

City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department Women's Softball League Rules 2017

Our League Rules Superseded USSSA Rules

League Information

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

1. Governance

- a. 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.
- b. The Board will present all rule changes to the Recreation Department prior to the start of the season for final approval.
- c. 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.
- d. Discipline will be administered jointly by a committee consisting of two (2) members of the Kingston Umpire's Association, two (2) 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.
- e. A quorum 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.

2. Safety & Injury

- a. 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.
- b. The team manager is responsible for all players appearing on his/her roster to sign a waiver form before playing any game.
- c. Team insurance is available through USSSA. Teams may contact the Recreation Department for information.
- d. First Aid is the responsibility of the team. The City, the Recreation Department, and the Board of Directors are not responsible for providing ice, band-aids, tape, etc. for teams.
- e. 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.
- f. Each manager is responsible to make sure that each player is aware of all rules before the first game of the season.

3. Protests

- a. All protests must be made in accordance with USSSA rules and regulations and submitted to the Kingston Recreation Department within one (1) business day of the protested game. In order for a protest to be official, the following steps must be taken:
 - i. The protest must be made during the game.
 - ii. The scorebook must be signed by both managers playing the game.
- b. Protests will be reviewed by the Protest Committee.
- c. All decisions shall be final with the Committee consulting the National USSSA Umpire in Chief, if necessary.
- d. A protest fee of \$25.00 must accompany each protest.
 - i. Should the protest be valid, the fee will be returned.

- e. There is no fee for a roster inquiry regarding a player's eligibility.
 - i. Inquiry must be made within one (1) business day of the game in question.
 - ii. Use of ineligible player(s) will result in a loss for the offending team.
 - iii. The team captain/manager will be held responsible for ineligible players. (suspension/fines)
- f. In the event of a disputed play, the manager shall discuss the play in question with the umpire(s).

Teams, Rosters & Sponsors

- a. 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.
- b. Rosters must be submitted on or before the registration date. A team may add to its roster before this date without it being considered a roster change. Any player participating in a game must appear on the official roster.
- c. A \$40.00 fee must accompany all non-resident listed on the roster and any roster changes. This fee is transferable until June 1, 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.
- d. Proof of residency must accompany all residents and any roster changes. 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
- e. A player may appear on more than one (1) roster, but once she appears in a scorebook for a team, that is her team for the season. No changes can be made.
- f. All non-playing coaches and score keepers must be listed on the team roster and must sign a waiver form to be permitted on the field.
- g. Roster Changes: A total of four (4) players can be added or replaced during the course of the season. All players appearing on the official roster must play in one (1) regular season game and all add-ons must play in three (3) regular season games to be eligible to play in the play-offs. The Board of Directors must approve all roster changes with less than five (5) games remaining on the schedule.
- h. All players must be at least seventeen (17) years old by 5/1/17 to participate.
- i. Only players, coaches, and scorers are allowed in dugouts and MUST appear on the current team roster.
- j. No pets or children are permitted in the dugouts during play. No smoking in or around the dugouts/fields.

2. Schedules / Start Times / Team Minimum

- a. The Women's Slow Pitch League is played on Mondays and Tuesdays, although other days in the week may be scheduled in order to complete make-ups.
- b. A team will be allowed to start with eight (8) players. 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.)
 - 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.
- c. There will be a fifteen-minute grace period for the FIRST game of the night only according to the scorekeeper's watch.
- d. **IF YOU HAVE A MINIMUM OF EIGHT (8) PLAYERS READY TO BEGIN PLAY AT THE LISTED STARTING TIME, THE GAME MUST BEGIN.**
- e. All Women's games A, B, C, will have an hour & a half time except upper Hasbrouck Dusk Rule.
- f. If a tie game goes to 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

3. Forfeiture

- a. 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.
- b. In the event neither team can field eight (8) players, the game will be declared a double forfeit.
- c. In case of an injury incurred during the game, a team can only field seven (7) players, the team will forfeit.
- d. In the event of a forfeit, the entire amount due to the umpires and scorers will be deducted from the forfeiting team's forfeiture fee.
- e. 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.*
- f. All remaining games will be considered as wins for opposing teams.
- g. Sponsors will be notified by the Recreation Department following the first forfeit.
- h. EXCEPTION: Forfeits will not be charged on makeup weekends as long as the appropriate fees (umpires and scorer) have been paid to the Recreation Department by the following Tuesday, 12:00 noon or it will be considered a forfeit.

4. Fees

- a. The fee of \$39.00 in cash only must be paid to the scorekeeper by each team for two (2) umpires and one (1) scorekeeper before the start of each game.
- b. The fee of \$32.00 in cash only must be paid to the scorekeeper by each team for one (1) umpire and one (1) scorekeeper.
- c. No game shall be started until the fee is paid to the scorekeeper.
- d. It is the responsibility of the team manager to collect the appropriate fee and present it to the scorekeeper.
- e. Any team that does not pay this fee will forfeit the game.
- f. Should a game begin (one pitch) and not last the necessary four (4) innings to make it an official game, umpires will be paid \$18.00 each and the scorekeeper will be paid \$10.00. Each team gets back \$16.00
- g. When a game is made up, teams shall be responsible for paying the normal game fees.
- h. If, after the 4th inning a game is tied and postponed for any reason, no money is refunded and the Recreation Department will reschedule the continuation of that game.

5. Umpires

- a. The umpires shall have complete control of the game once play begins.
- b. If only one assigned umpire shows, s/he will call the game alone and will be paid \$44.00 for the game. Each team will pay \$32
- c. If no umpires show, and one or both teams meet the specification for a forfeit, the scorekeeper shall have the authority to award a forfeit.
- d. If no umpires show and both teams wait fifteen (15) minutes after the official start time before departing the field, the game will be rescheduled at the convenience of both teams and at the expense of the Kingston Umpire's Association. (Fines will be assessed to the Kingston Umpire's Association.)

6. Ejections

- a. Any player not directly involved in a disputed play who questions an umpire's judgment may be subject to ejection from the game.
- b. Re-entry Rule is in accordance with USSSA Rule #5, Section 5.
- c. The umpire shall have the power to immediately eject any player, coach, or manager if s/he uses force on any other player, spectator, scorekeeper, umpire, or others. **NO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE WILL BE TOLERATED!**

- d. Any person associated with the league who is involved in any incident may be suspended for the remainder of the season or longer.
- e. Any time a player is ejected from a game, she will be suspended for the next played game.
- f. Review of her actions via umpire and coaches reports will be done by a five (5) member Disciplinary Committee.
- g. Additional suspensions and termination may be implemented due to the severity of the player's actions.
- h. 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.

7. Playoffs

- a. The top four (4) teams will enter the playoffs in all Leagues and all rounds will be best of three (3) games.
 - i. All playoff games postponed due to inclement weather will be played from the point of postponement providing they have gone the necessary number of innings to constitute a regular game.
 - ii. Should a tie exist between teams for playoff position, regular season records between teams prevail.
 - iii. If teams split during the regular season head to head, then runs against will be used.
 - iv. If the tie still exists, a post season game will determine placing. This tiebreaker game will be played the Monday before the start of the playoffs when possible. (If not possible, a coin toss will be used.)

8. Inclement Weather

- a. Listen to WKNY – 1490 AM Radio for cancellation announcements.
- b. Any game not called before 4:00 p.m. will go on as scheduled.
- c. All teams should report to the field and the umpire will decide whether to cancel or not.
- d. When possible, games after the first game will be played as scheduled.

9. Park Rules

On the playing field or in the bench area before or during the game:

- a. No Gambling
- b. No Smoking
- c. No Fighting
- d. No Alcohol Consumption
- e. No Drug Use
- f. No glass containers are allowed

Rules of Play

- a. The ground rules shall be reviewed by the team manager or field captain with the umpires prior to the start of each game.
- b. The USSSA rules will prevail except in cases covered by special league rules.
- c. If both game balls are lost, a replacement ball may be used at the discretion of the plate umpire until game balls are recovered.

1. Walks

- a. If a pitcher decides to walk a batter intentionally, she may do so by notifying the umpire.
- b. The umpire will award the batter first base.
- c. The ball is dead.

2. Pitching

- a. A legal pitch must be pitched underhand at a slow speed.
- b. 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.
- c. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than ten (10) feet above the ground.
- d. The speed of the pitch and the height of the pitched ball are left entirely to the judgment of the umpire.
- e. Four balls is a walk.
- f. Three strikes is an out.
- g. When a batter has two strikes and fouls, she is out.
 - i. The ball is dead.

3. Warm-up Pitching

- a. Teams will have one (1) minute, or three (3) pitches between innings.
- b. 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.
- c. Additional warm-up pitches may be granted by the plate umpire in the event of inclement weather.
- d. Pitching changes do not count against the 1 ½ hour time limit in games.

4. Additional Hitters (AH)(s):

- a. A team may insert up to two (2) AH(2) in the lineup.
- b. They can be put in any position in the lineup.
- c. The intention to use AH(s) must be done at the start of the game and must be carried throughout the entire game.
- d. If a team starts with eleven (11) or twelve (12) batters in its lineup, then the team must finish with (11) or twelve (12) batters in its lineup.
- e. The difference between a Designated Hitter and an Additional Hitter is that the AH may go in the game to play defense and the DH may not.
- f. The batting order must remain constant for the entire game.
- g. AH(s) are automatic outs if not continued throughout the game.
- h. A player may be moved to any position in the field as long as the batting order remains the same.

5. Slide/Crash Rule & Safety Base

- a. All base runners MUST slide or give up the attempt to obtain that base if her actions will interfere with the defensive player's attempt to make the play.
 - i. 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.
- b. All batters MUST use the orange safety base at first base unless they want to obtain second base.
 - i. The white base may be used to round 1st base.
 - ii. A live ball appeal may be used on runners who miss the orange bag and overrun 1st base.
- c. Courtesy Runner Rule-Last recorded out may be used as a courtesy runner 1 time per inning, as long as they run for an INJURED player (injured on or off the field). If courtesy runner is needed a second time in the same inning it will be up to the discretion of the opposing team captain.

6. Run & Inning Rule

- a. 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.

7. Safety

- a. No watches, dangling earrings, or bracelets may be worn on the playing field.
 - i. The first offense will result in a warning.
 - ii. The second offense will result in ejection from the field.
- b. All catchers must wear a catcher's mask and throat protector.

8. Attire

- a. All players on the same team must wear the same color.
- b. Tank tops will be allowed, providing they are the same color as the rest of the team.

9. Equipment

- a. Ball will be determined by and must be purchased through the Recreation Department to ensure consistency of play.
- b. All bats must be USSSA approved.
 - i. *To address the concern of altered or just excessively used softball bats, USSSA is asking the players no longer use any bat that shows any visible sign of wear on the barrel, knob, cap, or plug. USSSA Umpires and Directors in 2016 are authorized in 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. Umpires or Directors In their discretion may either remove the offending bat from the game and return it at the end of play or simply ask the player to put the bat away and not use it in USSSA play. If the bat is brought back in to USSSA ply, the owner and user of the bat may be suspended from USSSA play for up to one year. For the 2013 season forward, bats must have the USSSA stamped seal. No bats without the seal may be used.*
- c. Rubber spikes are recommended not required.
- d. NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED.

Other

Upper Hasbrouck Park Rules

- a. 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.
 - i. The fielder must raise her arms and not run across the road.
 - ii. If the fielder touches the ball before it hits the road, the runner can get as many bases as she can.
- b. A hit ball that hits the road or goes over the road on the fly is a home run.
- c. 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.
- d. When a dead ball occurs, (as in an overthrow), the existing base runners will get the base in transit to plus one.
 - i. 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.
- e. Games will be concluded by dusk and will be an official game.

Contact

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