

WESTCHESTER PARK DISTRICT

16" Men's House SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

Field Conditions: <https://wpdparks.org/field-status> -

Updates made by 4:00PM, Mayfair Park East Field (A) and Mayfair Park West Field (B)

League Website: <https://wpdparks.org/adult-sports?tab=7> or

Programs → Adult Sports → Tab 16" Softball – Men's League (Mondays)

FEES, SCHEDULE, ROSTERS & ELIGIBILITY

1. League fee is \$750, due one week before league begins by 6pm. Registration can take place in person at the Mayfair Center, Community Center, or online at <https://www.wpdparks.org/registration>. Please note, when creating a new account, approval may take up to 48 hours. Teams not paid will be removed from schedule.
2. Each team will play 8 games. There may be an occasional scheduled doubleheader and rainouts will be rescheduled as soon as possible.
3. Any team participating in this league must turn in their Official Roster before their second game, or a forfeit will take place until it is completed. The roster will hold a maximum of 20 players. Players must be 18 or older.
4. All roster information must be complete for a player to be eligible for league play. If any information is incomplete, that player will be ineligible.
5. All players must have a photo ID at all games to verify their identity. A player will be given 5 minutes to go to their vehicle to retrieve their ID.
6. A team must request a roster change with the Mayfair Center Manager 48 hours prior to a game. Roster changes will not be allowed during the final game of the season or during playoffs and are not guaranteed.
7. Any player listed on more than one roster, within the same league, will be ineligible to play.
8. Teams/Captains that win over \$600 must fill out a W-9 tax form or we must have multiple "co-captains" on file to split up the winnings to avoid filling out the W-9 form.

FORFEITS

1. Game time is FORFEIT TIME. Only the first slotted games of the evening are granted a 10-minute "grace period". Every game following the first scheduled game is to start at its scheduled time or immediately following the previous game.
2. Any team that forfeits will be charged a \$100.00 forfeit fee unless arrangements are made and authorized by the Manager.

RAINOUTS / CANCELLATIONS

1. The Umpire or League Coordinator has the right to stop games or place on standby due to inclement weather.
2. **EVERYONE MUST VACATE THE FIELD.**
3. There is a 15-minute waiting period for the "all clear" to be determined by the league coordinator on duty and the umpires.
4. Our website will be updated regularly @ <https://wpdparks.org/field-status> .

5. For games affected by weather, a minimum of 4½-innings must be complete if the home team is leading, 5-innings for the visitors (if leading). Anything less will be rescheduled.
6. All rainouts are made up prior to the start of playoffs. Should rescheduled games become excessive, other days of the week will be suggested.
7. If the team cannot make the day/time of the rescheduled rainout, it is a forfeit.
8. The **CAPTAINS** are responsible for informing his team of the rescheduled date.

LINE-UP CARDS

1. Captains will be given line-up cards to be used for each game and will be required to provide it to the umpire and opposing team captain prior to the start of each game.
2. Before each game, the League Coordinator or on-site Supervisor will verify all players listed on the line-up cards match the team roster. Any discrepancy will result in that/those players being ineligible to play or possible forfeit.

LEAGUE / HOUSE RULE

SSA Rules and Regulations are in effect with the exception of these Westchester Park District Rules. Should there be a conflict in rules, the WPD rules will take precedence over SSA.

Home team will be the second team listed on the schedule.

Batters start with a one and one (1-1) count.

1. The length of the base will be 60 feet
2. Pitching distance will be 38 feet
3. The pitching drag-foot rule is in effect. A pitcher may take 1 step to the right, left or backward. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least SIX FEET from the ground, not exceeding the maximum height of TWELVE FEET from the ground. Arc height is a judgment call which is made by the official. Pitchers are allowed **two hesitations per batter** during their delivery followed by a direct to home plate. Should they hesitate more than twice, it is ruled an illegal pitch and a ball call will be added to the count by the umpire. A throw over to any base, or a fake attempt is considered one hesitation.
4. All games will be 7-innings. If the home team is leading by 10 or more runs after 4½-innings or the visiting team after 5-innings; the game will be called due to the Slaughter Rule. A Mercy Rule will be put in effect when twenty or more runs after 3 ½ innings or 4 innings if the visiting team is batting.
5. A batter's box is not outlined, however, a batter will be called out if, in the opinion of the umpire, he:
 - steps on the plate
 - steps in front of the plate
 - crosses the plate
6. A no contact rule is in effect. In a play at any base, the base runner **MUST AVOID CONTACT**, or he will be declared out.
7. We now only have a **DOUBLE FIRST BASE** at our fields. All plays at first base– the runner is required to use the orange safety base or will be declared "out".
8. Fake tags by an infielder may result in a player be ejected from the game.
9. **GROUND RULE DOUBLE** - Any ball bouncing over or rolling under the home run fence will be awarded a

double.

10. The SSA re-entry rule will be in effect.
11. The SSA extra player rule will be in effect.
12. A runner may not begin advancing to the next base until the ball leaves the pitchers hand for a pitch.
13. Base stealing is not allowed.
14. Leadoffs are permitted; however, the runner may not advance to the next base during a pickoff attempt, even on an errant throw, without a ball hit in play. Players could be tagged out during this process.
15. Each team is allowed 1 courtesy runners per inning. The courtesy runner must be the last player who batted out.
16. Each team is allowed to bat a maximum of 12 players per game. (EH and DH)
17. Teams must have a minimum of 9 players to start a game.
18. All games that exceed the one-hour time limit shall be declared final and official. If extended games become frequent, the Park District reserves the right to institute an hour-limit rule.
 - Exception 1: Championship games shall have no time limit.
 - Exception 2: (Sudden Death Rule) – No games will end with a tie score. If the 1 hour time limit is declared, or extra innings are necessary to complete a game, the following will occur:
 - a. each team will start with a runner on 2nd base with no outs.
 - b. Full innings will be played until one team outscore the other.
 - c. The runner on 2nd base will be the last batted out from the previous inning.

PROTESTS

Protesting the validity of a player:

1. Can be done after the first pitch has been thrown but not after the start of the second inning.
PROTEST CAN NOT BE MADE AFTER THE GAME.
2. The team captain must notify the umpire, opposing captain and the League Coordinator of the protest so a roster check can be performed.
3. The player under protest ***MUST*** produce an ID, be on the roster and have complete information including a signature, or his team will forfeit that game. If a forfeit occurs, the team will be charged \$100.00.

Protesting a Game Situation:

1. Protests based solely on a decision, which involved the judgment on the part of any official, will not be received or considered.
2. The team's captain must notify the League Coordinator that the game is being played under protest. The league Coordinator will notify the umpire and opposing captain of the protest.
3. The protesting captain must submit a letter of protest with a \$100.00 non-refundable protest fee within 24 hours of the protesting game. This letter shall state the captain's opinion and purpose of the protest.
4. The protest will be reviewed and if granted, the protesting team will be reimbursed the protest fee. Should the protest not be upheld, the paid fee will not be returned.

Protesting an umpire:

1. Complaints regarding umpires should be directed to the Mayfair Center Manager. Minor complaints regarding representation will be considered upon the merit of the complaint.
2. Several complaints regarding the same issue and about the same umpire from more than one captain will be presented to the Mayfair Center Manager.
3. Major issues regarding the conduct or performance of an umpire will be presented to the Umpire Assignor. However, we offer no guarantees regarding umpire complaints.

PLAYER CONDUCT

1. If an umpire ejects a player or coach from a game due to conduct, that player/coach has one-minute to leave the park grounds and shall be ineligible to participate for the rest of the evening in addition to the next scheduled game suspension.
2. A second ejection for any player/coach will automatically be ejected from the league without a refund.
3. All players on a team's roster are eligible to be ejected regardless if they are on the field, bench, bleachers, or in the park.
4. In the event the player does not vacate the premises, the umpire has the authority to forfeit the game and the League Coordinator will call the police to have the player removed from the premises.
5. Fighting:
Any player(s) involved in fighting in the park(s), whether on or off the field, shall be ejected and automatically suspended for season.
Second fighting offense will result in the player being ejected for the remainder of the season.
6. Swearing:
This league shall have a no tolerance rule regarding swearing.
Any player using profanity which is directed at the umpire, another player or park district staff shall be given one warning, if that player continues to use profanity at that time or any other time in the game that player shall be ejected from the game plus 1.
7. The League Coordinator has the authority to issue suspensions to any and all team members, beyond those stated above, for any action that interferes with the orderly progress of the game.

DRINKING POLICY

Liquor Consumption Policy:

1. Alcohol consumption is prohibited on Westchester Park District property unless the activity is specifically permitted by the park district. Softball leagues are not considered a permitted activity.
2. Tailgating is not permitted.
3. Conduct ordinances of the park district can carry fines of up to \$1,000.00 per offense. The board has approved a policy that is now incorporated into our league rules:

The policy outlines are as follows:

- 1st infraction will result into the entire team forfeiting their next game (even if just one of your players). Also, the forfeit fee of \$100.00 will be assessed to your team. This fee MUST be paid prior to the start of the next scheduled game.
- 2nd infraction reported on the same team (even if it is just one of your players) will result in the team's dismissal from the league without a refund.

PLAYOFFS

1. All teams make the playoffs (unless otherwise determined by the Manager).
2. All players must have a minimum of 4 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.
3. Playoffs shall be single elimination.
4. Teams will be seeded and scheduled based on regular season standings.

TIEBREAKERS FOR PLAYOFF SEEDING:

- A. TWO TEAMS, HEAD TO HEAD
- B. IF THREE OR MORE TEAMS TIE:
 - a. FEWEST GAMES FORFEITED

- b. IF STILL TIED, HEAD TO HEAD
- c. IF STILL TIED, TOTAL RUNS SCORED IN GAMES BETWEEN TIED TEAMS ONLY
- d. IF STILL TIED, TOTAL RUNS SCORED IN GAMES PLAYED AGAINST HIGHER SEEDED TEAMS.

5. Please see schedule for playoff breakdown

Any issues/rules not covered by our House Rules and the SSA Rules shall be resolved by a meeting involving a player from each team, League Coordinator and on site Umpire.

Rules updated May 2024 and subject to change.