



**LaPorte Park and Recreation Department**  
**250 Pine Lake Avenue**  
**LaPorte, IN 46350**  
**Phone: 219-326-9600**  
[www.laporteparkandrec.com](http://www.laporteparkandrec.com)  
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## **2024 ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS**

The LaPorte Park and Recreation Department (referred to as the Department) shall determine the policies of the Adult Softball Program. The Department shall determine if a team name is deemed inappropriate and request that team to rename their team. Administration of the League shall be the responsibility of the Department. The Department reserves the exclusive right to accept or reject all teams from League play as well as the right to deny refund of all softball fees after the deadline. The *National Softball Association (NSA)* shall govern any rule or interpretation not covered in these rules. Some minor rule modifications have been implemented for the leagues to encourage sportsmanship; to adhere to time restrictions and enhance the safety and enjoyment for all involved (players, umpires, and spectators). The League Director will have the final word on placement of teams for league alignment. The League Director and Recreation Director may determine any exceptions or discrepancies not covered here.

### **Rule 1 ROSTERS**

- Article 1 An adult softball team roster shall have a minimum of 12 players and are limited to 25 players. All roster changes such as additions or deletions must be finalized prior to first league game. Once the softball season has begun there will be no add-ons accepted unless it is an emergency involving a season ending injury or a special exception approved by League Director. If the add-on player is deemed necessary, an addition fee of \$5 must be paid at the time of addition.
- Article 2 Adult softball league team players shall be the property of the team they first play for and may not transfer to another team in their league during the current softball season unless the transferring player gets authorization from the softball Director.
- Article 3 All players **must sign the appropriate league roster, including participant waiver, to be eligible.** Falsification of information (addresses, etc.) subjects your team to being denied participation in the league. Rosters are not complete unless address and phone # are filled in. If not completed, roster will not be accepted.
- Article 4 All official softball team rosters must be turned in by the deadline date set by the Department. Late entries will be allowed in those leagues needing teams. A late entry fee will still be required. All entry fees must accompany the softball rosters and completed manager's form, by the deadline date.
- Article 5 A player may play on as many teams as they desire, **if they are not in the same league.** During tournaments, if your two teams play each other or at the same time, you must decide what team you will play on. No games will be delayed.

### **Rule 2 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CAPTAINS, PLAYERS, AND SPECTATORS**

- Article 1 The team captain or manager is responsible for the team and individual player behavior during and after the games.
- Article 2 Teams that cannot control their individual coaches, players and spectators, or that are collectively unruly and create disorder, will be excluded from the Department programs and suspensions may be given.
- Article 3 The captain or manager is the only person who may address the umpires. This is on matters of rule interpretations only.
- Article 4 Any player ejected or suspended from any league game for any reason may also be removed from his/her team's next scheduled game. Ejected players must leave the playing area, the dugout, and the park altogether. Further penalties and suspensions may be assessed depending on the circumstances. A second offense may result in the violator being suspended from the softball league up to, and including, the remainder of the season.
- Article 5 Any player receiving a suspension may be put on probation for a period of one year. This probation period will be one year from the suspension date.

- Article 6 Unsportsmanlike conduct reports filed by league officials will be handled accordingly and could result in player and/or team suspension, depending on the severity and the involvement of each offense.
- Article 7 Intentional contact of an official will result in the immediate suspension of the offending person(s) from participation in all Department activities, until a Recreational Disciplinary Committee can be scheduled. Criminal charges may also be filed by the league or the official.
- Article 8 Team managers and players will be notified when an infraction is alleged against them or their team. Parties will be officially notified, and a meeting will be set up with the Recreation Disciplinary Committee.
- Article 9 The Recreation Disciplinary Committee will be comprised of the Recreation Director, League Director, and a league umpire.
- Article 10 A player who throws his/her bat (unintentionally) will be warned on the first offense and will be called out on any additional offenses.

### Rule 3 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

#### Article 1

1. Ball: The Department will supply each team with 1 dozen softballs. The team will be responsible for providing a ball for their team to hit during the game, for the entire season. When a ball is hit out of play, a replacement ball must be supplied immediately by the batting team. **The defensive team will be responsible for ensuring the ball provided meets all NSA standards.**
  - 1.1 Men Slow pitch will use a 12" NSA approved ball.
  - 1.2 Women will use an 11" NSA approved ball.
  - 1.3 Fast Pitch will use a 12" NSA approved brand ball.**Teams purchasing additional balls MUST purchase NSA legal balls for 2024. The Department will provide the first dozen for each team.** Shoes: No metal spikes are allowed (including screw-in cleats with exposed metal) in slow pitch.
2. Jewelry: Jewelry is not suggested but may be worn at the player's liability. Umpires will still determine if jewelry poses any danger and will require players to remove those type items.
3. Bats: **Must be labeled "official softball", must bear the NSA 2012 Stamp (below) and must not exceed 1.20bpf.** An approved bat list is available at [www.playnsa.com](http://www.playnsa.com)). Any player found using an illegal bat may be suspended indefinitely until review by Director and NSA. The Department will provide the 30" bat for the coed league to be used by all males.



4. Uniforms: All players in field area playing, coaching, managing or otherwise are required to wear a matching team shirt (i.e. same color and style with a number on back of shirt). Players with inappropriate wording or messages on their person or attire will not be allowed to play until inappropriate wording is covered or removed. **(There is a two-week grace period for uniforms) All teams must comply for week three of season. Managers can appeal any opposing player who is out of uniform. Managers must make the appeal the first time the player in question comes to bat. If the appeal is upheld, that player will be automatically "out". That player may then complete the game without further penalty for being out of uniform.**

### Rule 4 ELIGIBILITY

#### Article 1

Players playing in the adult softball league must be 18 years of age.

#### Article 2

**Any person that has any pending charges or has been charged with any type of assault against a sport official or representative of a program, may be banned from all participation within facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department.**

## **Rule 5 PROTESTS**

- Article 1 All protests must be made at the time the play in question is committed, otherwise the protest will not be considered. The manager or team captain must notify the umpire immediately and note the incident. The umpire must notify the opposing team that the game is being played under protest and why. The game must be resumed with a winner declared.
- Article 2 A written statement by the team protesting the game must be delivered to the Department, 250 Pine Lake Avenue, during office hours (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) the day immediately following the protested game along with a \$25 protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the protesting team. If the protest is overruled, the fee will be added to the softball-operating fund.
- Article 3 The burden of proof is on the protesting team. The Department shall make the decision concerning any protest. The decision shall be final.
- Article 4 Protests may be made on interpretation of league or NSA softball rules. The umpire's judgement is not subject to protest.
- Article 5 Protests during tournament play where subsequent games are played will require the protest (**no fee required**) to be filed immediately. The protest will be ruled on immediately, and all play will be suspended until the protest is resolved. **Final decision will be made by League Director.**
- Article 6 Failure to comply with any of the above stipulations shall void any possible protest.
- Article 7 Any protest on roster or non-roster players will be ruled on by League Director or Recreation Director.

## **Rule 6 RULES OF PLAY**

- Article 1 Games will consist of seven innings. A game is official after 3 ½ innings are complete.
- Article 2 Both teams are to keep track of the score and report each inning total to the home plate umpire.
- Article 3 No infield practice will be permitted on the diamond prior to the first game.
- Article 4 No batting practice will be permitted on the diamonds between games.
- Article 5 Home run limit will be 6 with a 1 up rule in all leagues. A team may hit 6 home runs, with any additional home runs being called out until the other team reaches their 6 home runs. Once both teams have 6 home runs either team may get another to go 1 up, except in the bottom of the seventh or bottom of extra innings. Home runs do not have to be run out. Runners on base do not have to advance to the next base.
- Article 6 Adult slow pitch softball games must start and play with at least nine players. The tenth (slow pitch) player can be inserted into the line up in the last batting position. No penalty will be enforced on the vacated position. If a team loses a player, due to ejection or injury, an out will be declared in that vacated position if no replacement is available.
- Article 7 All adult slow pitch will operate using a one and one with a half strike on the batter before the batter takes a turn at bat. As each batter steps to the plate, the count is one ball and one and a half strike. Clarification: A foul ball or a strike call, with the one and one and a half, changes the count to one and two and a half. Another foul ball will result in the batter being declared out.
- Article 8 Slow pitch games have a one-hour time limit. At the one-hour mark the umpire will declare the time limit. The inning in progress will be completed and a winner declared.
- Article 9 Games will start at the scheduled time, with no grace period. The teams must have nine players to start.
- Article 10 Mercy Rule: Slow Pitch- 15 runs after the losing team has played 3 innings.  
12 runs after the losing team has played 4 innings  
10 runs after the losing team has played 5 innings
- Article 11 When a play is probable at first base the batter/runner must touch the orange base. A violation of this rule will result in a direct call out by the umpire. This is not an appeal play unless the base umpire requests help from the plate umpire. This appeal to the plate umpire is intended only for the orange base usage. The defensive player must touch the white base. The only exception to this rule is to avoid a collision (Umpire judgment).
- Article 12 Courtesy runner may be used once per inning. The courtesy runner may be any person listed on your roster.**
- Article 13 Alcohol consumption during your scheduled game is prohibited and will result in immediate ejection and a team forfeit. Player will be suspended from next scheduled game and team will be required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next scheduled game.**
- Article 14 No tobacco use allowed in playing field area. 1<sup>st</sup> offense will result in verbal warning. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will result in ejection.**

**Article 15** Zero tolerance will be enforced regarding swearing, arguing, or verbal confrontation/enticing with opposing team's players, umpires and park officials/staff. Result will be immediate ejection and suspension. The complete Zero Tolerance Policy is available on our website.

**Article 16** All games will start with coach/umpire meeting with coin flip to determine home and visitors

**Article 17** If an illegal player is used and opposing team protests and it is determined by League Supervisor that incident occurred; player is immediately ejected from game and suspended for remainder of the current season. The team he/she was playing for forfeits game and will be required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next game. Further action may take place if determined by League Supervisor.

**Article 18** Any person that is not on a team roster, or a coach, is not allowed on the playing field for any reason (per umpire discretion, i.e. injury, request, etc.). If they do come onto playing field (inside the fenced off area) for any reason they will be requested to (1) leave the playing area (2) leave the complex (3) be banned for 1 year from any softball activity and the La Porte softball complexes beginning from date of said incident. A written letter will be sent to them informing them of this ban. A copy will be kept on file at Park Department and at the Police Department. If they return to fields during the ban, the authorities will be called immediately, and they will be prosecuted for trespassing.

#### **Rule 7 FORFEIT FEE**

**Article 1** Teams forfeiting for any reason during the regular season will be subject to a \$30 fine for each occurrence. The game will not be played, and non-players or other team players cannot be used.

**Article 2** Teams must pay the forfeit fee prior to their next scheduled game or another forfeit will be declared, and an additional fee imposed. A receipt must be shown to the umpire. (This will be strictly monitored)

#### **Rule 8 ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES**

**Article 1** All sponsor, team player, field improvement, forfeit and NSA fees must be paid to the Park and Recreation Department, 250 Pine Lake Avenue, La Porte.

**Article 2** Each softball team will have league schedules available to them before the season.

**Article 3** The Department is not responsible for lost or stolen property or injuries incurred by players. Individual players are responsible for their own insurance protection. Each player should read and sign the roster form regarding risks involved in competing in a softball game.

**Article 4** Good sportsmanship, discipline and good conduct are a must and will be strictly enforced. Any infractions will be forwarded to the Recreational Disciplinary Committee.

**Article 5** League champions will be determined by the best win/loss record. In the event of a tie, head-to-head record will decide winner. If the two teams split, team scoring the most runs, head-to-head will win.

**Article 6** Tournament games will follow the one-hour time limit (Mercy Rule still applies). The championship game will have an hour and a half time limit.

#### **Rule 9 RAIN OUT PROCEDURES**

**Article 1** Any make-up rain dates will take priority over practice schedules.

**Article 2** Rain out games will be rescheduled **a.s.a.p.** by the League Director and will be played as scheduled, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Article 3** On days when play is questionable, please visit [www.quickcores/laporte](http://www.quickcores/laporte) or follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/laporteparks](http://www.facebook.com/laporteparks). The decision to play or not to play will not be made as soon as possible during weeknight play. Please do not call the office.

**Article 4** If it continues to rain or begins to rain after 4 p.m., the umpires and/or the league supervisor at the field of play will determine whether the field or fields are fit to be played on. Umpires' decision is final.

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

**PARK OFFICE** 219-326-9600 (Weekdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.)

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