



5647 BROAD STREET
GREENDALE, WI 53129
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Director

Men's Softball Rules – 2022

Game Play

1. Ten players constitute a team; however, a team may start with, or end with, at least 9 players. If an injury occurs, the team may continue with eight players - record an out at point where injured player would bat in lineup. Any time that the team drops below eight players, the team is penalized the game, it is ruled a forfeit, (however the forfeit fee will not be imposed).
2. Teams may bat ALL players attending their game. Re-entry rules to batting order will apply. Note – Should a player leave the game due to injury and be unable to bat, their team will not be penalized an out at their spot in the batting order. However, if that player misses an at-bat, they are not able to re-enter the game defensively. Only 10 players play defense.
3. Teams must present a lineup of at least nine players before the start of the game, or will forfeit. There will be a 5-minute grace period prior to such forfeitures; 5 minutes after scheduled game time. The 5 minutes will be deducted from the playing time. Umpire's watch will be official. Umpire has discretion to allow another inning of play if the team that was late is ahead at the end of the regulation time limit. In case of a forfeit, the team will be assessed a \$25.00 fee payable at the Recreation Department prior to next scheduled game. On a forfeit, the umpire will not work the game. *If a team is short of a full roster, roster substitutions from another team may be made pending the approval of both managers and game umpire, umpire has final decision. (Update from Manager's Meeting 4/5/2022)*
4. Thursday leagues will operate with 2 called strikes, or 1 swinging strike. 3 called balls constitute a walk. Balls that hit the mat or home plate will be called a strike.
5. *Courtesy Runner Rule: One player per game may be designated as requiring a courtesy runner. This must be agreed on by both managers and the game umpire before the start of the game. The courtesy runner will be the last player out. Should the designated player suffer an injury requiring them to leave the game, another player may take on the designation. One additional courtesy runner designation may be added mid-game should a player suffer an injury and both managers and umpire agree. (Added at 4/5/2022 Manager's Meeting)*
6. Pitching – Pitch arc restrictions will be 6-12' limit. Pitching distance is 50'.
7. Fielding interference that occurs from other ball field, umpire's opinion can and may award bases.
8. The first named team on the schedule will be the "home" team and will sit on the first base side benches. The Department will schedule all games. The number of games played by each league will be determined by the Park and Recreation Department and based on the number of teams in the league.
9. There will be no infield practice between any games or before the 1st game. No team shall take to the outfield for practice if there is a game still being played on the other diamond. Failure to acknowledge this rule will result in forfeiture of that team's game. No warm ups will be allowed on the sidelines except if past the sideline fence extension. This will be enforced by Field Supervisor.
10. Slaughter Rule – Any team having a 13-run lead at the end of 5 innings or the away team at the end of any other inning, or the home team in the bottom of an inning will be declared the winner. If the home team scores enough runs to enact the slaughter rule in the bottom of the inning, the game will be stopped at that point.
11. Umpires will review ground rules and inspect bats prior to the start of the game with team managers.
12. Base path will be at 65 feet.
13. Batters boxes will not be marked. Batter box area will be in the opinion of the umpire (Check ASA rules for clarification).

14. **Sliding** – the major concern related to the issue of sliding is focused on the dangers of crashing into a fielder (be it the catcher OR any other fielder).
 - a. At NO TIME, may a base runner flagrantly run, block, roll, and/or crash into a fielder. Persons will be penalized to the maximum degree.
PENALTY: Runner declared out, 3 (three) years' suspension.
 - b. We encourage base runners to slide when it is appropriate and not to slide when it isn't!
 - c. Plays at the plate will not require an "automatic slide" situation. HOWEVER...Persons may not make ANY attempt to jar a fielded ball or break-up a play AT ANY BASE. Base runners must slide directly to the base they are advancing to OR AVOID ANY CONTACT BEYOND INCIDENTAL by running "around" (and remain within the required baselines) a fielder attempting a put-out. A runner MAY NOT JUMP or HURDLE to avoid a tag (will be called out).
 - d. FIELDERS (in particular, CATCHERS): remember that you must not OBSTRUCT any base runner. Fielders must stay clear from the base runner UNLESS they are **in possession** of the ball attempting to make a put-out.
15. No new innings will start after the 50-minute time limit except in case of a tie. Umpire's watch will be official.
16. **Extra Innings** - If at the end of the time limit (or 7 innings if completed before the time limit is reached) the score is tied, one additional inning will be played in an attempt to break the tie. If the game remains a tie after the additional inning, the game shall be counted as a tie and 1/2 win and 1/2 loss recorded.
17. It is the responsibility of team managers to "sign-off" for the correctness of the final score. This procedure must take place immediately after the game. Once submitted, SCORE SHEETS WILL STAND (SIGNED OR UNSIGNED). NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.
18. All other rules will follow ASA bylaws.

Equipment

A game ball will be provided by the Department to each team at start of game time. Each team must use their own ball when playing in the outfield. Teams keep their ball at the end of the evening. Thursday league will use Restricted Flight – 2 balls: (.52 core ball/compression composite).

1. **Bats** – All bats must have an aluminum/aluminum alloy barrel. Composite handles are allowed, but barrels must be aluminum/aluminum alloy. All bats must conform with the approved/non-approved bat list published by USA Softball. The official list of USA Softball/ASA approved/non-approved bats is available on the Park & Recreation Website and will serve as the master list. Bats will be stickered early in the season (first 2 weeks). Any **manager** wanting additional bats to be stickered after the first two weeks **MUST** send an email to Joe Osterman (joseph.osterman@greendaleschools.org) at the Park & Rec office one week in advance of preferred use to make arrangements for stickering. **Note** – Managers are in charge of reminding their roster players (and subs) that non-stickered bats are illegal. Bats must be single or double wall with aluminum barrel. Banned, loaded, doctored or altered bats: See listing of bats banned for use in league play. Penalty for use of banned, loaded, doctored or altered bats: First offense-Any player/team caught using an illegal bat will forfeit the game and, the owner of the bat and/or player that used the bat will be suspended from the next two games.; Second offense-Any player/ team caught using an illegal bat will forfeit the game immediately and the player and manager/coach will be suspended for three games (on top of any other suspensions that might be occurring). Per USA Softball/ASA: bats, "shall be free of burs, dents cracks, sharp edges, rattles and show no signs of excessive wear." The umpire will have final authority if any bats are suspected to be non-compliant. **Indistinguishable bats will also be considered banned for league play.**
2. Metal cleats are not allowed. No jewelry is allowed unless taped to the body.

Incident Weather

1. In the event of threatening weather, call the Park and Recreation Department at (414) 423-2803 after 3:30 p.m. to confirm the schedule. Only if games are canceled will there be any reference to softball game status. Managers should also monitor their email for updates to share with team members.
2. All attempts will be made to reschedule rainout games. In case of a rainout, make-up double headers may be scheduled. Teams may be scheduled to play on different nights at the end of the season in order to get any or all rainout games in.
3. If a game is rained out on the last meeting of teams, a time will be scheduled by the Park and Recreation Department at the end of the season if the outcome will have a bearing on the awarding of t-shirts.

4. In case of a rainout, game will be suspended from point of play and continue at a later date. It is the manager's responsibility to make sure umpire-scorekeeper have the right situation written on the score sheet. Whether the game will be made-up to 5 or 7 innings will be up to the discretion of the Department Director and based on whether it is involved in doubleheaders or not.

Rosters / League Fees / Player Cards

1. Adult age will be 18 years of age or a 2022 graduating high school student.
2. A team will not be in a league until the team fee has been submitted. The Department retains the right to place teams in any league. All players' names and fees are due 24 hours prior to the first game that they play in. Failure to do so will cause forfeiture of the first game. All rosters must be turned in 24 hours before the first game. All additions and changes to the roster must be made in writing by the team manager. All rosters will be frozen as of July 15th. (Exceptions would include documentation indicating a job transfer out of the area, a medical issue with a doctor's statement or at the discretion of the Park and Recreation Director.) Maximum of 18 players per team is allowed. A fee of \$10.00 will be assessed for each non-resident player. Teams stay with the manager. Change of manager must be submitted to the Park and Recreation Department in writing.
3. There is no limit as to the number of non-resident players a team may register. Maximum team roster is 18 players. All players must be on the team roster on file at the Park and Recreation Department in order to play. Team roster must be turned in before week 2 games. Any team using an ineligible player (not registered with the team) will forfeit all games the player played in.
4. Ineligible Player Inquiry: If a manager questions a player's eligibility, it must be requested, at the field, to the umpire at game time.
 - ⇒ Umpire notes protest on score sheet.
 - ⇒ Umpire calls player (whose eligibility is under review) to home plate.
 - ⇒ Have player circle their name on the master sign-in roster.
 - ⇒ On the back side of score sheet, have the player
 - print their name with middle initial
 - address
 - city, state, zip
 - home phone _____ work phone _____
 - birthdate
 - provide driver's license and write license number down.
 - ⇒ Manager must follow-up to the Park and Recreation Department per league rules.
5. T-shirts will be awarded individually for 1st place and 2nd place finishes (in end of season tournament) in the 9-10 team leagues (1 per registered player up to 18) and to 1st place team finisher (tournament) in the 5-6 team league.

Player Behavior

1. Any players, for any reason that are ejected from a game, will be automatically suspended from the next played game. If a player is ejected from a game, the umpire, however, has the discretion to determine whether it was a flagrant cause and whether the next game suspension will be enforced. Umpires, managers and players (or player) will be notified of this one game suspension. If for any reason a player is ejected from a game for the 2nd time in a season, he will automatically be suspended from any Greendale Park and Recreation Department leagues for the duration of the season. All decisions will be made by the Park and Recreation Department Director and may be appealed to a hearing committee (consisting of one player, one umpire and one manager) set-up by the Director. The **five reasons for automatic ejection** are swearing, alcoholic beverages, throwing a bat, intentional rough play, or touching an umpire. In the case of maliciously throwing the bat, a player, after due process, will receive an automatic suspension for the remainder of the season and a 1-year (14/15 games) suspension the following year. A player or players will have 48 hours after the League Manager's decision in order to request an appeal hearing.

Miscellaneous

1. Standings will be updated every week and posted on the department website (gpr.greendale.k12.wi.us). Tie breaker for league standings will be the following criteria (in order):
 - a. Head to head
 - b. Runs allowed
 - c. Runs scored
 - d. Coin Toss
2. If for some reason there is no umpire present at the start of game, the two teams must agree to a temporary substitute and begin play. Those games will not be rescheduled and will count in standings. No protests accepted when using substitute umpire selected by teams.
3. The Department, School District or the Village of Greendale, does not provide hospital/medical insurance coverage for people participating in any sponsored activities. Participants are encouraged to obtain their own insurance prior to, and for the duration of, the activity they participate in.
4. All protests must be submitted in written form to the Greendale Park and Recreation Department within 48 hours after scheduled game time. Any disputes over eligibility of players must be brought to the umpire's attention by the manager of the protesting team at the field, and at time of the infraction, and followed up, in writing, to the Park and Recreation Department within 48 hours. No protests will be accepted on umpire judgment calls. The League Manager will review protests and a decision made within a reasonable amount of time and related to the parties involved.
 - a. The Department requires a \$25.00 protest fee accompany the written protest. If the protest is upheld, the \$25.00 will be returned; if the protest is denied, the \$25.00 will be forfeited.
 - b. In order for a protest to be official, notification of intent to protest must be made in accordance with ASA rules and recorded on the score sheet.