

# WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT CO-REC SOFTBALL RULES

## ➤ RULE 1

1. Batting order: Must be female-male or male-female
2. Positions: If a male pitches a female must catch. If a female pitches a male must catch. All other positions are open to anyone.
3. May start game with 8 players (4 females/4 males). To start with 9 players, 5 must be females.

## ➤ RULE 2-ELIGIBILITY

1. A player may play on only one team in the Park District Co-Rec League.
2. A player must be at least 18 years of age.
3. To participate in any play-off game, a player must have played in three regular season games. This includes scheduled and make-up games.

## ➤ RULE 3-TEAM ROSTER

1. The roster will allow up to 24 players.
2. A manager may change the roster at anytime during the first half of the season. The final roster is due to the field supervisor by the start of your fifth game.
3. Any team using ineligible players will automatically forfeit the game, regardless of the outcome, and if two teams use ineligible players in a game, both teams will be credited with a loss, and neither with a win, regardless of the outcome of the game.

## ➤ RULE 4-THE GAME

1. All games will be played at Howard Park.
2. Batter will start with a 1-1 count.
3. After the schedule is completed, any ties for first place will be played off to determine League Championship.
4. A ten (10) minute forfeit rule will be **strictly enforced**. A team may start the game with eight players. If a team with eight players has a player expelled from the game by the umpire because of unsportsmanlike conduct, the game is terminated at this point and forfeited to the other team.
5. All make-up games, affecting first place, will be played. Others will be played if conditions and time allows. Make-up games will be scheduled as soon as possible after cancellation.
6. All make-up games will be played as double headers on Friday night or other days depending on the season schedule.

7. Sixty-foot base lines will be used in this league.
8. The Wilmette Park District will provide one umpire and one ball. Home team will keep the ball.
9. **Foul Ball Rule:** Batter is declared out on the first foul ball after two strikes. Runners may advance if ball is caught.
10. **Run Rule:** Game is called if home team is leading by 10 runs anytime after four and one half innings. If the visitor team is leading by 10 runs in the fifth inning or after, the home team still must get their time at bat. Then, if team batting last is still behind by 10 runs, the game is terminated.
11. A fourteen-inch mush softball will be used. Official sixteen-inch softball rules will be followed.
12. **Only female players may use a glove.**
13. **Drag or Freelance pitching Rule:** Pitcher must start with both feet on rubber presenting the ball in both hands. He then may take one step or jump in any direction. Back foot may not then be brought in front of front foot until ball is released. Front foot also must not move until pitch is released.
14. In any situation not covered by the aforementioned rules, the official rules of ASA-Amateur Softball Association of America will prevail.
15. Any player may cover any base.
16. Base runners may **not** lead off base until the pitched ball crosses home plate or ball is hit.
17. **Collision Rule:** The base runner, who chooses not to slide when being played on at any base, must **always** attempt to avoid contact with the fielder (with or without ball). He/She is to be declared out if he/she doesn't avoid contact. If the contact is determined to be flagrant, the offender will be ejected from the game. The ball is dead and other base runners cannot advance past what they normally would have got.
18. Pitches landing in the well will be strikes, if all other criteria of strike zone are met.
19. There will be no batters box. However, umpire will still call batter out for stepping across the side of home plate.
20. Courtesy Runners may be used after the runner reaches first base. Women run for women and men run for men.
21. **Extra Hitter Rule:** Teams may bat 11 and play 10. Teams must finish with 11 or a penalty out will be given. Or a team may bat everyone present, always alternating male-female.
22. Batter starts with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
23. **Walk Rule:** When the male batter is walked (four balls) the batter will receive the choice of walking or to remain at bat. The umpire will clear his indicator and give the batter another at bat. If the batter is walked again, he will take 1<sup>st</sup> base. The next batter will receive the choice of also taking her base or taking their at bat. If the male batter decides to take the walk after the first four balls, the female batter does not get her choice, but must bat.

Female batter will follow normal walk procedure (4 balls...take 1<sup>st</sup> base) unless following a male batter who is walked.

➤ **RULE 5-PROTESTS**

1. You may not protest a call involving umpire's judgement.
2. All protests are due in writing at the Wilmette Park District Office within forty-eight hours of the action protested.

➤ **RULE 6- CONDUCT**

1. All players must conduct themselves as ladies, gentlemen and athletes on the field.
2. Profane language, rough housing, etc. will not be tolerated.
3. **Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park.**
4. Umpires will be instructed to enforce all rules of player's conduct.
5. Players violating rules of conduct will be expelled from the game and, in case of serious infraction of these rules barred from future league play. The Sports Supervisor will determine the degree of seriousness of the infraction.
6. Any players thrown out of more than one game for unsportsmanlike conduct **will** be expelled from the league.
7. Players expelled from game must immediately leave the park-go where they cannot be seen or heard by the umpire. **Failure to do this will result in forfeiture of the game.** A time limit of two minutes will be given for the player to leave.
8. Players who insist on carrying on debates with umpires, after ball games are completed, are subject to future game suspension. The Sports Supervisor will determine the seriousness of each infraction and the proper suspension.

➤ **RULE 7-SAFETY PRACTICES**

1. **Bat Rule:** All bat handles shall be properly taped and untampered. All bats must have at least ten inches of tape
2. No metal spikes allowed.
3. Any accidents shall be immediately reported to the on site Field Supervisor.
4. The Wilmette Park District will make first aid equipment available on the field for player use.
5. The team sponsors or the Wilmette Park District assume no responsibility for accidents occurring in any connection with play or practice of softball at Howard Park or other alternative fields.

➤ **RULE 8-FORFEITS**

1. There will be a \$35 forfeit fee. This fee needs to be paid before taking the field on the date of your team's next game.
2. Teams forfeiting more than once during a season may jeopardize their standings in the league for the next year.
3. Games may be considered a forfeit for the following reasons:
  - a) Any team not having the correct ration of men to women at the 10-minute forfeit time.
  - b) Any team using ineligible ball players.

- c) Failure of expelled player to leave Ball Park immediately.
- d) Team down to seven players because of player or players being thrown out of game for unsportsmanlike conduct.

➤ **RULE 9-WEATHER PROCEDURE & MAKE-UP GAMES**

1. Whether to play or not on an inclement day will be determined by 4:00 p.m. It is the responsibility of every manager to call the Sports Weather Line (847-256-7133 ext. 4) or our website [www.wilmettepark.org](http://www.wilmettepark.org) on these days, after 4:00 p.m., to see whether games will be played. All captains of teams involved in a rained out game will be contacted by the Sports Supervisor (847-256-9689) with information of the rescheduled game.
2. In the case of a Tornado Alert or Thunderstorm/Lighting Alert, all games will be stopped and players should leave for a place of safety. If possible, the games will resume 30 minutes after the last lightening sighting.

➤ **RULE 10-TIME LIMIT**

Game time limit will be one hour and fifteen minutes, except the final schedule game, which will have a 10:00 p.m. Curfew. If the game is not a completed game, it will continue until it is a complete game. If the second game has to be stopped because of the 10:00 p.m. curfew, the final score will revert back to the last full inning. In the case that five full innings have not been completed, this game (the second game) will be a suspended game and the final innings will be rescheduled at a later date.

➤ **RULE 11-GROUND RULES**

1. **Diamond #1**- Fence down first base side all in play. Short fence down third base line is in play. Chalk line extending from fence on third base side to light post determines dead ball area. Thrown or batted ball beyond this line is out of play. Ball over fence on fly in fair territory is a home run. Ground rule double for one bounce over fence or for ball going through opening in right center field.
2. **Diamond #2**-Short fence down first base side all in play. Chalk line extending from fence down first base side to light post determines dead ball area. Thrown or batted ball beyond this line is out of play. Fence on third base side all in play. Batted ball hitting in trees on third base side is dead ball. Batted ball over fence on fly in outfield is home run, as well as hitting light post above fence in left field. Ground rule double for one bounce over fence or for batted ball going through opening in left center field.