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## DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

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### City of Oneonta - Adult Softball - League and Playing Rules

#### 1) *League Structure*

A) Leagues: Adult men's and women's leagues will be offered. Teams in either league can register for an "Advanced" (A) division or a "Recreational" (B) division. Teams will only be admitted to the division in which they have registered.

B) Capacity: The City of Oneonta has facilities to accommodate a maximum of twelve (12) teams in each (men's and women's) league for a total of twenty-four (24) teams. Depending on the number of teams registering for each division it may be possible to accommodate a thirteenth team in a league.

C) Days of Play: Women's games will be scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays. Men's games will be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All games will be scheduled to start at 6:00 PM. Exceptions are as follows:

- a) Postponed games will primarily be rescheduled to be played on Fridays.
- b) After the second Friday of July, City Recreation reserves the right to reschedule postponed regular season games or playoff games to expedite the conclusion of the program. Teams must be prepared to play on any available day after this date. For extreme circumstances this could include weekend games with a start time earlier than 6:00 PM

D) Season Duration: The regular season will begin the Monday prior to Memorial Day (Tuesday for Men). Each team will be scheduled to play fourteen regular season games within their respective division. All teams will qualify for a post-season tournament that will follow the regular season. The target end date for the program will be the second Friday of August.

E) Schedules: League schedules will be released no later than the Friday prior to the start of the regular season. Teams are required to play games according to the league schedule. Advanced postponement of league games will not generally be allowed. Rare exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Recreation Department and/or the opposing team. All games must be scheduled by the Recreation Office. Teams may not take it upon themselves to reschedule any game.

F) Playoff Format: Playoff formats will vary from year to year pending the number of teams registered for each division. Playoff formats will be released at the beginning of each season along with the league schedule.

- a) In the event a division has an odd number of teams an opening round, one game playoff may be scheduled between the two teams that ended the regular season with the lowest winning percentage. The winner of this game will advance to face the team with the best seed in the next round. All other playoff pairings will consist of "best of three (3)" game series.
- b) The winner of each series will advance to the next round until a champion is crowned. No consolation series will be held.
- c) In each series the team with the better seed will be the home team in games one and three.
- d) Playoff seeds where ties are involved will be decided by; (1) head-to-head season record, (2) runs scored in games played head-to-head, (3) runs scored in all games, (4) coin toss.
- e) All playoff games must go seven (7) innings. Mercy rules are not in effect and all games suspended in progress will be resumed regardless of the inning it was suspended.

#### 2) *League Entry*

A) Registration Period: The Recreation Department will accept team registrations for the adult softball program from the fourth Friday of March to the fourth Friday of April. A team must submit a completed registration form and entry fee (or deposit) to secure their place in the league.

- a) Teams may withdraw their registration at any time during this period and receive a full refund.
- b) Entry fees will be non-refundable after the end of the registration period.
- c) The City of Oneonta reserves the right to decline registrations from managers or players that are not in good standing due reasons including but not limited to; unpaid fees from previous seasons or other programs, excessive forfeits from previous seasons, or previous instances of unsportsmanlike conduct.

B) Fees: The team entry fee will be \$800.00. Team entry fee deadline is 5:00 PM, **Friday, April 23, 2010**. Teams must submit either the full fee or a deposit of half the fee along with a completed fee affidavit to secure their spot in league. Any remaining fees must be paid by 5:00 PM, **Friday, June 11, 2010**. Teams failing to pay

the balance of their fees after this date may be subject to punitive actions including but not limited to forfeited games or expulsion from the league.

- a) All payments must be made with a check or money order. No cash payments will be accepted.
- b) All payments must be submitted or mailed to the Recreation Office.

C) Team Admission: Teams will be admitted to the league on a first come first serve basis. The first twelve men's teams and women's teams will have priority for admission to the league. Subsequent registrations will go on a waiting list.

- a) A division will not be formed unless a minimum of four teams register to play in it.
- b) The Recreation Department reserves the right to grant admission to one (1) team from the waiting list over a team with priority in order to form a division.
- c) Registrations that are mailed to the Recreation Department will be placed on the priority/waiting list based on the date of the postmark. Registrations postmarked prior to or after the registration period will not be accepted.

### **3) Fields and Equipment**

A) Neahwa Park Fields #1, 2, 3 (adjacent to Memorial Walk), Ted Christman Field (#4), #5 (between pool and Damaschke Field), and #9 (Catella Park); Field numbers are posted on backstops.

B) Fields maintenance is the sole responsibility of the Department of Public Service. Please contact them at 432-2100 with any inquiries regarding maintenance issues including issues with the field of play, benches, bleachers, bases, etc.

C) Equipment: The City of Oneonta will provide balls, bases, trophies and an official scorebook.

- a) One new game ball and several lightly used game balls will be provided for each game. All balls must be returned to the scorekeeper at the end of the game.
- b) Bases will be in place on each field. (Double base will be used at first)
- c) Trophies will be awarded to winners of each division's post-season tournament.
- d) The scorekeeper's official scorebook will be provided by the City. (Scorebooks will no longer be issued to teams)
- e) All teams are strongly advised to carry a first aid kit.
- f) All other equipment must be provided by each team.

### **4) Umpires and Scorekeepers**

A) Umpires are provided by the Schohanna Board of Baseball and Softball Umpires. The umpire board may be contacted via [www.schohannaumpires.org](http://www.schohannaumpires.org). Issues regarding rules should be referred to Troy McKee, Softball Rules Interpreter. Issues regarding umpire assignments should be referred to John Frankl, Assignor.

B) Umpires are paid \$45.00 per game. One umpire will be provided for regular season and post-season games.

C) When an assigned umpire fails to show for a game, becomes incapacitated during a game, or can not continue for any reason, teams may mutually agree upon an official from available personnel. His/her decisions shall be binding on both teams and shall be official. This official must wear all appropriate safety equipment.

D) Official scorers are provided. Their duties include; Keep official record of game; ensure player eligibility. No participant will be allowed to write in the official scorebook.

E) Teams are strongly encouraged to bring their own scorers, and to compare books during the course of the game. Discrepancies should be resolved during the game; departmental books will be the official record after the fact.

F) Umpires shall have authority to decide the fitness of the grounds for a game. Umpires shall have sole authority to delay or suspend a game in progress or postpone a game before it starts (if the Recreation Department has not already done so during office hours).

- a) Regular season games suspended in progress shall be resumed/considered regulation as per ASA guidelines. All post-season games will be resumed from the point of interruption.

G) The City of Oneonta will strictly adhere to ASA guidelines regarding lightning safety. Umpires will suspend games for 30 minutes at the first sign of thunder or lightning. 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 is not adequate indicators for resuming play. The minimum 30-minute waiting period should not be shortened.

### **5) Rosters and Player Eligibility**

A) Age: Players must be at least eighteen (18) years of age to be listed on a team's roster.

B) Registration: Completed registration/roster/release forms must be submitted to the Recreation Office no later than the Monday preceding opening day.

- a) A player will not be registered for the program unless all required fields are completed on the form legibly and the player signs the form thereby executing the release of liability.
  - b) Rosters must include a minimum of 10 players. There is no maximum roster size.
  - c) A player may only register in one (1) division and for only one (1) team.
- C) Roster Changes: Teams may add or remove players from their own rosters at any time during the regular season.
- a) Once a player plays in a game for a team, he/she may not switch to a different team in the same division.
  - b) Roster additions must be made in person at the Recreation Office during office hours. The new player must complete and sign their name to the team's original roster form.
  - c) Players being added that are not currently listed on another team's roster can play for a team the same day they are added to a team.
  - d) Roster additions involving a player that is currently listed on another team's roster requires league approval and may take up to two business days to process.
- D) Post-Season Eligibility: A player must appear in five (5) regular season games for a team in order to be eligible for that team's post-season roster.
- a) Post-season rosters will be distributed by the Recreation Office via e-mail prior to the first game of each division's post-season tournament. They will also be available on the field at each post season game.
  - b) If a team does not have enough eligible players to field a team the post-season series will be forfeit.
- E) Coaches: Non-playing coaches must be listed on the team's roster to be allowed on the field, in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaching boxes or in the area of a team's bench.
- a) A coach will not be registered for the program unless all required fields are completed on the form legibly and the coach signs the form thereby executing the release of liability.
  - b) Non-playing coaches are subject to all other regulations in this section as well as all code of conduct and disqualification policies.
  - c) All coaches listed on a roster are eligible to coach in post-season games.
  - d) Coaches may be added to rosters in-season as per rule 5-C(b).
- F) Illegal Players: If a non-rostered player enters the game for a team, the offending team's game will be subject to forfeit and the offending player will be suspended from participating in the program for the remainder of the season. Furthermore, the offending team's manager will be suspended for the team's next (1) game.

## **6) Code of Conduct**

- A) Conduct policies apply to all players, managers, coaches, and spectators.
- B) It is the responsibility of the team manager to insure all players and coaches have read and understand these rules and regulations.
- C) All park regulations will be enforced including parking restrictions, littering, leash laws and open container laws.
- a) Any occurrence of persons consuming alcohol or exhibiting signs of public intoxication within the park will be reported to the Oneonta Police Department immediately.
  - b) Participants found to be illegally drinking in the park will be dismissed from the league indefinitely.
- D) Smoking is prohibited during games, including on the field, in the bench area, and in spectator areas. Smoking is permitted in parking areas only. Violating participants will be warned once. Further failure to comply will result in the player being disqualified for the remainder of the game.
- E) Ejections: The umpire and the Recreation Director shall have the authority to remove from the game any player, coach, manager, or spectator who displays unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct is any misconduct or unprofessional behavior generally deemed to violate accepted norms. By way of example this includes, but is not limited to profanity, assault, violent or other disruptive conduct.
- a) Once ejected from a game, the offending person(s) must immediately leave the grounds and have no contact with the umpire or other participants in the game (out of sight and sound of the field of play). If the offending person fails to comply within one minute, the game will be forfeit to the opposing team.
  - b) A player or coach ejected from a game is automatically suspended for their team's next game. At the discretion of the Recreation Director a longer suspension may be levied for serious or repeated offenses.
  - c) A participant that has been ejected from two (2) games during the season will be dismissed for the remainder of the season, including playoffs.
  - d) Any suspensions may be carried over into subsequent seasons and offenders may be barred from participation in other programs at the discretion of the Recreation Director.
  - e) Any, player, manager, coach, or spectator who physically assaults or threatens another player, manager, coach, umpire, city employee, or spectator shall be dismissed indefinitely from all leagues and department programs. As necessary, law enforcement may be summoned.
  - f) Suspension rules do not apply to disqualifications unrelated to unsportsmanlike conduct unless otherwise noted.

F) Falsification of Information: If a participant lists false information, including but not limited to date of birth, name, or address on any league form or plays a game using a false name the individual will be suspended from all Recreation Department programs for up to one (1) year. Furthermore, if the manager of a team knows or should have known that he/she is playing a person under a false name, the manager will be suspended for three (3) games.

### **7) Forfeits**

- A) Minimum Players: A team must have a minimum of seven (7) players for a game to begin or continue.
  - a) If a team has less than seven (7) players at a game's scheduled start time a ten (10) minute grace period will be granted.
  - b) If a team has the minimum number of players at a game's scheduled start time the game will start on time.
  - c) If a team does not have the required number of players after the grace period, the game will be forfeit.
  - d) If for any reason during a game in progress a team can no longer field the required minimum number of players the game will be forfeit.
  - e) The result of a forfeited game will be 7-0 in favor of the team not at fault. In the case of a game forfeited in progress the current score may instead be applied if it is to the benefit of the team not at fault.

### **8) Protests**

- A) Will be received and considered only for matters of the following types:
  - a) Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
  - b) Failure to apply the correct playing rule to a given situation.
  - c) Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given playing rule violation.
  - d) Misinterpretation or misapplication of rule involving player eligibility.
- B) Recreation Director will decide admissibility and outcome of any protest. The decision will be final.
- C) Protest will not be accepted for matters based on accuracy of umpire's judgment.
- D) Team must notify umpire of intent to protest before next legal or illegal pitch or, if on the last play of the game, before the umpire leaves the field of play at the conclusion of the game; if protest involves illegal substitute or re-entry, protest must be made while they are in the game and before the umpire leaves the playing field;
  - a) Umpire shall notify opposing team manager and official scorer who shall make note of protest in official scorebook.
- E) Protesting team must submit official written protest to the Recreation Office within the next two (2) business days following the incident. The protest must be signed by the team's manager. Official protest must include the following information:
  - a) Date of protested game and name of teams involved
  - b) The rule and section of the league rule or ASA rule under which the protest is made
  - c) Decision and conditions surrounding the making of protest
- F) Protest outcomes will be as follows:
  - a) Protest is found invalid and game result will stand.
  - b) Protest involving a rule is upheld. Game is resumed at the point of the incorrect decision
  - c) Protest involving player eligibility is upheld. Offending team forfeits the game and all applicable penalties are assessed.

### **9) Release/Waiver**

A) In consideration of the permission granted by the Oneonta City Parks and Recreation Commission for the use of its Parks and Recreation facilities and play areas, the City of Oneonta is hereby RELEASED from all liability for personal injury or death or property damage from whatever cause arising from the use of said facilities including ingress hereto and egress therefrom; the City of Oneonta, its officers, employees, agents and servants are also hereby released from any liability therefor or from contribution as a joint tort-feasor therefor; Users of said facilities will indemnify and save harmless said City, its officers, employees, agents and servants from any such liability or contribution to such liability. This release is broad and general, is without exclusion, and includes possibility of death or injury and any and all property damage.

### **10) Playing Rules**

- A) Default Rules: All rules and definitions not specifically addressed in this document or divisional supplements default to ASA fast pitch regulations.
- B) Playing Fields: All playing fields and equipment supplied by the City of Oneonta shall be deemed legal regardless of any discrepancies with ASA specifications. The double base will continue to be used at first base.

- C) Equipment/Uniforms: Umpires shall inspect all equipment prior to each game.
  - a) Shoes must be worn by all players. Any kind of footwear is allowed, except metal tipped spikes or cleats are not allowed.
  - b) Body protectors must be worn by catchers in women's divisions.
  - c) The ice hockey goalie style face mask is approved for usage by catchers. If the umpire feels that there is not adequate throat protection, a throat attachment must be added.
  - d) All offensive players, including on-deck batter must wear double ear flap "NOCSAE" approved batting helmets during all Oneonta City League Softball games.
  - e) Players may wear any kind of clothes or uniform, except that any casts, jewelry, or clothing or equipment that the umpire deems dangerous or potentially dangerous will not be allowed.
  - f) Any offensive or defensive player may wear any protective equipment beyond the minimum required by rule (subject to rule 10 C (e)).
- D) Lineups: Lineups must be given to the scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes prior to game time.
  - a) Lineups may consist of eleven players; the nine standard positions, one short fielder, and one Extra Player (EP).
  - b) The Extra Player (EP) rule will be used for all divisions. Designated Players (DP)/Flex Players will no longer be used.
  - c) Teams must have eleven (11) players at the start of the game to utilize an EP (10 fielders and EP). An EP can not be added after a game starts.
  - d) Teams may add players to lineups after the start of a game. Players are added to the bottom of the lineup in the order they arrive.
  - e) If a player leaves a game prior to its conclusion for any reason and no legal substitute is available their position in the line up is passed over. No out is called. A team must have a minimum of seven players as per rule 7A.
- E) Mercy Rule: For regular season games, if either team holds a fifteen (15) run lead after 5 or more complete innings have been played, or if home team has a fifteen run lead or assumes a fifteen run lead at any time after 4 ½ complete innings have been played, game is over and team with fifteen run lead is declared winner. The game is regulation.
  - a) The mercy rule does not apply to any post-season game.