

Saratoga Springs Recreation

Adult Softball Rules



Eligibility:

- An eligible player is defined as a player who is 16 years of age, and who is officially registered on the team roster and has signed all applicable waivers.
- Captains are responsible to have their players read and understand the “League Rules” and the “Code of Conduct.” Your team will be held accountable for the information contained therein.

Rosters:

- All players must be registered before they are able to play and sign all applicable waivers*
- Additions must be approved by the Recreation Coordinator and the player must be approved to be added to the roster with all appropriate waivers signed before allowed to play.*
- Using an illegal player will result in a forfeit (can be reported by the Recreation department or opposing team to scorekeeper). If an unregistered player plays under the name of another player on the roster, both the registered player and the unregistered player become ineligible to participate for the remainder of the season.
- A player must play in 3 games in order to play in the post season tournament.
- Minimum roster- 10 Maximum roster-25 (maximum awards per team 15)

Uniforms:

- Each team must have jerseys with legible numbers on the back.
 - Cold weather clothes must be worn under the team shirt when batting/running so number is visible.
- Each player should have their own number, no duplicate numbers.
- **NO METAL CLEATS PERMITTED!!**

Equipment:

- We will follow NSA guidelines for bats and balls.
 - Kids and non-players are not allowed in dugout
- The bat must have the NSA 2012 logo and be manufactured by a bat company that is listed on the Approved Bat Company list found on the NSA website.
- The men will use 12 inch softballs, women will use 11 inch softballs

Game rules:

- 3 balls, 2 strikes. No courtesy foul will be given. (One strike, then fair only)*
- Teams will play a maximum of 10 players on defense and a minimum of 8.
- Teams can have a maximum of 12 players on their batting lineup.
 - An out will be assessed for less than 8 players at the end of the batting lineup. (7 players= auto out)
 - Fewer than 7 players at any time during the game will result in a forfeit (Six or less players at any time during the game will result in a forfeit)

- A pitch must have a legal arc minimum of 6' from the ground and shall not exceed 10' at its highest. Pitching distance is 53'. Pitcher must have one foot on rubber at the time of the release of the pitch. If a pitcher fakes, or is not in contact with the rubber it will be a "Dead ball" and the pitch will be determined a ball.
- Home run rule: Each team will be allowed 3 home runs per game. Any home run after the 3rd will be counted as an out. Batter can "hit and sit".*
 - NOTE: The team at bat (or fans) is responsible for their home-run and foul balls. There will be extra on hand, but if they are all hit our and not retrieved, there will be a delay in game so please try to help to retrieve them.
 - Game may be delayed until HR balls have been returned
- Courtesy runners: One courtesy runner per team per inning for the batter only. Courtesy runner does not have to be the last out in that inning or previous inning. The courtesy runner must occupy the base, once time has been called, prior to the next pitch. If their turn to bat coincides with being on base, the at-bat will be an out.
 - In COED you can have one runner per inning per gender, runner gender must be the same, but doesn't have to be the same runner.

Game time:

- A team captain must provide a line-up with first and last names (no nicknames, please) and numbers of players to the scorekeeper ten minutes prior to game time. (keep a copy for yourself too)
 - This will be used to track attendance at games for tournament eligibility
- Players must sign roster/Code of Conduct/Waiver prior to playing first game
- 55 minute time limit or 7 innings, whichever comes first. No new inning may be started after 50 minutes from game time.*
- Run Rule: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, 10 after 5 innings. There is no flip-flop rule. Extra-inning games will be governed by an international tie breaker.
- Music needs to be "dugout volume" and not explicit- we are at a public park

Forfeits:

- Forfeit time will be 10 minutes after scheduled game time (6:00 game will be given 15 minutes)
- Forfeited games will not be officiated.
- Forfeits will not be tolerated. 1st forfeit: pay \$25 fee. 2nd forfeit: pay \$25 fee and be dropped from post season tournament. 3rd forfeit: dropped from league with no refund given.

Rainouts:

- The postponement of games will not be considered. All games must be played as scheduled.
- If a game is cancelled due to weather, the Recreation Department will try to make it up as soon as possible
 - Make up and tournament games may be played on a different night than regularly scheduled game nights.
- Weather Policy: See Weather Policy page*

- Weather hotline will be updated at 4pm on regular workdays. 801-766-6509

Protests:

- All protests must be registered with the site supervisor prior to the conclusion of the game.
- To be considered further, the protesting team must submit a written protest to the Recreation Office, no later than the close of business the next working day following the protested game.
 - The written protest must include the names of the teams and players involved, the name(s) of the officials, describe the situation, and cite the rule on which the protest is based. **Protests may not be made on judgment calls!**
- A \$25.00 fee must accompany the written protest. The fee will be refunded if protest is upheld.
- Teams involved in the protest will be notified of the protest when the written protest is received by the Recreation office.
- If the protest is upheld, protested play will be scheduled by the Recreation office based on field/staffing availability.
- Protested game will resume at the point of the protested play
 - Game will be reset to original line-ups, pitch count, score, baserunners, etc.

Ejections:

- Players can be ejected by Recreation staff or Umpires
 - If a player is ejected from the game, the team captain will also be removed from the game
 - Ejected players are suspended for a minimum of one game
 - Other Code of Conduct violations are a two game minimum suspension

Tournament:

A Consolation tournament will be played at the end of the regular season (subject to change), teams will be guaranteed two tournament games. To be eligible for tournament play, players must be on the roster and have played in three (3) regular season games.

- Tournament ranking will be determined by regular season win and loss record
- Tie-breakers will be used in this order:
 - Head to head
 - Record vs. higher seed
 - Good ol' fashioned coin toss
- Home team will be the higher seeded team
- All regular season rules apply
- Use of illegal player(s) will result in forfeit

Saratoga Springs Recreation Adult Softball rules- Additional Coed Specific Rules



- Co-Ed teams consist of five (5) women and five (5) men. If a team only has eight or nine players, there can be any number of male to female ratio as long as no more than five men are playing at a time. However an automatic out will be applied in the spot of a missing female. Teams must bat their line-up alternating men and women, taking outs where necessary. No man can bat back to back without an out in between. (Must have minimum of 3 males) Females can bat back-to-back

Offense:

- Team batting orders must alternate male and female at all times. When a male batter receives base-on balls or is intentionally walked, he will be awarded second base automatically. The next female batter has to bat.
 - Exception: If there are two out the on-deck female batter has the option to walk or bat.

Defense:

- Five males and five females must play defense at all times. There must be two of each sex in the outfield and infield positions.
 - When less than five men/women are playing, fielding may be altered. (E.g. Two males and one female in the outfield or two female, one male in the infield).
 - There must always be one male at pitcher/catcher, one of each gender in the infield and one of each gender in the outfield. If women outnumber men on roster/line-up, more women can be in the field/batting back-to-back.*

Scoring Plate:

- A scoring plate will be behind main home plate. This is ALWAYS to be used by the baserunner when running. The defensive player must ALWAYS use home plate.
- A “commitment” line will be marked in foul territory half way between 3rd base and home plate. Once a baserunner crosses this commitment line, they are committed to running home plate (the scoring plate). If they return to 3rd base after they cross the commitment line, they are not safe at that base.
- All plays at home plate will be ruled as automatic force plays. Once the offensive runner crosses the commitment line, they must touch the scoring plate before the defensive player catches the ball and touches the regular home plate to score a run. If the defensive player catches the ball and touches the regular home plate before the offensive runner has touched the scoring plate, the runner is out.
- The “scoring plate” rule is intended to provide safety for all players, male and female. It is not intended to cause confusion. Team Captains, it is your responsibility to ensure that all of your players know and understand this Coed rule (as well as all rules) and are familiar with it. Base

coaches will be very helpful to help their players know when to run and when to stay and not cross the commitment line.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

The following "Player Code of Conduct" has been adopted by the Recreation Department. These rules of conduct will be strictly enforced during the coming season.

It is the captains' responsibility to ensure all of his players know and adhere to these rules.

All Code of Conduct rules are enforced before, during and after the game.

1. **Physical & Verbal Abuse (Fighting) NO PLAYER SHALL:** At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, threaten or be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor or in retaliation upon any official, player, or spectator anywhere on the premises. Officials are required to immediately suspend the player from further play and report such player to the Recreation Coordinator. Such player shall remain suspended until his case has been considered.

Minimum Penalty: Suspension from two (2) games and placed on probation for the rest of the season.

Maximum Penalty: Lifetime suspension and/or assault charges filed.

2. **NO PLAYER SHALL:** Be guilty of verbally abusive behavior, using profanity or swearing before, during, or after a game. For use of the "F" word, you will be given one warning, if it is said again; you will be ejected from the game.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from two (2) games and probation for the remainder of the season.

1. No player should ever throw a bat in anger towards the dugout or another player. If caught you will be given one warning. If it is done again, you will be ejected from the game.

Drugs/Alcohol:

1. Players are prohibited from the use of drugs or alcohol anywhere inside Patriot Park or any playing area. Players who in the opinion of the officials, Site Supervisor, or Recreation Coordinator appear to have been drinking alcohol or taking drugs, shall be removed from the game and premises.

Final Authority:

1. Any game may be stopped at any time by the officials, Site Supervisor, Recreation Coordinator, or Program Management staff at their discretion.

2. The Recreation staff has final authority over all disputes!

All Code of Conduct rules are enforced before, during, and after the game.

City of Saratoga Springs Weather Policy



SARATOGA
SPRINGS
RECREATION

Rain-outs are called when the condition of the playing fields become unplayable or dangerous and not just necessarily because of inclement weather. Weather from a previous day can cause fields to be unplayable.

When inclement weather is present but the playing surfaces are still playable and not dangerous, games will be played. It is not unreasonable to expect games to be played during rain, snow, or cold as long as the playing conditions are safe for that sport. Games will be delayed or cancelled when lightning is within 10 miles.

The rain-out hotline will be updated no later than one hour prior to the start of the first game that day. The recreation sports staff will try to update the hotline as soon as bad weather is present even if games have not been cancelled.

Any decision after games have started will be made at the field, and patrons will need to go to the field to learn of any changes. It is possible to have a game rain out one hour, and then the fields become playable for the next hour. Games can also be cancelled after they start if conditions get worse.

3 Different Messages the rain-out hotline will say:

1. If the weather is good and there appears to be no chance of games being cancelled:
 - a. The hotline will have a message that says, "All games today will be played as scheduled. We only update this message when cancelling games becomes a possibility.
2. If the weather is questionable with the possibility of games being cancelled:
 - a. The hotline will have a message that says, "Today is (today's date). At this time all games today will be played as scheduled. If fields become unplayable between now and game time we will update this hotline. When game time arrives the decision to cancel will be made at the field.
3. If the games are cancelled due to the unplayable conditions:
 - a. The hotline will have a message that says, "Today is (today's date). All games today are cancelled due to the unplayable conditions. You will be notified as to when the game will be rescheduled.

You will be informed of cancelations in the following ways:

1. The rain-out hotline will be updated.
2. Your coach will be emailed so they can in turn inform you.
3. In some situations the coach will be called so that they can call you.
4. At the field Site Supervisors will inform coaches that the games are being called.

Rain-Out Hotline (801) 766-6509