



2019 SLOW PITCH, WOOD BAT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

REGISTRATION DATES: All returning teams will have first priority until the end of the day on **Friday, March 15, 2019**. All new teams will be served on a first come, first served basis. Registration deadline for new teams is **Friday, March 29, 2019**.

I. GENERAL

- A. Managers, it is your responsibility to acquaint yourself and your players with all rules and regulations as set forth in the following pages. It is also your responsibility to control the actions of your players at all times.
- B. Read all Rules and Regulations carefully. Ignorance of rules will not excuse you or your players. **Any rule that is not in our rules we will go by the ASA softball rulebook.**
- C. Games will tentatively begin the week of **April 22, 2019**.
- D. League Fees:
- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tuesday | Men's Master (30 and over) | Fee: \$425 (includes game balls) |
| Thursday | Men's Open (19 and over) | Fee: \$425 (includes game balls) |
- **If a team wishes to withdraw within two weeks of the season beginning, no refund will be given.
- E. Location:
Men's Master – Shorewood High School Diamond – Games beginning at 6:00 pm
Men's Open – Shorewood High School Diamond – Games beginning at 6:00 pm
****Additional time slots may be added for rain dates. These games may be on different days than the regular league play.****
- F. Games played dependent on number of teams registered (11 games minimum – weather pending). We will do our best to make-up rained out games. All teams will make playoffs.
- G. League tournaments will depend on scheduling and potential make up games.
1. In case of a tie in standings, tie breaker is as follows:
 - a. Head to head record.
 - b. Runs against.
 - c. Runs scored.
 - d. Coin toss.

II. **ELIGIBILITY**

A. Age Requirements

1. **Men's Open League:** Players must be at least 19 years of age prior to their first game.
2. **Men's Master League:** Players must be at least 30 years of age prior to their first game.

III. **REGISTRATION**

A. Every player in the slow pitch leagues must be registered on the team application form. All indicated information must be completed.

B. The registration fee **MUST** be paid in full with the completed application.

IV. **Practices**

A. Each team may schedule one practice per week before the season starts pending field conditions. All practices must be scheduled with the Recreation Department. If the field is already reserved, teams will not be able to practice at that time. Lights will **NOT** be provided for practices.

V. **TEAM REGISTRATION**

A. A team shall not be admitted to the league unless the team application form, accompanied by the registration fee, arrives in the Shorewood Recreation and Community Services Department office by the deadline date.

VI. **RELEASES**

A. A player cannot register with any other team unless officially released by the signing manager. The manager must notify the department by email.

VII. **CONDUCT AND ACTIONS**

A. Player means any participant and includes players, managers, and sponsor.

B. It shall be the responsibility of the manager to control the actions of his or her players on the bench and on the field. Managers and players are responsible for their conduct from the time they reach the field until the time they leave.

C. Only official members of a team are to sit on the bench, this includes players, managers, sponsor, and one (1) bat person. Unless actually participating in the game at the time, players are to confine themselves to the team bench.

D. Unsportsmanlike conduct of any type or infractions of the following rules could mean ejection from the game and suspension. Derogatory remarks, profanity, obscene gestures, threats or physical force directed toward game official, Recreation Department employees, other players, or spectators will not be tolerated and will be dealt with harshly and cause ejection and suspension. In addition, throwing of bats, gloves, etc. will not be accepted; and players may be ejected without warning and suspended.

E. The use of all tobacco products or drinking of alcoholic beverages on ALL School District premises is prohibited by state law. Violation by team members may result in player or team suspension.

- F. The manager shall be the only person to confer with an umpire on disputed plays. Such conferences must be kept to a minimum and be conducted in a sportsmanlike manner. Keep in mind that constant arguing, harassment or intimidation will not be tolerated and could mean ejection and/or suspension.
- G. All teams will be expected to run on and off the field to keep the games running on schedule.
- H. Balls and strikes are not to be disputed. Disputing balls and strikes could mean immediate ejection and subsequent suspension.
- I. When an umpire requests the name of a particular player due to ejection from a game, the manager is required to comply with the umpire's request. The penalty for not supplying such information to the umpire will be suspension for the manager.
- J. Ejected players must leave the property immediately.
- K. If a player is ejected and continues to harass the umpire, the manager will be warned to control the player's actions. If the player does not comply, the game will be awarded to the opposing team and suspension of players will occur.
- L. Teams that are warming up to play the next game will position themselves in such areas that will not disrupt the course of the game being played. Teams warming up should also be safety conscious and make a special effort not to endanger spectators or other players.
- M. Batting practice is not permitted prior to a game.

VIII. **SUSPENSIONS**

- A. Any player who is ejected from the game because of unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be suspended for the next game his or her team plays. The suspended player **MUST** leave the Shorewood school grounds immediately. The player is not allowed to return to school grounds until the suspension is over.
- B. Two (2) ejections during the season will result in a one (1) year suspension from Shorewood Recreation and Community Services Department leagues.
- C. Any type of malicious physical contact with Shorewood Recreation and Community Services Department employees, other players, or spectators will cause immediate ejection and a one (1) year suspension from all Shorewood Recreation and Community Services Department leagues.
- D. Players and managers involved in unsportsmanlike conduct at anytime on or off the field before during or after a game will be penalized. If players and managers do not take effective action to control unsportsmanlike behavior, the entire team may be dropped from the league.

IX. **FORFEITS**

- A. If a team cannot field a playable roster (8), they must inform the Recreation Department by noon (12 pm) the day before their game. If they do not do so, they will be charged a \$50 forfeit fee. Team captains should call the Recreation Department to inform them if their

team will not be able to play. The Recreation Department will make an effort to inform the other teams in the league.

B. A team shall lose a game by forfeit:

1. If a team does not have at least eight (8) players ready to play at the scheduled game time. A maximum 5 minute grace period will be allowed. Game time will start immediately at the scheduled game time.
2. If a team quits in defiance of an umpire's decision.
3. If a team fails to field eight (8) players at any time.
4. If a team uses an ineligible player. All games in which ineligible players participate will be forfeited.
5. If a team does not act upon umpire's warning on manager's control of players.
6. The final score for the game will be listed as 7-0 in favor of the team that did not forfeit.

C. No team will be awarded a game by forfeit unless they have at least eight (8) eligible players present.

D. When a team has been officially dropped, their opponents will be credited with an automatic win for any remaining scheduled games.

E. All forfeit fees must be paid by the end of the season or the manager will not be allowed to participate in any programs offered through the Shorewood Recreation and Community Services Department.

X. **GAME RULES**

A. The official softball rules, as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association, shall govern play for slow pitch softball, with the exceptions listed below or where local ground rules or time limits dictate otherwise.

B. A full line-up for all leagues consists of ten (10) players. No team shall be permitted to start or continue a game with less than eight (8) players. The batting order may include all players on the roster. The number of batters remains the same throughout the remainder of the game unless there is an obvious injury to the player and no replacement for him or her. The team losing a player to injury would not receive an out in the place of that injured player when going through the batting order.

C. Strikes and Balls

1. Home plate, including the black border and the mat, will constitute the strike zone.
2. **Men's League:** Two (2) called strikes, or one (1) swinging strike, or one (1) foul ball shall be an out. A foul ball caught shall be played as in official softball; the batter is out and the base runners may advance at their own risk. Three (3) called balls shall be a walk.
3. There will be an arc limit of 12' and a minimum of 6'.

D. League games will consist of seven (7) innings with a fifty (50) minute time limit. The umpire will keep official time. **Tournament games will be seven (7) innings with a fifty (50) minute time limit.**

1. **15 Run Rule:** All games shall be 7 innings. However, any team ahead by **15** runs at the end of 5 innings (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) shall be the winner.

E. Game Balls

1. The official game balls for men and coed will be provided by the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department will provide one game ball per game. If the game ball is unplayable or lost then the umpire must approve an alternate playable ball for play as supplied by one of the teams.

F. All players must wear proper attire, including pants or shorts, shirt, and shoes. Uniforms are optional.

G. **Metal spikes are prohibited in all leagues.**

H. **Sliding** is allowed. Any malicious slide will be cause for immediate ejection. The major concern related to the issue of sliding is focused on the dangers of crashing into a fielder (be it the catcher OR any other fielder).

1. At no time may a baserunner FLAGRANTLY run, block, roll, and/or crash into a fielder. Persons will be penalized to the maximum degree.
PENALTY: Batter declared out, 1 (one) year suspension.
2. WE ENCOURAGE base runners to slide WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE and NOT TO SLIDE when it isn't! (The majority of softball injuries are related to sliding).
3. Plays at the plate will not require an "AUTOMATIC SLIDE" SITUATION. However...Persons may not make ANY attempt to jar a fielded ball or break-up a play AT ANY BASE. Base runners must slide directly to the base they are advancing to OR AVOID ANY CONTACT BEYOND INCIDENTAL by running "around" (and remain within the required baselines) a fielder attempting a put-out. A runner MAY NOT JUMP or HURDLE to avoid a tag (will be called out).
4. No "ROLL SLIDES" are allowed.
5. Fielders (in particular, catchers): Remember that you must not OBSTRUCT any base runner. This means...stay clear from the base runner UNLESS YOU ARE:
 - a. In possession of the ball attempting to make a put-out.
 - i. Base Runners - We do ENCOURAGE sliding on a close play at the plate. Managers should instruct on-deck batters to assist runners coming home on "stand-up or slide" situations. Many of the problems experienced at the plate stem from the LACK OF TEAM COMMUNICATION.
 - ii. Managers and umpires should ALWAYS review the sliding rules prior to each contest. It is the responsibility of the team managers to ensure that ALL players are WELL aware of the RULES!

- I. Protest procedure: the manager or acting manager notifies the umpire and opposing manager that the game is being continued under protest. The manager or acting manager must be the same person that discussed the ground rules with the umpire and opposing manager before the game. The \$20 protest fee must be paid to the Recreation Department by noon the next day in order to have the protest reviewed. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- J. The re-entry and substitution rule will be ASA rules.
- K. The team listed **second** on the schedule will be the home team and will use the bench on the first base side.
- L. **Bats** – The Shorewood Softball League (Men’s only) will only allow wood bats. Metal bats will NOT be allowed.
 - 1. All teams must comply with ASA wood bat standards. They should have ASA stamped on the bat to prove the certification. All bats MUST be softball bats, not baseball bats. They should all be 2 ¼ “ in diameter at the barrel. NO composite bats will be permitted.
 - 2. Teams must have bats available before the game for the umpires to check for a bat certification mark.
 - 3. All bats found that are without a certification mark will be taken out of the game.
 - 4. **First Offense (individual):** If a player steps into the batter’s box with an uncertified bat, the bat will be removed from the game and the player will be given a warning.
Second Offense (individual): If a player steps into the box with an uncertified bat, the bat will be removed from the game and the player will be ejected from that game.
First Offense (team): The bat will be removed from the game and the team will receive a warning.
Second Offense (team): Player will be ejected and the team will go into review with the commissioner of the league.
- M. If an injury occurs to a player and they are removed from the game and the team does not have any players for substitution, the team will NOT receive an “out” when that player comes up to bat.
- N. Courtesy Runner – A courtesy runner may be inserted for a player who is too injured to continue. The courtesy runner may be inserted after the play is dead and MUST be the last person to make an out. Any attempt to gain an advantage can be overruled by the umpire.
- O. **Home Run Rule/Limit – Each team will be allowed a maximum of three (3) home runs per game. Every hit that is judged a home run after the third home run will be counted as an out.**

XI. **POSTPONED GAMES**

- A. Only the Shorewood Recreation and Community Services Department can postpone, cancel, or reschedule games. The one exception to this rule is when department personnel or an official is forced to do so at the field of play.
- B. Rain outs:

1. The Recreation Department will declare a rainout by 3:30 PM; after this time it is up to the umpire at the field to determine if field conditions are playable.
 2. When rain interrupts a game, the umpire shall decide if the game can be continued. His/her decision is final.
- C. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if 3 ½ or 4 complete innings have been played, or 30 minutes played. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, weather, or other causes which place the players in peril. Games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.
- D. Managers or players may call the Shorewood Recreation and Community Services Department recording service after 3:30 PM at 963-6913 x 3 to check for cancellation of evening games. If a decision on cancellation has not been reached at the time of your call, you are to go to the field to find out whether the games will be played. Do not assume a game is canceled.

XII. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON LEAGUE OPERATION**

- A. In case of a tie game, the teams will be allowed to play one (1) inning beyond the time limit. If the tie persists, a tie will be listed in the standings.
- B. A team at bat will be allowed one (1) playing coach at first base and one (1) playing coach at third base. **All other players must remain behind the fence.**
- C. At the end of the season, a single elimination tournament may be scheduled. A trophy or t-shirts will be awarded to the tournament champion. Teams must contact the Recreation and Community Services Department if they would like a trophy.
- D. Pitchers Mound 50' , Bases for Men's leagues 65', Bases for Women's/Co-ed league is 60'
- E. Rain make-up games will be determined upon field availability.
- F. Any rule changes that happen during the season will be sent to the managers and will be effective immediately.