

Except for the rules covered in these by-laws, Manhattan Parks & Recreation Department Adult Softball will be governed by the rules of the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA).

I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) Adult Softball, a player must sign the official adult roster of the team he/she is playing on.
- B. Players who are not 18 years of age must obtain and complete a Parental Consent Waiver form, which includes a parent/guardian signature. Forms are available at the MPRD office.
- C. Those playing in any MPRD youth baseball or softball league are ineligible to participate in adult softball.
- D. Once the team roster due date has passed (first regular season game), a player can become eligible either of the following ways:
 1. Sign the original team roster in person at the MPRD office during regular office hours (Mon-Fri, 8 am – 5 pm).
 2. Complete an MPRD “Roster Addition” form. “Roster Addition” forms can be filled out either of two ways:
 - i. At the MPRD office during regular office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm).
 - ii. At Twin Oaks. See the facility supervisor on duty to obtain a blank form. Return the completed form to MPRD staff immediately.
- E. A Men’s player can play on one Once-Weekly team, one Doubleheader Monday team, one Doubleheader Tuesday team, and one Doubleheader Thursday team. A Women’s player can participate on one Women’s League team. Co-Rec League players can participate on only one Co-Rec team! (Players cannot play in multiple divisions).
- F. Players wishing to switch teams after league play begins must first get approval from the Recreation Supervisor in charge of the adult softball program. Once approved, the player must sign the roster or fill out a “Roster Addition” form.

Note: If a team has not turned in a roster by the first regular season game, they will forfeit rights to post season awards.

II. PLAYER CONDUCT / DISCIPLINE

- A. Any player found to be playing illegally ***after consulting the master roster sheet*** will be suspended for the remainder of the season, and the offending team will forfeit all games he/she participated in.
- B. EJECTION POLICY
 1. Any player who uses vulgar or abusive language aimed at self will receive a warning from the umpire. ***NOTE: Umpires have the discretion to issue an ejection without warning if language is loud or vulgar.*** Continued use of such language will result in ejection from the game. A player who swears at another player or any umpire is subject to immediate ejection from the game.
 2. The names of ejected players will be kept on file at the Parks & Recreation office, and also at the Twin Oaks Sports Complex.
 3. When ejected, a player, coach, or manager has 60 seconds to leave the playing field "sight and sound." Refusal to do so will result in forfeit by his/her team. Each manager should monitor and handle this situation. ***NOTE: It will be the discretion of umpire and supervisor in charge, if ejected player must leave the entire facility or not.***
 - i. 1st Ejection: results in an immediate one-game suspension from the team’s next scheduled game
 - ii. 2nd Ejection: results in a two-week suspension from the date of the incident. A player who receives a 2nd ejection is banned from any adult softball participation for the length of the suspension. This includes coaching, playing, or as a spectator. ***PENALTY: Team will forfeit the game***
 - iii. 3rd Ejection: results in a suspension for the rest of the season. This includes coaching, playing, or spectating.
 4. Any individual (player, manager, spectator) who violates the terms of his/her suspension will be banned from participation in all MPRD Adult Sports programs for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation. In addition, his/her team will forfeit all games affected by the violation.
 5. Any individual (player, manager, spectator) suspended at season’s end may have their suspensions imposed in the next MPRD league activity in which he/she participates. That decision will be made by MPRD administrative staff.
- C. Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in penalties being imposed upon the offending individual, including coaches, participants, or spectators. Unsportsmanlike behavior may also result from teams/players intentionally hitting up the middle at opposing pitchers (*As a hitter, ALWAYS apologize whenever your ball is ever hit close to or within reach of the opposing pitcher*). Penalties may include banishment from further participation in Recreation Department activities. Penalties will be decided by a committee made up of the Director of Parks & Recreation, the Recreation Superintendent, and the Recreation Supervisor in charge of the activity. The set procedure is further clarified in the Parks & Recreation Department's policy manual, available in the MPRD Administrative Offices at City Hall.

- D. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in any City of Manhattan parks. Any person or persons caught or seen drinking alcohol within the confines of Twin Oaks Main or Colley Complexes by any MPRD staff member will be asked to leave the facility immediately and suspended an automatic two weeks. Any person reported for a second time will result in a one year suspension at Twin Oaks.
- E. Smoking is prohibited in the playing area, including the dugouts, bleachers, or concession stands. New no smoking signage has been placed around the park to indicate where smoking is prohibited.
- F. In the interest of safety, children will not be allowed in the dugout area.
- G. **Sportsmanship Rating System.** Continuing in 2017, teams must conform to a "Good Sportsmanship" standard. This procedure is explained in detail on the MPRD "Team Sportsmanship Rating System" form, available at MPRD. Post-season eligibility will be forfeited by teams whose average sportsmanship rating falls below 3.0 at the end of regular season play.

III. PROTESTS & FORFEITS

- A. The protest procedure in MPRD Adult Softball is as follows: When a team wishes to file a protest, MPRD staff on duty at the field must be notified by the manager at what point the protest is being made. The team filing the protest must submit a written account of the incident to the Recreation Supervisor before 5 p.m. of the next working day following the day of the incident. A \$25 fee must accompany all protest reports. If the protest is upheld, the \$25 will be returned. If the protest is denied, the fee is forfeited.
- B. Judgment calls by the umpire (out/safe, strike/ball, fair/foul, etc.) are not grounds for protest. Only the acting manager may approach the umpire to discuss a call. All other players will be ignored; if they become abusive, they are subject to ejection from the game.
- C. Situations involving player eligibility must be brought to the attention of MPRD staff, and the protest procedure followed (bylaw III-A above). The game in question will be played. NOTE: During the post-season tourney, **all protests involving player eligibility will be handled at the fields by MPRD staff after consulting the master roster sheet.** The decision of MPRD staff will be final.

IV. EQUIPMENT

- A. ATTENTION: "OLD LOGO BATS" ARE NOT ALLOWED IN 2017. ALL BATS MUST HAVE NEW LOGO!
- B. In MPRD Adult Softball, teams will be "hitting their own" softballs. Teams are responsible for providing softballs while they are batting. All softballs must be stamped "USSSA approved". The softballs must be optic yellow in color and fairly clean, as determined by the judgment of the umpire. If a team is unable to provide softballs for any of their turns at bat, then the opposing team has the right to take a win by forfeit. Each team is responsible for giving the softballs to the umpire at the start of each turn at bat, and for retrieving their softballs when their turn at bat is over. This needs to be a constant and speedy process. Reminder: softballs will be sold at both concession stands during operating hours. MPRD leagues will continue to use only USSSA stamped, blue stitch softballs. Men's must use a Classic M and Women's must use a Classic W. The Classic Plus softball is legal.
- C. No metal-tipped or steel cleats or spikes will be allowed to be worn during MPRD Adult Softball games. All cleats must be rubber or plastic or some other similar acceptable material. This rule has been adopted for injury prevention. The umpire has authority to make a ruling concerning the legality and safety of a player's shoes. Shoes must be worn at all times during games - playing in bare feet, socks, or sandals will be prohibited. Players found to be wearing illegal shoes must change before being allowed to continue playing.

V. THE GAME

- A. COIN TOSS. For all MPRD adult softball games, "Home" and "Visitor" is determined by a coin toss. The umpire will conduct the coin toss. The team that wins the toss has the option of choosing home or visitor (see V-D-2 below).
- B. RUN RULE. MPRD Adult Softball games will be governed by "15 after 3" and "10 after 5" run-rule regulations.
- C. TIME LIMIT. The time limit for games is one hour. Once the time limit has expired, no new innings will be started unless the game is tied, in which case the game shall continue until a winner is obtained. The umpire/scorekeeper shall be the official timekeepers in this situation.
- D. MINIMUM # PLAYERS. In MPRD Adult Softball, **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME!** Teams must have at least nine eligible players present (in full view of the umpire) WHEN IT TAKES THE FIELD, or a forfeit will result.
 - 1. If neither team has nine players present at game time, a double forfeit will result.
 - 2. If one team doesn't have at least nine players present and in view of the umpire at game time, and the opposing team does have the minimum of nine players present and in view of the umpire at game time, the legal team with nine players will have two options presented by the umpire during the pre-game meeting:
 - Option 1 - choose Visitors and win by forfeit, or;
 - Option 2 - choose Home and allow game to start.
 If the team with 9 players chooses Option 2, the other team will take their turn at bat (top 1st inning). When that at bat is over, the visiting team must have 9 players present (in view of umpire) to take the field or a forfeit will result.
 - 3. Late-arriving players may enter game defensively after any dead ball or assume their position in batting order.

- E. **HIT & SIT.** A batter who hits a home run over the fence does not need to touch first base, nor run the bases. He/She can return to the dugout. Any baserunners who were on base at the time of the over-the-fence home run do not need to touch home plate, nor run the bases. Such baserunners will return to their dugout.
- F. **COURTESY RUNNERS.** In MPRD Adult Softball, the USSSA Courtesy Runner rule will be used.
 - 1. One courtesy runner per inning (one time) may be used. The courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup. If the courtesy runner is still on base when his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.
- G. **AUTOMATIC OUTS.** If a team starts a game with ten, eleven, or twelve players, and has no available eligible substitutes, they may lose down to nine players and still play the game. Empty spots in the batting order will be counted as automatic outs each time that spot is due to bat. A team must have nine eligible players available to continue playing, or a forfeit will result. **NOTE:** Players listed on the game line-up card shall consist of **ONLY** players present to play.
- H. **RE-ENTRY / AH.** The "additional hitter" and "re-entry" rules will be used in MPRD Adult Softball. Consult the USSSA rule book for details. **NOTE:** An extra additional hitter may be used (teams can hit twelve players).
- I. **WARM-UP PITCHES.** At the beginning of an inning or when a pitcher relieves another pitcher, one minute may be used to deliver not more than three practice pitches to the catcher or some other teammate. Teams may not take any batted infield practice before or during any game. Batting practice from the infield is prohibited.
- J. **HOME RUN LIMIT / 1-UP RULE.** In all MPRD Adult Softball Leagues, there will be a 5 homerun limit.
 - 1. For any homeruns hit in excess of 5 (or in excess of the "1 homerun up" rule), the batter is ruled out.
 - 2. The "1 Up" Homerun Rule will be in effect.
 - i. Both teams start with limit of 5 homeruns.
 - ii. If one team hits 5 homeruns, they have to wait on the other team to hit 5 or 6 homeruns before they can hit another. From there on, it is "1 homerun up".
 - iii. After time has expired or the game has reached the bottom of 7th inning (including extra innings), the HOME team can only tie opposing team but may not go one up.

VI. **CO-REC RULES:** In MPRD Co-Rec softball, the following rules will be in effect:

- A. A team may begin play with 8, 9, 10, or 12 players, as long as there is an even number of males and females.
- B. The batting order must always alternate male and female.
- C. A team can lose down to eight players if it starts the game with more as long as there are never more male defensive players than female. Any number of players less than ten will be automatic outs in the batting order.
- D. Once a game has begun, a team that loses players and does not have eligible subs will be charged with an automatic out for empty spots in the batting order.
- E. A team may play with 9 players with following stipulation:
 - 1. If there are 5 males and 4 females present, the males must lead off and occupy the 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9 batting spots.
 - 2. Only eight players may be allowed to play defense unless the 9th player is female (the 5th male will NOT be able to play defense, however the 5th female CAN play defense).
 - 3. The 10th spot in the batting order will be an automatic out in any scenario.
- F. If a male is walked, the female that is due up next has the choice of taking a walk or hitting. The male will automatically be awarded second base in either instance. **NOTE:** In this situation, the male batter-runner must touch first base before proceeding to 2nd base.
- G. Women will bat with an 11" softball and the men will bat with a 12" softball.
 - 1. It is an appeal play when the wrong ball is pitched to a batter.
 - 2. If the appeal is allowed, then the batter returns to bat with the same ball and strike count he/she had at the time of the pitch. Also, any base runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- H. When a courtesy runner is used, a female must replace a female and a male must replace a male.

VII. **TIE-BREAKERS:** Tie-breaker procedure (for determining league standings and tournament seedings):

- 1. Head-to-head competition.
- 2. Fewest runs allowed (all games) *
- 3. Most runs scored (all games).
- 4. Coin flip by Recreation Supervisor.

* **NOTE:** The score for forfeits shall be 7-0. Forfeit scores will not be used in determining tie breakers. If team A is tied with team B and team B has a game they won by forfeit, team A will remove their lowest score to determine tie breaker.