

City of Milford – Recreation Department
2020-21 Rules & Regulations Governing Adult Slow-Pitch Softball –
COED WINTER ONE-PITCH LEAGUE

These Rules & Regulations shall be considered tentative until further notice.

REGISTRATION (two parts):

REGISTRATION FOR TEAMS 1 -:

1. The team manager reserves the spot in the league by registering the team and submitting the team fee on line at www.milfordrecreation.com . ***This will secure your teams spot in the league.*** The team Registration Deadline is ***November 6, 2020.***
 - A. Fees: **\$150.00** Total per team – Applies to administrative duties and credit card fees and USA Softball Team Registration fees (the USA Softball fee allows the league to use USA Softball Umpires and offers participants the opportunity to purchase insurance.

ADDITIONAL TEAM FEE:

Teams will be responsibility for paying the Umpire directly at the field. The umpire cost \$25.00 per team with one (1) Umpire per game – **CASH ONLY.**

REGISTRATION FOR PLAYERS – 2:

1. *All players must register for the league as an individual player. **There is no fee for players** to register as an individual. When registering as a player you will be asked your team name and you will be assigned to that team. Players will also electronically sign/agree to the Waiver of Liability/ Consent Form which serves as a "roster". Paper rosters are no longer used. All players must sign up on line at www.milfordrecreation.com prior to participating. Players may be added to a roster at any time prior to **December 18, 2020.***

All managers, coaches, & players must create a free household account at www.milfordrecreation.com in order to register a team or as an individual.

LOCATION:

All games will be played on Field #2 (rear of complex) at the Turf Fields at the Orange Avenue Athletic Complex. Home plate will be located in the front right corner of the field (see attachment for specific markings). Please see the attached document for specific field dimensions and boundaries.

Field Dimensions:

- Left Field: 354'
- Center Field: 297'
- Right Field 198'
- Bases and pitching distances are regulation per USA Softball Rules.

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EQUIPMENT:

Teams are responsible for providing one new game ball per game in addition to furnishing their team with their own bats. Teams and individuals are responsible for any and all defensive equipment.

All equipment must meet the specifications of USA Softball as outlined in Rule 3 of the Official Rules of Softball; and the local variances detailed below.

During the course of the 2020-21 season any bats whose status (legal or illegal) has been changed by the USA Softball will be changed in Milford.

The Milford Recreation Department reserves the right to ban any and all bats it feels to be in the best interest of the league, the Recreation Department, and the City of Milford.

Prior to buying a bat player's should consult with USA Softball website www.softball.org for the most recent list of both certified and banned bats.

BATS

Men: Will use WOODEN Bats as outlined below.

- **All wooden** bats will continue to be approved for USA Softball Championship Play regardless of whether they bear an USA Softball approved certification mark or are included on a list of approved bats published by USA Softball National Office.
 1. Shall not be more than 34 inches in length, nor exceed 38.0 oz in weight
 2. Shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its' largest part.
 3. Shall be marked "Softball" or "Official Softball"

Women: Will use Bats that are deemed legal by USA Softball in 2020 and meet the proper specifications.

1. Must bear **either** USA Softball approved 2000 certification mark, USA Softball **2004 certification mark**, or USA Softball **2020 certification mark** as shown below, and must not be listed on an USA Softball non approved list, or Must be included on a list of approved bat models published by USA Softball National Office; or Must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with USA Softball bat performance standards then in effect.
2. *Bats that have the 2000 certification mark will not be allowed in USA SOFTBALL (USA Softball Championship Play unless they are listed on an approved bat list on the USA SOFTBALL website.*



SPECIAL NOTES CONCERNING BATS:

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- During the course of the 2020-21 season any bats whose status (legal or illegal) has been changed by the USA Softball will therefore be changed in Milford.
- During the course of the 2020-21 season the Milford Recreation Department reserves the right to ban any and all bats if it feels it is in the best interest of the league, the Recreation Department, and the City of Milford. This decision would be based upon the input of umpires, players, and Recreation Department officials.
- USA Softball web site (www.teamusa.org) contains a list of certified equipment and updated press releases, which will be utilized to determine the status of all bats.

BALLS

- A. Will be provided (.52 COR/ 300 Compression Optic Yellow).

BASES/ BASE RUNNING/ AUTOMATIC FORCE

- A. Will be provided.
- B. **All** bases will be **Double Bases** – The double base will be used in all games. The runner shall run to the Orange side of the base and the defensive player shall use the white side of the base.
- C. **The runner MUST RUN TO THE ORANGE BASE.**
- D. **The defender MUST ONLY USE THE WHITE PORTION OF THE BASE.**
- E. **ALL PLAYS ARE FORCE OUTS.** *If the defender possesses the ball while in contact with the white portion of the base prior to the runner reaching the orange portion of the base the runner shall be declared out.*
- F. **Commitment Line:** Once the runner passes the pitchers plate (extended across the baseline) the runner must commit to the base he/she is attempting to advance to **and may not turn back to the last base touched.** – There are no “rundowns.” Such calls are at the umpires sole discretion.
- G. **Sliding/ RUN THROUGH RULES** – Sliding is still permitted however when running through the base the runner must continue straight or turn to the right. Any “attempt” or turn to the left **MAY** put the runner in jeopardy of being put out. Such plays are at the umpire’s discretion. In either scenario a player may never willfully run into or obstruct a defender.

GAME INFORMATION (Playing Rules):

- H. **General** -USA Softball Rules and Regulations will govern except where local Milford Recreation Rules and Regulations apply.
- I. **Count/ Strike Zone** – **THIS IS A ONE PITCH LEAGUE.** A strike or foul ball at a legal or illegal pitch is an out. A ball is a walk. An illegal pitch is a walk unless swung at. If an Illegal pitch is swung at, the result of the play will stand. A fair batted ball is played as usual and the result is as usual per the outlined rules of the league.
- A strike zone mat will be utilized in all leagues. A strike will occur any time a legal pitched ball hits **the plate or the strike zone mat.**
- J. **Forfeit Time** - A forfeit allowance of ten (10) minutes will only be in effect for the first game(s) of any given day. All other games will start at the originally scheduled or rescheduled time with each team fielding a minimum of nine (9) players
Exception:

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1. To avoid a forfeit, a team may start with nine (9) players. A tenth (10th) player only may be added prior to the team going through the entire batting order. Once the leadoff batter hits for the second time, a team must finish with nine (9) players. **NOTE:** Teams do not have to declare this to the umpire until this spot in the order is due up. At this point the team must finish with nine and take the out in the order (**NOTE:** A 10th player can be added at any time and the automatic out is removed).

K. Home Runs:

- A. Fair batted balls hit over the fence are a home run.
- B. Fair batted balls that roll past the “home run line” shall be considered a home run.
- C. **Limit: None** – All over the fence home runs are “hit and sit” – you do not run the bases and all base runners can clear the field without touching home.

L. Interrupted / Suspended Games

- 1. ALL GAMES **WILL BE PLAYED** in RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE UNLESS IN CASES OF EXTREME AND/OR DANGEROUS WEATHER. Teams will be notified via email if games are cancelled. Cancellations will also be posted to www.milfordrecreation.com In the event that rain and/or darkness causes the interruption or suspension of a game in progress the following procedure shall be adhered to:
 - a. The game shall be declared official after **4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead)**. The score shall revert to the last completed inning. If after three full innings the game is not “official” or a winner is not determined the result will be a tie.
 - b. If a final result cannot be determined within the allotted aforementioned inning time frame for a completed or official game the umpire shall return the umpire fee to the teams. And the game will be rescheduled and start anew
 - c. In the case where neither team has kept an official scorebook, the Recreation Department may declare ANY game official regardless of the inning.

G. Cleats – Cleats or spiked sneakers/shoes of any type are **NOT** permitted. Only rubber souled footwear such as sneakers or boots are permitted.

H. Run Ahead Rule – Any game with a score differential of **10** runs or more after **four** innings (3 1/2, if the home team is ahead) shall be terminated by the umpires.

I. Official Score – It is mandatory to keep a scorebook. Scorers should compare scorebooks each ½ inning and resolve any discrepancies. The Home team is the official scorebook and must keep track of both teams’ score. In the event that the Home team does not have the personnel to keep the opposing teams score (or simply does not keep it). The visiting teams score book will be the official scorebook **ONLY IF THEY KEEP BOTH TEAMS’ SCORE**. In the event that both teams are only keeping their own score, both books become official and discrepancies shall be settled on the field; with the umpires if necessary. The Umpires decision is final. Absolutely no protests will be heard on scorebook or substitution matters.

J. Unlimited Batters – Teams have the option of batting unlimited batters. The use of unlimited should be declared to the umpires and opponent prior to the start of the games.

- 1. Players may alternate defensive positions but must remain in the same batting order
- 2. Unlimited batters must be in pairs (male/female). There should never be an odd number of batters in the lineup or the same gender batting back to back.

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M. **Courtesy Runner** – Book rule for all leagues (Any roster eligible player may run once an inning). Please refer to USA SOFTBALL (USA Softball) Rule Book for specifics.

N. **Schedule/Reschedule** – All games are to be played as scheduled. If you cannot field a team, give 48 hours and the game be cancelled and no fee will be assessed. For standings purposes only, a forfeit shall be declared. **Rescheduled games will not be rescheduled** for any other reason than inclement weather.

SPECIFIC COED LEAGUE VARIANCE

All leagues will play on 70 foot bases – USA Softball Book rule.
All leagues will use the Courtesy Runner Book Rule – USA Softball Book rule.

A. COED

1. Batting order shall alternate genders.
 - a. If unlimited batters must be in pairs (male/female). There should never be an odd number of batters in the lineup or the same sex batting back to back.
 - b. If playing short-handed (9 players), the vacant position in the batting order shall be an out and shall be listed in either the 9th or 10th spot depending on alternate sex. If the 10th player arrives he or she may be added at any time.
2. Fielding Positions shall be
 - a. 2 Men and 2 Women in the outfield
 - b. 2 Men and 2 Women in the field
 - c. Pitcher and Catcher shall be alternate sexes
 - d. If playing short-handed (9 players), with either 3 in the infield or 3 in the outfield, at least 1 must be a female.
3. A walk to a male batter will result in a 2 base award. The male batter base runner shall legally touch first base prior to advancing to second base. The next batter, a female must bat. **Exception:** With 2 outs the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

PROTESTS

A. COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELIGIBILITY OF THEIR PLAYERS. No protests will be considered.

Exception:

1. In the case of an Umpire **misinterpretation** (not judgment) of the playing rules.
2. In the case of ineligible players.
3. In the case of illegal players.

Both types of protests must be filed prior to the end of the game with the opposing team and the umpires. It must then be filed in writing with the accompanying \$100.00 Protest Fee to the Recreation Department by the close of business on the first business day following your game. Failure to follow procedural guidelines will render the protest as void.

B. The decision of the protested game may result in the following:

1. The protest is found invalid, the game score stands as played and the protest fee reverts to the City of Milford treasury.

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2. When a protest of umpire's misinterpretation is found valid, the game is replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected and the protest fee returned to the team.
3. When a protest for an ineligible player or illegal player is upheld, the game will be forfeited and the protest fee returned to the team. ***The player and coach shall be expelled from the league and suspended from all Recreation Department activities indefinitely. The penalty shall also include a minimum of six softball games the following season pending further investigation by the League Director. All rostered players shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the season. All penalties levied shall be at the discretion of the League Director and are final.***

C. Protests: **No protest on player eligibility will be heard after the regular season has concluded. Only illegal player/roster protests will be heard.**

CLAIRIFICATION: To protest eligibility it is questioning whether a person is permitted by the rules to participate on that team or in that league. An illegal player protest encompasses a broader list of scenarios including but not limited to: The player plays on another Milford team (illegally), the player is not on the roster, etc.

All protests must be submitted in writing with the accompanying \$100 fee by the close of business the first business day following the game in question.

FORFEITS

- A. Any team forfeiting a game (without advance notice) will pay \$50.00 no later than 48 hours prior to their next scheduled games.
- B. If a coach calls the Recreation Department at least 24 hours prior to a game, A FORFEIT WILL BE DECLARED HOWEVER THE TEAM WILL NOT BE ASSESSED THE FEE.
- C. Two (2) forfeits by any one team may result in the team being expelled from the League at the discretion of the League Director.

CONDUCT:

- A. Any participant (player, coach, fan, etc) participating in a fight will be ejected from the game, to be followed by further disciplinary measures (multi-game or league expulsion) pending investigation by the League Director. Fighting will result in forfeiture of the game.
- B. Only team managers or coaches may enter the playing field to discuss a play. Any other player illegally entering the field will be ejected from the game.
- C. Any participant physically approaching, threatening, or belittling a Recreation Department representative at any time will be indefinitely suspended from all Recreation Department programs pending an investigation.
- D. Any participant making disparaging or insulting remarks, gestures, or threats towards any umpire, player, coach, fan, or recreational official before, during, or after a game will be ejected from the game or the next game. A second offense will result in expulsion from the league. If this violation, in the opinion of the Umpires or Recreation Department, is considered flagrant, it will result in multi-game suspension or

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expulsion from the league, depending on the severity of the incident, with further disciplinary measures to follow pending investigation.

- E. Teams are responsible for their fans. Abuse by fans can result in the forfeiture of the game and further disciplinary actions.
- F. Any participant will be ejected from the ball field if his/her actions are judged to be the result of alcohol consumption or use of an illegal or controlled substance. Anyone ejected for the aforementioned reasons will be automatically suspended with further disciplinary measures to follow, pending investigation. A participant observed consuming alcohol before, during, or after a game will be ejected from the game.
- H. An Umpire or Recreation Official may terminate a game at any time, if in his/her discretion, the ideals of recreation play are not being observed.
- I. A participant may be ejected from a game without warning, if in the mind of the Umpire or Recreation Official, a person's behavior warrants expulsion. In all of the above instances, the person(s) in question must leave the grounds immediately. Failure to comply will warrant forfeiture of the game and further disciplinary action from the Recreation Department, pending investigation.
- J. ***Any participant ejected from a game for any misconduct reason is subject to additional disciplinary measures (probation, suspension, expulsion, etc. pending investigation by the League Director.***
- K. Any participant expelled for flagrant misconduct will be indefinitely suspended from all Recreation Department activities based on the severity of the incident, pending investigation by the League Director.
- L. **CASUAL PROFANITY RULE.** The Casual Profanity Rule pertains to expletives and verbal un-sportsmanlike language not directed at an umpire or opposing players or coaches. This is most likely uttered by a player out of frustration. This type of behavior is penalized by an out being charged against the offending team. If the player commits the violation at bat the next batter is out. If committed by the defensive team, the first batter up in the next half inning will be declared out. The above outs will be treated on a delayed, dead-ball situation. Profanity directed at others, especially Umpires will still result in an out and may also result in a warning or ejection. Umpires discretion is final in all cases.
- M. Any participant involved in a misconduct or ineligibility incident late in the season or during the playoffs will be placed on probation for next season and/or program with disciplinary actions being more severe than normal, including multi-game suspensions or expulsions.
- N. The Milford Recreation Department and the Milford Umpires Association operate under mutual cooperation and the Milford Recreation Department will enforce any decision recommended by the Umpire's Association.
- O. If not described in the League Rules & Regulations; the League Director may take any disciplinary measures he/she deems necessary against a participant. The Milford Recreation Department reserves the right to make any decisions it feels to be in the best interest of the League, the City of Milford, and/or the

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- P. Any team, player, or spectator who enters private property to retrieve a ball(s) or any other item(s) without the consent of the property owner will be suspended for a minimum of one (1) game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season with possible disciplinary measures to follow, based on the severity of the incident and pending investigation by the league director. Players whom fail to identify themselves to a property owner and/or league official when requested will face more severe disciplinary action when their identity becomes known. Furthermore, failure to provide identity will subject the entire offending player's team to disciplinary action, including but not limited to single game suspension, multiple game suspensions, and / or expulsion from all Milford Recreation Department activities. Violators may also be subject to arrest/prosecution.
- Q. Any team, player, spectator, sponsor organization, independent league / team / and/or independent tournament team / official that without the consent of the Public Works Department performs field maintenance (i.e. removal of puddles; addition of dirt, sand, kitty litter, saw dust; cuts the grass; etc.) on any field will be expelled from the league and/or their event will be terminated immediately. In the case of independent leagues and/or tournaments, those organization's field permits will be revoked immediately and any future use will be subject to review.

The above conduct rules apply before, during, and after games.

SOFTBALL PERMITS – No field/practice permits will be issued for any fields within the City of Milford. PRACTICE IS NOT PERMITTED ON CITY OWNED SPACE.

Schedules, divisions, league championships, and USA SOFTBALL tournament qualifying will be determined by the best format that suits the makeup of the teams and is determined to be in the best interest of the leagues and the Milford Recreation Department.

- A. The consumption of Alcoholic Beverages is prohibited at all city parks. Violators are subject to enforcement by the Police Department. **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST VACATE THE PROPERTY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GAME.** *Failure to comply may result in expulsion from the league.*
- B. All teams and players are reminded that every effort should be made to respect the rights and privacy of the residents in the field area/neighborhood.
- C. The Milford Recreation Department reserves the right to make any decision it feels to be in the best interest of the League, the City of Milford, or the Recreation Department.

This document and its contents shall be considered tentative until noted otherwise. This document is amendable any time prior to or during the season solely at the League Directors discretion.

LEAGUE DIRECTOR:

Patrick Austin
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70 West River Street

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