



WATERVILLE PARKS AND REC 2020 MENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND GUIDELINES

League fees and deadlines:

- 1) League fee – League fee for the 2019 season is \$425. Checks should be made payable to the City of Waterville. League fees are due no later than **April 24, 2020**. League fees not paid by that date will be subject to a late fee of \$25. Teams that have not paid the league fee in full by **June 15th** will be ineligible for the end of the season playoffs, unless payment arrangements have been made with a Waterville Parks and Recreation staff member.
- 2) Non-Resident Fees – Any player that is not a current resident of the City of Waterville must pay a non-resident fee of \$5. Non-resident fees are due no later than **June 15th**. Teams that have not paid non-resident fees by **July 15th** will be ineligible for the end of the season playoffs, unless payment arrangements have been made with a Waterville Parks and Recreation staff member. At any time, Waterville Parks and Recreation may require proof of residency.
- 3) Refunds - There will be no refund of your league fee once the season has started or if you are prohibited from playing on a Waterville field. Any refunds prior to the start of the season, removal from the schedule at any point during the season, and end of season playoff eligibility, are at the sole discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 4) End of Season playoff fees – Teams are responsible for the cost of umpires for all games they plays during the playoffs. Waterville Parks and Recreation cannot accept payment for umpire fees.

Rosters:

- 1) Rosters, including all team players and signatures, are due no later than **June 15th**. *If the roster is not submitted by June 1st, teams may be removed from the schedule until the roster is submitted.* Removal from the schedule is at the sole discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department. Any team that has not completed and submitted a roster by **July 1st** will be ineligible for the end of season playoffs. Rosters are limited to 18 players.
- 2) Players may only be registered on **ONE** roster and hence participate on **ONE** team. If you start the season on a roster and are removed from that roster, you may not play on any other team during the season. Any male playing in this league may be allowed to play in the coed league.
- 3) A player must be 18 to be eligible to play in the league. Children (ages 16 and under) are not permitted to be in the dugout or on the playing field at any time.
- 4) Changes can be made to the roster up until the teams fourth scheduled game. After the fourth game, to add any players to your roster, your roster must drop to 12 players. At that time you may add up to three players. Changes after that are made at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department. There will be no changes permitted to rosters after **July 15th**.

Cancellations, Game Times & Forfeits:

- 1) **Only Captains may call for cancellation information.** The Parks and Recreation Department will determine rainouts. We may cancel games based on the individual field conditions. Therefore there will be times when some fields are open and others are not. Parks and Recreation will notify teams through multiple avenues whenever possible, including email, text and/or Facebook posts. **We will not call captains for cancellations.** Any player can be added to the email and text list by contacting our office.
- 2) Any team found on a field after a rain cancellation, or when an employee of the Parks and Recreation Department deems the field unplayable will be sanctioned as the Parks and Recreation Department deems necessary. Waterville Parks and Recreation will review each violation individually and will determine the sanction at that time.
- 3) Should games be cancelled at the field by the umpires, both teams are responsible for compensating the umpires. If a team forfeits a game at the field, the team who forfeits will pay both umpires. If both teams forfeit, each team will pay one umpire. Teams will be removed from the schedule for any forfeit fees owed until they are paid to the umpires or Waterville Parks and Recreation. Games missed for non-payment of forfeit fees will count towards the three forfeit rule (See Rule #4).
- 4) If a team forfeits three games in the season, they will be removed from the league with no refund. Games that were scheduled for the remainder of the season may be rescheduled. Rescheduling is at the sole discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 5) Games will start at the following times:
 - Rummel Field – 6:30pm, 7:30pm & 8:30pm. Games will be played at 4:00pm, 5:00pm & 6:00pm on Sundays.
 - Herlihy & Reed Fields – 6:00pm & 7:15pm, whenever possible.
 - **NOTE: Players must be at the field by scheduled start time (NO GRACE TIME).**

General League Rules:

Games will be governed by current USA Softball Playing rules with the following exceptions.

- 1) Metal cleats are not permitted.



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- 2) The **HOME** team will be responsible for keeping the official book.
- 3) The USA Softball casual profanity rule will be enforced.
- 4) Prior to the start of the game, each team will provide an umpire with a lineup card, new ball, and \$25. The league will utilize core .52 / 300 compression softballs only. Teams will provide game balls (new or used). Waterville Parks and Recreation will supply softballs for the playoffs only.
- 5) All players must wear uniform shirts that are alike in color with a number. Hats are not required. Teams will have until the 4th scheduled game to meet this requirement. Each player not meeting this requirement by the 4th game will not be eligible to play in that game.
- 6) Alcohol is prohibited in or around playing areas. This includes all parking lots near fields, dugouts and spectator areas. Smoking is prohibited on all school grounds; including the parking lots at Reed and Herlihy fields. Smoking is prohibited on all fields, in all dugouts, and in spectator areas.
- 7) Short-Handed Rule: A game may begin with nine players. The absent player's spot must be listed last in the batting order; however the team will not be charged an out for the missing batter. Once the absent player arrives, he must be inserted into the vacant spot immediately.
- 8) During the regular season only, if a team shows up for the game with only 8 players, they may allow one person that is not on their roster to play that game in order to avoid a forfeit. If a team has less than 8 roster players, it will be counted as a forfeit. Also, a team that has 9 players may not use a non-roster player to bring them to 10. During the playoffs, players may only play for their original roster team.
- 9) A team may bat as many players as they want. If the team finishes the game with fewer players than started, an out will be taken for that position in the order. Excess players batting will be considered DP's. If a player is ejected from the game by an umpire and the team is utilizing free substitution, the game will be considered ended at that time.
- 10) Two over the fence homeruns are allowed per team per game with a progressive homerun allowed thereafter. Additional over the fence homeruns constitute an out.
- 11) If a player or coach is ejected from the game by an umpire, he will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled game. If a player or coach is ejected a second time by the umpire, he or she will not be permitted to participate in the next **three** scheduled games. A third ejection will result in suspension for the remainder of the season. Suspended players are not allowed to sit on the bench. Waterville Parks and Recreation will review each violation individually and will determine if further sanctions are warranted. Players that have been suspended are not permitted in the dugouts.
- 12) **Bats certified/approved by the USA Softball are permissible. Use of banned USA Softball bats is strictly prohibited.** If any member of your team is caught using a banned bat, the player will be banned from playing on any Waterville field for one year from the date you are caught and the entire team will be warned. If any player from that team is caught using a banned bat after the warning, the entire team will be banned for one year from the date that you are caught. This includes any tournaments that are held in Waterville, whether or not they are sponsored by the Waterville Parks and Recreation Department. Your team is subject to an official checking of all bats at any time during a game. Teams may go <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment> to verify if they have legal bats. Waterville Parks and Recreation will not determine for any team whether or not they have legal bats.
- 13) The pitching arc is defined at 6-10 feet.
- 14) The team captain or acting team captain must notify the plate umpire immediately if a game is being played under protest. A written protest must be submitted to Jeff Marshall, League Commissioner, with a copy to the Parks and Recreation Department within 24 hours (if the protested game is played on a Friday night, the written protest must be received by the following Monday).
- 15) Mercy Rule: Games will end when a team is up by 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, or 10 runs after 5 innings.

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