



2016 SOFTBALL MANAGER'S PACKET

Winona Park & Recreation Department
207 Lafayette St., Box 378, Winona, MN 55987
507-457-8258

OFFICE HOURS:

MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH LABOR DAY: 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM
REST OF YEAR: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

DROP BOX:

LOCATED ON 4TH STREET SIDE OF CITY HALL.

CANCELLATION LINE:

After 4:00 pm: 507-457-8220

cityofwinona.com

2016 SOFTBALL LEAGUE INFORMATION

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WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION.....????

VISIT THE WEBSITE AT CITYOFWINONA.COM
TO FIND THE INFORMATION YOU NEED SUCH AS:

1. Softball Manager's Packet
2. All Softball Schedules
3. Weekly Softball Standings
4. When it's time, next season's adult program information
5. Etc... etc... etc...

And everything else we offer through the Park & Recreation Department.....

You can now view availability of rental facilities on-line.....

You can now register your kids for youth programs on-line.....

2016 Local Softball

Men's & Women's & Co. Rec.

Rules & Guidelines

The following rules, regulations and guidelines have been assembled in this condensed version to assist you in understanding the rules and regulations that govern our softball leagues. It is not meant to be a complete list of rules and guidelines that may arise. Please refer to your NSF-MSF rule and guide books for specific information that is not contained in this version. The NSF-MSF rules of softball will govern play. Each manager will receive an official rulebook. We strongly suggest that you read it and educate your players.

REMINDER: Local rules supersede NSF-MSF rules.

If you have any questions, please contact the Park & Recreation Department at 507-457-8258.

FEES/SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

1. When you register your team, you are required to pay your total fee of \$455, tax included (Men & Women) and \$490, tax included (Co. Rec.) or your team will not be able to register. Due to changes in the manner of how the State Auditor classifies adult programs as far as tax exempt status, we are required to collect state sales tax on our adult programs that are non instructional.
2. Your entry fee is determined by the number of games that you play. The team entry fee is based on a combination of officials' fee, trophy expenses, game balls, and NSF-MSF registration fees. The team entry fee is based on a 10 or 12 game schedule with playoffs, which totals approximately \$285 (Men & Women) & \$320 (Co. Rec.), includes-12 balls (Men & Women) or 12 men's/12 women's balls (Co. Rec.), plus a \$55 per team Field Development Fee.
3. In addition to your team entry fee, you are required to pay team player fees. The team player fees for softball have been set at \$170 per team. That amount remains constant, regardless of the number of players and regardless of where those players reside. These player fees help us to offset the cost of our field maintenance.
4. **Game Balls** – **NOTE: 12 Game Balls (Men's & Women's) and 12 men's/12 women's balls (Co. Rec.), will be provided by the Winona Recreation Department for each team.**
The Synthetic Dudley 12" COR-52/300 Maximum Compression Optic Yellow softball will be used in our Men's League and the men will use this same 12" COR-52/300 Maximum Compression Optic Yellow softball in our Co-Rec. Leagues. (The 12" COR-52/300 Maximum Compression ball will be used in all Men's/Co. Rec. District and State Tournaments.) Women will continue using the same Synthetic Dudley 11" COR-44/375 Maximum Compression Optic Yellow softball in our Women's and Co. Rec. leagues. (The 11" COR-44/375 Maximum Compression ball will be used in all Women's/Co-Rec. District and State Tournaments.) The Winona Park & Recreation Department will supply all Men's & Women's teams with 12 new balls to be used throughout the season. Each Co. Rec. team will receive 12 new men's balls and 12 new women's balls. Teams are responsible for providing a "good" or new legal ball for all games-you hit the ball you bring. If a team wishes to purchase more balls than we provide, you may do so from any vendor, but it must be the same or similar optic yellow ball-same brand-Dudley (No "Dudley Thunder Advance" Balls).

NOTE: (The ball cover could be leather or composite but must be the same optic yellow Dudley ball otherwise.)

Winona Park & Recreation will be selling the exact same ball we supply to the teams in our office for \$5 each or \$55/dozen tax included.

NOTE: 2017 Women and Co-Rec. Women's will be using the 52/300 ball.

Playoffs: The Winona Park & Recreation Department will not supply the balls for all playoff games. Special Note: If an illegal ball is used at any point in the game and is brought to the attention of the umpire, that team forfeits the game at that point. If the umpire can't verify, for sure, that the ball is illegal, to be safe the game continues; the umpire keeps the ball in question and the Recreation Director will make the determination. (Note: Umpires must initial the ball prior to its use to make the ball legal-this means all balls brought in to use.)

5. Metal spikes are illegal in our local leagues, including football cleats with metal showing. You may wear tennis shoes, soccer style rubber cleats or ripple-soled shoes. You cannot wear any hard-toed or hard-soled shoes or boots. Some type of legal footwear must be worn - - nobody will be allowed to play barefoot.

6. **Bat Ruling:** A player who steps in the batter's box and uses an illegal bat will be out, ejected for that game plus the next game-dead ball situation, base runners must return to their original base. If a player uses an altered bat, the batter is out and ejected for the rest of the season. Safety standards for bats have been established by the ASA and NSF-MSF. A complete list of legal and illegal bats for ASA and NSF-MSF and league play is listed on the ASA website at www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp click ADULT; click CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT; scroll down – click BATS – Go; scroll down – under the Non-Approved list click on first one (one page list). (Bats are listed according to their manufacture.) The illegal bats listed will remain illegal all season, no re-certification of those listed bats. The ASA may update this list as additional bats are tested and retested. For non-approved (illegal) bats the listing is at the same website, clicking on the appropriate area. All newly purchased bats that have been approved must have the ASA certification mark on them. **All bats must not be listed on an ASA non-approved list and must be on an approved bat list published by the ASA.** (As new bats are manufactured and tested these lists may change.) (All legal bats must fit the umpire's bat ring, with no dents or cracks, be appropriately taped, and have a legal "knob".) (ASA and NSF-MSF approved wood "softball" bats are also legal.) 2009: "Grandfathered" bats are no longer authorized in ASA and NSF-MSF. Any bat listed on the illegal bat list cannot be used.

NOTE: (Safety standards for bats can also be found at <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball>)

GENERAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Players must be at least 16 years old by December 31st of the current year. Check “Who Cannot Play” for more specific information.
2. Since fast pitch is considered a different sport from slow pitch, you are permitted to play in both leagues.
3. Players may play in only one of our local men’s/women’s leagues and may play in one co. rec. league. If they play in another sanctioned league in another community, they must declare their eligibility with one team or the other for post-season competition. Declarations must be made in writing on or before June 17, 2016.
4. College and Vo-Tech students may play in our city leagues; however, they will become ineligible when/if they return home for the summer months, unless they are properly released from the roster here in Winona and then rostered before the June 17, 2016 deadline in their community.
5. Newly Rostered Players – After the season begins, new players must be rostered prior to your scheduled game time. The penalty for playing unrostered players in a league game is a forfeit, if requested by the offended team or brought to the attention of the Recreation Director, within 24 hours, plus at least an additional game suspension for the unrostered player.
6. If a player appears in a game and he/she is not on the team’s roster, and he/she has not played for another team and the team he/she is playing against or the Recreation Director does not protest this player’s eligibility within 24 hours, that player is legally on that team’s roster for the remainder of the season, but his/her name must be added to the official roster if before the final add/delete deadline before being eligible to legally play the next game.
7. Players must have played in at least four league games in order to be eligible to play in the NSF-MSF District or State competition and be on the team’s official roster.
8. The roster limit is 20 players per team, with the exception of the designated and Co-Rec. leagues. These teams may list up to 30 players on the roster. In the Co-Rec. leagues only the first 20 players on the official roster will be eligible for State Tournament play. The other ten players must be placed on a separate roster form - - - this form can be picked up at the Recreation Office in City Hall. **The Official Rosters are due in the Park & Recreation Office, completely filled out, on or before 4:30 p.m. on May 19, 2016. A late roster will result in at least one automatic forfeit, and no further games being played until the roster is in; the opposing team receives a win by forfeit.** You may add to or delete from your roster until June 17th. Roster changes will not be permitted after June 17, 2016.
9. Co-Rec. Softball Only –Player exception: Co-Rec. participants may play in another league of Men’s (I-VIII), Women (I-II) and Fast Pitch.

WHO CANNOT PLAY

1. Persons under the age of 16, as of December 31st of the current season.
See specifics regarding Minnesota/Wisconsin High School Players.
2. Professional softball players are not allowed to play in any of our Winona Park & Recreation Leagues, unless their contracts have been expired for one full season
3. June 17, 2016 is the deadline date for roster additions or deletions, so if not rostered by then, you are not allowed to play
4. Current Minnesota High School baseball/softball players are permitted to play in our Recreation Leagues during their high school season but we request that you consult your High School coach to get his/her approval. (Wisconsin does not allow their High School softball players to play until after their season is over.)
5. Any player using an assumed name will be barred from participating in the league for the remainder of the season.
6. All other circumstances and situations that may arise pertaining to player eligibility will be determined by the Recreation Director in the fairest manner possible.

PLAYING RULES

1. A game will consist of seven innings. If, due to the weather, darkness, etc. the game cannot be completed, five innings will be considered a complete game. Four and one-half innings will be considered a complete game if the home team is ahead. (Otherwise the one-hour time limit may determine a complete game.)
2. Even though a game consists of seven innings of play, all games have a one-hour time limit, with the exception of the last game of the evening. The umpires are instructed not to start a new inning after 55 minutes have expired. No new inning starts with five minutes left of the hour, unless the game is tied. Play out all ties regardless of the time. (All umpires and teams must follow this rule.)
3. Twelve-Run Rule: If after five innings of play, one team is 12 or more runs ahead of their opponents, the game will be awarded to the team that is ahead. (Note: This rule applies to all leagues-Men's, Women's and Co-Rec.) (Twenty-Run Rule after 4 innings.)
4. The two-strike, three-ball rule will govern play. The batter will be called out on strikes if he/she hits two foul balls after receiving his/her first strike. Runners may advance if the ball is caught (same as the NSF-MSF rule).
5. **No stealing (SP Only) – The ball must be hit in order to advance. The base runner may leave his/her occupied base when the ball passes over the plate. The penalty for leaving too soon is that the runner is out.**

6. On close plays at 2nd, 3rd or home base, the base runner must slide, or give themselves up by going out of the baseline. The penalty is that the runner will be called out and possibly ejected from the game if the contact is severe and intentional. (This is a judgment call by the official and may not be protested. The key phrase is, "infringe on play".) If the runner is out for not sliding and the ball is dislodged and goes out of play, dead ball immediately at infraction - - runner(s) get the base they are going to if the umpire believes the runner would have advanced safely to that base without the infraction-otherwise the runner(s) return to the base they were at, not an additional base at that point of infraction.
7. Pitching – The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least six feet from the ground. The pitched ball shall not reach a height of more than 12 feet at its highest point from the ground. The strike zone is that space over any part of the plate, which is between the batter's back shoulder and the front knee when the batter assumes his/her natural position at the plate. EXCEPTION: When using the mat for ball/strike purposes, it is a strike if the pitched ball lands on any part of the plate, including the black edge, or on the mat behind the plate. Our umpires have been told to bring the height down; it's a hitter's game. (Note: All Men's, Women's and Co-Rec. leagues will be using a mat.)

NEW 2014: Slow pitch pitchers have the option to take a position up to six feet behind the 50' pitcher's plate as a safety and defensive measure. Once they take their position, the pitcher must come to a full and complete stop (one second) with both feet firmly on the ground. Also, one foot must remain in contact with the ground at least partially within the width area of the pitcher's plate until the pitched ball leaves the hand. The pitcher may also opt to pitch from the 50' pitcher's plate and follow the same procedure above. No quick pitches.
8. At the beginning of each half inning, the pitcher will be awarded one minute to throw not more than three warm-up pitches. The umpire may request less, if time, darkness or weather becomes a factor.
9. Bunting, chopping or half-swings are illegal in slow pitch. The batter will be called out and the runners may not advance.
10. Infield Fly Rule is in effect when there are less than two outs and there are runners on 1st and 2nd base, or if the bases are loaded. If the batter hits an easily catchable infield fly, the batter is out and the runners may advance at their own risk.
11. Each team must have a scorebook, their own bats and "good" game balls. The home team's scorebook shall be the official book. The umpire must verify the score between innings. The umpire may designate the visiting team to keep the official score book if there is no one from the home team to keep the book. After each inning, the two scorekeepers should compare books, so as to avoid any confusion.
12. Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Unnecessary roughness, excessive arguing with any opposing players or with the umpires, striking an official, drunkenness, fighting or disrespect for property will not be tolerated. Penalty - - - ejection from that game and at least one additional game and possibly a one year suspension.
13. Ejected players and fans must leave the playing area if so directed-this may include the bleachers/complex. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit. Managers are responsible for the actions of their players and their fans.

14. **Smoking is not allowed in the dugout area or at any time on the playing field in foul or fair territory-only allowed behind the dugout or bleacher area. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the dugouts or on the playing field. PLAYERS MAY NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL DURING THE GAME ANYWHERE. Players who appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed to play.**
15. Fake Tag Is Illegal – PENALTY: The umpire will give a warning to both teams and the next player on either side to fake a tag will be ejected from the game. The umpire may eject the first offender if he feels it is justified.
16. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by either players or spectators is prohibited at/on any public/private school/college fields and premises. Please do not jeopardize our privileges by violating this rule. We need those fields!
17. Players and umpires are requested to be present at the game site at least ten minutes prior to the scheduled start time. A team must have at least 8 players present within five minutes after game time or the game will be forfeited. The official's timepiece is the official time. There will be no penalty (outs) for not having a 9th or 10th player.
Special Note: A player(s) who come(s) late may be added at the end of the line up with no penalty (outs). A team will forfeit if the number of players are reduced to less than 8 regardless of the situation.) The players present may then use the remaining time for practice games or pick-up games. (Our sanctioned umpires cannot officiate an exhibition game, practice game, or pick-up game for insurance reasons.)
18. Men's slow pitch leagues-Home run limits per game as follows:
 Class B-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (B-6) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Class C-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (C-4) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Class DD-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (DD-3) Home Runs) (Div. I) (4 Home runs locally)
 Class D-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (D-2) Home Runs) (Div. II-III) (3 Home runs locally)
 Class E-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (E-1) Home Runs) (Div. IV-VI) (2 Home runs locally)
 Class E-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (E-1) Home Runs) (Div. VII-VIII) (1 Home run locally)
 Church Class A-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (A-4) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Church Class B-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (B-2) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Church Class C-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (C-0) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Masters (35) Class A-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (A-4) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Masters (35) Class B-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (B-2) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Masters (35) Class C-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (C-0) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Masters (40), (45), (50), (60), (65)-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (4) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 Men's Industrial-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (4) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
 All "untouched" home runs hit over the fence in excess of the limit will be ruled an out.
19. Both the league winner and the playoff winner will receive trophies. The league winner must move up one league, while the playoff winner may also be moved up the following season. The bottom team in the league generally moves down at least one division.

20. Game Protests – You may not protest a judgment call. Game protests must be filed with the umpire and opposing team manager before or during the game. (Protests regarding eligibility may be made before, during a game and up to 24 hours after the game; the protesting team must call the Recreation Department within the 24 hours.) The Recreation Director will rule on the protest after receiving the circumstances and facts pertaining to the protests. (The Recreation Director may rule on eligibility, if brought to his attention within the 24 hours.)
21. All substitutes must report to the umpire prior to entering the game, either defensively or offensively.
22. “NSF-MSF” Re-Entry Rule: Locally in all leagues except Co. Rec. (Co. Rec. is unlimited substitution and Sullivan rule)-Any player may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup. Players may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time. Penalty: Illegal re-entry considered an illegal player and shall be disqualified. (See rule for enforcement.)
23. Slow pitch batters/runners will not be required to run the bases on “over the fence” homeruns.

WOMEN’S AND CO-REC. LEAGUES

The Eight-Run Rule – A team cannot score more than 8 runs in one inning, unless it is behind.

- a) If a team is ahead, they cannot score more than 8 runs per inning.
- b) If a team is behind, they cannot go ahead by more than 8 runs per inning.
- c) In case of a tie score, a team cannot score more than 8 runs per inning. The opposing team then can only tie the score when they come to bat. This procedure will govern tie situations until the tie is broken and the game is won.
- d) If a team is ahead or tied, runs scored in one inning in excess of 8 do not count. EXAMPLE: Six runs have already been scored by the team that is ahead. The bases are loaded and the batter hits a home run - - - Ruling: only two runs are counted, even though 4 players scored.

PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

1. Courtesy Runner – If a player has a slight injury which prohibits him/her from running the bases adequately, the manager may use a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner must be the person who made the last previous out or someone who has not yet entered the game. (Courtesy runners are not limited to injured players.) Men run for men and women run for women.
2. All leagues-A team must have at least eight (8) players present within five minutes of game time (grace period) or the game will be forfeited. A forfeit is called when a team is reduced to less than 8 players regardless of the situation. The official’s timepiece is the official time.

CO-REC. SOFTBALL LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES

The following rules of play shall govern the Winona Park & Recreation Co-Rec. Softball Leagues. The intent of this "brief" list of rules is to highlight some of the more "unique" rules of the Co-Rec. version of softball. Please be advised that some of these rules have been made specifically for the Winona leagues and differ from the NSF-MSF Rule Book. If you should have any questions concerning any of these or other game rules, please call the Park & Recreation Department at 507-457-8258.

~REMINDER: Local rules supersede NSF-MSF rules.

GENERAL RULES

1. A team consists of ten (10) players. Each team must field and bat an equal number of women and men - five (5) and five (5). You may play and/or bat more women than men, but not more men than women.
2. A team must have at least eight (8) players - - 4 men and 4 women - - present within five minutes of game time or the game will be forfeited. The official's timepiece is the official time. There will be no penalty (outs) for not having a 9th or 10th player. If your team is using 9 or 10 players, you may have more females than males, but not more males than females. If there are females on your bench, they must play as your 9th and 10th players, instead of playing with only eight players.
Special Note: If you are playing with more females than males and one of the females gets hurt and there are no female substitutes; resulting in two males now batting back to back, you may change the order by putting one of the other females who were batting back to back in the injured female's batting position to avoid two males hitting back to back.
Special Note: A player(s) who come(s) late may be added at the end of the line up with no penalty (outs).
3. Either a male or female may lead the batting order. The batting order will then continue to alternate all the way through the order. (You must have a male and female pitcher/catcher.) You can only have a maximum of six infielders; you can not bring an outfielder in to play in the infield as a "shift".
4. The Sullivan Rule - you may bat all of your players present; however, the batting order must continue to alternate. May have women back-to-back after no more men.
5. Unlimited Substitutions - you may enter and leave the game, as often as you like; however, the batting order must always remain unchanged. **(All Substitutes must report to the umpire prior to entering the game, either defensively or offensively.)**

NOTE: Position players must also bat / vice-versa.

6. NSF-MSF Co-Rec. Rule: Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) must bat. Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. (Either way, the male walked is awarded two bases.) Runners are advanced only if forced to advance.

7. Pitching - The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least six (6) feet above the ground and not more than twelve (12) feet above the ground.

NEW 2014: Slow pitch pitchers have the option to take a position up to six feet behind the 50' pitcher's plate as a safety and defensive measure. Once they take their position, the pitcher must come to a full and complete stop (one second) with both feet firmly on the ground. Also, one foot must remain in contact with the ground at least partially within the width area of the pitcher's plate until the pitched ball leaves the hand. The pitcher may also opt to pitch from the 50' pitcher's plate and follow the same procedure above. No quick pitches.

8. If a mat is used for the purpose of calling balls and strikes and a legally pitched ball lands on any part of the mat or home plate, it is a strike. If no mat is used, the strike zone is that space over any part of the plate, which is between the batter's back shoulder and the front knee when the batter assumes his/her natural batting position. (All our Co-Rec. Leagues will be using a mat.)
9. Women will hit a Synthetic Dudley 11" COR-44/375 Maximum Compression Optic Yellow ball; men will hit a Synthetic Dudley 12" COR-52/300 Maximum Compression Optic Yellow ball. (No "Dudley Thunder Advanced" Balls.) (The ball cover could be leather or composite but must be the same optic yellow Dudley ball otherwise.)

NOTE: 2017 Women and Co-Rec. Women will be using the 52/300 ball.

10. In the Co-Rec. Leagues, the home run limits per game are as follows:
Class A-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (A-4) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
Class B-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (B-2) Home Runs) (No Winona Teams)
Class C-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (C-1) Home Runs) (Div I) (2 Home runs locally)
Class D-(ASA-NSF-MSF Rule (D-0) Home Runs) (Div. II-IV) (1 Home run locally)
All "untouched" home runs hit over the fence in excess of the limit will be ruled an out.
11. Courtesy Runner – If a player has a slight injury which prohibits him/her from running the bases adequately, the manager may use a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner must be the person who made the last previous out or someone who has not yet entered the game. (Courtesy runners are not limited to injured players.) Men run for men and women run for women.

IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

1. In Case of Rain – Please refrain from calling the Park & Recreation Department office. If the fields are deemed to be unplayable due to wet field conditions, a notice of cancellation will be placed on the radio stations by 4:00 pm, Park & Recreation Cancellation Line (507-457-8220) and during the week on the City website: www.cityofwinona.com. If it should rain after 4:00 pm, it will be an umpire's decision as to whether or not the game will be played. Umpires and Players--If there is any doubt - - - show up! If the games are cancelled due to wet conditions, please stay off the fields.
2. Our Field Maintenance crew does not install batters' boxes for league play. Our umpires have been instructed NOT to call the batter out for being out of the box, unless it is "blatantly obvious" that the batter stepped out of the imaginary box, on, or in front of the plate.
3. Re-scheduled Games – In the event that a rained out or suspended game must be re-scheduled, the Recreation Department will do the re-scheduling. Your manager will receive an email, written letter or verbal communication from the Park & Recreation Department.

4. **SOFTBALL FIELD RESERVATIONS CAN NOW BE MADE (BARRING BAD WEATHER):**

OFFICE HOURS: MEMORIAL DAY THRU LABOR DAY- 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM,
REST OF YEAR – 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Teams registered in any of our Park & Recreation leagues may reserve any of the five Bambenek fields at the Lake. Youth and Women's leagues may also reserve the Dakota Street Field when available as well as the Bambenek fields. These reservations may be made by phone or in our office (8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday) a week in advance, but not for more than one field at a time; you must use your reservation before you can make another reservation. For example: You reserve a field for Wednesday; after you have used that field you can come in or call (between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm) the next day, Thursday, and reserve a field for any day up through the next Wednesday. Note: You can come to the Park & Recreation Office in City Hall and make a personal appearance to reserve a field and pick up a "Field Permit" or you may call the office (8:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday – Friday) to reserve a field and we will email or fax the "Field Permit". Fields can be reserved for 1 hour during the week (6-7:00 pm or 7-8:00 pm) and two even hours on the weekends (6-8:00 am, 8-10:00 am, etc.) If by mistake, a game is being held on the field you have reserved for practice, games take precedence over practice field permits. Please respect the fields and the surrounding equipment. Only reserve the field if you know that you are going to use the reservation. Let us know if you are not using the field. We have many people waiting to use the fields. Try to hook up with another team to practice with when possible, thus allowing more teams to practice. In spite of having a field reservation, if the fields are wet and in bad shape, please don't use the fields, use good judgment.

5. **Softball Highlights-Scores:** The Winona Daily News will continue to put in the nightly scores in the paper if they are called in. If you would like your score in the paper, the winning team calls the Sports Department at 507-453-3529 or 507-453-3526 before 9:00 pm the night of the game. The information you need to give them is the Winona Park & Recreation League (Men's/Women's/Co Rec.), Division (I, II, III, etc.), Winning Team Name vs. Losing Team

Name and final score. Example: Winona Park & Recreation Co. Rec. League, Division I, Softball Scrappers (Winners) vs. Homer Hitters (Losers), 10 to 3. **Special Note:** Softball Highlights are a “bonus” for our Park & Recreation Leagues. If game highlights are not provided accurately to the paper these privileges will be discontinued. Please don’t ruin this for others.

6. Tournament Reservations – You may reserve fields for invitational tournaments after March 1st of each current year. We will reserve fields for tournament purposes at a cost of \$65 per field per day or \$20 per hour (Club/non-profit rate) for field’s #2-6, Bambenek Field #1 at a cost of \$150 per day or \$25 per hour (Club/non-profit rate).
For detailed information concerning tournament fields, please contact the Park & Recreation Department at 507-457-8258.
7. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR LEAGUES ARE RECREATIONAL.** The success or failure of our program is mainly in the hands of our participants. These rules, regulations, policies and guidelines are here to protect you - - - not to restrict you.
8. **NEW 2012: Concussion Law/Training/Education Certification:** Minnesota Legislatures passed a law effective September 1, 2011 called the “Concussion Law” that requires training to improve player safety particularly for youth under the age of 18. Since we allow 16 & 17 year olds to participate in our Winona Park & Recreation Adult Softball Program, managers who have players under the age of 18 need to go through training prior to the start of our softball season. You can find this on-line video training session developed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This training course involves watching a video, then successfully completing a short quiz. The entire training module can be completed in a little over a half hour. Once completed, you must print out your certificated, sign the dated certificate and keep it for your records. This certificate is good for three years. This CDC training can be found on the internet at www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup. “Heads Up Concussion in youth sports for coaches.” Please call our office if you need further details or clarification. Additional resources are available in your NSF-MSF softball rule books.

2016 Local Bat Rules (Clarification) - See local rule sheet

Altered Bat: When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an altered, doctored or loaded bat, the batter shall be called out and disqualified from the game and the rest of the season; dead ball situations, the base runners must return to their original base.

"Banned illegal bat": When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using a "banned" bat, the batter shall be called out, disqualified from that game plus the next game; dead ball situations, the base runners must return to their original base.

Other Illegal Bats: All legal bats must fit the umpire's bat ring with no cracks, be appropriately taped, and have a legal "knob." (If a bat has a dent or flat spot, the umpire's bat ring must slide over the barrel of the bat, if not, the bat would be illegal.) **Penalty:** A player who steps in the batter's box and uses an illegal bat will be out, but not disqualified. If the ball is hit and the bat discovered to be illegal- dead ball situation, batter out, base runners must return to their original base. (ASA-NSF-MSF approved wood "softball" bats are legal.)

Safety Standards for Bats have been established by the ASA-NSF-MSF. A complete list of legal and illegal bats for ASA-NSF-MSF and our local league play is listed on the ASA website at www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp click ADULT; click CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT; scroll down – click BATS – Go; scroll down – under the Non-Approved list click on first one (one page list). The illegal bats listed will remain illegal all season-no re-certifications of those listed bats. The ASA-NSF-MSF may add illegal bats to this list as new bats are tested. Umpires, managers and players need to check this list frequently to get the most updated list of illegal bats. We will try to inform you if other bats are added to the illegal bat list. Note: All newly purchased bats that have been approved must have the ASA 2004 certification mark. "Grandfathered" bats are no longer authorized in ASA-NSF-MSF. Any bat listed on the illegal bat list can not be used. All legal bats must contain the ASA certification mark-2000 or 2004 unless the umpire feels the bat was made prior to 2000 and not dented, etc. and meets the criteria.

NOTE: (Safety standards for bats can also be found at www.teamusa.org/usa-softball)

2016 Local Game Ball (Clarification) - See local rule sheet

Note: (12) Game balls (Men & Women) and (24) game balls (12 Men and 12 Women) have been provided by the Winona Park & Recreation Department, but teams are allowed to purchase additional balls as long as the ball is the **same Dudley or similar synthetic optic yellow ball, Dudley only – (Not Dudley Thunder Advanced) handed out by the Winona Park & Recreation Department.** (The ball cover could be leather or composite but must be the same optic yellow Dudley ball otherwise.)

Umpires: Any ball infractions need to be written/explained on the score sheet.

The Synthetic Dudley 12" Men's COR-52/300 Maximum Compression & 11" Women's COR-44/375 Maximum Compression, Optic Yellow softball will be the only ball used in all our leagues. Teams are responsible for providing a "good" or new legal ball (must be able to see the COR-44/375 or COR-52/300 to be legal) for all games-you hit the ball you bring. Note: Umpires must initial the ball before its use to make the ball legal-this means all balls brought into use.

Special Note: If an illegal ball is used at any point in the game and is brought to the umpire's attention, that team forfeits the game at that point. If the umpire can't verify for sure, that the ball is illegal, to be safe the game continues. The umpire keeps the ball in question and the Recreation Director will make the determination.

NOTE: 2017 Women and Co-Rec. Women will be using the 52/300 ball.

MINNESOTA SPORTS FEDERATION CASUAL PROFANITY/FAMILY ATMOSPHERE RULE

Casual profanity pertains to expletives **not directed at umpires or opposing players**, but uttered by a player, manager/coach frustrated with themselves, a teammate or fan.

Example Includes: A player/manager swearing after a pop out, strike out, boot of a ball, or at a belligerent fan, etc. This type of “casual” profanity is penalized by “outs” being declared against the offending team.

PENALTY

If the offending team is at bat and profanity is used, the player is out unless the result of the play is an out in which case the next batter will be declared out.

If the offending team is in the field, the first player(s) to bat in their half of inning will be declared out. It is possible for a team to come to bat with one or more outs already recorded or lose their at bats all together.

Outs will be treated as delayed dead ball situations.

NOTE: Profanity directed at opposing players or umpires must always be penalized by ejection (an out is not declared).

RATIONALE

The “Casual Profanity Rule” provides a lesser penalty for the gray area between accepted conduct and those situations where the offender must be ejected. This rule is meant to sensitize players and discourage them from using words that are considered offensive/obscene. In an ideal world, this rule would not be necessary and hopefully it will serve as a major deterrent and reminder to not use unacceptable language.

The above “Casual Profanity Rule” has been officially adopted for sanctioned tournament/post season tournament play as well.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL RULE

A player, coach, or official who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. Appropriate treatment is:

- 1) Bleeding has stopped
- 2) Injury is covered
- 3) Uniform changed (contrasting color will be allowed) or disinfected with acceptable disinfectant*
- 4) Competition area/equipment disinfected with acceptable disinfectant

If treatment can be administered within three minutes, the individual would not have to leave the game. Otherwise, the substitution of the individual must take place.

*Acceptable disinfectants are:

- 1) A solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sodium hypochlorite and one gallon of water
- 2) A solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of 70% isopropyl alcohol and one gallon of water
- 3) A commercially produced infectious disease spray

SOFTBALL REGISTRATION PROCEDURES & DATES FOR 2017

This is an informational letter regarding adult softball and registration procedures and information for the year 2017. All of the managers from this year's teams (2016) will be sent more specific information prior to the 2017 registration dates, approximately around January 21, 2017. If any information changes such as address, phone # or manager, please call our office with the new information.

This is so you can plan ahead and understand the procedure.

We will evaluate each team's 2016 performance and have a designated specific league for your teams in 2017. These placements are subject to change, depending upon your additions/deletions from your 2016 roster, the number of teams returning in each league and the number and caliber of new teams entering the league. **(Reminder: A "new team" is considered to be a team with less than 5 players returning from your previous year's roster.)** **Special Note: You are not considered a "NEW" team just because you changed sponsors or team managers.** You must register your team in your specified division. For all returning teams...the office staff has been informed to register you in the specific league according to the league alignment. Any requests regarding the league alignment should be noted on your Team Registration Form in the comment section. This will be looked at by the Recreation Director after all registrations are taken. **The league champions must move to the next highest division and the playoff champions may be requested to move up. The bottom teams will generally be required to move down a division to help form parity and help the same number remain in the leagues. We reserve the right to accept or deny any requests for movements!**

For registration in 2017 "LAST YEAR'S TEAMS" will have 22 days to claim your spot in your designated division beginning January 23, 2017. After the February 14, 2017 deadline, all league openings will be determined on a first come, first serve basis, according to the caliber of the team. New team registration will begin February 16 and will end March 1, 2017. All teams (last year's and new teams) must be registered by March 1, 2017.

Tentative: Important Dates to Remember For 2017

January 23-February 14, 2017	Team registration period <u>opens</u> for "Last Year's Teams"
February 15, 2017	Team registration <u>closed</u> for "Last Year's Teams"
February 16-March 1, 2017	Team registration period <u>opens</u> for "New Teams" and late* registrants from last year's teams
March 2, 2017	Team registration <u>closed</u> for all of last year's teams and new teams

***Special Note:** Any late team "new" or "returning", if accepted after the registration deadline will be assessed an additional \$60 fee includes tax. (See above criteria regarding "new team" guidelines.) To register you must have both the registration form and full payment. If your sponsor or anyone else is bringing the registration information in, make sure they have both the registration form and full payment. Mail or in person registrations must be received by the deadline, not afterwards. If received by mail, you will receive a receipt emailed/mailed to you within seven days. Call our office immediately if you do not receive a receipt after those seven days.

League Organizational Meetings **Tentative Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017**
5:30 p.m. - Team Managers, City Hall, 3rd Floor, Council Chambers

LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY!!

Additional Note: Check out our City Web Site: **CITYOFWINONA.COM**