



SOFTBALL RULES

BASIC RULES

1. **All league fees must be paid at the time of registration.**
2. Registration must take place in person or mailed—prior to registration deadline. No phone registration will be accepted.
3. All players will be required to sign a waiver provided by the Parks Department. There will be **NO alcohol** allowed at the park. City ordinance #G77657.
4. There will be **NO** practicing allowed at Anderson Park. Do not climb the fences if gates are locked.
5. For safety reasons all children must remain in the bleacher area. Playing on the hillside along field #2 and throwing rocks is prohibited. The Parks Department is not responsible for injury.
6. There is **NO** parking allowed in the church parking lot or any other private property.
7. An email address is required on application for better communication.

LEAGUE ROSTERS

1. Rosters are limited to **twenty (20)** players.
2. A roster list must be turned in before the first scheduled game.
3. **No roster may be changed after the third game has been played.**
4. **Only players listed on the official team roster are eligible to participate.**
5. **Players may only be on one roster (and play only on that team) in the same league.**
6. **If a player is on more than one league roster--game time will not be held up to wait for the player from another field/league. Game rules will be followed.**
7. Players **must be at least 18 years of age** to participate.
8. When making a roster change it must be done by manager and player in person.
9. Players that play C level or above in **any association** will be able to play **ONLY** in the strongest leagues the department offers. **Only 2 members per team and they will not be eligible to pitch in any league, unless a stronger league is formed.** The NA-FC Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to place teams in leagues.
10. Players must have a photo ID with them while playing in leagues.
11. Rosters will be kept at the ballpark and managed by the scorekeepers.
12. If a player changes teams during league play, a roster change form must be filled out and signed by both managers and the Athletic Director before playing for the new team.

THE GAME

1. League games will start promptly at their scheduled time. There will be a five minute grace period, at the start of the **first game only**, if waiting on players to arrive. However the game clock will be running. If at the end of the grace period a team does not have enough players to start the game, then the game will be a forfeit. **Completed lineup forms should be turned in to the scorekeeper at least five minutes before the scheduled game time.** If the previous game runs over the time, the lineups still must be turned in five minutes before the scheduled game time. Managers have up to the first pitch to make changes in the lineup. **A manager must submit a lineup with at least 8 players listed, and if players 9 and 10 are not present at his or her time at bat, the batter's position in the lineup will be an automatic out. Roster players can be added after scheduled game time (up to hitter #10) with the approval of the scorekeeper.**
2. Forfeits will be called by the umpire five minutes after the game start time. A team which forfeits three league games during the regular season without prior notification of that team's inability to play the game, shall be dismissed from the league and league tournament without refund of franchise fee. All future opponents will be credited with a win.
3. Both visiting and home teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players before the first pitch. If a team does not have eight players present, a forfeit will be called. **If a team begins the game with eight players, you can add up to 2 more players to the lineup after the scheduled game time, with the approval of the scorekeeper. Until their arrival, their batting position will be an automatic out.** If a team begins the game with eight players and a player gets injured the game will be called a forfeit for that team if the team has no substitutions. If a team begins with eight players and has a player ejected, the game will be called a forfeit for that team if the team has no substitutions.
4. Teams beginning the game with 9, 10, 11 or 12 players in the lineup can finish the game with a minimum of eight (8) players. Teams that begin the game with nine players but has a player get injured during the game, if no substitutes are present, that player's position in the batting line up will be an automatic out and the game will be completed.
5. A team may insert an additional **2 hitters** into its lineup. The batting order must remain constant, however. Any ten (10) of the **twelve (12) players** can take a defensive position throughout the game. All **twelve players** must be present on the field before the first pitch. Teams can finish the game with a minimum of eight players.
6. Each game will have a sixty minute time limit. After five innings, if the difference in the score is **ten (10)** runs or more, the game is considered as complete. AT ANY TIME DURING THE GAME IF A TEAM FALLS BEHIND BY MORE THAN 10 RUNS, THAT TEAM HAS THE OPTION OF ENDING THE GAME. **Any team who is ahead by the 10 runs and tries to make a farce of the game by prolonging the game to get more at bats will be warned by the umpire. The team may have to forfeit after a second warning.** The only game that does not have a time limit is the championship game of the tournament. In this game a full seven innings will be played.
7. The official time of the game is the scoreboard timer. The scorekeeper will start the game timer at sixty-five minutes after the completion of the previous game. The timer will start at sixty minutes for the first game.
8. The second team listed on the schedule is the home team. During tournament play the higher seeded team is the home team.
9. **No metal spikes may be used.** Only official softball bats may be used. Authorized bat manufacturers shall mark their products with the words "Official Softball", or words to that effect. If the bat is not official or does not meet specifications, it will be the judgment of the umpire to prohibit its use. The ball to be used during play will be chosen and provided by the NA-FC Parks Department.
10. The NA-FC Department of Parks and Recreation attempts to place teams in leagues according to their ability. To equalize competition all our leagues will play under the following Home Run Rule: **There will be only three home runs allowed per game unless an open league is formed.** Any other player that hits a fair untouched fly ball over the fence in that game is ruled out.

11. **No** infield practice will be allowed. You may warm up before a game, but please do not play in the area around home plate. The gates at each field will be locked until approximately 30 minutes before game time. Please do not get on fields until the gates have been properly opened.
12. **Only players, coaches and managers are allowed in the dugout area.**
13. In all leagues, the 3 ball-2strike rule will be in effect with a courtesy foul.
Batters are out on the second foul ball after one strike. If the final foul is caught on the fly, the ball is dead and runners may not advance.
14. **USSSA pitching rules will be enforced.**
15. **NO ALCOHOL** is allowed in the playing area, the **bench area or outside the dugout area!**
16. Managers and coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their players and their spectators during and after the game in which they participate. **Managers and coaches are also responsible for making sure the bench area is clean after each game.**
17. In use of the safety first base, any batted ball hitting the white portion should be fair and any ball hitting the orange part should be foul. On the initial throw to first base from the infield or outfield the batter-runner **MUST** always touch the orange portion of the base. The defensive player **MUST** always touch the white portion. This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base which does not include:
 - A. Returning to the base after over running.
 - B. Running on a base hit to the outfield; runner may touch the orange or white part.
 - C. Re-tag to advance on a fly ball. **EFFECT:** If the base runner uses the orange portion at any time after the first attempt at first base and is not in contact with the white portion then he is considered off the base.
18. League games will begin at 6 or 6:30 pm, depending on entries with some leagues games starting the final game at 9:30 pm. When signing up for a league, know that any team could play at any time. **No special exceptions will be made for any team if they cannot play a particular night or time. Once the schedule is set there is to be no changes, unless weather related.**
19. Any player that appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed to take part in the game. It will be the judgment of the umpires.
20. The Parks Department has adopted a **“you hit it, you get it”** policy. The Parks Department asks that when a player from your team hits a ball out of play that someone from your team retrieves that ball, if at all possible. This will keep your game and any games after yours running with no delays.
21. **Only the batter, on deck batter and base coaches are allowed on the field for the batting team.** All other players must be outside of the playing field.
22. Any player, manager, or umpire who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform or if a bandage becomes blood soaked, in the judgment of the umpire, the uniform/bandage must be changed before the individual may participate.
23. All playing rules not specifically covered by the NA-FC Parks and Recreation rules shall be governed by the USSSA Official Rule Book. It is the manager’s responsibility to request a copy of the rules and inform his/her team of the league rules and USSSA rules. Copies of the New Albany-Floyd County Department of Parks and Recreation Softball League rules (online at www.nafcparks.org) and USSSA rule books will be given to each team upon request. If you did not receive one, they may be picked up at the NA-FC Department of Parks and Recreation office from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

COED SOFTBALL RULES

1. There must always be an equal or greater number of women in the lineup. Teams may start the game with a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of **12 players with new USSSA rules.** Substitutions can occur as long as they do not deviate from the alternating batting order and the number of men does not exceed the number of women. Teams beginning the game with 9, 10, 11 or 12 players in the lineup can finish the game with a minimum of eight (8) players. Teams that begin the game with nine players but have a player get injured during the game, if no substitutes are present, that player’s position in the batting line up will be an automatic out and the game will be completed.

2. **A manager must submit a lineup with at least 8 players listed, and if players 9 and 10 are not present at his or her time at bat, the batter's position in the lineup will be an automatic out. Roster players (1 female or 1 female and 1 male) can be added after scheduled game time (up to hitter #10) with the approval of the scorekeeper.**
3. In the case of an injured female the manager must inform the scorekeeper of which male will not bat. It must be the male who either **precedes** or **follows** the female in the batters line up. **It will not be an out, but the male cannot bat.** The manager's decision cannot be changed after he/she informs the scorekeeper.
4. Both men and women will hit the softball chosen and provided by the Parks Department.
5. Alternate men and women batters. No two male players may bat back to back.
6. Men & women can take any position in the field that the manager chooses.
7. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat. **NOTE:** If the next female batter chooses to walk, it is not considered an intentional walk for the purpose of making an appeal.
8. Men will bat on the opposite side that he would normally use. The opposing team may make one request per batter to switch sides. Opposing team may not turn the batter back to the original side.
9. **Men can slide head first only. No male feet first sliding.** If a male runner does slide feet first, he will be called out whether there is a play or not.
10. There is a co-ed line in the outfield of each field. All outfielders must remain behind this line when a female player is up to bat. The outfielder must remain behind this line until the batter makes contact with the ball. A violation of this rule will result in an automatic base for the batter and runners to advance one base.
11. The hogging rule will be in effect. No player may take a play away from another player that is able to make the play. Players may only cover another position on an overthrow or a rundown. This will be a judgment call by the umpire and if called the base runner will be awarded that base. The pitcher may cover a play at home plate.
12. All playing rules not specifically covered by the NA-FC Parks and Recreation rules shall be governed by the USSSA Official Rule Book.

WOMEN'S 40+ SOFTBALL RULES

1. There will be a scoring plate added 8' behind the normal home plate to avoid injuries and collisions.
2. There will be a commitment line between home plate and third base. Once this line has been passed you cannot return to third base.
3. Unlimited number of courtesy runners can be used each inning.. The courtesy runner can be any player and can only run once per inning. If the courtesy runner is on base when it is her scheduled at bat, it is an automatic out.

PROTESTS

1. A protest must be made immediately to the umpires before the NEXT LEGAL PITCH, INTENTIONAL WALK, ILLEGAL PITCHER ACTION OR BEFORE ALL FIELDERS HAVE LEFT FAIR TERRITORY...The manager may do so by the following procedures:
 - a. Call a time out and notify the home plate umpire of the protest.
 - b. Umpire will notify the scorekeeper.
 - c. **Deposit a \$20.00 protest fee---cash only.**
 - d. The scorekeeper will record the following information: date, time, time remaining in the game, game site, umpire names, teams playing, reason for the protest and any other needed information.
 - e. After the protest is filed with the scorekeeper, **the game will be completed.**
 - f. The protest will then be turned over to the Athletic Director for review. If a decision cannot be reached at that time, then the protest will be brought before the **Parks Department Softball Committee (Athletic Director, NA-FC Park Staff member and an Independent Umpire representative)** for review. If the protest is allowed, the **\$20 fee** will be returned.

2. Protests **NOT** accepted are as follows:
 - a. Whether a batted ball was fair or foul.
 - b. Whether a pitched ball was a ball or a strike.
 - c. Whether a base runner was safe or out.
 - d. All judgment calls by an umpire.

VIOLATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

1. Physical contact or abuse of an umpire or game official- pushing, shoving, hitting, throwing a ball, glove or bat- is a **minimum** one year suspension from all leagues.
2. Physical contact or abuse of a player or spectator:
 - a. pushing and/or shoving is a two game suspension from the league; this includes the current game and the next scheduled game that is played.
3. Verbal abuse of an umpire, scorekeeper, field manager, parks department employee, player or spectator is a minimum two game suspension from the league; this includes the current game and the next scheduled game that is played.
4. Bat throwing: (Minor)-ejection from the game. (Flagrant)-two game suspension from the league; this includes the current game and the next scheduled game that is played.
5. **Any player, manager, or spectator who uses profanity will be ejected from park property and will not be allowed to return to the park for one (1) week. See #6.**
 - a. **Any verbal abuse of an umpire or game official will result in a one week suspension; this includes the next scheduled game. See #6.**
 - b. Any person(s) involved in fighting or threatening the umpires, scorekeepers, field managers or other Parks Department employees may be suspended from the leagues and/or park for up to a year.
 - c. Players or managers suspended more than once will be suspended for the remainder of the season. The player or manager will not be eligible to participate in any additional games, including league tournament games, for any team in any of the leagues.
6. **If a player or manager is ejected from a game he/she MUST leave the park property in a timely manner and will not return for one (1) week and/or scheduled games--in the league they were ejected from, or be eligible to play or manage in any New Albany-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department Softball Leagues during this period. If the scheduled missed game(s) are rained out, the player will be eligible to play in other leagues following the original suspension date but not the league ejected from until suspension has been served. If a player fails to leave, that player's/manager's team may forfeit that game. In addition, the New Albany Police will be called and the player will be trespassed.**
7. The above rules apply before, during and after your team is scheduled to play on park property.
8. It is illegal to carry, possess or drink alcoholic beverages in any park or at any softball field. City Ordinance #G77657 (R). THIS ORDINANCE WILL BE ENFORCED. POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL-Will result in a fine, ejection from the park and a two game suspension per player involved. If a player is involved in a second offense for possession of alcohol, it will result in a fine, ejection from the park and suspension from all the leagues for a year.
9. Any item not included will be handled by the NA-FC Department of Parks & Recreation Softball Committee.

RAIN OUTS

1. Rained out games will be made up at the end of the season or when possible.
2. We will attempt to make up rain out games at open times on the night of each league, or at the end of the season before the tournament, and lastly on Sundays.
3. Some rain out games may be rescheduled on a field other than the field used for league play.
4. Managers and coaches will be notified of rescheduled games at least one week prior to the scheduled makeup date.
5. In the event of rain, a game is considered complete if the losing team has batted four times.
6. The Parks Department will make a decision on the games after 3:00 p.m. and before 5:00p.m. Please call **812-949-PARK (7275)** for game information. **DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE FOR RAIN OUT INFORMATION.** If the message on the recorder states that a decision regarding the games that evening will be decided at game time, the team **MUST** go to the fields to see if the games will be played. If there is no message on the recorder then the games will be played.

AWARDS

1. A trophy or plaque will be awarded to the first place teams in the tournament at the team's request. Team may also opt for **\$50** off their next league fee.
2. Individual t-shirts will be given **ONLY** to the league winners at the team's request. Logo/design will be determined by the Athletic Director. **No special order shirts** will be provided. League winners will be given t-shirts according to their roster. Team may also opt for **\$50** off their next league.
3. League champions will be determined by best overall league record. In case of ties the following tie-breaking system will be used in the following order:
 - A. Head to Head competition.
 - B. Total runs scored during entire league.
 - C. Total runs given up during the entire league.

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. All transactions must go through the Athletic Director or the Superintendent at the Southern Indiana Sports Center. The address is 620 Park East Blvd. New Albany, IN 47150. The phone number is 812-981-7472. The fax number is 812-981-7473. The Rainout Hotline is **812-949-PARK (7275)**.
2. Please direct all questions/comments/concerns to the Athletic Director. If the issue cannot be resolved immediately, it will be brought before the Parks Softball Committee.
3. Please **do not call the office** to inquire about playing times. Schedules will be provided to all players. Schedules will also be posted at Anderson Park, the Southern Indiana Sports Center, and the Parks website (www.nafcparks.org). Updated schedules will be posted at least one week in advance of a newly scheduled game. If a schedule is changed it will be emailed to the team manager.
4. **Please limit any and all inquiries to Parks Department staff from the team manager only.**