up pitches may be granted by the plate umpire in the event of inclement weather. Warmup pitching changes do not count against the 1 ½ hour time limit in games.
6. A legal pitch must be pitched underhand at a slow speed. The pitched ball must arch at least three (3) feet after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of home plate. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than ten (10) feet above the ground. The speed of the pitch and the height of the pitched ball are left entirely to the judgment of the umpire.
7. All batters **MUST** use the orange safety base at first base unless they want to obtain second base. The white base may be used to round 1st base. A live ball appeal may be used on runners who miss the orange bag and overrun 1st base.

8. 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.
9. Additional Hitters (AH): A team may insert up to two (2) AH in the lineup and can be put in any position in the lineup. The intention to use AH(s) must be done at the start of the game and must be carried throughout the entire game. AH(s) are automatic outs if not continued throughout the game.
EXAMPLE: A team at start of a game turns in a line up with 12 batters, this means one of their 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.
10. The batting order must remain constant for the entire game. A player may be moved to any position in the field as long as the batting order remains the same.
11. If a team starts with eleven (11) or twelve (12) batters in its lineup, then the team must finish with the same number of batters in its lineup.
12. All base runners MUST slide or give up the attempt to obtain that base if their actions will interfere with the defensive player's attempt to make the play.
Example: 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 the game.
13. Run & Inning Rule: If, after 4 ½ innings of play, the home team is ahead by twelve (12) runs or more, the game will be concluded. If, after five (5) innings of play, or a later inning, the visiting team is ahead by twelve (12) runs or more the play will continue until the home team has an opportunity to bat in the bottom of the inning. The same rule applies to the playoff games.

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 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 wait 15 minutes and are available to play, the game will be rescheduled at the convenience of both teams.
3. If a scheduled game is suspended 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 inning 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.
4. 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.
5. **Physical violence and profane language will NOT be tolerated.**

6. The umpires shall have complete control of the game once play begins. 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.

Equipment

1. All softballs will be determined by and must be purchased through the Recreation Department to ensure consistency of play.
2. No metal spikes are allowed. Rubber spike shoes are optional.
3. 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

Protests

1. 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.
2. Protests will be reviewed by the Protest Committee and a decision shall be made within 2 business days All decisions shall be final with the Committee consulting the National USSSA Umpire in Chief, if necessary.
3. There is no fee for a roster inquiry regarding a player's eligibility. Inquiry must be made within 24 hours of the game in question. Use of ineligible player(s) will result in a loss for the offending team. The team manager will be held responsible for ineligible players and suspended for the next game played.

Forfeiture

1. 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.
2. In the event neither team can field eight (8) players, the game will be declared a double forfeit.
3. In case of an injury incurred during the game, a team can only field seven (7) players, the team will forfeit.
4. In the event of a forfeit, the entire amount due (\$80.00) to the umpires and scorers will be deducted from the forfeiting team's forfeiture fee.
5. Teams that forfeit two (2) games in any season will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season, *unless the forfeit fee has been replenished within two (2) business days of the second forfeit*. All remaining games will be considered a loss. Sponsors will be notified by the Recreation Department following the first forfeit.

Ejections

1. Any time a player is ejected from a game, she will be suspended for the next played game. Review of her actions via umpire and coaches reports will be done by a 5 member Disciplinary Committee consisting of two members of the Kingston Umpire's Association, two members of the Board of Directors, and a representative from the Recreation Department who will be responsible for all suspensions and expulsions from the league. Additional suspensions and termination may be implemented due to the severity of the player's actions.
2. Any player not directly involved in a disputed play who questions an umpire's judgment may be subject to ejection from the game.
3. Any person associated with the league who is involved in any incident may be suspended for the remainder of the season or longer.
4. Re-entry Rule is in accordance with USSSA Rule #5, Section 5.
5. Should a player be ejected from a playoff game, she shall be suspended for the entire set of games that evening. Additional suspensions may be warranted.

Playoffs

1. The top four (4) teams will enter the playoffs in all Leagues and all rounds will be best of three (3) games.
2. All players appearing on the official roster must play in 1 regular season games. Player add-ons must play in 4 regular season games to be eligible to play in the play-offs.
3. 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.
4. If a tie should 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.
5. 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.
6. 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)

Upper Hasbrouck Park Rules

1. All games scheduled at Upper Hasbrouck Park will be being at 5:45. All games will be concluded by dusk and will be an official game or the hour and a half time limit is still in effect, whichever one occurs first.
2. If a hit ball rolls across the road in left field (left of the mulberry tree), a ground rule double applies and the ball is dead. The fielder must raise her arms and not run across the road.
3. If the fielder touches the ball before it hits the road, the runner can get as many bases as she can.
4. A hit ball that hits the road or goes over the road on the fly is a home run.

5. A hit ball that travels to the areas to the right of the mulberry tree, the runner can get as many bases as she can.
6. When a dead ball occurs, (as in an overthrow), the existing base runners will get the base in transit to plus one. Example: If a runner is on 1st base and is running toward 2nd base when the dead ball is called, she gets second plus one and is then on 3rd base.