



Oxford Township Parks and Recreation Department
2795 Seymour Lake Rd, Oxford, MI 48371
Phone (248) 628-1720 Fax (248) 628-1854 www.oxparkrec.org

NORTH OAKLAND GIRL'S FASTPITCH RULES

I. OBJECT

To create an interest in and to promote girls' fast pitch softball in North Oakland County and surrounding areas to provide a series of games each year.

II. MANAGEMENT

This organization shall be run by the Oxford Township Parks and Recreation Department and/or its appointed League Director.

III. RULES

All games shall be governed by the Official USA Softball rules except as modified in this set of rules.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

All girls' teams are eligible to enter provided they have paid the current registration fee as set by the Oxford Township Parks and Recreation Department, and abide by this Constitution and By-Laws.

A. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

1. The number of players per team shall not exceed 18 at any time. When a team has 18 players on their roster, a player must be released before another can be signed.
2. AGE DIVISIONS: (age of 1/1/24)
 - a. High School & 12U - Games played Monday or Wednesday evenings beginning Monday, June 10, 2024.
 - b. 10U & 14U - Games played Tuesdays or Thursday evenings beginning Tuesday, June 11, 2024.
3. Players signed after the first scheduled League game become eligible 24 hours after notifying League Director.
4. Players may move from one roster to another only once during the season. Due to the current Covid situation, players can be added to a team at any time. A player waiver must be on file with the league office for any added player before they are eligible to play.
5. Team rosters and waiver forms are due **Friday, June 7** to the Recreation Office, 2795 Seymour Lake Rd, Oxford, MI 48371 (FAX 248-628-1854) or emailed to dansullivan@oxparkrec.org.
6. Should a question regarding a players' eligibility arise, the Parks and Recreation Department has a right to view that player's birth certificate to verify age.

V. **USA SOFTBALL GAME RULES-HIGHLIGHTS AND MODIFICATIONS**

A. **STARTING THE GAMES**

1. Host Team Responsibilities (Listed last on schedules)
 1. Field lining and grooming.
 2. Registered adult umpires to officiate games. Need at least one adult and an older youth umpire (two adults are preferred).
 3. Provide rain contact person & number available between 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. to decide whether or not to play games.
 4. Keep official score book, check with other team at end of each inning to verify, and the winning team must report the scores to the Oxford Township Parks and Recreation Department within 72 hours after the games have been played.
 5. **All scores must be reported to the Oxford Township Parks & Recreation Department no later than Friday, July 30. Scores that aren't reported by this date are considered a non-played game and will not count toward point totals. No exceptions will be made.**

	<u>HIGH School</u>	<u>14U</u>	<u>12U</u>	<u>10U</u>
Pitch Distance	43'	43'	40'	35'
Base Distance	60'	60'	60'	60'

2. **Number of Players**

Teams must have 7 players to start a game. Teams may finish with any number of players due to injuries. **NOTE:** If a team starts and/or finishes with less than 9 players, they must have 9 positions in their batting order and designate which positions (1-9) will be an automatic out.
3. **Forfeit Time**

Scheduled time is forfeit time for all fields and all games. Doubleheaders will start at **5:45 pm**. If first game is forfeited, second game will begin at **6:45 p.m.**
4. **Infield Practice**

The visiting team shall have the first half of infield for five (5) minutes and the home team the second half for five (5) minutes. All infield practice must take place before the scheduled starting time.

B. **THE GAME**

1. **Length** League games will be seven (7) innings. 5 innings (4 ½ if Home Team ahead) constitutes a full game. Mercy Rule and time limit apply to both games. Any game started but is cancelled due to natural causes (i.e., rain, darkness, etc.) if made up will be played from the beginning.

Exception: 12U plays 5 innings in the first game. During this game 3 ½ innings would constitute a full game.
2. **Time Limit: 10U/12U:** First game no new inning after 75 minutes (even if tied). Second game no new inning after 90 minutes. **14U/High School:** No new inning after 90 minutes.
3. **Mercy Rule:** A 20-run after 3 innings, 15-run after 4 innings, or 8-run after 5 innings mercy rule shall be enforced.
4. **Re-Entry Rule** Substitution Rules: Any starter may leave the game and re-enter once. Players that return to the game must bat in their original order and replace in the same position in the batting order.

5. **Extra Player (EP) Rule:** Teams can bat 10 and play any 9 defensively. - If both coaches agree, entire roster can bat (e.g. 15 players bat 1-15), any nine (9) can take field and defensively substitute any way. If all players bat then Courtesy Runner for pitcher and catcher would be last person making an out.
6. **Courtesy Runner** Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher allowed. Courtesy Runner can not have participated previously in the game, same Courtesy Runner cannot be used for both pitcher & catcher in the same inning, cannot be used as a substitute in the same half-inning as she courtesy ran, cannot be replaced in the same half-inning unless injured.
7. **Pitching:** Pitchers will have a choice to follow NFHS or USA Softball pitching rule.
8. **Equipment:** Players in the 14U, and High School leagues will be allowed to wear metal cleats.
9. **Inclement Weather**
 - a. The local Parks and Recreation Department or rain contact person shall call off games up until 4:00pm due to wet field, etc. After that time the umpires shall call the games at the field.
 - b. **All cancelled games shall be rescheduled by agreement between the two coaches within 72 hours of rain out!**
 - c. Rescheduled games must be made up on the field that they were originally scheduled on.
 - d. Rescheduling game (for non-weather purposes) - Games can be rescheduled if the following conditions are met: Both Coaches agree to change at least 48 hours before scheduled game time (Exception: emergencies), a re-scheduled date is agreed upon at the time of agreement and the Oxford Township Parks and Recreation is notified at least 24 hours prior to game time.
 - e. A game will be suspended at the first sighting of lightning or sound of thunder. Participants will wait at least 30-minutes after the last lightning flash or sound of thunder prior to resuming the activity. Each time additional lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the minimum 30-minute waiting period should be reset. A clear sky or lack of rainfall, are not adequate indicators for resuming play. The minimum 30-minute return-to-play waiting period should not be shortened. Play should not be resumed even after the 30-minute waiting period if any signs of thunderstorm activity remain in the area or if the weather forecast indicated the threat is not over.
9. **Protests**
 - a. A statement of protest must be filed with the Oxford Township Parks and Recreation Department within 24 hours after the time the protested game started. Verbal protest must be given to umpire in the field at the time of infraction, before the next ball is pitched. Failing to protest verbally cancels all opportunity to protest. The **only situation** that will be reviewed is a player's eligibility. Judgment calls or ejections will not be reviewed by our department. Umpires decision on the field is final!
 - b. Coaches can write an evaluation regarding an umpire's job performance (100 words or less) during a game. This written evaluation must include the name of the umpire, date of the game, and explain the umpires strength or areas of improvement. This letter will be kept on file with our department.

10. **Points**

Points will be awarded for games played to determine team standings. Two (2) points will be awarded for winning games. One (1) point will be awarded for tied games. Zero (0) points for games not played.

- a. The following criteria will be used to resolve 1st and 2nd place ties.
 1. Head to Head competition in league play
 2. Run differential in Head to Head competition
 3. Run differential in league play
 4. Flip of a coin

11. **Awards**

Individual awards will be given to the team finishing first place in their age group and division. Winning teams will be contacted when awards are ready and should pick it up at the Oxford Township Parks and Recreation Office.

VI. **CONDUCT OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

- A. Good sportsmanship must always be encouraged. Umpires may eject unsportsmanlike-like players and coaches from games and forfeit games for flagrant offenses.
- B. The only acceptable form of spectator response before, during or after any League game is a display of encouragement. This response maybe in the form of clapping or cheers, but in no way should abusive displays or displays of poor sportsmanship be directed toward any player, coach, manager or official.
- C. Coaches are held responsible for the action of their teams' fans. Umpires have the right to forfeit games for the flagrant actions of unsportsmanlike-like fans.
- D. All fans must remain behind restraining line put down by the Recreation Department, no fans are allowed behind the backstop.
- E. Coaches, players and fans ejected from a game must:
 1. Not participate in any form in his/her next game.
 2. Appear before the Protest/Coaches Board who will hear the coach's explanation and decide if suspension is warranted.
 3. On the second offense, be suspended for one year and must appear before the Coaches' Board to be reinstated.

Scores should be submitted by the home team. Scores can be emailed to dansullivan@oxparkrec.org or called in to 248-628-1720. Standings will be updated as often as possible and can be found at <https://oxparkrec.org/north-oakland-fast-pitch/>

Please submit the following information:

Location of Game

Teams Involved

Division

Score