

RARA USSSA/GSL Softball Leagues



* ROCHESTER * AVON * RECREATION * AUTHORITY *

Rules, Regulations and Sportsmanship

500 E Second St
Rochester MI 48307
RARA Main 947.886.0007
Direct or Text 947.886.0089



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Rochester Avon Recreation Authority Slowpitch Softball Programs

The following rules are in addition or as substitution to the USSSA rule book. Any rules not specifically covered in this document, are located in the USSSA rule book:

https://usssa.com/docs/2021/SP_RuleBook_21.pdf

Divisions

USSSA class "B/C/D/E and Rec+" league. Players must be at least of 16 years of age. Players are eligible for each division based on the USSSA rating system.

Rosters

Each team must submit a complete team roster including names and addresses of captains and players before the season begins. Each team may carry a maximum of twenty five(20) names on their rosters. Any exceptions to this rule must be directed to the Supervisor. If your team drops out after the league starts, NO refunds will be given!

Before any player is eligible to participate, his or her name must be added to the roster by the captain or manager one week before he or she is eligible to play (player will have to sit out 1 game). These names must be turned into the scorekeeper or league coordinator to be added to your roster. If you want to add players and you already have the maximum number of players allowed, then you must drop names from your roster to meet the 20 person limit.

IT IS THE CAPTAINS RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW WHICH PLAYERS HAVE SIGNED THE ROSTER. If your team uses a player who is not on the roster, games in which he or she participated will be declared a forfeit.

The night of the 3rd game, all teams must provide a completed roster with name, birthdate, age, and a signature of each participant. Players who do not play the first game, may be asked TO PROVIDE picture ID to the scorekeeper or field supervisor before they can play.

The scorekeeper/field supervisor may ask for any ID from any player if they feel a player may be playing under a false name. If a player is caught, he or she will be suspended from further play in the RARA USSSA/GSL Softball Program for one (1) year and all games he or she played in will be declared a forfeit. The team captain will also be suspended for one (1) year.

Once a person plays with any team, he or she becomes ineligible to participate with any other team in the same league.

GAME TIME

All games will run 7 innings or no new inning at 60 minutes, whichever comes first.

The team with a full lineup at game-time can offer a ten-minute grace period to allow the shorthanded team time to field at least 8 players. Regardless of grace period games will run 60 minutes from scheduled start time.

REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Teams must have eight (8) rostered players on the field in order to start and finish a game. A team will take one (1) automatic out for each player under 9. An automatic out is taken every time the missing player(s) is/are scheduled to bat. Co-ed leagues must use an even number of males and females. If a team has only 9 players they may have 1 more female than male on the field.

Injuries: if a player is injured and is unable to play, you may a) sub another player in for the injured player, or b) take an out when the injured player is up to bat. You must have at least 8 players to play the game. If you are already playing with eight players and one gets injured you will forfeit the game.

Pinch runners: if a player is unable to run the bases, a player of the same gender may run the bases for them. The pinch runner shall be a player (of the same gender) in the lineup or on the bench.

ADDITIONAL HITTERS

An additional hitter may be added to the batting line up and must be declared before the start of the game. Co-ed leagues must use one male and one female additional hitter (Unlimited Hitters).

LINE UP CARDS

Line up cards must be turned in 10 minutes before the scheduled starting game time. Statistics are taken from line up cards and must be legible in order to be used (see STATISTICS). Please put FIRST NAME and LAST INITIAL on the line up cards for each player. No nicknames or short names if the team would like to be eligible for batting champ awards and statistic updates at the end of the season.

STATISTICS

Statistics will be kept on team records, and top ten leaders of batting average for competitive and double header leagues only. Co-ed stats will rank the top five males and the top five females. Stats will be taken each week starting with the 3rd week of play. Statistics are taken from line up cards; therefore, illegible or incomplete names on line up cards will not be awarded stats for that game. To be eligible for batting title managers must list FIRST NAME and LAST INITIAL of each player on the lineup card. Statistics will not be recorded otherwise.

BATS & CLEATS

Bats must be approved by USSSA. The approved bat list is located at:

<https://www.ussa.com/slowpitch/slowpitch-bat-ball-equipment-info>

NO STEEL CLEATS will be allowed.

HOME TEAM

The Home team will be determined by a coin toss prior to the beginning of the game. In the occurrence of teams playing twice, the second matchup the visitors from the first game will be home team. In the elimination portion of leagues, home team will be determined by the highest seed. Dugouts will be on a first-come first-serve basis.

WARM UPS

Warmups may take place on the grassy areas outside of playing fields or outfield.

SAFETY BASE

There is an orange safety base at first base to protect the base runner and the first baseman. If there is a play at first base, the runner must run to the orange base and the fielder must make the play on the white base. Failure of the runner to touch the orange base may result in the runner being called out. In the Rec+ coed league, there is a safety base at home plate located 8' from the standard plate, this is the scoring plate that runners will cross to avoid collisions with the catcher.

PITCHER SAFETY RULE

Pitchers will pitch from behind the pitching screen. The pitching screen can be adjusted no more than 3ft left or right from the center of the pitching rubber. Sandbags will hold the pitching screen in place. Any batted ball that makes contact with the pitching screen is a deadball out. Runners must return to the occupied base they started at prior to the play.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/SMOKING

All players must adhere to the park rules regarding alcohol and smoking. Smoking and drinking are always prohibited on the field of play. Alcohol is not permitted anywhere in Borden Park.

HOME RUN RULE

Upper League: 5 homeruns per game + 1 Designated homerun hitter.

Lower League: 1 homerun per game + 1 Designated homerun hitter.

FORFEIT GAMES

If a team fails to field the required number of eligible players at the start of a game or at the end of the timed grace period (10 minutes), then the game will be declared a forfeit. Teams must have at least eight players present to start a game.

If the same team forfeits twice during the season, they may be dropped from the program without refund and prohibited from playing in another league for 1 full year.

UNIFORMS

It is mandatory for all competitive teams to have uniforms for league play. Uniforms should consist of similar matching colored jerseys and numbers on at least the back. Teams must have

their uniforms by the third game. No uniforms, No play!

Uniforms must be tasteful and may not contain any suggestive, off color or degrading innuendos, phrases, words or logos. Tasteful uniforms will be determined by RARA.

PROTESTS

Protests must be filed in writing to RARA in care of Dave Word by 5:00 p.m. the following workday. Site Supervisor must be notified of protest before next pitch takes place. Protests made after the game will not be allowed. Protest forms are available from the scorekeeper and may be turned into the scorekeeper. Highly technical protests or protests that have no bearing on the outcome of the game should be submitted. A formal protest must contain the following information:

Date, time, and place of the game

The name of the umpire

The rule & section of the official/local rules under which the protest is made

Explanation of all essential facts involved in the matter protested

Submit a \$50.00 fee (\$35.00 is refundable if protest is granted).

TIE BREAKER

First or second place ties will be determined by the tiebreaker by system as defined below:

Head to head results;

Margin of victory in head to head games;

Runs Against

Runs Scored

TEAM AWARDS

Will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

A batting champ will be awarded in all leagues.

RAIN OUTS

Rained out games will be made up as determined by the league coordinator. Make up games may be on league nights, but occasionally on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning with at least 3 days notice. Any team that is unable to play a scheduled make up game will receive a forfeit.

To find out if the games are going to be played or canceled, please visit our website home page alert pane, facebook or twitter @RARAREcreation after 4:00 p.m. Game time cancellations are determined by the umpires if weather changes occur after 6pm.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

RARA shall have the power to disqualify, suspend, or remove any manager, coach, player, spectator, or teams that conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner before, during, or

after a game which could reflect or discredit the program.

Umpires and site supervisors are requested to file written reports of unsportsmanlike conduct within 24 hours of the incident. If a player has been involved in an unsportsmanlike incident, that person becomes subject to a possible suspension from the league at the discretion of RARA. This person will be informed in writing as to any action that may be taken against them.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall be defined as follows and may include the penalties stated:

Any physical contact by an individual with another individual, players, umpires, or scorekeepers, with intent to inflict injury or harm, including but not limited to a one-fisted punch, kicking, fighting, etc.

Grossly disparaging statements, which tend to discredit the program, and obscene gestures including spitting that is directed at others.

Any conduct which intentionally damages any property.

Any ball hit back at a pitcher that is deemed defenseless by the umpire shall be an automatic out and the players bat shall be confiscated for testing.

Any other act of offense that in the opinion of RARA staff tends to reflect or discredit the program.

Any individual or teams committing any of the above-enumerated offenses may be suspended from playing that sport where the offense was committed 12 months from the date of the offense. Suspension shall be only for the sport in which the offense is committed.

Recommended suspension shall be by written notice by the umpires or scorekeeper and is at the discretion of RARA.

Provocation is not a defense to any suspension or removal, and all players are presumed to have notice of the rule.

The site supervisor shall have the power to suspend any player, for the remainder of the season, including a person playing under a false name.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT MANAGERS OR COACHES REVIEW THIS MANUAL WITH THE PLAYERS ON THEIR TEAM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON. THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT ALL PLAYERS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THESE RULES AND WILL ABIDE BY THEM.