



The City of Grove City Parks & Recreation Department

3226 Kingston Avenue, Grove City, Ohio 43123-0427
614-277-3050



Richard L. "Ike" Stage
Mayor

Adult Softball Rules

All teams are eligible for the USSSA State Softball Tournament. It is the team captain's responsibility to read over all the rules.

1. Facilities

Alcoholic beverages, reckless driving, parking cars out of designated areas, littering and/or conduct deemed inappropriate by the sports supervisor, is prohibited on park grounds.

Penalty: Any individual or team found to be in violation of a facility rule will result in an immediate forfeit and a two-week suspension of the team manager. The individual who committed the violation may be suspended from future participation. In addition, the city may file charges under section 903.01 (b) of the city ordinance.

Dugout Safety: Please help the umpires by keeping children away from the opening of the dugout that leads onto the softball field. This is necessary to ensure children's safety.

2. Forfeits

A. Any team forfeiting **3** games will be dropped from the league and will lose its franchise **without a refund**. All games on a dropped team's schedule will be forfeited to their opponents.

B. If teams show up late to a game and both agree to play, the game may still be played. However, the start time of the next game will not be adjusted. Example: If a team shows up for a 6:15 p.m. game at 6:30 p.m. and both teams agree to play, the game will still end at 7:15 p.m. If a team shows up at 6:40 p.m. the game will count as a forfeit. Do not congregate as a team in the parking lot and then show up five minutes before the game to warm-up. Game time is game time.

3. Fees

No team is permitted to play unless the entry fee has been paid in full.

4. Rosters and Eligibility

A. Roster forms are to be filed with the Parks and Recreation office, completely filled out, by 4:30 p.m. the day of the team's first game (postmarks accepted). Include players' first and last names, phone numbers and addresses.

B. Maximum 20 players per roster. All players in excess will be ruled ineligible.

C. Additions or deletions to rosters can be made only **in writing** and must be signed by the team manager. Changes will be accepted prior to the team's 5th game. A player will not be eligible to participate in a game unless his/her name has been legally added to the team's roster and is filed in the Parks and Recreation office by 4:30 p.m. the day he/she is planning to participate. Injuries are the only exception to this rule. In case of an injury, a written roster change and written doctor's statement must be at Parks and Recreation office by 4:30 p.m. the day of the game in question. Weekend games (Friday and/or Sunday)
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must have all paperwork in to the office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

- D. A player can be a member of only one team in the same league. A player is considered a member of the first team with which he/she participates.
- E. A player may request a transfer to another team prior to his present team's 4th game. Transfer requests must be approved by the sports supervisor. A player will be required to secure a signed release from his manager.
- F. Playing an ineligible player is considered a serious infraction of Grove City Parks and Recreation Department league rules. Managers and players are subject to suspension if an ineligible player is discovered on the team.
- Penalty:
- First offense: 1-game suspension for the manager and the player
 - Second offense: 1-year suspension from all Grove City Parks and Recreation Department adult sports leagues for the manager and the player

5. **Qualifying for a League Championship Play-Off or League Tournament**

To be eligible for a league championship play-off a player must have played in at least 5 regular season league games. In case of an injury, the sports coordinator will rule on eligibility.

Note: Managers must list the first and last names of players on the scorecard.

6. **Protests**

- A. Protests (based on the interpretation of a playing rule) must be registered by the manager with the umpire and opposing coach before the next pitch.
- B. Formal protests must be made in writing and accompanied by a \$50 protest fee (returned if the protest is allowed). All materials must be turned in to the Parks and Recreation office (postmarks are accepted) within 24 hours from the date of the game in question. If that 24-hour timeframe falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, materials must be turned in on the next business day.
- C. Protests will be ruled on by the Parks and Recreation Department staff. When a protest is sustained, the game shall be replayed from the point of the protest with the decision corrected.
- D. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will resolve protests involving the eligibility of a player or team on the basis of records on file. The formal protest procedure set forth in 6-B must be followed (protest fee will be waived). Any manager has the right to protest the use of an ineligible player by the opposing team. The player(s) in question must present positive identification to the umpire, sign the scorecard, list their address, telephone number and social security number. All games in which an ineligible player has participated will be forfeited to the opponents.

7. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

- A. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated **before, during or after a game**, and will result in ejection from the contest and/or indefinite suspension.
- B. Any time an incident happens on the playing field, all players who leave the bench area will be subject to ejection from the contest unless they are offering necessary medical assistance.

- C. An ejection accompanied with a written report by a game official will result in further disciplinary action taken by the department. Penalties imposed at the end of the season will carry over to the following season.
- D. Players and coaches will be suspended for one year from all Grove City Parks and Recreation Department athletic programs for participating in a game while under suspension. Participating includes being on the playing field or dugout area before, during or after the game.
- E. Any player ejected from a game must leave the park immediately.

Discipline Policy:

Ejections and suspensions may carry over from season to season in all adult sport leagues. An ejection noted on a scorecard would allow the umpire to recommend one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a) No suspension, ejection is disciplinary action
- b) 1 week suspension (1 calendar week from the date of the ejection)
- c) 2 week suspension
- d) If ejection is judged by the OIC (official in charge), to be of a minor nature, he/she can recommend no suspension.
- e) If ejection is of a more serious nature, umpire can recommend 1 or 2 weeks out of play.
- f) If a person has a repeated problem with ejections or suspensions (more than 2) the adult sports supervisor, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation director, can suspend a player for a longer period of time, up to a lifetime.

Note: If suspended, players may not attend any Parks and Recreation Department programs for the calendar week. Example: Monday through Sunday, Tuesday through Monday, etc.

All suspensions may be appealed by contacting the sports supervisor (and/or the Parks and Recreation director) and schedule a hearing. Suspensions are in effect during the appeal period.

Any player caught playing on another team during his suspension week will be removed for the remainder of the season in all leagues.

8. Franchise

The Parks and Recreation Department considers that the franchise of a team belongs to:

- The manager, the sponsor or sponsors of the team
- The team members

The manager has final authority in any question that might arise between that team and the Parks and Recreation Department. Any attempt to manipulate a franchise or registration form to gain a spot in our leagues will result in the dismissal of the team from the program.

9. Waiver of Rules

Experience has proven that it is impossible to anticipate all problems or concerns. Therefore, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to waive any rule governing play in any league under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department when, in the department's judgment, the application of the said rule will result in gross unfairness or unreasonable hardship.

10. Sports/Weather Update Hotline

To check on a game's status because of inclement weather, please call 614-277-3060 and use the touch tone number pad # 4 for field conditions and then press # 2 for Fryer Park. All cancellations will be listed there.

- A. Lightning Delay: Play is suspended 30 minutes if thunder is heard, or lightning is seen. In the event of a second 30 minute delay and the required number of innings has been reached (5 innings), the game is complete. If not, the game is postponed.

There will be no games made up after the week of July 18.

General Playing Rules – Spring Softball

- 1. "Major", "Open", "AA" and "A" players are not eligible to play in any Grove City Parks and Recreation league. Classifications are determined by the United States Slow-Pitch Softball Association prior to the current season.

Exception: Grove City residents may play in competitive leagues

2. General Playing Rules

The USSSA rules will be used except where noted herein.

- A. Regular format, batters start with 1-1 count.
- B. No Free Foul: After the batter has two (2) strikes, if the batter hits a foul ball, the batter is declared out. The ball is dead and the base runners may not advance.
- C. Lineup cards must be completely filled out (first and last names) prior to the start of the game.
- D. All competitive and recreational teams must list 10, 11 or 12 players' names on a scorecard prior to the first pitch of the game. Co-rec teams must list 10 or 12 players names on a scorecard prior to the first pitch of the game.
- E. A team may start or continue a game with as few as 9 players, but the team will receive an out. All declared names are to be treated as starting players for purposes of the re-entry rules.
- F. A team must complete its game with the same number of players that it began with, unless the reduction is a result of an injury to a player, in which case the team will take an automatic out. In the event of the ejection of a player without a replacement substitute the game will be forfeited. No team will be permitted to continue with fewer than 9 players.
- G. In-field warm-ups between innings, after the first inning, are prohibited. Pitchers will be permitted 5 warm-up pitches upon entering the pitching position for the first time. Each inning thereafter, only 1 warm-up pitch by the pitcher will be permitted within one minute.
- H. Mercy rule: If a team is 20 runs up after 3 innings, 15 runs up after 4 innings, 10 runs up after 5 innings or 8 runs up after 6 complete innings, the game will end (unless the home team is ahead at ½ inning).
- I. All league games will have a 60-minute time limit. No new inning will start after 60 minutes. Please have your players hustle in between innings.

J. If a game is not completed because of weather conditions, the Parks and Recreation department will decide if the game will be completed. If it is to be completed, the USSSA suspended game rule, (Rule 4-Section 10- effect SEC 10), will be used. Tie games that have gone seven innings will be finished only if they have a bearing on the play-off standings.

K. Metal-cleat shoes are strictly prohibited in all Grove City Parks and Recreation Department leagues and tournaments. Penalty: Players wearing metal-cleat shoes will be declared out and ejected from the game.

L. Double Safety Bag Rules

1. On the initial throw to first base from the infield or outfield, the batter-runner **must touch** the orange portion of the base but not the white. The umpire will declare the runner out if this rule is violated.
2. The defensive player **MUST** always touch the white portion. This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base. This does not include:
 1. Returning to the base after overrunning
 2. Running on a base hit to the outfield (Runner may touch orange or white part)
 3. Re-tag to advance on a fly ball

Effect: If the base-runner uses the orange portion at any time after the first attempt at first base and is not in contact with the white portion, then he/she is considered off the base.

M. Bats

1. The Grove City Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to ban any equipment for safety reasons (i.e. bats, gloves and balls). Should any such rulings occur, the managers will be notified. It will be the manager's responsibility to notify his/her team players. When in doubt, please check with the Parks and Recreation Department to determine if a bat is legal. We will be following the approved bat list posted on the USSSA Web site.

N. In the **competitive leagues**, after 5 balls have been hit for home runs, subsequent home runs will be considered a dead ball out. In the **church rec, men's rec, co-rec, and women's rec leagues** after 4 balls have been hit for a home run, subsequent home runs will be considered a dead ball out.

O. Pitching Rule

1. Pitching rubber is set at 53 feet.
2. **All Leagues:** The pitched ball must arc at least 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 10 feet above the ground

P. Bases are set at 70 feet

Q. Courtesy runner

1. Permitted in recreation leagues only (men's rec., women's rec, church rec and co-rec)
2. Only one courtesy runner per inning
3. The person who makes the last out is only player eligible to be courtesy runner.
Note: Courtesy runners are not permitted in the competitive leagues.

3. **Co-Rec Leagues**

- A. 5 male and 5 female players must be in the lineup at all times (6 and 6 if A.H. is used). Any 5 male and any 5 female players must play defense. A team may start and play with 9, which may be comprised of 5 men and 4 women or 5 women and 4 men.
- B. The league will be using men's and women's balls. This responsibility lies on the third base coach and the pitcher to make sure the right ball is being pitched. If the pitcher throws the wrong ball to the opposite sex, **you can not appeal after the play has occurred.**
- C. Male and female players must alternate in the batting order.
- D. If a male batter is walked (any count), he is awarded second base and the female batter that follows in the lineup may choose to bat or to be awarded first base.

4. **Waiver of Rules**

Experience has proven that it is impossible to anticipate all problems, which may arise when rules are formulated and adopted. Therefore, the Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to waive any rule governing play in any league under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department when its judgment, the application of said rule will result in gross unfairness or unreasonable hardship.

5. **League Play – Rain-Out Policy**

Playoffs will begin following the last regular season scheduled game.
Format for play-offs will be developed later in the season.

6. **Awards**

1st place in league: Teams will receive a plaque and up to 14 T-shirts
Play-offs: 1st and 2nd place teams will receive a plaque

7. Tie-Breaker will be determined by the following:

- Head to Head
- Runs against
- Runs for