



Adult Slow Pitch Softball Rules
Elyria Parks and Recreation
Softball Rain-out Hotline: 440-322-7696

Revised 2/10/2023

The Elyria Parks and Recreation Department will follow the One Nation Slow-pitch By-laws governing all play except as noted in these rules.

General Park Rules

- A. League rules and organizations will be determined by the Elyria Parks and Recreation Department.
- B. The Elyria Parks and Recreation Department will make the final decision concerning all requests.
- C. Schedules
Games will be scheduled at West Park Softball Fields. Game times will be 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:30 pm. **Grace period of 10 minutes for the FIRST game ONLY. Makeup games will be attempted to be made-up. If possible, they will be offered on the same day as the league. However sometimes this is not possible.**
- D. Rain out information
Games will be called at the fields or earlier if possible. Call the rain out hotline for more information. Emails will be sent out to managers in the case of a rainout and hotline will be updated.
- E. Pets
All pets need to be on a leash. There should be no pets on the field or in the dugout. Umpires or parks and recreation staff may ask for any pets to leave the facility if they become a distraction or become dangerous in anyway.
- F. Dugouts
Only managers, players, and coaches are permitted in the dugout. **No children should be in the dugout or on the playing field.** All players must remain inside the dugout. After one warning is issued, the umpire is authorized to forfeit the game if the team refuses to co-operate.
- G. Smoking & Alcohol
Smoking of any kind is not permitted in the dugout area. Additionally, alcohol is prohibited at West Softball Complex which includes parking lots, playing fields, bathrooms, dugouts, and warm-up areas. Any team that is dismissed from play due to being under the influence of drugs or alcohol could be pulled from the league without refund and this determination will be made by the Elyria Parks and Recreation department and its representatives.
- H. Special Rules
 1. There are NO forfeit fees, but if you forfeit a game your team is responsible for paying the umpire fees for BOTH teams. You must pay all umpire fees prior to your



next scheduled game.

2. Any exposed jewelry such as wristwatches, bracelets, any type of earrings, neck chains, or any other item judged dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry and if worn should be taped down to the body. If asked to remove other jewelry and players refuse they may be ejected from the game.
3. Any player hitting a ball over the fence for a homerun does not have to run the bases. All base runners will advance to home plate automatically.
4. Players and managers may only be affiliated with one team per league.
5. All players are reminded they assume all responsibility for injuries they receive.
6. The Elyria Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items. Players should remember to remove all personal items from the dugout upon completion of the game.
7. Keep our fields and our facility clean and make sure the dugout, field, parking lot, and facility is clean after your team and bystanders were using the facility.

I. Warm-up

There will be no warm-up in the infield or outfield before or during games. Warm-ups during the game between innings are not permitted in order to ensure that all seven innings are played. Balls are not to be hit into the fence. The pitcher will be given three-warm up pitches before each half inning. After the batter is retired or play has ceased the ball must be returned to the pitcher.

J. Line-up

Line-ups must be submitted 10 minutes before the game. Inform the umpire of all substitutions before entering the game. A line-up card will be placed in the fence by the umpire. **All teams must have at least nine players to start and complete a game.**



Playing Rules

A. Eligibility

Men's and Co-Ed Leagues all players must be 18 years of age or older to participate. It is the managers responsibility to assure compliance with the Ohio's high school eligibility requirements for high school sports.

B. Sanction

All teams, leagues, umpires, and directors will be sanctioned with ONE NATION. ONE NATION rules will govern all play unless otherwise stated in these rules.

C. Umpire

Umpires will be in charge of the game at all times. It is the responsibility of each manager to advise their players of the ground rules before the beginning of the game. Umpire fees should be given directly to the umpire before the start of the game.

D. Metal Cleats

Metal Cleats are strictly prohibited for all Adult Softball Leagues. Any player entering the playing field with metal cleats will be asked to change his shoes. If he refuses, he will be ejected from the game.

E. Softballs & Scorebook

One new softball per team per game is provided for each game. If the ball goes out of play, it is the offensive team responsibility to throw in another ball and retrieve the ball hit out of play. The team that hits a home run must retrieve the ball or provide an official softball as a backup ball. Each team will receive a scorebook. One person from each team will keep score for their teams. They should verify the score after each half inning. When there is a discrepancy in the score. which cannot be corrected by the umpire, the home team scorebook will be official. Results for each half inning will be official and irreversible when the first pitch, legal or illegal is made in the next half inning.

F. Umpire Fees

Umpire fees are \$35.00 for regular season games and include one umpire and a new game ball. During the end of the year tournament and all playoff games the umpire fee will increase and includes 2 umpires and a new game ball.

G. Base Running

- a. It is required that runners get out of the way while going into a base instead of attempting to jar a ball loose or colliding with the defensive player. If the defensive player clearly has the ball, is waiting for the runner, and the runner intentionally runs into or crashes into the defensive player, the runner is declared out. The offender is ejected, the ball is dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. This rule is subject to the interpretation by the umpires. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SLIDING AT HOME PLATE. If a player slides into the safety plate, they are out.



H. Batters

All batters in men's, women's, or coed leagues will come to the plate with a one (1) ball and one

(1) strike count on them. If a foul ball is hit with two strikes, the ball is dead and the batter is out. Runners may not advance if the foul ball is caught with two strikes. The pitching arc is 5"-10" ft from the ground. Extra hitters are as follows: two extra hitters may be utilized in the lineup. These two players need to be on the official line up at the beginning of the game. Extra hitters may be substituted in the field at any time and at any position.

I. Run Rules

- a. 15 Runs after 4 innings.
- b. 10 Runs after 5 innings.

K. Rosters

- a. All rosters will be limited to 20 players. Once a player has been added to the roster they cannot be removed. A player can be on one roster per league. If a player is on more than one roster in the same league that team will forfeit any games that player participated in.
- b. Rosters are due prior to the first regular season game. Rosters can be given to EPRD representative on the first night of games.
- c. Rosters will be kept on file. Roster changes can be made by calling the EPRD office or emailing the Recreation Supervisor.
- d. Rosters are FROZEN (no changes allowed) after the third week of play. Or when 20 names appear. Changes after this date may only be made due to illness or injury.
- e. It is the responsibility of the manager to make sure that the roster is properly filled out and all information is accurate.
- f. Any person listed incorrectly on the roster will cause the team to forfeit the game or games the ineligible player participated in and may result in suspension of the manager or player.

L. Time Limit/ Length of Game

The scheduled length of any game is seven (7) innings or sixty (60) minute time limit and umpires will watch the official time. No warm-ups between innings and games are permitted to ensure that a full seven innings may be played. No new inning may start after the time limit has expired. An inning is considered to be over and a new inning has started when the last out is recorded. If the time limit has expired in the middle of an inning, the inning must be completed. If the time limit expires during the home teams at bat and they are winning the game, then the game is over. Games suspended in the middle of an inning will revert back to the last completed inning. No new inning will be started after midnight- any inning in progress may be completed. In case of rain or other inclement weather at least five innings must be played for the game to be official. Games may not end in a tie.

**** The Elyria Parks and Recreation Department will reschedule games that are cancelled as fields become available and if time allows. ****



M. Courtesy Runners

1. Teams may use a courtesy runner every inning and the courtesy runner may be anyone on the roster.
2. Courtesy runners may be used unlimited times for one player per inning.
3. If the courtesy runner is on base and comes to bat, an out will be taken for that spot in order.
4. There will be no substitution for a courtesy runner.

N. Homerun Limits and DHH

We will utilize a Designated Homerun Hitter (DHH). All teams may have one designated homerun hitter that, without penalty may hit a homerun every time at bat. Teams must designate this homerun hitter prior to the start of the game, or there will not be a DHH for that team. If the DHH is walked, whether intentional or not, the next person to hit a homerun may do so without penalty, until the DHH spot comes back up in the line-up. All home runs after the allowed home runs are inning ending outs in all leagues.

D Leagues – 1 DHH + Two homeruns per team

C Leagues – 1 DHH + Four Homeruns per team

B Leagues – 1 DHH + Six homeruns per team

O. Coed Rules

1. The batting order MUST alternate as male/female unless two (2) females bat back- to-back due to the shorthanded rule
2. Lineups -Must have 4 females minimum

9 players

Must have four (4) females
Five (5) males and four (4) females= 1 automatic out
Four (4) males and five (5) females= No penalty

10 players

Must have four (4) females
Six (6) males and four (4) females= 2 automatic outs
Five (5) males and five (5) females= No penalty
Four (4) males and six (6) females= No penalty

11 Players

Must have five (5) females
Six (6) males and five (5) females= 1 automatic out
Five (5) males and six (6) females= No penalty



12 Players

Must have five (5) females

Seven (7) males and five (5) females= 2 automatic
outs Six (6) males and six (6) females= No penalty

Five (5) males and seven (7) females= No penalty

*You cannot play with 11 or 12 players unless you have 5 females!

- 3) You must have four (4) female players playing defense at all times.
- 4) Outfielders may not be on the infield surface. Infielders may start on the outfield grass.
- 5) Each team must have in the field
 - 10 fielders
 - 1 male/ 1 female pitcher/ catcher combination
 - 2 males and 2 females in the infield
 - 2 males and 2 females in the outfield
- 6) Everyone must bat in the lineup
- 7) The courtesy runner may be used; however, a male must run for a male and a female for a female. You will get one runner, per gender, per inning.
- 8) Female batters will only walk when the male batter walks when there are two outs. If there are less than two outs, the female batter must bat.

P. Pitching

1. The pitcher may pitch from the pitching plate or from the pitching area - an area the width of the plate and up to six (6) feet behind the pitcher's plate
2. Pitching Arc is 5-10' from the ground
3. No Fake Pumping allowed
4. Pitch must be underhand
5. No Excessive Speed on a pitch
6. No pitch may go between your legs or behind the back



Team Rules

A. Website

Our website is <https://www.cityofelyria.org/department/parks-and-recreation/>
Updated standings, rules, and information will be posted here.

B. Schedules/Standings

Managers are responsible for attaining the schedule. Furthermore, managers are responsible to check their schedule for changes following any rain out or cancellation. For schedules and updated standings are listed on our website and emailed to managers.

C. Uniforms

Matching team shirts are highly recommended in all leagues, but not required.

D. Game Times

Managers are responsible for having their team ready to play at the scheduled game time.

A ten

(10) minute grace period will be given for the first game on each diamond for that day.

The game will officially begin when the umpire calls the managers out for the ground rules. Umpires should announce time before the start of the game and before the start of each inning.

E. Player Eligibility

a. If there's a question of a players' eligibility, the player must have identification with them and show the umpire. The umpire will make note of the player's name on the scorecard and roster will be checked the following morning. If player is ineligible then the game will be forfeited.

b. In a case where ineligible players are used; the penalty will be:
The illegal player may become ineligible to participate in the Elyria Parks and Recreation Department Adult Slow-pitch Softball Program for the remainder of the season. This will include all remaining season and post season games. All games participated in by the illegal player shall be forfeited.

F. Protesting Rules

The Elyria Parks and Recreation Department or its representative will decide all protests concerning league matters and will have the final decision. All protests must be submitted in writing accompanied by a \$50.00 protest fee and submitted to the Elyria Parks and Recreation Department (131 court street suite 103) by 4:00 pm after the completion of the game. They must notify the umpire of their intent to protest the game before the next pitch, legal or illegal. If the protest is upheld the \$50.00 fee will be refunded.

a. A written protest must include:

1. A complete description of situation being protested



2. A description of the misinterpreted rule. Judgment calls are not grounds for a legal protest
3. 3. Indicate the correct rule on which you are basing your protest

G. Ejections

If any player is ejected from a game, they are not eligible to play for the remainder of that game. Ejected player will also sit out the next game he plays for that team. This is automatic regardless of the circumstances. EPRD will review every ejection after it takes place. Our review may result in further suspensions. Managers will be advised of the decisions. The decision of the EPRD concerning suspensions of individuals or team is final and no protests will be accepted.

Any fight that takes place anywhere in the complex will result in the automatic suspension for the individual(s) involved for the remainder of the season.

Three Strike Ejection Rule

1. If you get thrown out of a game, you will have to sit the next game your team plays
2. If you get thrown out of a second game, you will have to sit out the following weeks' doubleheader games
3. If you get thrown out a third game, you will have to sit out the remainder of the season

H. Final Standings for Tournament Play

- 1) Ties for position will be determined by the following:
 - a) Record against each other.
 - b) Total runs scored against each other.
 - c) Least runs allowed by a team for the season.
 - d) Coin Flip

I. End of the Year Tournament

Top 4 teams in each league will advance to a single elimination tournament at the end of the season if time permits. All tournament games will have two umpires. All tournament games will have a (60) minute time limit including the championship games. There will be umpire fees for 2 umpires for all games. All run rules do apply. The higher seed is the home team for all games.

Every effort will be made to play all games. In event we cannot a champion will be crowned and no refund given.

L. Awards

Following tournaments, the 1st place team will receive a plaque and t-shirts.



CODE OF DISCIPLINE

A. Players, managers, coaches, and spectators are reminded that good sportsmanship is required of all participants. The supervisor and the umpire may remove any player from the game when they feel this is not being complied with or it becomes necessary to keep the game under control.

B. Any player, manager, or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct from a game will become ineligible to play in the remainder of that game and will also receive an automatic one game suspension to be served when his or her team plays its next game.

C. Players ejected from a game must leave the park immediately. Failure to comply with this rule may result in further penalties.

D. Any player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct may be suspended for any number of games up to and including the remainder of the season as deemed necessary by the Elyria Parks and Recreation Department or its designee.

E. Any time there is an altercation between two or more players of opposing teams and the benches clear, the staff supervisor or umpires can declare the game a forfeit or if warranted issue a double forfeit. The second time during the season if either of the teams is involved in a similar incident they will receive a multiple game suspension.

Conclusion:

These rules have been created to improve the program operation and to create an optimum level of safety and enjoyment. They are not inclusive and cannot begin to cover every situation that can or may occur. Any situation not specifically covered by the ONE NATION slow-pitch By-laws or these rules shall be decided by the Elyria Parks and Recreation Department. It is the responsibility of all teams, players, and managers to read and become aware of all rules.

All programs and services offered by the City of Elyria are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, nation origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability or any other legally protected status.







