**Greenfield Parks and Recreation**

**Adult Softball League Summer 2022**

**Competitive Men’s:**

**(Please note Co-Ed Additions at the end)**

**League Sanction**

USA Softball will sanction all league play.

**General Rules of Play**

USA Softball Rules apply except where local rules or conditions dictate herein.

**League Registration**

Full payment of the league entry fee must be submitted with a completed roster form by June 3rd, 2022 in order to guarantee a team entry into a league. All registration will be online at parks.greenfieldin.org. Teams are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Once the maximum number of teams for a league is reached, additional teams will be put on a waiting list. Such teams will be placed in another league, if possible; otherwise their entry fee will be refunded. The minimum number of teams for a league is four teams, if the number of teams is not reached, the entry fee will be refunded. Please be sure to provide a team captain contact on your roster form at the time of registration. League placement is subject to the decision of the Park Staff and local USA Commissioner.

Registration will include payments of umpires, USA Softball scorebook and rulebook, field maintenance, balls, winner prizes, and parks and recreation personnel.

**Scheduling**

League schedules will be distributed to each team manager as soon as possible after the league

entry deadline.

It is each team manager’s responsibility to inform their players of all games/league dates, times, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, etc. Failure to do so is the fault of each team and not the Greenfield Parks Department and its’ staff. All Greenfield Parks and Recreation Staff decisions concerning this area are final and without question.

All games will be played as scheduled at Brandywine Park located at 900 E Davis Rd, Greenfield, IN 46140. No games will be changed or made up due to team conflicts.

**Inclement Weather**

If the Parks Department cancels games due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to notify each team manager or designated contact person via e-mail from the registration. If games have not been cancelled by 4:00 p.m., teams must check in at the field for game determination. At that point, Umpires make the final determination on whether games will be played.

Park Staff will reschedule rainouts. They will be played on the same night of the week, as originally scheduled, if possible. If a league has an excessive number of rainouts, games may be rescheduled on a night other than the regular league night. Overall, it is optional for rained out games to be played.

If a rain out game has been rescheduled twice and it has to be postponed a third time, it may be cancelled permanently. If the game could be a determining factor between first or second place in the final league standing, it will be played if possible.

In case of severe weather, our lightning alert system sirens will sound and Brandywine Park will close. You should find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed vehicle. Avoid water, shelters, canopies, and trees. The park will open when the alert system siren sounds off 3 long, consecutive times.

**Unscheduled Games**

Unscheduled games are those which have not been accounted for in the budgeting for league expenses. Examples include: protested games, partial rainouts, and other games requiring replay. The League Director will schedule such games if need be.

The cost of replaying protested games shall fall upon the team filing the protest and must be paid before the game is scheduled. The Parks and Recreation Department will pay for all other unscheduled games.

**Schedule for Practice Time**

Once a team has paid the league entry fee and submitted its completed roster, it may reserve a field for practice. Reservations are taken no earlier than on the Friday preceding the week desired. Only one practice date may be reserved at a time. The day of the reservation, a team representative must pick up, if deemed necessary from Parks Staff, a field reservation slip from the Park Office. From this point forward, no score booth keys will be issued in any circumstance related to practice time.

**Officiating**

USA Softball Umpires will be used and be booked by Greenfield Parks and Recreation.

Umpires are authorized and required to enforce all rules. Judgment calls are final.

Games may be protested in accordance with USA rules unless dictated otherwise by local rules.

The official scorebook will be considered correct if any discrepancy in the score or play of the game is discovered. Teams need to keep their own scorebook and check it against the official book at the end of each inning.

**Forfeits**

Forfeits will be called under the following (but not limited to) circumstances:

1. Should a team forfeit 4 games during the overall season, the team in question would be eliminated from playoff competition (if playoffs exist), up to removal from the league (based upon Parks Staff decision).
2. Failure to have enough eligible players to start or continue a game.
3. Use of an ineligible/illegal player.
4. Ejected player not leaving the park when ordered to do so and his manger has been ordered to get the player to comply.
5. If a team employs tactics noticeably designed to delay or to hasten the game.

**Player Eligibility**

The Competitive Men’s Division is designed for competitive players (official score is kept; there are winners and losers in the regular season and playoffs). All skill levels are welcome to participate with the understanding that this is a competitive league. All players must meet USA Softball eligibility requirements.

All players must be 18 years of age or older at the start of the season.

**Official Roster**

Teams may not add permanent roster players starting at the end of week 4 (this includes rain out weeks unless otherwise decided by Parks Staff). After week 4 of the season, a team may pick up a player at any point in the season ONLY to avoid forfeit as long as the opposing Team Captain(s) is/are in agreement. Only the amount needed to fill the minimum requirements for a legal roster team are permitted. This player can only be a player that already participates in ANOTHER League Division (not the same Division) or a non-roster player that would need to properly fill out the waiver of liability form with the League Director before participating in any portion of the game or warm-up. The opposing team manager or team representative must be in agreement with the addition of the player in order to continue with the game. If no agreement is made, the team needing a player would forfeit the game. All rulings from the Umpire(s) are final. Failure to properly follow this process results in forfeit for the team needing the player. Any portion of this process that takes place after the Umpire deems the start of the game will be taken out of the official game time.

For any type of post-season play, official team rosters are used ONLY. No added players are permitted.

Each team must submit a completed roster with a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 players. No team may carry more than 20 players at any one time during the season. Players may be required to present a photo ID in an instance of a roster dispute. Rosters may be checked for any game of the season.

Roster disputes requests must be in accordance with USA Softball Rules.

A player may not play for more than one team within a league division (EX: you may not play on two teams in the competitive Men’s division). A player may play on more than one team in separate league divisions with the approval of the League Director and the Team Captain in question. (EX: a player may play in a Men’s division and play on a team in a Co-Ed division)

Any participating player who is not on the team’s official roster will be ruled illegal.

If a team drops to having less than 12 active players, they will be allowed to add players in order to bring their roster back up to the minimum requirement. Such requests must be made to the Park Office no later than a week before the next scheduled game.

**Protests**

There are three types of protests:

1. Misinterpretation of a playing rule (not a judgment call)
2. Illegal player
3. Ineligible player (can be made at any time)

Protest of a player’s eligibility to play in a game made by participants must be made with Umpires in accordance with USA Rules.

When a protest is made, the player in question will be checked on the team’s roster and they must be able to provide proof of identification (must be a United States Government issued picture ID-unless decided upon otherwise by (the) game Umpire(s)). If the player in question cannot produce valid photo identification, appropriate USA rules will be followed at that time.

(Any member of the Parks staff has full authority to request a roster check in any instance at any time (especially if they feel it is a blatant offense). (EX: a known player is playing in roster slot of another person’s name on the score sheet/roster)

**After the completion of week 4, all rosters are frozen.** Whatever names that are listed on the official roster are considered the final roster. There will be a 3 game minimum (as USA Softball defines a player officially playing in an actual game), per team player, to be eligible for post season play, if applicable.  Only players listed on the final roster after the completion of week 4 are eligible for post season participation.  Score Keepers will keep track on the team rosters through the year of who plays when.  Park Staff will/may store all submitted team batting lineups with the correct game/date to help in this process. It is the responsibility of each team’s captain to make sure that this is adhered to.

**Start of a Game**

A team may start a game with a minimum of nine (9) players. A team starting with 9 players will be charged an out when the 10th position in the batting order comes up. A 10th roster player may be added anytime during the game, but must first report to the scorekeeper and be inserted into the batting line-up in the 10th position.

A team may bat 11 players through use of an extra hitter (EH). An EH may only be used when a team has 11 players to start the game. An EH cannot be added once a game has begun. All 11 players bat, but only 10 can play defense. Defensive changes may be made anytime; however, the batting order must stay the same.

Game start times are official and will start on time. This can be at the command of the umpire(s). No games shall be arbitrarily postponed, except in cases of emergency. Umpires keep the official game time and have final say on all actual game matters.

A team with at least nine (9) eligible players must start a game and will be declared the visiting team. If both teams are short players at game time, the number of declared players on a lineup card constitutes defaulting back to the normal coin flip to determine the home team and visiting team.

A 10-minute grace period is given for all games if needed. Otherwise, all games start at posted start time(s). The grace period time would be taken out of the official game time. A grace period can only be granted if the opposing manager or team representative wishes to grant the grace period. At least one team must have enough players at the posted game start time to be able to grant a grace period. If no agreement is made, the team needing a player would forfeit the game. Umpires will keep official time. All rulings from the Umpire(s) are final.

Prior to the start of each game, both team managers must turn in an official line up sheet to the game score keepers and inform the game Umpire that you have done so. Use of a “scrap” piece of paper is fine, but all writing must be able to be read by the head umpire and scorekeeper. Teams are asked to do this no later than 5 minutes before the posted game start time. Any lineup requests made by Umpires or Score Keepers are expected to be followed at all times by all team players. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in loss of game time and/or a game forfeit. Park Staff rulings on this matter are final and without question. If a lineup card is not completed at game time OR ready when the plate umpire is ready for the coin toss, the team shall be declared visitors and the game clock will start.

**Duration of the Game**

Only team members and Park staff are permitted to be in or around any part of the playing facility including dugouts, score booths, and actual field playing areas themselves. It is the responsibility of each team’s captain to adhere to this rule. If you are a repeat offender (more than 3 total “friendly reminders” total for the season), your team will be up for expulsion consideration! Parks Staff Decisions are final and without question when it comes to this rule. If there are any questions concerning this rule, please contact the League Director.

Game time is 60 minutes or completion of 7 innings, whichever comes first. When 70 minutes have expired the game will end, regardless of the inning, under the following conditions: (a) the home team is ahead and the visitors have made their third out; or (b) the home team has scored the winning run or made their third out. The inning in progress (and additional innings in the event of a tied game) will be played out until one of the above conditions is met. The umpire shall keep the game time on the field.

Game time will not run during unusual situations such as rain delay, lightening, or other acts of nature; injury to a player, where more than normal check of the player is required; field or equipment repair, etc. If, in the umpire’s opinion, a team is deliberately taking too much time getting on/off the field (for any reason), using stalling tactics, etc., the umpire may deem it necessary to stop the clock. In all cases, the running of the clock is the official task of the umpire.

Greenfield Parks and Recreation will not provide scorekeepers.

**Run Rule**

If a team is ahead by 20 or more runs after three (3) innings, 15 or more runs after four (4) innings, or 10 after (5) five innings - the game will be called, regardless of the time limit rule.

A courtesy runner will be allowed after the batter-runner becomes a runner. Only one courtesy runner may be used during a team’s turn at-bat. The courtesy runner may be anyone listed on the team’s lineup card, including substitutes. If a substitute is used as a courtesy runner, that substitute is not considered to have been in the game. If the courtesy runner is to bat while he/she is on base, the courtesy runner will be removed from the base, an “out” will be declared, and the courtesy runner now takes his/her turn at bat. If the third out of the inning is due to the removal of a courtesy runner, that individual will lead off the team’s next turn at bat.

**Home Runs**

There will be a limit of 4 over the fence home runs. For any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.

**Base Stealing**

Stealing is not allowed.

**Equipment**

Each team must furnish its own bats. Bats must meet current USA requirements and can be on approved list. If requested, they must meet all required standards and must be approved by game Umpire(s) before the official start of each game.

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in forfeit or suspensions of said player(s) in accordance with Umpires and Parks Staff decisions. Umpire decisions are final. If requested, late arrival players must have their team captain approve a bat with the game Umpire(s) before using. Any time used to do this during official game time will be counted against the official game time.

Balls will be USA Softball approved Dudley brand balls (meeting all current Core and

Compression standards.) Or a “higher” quality ball if the league budget permits provided by Greenfield Parks and Recreation.

**Uniforms**

Teams are required to have like colored shirts with numbers after the completion of the 3rd league game. The number must be a minimum of 6 inches on the back of the uniform. No two players may have the same number on the same team. Colors are decided upon on a first come, first serve basis to the Parks Office. If a color is chosen already, it is that team’s responsibility to have an alternate color at day of game. (EX: Fruit of the Loom type white shirts with marker drawn numbers on the back are fine for a fill in shirt.)

Shirts must be worn at all times.

Metal cleats are not allowed (including metal tip football cleats). Any player wearing them will be ejected, unless able to change shoes. A catcher’s/pitcher’s/fielder’s mask is recommended but not required.

**Player Conduct**

1. All managers, players, spectators, and other persons affiliated with a team are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner while upon park premises. Each team captain or team representative is responsible for any person, thing, or object in any way linked with their team.
2. Any umpire or Greenfield Parks and Recreation staff person is authorized to eject any participant or spectator that disputes the accuracy or judgement of the officials, engages in unsportsmanlike conduct, or violates all park and departmental policies/rules and regulations.
3. A participant who assaults another participant, spectator, official or staff person, will be dismissed from the league. Violent threats or verbal attacks are considered assaults. Physical violence, or the threat of, directed toward an umpire, player, scorekeeper, or any other person, will result in expulsion of the offending player from league play for the remainder of the season. Expulsion will be for a period of one (1) year from the date of the incident up to permanent removal from league play, depending on severity of the incident. League Director decisions are final and without question.
4. It is a city ordinance that the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on park premises without a special permit and smoking is banned. No participant or spectator shall be allowed on the premises in possession and/or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
5. Any player who throws a bat that may endanger other participants or spectators will be ejected from the game. No prior warning from the umpire is necessary. The batter shall be declared out and runners may not advance.

Any team or player can be given a warning after ANY offense if deemed necessary by the Umpire. In flagrant situations, a first offense will not be given a warning and will result in player ejection. When a player is suspended or ejected from a league/game for any reason, that person is NOT permitted to be in the playing area for the duration of the suspension/ejection. If that player does not vacate the premises in a timely manner or attempts to re-enter the playing area, Umpires/staff can award the opposing team with a win via forfeit. Any player or team captain/manager ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in the next league game (unless decided upon by the League Director). Again, any ruling from an Umpire is final.

Failure to comply with any league or park rules may result in expulsion/ejection of a player(s) or team from a game or league. Expulsion/Ejection/Suspension may be for a period of two (2) weeks from the date of the incident up to permanent removal from league play. Any decision decided upon by Parks Staff is final and without question.

Repeated unsportsmanlike conduct (EX: negative taunting, continued negative questioning of Umpire calls/decision, misuse of equipment, verbal/physical criticism, etc.) will result in expulsion of offending player(s) from league play for a period of four (4) weeks up to permanent removal from league play, depending on severity of the incident(s).

Team Managers/Representatives only will talk to the umpire on disputed plays. In the absence of the manager, only the player representative may take their place.

Player Conduct rules may be enforced at any time (before, during, or after the game). Team Captains and/or Team Representative(s) agree to fully cooperate with all Softball League Staff in all Player Conduct matters. Team Captains and/or Team Representative(s) may incur all disciplinary actions if it is deemed that they did not fully cooperate with Softball League Staff on any Player Conduct issue.

**Tournament Play (if applicable)**

Post-season tournaments will operate under regular league rules, unless otherwise noted.

Forfeits will carry over from the regular season. Tournament parings will be seeded based on league standings. All rules are subject to change.

**Co- Ed Additions:**

**Fielding a Team**

A team shall consist of 10 players. 5 – male/5 – female. If a team cannot field 10 players to start a game, they may play short-handed under the following condition: A team beginning with 9 players will be charged an out when reaching the 9th or 10th position in the batting order (depending on vacant spot by alternating gender). If another player arrives (of short-handed gender), that player must be inserted into the vacant spot in the batting line-up. Also, a team playing short-handed must still alternate genders by defensive position. A team unable to field 9 appropriate players will forfeit the game.

A team must play 2 males and 2 females in both the infield and outfield (exception: short-handed rule) and have a male/female combination at the positions of pitcher and catcher. Infield and outfield positions must alternate gender, example – Male at 1st base, female at 2nd base, male at shortstop, etc.

**Batting Order**

The batting order must alternate genders; male-female-male-female, etc. (Exception: short-handed rule).

ANY WALK TO A MALE BATTER WILL RESULT IN A TWO-BASE AWARD. The next batter (a female) will bat.

a. EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

b. NOTE: Should the female batter runner-pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during the dead ball period.

c. A male batter-runner advancing to second without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.

**Extra hitters**

A team may have 2 extra hitters in their batting line-up, for a total of 12, providing that they have 10 fields and the 2 extra hitters are 1 male and 1 female. Extra hitters must be present to start the game and cannot be inserted after its beginning.