

2021 Southbury Parks & Recreation Over 30 Adult Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball Rules

The Southbury Parks & Recreation Department maintains the right to modify and eliminate any of the following rules as necessary as well as pass judgement on a player. The Parks & Recreation Department also has the sole authority to alter any schedule. Games will be played on Wednesday Evenings starting July 7th and running through early September.

A. ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTERS

- a) Players must be 30 years of age or older.
- b) Players should primarily be Southbury residents or employees of the Town of Southbury. Each team roster may have a maximum of three non-resident players.
- c) Rosters must have at least 10 players and no more than 20.
- d) Team rosters must have minimum of three female and three male players on a roster
- e) Completed rosters are due by June 25. Any roster adjustments made after that point must be approved by the Southbury Parks & Recreation Department.
- f) Any players wishing to be added to a team after the official team roster has been submitted must go through the Southbury Parks & Recreation Department.

B. TEAM FEE

- 1) The Team fee is \$600. Team fees cover the cost of equipment, field maintenance, field lighting, and umpire fees.
- 2) The Team Fee is due no later than June 25. If Team Fee is not paid by June 25, Park and Recreation reserves the right to offer the slot to another team.

C. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- 1) Teams must have matching numbered uniforms tops.
- 2) Sponsors are allowed, but not required.
- 3) Team uniforms are the responsibility of each team, and are not included in the Team Fee.
- 4) Aluminum and wooden bats will be provided by the league. Teams may supply their own bats as well.
 - a) Team-owned bats must be approved by Parks & Recreation before in-game use.
 - b) The umpire may remove any bat showing cracks, dents or other damage from play at any time.
 - c) Men are required to bat with wooden bats. Women may use approved metal bats or wooden bats.
- 5) Only softballs provided by the Southbury Parks & Recreation Department are to be used as official game balls.
- 6) The league DOES NOT supply gloves, batting helmets or first-aid kits or face-guards. Face-guards are optional, and any player wishing to use one must supply their own.

D. PLAYING REGULATIONS

- 1) All games will start at their scheduled time unless approved ahead of time by Southbury Parks & Recreation.
- 2) Teams must field at least 9 players and at most 10. If a team fields 10, there must be at least 3 males or 3 females in the field. If a team does not have the correct ratio, they may only field 9 players, and 2 must be male or female. If a team cannot abide to these ratios, their game will be forfeit.
- 3) All games will be played at Community House Park.
- 4) At Community House Park, there is no right field fence. If the ball rolls down the hill in right field, it will be ruled a ground rule double. If the ball clears the right field hill in the air, it will be ruled a home run.
- 5) The umpire's watch is the official game time.

- 6) If an umpire fails to show up to a game, the teams may mutually agree on a third-party (non-player) to officiate the game. If both agree on an umpire, the game will stand. Please let the P&R office know.
- 7) All games will have a maximum game time of 75 minutes, or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
 - a) You may not start a new inning with five minutes or less left before the time limit expires
 - b) Once the time limit is reached, teams will have 10 minutes to complete the inning. If the inning is not completed before the 15 minute allotment, the game will end, and the final score will revert back to the score at the time of the last completed inning. Time limit will be enforced by the Umpire only.
- 8) Each team is asked to keep track of runs in each half inning and confirm their totals with the Umpire. The umpire will keep the official score of the game. Scorebooks are recommended, but not required or provide by the league.

E. GAME PLAY RULES

- 1) Batters begin the at bat with a 1-1 count.
 - a) A foul ball on a two-strike pitch will be considered an out.
- 2) The minimum pitch arc is 6 feet from the ground and the maximum is 10 feet, as enforced by the Umpire.
- 3) A strike zone mat will be at the back end of home plate. A pitch is considered a called strike if it hits any part of the plate or strike mat. Any pitch that hits elsewhere is considered a ball.
- 4) Catchers must allow the ball to make contact with the ground. Any ball caught directly will be considered a ball, even if the batter swings.
- 5) Stealing or leading of any base is not allowed.
- 6) Each team will be allowed two courtesy runners per game.
- 7) A baserunner must touch home plate for a run to count. The strike mat does not count as part of the plate.
- 8) Catchers must allow a clear, unobstructed path the plate at all times. The umpire may call a runner safe if they deem the plate was obstructed.
- 9) A baserunner may not slide or force contact at home plate. The umpire may deem a runner out if they force contact at the plate.
- 10) Bunting is not allowed.
- 11) Batters must keep their back foot planted on the ground while swinging (no crow-hopping).
- 12) Intentional walks are not permitted. If a male batter is walked with a female batter on deck, the female batter will have the option to take their at-bat or take first base.

F. SCORING RULES

- 1) If a team is winning by 12 runs or more after the 4th inning, the game will be end via the mercy rule.
- 2) Once a team hits an over the fence home run, they may not hit another until the opposing team has hit one. If the same team hits a ball over the outfield fence, it will be ruled as a ground rule double until the opposing team hits an over the fence home run.

G. RAINOUTS

- 1) Team captains/managers will be contacted in the case of inclement weather.
- 2) Games are considered official after 3 innings. If a game does not reach the top of the fourth inning, the game will stand.
- 3) Please only have the team captain/manager contact the Southbury Parks & Recreation Department office for inclement weather updates.
- 4) Updates will be sent out at 4 pm in case of inclement weather.
- 5) Parks and Recreation does not plan on scheduling make-up games for rainouts this season. This may change on a case-by-case basis depending on field and team availability, but is not guaranteed.

H. PLAYOFFS

- 1) Playoffs will be held at the end of the regular season, on Sept. 1 and Sept. 8
 - a. A player must have been added to the roster by the deadline for playoff eligibility.
- 2) All teams qualify for playoffs and will be seeded based on regular season record
 - a. If there is a tie, seeding will be determined by head to head matchups, then by coin flip.

I. BATTING LINE-UP

- 1) The batting line-up must feature a minimum of 10 batters, and a maximum of 12. If a team only has 9 players, the team will be charged an out when the vacated 10-spot in the line-up is due up.
- 2) The line-up must alternate Female – Male –Male.
 - a) *EXAMPLE:* A 10-person line-up would be: F-M-M-F-M-M-F-M-M-F
 - b) *EXAMPLE:* A 12-person line-up would be: F-M-M-F-M-M-F-M-M-F-M-M
- 3) If a team does not have four females, they may field a 9-person line-up (F-M-M-F-M-M-F-M-M) without penalty.
- 4) If at any point a team bats more than two males in a row, an out will be charged before each successive male comes to bat, starting with the third in a row.
- 5) There is no penalty for batting multiple women in a row.

J. SUBSTITUTIONS

- 1) A team may freely substitute defensive players, including the pitcher, in-between innings. During an inning, teams are asked to limit substitutions (outside of injuries), to speed pace of play.
- 2) Every player who plays in the field must receive at least one plate appearance.
- 3) Teams may alternate between two players in the same line-up position, in order maintain the F-M-M balance.
 - a) *EXAMPLE:* Team XYX has thirteen players, 9 male and 4 female. In order to keep their line-up to 12 slots, Jim and John will alternate at-bats in the 2nd spot of the line-up. Jim will take the first at-bat, and when the second spot in the line-up comes up again, John will take the at-bat.
 - b) Players may alternate any position in the line-up, as long as it's the same two players, and the same line-up position, all game.
 - c) A player may not appear in more than one line-up position in a game.
- 4) If a player leaves a game due to injury, their spot in the line-up may be filled by a substitute. The substitute may come from an alternating a line-up position, provided the substitute filling the injured player's line-up slot is not batting twice before the alternate's next at-bat.
- 5) If a player injures themselves on the base paths, and both courtesy runners have been used, it will be up to the umpires' discretion whether the baserunner will be allowed to be substituted out.

K. PROPER PLAYER CONDUCT

- 1) Umpires will only interact with the captain of each team.
- 2) Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and any player engaging in such will be subject to suspension or expulsion from the league.
- 3) Arguments with umpires during or after a game will not be tolerated.
- 4) If a report is received by the Southbury Parks and Recreation Department from an umpire regarding player behavior, unsportsmanlike conduct, or inappropriate conduct towards an umpire, that player will be subject to a 2 game suspension.
- 5) Swearing and taunting of the opponent will not be tolerated. The umpire will give warnings, followed by ejections.

- 6) If a player or manager is ejected by an umpire, they will be subject to a 2 game suspension.
- 7) Players ejected multiple times in a season will be subject to possible expulsion from the league.
- 8) Any player or manager who strikes, threatens to strike, or verbally or physically abuses any other player, manager, umpire, or spectator will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season and be subject to expulsion from the league.

L. DISPUTES

- 1) All in-game calls are to be decided by the Umpire. The umpire's ruling is final.
- 2) Only the team Captain is allowed to discussion calls and rulings with the Umpire
- 3) Any player other than a team Captain approaching an umpire may be asked to return to their dugout, under penalty of ejection. If player(s) do no comply with this request, the Umpire may choose the declare the game a forfeit.
- 4) Any procedural, conduct or rules dispute that cannot be settled by the Umpire at the field may be appealed to the Parks and Recreation office. The procedure for lodging an appeal:
 - a) The team Captain of the team entering an appeal will inform the field Umpire and the opposing team Captain that game is being played under appeal.
 - b) The game will be completed as per direction of the Umpire
 - c) Only the Captain may contact the Parks and Recreation department to file an appeal.
 - d) The appeal can only be filed after a 24-hour "cooling off period" but before the next scheduled game.
 - e) Parks and Recreation reserves the right to take up to a week to rule on the appeal and the appropriate remedy, if applicable.
 - f) In-game calls by the Umpire CANNOT be appealed.
- 5) It's Adult Co-Ed Over 30 Softball. Chill out.