



## 2026 MILFORD RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

### **MEN'S A & B (Mon. & Wed.): RECREATION LEAGUES:** Level: Recreation-Competition

I. Team Registration: Will run February 1 - April 1, 2026 (sooner if league maximums are met). Coaches register/pay for their team's spot in the league. Individual Registration: (no charge) for players will begin February 1, 2026. Players will register for each specific league they are in. Registration for individual players will conclude on May 31, 2026 (the player/roster addition deadline date). NOTE: All players may play in any-and-all leagues that he/she is eligible for. However, a player may not play on more than one team within a Division or League.

II. AGE REQUIREMENTS: All players' league age is determined by players age as of December 31, 2026. A. All coaches/managers must be age 21 as of April 1st of the current year. B. All players must be age 18. ALL PLAYERS IN ALL LEAGUES MUST REGISTER FOR FREE USING THEIR [www.milfordrecreation.com](http://www.milfordrecreation.com) ACCOUNT. There are no more paper rosters.

### **FEES:**

A. Fees: **\$325.00** Total per team.

1. Administrative Fee (\$275) & CT USA SOFTBALL (USA Softball) Fee (\$50): Applies to administrative duties, a Game Supervisor and credit card fees; it does not pertain to any additional field rental/usage or maintenance. The USA Softball fee allows us to use USA Softball Umpires and offers players the opportunity to purchase insurance.
2. All Fees (other than Umpire Fees) can be paid using a card at [www.milfordrecreation.com](http://www.milfordrecreation.com).
3. Those needing to pay with a check or cash may do so in person at the Milford Recreation Department – 70 West River St. Checks Payable: Milford Recreation.

B. **Teams will be responsible for paying Umpire(s) directly at the field** - For two (2) Umpires, the cost is \$40.00 per team; and for one (1) Umpire, the cost is \$30.00 per team.

C. Forfeit Fee: \$100.00 per game - This fee will only be charged if you forfeit.

IV. **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.

**Bat Guidelines:** Men's Leagues: All Leagues use USA Softball approved Wood Bats\* only. .

\*Any wood bat that does not bear a USA Softball approved certification mark shall also be deemed legal provided that the bat:

1. Is no more than 34 inches in length, nor exceed 38.0 oz in weight
2. Is no more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its' largest part.
3. Is marked "Softball" or "Official Softball" NOTE: The Corndog bat is legal in all leagues.

APPROVED/CERTIFIED: The official bat for USA Softball Championship Play must meet all the USA Softball specifications and the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1, and: 1. The official bat: Made up of the knob, handle, grip, taper, barrel, and end cap shall be free of burs, dents cracks, sharp edges, rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat may be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion. The official bat must bear either the 2000 Certification Mark, 2004 Certification Mark, or 2013 Certification Mark (Slow Pitch, Men's Adult





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Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Boy's Fast Pitch and Men's Modified only), as shown below and must not be listed on the USA Softball NonApproved Bat List with 2000 or 2004 Certification Mark.

NOTE: USA Softball has begun transitioning to the new USA Softball Certification Marks for the 2023 calendar year. On behalf of equipment manufacturers, the USA Softball Equipment Testing and Certification Committee requested that the new certification marks be approved for the 2023 calendar year and the USA Softball Board of Directors approved the new marks (seen here) for 2019 USA Softball Championship Play. The Official Rules of Softball, Rule 3, Sections 1 and 3 will be updated for 2020 to identify the new Certification Marks for Championship Play. AND 2. must be included on a list of approved bat models published by USA Softball OR 3. 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 Standard. This includes wooden bats.

All USA Softball bats must pass USA Softball's Bat Performance Standard. All bats having the 2000, 2004 or 2013 Certification Mark and not listed on the list of NonApproved bats with Certification marks will be allowed. For your convenience, USA Softball's website has a listing of all approved bats and bats that have USA Softball Certification Marks and are no longer approved. <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/~link.aspx?id=015F4358A30B44368FC142350D112FFF&z=z>

Prior to buying a bat, players should consult with the USA Softball website (link above) for the most recent list of both certified and banned bats.

**Special Notes Concerning Bats:** During the 2026 season any bats whose status (legal or illegal) has been changed by the USA Softball will therefore be changed in Milford. During the 2026 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](http://www.teamusa.org)) contains a list of certified equipment and updated press releases, which will be utilized to determine the status of all bats.

**Softballs:** Monday, Wednesday Leagues: Optic Yellow softball: 12" .47 core 525 compression

### **V. GAME INFORMATION (PLAYING RULES):**

A. **General** - USA Softball Rules and Regulations will govern all leagues, except where local Milford Recreation Department Rules and Regulations apply.





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**B. Count/ Strike Zone** – In all leagues, batters shall begin with a 1 Ball / 1 Strike count. 1. No fouls after the 2nd strike. 2. 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.

**C. Double (Safety) First Base** – The double first base will be used in all games at the fields where it has been installed. The runner shall run to the Orange side (foul territory) of the base and the defensive player shall use the white side (fair territory) of the base as long as there is a play being made on the runner..

**D. 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 ten (10) players.

**Exception:** To avoid a forfeit, a team must start with nine (9) players at game time. A tenth (10th) player only may be added prior to the team going through the entire batting order without penalty.

**NOTE:** Teams need to declare this to the umpire when the tenth batter is due up. At this point the team must report to the umpire; (A) Either play with 9 until end of game without an out and **CANNOT** add another player in the tenth spot, or (B) Take an out in the tenth spot throughout the game until the player arrives.

**E. Home Run 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 additional bases.

**F. Interrupted / Suspended Games:** In the event of rain and/or darkness that causes the permanent interruption/suspension of a game in progress, the following procedures shall be adhered to:

a. The game shall be made “official” once 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) are complete.

b. Any game that is not “official” shall resume from the exact spot where the game was suspended when the game is rescheduled.

c. If a game is suspended after it has been made “official”, the score will revert back to the last completed inning to determine the winner. If the reversion results in a tie, the reversion is undone, and the game shall resume from the exact spot where it was suspended when the game is rescheduled.

d. The Recreation Department reserves the right to determine the game outcome in extenuating circumstances as determined by the League Director.

**G. Metal Cleats** – Are not permitted in any Milford Recreation Department league.

**H. Run-Ahead Rule** – A winner shall be declared when the score margin meets the below criteria: • 20 runs after 3 (2.5 Home Team) Innings • 15 runs after 4 (3.5 Home Team) Innings • 10 runs after 5 (4.5 Home Team) Innings

**I. Field Supervisors / Official Score** – Each field will be staffed with a Field Supervisor. The Field Supervisor will have each team’s roster, at the conclusion of ground rules, each manager will confirm their players and sign off on them with the Field Supervisor prior to first pitch. At the conclusion of the game the Field Supervisor will record the final





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score and send it to the League Director. Late arrivals MUST check in directly with the Field Supervisor.

**NOTE:** Field Supervisors are NOT scorekeepers. It is still mandatory for both teams to keep a scorebook. Teams must confirm the score between each half-inning each other. In the event of a discrepancy, teams shall seek a mutual agreeable resolution (score). If a resolution cannot be agreed upon, the umpire shall hear both sides and resolve the matter before the start of the next half-inning. The Umpires decision is final. Absolutely no protests will be heard on scorebook or substitution matters.

**J. Batting Order** – Teams have the option of batting as many batters as they choose. The batting order must never change. In the event that a batter leaves the game for any reason (including but not limited to disqualification, injury, etc.) the player may be replaced by a legal substitute without penalty. Should no legal substitute be available an “out” shall be declared in that spot in the order for the remainder of the game (**a legal substitute may enter at any time during the game “erasing” the “declared-out” in the batting order. Should a team be in a situation where there are two “declared-outs” in the batting order the game shall be declared a forfeit by the umpire**). **EX:** You start with 10 players and go down to 8 players, it is a forfeit. If you start with 11 and go down 2, it is a forfeit. Teams that only play with 9 and lose 1 player, then it is also a forfeit.

**An ejected player must have a substitute or the game will be forfeited.**

**K. Sliding** – Teams /players should all be aware that there is NO rule that states a player must slide. **Remember:** Avoid, surrender or retreat.

Players however are **not permitted to intentionally crash** into a defensive player at any time. Avoiding a collision should predicate being called safe. A player who crashes into or runs over a player is subject to automatic expulsion from the game, with further disciplinary action to follow. A Defensive player shall not block/obstruct the base/plate without the ball. Obstruction that is the cause of a collision may result in a defensive ejection and subject to additional disciplinary action. Any umpire call during a collision is considered a **“judgement-call”** and will be final.

**L. Courtesy Runner** – Any eligible rostered player may run once an inning. See USA Softball Rule Book rule for specifics:

In all Adult Slow Pitch, courtesy runners may be any eligible player on the line-up card and may be used once per inning for a player other than the pitcher. In addition, the same courtesy runner or any other eligible player is allowed for the pitcher providing the pitcher bats for themselves and reaches base safely.

**M. Schedule / Reschedule** – Every effort will be made to play all league games on the intended league night of play. However, it is expected that there WILL be some rescheduled games on “off” days to accommodate the league schedule. All games are to be played as scheduled. If a team cannot field a team, kindly give 48 hours and the game be cancelled. It will not be rescheduled, and no umpire/forfeit fee will be assessed provided the proper notice is given to the League Director. The standings will reflect a loss for the team unable to field a team and a win for its opponent. If both teams cannot field a team, no standings adjustment will be made.





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### Rosters

- A. All INDIVIDUAL players must create a household account and register at [www.milfordrecreation.com](http://www.milfordrecreation.com) and digitally sign the electronic roster, acknowledgements, and all waivers of liability.
- B. Rosters/Teams may contain no less than 12 players but are permitted to have as many players as needed. i. Playing managers and coaches must be listed as players.ii. **Only players, coaches, scorers, and batboys may be in the player/bench area.**
- C. The last day to make changes/additions to your roster is May 31 of the current year.  
i. DAY-OF-GAME player registrations are not permitted. All players must be registered the day prior to playing in his/her first game.
- D. No player will be allowed to transfer from one team to another without the written permission from the manager of the team whom they have already played for or League Director's approval.
- E. A player's team eligibility is determined by the first team he or she plays for (legally or illegally). **Roster Notes:** With Milford residency no longer an eligibility requirement the only way a player is illegal is if he/she is: (a). Playing on a team that he/she is not age-eligible for; (b) Playing on more than one team within a division, or (c) Not properly registered, prior to playing, through his/her own account at [www.milfordrecreation.com](http://www.milfordrecreation.com) by May 31, 2026.

### Protests:

#### A. COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELIGIBILITY OF THEIR PLAYERS.

No protests will be considered with these **Exceptions:**

1. In the case of an Umpire misinterpretation of the playing rules (not judgment calls).
2. In the case of ineligible players or 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.
2. When a protest of an 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 registered/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**





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### Forfeits

- A. Any team forfeiting a game (without advance notice) will pay **\$70.00 per game (\$140.00 for doubleheaders)** no later than 48 hours prior to their next scheduled game.
- B. If a coach advises the League Director or Recreation Department Main Office Staff at least 24 hours prior to a game, the game will be declared a forfeit and forfeit fee(s) shall be assessed.
- C. Two (2) forfeits by any one team may result in the team being expelled from the League at the League Director's discretion.

### VII. 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 during a game will result in a double-forfeit.
- B. Only team managers or coaches may enter the playing field to discuss a play with an Umpire. Any other player illegally entering the field risks ejection from the game at the Umpires discretion.
- 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/staff before, during, or after a game will be ejected from the game and subject to additional disciplinary measures pending an investigation by the League Director.
- E. Teams are responsible for their fans. Abuse by fans may result in the forfeiture of the game and further disciplinary actions against the fan-associated team and coach.
- F. Any team member or team-associated fan may be asked to leave the premises (with or without an ejection) if, in the judgment of the Umpire or Milford Recreation Department Staff, removal is warranted. If the person refuses to leave when asked he/she may be ejected and then required by League Rules to vacate the premises.
- G. 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.
- H. Any person ejected must leave the grounds immediately. Failure to comply will warrant forfeiture of the game and further disciplinary action from the Recreation Department, pending investigation.
- I. 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.
- J. Any participant expelled for flagrant misconduct will be indefinitely suspended from all Recreation Department activities indefinitely, pending investigation by the League Director.
- K. **CASUAL PROFANITY RULE**. The Casual Profanity Rule pertains to expletives and verbal unsportsmanlike 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





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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 in 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.

L. 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.

M. 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.

N. 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 Recreation Department.

O. 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 who 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.

P. Any team, player, spectator, sponsor organization, independent league / team / and/or independent Elite 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 Elites, 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.**

### VIII. IMPORTANT NOTES •

All teams/rosters may have an unlimited number of players on it. Players may still only play on one team within any division. • All teams are required to have a safety first-base.

#### **Important General Information:**

A. In the event of inclement weather, players and managers will receive a notification in the event of a cancellation or schedule change. They can also visit [www.milfordrecreation.com](http://www.milfordrecreation.com) where an alert will be posted to our home page in the event of a cancellation or schedule change. Only postponement or cancellation information will be posted. **We only send cancellation notices/schedule changes, we do not confirm games are on as scheduled as it should always be assumed that the games are on as scheduled.**

B. If there is a tie for 1st place at the end of the regular season in any league/division a single elimination playoff between tied teams will decide the champion.





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- The consumption of Alcoholic Beverages is prohibited at all City of Milford fields/parks. Violators are subject to enforcement by the Police Department.
- All teams and players are reminded that many fields are in residential areas and that every effort should be made to respect the rights and privacy of the residents.
- 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.
- USA SOFTBALL, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States.

LEAGUE DIRECTOR: Bill Garfield

Milford Recreation Department

Parsons Complex 70 West River Street Milford, CT 06460-3317

203.783.3388 - Direct

203.783-3284 – Fax

Bgarfield@milfordct.gov www.milfordrecreation.com

FIELD PERMITS: Mike Dooling 203.783.3386 Mdooling@milfordct.gov

UMPIRE/PROTEST ISSUES: Brad Sanchez 203.260.4209 thephantom92002@yahoo.com

### **IX. GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING SAFETY**

All individuals participating in or observing an outdoor softball event are responsible for their own safety and should monitor threatening weather conditions. Before each practice, warm-up time, or game, the home plate umpire should appoint an individual as the designated “weather watcher.” If the home plate umpire is the only official at the event, then the home plate umpire should be responsible for the duties of the “weather watcher.” The individual will make the call to stop play, remove individuals from the field, and announce a warning to the spectators. The designated weather watcher should be aware of weather conditions at all times, including observing the conditions and keeping abreast of the weather forecast. As a means of monitoring local weather, the designated weather watcher can consult the National Weather Service for current information. All storm warning and storm watches should be heeded. When the weather becomes dangerous, the designated weather watcher will announce that all play activities are suspended and all individuals, both players and spectators, should seek appropriate shelter. No place is absolutely safe from lightning threat; however, some places are safer than others. Large, enclosed structures (substantially constructed buildings) tend to be safer than smaller structures or open structures. In general, a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows rolled up tends to be safer than being outside so long as contact with metal surfaces inside and outside the vehicle is avoided. The following areas are not appropriate shelter and should be avoided: Any area of higher elevation; wide-open areas such as sports fields, tall, isolated objects such as flag poles, light poles, or trees; metal fences and metal bleachers, unprotected open buildings like dugouts, picnic pavilions, rain shelters and bus stops. When determining whether to suspend play, the designated weather watcher should use his/her common sense and good judgment. If a thunderstorm appears imminent before or during an activity or contest (regardless of whether lightning is seen or thunder heard), postpone or suspend the activity until the hazard





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has passed. Signs of imminent thunderstorm activity are darkening clouds, high winds and thunder or lightning. Even storms that are many miles away can pose a lightning danger. This may mean the appropriate decision is to suspend activities even before the first sight of lightning or sound of thunder. All individuals should have the right to leave an athletic site or activity, without fear of repercussions or penalty, to seek a safer structure or location if they feel they are in danger from impending lighting activity. **Safety is the number one consideration;** the activity can be made up later.

If activity has been suspended due to lightning, the designated weather watcher should wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or sound of thunder prior to resuming activity. 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 are not adequate indicators for resuming play. **The minimum 30-minute return-to-play waiting period should not be shortened.** Play should not be resumed even after the 30-minute waiting period if any signs of thunderstorm activity remain in the area or if the weather forecast indicates the threat is not over.

**NO LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES CAN GUARANTEE ABSOLUTE SAFETY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY PERSON TO BE AWARE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE SAFE. USE COMMON SENSE AND GOOD JUDGEMENT. PLAN AHEAD AND MAKE SAFETY YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.**





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## USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks

2/24/2026

Bass	Quake	Combat	VIRSP3 Lady Virus	Data Driven Athletics	314159 PI
Easton	SCN1	Easton	SCN11BH	Easton	SCN1B
Easton	SCN2B	Easton	SCN3	Easton	SCN4B
Easton	SCN5	Easton	SCN5B	Easton	SCN6B
Easton	SCN7	Easton	SCN7B	Easton	SCN8
Easton	SCN8B	Easton	SCN9	Easton	SCX14
Easton	SCX14B	Easton	SCX2 Synergy	Easton	SCX22 Synergy 2
Easton	SCX24B	Easton	SCX3	Louisville Slugger	FP136
Louisville Slugger	FP1368	Louisville Slugger	FP1369	Louisville Slugger	FPC305 Catalyst (-8)
Louisville Slugger	SB304	Louisville Slugger	SB34 Genesis	Louisville Slugger	SB404
Louisville Slugger	SB73V TPS Voltage	Miken	MSF Freak	Miken	MSU Ultra
Miken	MSU2 Ultra II	Miken	MSUM Ultra Maxload	Nokona	Tomahawk
Onyx	Battle Ground - ESBCA242	Onyx	First Born - ES2P21	Pure	SkyBolt - MFE6

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2/24/2026

Schutt	Red/Silver Schutt Bat	Suncoast	SBFPB-10	Worth	EST9
Worth	QESTFP	Worth	SBWK(Wicked)	Worth	SBWKA
Worth	WWSC Wicked Comp. (SP Only)	Worth	WWSCA	Worth	XEST9X
Worth	XGold	Worth	XPST4	Worth	XRed
Worth	XWICKX Wicked (SP Only)				

