

NORWALK PARKS & RECREATION DEPT. 2023 SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

2023 ONE NATION RULES will prevail WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

ALL LEAGUES

1. The League Director has the authority to handle all disputes and rule interpretations.
2. **Any player, coach, spectator, or any other person who causes a disturbance or harasses umpires, scorekeepers, players, or others before, during or after a game, will be asked to leave the park, and if they refuse, proper police action will be taken. Disciplinary action such as ejection and/or suspension from the league will apply when deemed necessary.**
3. All leagues (except Women's) will ONLY use 12" Worth Classic Gold Dot Extremes stamped with One Nation. Women's league will use 11" Worth stamped with One Nation.
4. Illegal players – If a team is found using an illegal player, the player and captain will be suspended and the team will forfeit any games that illegal player was used.
5. A one and one count will be in effect for all leagues, no free foul.
6. **HOME RUN LIMIT** – Designated Home Run Hitter (DHH) + 3 over the fence, untouched home runs. Inning ending out for excess. Neither batter nor base runners need to advance bases on untouched, over the fence HR's, including 4 base award on balls tipped over the fence.
7. Time limit – 1 hour from game start. Losing team must complete turn at bat in any inning that is started.
8. Complete game due to weather – losing team must have completed their turn at bat in the 5th inning.
9. Line-ups – must be submitted to the scorekeeper, 10 min. prior to start of game. Penalty for late-line-up is one out when team first comes to bat. **Lead off batter still bats.**
10. Late arriving players may be added to the bottom of the line-up as they arrive (until the 1st pitch of the 4th inning). Men's & Women's teams may elect to bat 10 or 11 and have subs available.
11. There is no grace period. Players must be on the field or in the dugout, ready to play at GAME TIME!
12. One warm-up pitch between innings, 3 for start of game/ new pitcher.
13. Warm-up area – everyone must warm-up between fields.
14. Rubber cleats or turf shoes may be worn (**steel spikes** are banned in **EVERY** league). *If discovered by the opposing team or umpire – must change immediately before reentering the game. The game will not be held up in any way during this time. An out will be charged to the violating team at the earliest possible time. If discovered by the player's own team, and changed immediately, no penalty.*
15. **Courtesy runner** – May be used for 2 players per inning and may be multiple times (if the team bats around). The CR must be the same player as well as the same batter/runner.
16. Protest fee - \$50 must be paid to plate umpire at time of incident. A written protest must be turned in to League Director within 24 hours. Judgement calls are not able to be protested.
17. Short-handed rule – If a substitute is not available and a team goes from 11 to 10 or 10 to 9 players, an out is declared the FIRST TIME ONLY that player was to bat. Exception: ejection will be an out every time (only if no sub is available).
18. Run ahead rule – 20 after 3, 15 after 4, and 10 after 5. Home team bats if trailing.
19. Player pick-ups – team may pick-up 1 or 2 players (within) same league to field 9 – must bat last and play right field and/or catcher. Pick-up must be removed when any of the team's players arrive. Pick-up must be your division or lower, unless opposing manager approves. *No more than 2 pickups may be used in any 1 game.* Pick-ups may be used during the game for injury at the umpire's discretion. No pick-ups for 1st or 2nd half tiebreakers or tournament games.
20. **Ejection rule** – minimum 1 game & \$20 fine. Ejected player must leave the park within 3 min. or game will be forfeited. Ejected player is only suspended from the league he was ejected unless action warrants further penalty. Fine must be paid prior to any game, any league. Fees paid at Rec. or to UIC.
21. Injury runner – at umpire's discretion, a Courtesy runner may be used for an injured player. However, that player will be out for the remainder of the game. This is in addition to the Courtesy runner.
22. There will be no batter's box lines - Umpire discretion.
23. Players may NOT play for more than 1 team on a given night, unless being used as a pick-up (rule 18).

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24. **MAKE-UP GAMES** - TEAM CAPTAIN is responsible for checking on make-up games. Current makeup schedules will be posted in the **Norwalk Ohio Softball Facebook** group. There will be a minimum of 5 days' notice. If not your captain, please list a designated Facebook rep. on roster.
25. **Bats** – No ASA only. All bats must have the USSSA (thumbprint) or One Nation 1.20 BPF (new) stamp. Bats may be randomly tested.
26. **Extra innings** – last batter from previous inning starts on 2nd. CR may be used for this runner.
27. **Pitch** – *pitch arc will be 5' to 10'. Pitcher may stand up to 6' behind pitchers' rubber to start pitch. The pitcher may pump fake up to 5 sec. May be moving at the pitch. At least 1 foot within width of rubber.*
28. **Forfeit fine** - \$20. Must be paid before next game unless 1st game of double header. Three forfeits could result in team removal from the league.
29. Add on players must be approved by League Director once schedules have been posted.

CHURCH LEAGUE

1. Field substitution at any time.
2. All available players must bat. Late arrivals will be placed at the bottom of the line-up as they arrive.
3. 12 runs or 3 outs constitute a teams' turn at bat. If the visitors go up by more than 12 runs in the top of the 7th, the home team will not bat.
4. Teams will display a good Christian attitude. Teams will get together before their games to pray. After the 1st game, prayer meetings will be held behind the backstops.
5. Short-handed rule – not in effect until a team goes from 11 to 10 or 10 to 9, except for ejection.
6. Teams may have a maximum of 2 females on a Church roster.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1. 12 runs or 3 outs constitute a teams' turn at bat. (Same rule as Church #3 above).
2. No more than 6 defensive players may be in the infield before the ball has been contacted with the bat.

COED LEAGUE

1. When a male is walked, he will advance to 2nd. With 2 outs, females will have the option to bat or walk directly after a male player is walked.
2. All players present may bat.
3. The batting order must alternate by sex continuously. No males may bat back-to-back. When a team has more males than females, two options exist. Bat everyone and take an out between each male or let the extra males rotate in one batting position. Once alternating takes place, it must be continuous for the entire game. There is no penalty for having two females bat back-to-back.
4. Free substitution on the field for all players in the line-up.
No more than 5 males on the field. ****Teams may play their males and females at any position****
5. Short-handed rule – same as church league rule #5.
6. Pick-ups must be in the Coed League. Pick-up will bat as the last male or female in the line-up.
7. **Courtesy Runner**– All League rule #14. Two per inning. Female-female/male-male.
8. **Collisions/ taking players out** - Where runners are sliding into female fielders, caution and common sense should prevail. Any contact deemed unnecessary will result in ejection.
9. When a team starts with 9 players and the 9th is a male, we will not double charge a team with the short-handed and male back-to-back rule. An out will be continuous in the 10th spot. The 1st time around an out will be charged in the 10th spot regardless of walking the 9th batter (male). However, after the 1st time around, if the defensive team walks the 9th male with 2 outs, there will **not** be an automatic out BECAUSE OF THE WALK ONLY.
10. 12 runs or 3 outs constitute a team's turn at bat. (Same rule as Church #3 above).
11. When Women are batting, ***outfields must remain behind the arc until contact is made with the ball.*** If the batting team protests an outfielder is in violation, the umpire will verify. Time will be called. The outfielder in question will be instructed to stand still. If the outfielder is found to be in violation, the batter will be awarded a double. If the protest is false, the batter will be called out.