

SCARSDALE REC ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2022 GAME "QUICK RULES"

Revised: March 16

- 1 - Areas of league play, not covered by the Scarsdale Recreation Department Quick Rules, will be governed by rules established by the **United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA)**.
- 2 - **PLAYING FIELD:** Bases → 65 feet Pitcher's Mound → 50 feet
- 3 - **GAME TIME → 6:30 PM and FORFEIT TIME → 6:45 PM.**
Teams can have eight (8) players to start the game but MUST have (9) players by end of 1st inning.
- 4 - **PRE-GAME MEETING & DURING GAME:** only one (1) designated team person allowed to speak to the umpire. In addition, the pre-game meeting (discuss ground rules) must be conducted 5 minutes before the game.
- 5 - **DUGOUTS** → no one is permitted in the dugout except players, manager and coaches. MUST be at least 18 years old.
- 6 - **OFFICIAL SCORE:** "Both Teams" are responsible for keeping their own official scorebook during their at-bat. Teams MUST verify score with the opposing team and the umpire, after each half inning.
- 7 - **MERCY RULE: 12 RUNS or MORE AFTER 5 INNINGS.** Any time the Home team is winning by 12+ runs after 5 innings, then the game will be declared over. If the Visiting team is winning by 12 + runs, the Home team is required to bat during the bottom half of the inning, unless the game is called by the umpire for rain, lightning, darkness, etc. This rule applies for all regular season and playoff games **EXCEPT for the PLAYOFF "CHAMPIONSHIP GAME(s)"**.
- 8 - **BALL:** official ball will be the **De Beer Clincher F12 (White)**.
 - Each team will provide two (2) to the umpire at each game.
 - Four (4) balls will be used per game as follows:
 1. A new ball will be used in the top of the first inning
 2. A new ball will be used in the bottom of the first inning.
 3. A new ball will be used in the bottom of the fourth inning
 4. A new ball will be used in the top of the fifth inning.
- 9 - **BATS:** **must have USSSA Approved Label** and a **Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20 or less** for non-wooden bats. Umpires and league officials may at any time ask to inspect any bats being used for an official scheduled game. If a bat is determined to be ineligible, it will be removed from the game and cannot be used for the remainder of the season. If a player is caught a second time, they could face suspension and removal from the league.
- 10 - **BATTER'S BOX RULE:** this is a safety rule which will be enforced by the Umpire. The batter when hitting the ball may not have the back foot completely further forward of a line defining the front edge of HOME PLATE; retains all other traditional restrictions regarding the side and rear lines of the Batter's Box as well as, stepping on home plate.
- 11 - **"FOUL" FLY BALL RULE:** See USSSA Rule Book (Page 48) – Rule Rule 8 Baserunning, Sec. 7 Baserunners Are Entitled To Advance Without Liability To Be Putout: Effect Sec. 7. A Para 1. which states:

When a batted ball, either fair or foul, is legally caught on the fly while the fielder's feet are still within the established lines of the playing area (not dead ball area), the batter is out even though the fielder's momentum may cause him to fall over a fence, go into the dugout, or patron areas, or cross a line, or marking the out of play area, provided in the umpire's judgment the catch was completed. The ball is declared dead and each and every runner is advanced one base after the catch. If an umpire determines the ball was carried into a dead area intentionally, two bases are awarded to each runner.

- 12 - **EQUIPMENT – SAFETY** : all equipment (bats, balls, equipment bags) **MUST** be kept in the dugout at all times.
- 13 - **EQUIPMENT – LEGALLY ADOPTED GLOVES – USSSA RULE 2; SEC 8 (2018 USSSA Rule Book (Page 16)**
(A) **LEGALLY ADOPTED GLOVES** – may be worn by any fielder.
(B) **CATCHERS, PITCHERS and 1ST BASEMEN** – may wear a glove or mitt of any size.
(C) **ALL OTHER PLAYERS** – are restricted to a finger type glove with the space between the thumb and forefinger not exceeding more than 4 ½ inches at the top. The webbing shall not be constructed to form any type net or tray.
(D) **Multicolored gloves are legal.**
- 14 - **METAL SPIKES**: are **NOT ALLOWED**. Rubber cleats and/or sneakers **MUST** be worn.
- 15 - **STRIKE ZONE**: is the space directly above home plate that is not higher than the batter’s highest shoulder, not lower than the bottom of the batter’s front knee, when the batter assumes his natural batting stance. Any part of the pitched ball that passes through this zone is a strike.
- 16 - **PITCHER**: must face home plate during the delivery of pitch and pitched underhand at a slow speed. The pitched ball must arc 3 feet after leaving the pitcher’s hand and before it passes any part of home plate. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground.
- 17 - **HATS**: The wearing of baseball/softball hats forward or backwards during the game is allowed.
- 18 - **BATTING ORDER**: a team may choose to bat the entire team in order, whether or not players are in the field.
- 19 - **SUBSTITUTION / RE-ENTRY RULE** **USSSA Rule 5 Section 5** ➔ Any starting players may withdraw and re-enter **ONCE**, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may **NOT RE-ENTER**.
- 20 - **THIRD STRIKE RULE**: after two strikes, a foul ball will declare the batter out.
- 21 - **THROWING THE BAT**: A batter can never be called out for throwing a bat in a game. A player, though, can be ejected for flagrant throwing of the bat, but only after the play is over. Therefore, if a batter reached base and is ejected for throwing the bat, a substitute player and/or courtesy runner would have to take the ejected players position on base.
- 22 - **BASERUNNING**
Whenever the catcher or any fielder clearly has the ball and is waiting to tag the runner, the runner **MUST** slide or attempt to avoid contact. If in the umpire’s judgment, the runner deliberately and forcefully runs into the defensive player, the runner is declared out and shall be ejected from the game. The ball is declared dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.
- 23 - **FAKE TAGS**: **NOT ALLOWED**. This is considered obstruction by the defensive player and subject to ejection.
- 24 - **COURTESY RUNNERS**:
 - Must be identified before the start of the game.
 - No more than three (3) courtesy runners can be used (except for injury during the game).
 - **Courtesy runner MUST be the “LAST RECORDED OUT”.**
- 25 - **SPECTATORS**: it is recommended to bring their own chairs.
- 26 - **PROTESTS**: **No protest of an umpire’s judgment will be allowed**. A manager or team representative desiring to enter a protest, must file with the Recreation Department, within 24 hours of the game in question. Valid protests will only be allowed if notification was immediately given to the umpire at the time of controversy. Protest must be written and detailed. A fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee must accompany any protest. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. The fee will not be refunded if the protest is not upheld.

27 - **LOCAL GROUND RULES (covering all fields):**

- A fly ball in foul territory hitting a tree, or any part of the tree, is a dead ball.
- A fly ball hitting a tree branch in fair territory down the 1st base or 3rd base line, is a dead ball.

28 - **LOCAL GROUND RULES (field specific):**

- **CROSSWAY FIELD #1**
 - Any ball hit, on the fly, into the parking lot **in left field** or playground in **left center field** is a Home Run.
 - Any ball hit, on the ground, into the parking lot **in left field** or playground **in left center field** is a Double.
- **CROSSWAY FIELD #2**
 - Any ball hit, on the fly, over the bushes into the bowling green area **in right field** next to tennis courts is a Home Run.
 - Any ball hit, on the ground and rolling into the bowling green area **in right field** next to the tennis courts is a Double.
- **GREENACRES FIELD #1** – no local ground rules.
- **HYATT FIELD #1**
 - Any ball hit, on the fly, over the outfield barrier **in left field** is a Home Run.
 - Any ball hit, on the fly or on the ground, going into the outfield barrier **in left field** is a Double.
 - **Any ball hit into the center field trees and bushes, to the right of the outfield barrier, either on the fly or on the ground, is a Home Run.**
 - Dead Ball Area along First Base – the ball is in play on all overthrows to first base. If the ball goes over the wall, the ball is dead; automatic one base awarded.
- **QUAKER RIDGE (BACK) FIELD #1** – no local ground rules.

29 - **EJECTIONS:** any player, coach, sponsor or spectator ejected from a game, will automatically be suspended for one (1) game. Any further penalty will be determined by League Officials who will notify such offender(s) in question.

*** The Scarsdale REC Adult Softball League strongly encourages and promotes good sportsmanship at all times ***

30 - **PLAYOFFS**

- A double elimination playoff format will begin at the end of all regular season games; REC Dept. to provide bracket schedule.
- **An Eight (8) Team Playoff Bracket will be scheduled; meaning the top (8) teams qualify for playoffs participation.**
- All playoff games will start at 6:30 **(forfeit time is 6:45).**
- It is the REC League intent that teams should not use players in the playoffs who have not regularly played during the season. It is recommended that all players in the playoffs should have played in at least 50% of all completed games during the regular season.

TIE-BREAKING “PRIORITY ORDER” RULES FOR PLAYOFF CONTENTION AND SEEDINGS

- 1) Head to Head Competition (Wins/Losses)
- 2) Head to Head Competition (Runs Scored)
- 3) Coin Flip @ REC Office (**Captains need not be present**).