



TOWN OF HARTFORD
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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Serving the Villages of Hartford * West Hartford * White River Junction * Wilder * Quechee

2023 ADULT CO-ED REC. SOFTBALL
SLOW PITCH
RULES AND REGULATIONS

[1] **ELIGIBILITY**

- a. The minimum age is 18 and a graduated High School Senior.
- b. Any person listed on the team's roster / waiver form, or has a completed "add" waiver form submitted.

[2] **ROSTERS**

- a. An unlimited number of names may be carried on the team roster.
- b. Teams must be registered with Hartford Parks & Recreation Department **by June 14th at 5:00pm**. **All eligible players of the team must register individually on the HPRD website www.hartfordrec.com, agreeing to the waiver and code of conduct. Players must remain on their team roster after the team's 3rd regular season game. Before this time, players may switch teams only with the original team captain's blessing.**
- d. A player must play in at least a third of the games during the season to be eligible to participate in the playoff tournament. Line up sheets **must** be turned in to the plate umpire at the end of the game (including forfeits), or credit for that game will not be awarded. Records will be kept in the Recreation Office for playoff eligibility.

[3] **FEES**

- a. Each team is to pay an entry fee of \$500. **Full amount of the fee** is due in the Recreation Office to secure your team's spot. Make checks payable to Town of Hartford, VT. Team entry fee must be paid in full by **June 2, 2023**
- b. **We are going to try and not have a forfeit deposit this year, although forfeits will still cost a team \$20.** If you contact the league supervisor **before 3:00 p.m.** on game day to cancel, no forfeit fee will be charged. This will allow us to contact officials and the other team.
- c. Teams are responsible for buying and picking up game balls and scorebook at Stateline Sports. They are \$75/doz and the \$7 for the scorebook, and need to be picked up and paid for at Stateline.

[4] **UMPIRE DUTIES**

- a. The Recreation Department will be responsible for providing the Home plate umpire. Over the past decade it has become increasingly difficult to hire reliable umpires. If you know of anyone interested in umping games, please have them reach out to the recreation department. If a paid umpire is not available the following umpire system will be in place: Catcher calls balls, strikes, and foul balls. First base coach calls the plays at first and home plate. Third base coach calls the plays at second and third base. This league is for fun, please make it fun.

- b. Plate umpire will have complete authority at the field and final word on all disputes. The umpire may ask a player to leave the game or the field after one warning if they feel these measures are necessary. Team captains are responsible for the team's conduct before, during, and immediately after the game. Only the identified team captain may approach an umpire to question an interpretation of a rule.
- c. Plate umpire will collect line-up cards and cards and scores of the games to the Recreation Office.
- d. Plate umpire will be responsible for getting the game started on time and keeping it on schedule.
- e. Home Plate umpire will make the call on the infield fly rule.
- f. The at bat team may provide a volunteer base umpire. The base umpire may or may not be a member of the team.
- g. If no umpire shows up for the game, the two team captains must agree on a course of action. Alternatives approved of include: selecting a player or neutral spectator to umpire, or rescheduling.

[5] **STARTING TIMES**

- a. All games start at 6pm, 7:15pm for the second game of a double header. Forfeit times are 15 minutes past scheduled start time. Teams with enough players to start a game must go ahead and start instead of waiting until the forfeit time. The umpire will make the final forfeit decision.
- b. In case of rain, the plate umpire, with input from the two team captains, will call the game at the field, unless canceled earlier and teams are contacted. **If the weather is debatable...show up at the field. 30 minute rule for lightening storms. Play must be halted as soon as lightening is observed. It's not worth the risk.**
- c. **Make-up games:** Make-up games will be re-scheduled as double headers during the next scheduled date both teams are scheduled to play. If teams cannot play a make-up game, the game will need to be scheduled by team captains. The new agreed upon date needs to be communicated to the Rec Dept/League Coordinator for confirmation within one week of the original game date, or the Rec Dept will set the date.

[6] **FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT**

- a. The primary field will be Ratcliffe Park. The Hartford Parks & Recreation Department will perform field maintenance prior to the games.
- b. Teams must provide their own equipment. Helmets are strongly recommended. First aid kits are required.
- c. **For the ladies, any ASA Certified 2004 Stamp is legal. For the gentlemen, no hi-tech bats that help the ball "jump" off the bat quicker will be allowed in this league including: C500, C555, C5000 series aluminum; 600 or 6000 series aluminum; scandium aluminum; Double or Triple Wall bats designed for trampoline effect,;C405 EST, and Composite (either in barrel or handle). When in doubt, ask the Recreation Department for clarification – this is a growing threat to our game and tough to keep up with. We will have a bat list generated, improved upon annually, and available separately. If you have a bat not on the list but follows the above guidelines, then please submit it to the Recreation Department along with specifications for consideration.**
- d. Any equipment deemed illegal by the umpire shall be removed from the game and a warning issued to the team. Any subsequent offender using illegal equipment shall be removed from the game and the team may face forfeiture of the game. **Any team found with a "Juiced Bat" will forfeit the rest of the season.**

[7] **PROTESTS**

No judgment call can be protested. This includes balls & strikes. If a team captain feels there is a rule protest, the captain will approach the umpire. Before any further game action the umpire and two team captains will discuss the protest and a settlement will be made at that time and play continued.

[8] **PLAYOFF TOURNAMENT**

- a. A tournament will be played at the end of the season. Teams will be seeded according to the final league standings. Format will be put together after the number of teams in the league is determined.

[9] **RULES**

- a. An official team line-up is 10 players. This can be either 5 men / 5 women, or 6 of one gender and 4 of the other. If using a 6 / 4 ratio, no more than 2 of the same gender may bat back to back. **Borrowing players is permissible only with the other team's blessing. Borrowed players must bat 10th and play catcher.**
- b. A team may play with 9 players (5/4 ratio, or 6/3), but when the 10th player's turn at bat comes up, an out will be counted.
- c. If the 10th player shows up you may not enter them into the game until the start of a new inning.
- d. An extra hitter (EH) may be used in your line-up to get up to 12 players into the game. You may enter up to 2 EH's, but use of EH's may not alter the minimum gender ratio requirements (if you are playing with 6 men / 4 women, then you may add either 1 woman EH, or both a man and a woman EH).
- e. No more than 2 of the same gender may bat back to back.
- f. Substitutes must be of the same sex and assume the same place in the batting order of the player substituted. A starting player may be substituted for and then re-enter for that substituted player later in the game. A substitute may not re-enter the game after coming out.
- g. Courtesy runners may be used for injured players who declare their need at the beginning of the game (or if injured during the game). When a courtesy runner is requested the batter may not advance past 1st base on any hit ball except a homerun over the fence. All other base runners may advance at their own risk, or score on a home run. The courtesy runner must be the last out of the same gender.
- h. There are no rules regarding the positioning of male / female players in the field.
 - i. The outfielders must be at least at **175' arch line** until the batter makes contact with the ball. **If the defender violating the 175' arch rule makes a play on the hit ball, it will immediately be called a dead ball and all runners advance one base.**
 - ii. **Outfielders may never make a force play at first base.**
- j. Seven innings shall be the official game unless weather or darkness forces a shorter playing period at which at least 5 innings will be a complete game. The 15 run differential rule after five complete innings is in effect. If the teams would like to continue playing after that point then they may, but the game is officially complete. The umpire should stay on if the teams want to continue playing. On double header nights, there will be a 10 run differential rule for both games, without an option to continue playing after the first game.
- k. Runners can lead off the base only after the ball crosses the home plate. There is no stealing bases.
- l. A strike is any pitch that lands on either the plate or the mat behind the plate.
- m. There are no requirements that a both genders have to pitch. (i.e. a team can have males pitch the whole game, or females pitch the whole game.)
- n. This is a slow pitch league. The pitch must have a minimum of a 6 foot arc, and a maximum of a 12 foot arc. The pitcher must present the ball in front of his/her body and be delivered underhanded. There are no restrictions as to how the ball must be held or released (i.e. wind ups, behind the back are all permissible so long as the delivery is in an underhand motion.) The umpire shall judge whether the pitch is delivered at the above mentioned height and appropriate speed. Unfair pitches shall be ruled a ball while in the air, but if a batter attempts to hit the ball and misses it shall be a strike. An unfair pitch hit by the batter is a live ball.

- o. All batters begin with a 1-1 count. If a male batter is walked and a female batter immediately follows, he advances to 2nd and the female batter begins with a 2-1 count. Batters with 2 strikes may foul off one ball, but the next is a strikeout.
- p. 1 up home run rule: Each team may have one over the fence homerun more than their opponent. (i.e. if team A has 4 homeruns, then team B may have a cumulative total of 5. Their 6th homerun would be considered a double. Once team B has 4 homeruns then team A may have 5, and so on). A double is considered 2 bases for all runners from their current base.
- q. The runner (when scoring) or defender (when making a force out) may tag either the home plate or the mat behind the plate (in its normal position).
- r. Sliding: The player must attempt to avoid a fielder making a play on him/her. Contact with the fielder can constitute interference and the runner will be out. Malicious contact will result in ejection from the game. Legal slides are encouraged as a means to avoid contact. Fielders are not allowed to block the base or plate unless they have the ball or are coming up to field the ball.
- s. Swearing will not be tolerated. Teams/players will be warned and ejected from the game on the next infraction.
- t. Metal spikes are not permitted at any time.
- u. Shirts and shoes must be worn.
- v. USSSA Slow Pitch Rules will be referred to if not specified otherwise on this list

[10] **OTHER**

- a. Port-a-potty is located on site.
- b. If you notice any problems with the field, please contact the Recreation Department.
- c. Please drive respectfully when arriving and leaving the game. Be considerate of the fact that these fields are all located in residential areas.
- d. Please make sure all of your players have read the rules and regulations.
- e. If you believe you will not have enough players for a particular game, please contact the opposing captain to see what arrangements can be made prior to the game. Once decided, contact the recreation department. If no arrangements can be made it is the opposing team's option to accept a forfeit.
- f. **Remember this is a Recreational Softball League....so have fun and be a role model for others!**

Adult Softball Code of Conduct

Hartford Parks & Recreation Adult Softball League has established the following Adult Softball League Code of Conduct to ensure that all individuals and teams participate in a safe and sportsmanlike manner. Providing a quality Adult Softball program requires the full cooperation of all managers, players, officials and spectators. Any demonstration(s) of misconduct may result in disciplinary action, and can jeopardize your individual player and/or team eligibility to participate in the League.

Definitions:

- The term “individual” includes: manager, player and/or spectator
- The term “official” includes: umpires, league director(s) and Staff
- The manager and entire team are responsible for the conduct of its individuals

Infractions and Penalties:

- Minimum Penalty: Warning
- Maximum Penalty: Permanent Ban from HPRD Adult Softball League
- Multiple violations of the Code of Conduct will result in an escalation of penalties

No Individual Shall:

1. Demonstrate disagreement by throwing gloves, hats, bats, balls or any other forceful action.
2. Discuss with an official, in any manner, the decision reached by an official (exception: Team Manager).
3. Use unnecessary rough tactics in the play of game.
4. Use abusive, offensive or intimidating language or gestures toward any official or individual on or off the playing field.
5. Use profane, obscene or vulgar language or gestures, in any manner, at any time, on or off the playing field.
6. Lay a hand upon, shove, strike, spit on/at or make unnecessary physical contact with an individual or official.
7. Make direct or implied threats, either verbally or physically toward any individual, official or their property.
8. Fail to leave the park when directed to do so by an official.
9. Damage, destroy or steal property of an individual, the League or the Town.
10. Appear on the field of play or at the park, at any time, in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of any other type of drug which might affect the individual’s safety or the safety of others.
11. Consume or possess beer or other alcoholic beverages at the field(s), park or parking lot areas of the facility.
12. Consume or possess tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, on the field of play, in the dugouts, or in the spectator areas of the park.
13. Leave behind excessive trash.
14. Demonstrate unsportsmanlike conduct

