

NORTHVILLE ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

1. All games are played at Community Park Fields on Beck Rd between Five Mile and Six Mile Road, Game times for the Men's league Mondays and Women's league Tuesdays, will be 7:30pm and 8:40pm. Rain make ups will be 6:20pm and 9:50pm, effort will be made to accommodate scheduling of rain make ups. Sunday Coed league will be 2:00, 3:15, 4:30 and 5:45 pm, (does not apply to Coed Fall), rain make ups will extend the schedule.
Scheduled game time is forfeit time.
2. Northville Softball leagues use rules approved by the Amateur Softball Association "House rules" shall take precedence where conflicts occur.
3. It is recommended that players have numbered shirts but not necessary.
4. A minimum of **eight (8) players is needed to start** and continue the game. This will require the opposing team to provide a catcher to only participate in throwing pitches back to the pitcher.

For Coed Softball only: The outfield and infield must have two men and two women each. The pitching and catching positions must be one of each sex (unless starting with eight players). In Coed Softball, the batting lineup alternates male and female. In the event that there are more males than females, an automatic out shall be declared each time the "missing female" should have batted in the order. Two or more women can bat in a row. You may play with five (5) men and four (4) women in the field if you only have nine (9) players.
Three (3) home runs over the fence (dia#6) are allowed per team per game. Any home run beyond three will be ruled a single base hit. If a male is walked, the female may automatically walk. If the female chooses to bat, the male remains at first base.
5. A full count of four (4) balls and three (3) strikes is used. If a foul ball occurs after two strikes, the batter is out.
6. No new inning shall be started after one hour and ten minutes (70 minutes). The game can end in a tie.
7. Any game called because of time limit, regardless of the number of innings played, shall be considered a complete game. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if five (5) or more complete innings have been played or 4 ½ innings if the home team is leading.
8. A ten (10) run mercy rule shall be in effect after the losing team bats for five (5) innings. The winning team cannot bat more innings than the losing team.
9. Home Runs....due to the field distance of the diamonds, there is no home run rule, except for coed on dia#6.

10. Playability of the field is determined by the Recreation Department at 4:00 pm for weekday games, 12:00 pm for Sunday games. If games are not cancelled by that time, the playability of the field shall be decided by the umpire. Teams should report to the fields. Umpires and managers may **call the hotline (248-449-9951) after 4:00 pm weekdays, 12:00 pm weekends** for a recorded message. Once the game begins, the playability is the judgment of the umpire.
11. One (1) new softball per game per team will be provided by the Recreation Department. Coed teams will be provided a women's and men's game ball.
12. This league **prohibits the use of metal cleats and/or metal spikes**. Anyone who violates this rule will be ejected from the game. ALCOHOL is not allowed in ball park.
13. Every person on the roster may be in the batting line-up. Players are allowed to substitute freely on defense, with the requirement of keeping the same batting order. Players can only play on one team per league.

A player who arrives late may be added to the batting order if the team's first player in the batting order hasn't started their second at bat. If there are more than 10 players in the batting line-up, an injured player not being able to bat, does not result in a penalty, exception being, in the coed league, anytime men bat back to back, this will result in an automatic out.

14. Legal age player....must be 18 years old and/or turn 18 years old prior to the end of the current season. Players who are 17+ years old at start of the season must submit a parental/guardian consent form in order to play. A team's failure to do so is subject to an opponent's protest and forfeit for any games played involving said player."
15. "Courtesy runners" are allowed in all leagues. **One courtesy runner is allowed per inning**. The **person making the last out is always the courtesy runner**. Exception, if the runner requiring a courtesy runner is the lead off hitter of the game, or there are no outs in the first inning, then the person furthest person in the batting order from the runner will be used. Substitutions are permitted under the guidelines for substitutions and for re-entry, as outlined in the ASA rule book.
16. REPORTING OF SCORES....both teams should maintain their own score book, at the end of the game each team signs the other's scorebook and the umpire then signs both books. It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the game score to the league coordinator by 4pm the following day.

17. Teams shall present lineups to the scorekeeper, if one is provided, at least five (5) minutes before game time.
18. Teams are to **pay the umpire(s)** for all games including playoffs and tie breakers **prior to the start of the game**. Umpires are not paid if a game is forfeited. Championship game will have two umpires, if available.

Umpire Fee: All Leagues, each team pays **\$14.00** (one (1) umpire/game)

19. Protests are handled as described in the Adult League Handbook.
20. Playoffs: home team will be the higher seeded team. If teams are tied, position determined by games vs each other or run differential vs each other.
21. Awards:
First (1st) place individual awards for playoff winners.
22. Player registration:

To make it easier, teams may have their players sign rosters at first game. Roster must be mailed (or faxed, 248-380-8611) to Recreation Department prior to third game. No player may be added after **sixth game** .

Non-resident fee of \$18.00 per player who does not live or work full time in Northville or Northville Twp, are due **as soon as possible** after your roster is set.

23. Teams are limited to twenty (20) players, Coed twenty four (24).
24. Forfeits: Any forfeit will result in the loss of forfeit fees.
Two (2) game forfeits for any reason will result in suspension from the league for the remainder of the season.

Forfeit fees for all leagues are (umpire fees for two games): \$56.00.

If no forfeits, \$56 will be returned at the end of the season.

25. Any player, offensive or defensive, who is bleeding or has blood on their clothing, must be removed from the game until the bleeding has stopped, the wound covered and the bloodied clothing removed or covered. Our league follows ASA rules and guidelines for this situation.

26. Illegal bats: any player who uses an illegal bat as defined by ASA rules, those hits and any/all runs scored as a result of the bat are voided. The player will also be suspended for the next game. Any manager who knowingly allows a player to use an illegal bat will also be suspended for the next game.
27. Protest: If a team feels the opponent is using an illegal player or bat, they must ask the umpire to check the player's identification or the bat used.
- a. Player...The umpire will report the player's name to the league coordinator who will check the team's roster. If the player is not on the roster, the team with the illegal player will lose the game.
 - b. Bat.....The umpire will confiscate the score book of the offending team, forward same to the league director along with the name/s of players involved for action to be taken at the discretion of the league director.

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COED LEAGUES ONLY.....

As agreed by all the coed managers present at the 2009 pre-season meeting, we will be utilizing the "scoring line" for the runners to cross instead of going to home plate !

Any runner who touches home plate will be **automatically out** * . Any base runners who are on base at the time a ball is hit over a fence, must cross the scoring line.

The catcher must be in possession of the ball and touch home plate (not the runner) before the runner touches the ground on or beyond the line with whatever part of his/her body does so...yes that means you can slide at the scoring line, though there is no reason to do so other than to mess up the line.

The "scoring line" will be layed out at the same distance from 3rd base as 3rd base is from the front corner of home plate....equal running distance.

There will be a "commitment line half way between 3rd base and home plate. If the runner has not touched the ground beyond that line when heading for home plate, they can return to 3rd base, but if they have crossed that line they are committed to advance to the "scoring line".

* EXCEPTION to "all base runners must cross home plate", a batter and only the batter who hits the ball over the fence, when rounding the bases may touch home plate!