

# **Oxford Township Parks & Recreation**

## **ADULT SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

### **RULES & REGULATIONS**

#### **Roster Information**

1. Teams are required to pay for the NON-RESIDENT FEE for ALL PLAYERS on the roster when rosters and player fees are due (first night of games). The roster and non-resident fees are due before a team can play their first game. If all information is not completed and fees not paid in full teams will forfeit their first night of games. Teams are required to have a minimum of twelve (12) players on the official roster and can carry a maximum of twenty (20) players.
2. A player may play on a maximum of one coed team and one men's team participating in the Oxford Township Parks and Recreation adult slow pitch softball leagues. Players cannot change teams unless official notification by the previous manager has been filed with the OTPR office.
3. **The official last day to add players to a roster is:**  
**Monday, August 3rd at 5 pm for the Men's League**

**EXCEPTION:** If a player can prove medical disability, they may be replaced but only for the remainder of the regular season. The new player, along with the injured player, would not be eligible for the playoffs. A player must have appeared in at least four regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

4. Players must be **18 years before they are eligible to play.**
5. A resident of Oxford is defined as a person who resides in the Township or Village of Oxford.
6. See rule I in Section 2 below for penalty of not following non-resident fees and misrepresentation of information

#### **Rules & Regulations - All Leagues**

*The Oxford Township Parks & Recreation Commission reserves the right to rule and make recommendations on any and all matters relating to the softball leagues which deems beneficial to the leagues.*

The official 2020 USA Softball Slow Pitch Softball Playing Rules (which each managers has received a book of) shall govern all league play except the following modifications/clarifications:

- A. Any player, manager, coach, bat boy, sponsor or representative of a team is under jurisdiction of the Oxford Township Parks & Recreation Commission while on the playing field, in the stands, in any park area or in any area allocated for spectators.
- B. Only a designated team manager is allowed to discuss with the umpire an **interpretation of a rule.**

- C. **Managers are responsible for control of players, coaches, batboys, sponsors, and fans.**
- D. ***Any person associated with this program that uses or threatens to use violence during this program will be suspended indefinitely from all Oxford Township Parks & Recreation Commission sponsored activities.*** This can include abusive language.
- E. The site supervisor has the authority to suspend any person from the area for violation of any rules and regulations of the program and/or of the park. Any person who is suspended indefinitely from this program who wishes to be reinstated must appeal, in writing, to the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- F. ***TAUNTING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.*** Taunting is unsportsmanlike conduct and disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from (at a minimum of) that game until the next regular scheduled game. A warning may be given, but is not required, before ejection. An umpire OR site supervisor can rule on the taunting violation.

Taunting includes any action or comments by coaches, players, or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters.

Example of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but not limited to, 'trash talk; physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game; reference to sexual orientation; 'in the face' confrontation by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.

- G. ***Smoking, alcohol and drugs are prohibited.*** **Smoking is prohibited on the playing field, and player benches. Smoking at outdoor events is restricted to the areas behind the player's benches or backstops. *The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages/drugs or their containers on any of the parks, ball field locations or their parking lots is prohibited.* Any player violating this rule will cause an automatic team forfeiture of the game involved. If the offending team lost the game in question, an extra loss is put in the loss column of the standings. A violation may also result in a team suspension from the league and forfeiture of all fees and privileges.** A team's spectators must also comply with these prohibitions.
- H. **Should any player or person be ejected before, during or after a game, they must leave both the immediate playing area and spectator area for the remainder of the game.** The umpire and site supervisor may also order ejected players, spectators or coaches from the entire park. Ejected players or coaches asked to leave have *two minutes to be "out of sight, out of sound"*. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of the game. **Players or coaches ejected shall be automatically ineligible to play in at least the next regularly scheduled game(s) in which that team plays. Depending on the severity of the incident, a suspension can be any length up to and including permanent suspension. Players under suspension are not allowed at games until the suspension expires.** If an incident occurs during the final regularly scheduled game, the suspension will apply to make-up games or post-season playoffs. All cases are subject to review by the Parks & Recreation Director & the Parks & Recreation Commission Suspension Committee to determine the length of the suspension. Suspensions may also occur through the playoffs and carry over to the following season. Threats to any Oxford Township employees will not be tolerated.
- I. Any player who does not register with the Recreation Commission or who provides false information to the Commission is considered an illegal player. Any game that he/she

participated in will be forfeited and his/her team is automatically placed on probation. ***The illegal player will be suspended for a minimum of one year and the team manager suspended for (5) games.*** When picture I.D. is requested, players have 24 hours to produce proper identification to confirm his/her standing.

- J. Oxford Parks & Recreation Commission recognizes and honors the suspension of players, managers, teams, as well as the probationary status of the game, for all USA Softball of Metro Detroit registered teams and communities.
- K. Over the fence homerun limit is (5+1). Any excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.
- L. **\*\*\*Game time is forfeit time. Game times are 6:45, 7:55, 9:05, and 10:15 pm.** No new inning shall begin 65 minutes after the start of the game. **The 6:45 game will have a five-minute grace period.** The officials' watch is the official game time. It is the responsibility of team managers or their representatives to synchronize their watches with game officials prior to the start of the game. No protests will be accepted concerning whether a game met the time limit restrictions. ***Teams must have a minimum of eight eligible players ready to play in order to start a game.***
- M. A team may start and finish with eight players. Additional players may be added to the bottom of the batting order providing the team has not gone through their complete batting order. Once a team has gone through their batting order, it may not be altered! If there is not an eligible substitute available to replace an injured, ejected or otherwise removed player, anytime the batting order moves to the vacated spot it is recorded as an out. This rule applies with any number of players in the line up. **At any time should a team have less than eight eligible the game will be declared a forfeit.**
- N. If a game is tied at the end of 7 innings or at the time limit, the game will go into sudden death overtime. Nothing will change in the way the game is played from the first 7 innings except for the following difference: Batters will be allowed 1 pitch each, if it is a ball they will get first base, if it is a strike they will be out. This is to encourage fast play but also give a team a chance to gain the win instead of a tie. The sudden death will have a top and bottom half of each inning. Each half inning will start with 0 (zero) outs and nobody on base. The only difference from the rest of the game is each batter is starting with a 3-2 count.
- O. Overthrows: When the ball is in play and is blocked or is overthrown beyond the boundary line. EFFECTS – all runners will be awarded two bases and the award will be governed by the position of the runner when the ball left any fielder's hand. This will be determined by the umpire and will not be a debatable call.
- P. Please visit [www.metrodetroit.com](http://www.metrodetroit.com) for a list of all non-approved equipment. No metal cleats allowed
- Q. PENALTIES FOR THE USE OF AN IMPROPER BAT
  1. Illegal Bats – Penalized per the USA Softball rule book – batter is out.
  2. Non-Approved Bats – All bats listed on the USA Softball non approved list – batter is out and ejected per USA Softball rule book.
  3. Altered Bats – Shaving, painting, rolling, etc...
    - First Offense – Two game suspension
    - Second Offense – player is suspended for remainder of the season.

Third Offense – player is suspended for one calendar year from the date of the offense.

- R. RUN AHEAD RULE – A team leading by 20 after three innings, 15 after four innings, and 10 after 5 innings of play shall be declared the winner and that game will be considered complete.
- S. If games have been suspended by rain or natural causes before 5 innings have been completed, the game will be started over. The same line-up must be used when possible. A player who was in the original line-up may be replaced by a new player or a player who had been in the suspended but had been replaced in the line-up. This excludes games called because of the time limit.
- T. Each team must pay \$15 cash prior to the start of each game for umpire fees. (Exception: Umpire fees for the championship game of the playoffs will be paid by Parks & Recreation Department). Umpire fees are paid to the umpires at the beginning of each game. If the game is cancelled for any reason and made up at a later date the umpire will keep all fees paid. It will be the teams' responsibility to pay the umpire when the game is continued on the different day. It will be the site supervisor's decision to cancel games, and will be done for the safety of everyone. I encourage managers to discuss weather issues with the game umpire and site supervisor so everyone is aware of the discussion and the reasons. But the ultimate decision is by the site supervisor.
- U. A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment.
- V. **Injured Player**- During a live ball situation, when a player becomes injured, and in the umpire judgment requires immediate attention, the umpire shall call "Dead Ball" and allow or seek first aid. Effect: Award any bases that would have been reached.
- W. Each team will keep score using their official score book during the entire game. Teams should concur with umpire in-between innings to confirm current score, as the umpires will keep the official score.
- X. Team managers must legibly list the team name, league and both the first and last names of each player participating in the game on their official score book.
- Y. Intentional misrepresentation of the score or any other pieces of information recorded on the official score book will result in forfeiture of the game.
- Z. Fake tags and barreling will result in ejection from the game.
- AA. **A team may use as one courtesy runner per inning.** The courtesy runner must be the last player to make an out in the game. (co-rec runners must be replaced female for female, male for male and are may use one courtesy runner per gender per inning).
- BB. Substitutes- The manager or team representative of the team making the substitution shall immediately notify the plate umpire at the time the substitute enters.
- CC. Re-entry rule:

- 1) **Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, provided the player occupies the same batting position whenever he/she is in the line up.**
- 2) **Player may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time.**
- 3) **If a player re-enters the game a second time or a player re-enters the game in a position in the batting order other than their original starting or substitute position, this is considered an illegal entry.**

Violation of the re-entry rule results in the use of an illegal player. An ejection of both the manager and the illegal player shall be declared when the violation is brought to the attention of the umpire by the offended team. Violation of the re-entry rule is handled as a protest.

**DD. Continuous Batting Order:** Any/all players present at game starting time may be placed in the batting line up (i.e. 12 or 14 if present). If there are 14 in the line-up all must bat and any 10 (five males and five females), may play defense. Defensive positions may be changed as long as the coed positioning is followed (see below). The batting order must remain the same throughout the game. Once the game has started the rule cannot be instituted. Other players may be used as substitutes, if desired. Once again, for each scheduled batter that is not available to bat when due up, their team must receive an automatic "out". **Remember - the continuous batting rule is completely optional.**

**EE.** An outfielder is a fielder who defends the area of the field that the left, left center, right center and right fielders normally play. Outfielders must be in the outfield grass when the ball is pitched.

**FF.** A foul tip on the third strike is an automatic out.

**GG.** Once league schedules are handed out to team managers they will not be altered for any reason, except for weather related changes.

## **Forfeits**

- A. Forfeits will cost a team **\$30 per game** payable to the Parks & Recreation office **24 hours** prior to their next scheduled game. Teams who fail to pay the forfeit fee will not be allowed to play and will be assessed a second forfeit fee.
- B. Two forfeits by a team may result in the team being dropped from the league. Parks & Recreation will make the final decision as to whether or not a team is dropped from the league.
- C. All teams will receive official notification from the Parks & Recreation office if a team does forfeit from the league. Scheduled games with the forfeited team will be considered a bye.

## **Protest**

- A. **For any protest to be considered, the following procedures must be complied with:**
- B. Manager must notify umpire, opposing manager, and site supervisor of their intent to protest, verbally, **at the time the protested play takes place and before play resumes.** ,
- C. Written protest form must be turned into the Parks & Recreation office within twenty-four (**24**) hours with a \$25 protest fee. The specific rule or rules infraction should be cited in the **written**

protest. All other pertinent information and details such as date and officials name should also be included.

- D. Only protests regarding “**misinterpretation of rules**” or **ineligibility** will be considered.
- E. **Protests regarding “judgment” calls made by a Game Official will not be accepted or considered.**
- F. The protest fee shall be returned in the event the protest is upheld, but should the protest be denied, the fee shall be retained by the Oxford Township Parks & Recreation Commission.
- G. Failure to comply with any of the outlined protest procedure steps shall mean all opportunity to protest is canceled.
- H. The Oxford Township Parks & Recreation Protest Committee shall rule on any protest that is filed. The Committee’s ruling is final.

## **Rain Outs**

- A. Game cancellations will be determined whenever possible prior to 5:00 p.m. by the Parks & Recreation Office. The team manager and assistant manager will be notified by email if possible. Games canceled after 5:00 p.m. will be determined at the field by the Site Supervisor. Team managers may call the rain out number of 248-628-1720 x7 after 5:00 p.m. to check on cancellations. We will make every effort to post cancellations as soon as possible.
- B. Make-up games will be played on a mutually agreed upon alternate date. The original league schedule remains the same. Efforts will be made to re-schedule games on a timely basis. Once a game has been rescheduled it **WILL NOT BE CHANGED**. The Parks & Recreation Commission will give you as much notice as possible about make-up dates and times.

## **Standings**

- A. Standings will be calculated by using the winning percentage:

Ex. 11 wins and 4 losses is .733  
6 wins and 9 losses is .400  
2 wins and 13 losses is .133

\* Any team not represented at the mandatory managers meeting will be given (1) automatic loss in the league standings.

## **Awards**

Team (Sponsor) Awards will be given to the regular season champion and playoff champion, also to the regular season runner up and playoff runner up. Individual awards (t-shirts) are to be given to the regular season champions and playoff champions.

## **Post-Season Play**

- A. Playoffs will involve all the teams from the league in a single elimination tournament on one evening. There will be no time limit for playoff games. \* If there is a tie you will follow the new extra innings rules until one team is ahead by 1 run after the completion of an inning.
- B. Tie-breaker criteria for regular season/playoff purpose:
  - 1. Winning Percentage
  - 2. Team with lesser number of forfeits.
  - 3. Head-to-head competition between two teams.
  - 4. The team scoring the most runs in head to head competition
  - 5. Difference in runs scored/run allowed.
  - 6. Head to head record with top teams in the league.
  - 7. The team scoring the most runs for the entire season.

## **Delinquent Team Information**

- A. Delinquent teams are those that forfeit out of the league and those that fail to meet their total financial obligation with the Parks & Recreation Commission (i.e.....teams that owe money for forfeits).
- B. Delinquent teams will not be allowed to register as a returning team and will not be allowed to register at all until all previous fees owed are paid in full to the Parks and Recreation Office.

## **Releases and Transfers During the Season**

- A. Managers must notify the Parks & Recreation League Supervisor immediately when he/she wishes to release a player.
- B. A player who has been released from one team may not sign with another team in the same league if the team they are transferring to is higher in the standings.
- C. Players legally released and not signed with a team lower in the standings within five days may sign with a team higher in the standings, provided ALL teams lower in the standings than the interested team have waived their right to sign the player. The League Director must approve all transfers.
- D. If a team forfeits out of the league during the season, the players that have not caused the team to forfeit out, may transfer to another team without paying an additional player fee. They must still follow the basic transfer procedure. Teams with identical records who wish to claim the same player will flip a coin for the right to sign transfer players.