

**LIVONIA PARKS AND RECREATION
2020 FALL SOFTBALL
LEAGUE RULES**

**All teams must abide by the rules outlined below in addition to the CoVid 19 Guidelines
for the Fall 2020 Softball League.**

I. ROSTER

- a. A minimum of 12 players and maximum of 18 players.
- b. All players must be on the online roster and have signed the waiver prior to participating in any game.
- c. Rosters will be locked at the following dates for each league:
 - i. Monday Men's Div. 3 – locked Sept. 28, 2020
 - ii. Saturday Men's Div. 2 & Coed Div. 2 – locked Oct. 10, 2020
- d. All Non-Resident Fees are due by Oct. 9, 2020 at 5 pm. They can be paid either at the Kirksey Recreation Center or online.
 - i. Games will be forfeit if non-resident fees are not paid.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Participants must be 18 years of age or older as of Aug. 31, 2020 for the Monday night league and Sep. 12 for the Saturday Leagues and not in high school.
- b. Non-residents who work at least 20 hours per week for a Livonia tax paying firm, and that firm sponsors the team said non-resident plays on, may play and be considered as residents for fee purposes.
 - i. In addition to entry fees, a non-resident fee of \$30.00 will be charged to each non-resident not meeting the requirement as stated above (Maximum of \$210/team)
- c. No player is eligible to play on more than one team in the same division in any one season that is sponsored by the Livonia Recreation Department.
 - i. Any player found in violation will be deemed ineligible and suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - ii. In addition, all games said player(s) participated in will be forfeited.
- d. All participants must have a valid photo ID with them while participating in the Adult Softball League.
 - i. If a participant is asked to produce identification and is unable to do so, they will be declared an ineligible player and the game will be an immediate forfeit.
- e. Team Managers: If your team or any of your players are playing in more than one league, it is your responsibility to determine eligibility
 - i. Penalty: Indefinite suspension for manager and players.
- f. **The Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to make decisions it feels are in the best interest of the league.**

III. GENERAL SOFTBALL RULES

- a. USA Softball Rules apply except where modified by the Department of Parks & Recreation.
- b. **No new inning shall begin after 70 minutes from the first pitch.**
- c. Home team shall occupy the 3rd base side of all fields.
- d. Metal spikes will not be allowed. If a player is wearing metal spikes it will be brought to the umpire's attention and the umpire will ask the player to remove the illegal equipment.
 - i. If player refuses, they will be removed from the game.

- e. No batting practice on the infield fifteen (15) minutes before the game time.
- f. Games will be considered complete after 4½ innings (home team leading) or five innings (visiting team leading), if called by the umpire due to an act of God or other unsafe playing conditions.
 - i. Games not considered complete will be played over from the beginning. No suspended rules.
 - ii. If after 5 innings, the home team has not completed their turn at bat or gone ahead in their half of the inning the game will be considered complete and the official score will revert to the score at the end of the last complete inning if discontinued due to an Act of God or other unsafe playing conditions.
 - iii. If the home team is at bat and they are leading when the game is discontinued and considered complete (after 4½ innings) the current score will be official even though the inning may not be completed.
- g. Boundaries of the field are described as a line extending from the end posts of the backstop parallel to the baseline an infinite distance.
- h. Only rostered players, coaches, and team managers may coach on the bases or take part in regularly scheduled games in any manner.
- i. Team benches shall be occupied by the manager, coaches, players, one scorekeeper, and one bat person
- j. Tie games will not be replayed (two points for a win and one point for a tie).
- k. Games may be called off at the site in case inclement conditions make it necessary.
 - i. The responsibility of calling the game rests with the two (2) managers until the game begins.
 - ii. However, if in the opinion of the umpire(s) and the Athletic Supervisors the game is playable, they may overrule the two (2) managers and the game will either be played or result in a double forfeit.
 - iii. In case of disagreement prior to the game beginning, the official(s) shall decide.

IV. GAMEPLAY RULES

- a. **Each batter will start their turn at the plate with a one ball and one strike count and will be allowed one foul ball on the third strike.**
- b. The pitching distance for adult slow-pitch softball will be 50 feet. The base distance will be 65 feet.
- c. The Mercy Rule will be in effect if a team is leading by 20 or more after 3 innings; 15 or more runs after 4 innings and 10 or more runs after 5 innings will be effect.
- d. A courtesy runner may be used at any time during the game. The courtesy runner will be the player who made the last out in the game.
 - i. If a courtesy runner is used before an out is made to start a game, then the last batter in the lineup becomes the courtesy runner.
 - ii. If a courtesy runner is used in coed, a female runner must be replaced with the female that made the last out or the last female in the lineup if an out hasn't been made in the game yet.
 - iii. If a courtesy runner is used incorrectly and the opposing team brings it to the umpire's attention after the next batter takes his/her position in the batters box and before the courtesy runner has scored or been put out then the courtesy runner will be declared out, otherwise the courtesy runner will be declared legal.
- e. Any bat may be used as specified by ASA (go to www.softball.org and click on certified equipment).

- i. A list of illegal bats will be posted prior to the beginning of the season on the Livonia website. These bats are not eligible for the entire season.
- f. Stealing is not allowed in any Parks & Recreation Adult Softball League
- g. **Teams must have a minimum of 9 players to start and end a game.**
 - i. **Before the first pitch is thrown, each team must announce the number of players they are batting in their lineup.**
 - ii. **Once the first pitch of the game is thrown, the line-up is locked and any players not in the lineup will be considered substitutes and must follow the substitution rules as stated in these rules.**
 - iii. For anyone who is not present when their spot in the lineup comes up, they shall be declared out.
 - 1. **Example 1:** The visiting team announces they will be batting 10 players, with the 10th player still coming to the facility. The top of the 2nd inning, it is the 10th players position in the lineup to bat, but they are not present. They will be declared out.
 - 2. **Example 2:** The visiting team announces they will be batting 9 players with two players still coming to the facility. Both players arrive in the bottom of the first inning and are then considered substitutes.
- h. Each team will be allowed to use unlimited extra players (EPs). The EP's can play any of the ten (10) positions on the field if they desire.
 - i. Teams must end the game with the same number of players in the lineup as they started with.
 - 1. **Exception:** If a player(s) are out of the game for any reason other than ejection, they can continue the game if they have nine players field & batting.
 - ii. All players that leave the game (other than ejection) will result in an out when it is their turn to bat. If an injury occurs when a team has nine players and the player cannot continue, the game is a forfeit
 - iii. If a player is ejected by an umpire and the team does not have an eligible substitute, the game is a forfeit.
 - 1. **Example:** A team has 14 players at a game and bat all 14. During the game a player is ejected by the umpire. The game is a forfeit.
 - 2. This would also be the case if a team had 14 players and batted 13, makes a substitution in the 3rd inning, and the umpire ejected a player in the 4th inning. The team would not have an eligible substitute and the game would be forfeit.

V. COED MODIFICATIONS

- a. All coed teams must have their lineup alternate genders and have an equal number of each gender in the lineup.
 - i. If the same gender bats consecutively, an out will be declared between every two batters.
- b. The pitcher and catcher fields position must be occupied by a male and a female.
- c. The infield and outfield positions must be occupied by an even number of males and females: 4 in the infield, 4 in the outfield.

VI. POSITIONING NIGHT

- a. It is our hope that each league will be able to have positioning night and/or playoff bracket at the conclusion of the season.
- b. Depending upon the number of rainouts, rescheduling, and/or additional restrictions that could occur, the playoff bracket may be cancelled in order to finish the regular season.

- c. The positioning night and/or playoff bracket will use the following seeding in order to determine matchups:
 - i. Overall Record
 - ii. Head-to-Head Record
 - iii. Run differential between in the games between the two teams.
 - iv. Run differential for the entire season.
 - v. Coin flip with team representatives.
- d. **All players on position night must check-in with the Athletic Supervisor/Athletic Attendant with valid photo identification and be listed on their team's roster the night of their scheduled game.**
- e. **If a player does not have photo identification and/or is not listed on the roster, they will be unable to check in for the game and are an ineligible player for that game.**

VII. ALL COMPETITIVE SPORTS

- a. No alcohol, including beer, is allowed in any City of Livonia Park, Facility, or any Livonia Parks & Recreation Athletic Programming
- b. **NO PROTESTS** will be allowed except eligibility.
 - i. If a team manager or coach wishes to protest an individual's eligibility, they must bring it to the attention of the Athletic Supervisor as soon as possible before, during, or immediately following the game.
 - ii. If the protest occurs during the game, the team protesting must pay \$10 protest fee.
 - 1. If protest is upheld, team will receive the fee back.
 - iii. The player in question must produce a photo identification. If the player is found to be an ineligible player, the game will be immediately forfeit.
 - iv. If a player has a protest other than eligibility, they must immediately notify the manager of his team.
- c. If the manager agrees with the player, the manager will call a time-out at the next break in play or his next ball possession, and the manager or his designated representative only will discuss the call with the official or officials.
 - i. After such discussion the official's decision will be final.
- d. Teams which are found to have one or more ineligible players shall forfeit all games in which an ineligible player has participated.
- e. **Any team forfeiting two (2) game dates in succession or three (3) game dates during the season will be automatically dropped from the league for the remainder of the season.**
- f. Eligibility protests may be made any time until midnight of the last league game.
 - i. However, when any manager or player has knowledge of any ineligible players in the league, they must declare the information to the Athletic Supervisor immediately and not wait until a team can be eliminated from a league.
- g. No team shall be allowed to add players to its roster after the final roster date.
- h. It will be the manager's responsibility to check the rosters, contracts, and fees recorded for his team prior to the **FINAL ROSTER DATE**.
- i. No player shall appear on the line-up unless name is on the team roster and all fees have been paid the appropriate deadline.
- j. Each team shall be allowed one manager and two coaches.
 - i. Said manager and coaches must be acknowledged on the online rosters with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

- ii. Any change in managership or coaches of a team must be filed in the Department of Parks and Recreation Office, presenting the name, address, phone number, and email of the new manager/coach before the next scheduled game.
- k. Managers are responsible for the following:
 - i. Player eligibility and team rosters
 - ii. Payment of umpire/official/referee fees
 - iii. Appearance and conduct of players in and around the playing area. This includes any spectators and crowds.
 - iv. Failure to manage the above responsibilities may result in forfeiture of game and if situation warrants, expulsion from the league.
 - v. In case of injury of any member of his/her team, the manager shall be responsible for any evidence or records demanded by the Department of Parks and Recreation
- l. Only team captains and managers may discuss decisions with the official(s) unless the official(s) call others into the discussion.
- m. Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game shall automatically be suspended from the next official game and is required to remove themselves from sight and sound of the facility within three minutes.
 - i. If the offense warrants, the individual may be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- n. Any player serving a suspension is ineligible to participate in all Livonia Athletic leagues or programs until their suspension is complete.
- o. A player suspended may not be in the facility during his/her team's games or attend any of the league night's games until suspension is complete.
 - i. Failure to comply will result in a one (1) year suspension from all sports.
- p. The second ejection within a four month-period from the first ejection of a player, manager, or coach, from a game shall automatically result in a minimum of a three-game suspension from the date of the second ejection.
- q. The third ejection within a four month-period of the first ejection a player, manager, or coach, from a game shall automatically result in a minimum of a six-week suspension from the date of the third ejection.
- r. Before, during or after a game, players in uniform, or civilian clothes, shall refrain from abusive language or actions, smoking, fighting, or other unsportsmanlike conduct.
- s. Alcoholic beverages or any controlled substance is **NOT** allowed in the parks at any time.
- t. Any manager, coach, or player who, in the opinion of the official(s) is guilty of being the instigator of a fight shall be banned from all Parks & Recreation Adult Leagues for the remainder of the season.
- u. Any manager, coach, or player, guilty of touching, pushing, or other physical contact with an official shall be banned from athletic programs sponsored by the Livonia Parks & Recreation Department.
- v. The Department of Parks and Recreation may exclude any player, manager, coach, or team from the league for abusive language on diamonds, facilities, or continued violation of any rule or regulation governing this league.

VIII. PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS

- a. All teams will pay officials on the site. Each official will receive \$30 per game with each team paying half **before** the start of each game.
- b. Officials are paid in **full** for all games started & all games forfeited regardless of outcome.

- c. If you forfeit a game, it is your responsibility to see that the official(s) have been paid in full prior to the start of your next game.
- d. The forfeiting team is responsible for full payment of all officials (\$30) assigned to the game that is forfeited.
 - i. Failure to do so could result in suspension from further play. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 734-466-2900.
- e. If you are aware that your team is going to forfeit a game and you notify the Parks & Recreation Department at least three (3) working days prior to the forfeit, we will make every effort to relieve the forfeiting team of sports official fee obligations for that game.
- f. If the game is rained out, the forfeit will be nullified and the game will be made up.

IX. CANCELLATION FEES

- a. Council resolution CR#359-93 requires teams to provide acceptable justification for such cancellation in writing, at least 14 days prior to their first scheduled game.
- b. The processing charge shall be established at 30% of the adult entry fee and the balance refunded to the designated team official.

X. SCHEDULES & STANDINGS

- a. All games will be scheduled by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- b. Game time is forfeit time. Teams must be ready to play and have the minimum number of players present by the time the game is scheduled.
- c. The home team is responsible for keeping the official score.
- d. Teams can access their schedules and updated standings online through the individual league portal. Follow the below instructions:
 - i. Access the website: www.LivoniaParks.org
 - ii. Click on "Athletics Division" located on the left-hand side
 - iii. Click on "Softball" located on the left-hand side
 - iv. Under League Portals section, find the appropriate league and click on the link.
 - v. Click on the individual team in the standings section. The team schedule will come up on the next page.

XI. RAINOUTS

- a. **Livonia Parks & Recreation Staff will update teams no later than 4:30 pm if games are cancelled for the night.**
 - i. **The rainout number is (734) 466-2299**
 - ii. If teams have not received notification by 4:30 pm, they should come ready to play at their schedule game time.
 - iii. If games are cancelled after 4:30 pm, the rainout number will be updated.
 - 1. Livonia Parks & Recreation will do their best to update team managers as soon as possible if any cancellations are made on-site.
- b. Team Managers will be emailed when the rescheduled games have been made public.
 - i. All schedules will be found through the league portal.
 - ii. Games rained out Monday-Wednesday will generally be made up that weekend.
 - iii. Games rained out Thursday-Friday will generally be made up the following weekend.

List of current probationary and suspended players

<u>Player</u>	<u>Date of probation</u>		<u>*Date of suspension</u>	
Jim Beumel	N/A		9-5-97	indefinite
Scott Carlton	7/22/16	one year	7/22/16	
John Carney	1-31-07	indefinite	N/A	
Scott Craver	9-1-11	indefinite	N/A	
Paul Dreiman	N/A		6-12-97	indefinite
Ken Dzczyпка	N/A		1-31-07	indefinite
Mike Fierk	7/16/14	indefinite	N/A	
Greg Gorski	N/A		6-20-02	indefinite
Allie Hamood	3-4-04	indefinite	N/A	
Alan Harajli	N/A		1-31-03	indefinite
Allen Jawad	3-5-04	indefinite	N/A	
Joe Kelly	N/A		6-20-02	indefinite
Rich Kendra	N/A		5-9-14	indefinite
Jerome Potvin	N/A		6-25-01	indefinite
Bob Rahal	3-5-04	indefinite	N/A	
Dan Rahal	N/A		3-5-04	indefinite
Ron Rahal	N/A		3-5-04	indefinite
Darian Richardson	3-4-04	indefinite	N/A	
Jamal Saad	N/A		3-5-04	indefinite
Marc Salah	2-14-03	indefinite	N/A	
Michael Thompson	2-14-03	indefinite	N/A	
Chris Yates	2-8-07	indefinite	N/A	

*Currently suspended players are not allowed to be on any Parks & Recreation roster.

In case of serious injury, please contact Livonia Parks and Recreation at 734-466-2900.