

Rules

ROCKLAND COUNTY SOFTBALL

Summer League Rules ---- RULES: ASA Rule book used unless stated below

Fall League Rules - all summer rules apply unless there is a fall lg. note during or below that rule.

- **Matching shirts** - teams must have matching shirts by April 15 (in the fall after the first week) - If a player is not wearing a matching shirt the team starts with an out in their first at bat. For every player without a matching shirt the team gets an out - That means if 9 players do not have matching shirts the first time you get to bat is the fourth inning.

- **Cursing Rule** - every time a player curses that team gets an out. If they are in the field the next time that team comes to bat it starts with an out.

- **FORFEITS** - If a team forfeits they must pay both Umps. Forfeit Time is 15 minutes after game time, on Sundays if you have a doubleheader the first game is forfeit 15 minutes after game time and the second game becomes a forfeit 15 minutes after the first game became a forfeit. You must pay the Umps before you can play another game. Thus on Sunday Morning if you forfeit your first game you can not play the second game until the forfeiting team has paid both umpers for the first (Forfeited) game. If you fail to pay the umpers at the field you must bring the \$\$ to me within 48 hours or before your next game whichever comes first otherwise your future game are canceled until 72 hours after you have paid. Also if you forfeit a game the manager and assistant manager must sit out your first playoff game. The manager and assistant manager must sit out a playoff game for every game you forfeit starting with your first playoff game. If this brings you down below the amount of players you need to start a playoff game you are out of the playoffs. Also teams can not play in the playoffs if they have forfeited a certain amount of games - If you forfeit 5 or more games on Sunday Morning you can not play in the playoffs - If you forfeit 3 or more games in the weeknight league your team can not play in the playoffs.

- **Ejections** - If a player is thrown out of a game for any reason they cannot play in that team's next game. If a player is thrown out of a second game the same season that player is not allowed to play in that team's next three games. If a player is ejected a third time during the same season that player is out of the league for the rest of that season. This player is an illegal player for the games he is not supposed to play in and if he plays his team forfeits that game. These games that must be sat out are not suspensions they are just part of the league rules. If they were ejected for physically touching an ump, a fan or another player they are suspended until we can have the proper hearing. This hearing will take place within 20 days of the incident being reported to the league office. Also if a player acts in such a manner that is inappropriate (verbally or physically) toward a league official, umpire, any manager, other players or fans he and his manager are subject to suspension by the league commissioner. Managers are responsible for their players' behavior, and their team can forfeit games or be kicked out of the league because of a player's actions (what constitutes bad behavior is decided by the league president).

Suspensions can be appealed to a sportsmanship committee. See rule 11

- **Sportsmanship** - If a player, manager, coach, or anyone else associated with the team acts in an unsportsmanlike manner they are subject to suspension. What constitutes unsportsmanlike conduct is completely up to the commissioner and any discipline is up to the league commissioner. Any suspension or other disciplinary action taken by the commissioner

can be appealed at a sportsmanship committee hearing. Any team request for a hearing must take place within 48 hours of being notified of disciplinary action. The hearing will be within 20 days of the request. The committee will be made up of two Umpire members, two league players (the league players can not come from any team that was involved in the incident or are on any other team that the people involved in the incident are a part of) and the league commissioner. If the incident and or appeal and or hearing come near the end of the season or during the playoffs; the playoff can not be restarted or replayed in any form so if a team was suspended or kicked out of the league at this time the only compensation they can get is a reduced fee next season, being any amount from \$0 up to \$400 whatever is deemed appropriate by the committee.

- A team can start with 8 players - the ninth spot is an automatic out. Once the 9th & 10th player shows up they can enter the game immediately. If an 11th, 12th, etc. player show up late they can only enter the game as a substitute.

- Each team supplies one ball per game - On Sunday Morning - 9AM and 10AM starts use Dudley's - all other start times and all weeknight games you use Clincher softballs. 18- In the rulebook we use the (Designated Player and the Extra Player) rule - both are used in all leagues even though they say fast pitch only and slow pitch only in the book. We are going to allow as many extra hitters as a team wants to use (as long as all players are there to start the game - see rule 10) but only one DP=DH.

If a team bats extra players they must have that many batters throughout the game, If a player gets hurt or leaves and you have no sub that batting position becomes an automatic out. (Exp- if you start batting 14 you must finish batting 14. This rule is to allow more people to play and only hurts the team that uses it because their better hitters get to bat less).

- During the regular season 4 innings (3.5 if home team is ahead) is an official game. If 4 innings (3.5 innings if home team is ahead) is not reached game does not count and is played over from the beginning. If more than 4 innings have been played and the game is tied it is suspended. In the playoff except for the mercy rule seven innings will be played and a game will be suspended at any point if stopped by rain or darkness.

- 10 Run mercy rule (15 Run in Slow Pitch Lg.) applied after 5 Innings (4 1/2 - if home team ahead). Teams must have equal amount of at bats unless home team is winning.

- Courtesy runners - allowed with permission of the other team - the other team gets to pick the runner as long as it is not one of the next 5 batters. People that need runners should be pointed out before the game starts, unless a player gets hurt during the game. Use of a courtesy runner in a bunting and stealing league - the courtesy runner cannot steal or advance on a passed ball or wild pitch. A Courtesy runner in bunting and stealing on a pick off has to be tagged.

- Catchers must wear a catcher's mask with a throat protector.

- No Metal Spikes.

- No Illegal Bats - No Titanium Bats - No bats that are Composite in the barrel part of the bat. if you use an illegal bat the bat is confiscated and returned at the end of the season and the team forfeits that game - If a team is caught a second time they forfeit that game and the next game - If a team is caught a third time they are out of the league. Bats on the ASA Illegal Bat list are not allowed in the league.

- **Protest of Illegal Bats or Illegal Players** (Illegal players = Players that have played for other teams in the league or are on another teams roster or in the playoffs have not played enough regular season games to qualify for the playoffs) These protest should be made before the game starts or as soon as the illegal player or illegal bat shows up so the team has the option of not using that bat or player. The ump and protesting team should get that the players name or the bats make and model and after the game give this info to the league president within 18 hours. The protest will be handled from that point. In either case the least that will happen (if the protest is upheld is that game will be a forfeit; the team could also forfeit their next game players and managers could be suspended and a team could be out of the league) based on many factors like if the team has done this before.
- **No Alcoholic beverages at games** - That means no consuming of alcoholic beverages at the fields before, during or after the games on any part of the property that belongs to the school or municipality that gave us permission to use that field. This applies to players, managers, coaches and spectators.
- **No windmill or slingshot pitching allowed except Slingshot is allowed in the Major division only. We will have a Major and AA pitcher list. We only have Major pitching in the weeknight league, and Major pitchers should only pitch against other "Major designated" teams. All rated pitchers can not pitch below their rating level in the playoffs.**
- **In Weeknight League only - Hit by pitch rule is in effect**
- **In game international tiebreaker rule is in effect after 7 innings during the regular season. In the playoffs we use the tiebreaker rule after 9 innings.**
- The commissioner reserves the right to change the rules or add a rule if I have left a rule out or made a mistake. The commissioner has the right to make any ruling beneficial to the league or that he thinks make the league better or fairer at any time.