

**LAN-OAK PARK DISTRICT
2010 SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

I. LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

- A. All softball games will be played in accordance with the National Softball Association of America with the exception of any rule changes specifically stated in these rules or on the team schedules as pertaining to local situations.
- B. No team will be allowed to take the field with less than nine (9) players. (Except Co-Rec—see additional Co-Rec Rules). If a team starts the game with nine (9) players and a tenth (10) shows up, he/she may be inserted into the game. A team may play with ten (10) players if, and only if, all ten players are on the roster. The late arriving player can be inserted anywhere in the order if that turn at bat had not yet occurred. If the batting order had already turned over, the late player must bat last in the line up.
- C. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME.**
- D. In the event that a regular league umpire does not appear then that game is canceled.
- E. All leagues will play regulation seven (7) inning games, within the one hour time limit which ever one comes first.
- F. The LOPD Staff shall arrange all schedules and assign all umpires where necessary.
- G. Scorebooks will be properly completed for each game by each team. Full proper last names and first initials of all players and substitutes must be legibly shown. In the case of a protest over an ineligible player, any recognizable alterations will be construed as a decision against the offending team. If a scorebook is not legible, the decision will be against the offending team. (See Protest Rule also.) Each captain is responsible for putting the scorebook in the hands of a competent scorekeeper. The Facility Attendant's scorebook will serve as the official scorebook and must be signed by both captains at the conclusion of the game. Scorekeepers should confer with the facility attendant at the end of each half inning to rectify any discrepancies.
- H. The home team for each game will keep the game ball. The home team is the first team listed on the schedule.
- I. All players must be 18 years of age or older or a graduate of high school in order to play in the Men's, Women's or Co-Rec Leagues. A player must have a picture ID on his person at all games. Failure to produce an ID can result in forfeiture. Any player without an ID will be considered an illegal player. The Facility Attendant, Recreation Supervisor, or any other LOPD Staff can and will check for ID's at anytime.
- J. The lights will be turned out no later than five (5) minutes after the conclusion of the final game.
- K. Roster Limit is 25. Roster will freeze on the Thursday before the first game at four pm. This means that the names of all players on your team must be listed on the roster and waiver sheet and turned into the Eisenhower Center front desk by Thursday May 13, 2010 at four pm. Any violation of this will result in forfeit of all necessary games. A player is only legal

if their signature appears on the official roster, waiver, Code of Conduct sheets, and has a valid photo i.d.

NOTE: Signed participant codes of conduct from each player are due by the first game of league play.

- L. Upon a roster being protested, players must produce a valid photo i.d. or the team protesting will be declared the winner. The game will continue play until the roster is located. If the umpire and facility attendant agree that the player in question is not valid the game will be declared a forfeit and the protesting team will get the victory.
- M. 4 male and 4 female players must play defense at all times. Two of each sex must be in the outfield/infield at all times. No rover player. Short Center is considered an outfielder and must start in grass.
- N. Courtesy runners will be allowed but must be declared prior to the start of the game. Courtesy runner will be the player of the same sex who made the last batted out. If the need for a courtesy runner is not declared prior to the game, the opposing team captain must be asked permission before a courtesy runner is allowed. If the umpire sees that the player was injured during the game, he may allow a courtesy runner without consent from the opposing captain.

II. TEAM PLAYING REGULATIONS

- A. There will be a maximum of two (2) warm-up pitches after the first inning and each pitcher will receive five (5) in the first inning.
- B. Captains and umpires will discuss ground rules prior to the start of all games and the umpire's decision will be final. Prior to the game if both captains and the umpire are in agreement to a rule variance, the rule will apply to that game only and the end result will stand as the official score.
- C. If a team is leading by fifteen (15) or more runs at the end of five (5) innings or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated and the team with the most runs declared the winner. The rule only applies at the end of an inning (or half inning if the home team is winning).
- D. The captain, coach, players on the roster, and scorekeeper are the only ones allowed in the designated bench area. It is the responsibility of the manager to keep all other persons from this area.
- E. No smoking on the playing field or bench area.
- F. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED ON PARK DISTRICT PROPERTY AT ANY TIME.** Rules will be strictly enforced. Teams and players risk possible suspension/ejection from the league and other park district functions for failure to follow this rule. Players are also reminded not to come to the ballpark under the influence of alcohol. If this were to occur, the player(s) will be ejected from the game and will be ejected from the league for the remaining duration of the season including tournament play.
- G. First foul ball after two (2) strikes is an out.
- H. All batters start with a 1 and 1 count.

I. Bunting is prohibited.

J. No metal spikes will be allowed in any Lan-Oak Park District Softball League.

III. BASE INTERFERENCE

A fielder is not allowed to be blocking a base without the ball. If this occurs and the runner is tagged out trying to go around the fielder, interference will be called and the runner declared safe. At no time is the runner allowed to barrel into a fielder with or without the ball. If the fielder has the ball and is blocking the plate, the runner must either slide or try to go around. **There are times when unintentional and/or incidental contact occurs. In such cases the umpire will allow for this type of contact. What the umpire is looking for is deliberate and/or forceful contact which is not allowed.**

IV. LEAD OFF RULE

There are no lead-offs.

V. PITCHING RULE

No hesitations will be allowed.

Pitcher must maintain contact with the pitching rubber, with one foot, until ball is released.

Ball must be presented to the batter for one full second.

The ball must be delivered to the batter at a slow speed, underhand, below the hip with perceptible arc, from the time it leaves the pitchers hand, of at least six (6) feet from the ground, while not exceeding the maximum height of twelve (12) feet.

The wells will be called a strike in all leagues.

VI. PROTEST

A. Only a captain may question an umpire's call. If team members (other than the captain) approach the umpire with a protest, they may be ejected from the game. Protest of a non-judgmental call must be submitted by the captain to the umpire in a calm, restrained manner before the next pitch. All specifications of N.S.A. rulebook must be adhered to. The umpire must have both captains and any players in question sign the facility attendant's official scorebook and note the place of the game that the protest is made.

The protesting captain must then submit a written protest describing all aspects of the protest within 24 hours after the end of the game to the Superintendent of Recreation. All protests must be accompanied by a \$50.00 cash, non-refundable protest fee. Protests will be decided on by a Protest Committee consisting of at least three (3) of the following: Chief Umpire, Recreation Supervisor, Superintendent of Recreation, and Director.

B. When playing a game under protest, both the opposing team and the umpire must be notified before the next pitch. **The protesting captain must be clear to the opposing captain and the umpire that the game is officially protested by stating "I am playing this game under protest."** Please notify the facility attendant as well.

C. Protests are allowed only on plays involving rule interpretation. Protests will be considered only when the play in question had a "Significant Effect" on the outcome of the game.

D. Roster Protest: No fee will be charged for roster protests (we encourage you to question this

as it will help maintain league structure and allow more players to get involved).

PROCEDURE:

Protest the player before the player takes an official turn at bat.

Notify umpire, opposing team captain and facility attendant of protest.

Player in question must sign the official scorebook and also print his/her name and produce a valid photo I.D.

The scorebook will be turned into the Superintendent of Recreation where the roster will then be checked.

The Superintendent of Recreation has the final decision on the matter.

VII. TIME LIMIT RULE

- A. Games will end after the 60-minute time limit. At this point the game will be stopped and the score will revert back to the last complete inning unless the home team has attained the lead in the bottom half of that inning. If the score is tied the game will be called a tie and go down as such in the league standings. (Start to finish they get 60 minutes to play)
- B. Teams stalling on the field or at bat in an effort to invoke the Time Limit Rule shall be first, warned by the umpire, then may forfeit the game.
- C. **Inclement Weather:** If a game does not reach the 5 or 4 ½ inning point with the home team winning, the game will be replayed in its entirety. If it does reach the 5 or 4 ½ inning point, the game will officially count in the standings. Rainout games will be made up on Thursdays or as determined by the league supervisor.

VIII. SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Each team's scorekeeper is to exchange starting line-ups with the umpire and the facility attendant. The scorekeeper and umpire should be informed of any batting substitutions.
- B. There is an option of teams placing all players present for the game in one big batting order (up to fifteen players) and using free substitution on the field. This method can be used in place of the standard re-entry rule. The two methods cannot be combined – at the start of the game, the team must decide which method to use.

If teams use the re-entry rule, it is used as follows: Any player may be replaced and re-entered **once**, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup. Substitutes and person they replaced may not be in the line-up at the same time.

If teams choose to use the bigger batting order with free substitution, the batting order must remain constant and you must finish with the exact same lineup that you started the game. Only in the case of an injury may a team finish with less players in their original lineup, but an out will be assessed to that team whenever that player's turn at bat occurs. So if you start with one big batting order of 15 players, you must finish with the same fifteen players. Once lineup is determined it cannot be altered.

IX. FIELD DIMENSIONS

- A. Base distances will be 60 feet in all leagues.
- B. Pitching distance will be 53 feet.

- C. If the ball hits the soccer goal located in Lan-Oak Park, it is still considered “in play,” unless the part of the soccer goal that is hit is located in foul territory.

X. EQUIPMENT

- A. Fielding and batting gloves will be allowed in all leagues. Batting gloves are not permitted in the field.
- B. Every player must wear a shirt. Matching shirts are not required.
- C. Shoes of some kind must be worn. Metal spikes are not allowed in any Park District league or tournament.
- D. The umpire will enforce the use of an approved N.S.A. softball bat only. Captains and players are encouraged to check the N.S.A. website at www.illinoisnsa.com for a listing of legal bats. All approved N.S.A. softball bats must be taped and unaltered.

XI. RULES OF CONDUCT

- A. Each captain will be held responsible for the conduct of his/her team players and is responsible to see that all rules are observed. The captain must maintain complete control of himself and his team members at all times; this includes before, during or after a game and any other time involved with the softball program. The key to a successful program is in the hands of the captain and, in turn, his players. Good leadership will insure a good program.
- B. Officials and their decisions will be respected and not interfered with at any time. Unsportsmanlike conduct, disrespect, vulgarity, or profanity will not be tolerated at any time. Any captain or player removed from a game will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension to be served in the next consecutive game. A longer suspension may be given by the Superintendent of Recreation, depending on the severity of the offense.

If requested by Official or Facility Attendant, ejected players must leave the park immediately. Failure to comply will result in extended individual suspension or team suspension.

If a team receives a forfeit win or a forfeit loss, this will count as a game played. A report will be submitted to the Superintendent of Recreation, whose disposal of the matter is final.

- C. A game will be forfeited in the event a team fails to respect the official’s authority or decisions; one warning will be given prior to such action.

Personal harassment of officials (umpires, directors, scorers, supervisors) may be cause for either the team or individual to be suspended from league play and/or tournaments. A player does not have to be in the game for this rule to be in effect; he/she may be a spectator of a team.

- D. In any discussion on the playing field with an official, only the captain will be permitted to enter the discussion.

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

The threatening of an official will result in an automatic removal of the individual for the season, both league and tournament play.

- E. Fighting will result in an automatic suspension from ALL Lan-Oak Park District Leagues for one (1) full calendar year.
- F. Any player, captain or spectator guilty of physically striking an official will be immediately suspended for the season and the team put on probation with possible suspension resulting. Suspension for such an infraction is a league suspension for one calendar year from the date of the infraction. In the event that a more serious battery takes place toward an official or supervisor, expulsion up to life can be directed after referral and review by the Superintendent of Recreation.
- G. **Alcohol is NOT allowed on park property.** It is the responsibility of the team manager and members of the team to help control their own team and spectators in this matter. If, in the opinion of an umpire or facility attendant the situation warrants, a games will be forfeited.
- H. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN** for any ejection/suspensions. All participants must adhere the Code of Conduct.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Any rule not listed in the above Lan-Oak Park District Softball League Rules, will be covered by the National Softball Association 2010 Official Softball Rulebook.
- B. Tie for first place will be decided by Head-to-Head Competition. If the teams split in head-to-head competition, the winner will be determined by run differential against each other. If there is still a tie, the winner will be determined by runs allowed during the season. If the teams have not played, a playoff will be held (only to determine 1st place).
- C. All teams will participate in a single-elimination tournament in 2010. The Recreation Supervisor has the right to adjust number of teams allowed in the tournament from each league.
- D. A team that forfeits four (4) games throughout the regular season will not be eligible for the tournament.
- E. All teams in the tournament will be seeded according to final league standings. Should a position night be used, it will count as a regular season game and will affect tournament seeding.
- F. All fees due by noon on the day of the first game.
- G. No dogs permitted at the park.
- H. Any and all injuries must be reported to the Lan-Oak Park District immediately.
- I. **Only captains** may call the Eisenhower Center 708-474-8552 after 3:00 p.m. on game day for any game cancellations or other updates. All other team members should refer to the Lan-Oak Park District Website www.lanoakparkdistrict.org or call their team captain for updates.

ADDITIONAL RULES SPECIFIC TO CO-REC:

1. **Batting Order:** Must alternate female, male, female, male...
NOTE: Female DOES NOT HAVE TO LEAD OFF.
If a player arrives late, he/she must be placed at the end of the batting order and the lineup must still alternate male/female.
2. **Positions:** The catcher and pitcher must be one male and one female.
3. May start game with 8 players (4 females/4 males). To start with 9 players, 5 must be females, 4 males. If both captains are in agreement, a team may play with 5 males and 4 females if only nine players are present. If both captains do not agree, then the team may not play 5 males and 4 females.
4. **WALK RULE:** When a male batter is walked (thrown four balls) the batter will receive choice of walking or to remain at bat. The umpire will clear his indicator and give the batter another at bat. If the batter is walked again, he will take 1st base. The next batter (female) will receive the choice of also taking her base or taking her at bat. If the male batter decides to take the walk after the first four balls, the female batter does not get her choice, but must bat.

Female batter will follow normal walk procedures (4 balls....take 1st base).

**Lan-Oak Park District
Softball 2010
Official Score Sheet**

Date: _____

Time: _____

Visitor Team (Captain _____)

INNING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
TALLY								
RUNS								

Visitor Team's Final Score _____

Home Team (Captain _____)

INNING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
TALLY								
RUNS								

Home Team's Final Score _____

Signature of Visitor Team Captain _____

Signature of Home Team Captain _____

Signature of Umpire _____

Signature of Facility Attendant _____