

**Van Meter Recreation
Co-Ed 16" Softball Rules
2015**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. League games are played at the Van Meter Recreation Complex. Note the field number and day for each of your games as they may vary throughout the season.
- B. Entry fees will not be refunded once league scheduling is completed. Refunds prior to the season will be considered upon request and will not be guaranteed.
- C. The Parks and Recreation Department, League Officials, and its agents are not responsible for any injury, accident, or loss incurred by a player(s) or spectators as a result of this program. Individuals are encouraged to have personal health/accident insurance to cover injuries.
- D. Teams will be scheduled to umpire games in which they are not playing throughout the season. It is the responsibility of the team to provide two umpires for the game in which they are scheduled. Missing a game as the officiating team will result in a \$25.00 fine to the team, which must be paid before their next scheduled game to avoid being suspended.

II. FEES & ROSTERS

- A. Entrance fee for the 2015 season is \$300.00 per team.
- B. Team Rosters are limited to 20 players.
- C. LEAGUE FEES & ROSTERS ARE DUE BY THE FIRST GAME. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- D. League play will begin on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.
- E. No roster changes may be made after Tuesday, September 1, 2015.
- F. When a team has a second forfeit, a forfeit fee of \$25.00 must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Coordinator before the forfeited teams next scheduled game. If for any reason this fee is not submitted by the team's next scheduled game, the team in question will be placed on suspension until fee is paid in full.

III. PLAYING FIELD

- A. Pitcher's mound: 40 feet from home plate.
- B. Bases: 60 feet apart
- C. Dugout: All players, except the base coaches, batter and the on-deck player, must remain in the fenced-in area. All equipment must be kept in the dugout as well.

IV. THE GAME

- A. Scheduled games will be played at 5:30pm on Tuesday and/or Thursday evenings.
- B. Make-up games or schedule changes may be made by the Park and Recreation Coordinator. Managers will be notified of the make-ups or changes at least five days in advance. Managers will NOT be allowed to protest a game assignment.
- C. The Park WILL NOT make a schedule change to accommodate other league commitments.
- D. A forfeit will be declared by the Parks and Recreation Coordinator if either team cannot field eight players within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time.
- E. Each team must start and finish with at least eight players. (4 women and 4 men)
- F. Every batter will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count when going up to bat.
- G. A full game will consist of 7 innings.
- H. 4 ½ innings must be played to make the game official.
- I. Mercy Rule: 20 after 3 (2 ½), 15 after 4 (3 ½), and 10 after 5 (4 ½) innings.

- J. Ten players is considered a full team. Batting order shall alternate between sexes, with the exception of occasions when females or males bat back-to-back when there are only nine players.
- K. A team may begin the game with a minimum of eight (8) players-four (4) men and four (4) women. If a team has nine (9) players, a combination of five (5) women and four (4) men, or five (5) men and (4) women must be used.
- L. A team starting a game with (8) eight players will not be charged automatic outs in the 9th and 10th positions in the batting order. If a team starts the game with nine (9) players an automatic out will be given in the 10th position. Once a game begins, automatic outs will be assessed for missing players in the batting order (ejected players will not cause a forfeit unless he or she takes the team below eight players and blood rule players will not be automatic out.) If a team chooses to bat more than ten (10) players as per local rules, they must have an even number of males and females to do so.
- M. If extra players are used, teams must use both one (1) male and one (1) female (for total of twelve players.) Defensive teams may use more women than men, but not more men than women according to local rules.
- N. When three balls have been called by the umpire, the ball is dead and a walk to a male batter will result in a two base award (exception: if a male batter gets a strike-swinging or taking, the male will only get one base.) The next batter (a female) will bat. A female drawing a walk will be awarded one base.
- O. Substitution must be woman-for-woman or man-for-man basis.
- P. Sliding is allowed, but not required. Metal spikes may not be worn. Collisions must be avoided by the runner when a fielder is making a legitimate play on the ball, either by sliding or surrendering their out by leaving the baseline. No defensive player may intentionally interfere with a baserunner without possessing or making a legitimate play on the ball.
- Q. The Pitch: The pitcher must present the ball with one or both feet on the mound. The pitch shall be released at moderate speed, which shall be determined by the umpire. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least 6 feet and shall not reach a height of more than 12 feet above the ground. The pitcher must keep at least one foot on the mound during the pitch. An illegal pitch will be called in the air.
- R. Pick-off Rule: A base-runner shall not be permitted to lead off at any time or steal at any time.
- S. Foul Ball Rule: The first foul ball after the second strike will make the batter out and the ball dead. Runners may not advance (even if the ball is caught.)
- T. If the ball is hit in fair territory and goes over the fence, it is a homerun. Teams will be limited to three homeruns per game. All subsequent homeruns will be recorded as an out. A team may elect to take an out for one of their first three homeruns to “save” a homerun for later in the game.
- U. Infield-fly Rule: If a fly ball is in play in the infield the umpire may declare “Infield Fly” and the batter will be out whether the ball is caught or not. This rule only applies when there are fewer than two outs and there is a force out at 3rd base (ex. Runners on first and second, bases loaded)
- V. Rain Outs: The phone number in case of rain outs is (515) 996-4353. Games will not be called before 4:30 p.m. Captains, it is your responsibility to inform your team of the number and information.

V. CONDUCT

- A. All players will abide by the above rules and those stated in the ASA Softball Rulebook.

- B. Only the manager or captain will be allowed to discuss a play or rules with the umpire.
- C. An individual or team, not ejected from a game, but reported by the League Official for unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after a game will receive a written reprimand from the Parks and Recreation Coordinator. If a second complaint is received, the individual or team will receive further disciplinary action.
- D. Any player who argues with the umpire to a point of aggravation will be ejected from the game. Any player ejected from a game must then sit out the next game his/her team plays.
- E. Two separate ejections will suspend the player from the league for the remainder of the season.
- F. Any manager or player who uses foul language towards an umpire, league supervisor, park representative or another player, or physically threatens an umpire, league supervisor, park representative or another player, will be ejected from the game. The ejected player must sit out the next game his/her team plays.
- G. A manager or player who physically grabs an official (umpire, league supervisor, park representative, etc.) will be suspended for the remainder of the season or tournament in which he is participating plus all sports activities for one calendar year, depending on the severity of the incident, the individual could be placed on permanent probation. If involved in another similar incident, the player will be permanently suspended from all sports activities.
- H. Any team which is involved in a "team" (most or all of the team members involved) fight will forfeit that game and be eliminated from the remainder of the season and the next.
- I. A player, who intentionally throws a bat (before, during or after a game) on the ground, at the fence, over the fence into the dugout, will be ejected from the game.
- J. Slide Rule: When the defensive player has the ball and is waiting for the runner and the runner remains on his feet and deliberately, with great force, crashes into the defensive player, the runner is to be declared out; the runner is out, the ball is dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. NOTE: If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected.
- K. There is NO SMOKING on the field at any time.

VI. PROTESTS

- A. No protest of an umpire's decision will be considered on the claim that the umpire was incorrect in his decision as to whether a ball was fair or foul, a base runner was safe or out, a pitched ball was a strike or ball or any other play involving the accuracy or judgment.
- B. In case of a disputed play or call during the game, the umpire and league supervisor must be notified by the team captain before the next pitch that the game is being played under protest. In order to file a protest, a \$25.00 Protest Fee along with the protest, in writing, must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Coordinator within 24 hours of the game.

VII. FORFEITS

- A. A decision to declare a forfeit will be made by the league supervisor based upon rule IV, D. When the game is declared a forfeit, both managers will be notified at once. The official score of the game that is forfeited is 7-0 in favor of the team that does not forfeit.
- B. A team that forfeits three or more games will be barred from the league next season. No team with more than five rostered players from the disqualified team will be allowed in the league next season.

- C. A team that forfeits three or more games will be allowed to finish the remaining season but will be ineligible for playoff competition.

VIII. EQUIPMENT

- A. Ball: Official 16" Softball.
- B. Bat: Official bats only! Bats shall not exceed 34 inches and shall not be more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter at its largest part of the barrel and its weight shall not exceed 38 ounces. The bat shall have a safety grip or tape at least 10 inches long, but less than 15 inches long. The bat can be hard wood or aluminum and must be marked with the manufacture's stamp of "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL." If the stamp is worn off it will be up to the umpire to decide if the bat is legal.
- C. Metal spikes are prohibited. Shoes must be worn by all players.

IX. LEAGUE PAIRINGS

- A. The league will consist of eight (8) teams.
- B. Each team will play each other once, pending registration.
- C. The top four (4) teams make the playoffs.

X. TIEBREAKER

- A. Head to head competition of games played.
- B. If head to head games are tied, it will be decided by run differential between the tied teams.
- C. Overall point differential
- D. Coin flip.
- E. There is NO mercy rule in the Championship Game.

XI. AWARDS

- A. League 1st Place - \$200.00
- B. League 2nd Place - \$100.00
- C. Playoff 1st Place - \$200.00
- D. Playoff 2nd Place - \$100.00