

Normal Parks and Recreation
100 E. Phoenix Ave.
454-9540

MEN'S RECREATION LEAGUES

2024

GENERAL RULES

1. Leagues will be offered at Champion Fields Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings with game starting times ranging from 6:00-9:00pm. Games cancelled due to the weather or unplayable fields will be rescheduled by the Normal Parks and Recreation Department.
2. There will be no grace period for starting times. **Scheduled game time is forfeit time.** Teams forfeiting a game will be contacted for an explanation. Two forfeits in a season may result in expulsion from league play.
3. The cancellation of games for a given evening will be decided by the parks and recreation department between 2:00-5:00pm. If games are cancelled, it will be announced on the **Town of Normal Rec Line, 433-3434, category 4. PLEASE DO NOT CALL PARKS & REC OFFICE.** Games may still be cancelled after 5:00pm, but at this time it becomes the umpire's/site supervisor's decision. Four innings will constitute a complete game. Any game cancelled before a completed game (four innings) will start over when rescheduled.
4. All players are encouraged to have some type of accident insurance coverage. Neither the Parks and Recreation Department nor the Town of Normal is responsible for covering medical expenses resulting from an injury. Team insurance may be obtained through USA Softball.
5. **Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Town or school property.** Players may not play while under the influence of alcohol and may cause their team to forfeit.
6. **Smoking is prohibited!**
7. **Respect the decision of the umpires at all times.** Umpires have the authority to eject a player from a game and can recommend to the Recreation Supervisor that the suspension be for one game, several games or if severe enough for the remainder of the season.

ROSTER RULES

1. Players must be out of high school to be eligible for play.
2. There is a limit of 20 players allowed on the official team roster.
3. A team shall consist of ten players. A team must have nine players to start a game. **There is no penalty (automatic out) for only having nine players.**
4. Managers may add/drop a player to/from the roster by filling out an add/drop form. These forms must be filled out completely with signatures and submitted to the parks and rec office by the team manager. **LAST DAY TO ADD PLAYERS IS JUNE 14. No additions after this date for remainder of season or tournament. Teams may be subject to roster checks prior to their first tournament game.**
5. The eligibility rules will be left to the manager's decision and are subject to being checked at any time by the recreation office or at the written request of a manager. Use of a non-roster player, if protested, will result in forfeiture.

LEAGUE RULES

1. Official ASA 12" Slow Pitch rules will be observed, including the following:
 - One umpire per field, umpires will keep official score. **HOME** team will keep official scorebook, visiting team should also keep book to avoid discrepancies.
 - Batter will begin with a ONE and ONE count.
 - After 2 strikes, 2nd foul ball is an out. Foul tip caught by catcher on 3rd strike is an OUT.
 - A ball and strike mat will be used.

RUN RULES:

- **20** after **three**, **15** after **four**, **10** after **five**.
- A mat will be used to determine balls and strikes. Height limits 6' -12'
- Intentionally hitting up the middle at pitcher is not permitted. For safety if the umpire feels a batter intended to hit pitcher or even comes close the play is ruled dead ball out with batter ejected from game.
- Champion Fields has pitchers masks that can be borrowed during games.

TIME LIMIT:

- **60 minutes.**
- **NO INNING WILL BEGIN AFTER THE TIME LIMIT!** Inning underway will be played to its completion.
- If a game is tied after completion of inning, it will remain a tie in league standings.

SAFETY RULE:

- All plays at home plate may be force-outs, with defensive player needing to only step on the plate.
- Tags and sliding are not allowed for plays at the plate. Sliding results in an automatic OUT. (Home plate is now similar to first base in methods of putouts).
- A chalk line will be located 20' from home plate. Once a runner crosses line on his/her way to home plate he may not return to third base. Automatic out when this occurs.
- **Runners must always step on ball/strike mat instead of home plate, even if there no play at the plate.**
- **Catcher can only use plate.**
- **Runner's responsibility to avoid physical contact with catcher.**

HOME RUN LIMITS:

- Each team is allowed 4 home runs per game.
- Neither league requires baserunner(s) & batter to run bases in an effort to speed up game.
- Any HR's **in excess for all levels of play results in an out.**

SAFETY BASE:

- All leagues will utilize the safety base at first.
- Runners are to use the orange base and fielders the white base.

COURTESY RUNNERS:

- Any eligible player on the official line-up, including available substitutes, may be used as a courtesy runner.
- A courtesy runner may be used only once per inning.

PROTESTS

All protests must adhere to the following procedure. Failure to do so will mean the protest will not be heard.

1. The manager of the offended team must notify the umpire before the next pitch that the remainder of the game is being played under protest.

2. The umpire will then mark the scorebook; sign it, showing the balance of the game is being played under protest.
3. The game will continue, before the game ends the offended team must leave \$10.00 with the umpire as a protest fee.
4. The offended team must, within 24 hours, present in writing to the Parks and Rec office the basis of their protest.
5. If the protest is allowed, the game will be rescheduled and resumed from where it was protested. The \$10.00 will also be refunded.
6. If the protest is **not** allowed, the \$10.00 is forfeited.

AWARDS

1. T-shirts awarded to league champions.
2. Ties in league standings will be broken in the following sequence:
 - a. Basis of direct competition with team in question.
 - b. Runs scored versus runs against in direct competition with teams in question.
 - c. Total runs scored versus total runs against for the entire season for all games played in league competition.

BLOOD RULE

If at any time blood is seen on the body of a player the umpire will stop the game. The wound must be cleaned and/or covered before the injured player is allowed to resume play.

If the uniform has blood, the player must remove that article of clothing and exchange it with another or clean it thoroughly with water.

Should the umpire feel that it would take too long to take care of the situation at hand, a substitute may report for the injured player without using the re-entry rule.

POLICY FOR SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Town of Normal Parks and Recreation Department has established the

following policy for softball leagues taking place when severe or tornado weather is in the area.

If, during the time a game is underway, the Civil Defense Tornado warning sirens are activated, all games will be immediately cancelled for remainder of the evening.

If these same sirens are sounded within an hour of the beginning of league play, all league games for that evening are cancelled.