



# Adult Softball League Rules

*Schedules are located on Team Sideline website.*

*League Rules can be found on the Team Sideline website under the "Downloads" tab.*

*Team Sideline link is on NLCPD website - [www.teamsideline.com/sites/newlenoxparks/home](http://www.teamsideline.com/sites/newlenoxparks/home)*

**Rules Revised: March 20, 2025**

## General Rules

All games are to be played under ONE Nation Slow-pitch League rules plus the following by-laws. ONE Nation rulebooks can be viewed at [www.onenationslowpitch.com](http://www.onenationslowpitch.com)

1. Defensive players in the infield, cannot line up closer to the batter than the pitcher.
2. The pitch count will start with 1 Ball and 1 Strike. 3 Strikes you're out! 4 Balls you walk!
3. A legal pitch must reach a minimum of 5ft and no higher than 10ft.
4. Captains must initial final score at the end of the game.

## Game Layout

5. Games will be restricted to 60 minutes. No full inning will start after the 60-minute time limit has elapsed. If there is a tie after 60 minutes, one additional inning will be played. During playoffs, the games will be restricted to 90 minutes or 7 innings whichever happens first. During playoffs, the game cannot end in a tie.
6. The standings tie breaker will be as follows:

1) Games Back	5) Average Runs Differential
2) Head-To-Head	6) Total Runs For
3) Head-To-Head Differential	7) Lowest Number of Forfeits
4) Total Runs Against	8) Coin Toss

## Rosters & Line-up Sheet

7. Rosters/waivers must be turned in to the NLCPD staff the night of your first game before you begin playing at the field. No team is eligible to play if your roster is not turned in before your first game. The scorekeeper will have your team's roster each game if additions or subtractions need to be made.
8. Within the Men's Division only, players are not able to be on multiple rosters/lineups within the same night.
9. NO additions/subtractions to the roster during your games. Roster changes may only occur before or after your game. \*After the start of game 6, there will be no roster changes allowed.\* ANY new player MUST sign your team roster/waiver with the staff at the field in order to be eligible to play.
10. The NLCPD official line-up/waiver sheet must be turned in to the scorekeeper at least 5 minutes before your game time, each week. Each player must print and sign their name on the line-up/waiver sheet. Write legibly and make sure your team name is on the paper.
11. Roster checks must be called by an eligible player any time after the first pitch of the game and before the last pitch of the game. All players must carry proper identification with them at all games. If a team calls for a roster check, all players must provide a current picture ID to the scorekeeper. If an ineligible player is found or if a player cannot provide correct identification, that team must forfeit the game. If both teams are found with an ineligible player, then it is a double forfeit. Names will be compared to the

ROSTER and not the line-up sheet. This game will not be made up under any circumstances. Umpires and Park District Staff also reserve the right to call for a roster check at any time if they deem necessary.

12. Team rosters will be limited to twenty (20) players. Medical replacements on the roster will be accepted only when your roster drops below 17 players. Only participants on the roster will be allowed on the playing field or in the team dugout during the game.
13. A person must be eighteen years of age or older by the start of the league to participate. Only amateur players will be eligible to take part in Park District leagues. A person playing professionally loses his/her eligibility in that sport during the time he/she is a member of a professional team. During the school year, any individual playing for a high school or college team is ineligible to play in a Park District league.

### **Min. & Max Number of Players**

14. Teams may start or end the game with 9 players and the 10<sup>th</sup> batter in the lineup will be declared an out. Teams with less than 9 players must forfeit the game. Teams can only have a maximum of 12 batters in the lineup.
15. If a team bats with 11 or 12 and a player gets injured, that player is considered an out unless a substitution is made. The substitution must be a player that is not on the line-up sheet.

### **Homeruns**

16. Teams are only allowed 3 homeruns (ball hit over the fence) per game. Every homerun after that will be considered an out. It will be a dead ball and all runners must return to the base they were at before the pitch.
17. The ONE Nation, Designated Home Run Hitter Rule will not be used within this league.

### **Courtesy Runner**

18. Any player may call for a courtesy runner once on base and the runner can be any player on the roster. Only one per inning is allowed. If the courtesy runner's spot comes up in the batting order while they are on base, they will be an automatic out. For co-ed games it must be male for a male or female for a female.
19. Pitcher Courtesy Runner: A courtesy runner may be entered for a pitcher on base (in addition to the standard Courtesy Runner rule 18 above). The Pitcher will be considered the last defensive player who threw a pitch the previous inning. The courtesy runner does not have to enter immediately after the pitcher gets on base and at no point is the courtesy runner mandatory. The pitcher may be a courtesy runner for another base runner. If a courtesy runner is used for the pitcher, it MAY be the same runner that was used as the standard courtesy runner.

### **Slaughter Rule**

20. Any game in which the home team leads by 10 or more runs after four and a half complete innings, or the visitor's lead by 10 or more runs after 5 complete innings, the game shall be declared complete. This rule is in effect at any point after 5 innings. Any game in which the home team leads by 15 or more runs after three and a half innings, or the visitor's lead by 15 or more runs after 4 complete innings, the game shall be declared complete. Any game in which the home team leads by 20 or more runs after two and a half complete innings, or the visitor's lead by 20 or more runs after 3 complete innings, the game shall be declared complete.

## Co-ed Specific

21. 5 Female & 5 Male players must be in the lineup at all times (6 and 6 if Additional Hitter is used). If a team only has 9 players it can be a ratio of 4:5 or 5:4 males/females players in the lineup. A 10<sup>th</sup> player may be added in the 10<sup>th</sup> position of the lineup at any time before the end of the game but that player must make the gender even. Male and Female players must alternate in the batting order.
22. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base. The next female in the batting order will always bat with less than 2 outs. If there are two outs, she then will have a choice to bat or walk.

## Scorekeeper

23. The Park District will provide an official scorer for each game. The Park District staff score will be the official record of the game. If for some reason there is no scorekeeper, both the umpires and both teams will keep official score.

## Playoffs

24. There will be a single elimination tournament at the end of the season.
25. For all tournament/playoff games, the higher seeded team will be considered the Home team.

## Field Conditions

26. Umpires have the final say in any decisions regarding the field conditions, once play has begun.
27. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation, if four or more innings have been played, or the top of the fourth inning has been completed and the home team is ahead. If the game does not reach this point, it will resume at the beginning of the most recent inning or half inning with the current time and score. Outs, pitch count and base runners will be cleared. All of this will be recorded by the Scorekeeper. There is absolutely zero tolerance taken if an argument is made with the game situation!

## Make-up Games

28. Make-up games may be played on a different night than your team is registered for. You will need to field a team for the make-up game or your team will forfeit. Make sure you check the schedule regularly for updates.

## Equipment

29. The umpire has the final say in any equipment legality. An updated legal bat list can be accessed at [www.onenationslowpitch.com](http://www.onenationslowpitch.com) in the ONE Nation Rulebook under the "Equipment" section.
  - The bat must have a USSSA or ONE Nation stamp and the BPF of 1.20.
30. The park district staff will provide one 12" game ball at the start of each game.
31. No steal-cleated shoes are allowed.

## Forfeits

32. A forfeit will result in a final score of 7-0.
33. Teams with less than 9 players must forfeit the game.
34. There will be a 10-minute grace period for the first game only. After that there will be a 5-minute grace period. If you do not have enough players after the grace period it is an automatic forfeit no matter where the player is. MAKE SURE YOUR PLAYERS GET TO THE FIELD ON TIME.

35. Once a team has reached the max number of forfeited games, they will be taken off the current schedule. That team will be out of the playoffs, and no refund will be given.

- Summer: 3 Forfeits
- Fall: 2 Forfeits

### **Team Conduct**

36. Team Managers/Captains are responsible for the welfare and conduct of their team. All league business will be directed to him/her.
37. There will be no deliberate charging. A player called out for charging will be ejected from the game and may be suspended from further play.
38. Protests will NOT be considered.
39. Misconduct, profanity, verbal abuse, and constant badgering of umpires will not be tolerated. The individual(s) will be ejected and may lead to further suspension.
40. No Alcohol is allowed at Lion's Den Park (including parking lots). Smoking on the field is prohibited. If you are caught drinking at the field you will be asked to leave the field. If the entire team is caught drinking then you will forfeit the game and the team will be asked to leave the field.
41. The threatening of any official will result in an automatic removal from all leagues for the season. Any player or coach guilty of physically striking an official will be immediately suspended for the season and the team put on probation with possible suspension. Any player ejected from a game subjects themselves to further suspension based on severity of the infraction. Length of suspension is dependent on the severity of the infraction and is determined by the recreation office.