

STAMFORD RECREATION SERVICES MEN'S OPEN & INDUSTRIAL SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. ELIGIBILITY:

MEN'S OPEN LEAGUE

- 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) to verify eligibility for the Softball League. A copy of a bill matching the Stamford address must accompany the copy of the license. Players must be listed on the roster to be eligible. **PLAYER MUST HAVE A PICTURE ID TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AT EACH GAME. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**
- B. PARTICIPATION ON TWO TEAMS: Players may participate on 2 local Men's OPEN rosters. Stipulation: one roster MUST be a Monday, Tuesday OR Friday night team and the OTHER MUST be a SUNDAY roster. Players cannot play on 2 Men's Open teams in the weeknight league.
- C. "FAVORITE SON" RULE: Former primary residents of Stamford that graduated from a City of Stamford High School(Rippowam, 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 \$40.00 non-resident fee. Each team is allowed to have a maximum of three(3) "favorite son's" on the roster.
- D. NON RESIDENTS: Each team is allowed to have up to 3 non-residents per roster. Non-residents must submit picture identification to the Recreation Office. Each non-resident must pay a \$40 non-resident fee.
- E. AGE REQUIREMENTS:
Participants must be at least 16 years old by May 1 of current year.

****Managers are responsible for correct information, residence, and other matters of eligibility of their players and will be held accountable in the event that eligibility of player is called into question. Any player found to be altering documentation to play in Stamford will be suspended for the rest of the year plus the following year.**

INDUSTRIAL DIVISIONS

EMPLOYEES OF STAMFORD BUSINESS: Any person is eligible to play provided he is a full time employee of the Stamford business that he represents. A full time employee is defined as a person that works at least 20 hours per week on a year round basis.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

1. Each participant will be required sign the roster and manager signature will verify eligibility. **PLAYER MUST HAVE A PICTURE ID TO VERIFY ELIGIBILITY AT EACH GAME. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

2. No business may have support personnel (independent contractors, outside accountants, security services...etc) on the roster. Person must work for the business.
3. 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.
4. 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%.
5. If a player starts the season on a team and he leaves the job, he may still participate on the team. NOTE: only if he does not get another job.
6. AGE REQUIREMENTS: Employee must be at least 16 years old by May 31 of current year.

****Managers are responsible for correct information, employment verification and other matters of eligibility of their players and will be held accountable in the event that eligibility of player is called into question. The City of Stamford has the right to request employment verification at any time. Failure to provide adequate documentation of employment will result in removal from the league.**

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: **Each player shall start his time at bat with the count of One Ball and One Strike.** The batter shall be allowed an additional foul ball when he has two strikes. Once a batter has two strikes, he will be permitted one foul ball, on the 2nd foul ball, he 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.

FORFEITS:

A 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. **A team that forfeits will be removed from the league until they pay the \$100 forfeit/reinstatement fee.**

- a. Fee must be paid in the Recreation Office within 2 business days after the forfeit. Team will be reinstated in the schedule once the forfeit fee is paid.
- b. **If a team has two forfeits, it will be dropped from the league.**

RUN AHEAD RULE: In order to maintain the integrity of the league, a run ahead rule(Mercy Rule) has been implemented which follows ASA guidelines. If the home team is ahead 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings, the game will not continue.

1. If the home team reaches the run limit during the appropriate inning, it will not have to be completed. If the visiting team is ahead by the minimal requirements after the home team has had a chance to bat in the bottom half of the inning, the game will not continue.
2. The home team must have the opportunity to bat, if necessary.

- F. **SOFTBALLS: Men's Open Leagues and Men's Industrial Leagues:** 52 COR/300 Compression Leather Softball. Teams are responsible to purchase their own softballs. The 40 COR/375 Compression ball from 2010 is grandfathered in for 2011.
- G. **BATS: Men's Open and Men's Industrial:** The City of Stamford will provide bats for all teams. No player may use his own bat.
- 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 plastic or rubber 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.** Placing tape over an earring is not acceptable. The jewelry must come off. Umpire will ask player to remove jewelry once. 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.
HIT AND SIT. Players that hit a home run, "over the fence" will simply have to run to touch first base. He/she will not have to run around the bases for a HR.
- L. **PROFANITY RULE:** Participants in recreational softball leagues are not allowed to use profane language during the game. The umpire may or may not warn the offending player. The player 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 warmup pitches. They are as follows: 1st inning -5 warmups. after first inning - three warmup pitches.
- N. **SHORTHANDED RULE:** Teams may play with 9 players without penalty, but when and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the line-up at the 10th batting position.
- O. **COURTESY RUNNER:** Each team will be permitted to have two persons use a courtesy runner. The persons DO NOT have to be declared before the game begins. He must use a runner for the entire game. The courtesy runner must be the last batted out before the person who needs the runner.
- P. **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 substitute may replace the injured player or a team may finish with less than the original lineup, however, an out will be taken in that spot in the lineup. If a player is ejected from the game and there is no replacement, then the game is a forfeit.
- Q. **PROTESTS:** If a team wants to protest what they believe is a misinterpretation of a playing rule by an umpire, the manager must notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest at the point where the alleged misinterpretation occurred. The issue must be protested prior to the next pitch. The manager has the responsibility to get in writing what occurred within 48 hours to the Recreation Services Division accompanied by a \$50 bond. If the protest is upheld, the team will get the \$50 back and the game will be replayed if necessary. Protests can not be made for a judgment call(fair/foul ball, strikes/balls, trap/catch...etc)
- R. **PITCHERS BOX:** A pitcher may pitch from an imaginary box with width of the pitching rubber(18 inches x 3 feet back) Essentially, a pitcher may pitch from 53'. All ASA pitching rules apply.

S. **CRASHING INTO A FIELDER WITH THE BALL:** In an effort to prevent injury and protect a defensive player attempting to make a play on a runner, a runner WILL be called out when they remain on their feet and crash into a defensive player who is holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. To prevent the out ruling, the player may slide, jump over the defender, go around the defender, return to the previous base or slide into the defender.

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 5:45/6:00pm will play for one hour. At that point, the current inning will be completed but NO NEW INNING will start after 1 hour. To be clear, games DO NOT have a 1 HOUR TIME LIMIT. Games may end in a tie and will only be finished if necessary. The second game shall start immediately after game one and does not have a time limit.

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, a one game playoff game will determine 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. A and B leagues will make up one city championship and C and D leagues will make up a separate city championship for the Men's Open and Men's Industrial leagues.

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 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.

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 in order 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 Stamford league's 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 can play. An official Add/Drop form must be used. Copies of the Add form are on www.stamfordrecreation.com.
- D. **DEADLINE FOR NEW PLAYERS:** The deadline to add NEW players is July 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.

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.

- 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.
- C. **Acts of Disqualification (Minor)** A team, team member, manager or team official found guilty of a minor disqualification will be suspended for an 8 day suspension. That player cannot play on any team for the next 8 days. For example, if a player gets ejected from a Tuesday game, he cannot play on any team in Stamford until the following Wednesday(8 days later). Any player ejected from 2 games in one season may be permanently suspended from Stamford Softball.
 - 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 the rest of the season 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 will be contacted by League Director and/or umpire.
 - 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 unsporstmanlike 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 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 fields. 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.