

**STAMFORD RECREATION SERVICES
COED SOFTBALL LEAGUES**
(Open and Industrial)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. ELIGIBILITY:

OPEN DIVISIONS

- A. **RESIDENTS OF STAMFORD:** Participants must be full time, primary residents of Stamford. Each participant will be required to provide a photo ID(Drivers License or Identification card issued by the State of Connecticut). Players must be listed on the roster to be eligible. To be eligible to play in a championship playoff, a player must have played in at least 6 league games during the current regular season. **PLAYER MUST HAVE A PICTURE ID TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AT EACH GAME. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**
- B. **“FAVORITE SON” RULE: NEW FOR 2007** Former primary residents of Stamford that graduated from a City of Stamford High School(SHS, Trinity Catholic, Wright Tech or Westhill HS).. Each “favorite son” will have to provide a copy of a high school diploma or a letter on the Stamford High School letterhead with an authorized signature. Additionally, each “favorite son” must pay a \$30.00 non-resident fee. Each team is allowed to have a maximum of three(3) “favorite son’s” on the roster.
- C. **NON RESIDENTS: NEW FOR 2007** Each Co-ed Team is allowed to have a total of 3 male non-residents per roster. Teams are permitted unlimited women non-residents. The non-resident fee is \$30.
- D. **AGE REQUIREMENTS:**
 - 1. **OPEN LEAGUE:** Participants must be at least 16 years old by May 1 of current year.

INDUSTRIAL DIVISIONS

- A. **EMPLOYEES OF STAMFORD BUSINESS:** Any man/woman is eligible to play provided he/she is a full time employee of the Stamford business he/she represents. A full time employee is defined as a person that receives medical benefits and works at least 20 hours per week on a year round basis.
- B. Player must have worked at least 7 days prior to participation.
- C. No business may have support personnel(independent contractors, accountants, security services...etc) on the roster. Person must work for the business.
- D. An employee that works outside of Stamford, for a Stamford based company, will be eligible in accordance with the eligibility rules as outlined in the ASA guidelines. These players must be submitted, in writing, one week prior to opening day. After that point in time, no player in this category will be considered.
- E. Two Stamford companies may combine to form one team if neither team is already in the league. The make-up of the teams must be at least 60%-40%.
- F. If a player starts the season on a team and he/she leaves the job, he/she may still participate on the team. NOTE: only if he/she has not accepted another job.
- G. **AGE REQUIREMENTS:** Employee must be at least 16 years old by May 1 of current year.

COED RULES:

- A. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS** Each team **MUST PLAY WITH 5 MALES AND 5 FEMALES.** Ten players with the following position requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and outfield and one male and one female as pitcher and/or catcher.
- B. **EXTRA PLAYERS:** Twelve players may play, six males and six females-5 men and 5 women play the field, plus two EP's(one male and one female) that bat in the line-up.
- C. **SHORTHANDED RULE:**
1. If a team begins play with the required number of players, that team may continue the game with one less, whenever a player leaves for any reason other than ejection. No team may play with less than 9 players.
 2. If a team begins play with 9 players, the team may begin with 5 MEN AND 4 WOMEN **OR** 4 MEN AND 5 WOMEN. The 10th spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. A TEAM MAY NOT PLAY WITH 6 MEN AND 4 WOMEN OR 4 MEN AND 6 WOMEN.
- D. **BATTING ORDER:** The batting order shall alternate sexes. Both men and women will use a 12" softball.
- E. **WALK OF A MALE BATTER:** Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award for the batter. Runners advance only if forced to advance. The next batter(a female) must bat. **EXCEPTION:** with two outs, the female has the option to bat or to take a walk.
- F. **SLIDING:** Both males and females will be permitted to slide into a base or home plate, regardless of which gender is covering the bag/plate. If a male slides into a woman covering a base recklessly, whether intentional or not, he will be ejected from the game. He will be suspended for one game.
- G. **CATCHER'S MASK:** The catcher, both male and female on each team will be required to wear a facemask when behind the plate. We encourage all teams to purchase a mask for hygienic purposes. Teams must have their own facemask.
- H. **FRIDAY OPEN LEAGUE** The use of both and 11" ball when a female is up to bat and a 12" ball when a male is up. If a pitcher inadvertently pitches the incorrect ball, the manager of the offensive team has the option to take the result of the play or have the last batter assume the ball/strike count prior to the ball being discovered.

GAME INFORMATION:

- A. **RULES AND REGULATIONS:** All league games will be played according to the Official A.S.A. Rules and Regulations, except where local Stamford Rules and Regulations apply. According to the ASA Rulebook, RULE 12, USE OF ASA PLAYING RULES: "The use of all or part of such rules is strictly a local matter and such rules may be altered as league officials deem appropriate or necessary to conduct Non-Championship play". Therefore, where necessary, the City of Stamford alters the rules for our Local Leagues.
- B. **1 AND 1 RULE:** All games follow the One and One Rule. **Each player shall start his/her time at bat with the count of One Ball and One Strike.** The batter shall be allowed an additional foul ball when he/she has two strikes. Once a batter has two strikes, he/she will be permitted one foul ball, on the 2nd foul ball, he/she will be out.
- C. **GAME TIME:** All games will start at the scheduled starting time. **THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD.** If a team does not have enough players to start the game at game time, that team will AUTOMATICALLY become the VISITING team. That team will begin hitting. If the 9th player does not show up by the time the 3rd out is made, the game is a forfeit.

D. FORFEITS AND DEFAULTS:

1. FORFEIT is defined as failure to provide at least 9 players on the field at game time without notifying the Stamford Recreation Services Division at least 24 hours in advance.

2. DEFAULT is defined as the act of notifying the Recreation Services office, at least 24 hours in advance, of the inability to field a team for any given game. The team will receive a loss in the standings for a default. If a team receives TWO DEFAULTS in one season, that qualifies as a FORFEIT (TWO DEFAULTS = ONE FORFEIT). A loss will be received in the standings for both a default and a forfeit. If a team receives a forfeit, see below:

a. Any team that receives a forfeit must pay the forfeit fee. Fee is \$100 and must be paid prior to next game..

b. **If a team has two forfeits, it may be dropped from the league**, if necessary. If a team forfeits out of the league, it forfeits all fees up to that point. Furthermore, the team will not be eligible for the lottery for at least one year.

E. RUN AHEAD RULE: In order to maintain the integrity of the league, a run ahead rule has been implemented. After 4 innings if a team is ahead by 20 runs or, after 5 complete innings, if a team is ahead by 12 runs, that team shall be declared the winner.

1. If the home team reaches the run limit during the appropriate inning, it will not have to be completed.

2. The home team must have the opportunity to bat, if necessary.

F. SOFTBALLS: **The only ball that will be legal for COED Leagues is a .40 COR/375 Compression Softball. The Friday A COED league will use both 11” and 12” balls.** It is the manager’s responsibility to purchase balls.

G. BATS: All ASA Approved bats are legal in Coed. **EXCEPTION: NEW FOR 2007.** The Friday A league MEN may only use 100% Composite bats provided by the City of Stamford or approved aluminum bats. Women may use any ASA Approved bat.

Upon discovery of an illegal bat, by either an umpire, opposing team or League Director, all runs scored by the offending team up to that point will be taken away. It does not matter how many players used the bat, the score still reverts back to zero(0). A player found using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game. That player will be suspended for one game. The umpire’s or League Director’s ruling on the field will be final.

1. Any bat that has been “doctored” by a player will be immediately taken out of the game. For example, repainting a bat to conceal brand name, drilling a hole in bat and filling it with a substance or taping the end of a bat handle. The bat will be confiscated by the League Director or umpire and submitted to the Recreation Services Division. The bat will be returned after it has been examined by the Asst. Superintendent of Recreation. The score will revert back to zero and the owner of the bat will be suspended from league play for the remainder of the year plus one more year. **THE BAT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE USED IN THE GAME. MERELY BY BEING ON THE BAT RACK OR IN THE PLAYING AREA CONSTITUTES INTENT.** If the owner of the bat does not claim the bat, the manager will assume the penalty above.

H. NO METAL SPIKES: No Metal Spikes will be allowed during league and championship play. Players that wear metal spikes will be asked to remove the metal spikes. Players must wear athletic shoes or rubber or plastic cleats.

- I. **UNIFORMS:** All teams are required to wear a T-shirt or factory made sleeveless shirt. No cut-offs or tank tops are allowed.
- J. **NO JEWELRY. NO JEWELRY ALLOWED.** Umpire will ask player to remove jewelry once. Failure to comply to this rule will result in automatic removal from the game, suspension for one game. Players that wear medical alert bracelets must tape down bracelet.
- K. **HOME RUN RULE(One-Up Rule):** At fields that have a fence, 4 progressive home runs will be allowed per team. Once both teams have reached the home run maximum, **either** team may hit an additional home run; however, no team may go more than one home run up on the other team once the team has reached the limit. Any additional home runs above the one-up will be scored as an out. The HOME team **MAY NOT** go one up on the visitor in the bottom of the last inning.
- L. **PROFANITY RULE:** Participants in recreational softball leagues are not allowed to use profane language during the game. The umpire will warn a player not to swear again. If player swears again, he/she will be ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, plus suspended for one game.
- M. **SPEED UP RULE:** In an attempt to keep the games on schedule, teams are allowed a limited number of warm-up pitches. They are as follows: 1st inning -5 warm-ups. After the first inning - three warm-up pitches will be permitted.
- N. **COURTESY RUNNER: NEW FOR 2007** Each team will be permitted to have two courtesy runners(2 male/2 female). The runner does NOT have to be declared before the game. The courtesy runner must be the last batted out of the same gender before the person who needs the runner.
- O. **EXTRA PLAYERS(EP)** A team may use up to 2 EP's in a game. In other words, a team may have up to 12 players in the lineup. If a player is injured, a team may finish with less than the original lineup, however, an out will be taken in that spot in the lineup.
- P. **MINIMUM NUMBER OF GAMES** A rostered player must play in a minimum of 6 games to be eligible to play in the city championships. Rostered players that do not play in 6 League games will NOT be eligible for city championships. The Recreation office keeps line-up cards on file from every regular season game. If a player participates in the city championships and has not played in the minimum 6 games, the team will forfeit out of the city championships.
3. **SCHEDULES:** In order to complete the schedule and playoffs in a timely manner, the Recreation Services Division has the authority to change the regular playing dates and makeup games as needed.
- A. **RAIN-OUTS:** The Recreation Office attempts to make up all games on the same night for which the team plays. However, we reserve the right to make-up games on **ALTERNATE NIGHT OR, WHEN POSSIBLE A DOUBLE HEADER**. All make-up games must be played as scheduled. Failure to play a scheduled make-up game will result in a Forfeit.
- B. **DOUBLE HEADERS:** Double Headers played on an unlighted field starting at 5:45 PM will have a (1) one hour time limit. The current inning may be completed but **NO NEW INNING WILL START AFTER 1 HOUR. GAMES MAY END IN A TIE, AND WILL ONLY BE FINISHED IF NECESSARY.** The second game shall start immediately after game one.
4. **LEAGUE PLAY/PLAYOFFS:** The top 2 teams in each league will receive a trophy and the league champions will receive a league championship t-shirt.
- A. **League Championship Trophy** The team with the best overall record is declared the league champion. If there is a tie, head to head match up determines winner.
- B. **League Championship Runner up** The team with the second best record is the runner-up. If there is a tie, head to head match up determines winner.
- C. **Divisional City Champions** All teams with a .500 or better winning percentage will play in the City playoffs. Winner of the City playoffs is the City Champions.
- D. **Runner up** The loser of the City Championship playoff game is the runner-up.

5. **ROSTER/WAIVER**: The roster/waiver must be submitted by the second meeting in order to register your team. *All players must sign the roster/waiver in order to be covered by league insurance and play in the league.* The roster must be turned in on the form distributed by the Recreation Services Office. The roster may exceed 24 players but have no less than 12 players. Teams that move on to state tournament play must declare 20 players. Playing manager/coach, or anybody else on the bench, must be included on the roster (Due to insurance regulations). **Players must play in at least 4 league games to be eligible for the playoffs**

- A. **INELIGIBLE PLAYER**: An ineligible player is defined as a person not on the roster that attempts to play or plays in a game, a person who misrepresents eligibility to play in a game, or a person that uses a fake name. Teams that use an ineligible player will automatically forfeit all the games that the ineligible player participated. The ineligible player will be ejected from the league for the rest of the year plus one year. The eligibility of a player will be determined on the field. **All players must have a photo ID at the game to verify eligibility.** Failure to provide a photo ID at a game, if questioned, will result in automatic removal of that player from that game. Game will be declared a forfeit and offending team will receive a loss. If player is legitimately on the roster, but failed to show ID at field, team will still receive a loss but the player will not be ejected from the league.
- B. **COACHES/INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**: **Coaches that put an ineligible player into a game will be suspended one game.** He/she will not be allowed on the player's bench or on the field of play for the next game. Fine must be paid within 2 business days after the game in which ineligible player participated. Coaches that use an ineligible player in two separate games will be suspended from the league for the rest of the year plus one additional year.
- C. **NEW PLAYERS**: must be added to the roster in advance before he/she can play. An official Add/Drop form must be used.
- D. **DEADLINE FOR NEW PLAYERS**: The deadline to add NEW player's is June 15. No new players may be added to the roster after that date. In extenuating circumstances, players may be added to the roster but are not eligible for the playoffs.
- E. **RELEASE FROM ROSTER**: A player may obtain a release from his/her team by filling out an Add/Drop form in the Recreation office. The release must be filled out before a player switches to another team.

6. **PLAYER CONDUCT**: Players that play in the Stamford Softball Leagues are expected to play with good sportsmanship. It is the ultimate responsibility of the coach of each team to control the behavior of his/her teammates. The City of Stamford and its representatives reserves the right to determine the penalty for a behavior if it is not covered below or if the punishment is not adequate for the behavior.

- A. The manager of the team is responsible for the conduct of the players and fans. If the conduct of players or fans becomes unruly, the manager will be warned to get the players or fans under control. If he does not the game will be a forfeit and a loss in the standings. The manager will be suspended one game.
- B. Any player, manager or coach will be ejected from the game for use of alcohol use or illegal drugs. Any player that consumes alcohol during a game will automatically be suspended from the league for the rest of the year and one additional year.
- C. **Acts of Disqualification(Minor)** A team, team member, manager or team official found guilty of one of these acts will be suspended one game.
 1. Unsportsmanlike conduct: Any conduct deemed unsportsmanlike by the League Director or Umpire.
 2. Commission of any illegal act while participating in City of Stamford and/or A.S.A. such as: failure to pay indebtedness, destruction of property, or violation of state or local laws.
- D. **Acts of Disqualification(Major)** A team, team member, manager or team official found guilty of one of these acts will be suspended for a minimum of one year plus one year. Dependent upon

the severity, the alleged offender may be permanently banned from all Stamford Recreation activities.

1. **Physical Violence or Attempted Physical Violence:** Any person that attempts physical harm or commits physical harm on an opponent, teammate, League Director, fan or umpire will automatically be subjected to the consequences above. Furthermore, the Stamford Police Department will be contacted by League Director.
2. **Threats of Bodily Harm:** Any person that threatens to harm an opponent, League Director, fan, teammate or an umpire will be subjected to the consequences above.
3. **Extreme Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** If a player continues to display unsportsmanlike conduct after an ejection or at any other time, or if he displays extreme unsportsmanlike conduct, he will be subject to a Major Disqualification.

7. **PLAYER'S BENCH, PLAYING AREA:** Only players, coaches, and managers (listed on roster) of the teams playing will be allowed on the player's bench or in the playing area. This is to prevent injury to youngsters or spectators from thrown bats, or hit by thrown balls. Only players listed on the roster are covered under ASA League liability insurance.

8. **DROP-OUTS:** If a team drops out of the league during a round of play all wins and losses in that round prior to their dropping out, shall be dropped from the standings. All fees paid to City of Stamford shall be forfeited.

9. **USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** It is mandatory that all alcoholic beverages, namely beer, wine, and liquor be kept away from player's benches and the field of play at all Recreation Services league games. Teams or players violating this rule will be reprimanded or suspended. In the case of excessive abuse, any Recreation Services Official (Superintendent of Recreation, Asst. Superintendent of Recreation, Recreation Leader, League Director and game Umpires) has the right to forfeit the game and the team will be recommended for suspension from further league play. No Recreation Services League players, managers, coaches and sponsors shall be permitted to consume alcohol or drugs at the player's bench or in the area prior to the game or, during the game. **NO BOTTLES OR GLASS CONTAINERS** of any type are to be used for consumption on or in the playing area including the stands. No smoking is permitted during the game by any manager, coach, player or umpire on or in the playing area.

10. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** Teams and umpires must call the softball information line at the Recreation Services Division (977-4641 X 31) after 3:00 p.m. to find out if the games are canceled. If it rains after 4:00 p.m., teams and umpires must report to assigned diamonds. The decision to start the game will be made by umpire and/or league director. Once a game has started, the plate umpire has total control of decision to terminate the game due to inclement weather. All games are to be terminated at once if there is a threat of lightning or if lightning strikes. Announcement will be made on the website and an email may be sent out.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS: Teams should keep in mind this program is for Recreation. Although we don't want to take away from the competitive nature of softball, we should all remember that it is only a game. The rules mentioned on the previous pages are set up to help ensure that teams do not have unfair advantages over their opponent. As the league evolves over time, the rules will evolve with the league. Please feel free to contact the Recreation Services Division with suggestions.