

**CITY OF TONAWANDA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
2024 ADULT COED SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS**

ROSTER RULES

- A. Once a player participates in a league game, he/she is considered a member of that team for the remainder of the season. Player additions will be allowed through June 7, 2024.
- B. A player may play on different Tonawanda teams as long as those teams are not on the same night.
- C. Players must play in three league games to be eligible for playoffs.
- D. Players must be at least 16 years of age to be eligible to play in any adult league. So, if they turn 16 during the season, they must wait till that time to play.
- E. Each team must pay the umpire \$20 cash before the start of each game.

PLAYING RULES

A.S.A. rules apply to all games, unless modified below.

- A. The plate AND mat is a strike.
- B. The 15-Run Rule is in effect in all games after 5 innings. IF THE HOME TEAM IS LOSING, THEY MUST HAVE THEIR BATS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE INNING REGARDLESS OF THE INNING.
- C. There is no grace period. The umpire's time is official.
- D. Three (3) courtesy runners per game. Can be anyone in your lineup but, must be gender specific.
- E. Players removed from a game due to an injury **may not return**.
- F. A 12" ball will be used for all players.
- G. A minimum 4 females must be in the lineup and play defense at all times. There must be 1 female in the outfield, 1 female in the infield and 1 female at either pitcher or catcher. The 4th and/or any additional females can play anywhere else. No more than 2 male players may bat in a row, including carryover from bottom to the top of the lineup. You can only have 2 more males than females in the lineup at any given time. You can bat as many as you want. If bat 11 – 6-5 ratio, If bat 12 – 7-5 ratio, and so on and so forth. This ratio must remain throughout the game. If an injury occurs, you must adjust your lineup accordingly.
- H. A walk to a male batter will result in a two base award if and only if the next batter is female. The next batter (female) will then have the choice to walk or hit regardless of the number of outs.
- I. Shorthanded Rule:
 - A game may begin with eight (8) players. If a team starts shorthanded, an "out" will be recorded each time the 9th vacant slot is scheduled to bat. If a team plays with 9 players, an "out" is **NOT** recorded for the 10th spot. Teams playing shorthanded must play with a pitcher and a catcher and must still always have at least 4 female players. If any additional players show up late they **MUST** be placed in the last spot in the batting order. Please keep in mind that you still **can't** have more than 2 male batters in a row.
 - If a team becomes a player short for any reason, they may continue to play shorthanded with an out being recorded each time that vacant batting position is scheduled to bat. If a substitute arrives at the game, they must immediately be inserted into that position as long as there are not more than 2 male batters in a row.
 - Once a player is removed from the game causing a shorthanded situation, this player may not re-enter the game unless it is under the blood rule.
 - A coed slo-pitch team may never finish with less than eight (8) players. If for any reason a team becomes shorthanded to that extent, or you are unable to maintain the minimum of 4 female players, the game is a forfeit.
- J. There is an over the fence Home Run limit of 5 per game. Any HR after that point is considered an out. On Niagara 2, a ball hit in the trees/fence in the air is a home run. **If the ball rolls into the trees and the outfielder attempted a play, the runner is awarded a ground rule double. If the outfielder purposely does not make a play the runner is awarded 3 bases.**
- K. Stealing is not permitted in any leagues.
- L. **Illegal/Non-Approved Bats** - If a player is found using an illegal or non-approved bat an out will be called and the player is ejected from the game. If the bat is used again, the game will be forfeited. This infraction will be reported to the Recreation Department and any further infractions by a particular team may result in removal from the league.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFO

TIME LIMITS

No new inning may begin after 70 minutes of play (this is for all fields and all start times). Umpires will designate official starting times for any subsequent games if need be. Games will be considered complete regardless of inning.

TIE GAMES

If a game is tied at the end of seven innings, an extra inning may be played if and only if time permits. Only one additional inning will be played. If still tied, a tie will be recorded in the standings for both teams.

There will be one warm-up pitch allowed between innings.

FORFEIT POLICY

A team, which forfeits a game, must pay a \$30.00 reinstatement fee, no later than two business days following the forfeit. A second forfeit results in elimination from our league. Entry fees will not be refunded. **Any and all forfeits will encounter the \$30 fee, regardless of notification.**

PROTEST POLICY

Protests must be made in writing to the Recreation Department by 4:00 p.m. of the next business day. A \$20.00 fee must accompany the protest and will be returned if the protest is upheld. The protest must follow the USA Softball policy as indicated in the 2024 Rule Book. The umpire must sign the book at the time each team is notified that the game is being played under protest, if the call is protestable. If the protest is upheld, the game will be re-scheduled from the point of the protest.

Ineligible player protests must be submitted to the Recreation Office by 4:00 p.m. of the next business day. All players must be registered with your team online.

CANCELLATIONS, POSTPONEMENTS

- A. On questionable weather days, team contacts should call the **SPORT INFORMATION LINE at 695-8659** after **5:00 p.m.** for game status.
- B. There are **NO** postponements of scheduled or rescheduled games. You may call in conflict dates for reschedules at anytime during the season. There will be a minimum of 5 days notice given for reschedules, except during play-offs.
- C. If a game is cancelled/rained-out prior to the losing team batting in the 5th inning, the game will be rescheduled in its entirety. **If a game is called because of the time limit, the game is considered complete regardless of inning.**

GAME REPORTS

The winning team must call or email results no later than 48 hours after the game is complete. If this is not done it will result in a loss for both teams. You must include the date, name of the teams and the score for each. Call 695-8659 or email kohlerpool@tonawandacity.com

For up-to-date standings – Visit us at
www.tonawandarec.com

SUSPENSION / EJECTION

The Recreation Department has a written policy regarding incidents at a games and suspensions. If the player refuses to leave the grounds, the umpire may forfeit the game to the other team. If a spectator becomes unruly, the police will be called.

UMPIRES

UMPIRE NO-SHOW/PROBLEMS: Please call Paul Kirchmeyer at 818-1998 if you have a problem with an umpire or a no-show umpire. If he can send an umpire, teams must wait. Otherwise the teams are responsible for choosing a mutually agreed upon person from the stands to ump the game. Please make sure that you pay umpires prior to the game, regardless of if they are scheduled or are filling in.