



The City of Grove City Parks & Recreation Department

614-277-3050 • Rain Line: 614-277-3060 • Kingston Center, 3226 Kingston Ave., Grove City, OH 43123

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Adult Softball Rules

All teams are eligible for the USSSA State Softball Tournament. It is the team captain's responsibility to review and understand the rules.

1. Facilities

All violations of park laws as detailed in City Code Chapter 903 including possession of alcoholic beverages, reckless driving, parking cars out of designated areas and littering, as well as conduct deemed inappropriate by the sports supervisor are 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 City Code Chapter 903.

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 **three** games will be dropped from the league and lose its franchise **without a refund**. Opponents for all games on a dropped team's schedule will win by forfeit.
- B. *Game time is game time.* Do not congregate as a team in the parking lot and then show up five minutes before the game to warm up.
- C. If a team arrives late to a game and both teams agree to play, the game may still be played within reason. However, the start time of the next game will not be adjusted.
 - 1) 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 still ends at 7:15 p.m.
 - 2) If a team shows up at 6:40 p.m., the game will count as a forfeit.

3. Fees: A TEAM IS NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY UNTIL THE ENTRY FEE IS PAID IN FULL.

4. Rosters and Eligibility

- A. Completed roster forms are to be submitted to the Parks and Recreation office before 4:30 p.m. the day of the team's first game. Forms can be placed in the drop box behind the Kingston Center. 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 are accepted up to the team's fifth game.
 - 1) A player is not eligible to participate in a game unless his/her name is legally added to the team's roster and filed in the Parks and Recreation office by 4:30 p.m. the day he/she is to participate.
 - 2) Exception: Injuries.

For an injury replacement, a written roster change with the new player's info and written doctor's statement regarding the former player's injury must be submitted to the office by 4:30 p.m. game day. For Friday-Sunday games, all paperwork is due to the office by 4:30 p.m., Friday.

- D. A player can be a member of only one team in the per league. A player is considered a member of the first team on which he/she participates.
- E. A player may request a transfer to another team prior to his/her present team's fourth game. Transfer requests must be approved by the sports supervisor. A player is required to secure a signed release from the manager of the first team.
- 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:

- 1) First offense: one-game suspension for the manager and the player.
- 2) Second offense: one-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 Playoff or League Tournament

To be eligible for a league championship playoff, a player must have played in at least five regular season league games. In case of an injury, the sports supervisor 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 prior to the next pitch.
- B. Formal protests must be made in writing and accompanied by a \$50 protest fee that is returned if the protest is sustained. 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 are 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 6B 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 is not tolerated before, during or after a game, and will result in ejection from the contest and facility and/or indefinite suspension.
- B. Any time an incident happens on the playing field, all players who leave the bench area are subject to ejection from the contest unless 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 are 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.

F. Discipline Policy:

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

- 1) If ejection is judged by the official in charge to be of a minor nature, he/she can recommend that the ejection is sufficient disciplinary action with no additional suspension.
- 2) If an ejection is of a more serious nature, the umpire can recommend one or two weeks out of play.
 - One-week suspension: seven days from the date of the ejection including games in other leagues.
 - Two-week suspension; 14 days from the date of the ejection including games in other leagues.
- 3) If a person has a repeated problem with ejections or suspensions (more than two), 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 ban.
- 4) If suspended, a player may not attend any Parks and Recreation Department programs for all calendar days within the length of the suspension; e.g., Monday through Sunday.
- 5) All suspensions may be appealed by contacting the sports supervisor (and/or the Parks and Recreation director) and scheduling a hearing. Suspensions are in effect during the appeal period.
- 6) 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 the “franchise” of a team to belong to:

- 1) The manager, the sponsor(s) of the team
- 2) 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. Weather Delays/Cancellations

- A. Update Hotline: To check on a game’s status due to weather/field conditions, call 614-277-3060 and press ④ (field conditions) then ② (Fryer Park).
- B. Lightning Delay: Play is suspended for 30 minutes if thunder or lightning is observed; this resets for every occurrence.
 - 1) In the event of a second 30-minute delay:
 - If five innings are completed, the game is complete.
 - If less than five innings are complete, the game is postponed.

GENERAL PLAYING RULES

1. "Major," "Open," "AA" and "A" players are ineligible 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 in these classifications may play in competitive leagues.

2. **One Nation Rules are 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 with first and last names prior to the start of the game.
- D. All competitive and recreational teams must list 10, 11 (men's or women's teams) or 12 player names on a scorecard prior to the first pitch of the game. Co-rec teams must list 10 or 12 player names on a scorecard prior to the first pitch of the game with an equal number of male and female players.
- E. A team may start or continue a game with as few as nine players, but the team is assessed an out for the missing player's place in the batting order. All declared names are treated as starting players for purposes of the re-entry rules.
- F. A team must complete its game with the same number of players it began with.
 - 1) Exception: the reduction is a result of an injury to a player. The team can continue the game, taking an automatic out when the missing player's place in the batting order comes up.
 - 2) If a player is ejected without a replacement substitute, the game is declared a forfeit.
 - 3) No team is permitted to continue with fewer than nine players.
- G. In-field warm-ups between innings after the first inning are prohibited.
- H. Pitchers are permitted five warm-up pitches upon entering the pitching position for the first time. Each inning thereafter, only one warm-up pitch by the pitcher is permitted within one minute.
- I. 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).
- J. All league games have a 60-minute time limit. No new inning will start after 50 minutes. All players should hustle between innings.
- K. If a game is not completed due to weather conditions, the Parks and Recreation Department staff decide if the game will be completed later. Games tied after seven innings are resumed only if the game has a bearing on the playoff standings.
- L. Metal-cleated shoes are strictly prohibited in all Grove City Parks and Recreation Department leagues and tournaments. Penalty: a players wearing metal cleats is declared out and ejected from the game.
- M. Double Safety Bag Rules
 - 1) To increase safety by reducing collisions, safety bags are used for first base. A white portion is to the left of the foul line, and an orange portion is to the right of the foul line.
 - 2) 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 portion. The umpire will declare the runner out if this rule is violated.
 - 3) The defensive player may ONLY touch the white portion.

- 4) This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base. This does not include:
 - Returning to the base after overrunning.
 - Running on a base hit to the outfield. Runner may touch orange or white base.
 - Re-tag to advance on a fly ball.
- 5) 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, he/she is considered off the base.

N. 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 is 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 follow the approved bat list issued by One Nation Slowpitch.
- 2) All bats must have the USSSA 1.2 stamp on them.

O. Homerun Rule - Competitive Leagues: **DHHS plus 3**

- 1) DHHS hitter is a designated homerun hitter in your lineup for the game.
 - a. All other members of the team can hit a total of three (3) additional homeruns over the fence for the remainder of the game. Once a team's "plus three" homeruns have been hit, all additional fair balls hit over the fence by players other than the DHHS will be called an "out."
 - b. If a team's DHHS reaches via a base on balls, the team is allowed an additional homerun by a different player in the lineup *that inning* before the DHHS is up to bat again (use it or lose it).

P. Homerun Rule – Recreational Leagues: **DHHS plus 1**

- 1) DHHS hitter is a designated homerun hitter in your lineup for the game.
 - a. All other members of the team can hit a total of one (1) additional homerun over the fence for the remainder of the game. Once a team's "plus one" homerun has been hit, all additional fair balls hit over the fence by players other than the DHHS will be called an "out."
 - b. If a team's DHHS reaches via a base on balls, the team is allowed an additional homerun by a different player in the lineup *that inning* before the DHHS is up to bat again (use it or lose it).

Q. Pitching

- 1) Pitching rubber is set at 53 feet.
- 2) **All Leagues:** A legal pitch must reach a minimum of 5 feet above the ground and a maximum of 10 feet above the ground.

R. Bases are set at 70 feet.

S. Courtesy runner

- 1) Courtesy runners are permitted in all men's rec, women's rec, church rec and co-rec leagues.
 - Only one courtesy runner per inning.
 - Co-rec: One per gender per inning.

3. Co-rec Leagues

- A. Five male and five female players must be in the lineup at all times; or six and six if additional hitter (AH) is used. Any five male and any five female players must play defense. A team may start and play with nine comprised of five men and four women or five women and four men taking an out for the unfilled spot in the batting order.

- B. The league uses men's (12") and women's (11") balls. It is the responsibility of the third base coach and the pitcher to ensure the correct ball is used. If the pitcher uses the wrong-sized ball, **a team cannot 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.
- E. Homerun Rule - **DHHS plus 1**

1) DHHS hitter is a designated homerun hitter in your lineup for the game.

- a. All other members of the team can hit a total of one (1) additional homerun over the fence for the remainder of the game. Once a team's "plus one" homerun has been hit, all additional fair balls hit over the fence by players other than the DHHS will be called an "out."
- b. If a team's DHHS reaches on a base on balls, the team is allowed an additional homerun by a different player in the lineup *that inning* before the DHHS is up to bat again (use it or lose it).

4. Waiver of Rules

- A. Experience has proven that it is impossible to anticipate all problems that 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. Playoffs

- A. Playoffs begin following the last regular season scheduled game.
- B. Format for playoffs will be developed later in the season.

6. Awards

- A. Regular Season: the first place team in league receives a plaque and up to 14 T-shirts
 - 1) Tie-breaker determination for league champion and playoff seeding:
 - (1) Head-to-head
 - (2) Runs allowed
 - (3) Runs scored
- B. Playoffs: First and second place teams each receive a plaque