

MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS
PUBLIC SERVICES-ORGANIZED SPORTS

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RULES AND REGULATIONS
(Franchised Men, Women and Coed)

MANAGERS

READ ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS CAREFULLY

It is the responsibility of the managers to acquaint themselves, the team sponsor, and all players with the rules and regulations as set forth in the following pages. It is also their responsibility to control the actions of their players at all times.

IGNORANCE OF THE RULES WILL NOT EXCUSE YOU OR YOUR PLAYERS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

(FRANCHISED MEN, WOMEN & COED LEAGUES)

1. **CONDUCT AND ACTIONS PLAYER** "Player" means any participant in any organized recreational activity and includes player, manager, sponsor, statistician or coach.
 - (A) It shall be the responsibility of the manager to control the actions of their players on the bench and on the field. Managers, coaches and players are responsible for their conduct from the time they reach the park until the time they leave.
 - (B) Only official members of a team are to sit on the bench. Unless actually participating in the game on the field, players are to confine themselves to their team bench.
 - (C) Unsportsmanlike conduct of any type or infractions of the following rules could mean ejection from the game with the possibility of a suspension.
 - a. **DEROGATORY REMARKS, PROFANITY, OBSCENE GESTURES, THREATS OR PHYSICAL FORCE** directed toward any game official, park employee, department official, other players or spectators will not be tolerated, and will result in a minimum one game suspension for the first offense and the remainder of the season for a second offense. **PROFANITY** whether directed at an opponent, a game or department official, or merely at one's self **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** and could mean immediate ejection and probable suspension.
 - b. **SMOKING** on the field of play, which includes the team bench, is prohibited.
 - c. **DRINKING** of intoxicating beverages by any team member on or near the field of play is prohibited.

***** DEPARTMENT OF PARKS RULE *****

No person shall bring into or drink any spirituous, vinous, malt or mixed liquor in any park or parkway except in such areas as designated by the Department of Parks, and then only by written permission of the Department of Parks, and except at such place as beverages are sold by licenses of the Department of Parks.

- (D) **ON FIELD BEHAVIOR POLICY** - The on field behavior policy is designed to decrease the number of on field incidents such as pitchers intentionally throwing at hitters (baseball and fast pitch softball), physical force, and "players" leaving their position to participate in a physical confrontation.
 - a. Physical Confrontations
 1. Any "PLAYER" (as defined above) involved in a physical confrontation (fighting) will be ejected immediately and is subject to further disciplinary action.

***** NOTE *****

Fighting is any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage an opponent in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact.

2. Any "player" leaving their position to participate in a physical confrontation will be ejected immediately and is subject to further disciplinary action.

***** NOTE *****

The position of applicable players is considered to be wherever the individual is located (dugout, bullpen, coaching box, defensive position, etc.) at the time a confrontational situation develops.

3. A batter or runner charging or pursuing the pitcher will be ejected immediately and is subject to further disciplinary action.
4. A pitcher leaving the pitcher's mound and initiating a physical confrontation will be ejected immediately and is subject to further disciplinary action.
5. A "player" involved in a confrontation while remaining at his position and judged to have been defending himself and not contributing to the incident will **not** be ejected.
6. All applicable "players" leaving their position to, in any way, involve themselves in a physical confrontation will be ejected immediately and are subject to further disciplinary action.

***** NOTE *****

The **manager only** from each team is **expected** to leave their position (wherever it may be) as necessary, in an attempt to bring the violator(s) from **THEIR** team under control. Managers should not involve themselves in physically restraining "players" from the opposing team.

- c. INTERPRETATION - Should a skirmish develop while other "players" are located nearby (for example, a rundown; a play at second base involving the runner and the shortstop or second baseman with the other nearby; or a play at the plate involving the runner and catcher with the pitcher backing up), those "nearby" or "backing up" the play must **not** become involved, as this will constitute a violation for leaving their position at the time a confrontational situation developed.

- (E) **THROWING BAT** - Deliberate throwing of the bat or other equipment in anger or disgust will not be tolerated. **This will mean immediate ejection from the game without warning and probable further suspension.**

An incident involving a player tossing or flipping a bat accidentally will result in the player's team being given a **team warning** by the umpire. A repeated violation will result in the ejection of the offending player from the game.

- (F) **BALLS AND STRIKES ARE NOT TO BE DISPUTED.** Any arguing on the judgment of balls and strikes will result in a **team warning**. Any repeat offense will result in the ejection of that player, manager or coach.

***** WARNING *****

Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is **final**. No player, manager, coach or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions.

- (G) The MANAGER shall be the only person to confer with an official on a disputed play. Such conferences must be kept to a minimum and conducted in a sportsmanlike manner. Keep in mind that constant arguing, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated and could mean ejection from the game and possible suspension from further league play.

***** NOTE *****

Profanity, excessive arguing, derogatory remarks, etc. from a team's bench area WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Ejections will be made if necessary. Managers are responsible for bench conduct and control.

- (H) **EJECTIONS** Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct could mean immediate ejection from game.

- a. When a player is ejected, they are to leave the field of play **IMMEDIATELY**. This includes the player bench and the area around the bench. If necessary to control the game, umpires have the authority to eject offenders from the park. When ejected from the park, they are to leave immediately. It is the manager's responsibility to see that the individual abides by such rules.

- b. If a player is ejected and continues to harass the official, the manager will be warned to control their player's action. If the manager does not comply, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. In any serious unsportsmanlike conduct incident such as teams fighting or complete loss of control of players by a manager, the umpire shall have the authority to forfeit the game without a warning.
- c. When an official requests the name of a particular player due to ejection from a game, the manager is **required to comply** with the official's request. The penalty for not supplying such information to the umpire or this office is indefinite suspension of the manager. Lack of cooperation from any team in regard to such ejection could mean suspension of the entire team from the league.
- d. Ejected players subject to suspension are notified of such action by this department. The player suspended has the right to a hearing. Request for a hearing must be made to the Public Services Mgr. within three (3) days of notification of such suspension.

2. SUSPENSIONS In accordance with Milwaukee County Rules on Disciplinary Action, the Public Services Manager or his assistant can discipline and suspend without recourse any participant for any act which is in violation of the rules.

A conduct suspension shared with the members of the South East Park Recreation Council as listed below may be appealed to an appeal board. The decision of the appeal board will be final. A request for a hearing must be made in writing within ten days after notice of suspension.

A suspension involving false registration, eligibility, use of ineligible players, failure to pay fees, failure to return uniforms/equipment, or any conduct suspension within the County program **only is not** appealable.

(A) ENFORCEMENT AND RECOGNITION OF SUSPENSION

- a. Suspensions imposed by any South East Park Recreation Council member department will be recognized by Milwaukee County.
- b. Suspensions imposed by Milwaukee County will be recognized by all other South East Park Recreation Council member departments.
- c. A suspension by any sanctioned or approved local, state or national tournament will be recognized if such suspension is made by a South East Park Recreation Council member.
- d. A hearing on a suspension must be requested through the department initiating such suspension.

* * * South East Park Recreation Council * * *

Brown Deer, Franklin, Germantown, Grafton, Greenfield, Greendale, Hartford, Milwaukee City, Milwaukee County, Muskego, Nicolet, Oak Creek, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, West Allis-West Milwaukee and Whitefish Bay

(B) DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS- Penalties and Appeals (Attached Pages)

Milwaukee County Parks reserves the right to discipline any participant in accordance with such rules.

(C) SUSPENDED PLAYER RULES

- a. Suspended players cannot be registered until tenure of suspension is completed. If already registered, a suspended player cannot be an active participant until such suspension is lifted.
- b. Suspended players cannot be on the team bench or have any voice in running the team.

* * * NOTE * * *

If a suspended player continues to play or is an active participant in any way, further disciplinary action will be taken. If the manager has knowledge of such suspension, that manager is also subject to disciplinary action.

3. OFFICIALS (AUTHORITY)

THIS DEPARTMENT ASSIGNS UMPIRES. THEY ARE OUR REPRESENTATIVES AND AS SUCH ARE AUTHORIZED AND REQUIRED TO ENFORCE ALL RULES. THEY HAVE THE POWER TO ORDER A PLAYER, COACH, MANAGER OR SPONSOR TO DO OR OMIT TO DO ANY ACT WHICH IN THEIR JUDGMENT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE FORCE AND EFFECT TO ONE OR ALL OF SUCH RULES AND TO INFLICT PENALTIES AS PRESCRIBED. SUCH UMPIRE SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON ANY SITUATIONS NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED IN THE RULES.

4. COMPLAINTS (OFFICIALS)

- (A) It is not necessary to report an official's name. This department has a record of each official assigned.
- (B) All complaints on officials should be made in writing. Such complaints must include definite information on officials' infractions, etc.
- (C) When a complaint on an official is made, this department will further check the efficiency of said official and, if need be, take proper steps to correct any deficiencies.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- (A) Players who are properly registered are eligible to participate in leagues organized and governed by the Milwaukee County Parks. Any player who **resides** in Milwaukee County must pay a \$10.00 player fee. Any player who **does not reside** in Milwaukee County must pay a \$30.00 non-resident player fee. **RESIDENCE** is defined as **actually living** in Milwaukee County on a permanent basis. Proof of residency, if questioned, must be shown upon demand of this department.

* * * **WARNING** * * *

Any player to be found falsifying residence to avoid paying the non-resident player fee will be considered ineligible and subject to an eligibility suspension of one year from all Milwaukee County sports participation.

- (B) If a player is a Milwaukee County resident as of the date of the first scheduled game of his/her league season, and then moves out of Milwaukee County, said player will be considered a County resident for the remainder of that season.
- (C) AGE LIMITS - All players MUST be at least eighteen (18) years of age to participate in any County Open Men's, Coed or Women's league.
- (D) Games in which ineligible players participate will be forfeited. In addition, a team found guilty of deliberately using ineligible players shall forfeit their right to league awards and any post-season playoff birth regardless of their record.
- (E) If a suitable women's league is not available, female players have the right to play in men's league if they choose.

* * * **WARNING** * * *

MANAGERS: BE SURE WHEN REGISTERING YOUR PLAYERS THAT THEY QUALIFY AS STATED ABOVE. FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS STATED PRECLUDES A PLAYER FROM PARTICIPATING IN COUNTY LEAGUES.

- 6. REGISTRATION All players MUST be registered with Milwaukee County Parks. There is no limit to the number of players on a team roster; however, awards are usually based on twenty players per team.

REGISTRATION CARDS MUST BE ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE PRIOR TO THE FIRST GAME IN, WHICH ANY PLAYER PARTICIPATES. **POSTMARK DATE WILL NOT BE USED WHEN PROCESSING CARDS.**

Registration cards will be accepted only during regular office hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00am to 5:30pm
Saturday 9:00am to 12:00pm

- (A) **PLAYER PARTICIPATION** - With regard to participation in leagues organized and regulated by Milwaukee County Parks, softball players are permitted to register and play on **ONLY ONE TEAM** on **ANY GIVEN WEEKDAY** (Monday through Friday). Leagues organized and regulated by Milwaukee County Parks include **ALL** franchised men's (inseam and outseam), women's and coed leagues.
- (B) **REGISTRATION DEADLINE** - In order to qualify for a team's County Playoff roster, a player **MUST** be registered by July 1st of the current year. Otherwise, players can be registered anytime during the regular season. **EXCEPTION:** Players **CANNOT** be added for a league position playoff.
- (C) A player cannot register with any other team for a particular given day unless officially released by the manager first signing him. (See Release Rule 7)

***** NOTE *****

THIS OFFICE FILES PLAYER REGISTRATION CARDS, HOWEVER, THE MANAGER AND PLAYER ARE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY REGISTRATION RULE 6 (A-D) AUTOMATICALLY CAUSES A PLAYER TO BECOME INELIGIBLE. FAILURE TO REGISTER WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF ALL GAMES IN, WHICH THE INELIGIBLE PLAYER PARTICIPATED. BOTH THE PLAYER AND THE MANAGER COULD BE SUSPENDED FOR SUCH AN INFRACTION.

(D) REGISTRATION CARD INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Registration card must be signed by both player and manager and must be completely filled out including stub before being returned to this office. **NOTE:** Be sure the full league name is on the card, not just the day of week or "Milwaukee County" (See sample on index page).
- b. Incomplete or improperly filled out registration cards will be returned to the manager. The player involved will not be eligible to participate until the card has been properly filled out.
- c. **DO NOT DETACH STUBS** from player registration cards. Cards without stubs will not be accepted. Once cards are dated and filed, this office will return stubs to managers. **DO NOT DESTROY STUBS.** They are your proof of a player's registration. **YOU MAY NEED TO PRODUCE STUBS IF ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS ARISE.**

7. RELEASES

- (A) When a manager releases a player, an official release card must be filled out and put on file in this office.
- (B) Release card stub is mailed directly to the player. The player is then eligible to register with another team if all other registration rules are followed. **EXCEPTION:** Rule on Team Disbandment.
- (C) A player refused a release by a manager can appeal to the Public Services Manager for a release only under the following conditions.
 - a. If a player has not played in any of three consecutive games or only a minor portion thereof and has signed the signup sheet, and has been ready to play at scheduled game time.
 - b. Such appeal must be in writing and must state full particulars.
 - c. The manager then must show just cause for the player not being released.

8. SIGNUP

- (A) All players **MUST** sign the signup sheet in their **OWN HANDWRITING**. Such signatures are to be legible, with first and last name. **NO NICKNAMES.**

- (B) Each team must have the minimum number of Nine (9) players signed on the signup sheet at scheduled game time.
- (C) All players should sign before start of game.
- (D) Players that happen to arrive late will be allowed to sign the signup sheet when they arrive if the game was not forfeited due to lack of players. NO PLAYER IS ALLOWED TO SIGN AFTER COMPLETION OF THE GAME OR AFTER THE GAME IS FORFEITED.

***** WARNING *****

Managers, not umpires, are responsible for correct signatures and must also be sure all of their players have signed the signup sheet. Managers are also responsible for the eligibility of all players.

9. THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES AS ADOPTED BY THE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ARE BASICALLY USED FOR ALL COUNTY FRANCHISED MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND COED SOFTBALL LEAGUES. Exceptions made are as mentioned on the following pages or where local ground rules and time limits dictate otherwise. We recommend that all managers procure a current rulebook to familiarize themselves with all playing rules.

10. GAME RULES

(A) OFFICIAL LINE-UP - A full team in slow pitch softball consists of ten (10) players. However, a team will be permitted to start a game with nine (9) players. If a tenth player arrives he/she may be used but MUST fill the tenth position in the batting line-up.

PLEASE NOTE WELL: The "Borrowing Players Rule" has been ELIMINATED.

- a. The "re-entry" rule will be allowed in all County softball leagues. "Any Player may be substituted and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up. Players may not re-enter a 2nd time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time."
- b. The "EXTRA PLAYER" rule will be allowed on an optional basis in all County slow pitch softball.

***** NOTE *****

If due to injury, ejection, or other emergency a team cannot field eleven (if using EP) or ten players, they will be allowed to continue with as few as nine players. If the player who is forced to leave the game is a runner (or batter), that player cannot be replaced by a player currently in the lineup. The base (or batting order position) is vacated and no "out" is called. At no time will a team be permitted to play with less than nine players. This County rule supersedes the A.S.A. "shorthand player" rule. We **do not** call for an automatic out if a team is forced to drop from eleven to ten or from ten to nine players.

- c. Substitutions should be reported to the umpire by the manager. The umpire requires no announcement of such substitution. No penalty is involved if a substitution is not reported. A substitute is considered in the game when they take their position as batter, fielder, runner or pitcher.
- (B) BASES - All bases will be set at sixty-five (65) feet, with the exception of the major's, which is seventy (70) feet. County fields WILL NOT be equipped with a double first base.
 - (C) PITCHING RULES - The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least six (6) feet from the ground. The pitched ball must not reach a height of more than twelve (12) feet at its highest point from the ground.
 - a. Strikes - Two (2) called strikes or one (1) swinging strike shall be an out.
 - b. Balls - Three (3) called balls constitutes a walk.
 - c. Pitching Distance is to be fifty (50) feet in all leagues.
 - (D) FOUL BALLS - Any foul ball is an out. A foul ball caught shall be played as in official softball the batter is out and base runners may advance at their own risk.

- (E) The Official Rules "Home Run Classification" provides for a limit on the number of over-the-fence home runs allowed in a game depending upon classification. THIS RULE WILL NOT APPLY TO ANY COUNTY SOFTBALL LEAGUE as they are not classified and most fields are not enclosed by fences. EXCEPTION: Wilson Major Monday and Wednesday leagues, and County Playoffs.
- (F) STEALING – Base stealing is **NOT ALLOWED** in Milwaukee County Parks slow pitch softball games. Each runner may leave a base when a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground or reaches home plate, but must return to that base immediately after each pitch not hit by the batter.
- (G) OUTS - The team listed first on the schedule has their outs and will occupy the third base bench.
- (H.) PLAY OFFS-
- a. To be eligible for a play-off spot, a team must be at least one (1) game above .500 during regular league play.
 - b. Tie Breaker Procedures: Should two or more teams remain tied for playoff berths, the following order of tie breakers will be applied until teams are eliminated:
 1. Head to head results
 2. Results vs. league champion
 3. Results vs. remaining play-off teams
 4. If tie still remains there will be a playoff
- (I) TIE GAMES - Games that end in a tie will not be rescheduled. (See Rule 13 (B), Page 9)
- (J) COED LEAGUES - The same rules as those adopted for open leagues will apply, with the exception of the following special rules.
- a. Players and Substitutes - A coed softball team is made up of ten players (5 male and 5 female). If an extra player (EP) is used in coed softball, 12 players must be used (6 male and 6 female).
 - b. A coed team is allowed to start with 9 players (5 female, 4 male) and may increase to 10 (5 female, 5 male) after the game has started. If due to injury, ejection or other emergency, a team is forced to drop to 9 players, must have a minimum of 5 females. At no time may there be more male than female players.
 1. If a team is starting with only 9 players, the batting order must start and end with a female. The first batter will follow immediately after the last batter, allowing for two female batters in a row.
 - c. Defensive Positioning - The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch unless all defensive players are positioned in fair territory, except the catcher who must be in the catcher's box. Coed defensive positioning shall consist of 2 males and 2 females in the outfield, 2 males and 2 females in the infield, and 1 male and 1 female in the pitcher/catcher positions. If playing with only 9 players, a male player may be missing from either an outfield or infield position, but the 1 male, 1 female pitcher/catcher positioning must remain intact.
 - d. Batting Order - The batting order for coed softball shall alternate the sexes. The only exception to this rule is when a team is forced to play with 9 players (5 female, 4 male) and two females must bat consecutively.
 - e. Male Base on Balls - 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. NOTE: Should the female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during this dead ball period. A male batter-runner advancing to second without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.
 - f. Extra Player - An extra player, referred to as an "EP", is optional, but if used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game and the players must be signed on the sign-up sheet. If the EPs are used they must be used the entire game. Failure to complete the game with the EPs results in forfeiture of the game. (Exception - See f-2)

1. If the EP is used in Coed, 12 players (6 male and 6 female) must be designated to bat, and any 10 (5 male and 5 female) may play defense. Defensive positions may be changed as long as the following ratio is maintained: 2 male/2 female in the outfield, 2 male/2 female in the infield, and 1 male/1 female as pitcher/catcher. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
2. If an injury, ejection or other emergency occurs while using the EPs, a team will be allowed to continue with 11 players, however, the ratio must be 6 female, 5 male. The male defensive positioning must remain the same - 2 males/infield, 2 males/outfield, 1 male pitcher or catcher. If the player leaving the game is a female, and no female substitute is available, the male either preceding or succeeding that female player in the batting order must be removed from the game.

11. **BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS** This rule applies to all Milwaukee County Softball Leagues. **IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT MANAGERS AND/OR PLAYERS HAVE A FIRST AID KIT TO TREAT MINOR INJURIES (BANDAGES, GAUZE, TAPE, RUBBER GLOVES ETC.). OFFICIALS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RENDER FIRST AID TO AN INJURED PLAYER.**

A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has an excessive amount of blood on their clothing shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. Excessive blood on clothing means it is saturated to the extent that blood might transfer to another person or the blood could soak through to the skin. This also applies to a blood soaked bandage. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time [**two (2) minutes**], the individual will not have to leave the game. If after two (2) minutes, bleeding cannot be controlled, player must be removed from the game.

THE UMPIRE SHALL:

- (A) Stop the game and allow treatment if bleeding must be stopped and/or an open wound covered before the player is allowed to participate further.
- (B) Immediately notify the manager or other authorized person of the injured player.
- (C) If necessary, notify the manager that the injured player must be replaced with a legal substitute (one who has yet to participate in the game).
- (D) Player who was forced to leave the game may re-enter after bleeding is controlled and wound is properly covered. This is not counted against a team's re-entry or related substitutions.
- (E) Player who substituted for the bleeding player would still be eligible to play later in the game as a legal substitute.
- (F) All "exits from" and "entries into" the game for the purpose of this rule are not counted against a team's substitutions.
- (G) If a player must leave the game because of this rule, and no legal substitutes are available, the game will continue with one less player (even if they go below the 9 player minimum limit) until the bleeding is stopped and/or the wound is covered. The player may then re-enter the same position in the batting order without penalty. In coed leagues there cannot be more men in the game than women.
- (H) If the player forced to leave the game is a base runner, and no legal substitutes are available, he/she must be replaced by a player who will not come to bat before the replaced player would have scored.

***** NOTE *****

In drafting this rule this department is trying to simplify the situation as much as possible. If at all possible, the game should be allowed to continue after the player(s) affected by the bleeding has been treated or has changed the part of the uniform, clothing or bandage with the excessive blood on it.

12. GRACE PERIOD

- (A) The umpire will allow a TEN (10) MINUTE GRACE PERIOD before forfeiting a game due to lack of players, or for failing to produce proper game ball. As soon as nine (9) players are present or proper game ball is available, the game must begin.
- (B) Such grace period time is to be charged against playing time.

13. TIME LIMITS/RUN RULE All games to be seven (7) innings but with time limits as shown.

- (A) All in-seam and out-seam games will have a fifty (50) minute time limit, with a 15 run rule after five innings have been played and a 20 run rule after four innings have been played. No new inning is to start after the time limit has expired unless the game is tied.
- (B) TIE GAMES - In the event of a tie at the completion of the inning during which the time limit expired, **one (1)** extra inning will be played. Games that end in a tie after time limit and required extra inning are official "tie games" and will not be rescheduled.
- (C) PLAYOFF GAMES – When a position playoff game is necessary there will be no time limit or tie. Game will be played to completion. This department reserves the right to schedule playoffs at its discretion. This department will decide on procedures. Run rule is in effect for playoff games.
- (D) Time used up due to weather delay, removal of injured players, or light failure will not be charged against playing time.
- (E) When a game is started late due to a previous game finishing late or due to inclement weather, the time limit will run from the actual starting time of the game.
- (F) If either scheduled team is at fault for a late start, the time limit will run from the actual scheduled time.
- (G) UMPIRE'S TIME WILL BE OFFICIAL AT ALL TIMES.

14. SCORING - The umpire will keep a running score for each inning. Umpire's decision on runs scored will be final.

* * * **NOTE** * * *

Managers should check the score with the umpire every inning. If there is a discrepancy, discuss it with the umpire at the time. Keep in mind that the umpire's decision is final. No protests are allowed on "runs scored".

15. EQUIPMENT - The Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture does not furnish any equipment. Balls, bats and other playing equipment is to be furnished by the teams.

- (A) BALLS - The style (in-seam or out-seam) and size etc. is determined by this office for all County organized leagues.
- (B) The following procedures on balls must be adhered to in all scheduled league and playoff games.
 - a. For **INSEAM** leagues each manager must give the umpire one new ball (in a sealed package) before each game. For **OUTSEAM** leagues the team listed first on the schedule must supply one new ball and one playable ball. It must be the ball officially adopted by the league. This ball must be purchased from the SPORTING GOODS STORE, which was awarded the adoption.
 - b. Game balls are not to be used in pre-game warm-up or for infield practice throughout the game.
 - c. A team not having the proper game ball automatically forfeits the game.
 - d. Having the wrong ball could very well cause the game to be lost on a forfeit. Any protest based on an improper game ball must be lodged with the umpire before the start of the game.

- e. At the beginning of each half inning, the umpire shall select the ball to be used. This ball must be used until it goes out of play. The second ball must then be used until it goes out of play. When both balls are out of play at the same time, the first ball to be returned shall be used.
- f. In the event both game balls are lost, each manager will supply another ball. Additional balls do not have to be new, but must be in a condition satisfactory to umpire.
- g. At the conclusion of the game, the umpire shall give each team one ball. If a ball has been lost, a coin toss will decide who gets the remaining ball.

(C) BATS – The 2008 Softball Season will follow the ASA Banned Bat List. Make sure you become aware of the Banned Bats, updates will occur throughout the season. Please visit www.softball.org for such changes and updates.

* * * **WARNING** * * *

PENALTY

When a batter is discovered using a BANNED bat...

First Offense...the batter is “out” and shall be disqualified from the game

Second Offense...the batter is “out”, shall be disqualified from the game and shall be **SUSPENDED** for the remainder of the season, a minimum of the next seven games, will carry over into the following season.

When a batter is discovered using an **ALTERED** bat...

The batter is “out”, shall be disqualified from the game, and shall be **SUSPENDED for ONE YEAR.**

(D) MASKS for catchers in slow pitch are optional. This department does recommend their use.

(E) SHOES - Per A.S.A. Rule 3, Sec. 6G, shoes with metal spikes are legal for men and women’s leagues. This department recommends the use of rubber cleats. **Metal spikes ARE ILLEGAL IN COED leagues.**

(F) CASTS AND JEWELRY - A.S.A. Rule 3, Sec 6E & F deal with these topics.

- CASTS/PROSTHESES – All casts and splints must be padded. Prostheses may be worn. Braces with exposed hard surfaces must be padded. Any of this equipment judged by the umpire to be potentially dangerous is illegal. NOTE: Any decision by the umpire should be based on whether or not a device worn or used by an individual with a disability changes the fundamental nature of the game or poses a significant risk to the safety of other players.
- JEWELRY – Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. NOTE: Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible. UMPIRES DECISION ON THE LEGALITY OF ALL JEWELRY IS FINAL.

(G) UNIFORMS are optional in County Softball Leagues. Affiliated Leagues that have uniform rules must enforce such rules through the league director. This office has no jurisdiction over such special rules.

ONLY THE PREVIOUS OR CURRENT YEAR’S COMPLAINTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND MUST BE FORWARDED TO THIS OFFICE BY JUNE 15TH OF CURRENT YEAR.

16. POSTPONED GAMES - Milwaukee County Parks is the only agency that can postpone, cancel or reschedule any games. The only exception to this rule is when park personnel or an official is forced to do so at the field of play.

(A) Games will be postponed or rescheduled only under the following conditions:

- a. Poor weather conditions or extreme emergencies.

- b. Due to light failure.
- c. During the Milwaukee Municipal Recreation Department's City Championship Playoffs, and then only if this department is notified by team or teams involved at least 24 hours before their first scheduled playoff game. There must be a direct time conflict to postpone a game. Teams are expected to appear if time permits. Notification of such a conflict should be made in writing.

(B) Inclement Weather

- a. If rain occurs before the game, the park custodian's decision on the condition of the field and whether a game can be played or not will be final. If the park custodian is not present, the umpire will decide if the field is playable or not.
- b. When rain interrupts a game or lightening occurs in the immediate park area, the umpire shall take the necessary steps to suspend play, and shall decide if the game should be continued. Before calling a game completely, the umpire will wait a reasonable length of time. The umpire's decision will be final.
- c. Any game called off due to rain or other weather conditions before it is considered an official game will be replayed from the beginning if it is rescheduled.

(C) Any game called off due to **light failure** shall be resumed from the point of interruption if it is rescheduled. Official games do not apply to light failure. Games halted due to **darkness** will not be resumed if they are considered official games or official tie games. OFFICIAL GAME - A game is considered official when five (5) innings have been completed or if the home or "out" team has scored more runs in four and a half (4 1/2) innings that the visiting or "in" team has scored in five (5) innings of play.

(D) Postponed games will be rescheduled at the discretion of this office.

* * * **NOTE** * * *

If a league representative cannot be determined by a playoff game prior to the start of the County Playoffs, league representative will be decided as follows: (1) Team in first place at that time; (2) If two or more teams have like records, (a) head to head competition against each other; (b) toss of coin.

(E) If at the end of the season a previously postponed game has no bearing as to league awards, the game will not be rescheduled.

(F) ALL MAKEUP GAMES AND OTHER SPECIAL NOTICES SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE MANAGERS OF THE TEAMS INVOLVED.

17. FORFEITS

(A) A team shall lose a game on forfeit:

- a. If a team does not appear or appears with less than a minimum team (9 players) at scheduled game time. The appearing team must take the field and the pitcher must deliver the ball to the catcher before the umpire can officially forfeit the game. (Ball does not have to be new, see grace period Rule 11.)
- b. If a team quits in defiance of an umpire's decision.
- c. If a team fails to field at least nine players at any time.
- d. If a team fails to supply the proper game ball(s) as prescribed by the rules.
- e. If a team does not heed umpire's warning on discipline.
- f. Infraction of any County eligibility, registration, or participation rule will result in forfeiture of a game(s).

- (B) No team will be awarded a game on forfeit unless it has at least nine players on the field and signed on the signup sheet.
- (C) When a team forfeits any game for any reason, they are required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next scheduled game.
- (D) This office will notify all team managers when a team is to be dropped from a league. This office is the only agency that can officially drop any team.
- (E) When a team has been officially dropped, their opponents will be credited with an automatic win for any remaining scheduled games.

18. PROTESTS (ELIGIBILITY)

- (A) Appeals or protests on ineligible players will be accepted anytime during a team's season of play. Season is considered officially completed for a team two (2) days after the final league game of the team involved.
- (B) Appeals or protests must be made in writing and must be filed in this office with any supporting evidence.
- (C) DO NOT LODGE AN ELIGIBILITY PROTEST WITH THE UMPIRE.

19. PROTESTS (PLAYING RULES)

- (A) Any protest involving an umpire's judgment WILL NOT be accepted. A protest will only be accepted if it involves a playing rule interpretation.
- (B) The umpire MUST be notified of a protest on a playing rule interpretation at the time of the play. Such notification must be made before the next pitch.
- (C) Protests on rule interpretations must be made in writing to the Milwaukee County Parks office no later than 5:00 P.M. on the next working day.
- (D) A formal protest must contain the following information:
 - a. Date, time and place of game.
 - b. The rule and section of the Official Rules or County Rules under which the protest is made.
 - c. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
 - d. All pertinent facts involved in the matter protested.
- (E) Protests will not be accepted on the following. The umpire's decision will be final.
 - a. Official Softball Rules - The rules as listed below **cannot** be protested; such rules are covered by County Rules or are not adaptable to County League Play.
 - 1. Rule 1 - Definitions
 - 2. Rule 2 - Playing Field
 - 3. Rule 3 - Equipment
 - 4. Rule 4 - Players & Substitutes (includes "EP" rule)
 - 5. Rule 10 - Umpires
 - 6. Rule 11 - Protests
 - 7. Rule 12 - Scoring
 - b. County Rules -
 - 1. Time Limits - Umpire's time is official
 - 2. Scoring

3. Ins & Outs

- (F) If or when a protest on rule interpretation is allowed, this office will reschedule protested game and will decide from which point game will be replayed.

***** NOTE *****

Milwaukee County Parks reserves the right to reject any protest that in its judgment had no direct effect on subsequent play or in the final result of game.

20. FIELD RULES

- (A) There are no home fields.
- (B) The field lights will be turned off fifteen (15) minutes after conclusion of final game.
- (C) PREGAME PRACTICE - NO SCHEDULED GAME WILL BE DELAYED FOR PRACTICE.
- a. Pre-game practice is only allowed if time is available.
 - b. All pre-game batting practice **MUST** be held from positions as shown in the diagram on this page.
 1. Batters (B) **MUST** hit from areas as designated, which are about 10 feet from either side of home plate.
 2. Pitchers (P) **MUST** pitch from just behind 1st/3rd base.
 - c. At no time are batters to hit from 1st/3rd base, unless the field is situated so as not to pose a hazard to private property or does not face toward a street.

***** WARNING *****

The above pre-game practice regulations were instituted due to balls being hit onto streets, causing damage to passing vehicles or causing other private property damage. BE ADVISED, players are fully responsible for property damage they may cause at any time before, during, or after a game.

- d. Complaints on field conditions should be made in writing to this office. Managers may ask the umpire to note such complaints on the back of the sign-up sheet. Such complaints should be specific as to what and where the problem is located, etc. Keep in mind that this office does not maintain fields but will follow up on all such complaints.

***** NOTE *****

Players are not allowed to hit "fungos" into a backstop or dugout fence. Failure to adhere to this rule will mean ejection and possible suspension.

- (D) PRACTICE PERMITS - Permits for practice must be obtained directly from the park. This department will not issue any practice permits.
- a. FEES - The following fees apply to the RESERVATION of fields for practice. Daylight hours \$6.00 per hour, with use of lights \$30.00 per hour.
 - b. Permits will be issued only on a week-to-week basis.
 - c. Reservations for practice with use of lights will depend on park personnel schedule and varies from park to park. The Park Supervisor's decision on issuance of permits is final.

21. CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT OR SPONSORSHIP

- (A) When there is a change of manager or sponsor, an official form must be filed in this office.
- (B) This department **MUST** be notified of any change in a manager's or sponsor's address or telephone number.

22. AWARDS

- (A) No league awards are presented by Milwaukee County Parks.
 - (B) All league awards are presented by the sporting goods dealer that was awarded the ball adoption by managers' vote. The Sporting Goods Dealer that received ball adoption is responsible for the number and quality of awards.
 - (C) At completion of the season, this office will notify the manager(s) and sporting goods dealer as to "awards won" in County open leagues.
23. INJURY - The Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture shall not be responsible for any injury, which may be incurred by a player. It is recommended that all players be covered by some type of their own insurance.
24. TEAM DISBANDMENTS - The manager of a team that is disbanding before the season is completed must notify this department at once. The remaining games shall then be credited to its scheduled opponents. When a team disbands, its players will be at liberty to register with other teams, but cannot register with a team in the same league.
25. SEASON CLOSE - The season officially closes two (2) working days after each league's final game. No protests will be allowed after such period.

***** NOTE *****

There shall be no rule or agreement among team managers or coaches that shall take precedence over or be in conflict with any rule of the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

ALL MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE RULES AND THIS OFFICE WILL DECIDE ON REGULATIONS ON THESE PAGES.

Participation in recreational activities organized and regulated by the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture having jurisdiction is a privilege which should not be denied nor suspended without just cause, but which likewise imposes a duty upon players to adhere to rules for orderly participation in such activities.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION (Shared Suspensions): Penalties, Appeals

Participation in recreational activities organized and regulated by the Municipal Unit (County) having jurisdiction is a privilege which should not be denied nor suspended without just cause but which likewise imposes a duty upon players and officials to adhere to rules for orderly participation in activities. It is the purpose of this rule to set up procedures governing the imposition of penalties for infractions of the unsportsmanlike conduct rules and regulations of the County Department of

Parks, Recreation and Culture and provides an orderly and conclusive appeal there from for any suspension **shared** with the South East Park Recreation Council "SEPRC". Such rules and procedures are as follows:

- (1) The Public Services Manager of the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture is a county employee. He is vested with authority to generally supervise the conduct of such recreational activities and specifically to take the disciplinary actions provided for by these rules whenever in his discretion the circumstances require such action.
- (2) The Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture is a member of the South East Park Recreation Council "SEPRC" composed of the recreation departments of the several municipal units in Southeast Wisconsin. Disciplinary action shared by all members of the South East Park Recreation Council with respect to a player or official shall be recognized and enforced by the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture in all recreational activities under its immediate jurisdiction.
- (3) Definitions: The terms hereinafter set forth shall have the meaning hereinafter ascribed to them.
 - (a) "Player" means a participant in any organized recreational activity and includes a player-manager or a non-playing team manager, coach or sponsor.
 - (b) "Official" means umpire, score marker, referee, etc. in charge of the conduct of a recreational activity or game before, during or after the activity or game, but within the particular recreational area or park limits.
 - (c) "Rules" include the rules for the conduct of the recreational activity or sport generally recognized as official and further includes the rules and regulations of the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture hereinafter set out.
 - (d) "Director" means the Public Services Manager of the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture.
- (4) The act of participation by all players in organized recreation activities evidences the player's agreement that he/she has acquainted himself/herself with and will abide by the rules as a condition of his/her privilege to participate in the activity.
- (5) All decisions respecting the actual playing or team management of the activity shall be decided on the field by the official or officials in charge of the conduct of the activity at the particular time, and such decisions shall be made insofar as possible in compliance with recognized official rules governing the playing of the particular recreational activity. Such officials are authorized to order the player to terminate his/her activity in connection with the particular contest involved, when in the discretion of such official such player has violated the rules generally recognized for the conduct of such activity or any of the rules of the Public Services Division of the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture hereinafter set forth, without restriction because of the enumeration thereof. Such ouster may be ordered as to a player who continues to dispute a decision once it has been rendered by the official, or if he/she acts in an unsportsmanlike and disorderly manner, or comes into any physical contact whatsoever with the official, or uses improper language in making such protest. The use of profanity shall be deemed improper language.
- (6) Any disciplinary order made by an official on the field is subject to review and further disciplinary action by the Director as set forth in paragraph #7. Whenever an official has ordered a player to terminate his/her activity in connection with a particular contest, he/she shall promptly report the circumstances occasioning the issuance of such order to the Director in writing.
- (7) Upon receipt of a report from the official concerning the conduct of any player or team, the Director may at his discretion temporarily suspend the offending player or team from further participation in the particular sport. The Director shall promptly notify said player's/team's manager by mail of his/her/the team's immediate suspension. If the conduct suspension is longer than seven games, such notification shall also include an order to appear – not less than three days-Sundays excepted – subsequent to the date of receipt of the notice, for a hearing before the Director. If the Director contemplates further disciplinary action over and above that previously ordered, he shall upon request of the offending player listen to statements of such witnesses as such player shall produce at such hearing or any adjournment thereof. If the player fails to report within the specified time, the suspension ordered by the Director will

continue in effect until the player does appear. Conduct suspensions of seven games or less are NOT APPEALABLE.

- (8) Upon the conclusion of such hearing, the Director may impose such further discipline or penalty upon the offending player as he in his discretion deems the circumstances warrant, including suspension of such player for a certain number of games or for the season in the particular sport, or if the Director deems it the proper conduct of the recreation program, he may suspend such player from participation in any and all County Park organized recreational activities for a period not to exceed three years from the date of the offense.
- (9) Such decision by the Director shall be promptly transmitted in writing to the offending player by mail and a copy retained in the department files.
- (10) Any player so disciplined may within 10 days after the date of such a written decision appeal to the Director to set up an impartial board of three persons not connected with the recreation department of the municipal unit imposing such disciplinary penalty. Upon receipt of such notice of such appeal such tribunal shall be set up within 5 working days thereafter, provision being made for the time and place of the meeting, and the Director shall promptly notify the appellant player in writing. Such board shall hear all relevant evidence desired to be presented to it by the appellant player and the department of recreation and, at the conclusion of such hearing shall make its written decision. Such decision shall find the facts in the dispute, and impose the penalty. Such decision may vacate or decrease, affirm or increase the penalty originally determined by the Director but may not exceed the maximum penalty hereinabove specified. Such decision shall be signed by the members of the appeal board and filed with the department and a true copy promptly sent to the offending player. Failure of the offending player to make such appeal within the specified time shall constitute an absolute waiver of such appeal right. The decision of the appeal board shall be final and conclusive, and shall be promptly forwarded to the proper members of the South East Park Recreation Council.
- (11) The Director can upon his discretion, discipline and suspend any player for any act which is in violation of the rules of the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture.