



**NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
CO-ED SLOW PITCH SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE  
2010 RULES AND REGULATIONS**



Channon Ames, League Commissioner (617) 796-1529

***New or changed rules for 2010 are in italics, bolded and highlighted.***

**ARTICLE I – PURPOSE**

The purpose of this co-ed softball league is to provide men and women an opportunity to enjoy the sport of softball together. This league will focus on good sportsmanship and fun for all during play.

**ARTICLE II – RULES**

All players should review the ASA rules. The official Amateur Softball Association Rules (specifically the co-ed rules, where applicable) will govern all games. Specific rules and exceptions to this league are as follows:

1. Co-ed softball consists of 10 players on the field, 4 in the infield, 4 in the outfield, 1 catcher and 1 pitcher. Teams may choose to play 5 males and 5 females, 6 males and 4 females, or 4 males and 6 females. At no time shall there be more than 6 players of one gender on the field.
2. Teams must have at least 1 male and 1 female in both the infield and outfield, but may put remaining men and women wherever they choose. Pitcher and catcher do not count for numbers as infield.
3. Teams may bat their entire roster on the lineup as long as the following rules are met: The batting order for co-ed softball must alternate at least one female for every two male batters – ex. male, female, male, male, female. However teams may still alternate male, female or any combination of male, female as long as there are never more than 2 male batters or 2 female batters in a row (this includes going from the end of the line-up back to the start of the line-up).
4. If a team has fewer than 4 males or 4 females in their batting lineup, an out will be declared when the missing male or female is supposed to be at bat.
5. The game may begin or end with fewer than 10 players, but there must be at least 8 players to start the game and at least 3 must be male and 3 must be female. When and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted at the end of the line-up with the batting order still alternating as mentioned above.
6. The batting order of each team showing the players' first and last name and uniform number must be on the lineup card and delivered to the opposing team before the start of the game. The batting order must be followed throughout the game unless a player is injured. The first batter in each inning shall be the batter whose name follows that of the last player who bated in the preceding inning.
7. There can be free substitution of players on the field from inning to inning, but not during an inning unless a player is injured.
8. The home team will bat last and keep the official score book. It is recommended that the visiting team also keep a score book and check the score after each inning as a measure to reinforce the official book. The score keeper can be a person on or off the roster.
9. Base stealing or leading is not allowed in this league. Players must stay on base until the ball is hit by the batter or they are otherwise advanced by the umpire.

10. If there are two pitching rubbers on the pitchers mound, pitchers should use the rubber furthest from home plate.
11. A safety base will be used at first base. The home team must provide the safety base along with all other bases. The safety base will be placed to the right of first base. The batter is the only person that uses this safety base (when trying to beat out a grounder). Once they have reached safely, or if rounding first, they would use the traditional base. If there is no throw to 1<sup>st</sup> then runner is safe no matter what bag they use.
12. All batters will use a 12" ball.
13. Players **CAN NOT** strike out on a foul ball.
14. A walk to a male batter will result in 2 bases **if they are followed by a female batter. If a male is followed by another male batter the walk will result in 1 base.** Players on base will advance to the next base. A male runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed. The next batter will then bat. EXCEPTION – if with two outs a male batter is walked, the female batter directly following the male batter who was walked has the option to walk or bat.
15. Games will be approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes in length or 7 innings, whichever comes first. There will be no new innings started after 8:00PM.
16. After five (5) complete innings of play, if one team is fifteen (15) or more runs ahead of their opponent, the game shall be terminated. The same rule applies for the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. This stands for both regular season and playoff games.
17. Under unusual circumstances (such as rain, fire, etc.), 3 ½ innings will constitute an official game if the home team is ahead. If the home team is not ahead and the game must end, the game will resume at a later date with the score continuing from the previous game. The League Director reserves the right to cancel games in the event of an emergency or rain. Games will be rescheduled and the dates set will be binding to both teams.

### **ARTICLE III – PLAYER REQUIREMENTS**

1. Participants and teams who do not reside in Newton are eligible to participate. In the event that the number of teams wishing to enter the league is too large for effective league play, preference will be given to teams who were in the league last year and teams comprised of Newton residents and/or Newton based businesses.
2. All participants must be at least 18 years old by the first League game.
3. All teams must have at least 7 male and 7 female players listed on their roster. No more than 20 players may be listed per team.
4. After the first roster has been registered with the Parks and Recreation Department, a player may not register with another team in this league.
5. Any team who has an illegal player must forfeit all games in which that player has participated, or was entered in the official score book. It is the responsibility of the player who is questioned on eligibility to prove to the League Director that they are eligible.
6. Teams must be properly uniformed with a standard colored shirt or jersey, numbered on the back, at each game. Teams must provide their own uniforms.

## **ARTICLE IV – ROSTER SHEETS**

Each team is allowed a roster of 20 players who must comply with Article III. One copy of your roster must be submitted to the League Director at the Newton Parks and Recreation Department office by April 9, 2010. Final roster changes must be submitted by June 9, 2010. Any changes on your roster sheets between April 9 and June 9 must have the approval of the League Director before the player is eligible. The Newton Parks and Recreation Department shall have final approval of all roster sheets submitted, and may prohibit from league play any individual who may be detrimental to the program. **ALL ROSTER CHANGES MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING.**

## **ARTICLE V – REGISTRATION FEE**

The registration fee for the 2010 Co-ed Summer Softball League will be \$525.00 per team. Please make checks payable to the Newton Twilight League. Money collected will be used for game supplies, field lighting, trophies, and to pay official's fees. The \$525.00 League Fee must be paid when filing the first roster, due on April 9, 2010. Any changes to the roster must be submitted on the final roster form by June 9, 2010.

## **ARTICLE VI – UNIFORMS**

All players in the game must be properly dressed. Teams must provide their own standard colored shirt or jersey (numbered on the back). Metal spikes are not allowed on cleats. Players may wear pants or shorts. Hats are optional. It will be the team manager's responsibility to enforce the uniform code of the league. Catchers must wear **masks**.

## **ARTICLE VII – GAME SUPPLIES**

The Parks and Recreation Department will provide each team with twelve game balls, an ASA rulebook, Newton Parks and Recreation Coed Softball Rules, a field permit and a score book. The Parks and Recreation Department will assign 1 umpire to each game. **During league play, the home team will be responsible for supplying a set of bases (4 bases are needed) and 2 game balls for the game.** It is a good idea for the away team to bring their bases 'just in case'. Please save your game balls for game play. All players or teams must bring their own practice balls, bats, gloves, and catchers equipment to each game. Teams must provide their own shirts or jerseys with a number on the back. Teams must chase their own balls when their team is batting.

## **ARTICLE VIII – LEAGUE PLAY**

**There will be a Monday Night League and a Wednesday Night League in 2010.** The co-ed softball league will begin on April 28, 2010 with an informational meeting for all team managers. Field space is available. Games will begin in May. All regular season games at Cabot Park, McGrath Field and Forte Park will start at 6:10 PM. In addition, there will also be 1 game scheduled each night at Forte Park starting at 8:00 PM. Schedules for the playoffs will be determined during the season. In the event of inclement weather, managers or coaches should call the Parks and Recreation Department after 4:00 PM at (617) 796-1529 to see if the games have been rescheduled. In the event of rain or unplayable field conditions, games will be made up on another day.

The home team is responsible for submitting the final score to the recreation department the day after their game so the league standings can be updated. This can be done by calling Channon Ames at the Recreation office 617-796-1529 or by emailing the scores to [comes@newtonma.gov](mailto:comes@newtonma.gov)

**What if another group is at our field?** If you arrive before 6:00 PM there may be a high school game or practice finishing up. If it is a game, allow them to finish. If it is a practice, remind them that you have the field at 6:00 PM. If there are random softball, soccer, or other people on the

field, show them your permit for the field and inform them that you are scheduled to use the field. In most cases they will pack up and leave. If they will not leave, call Channon Ames on her cell at 617-938-4659 or call the Newton Police department at 617-796-2100 for assistance.

**What if the umpire doesn't show up?** Apologies if this happens, but try to get the game in! Call Channon Ames at 617-938-4659 to let her know about the situation. Get someone to umpire, or have the catcher call balls and strikes, and have a good, clean, honest game. If the game is played the final outcome will count.

## **ARTICLE IX – FORFEITS**

At the start of every game, teams must be ready to play with at least 8 players (refer to Article II #5). If a team does not have 8 players, they will have to forfeit their game. **Teams forfeiting their game must call Channon Ames at 617-938-4659 by 2:00 PM on the day of their game or they will be assessed a \$30.00 forfeit fee.**

Games should start at 6:10 PM, but must start by 6:20 PM. The ten minutes is considered a grace period if teams are waiting for additional players. If a team is not ready to play at 6:20 PM then a forfeit will be declared and the winner will be the team that has the most players ready to play.

Any team forfeiting more than 2 games during the season will be dropped from the league at the time of their 3<sup>rd</sup> forfeit. In the event that a team forfeits out of the League, the remaining teams will be given a win for any future game scheduled against that team. Teams who forfeit 2 or more league games will be ineligible to join the league the following year.

## **ARTICLE X – LEAGUE STANDINGS**

For determining league standings, 3 points will be given for a win; 2 points for a tie; 1 point for a loss; 0 points for a forfeit

## **ARTICLE XI – PLAYOFFS AND FINALS**

To be eligible for the playoffs, a player must have played in or attended at least half of the team's games. All teams will make the playoffs. **The top 4 teams in each league will play in the A Division playoffs and the remaining teams will play in the B Division playoffs.** Playoff dates and locations will be announced during the season. In the event of a tie for standings in the playoffs, the first determining factor will be comparative record. If still undecided, a flip of the coin will determine position.

## **ARTICLE XII – PROTESTS**

Any protest must be filed in writing and be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department office on the day following the game, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A \$25.00 protest fee must accompany the written protest in order for it to be reviewed. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the protest fee will be forfeited.

An impartial board consisting of the Coordinator of Sports for the Parks and Recreation Department, the League Director, and the Assigning Official (if he or she is not involved in the protest) will read and settle all protests within one week from the date received. In the event that the Assigning Official is involved in the protest, a director from the Newton Twilight League will be the third individual involved in resolving the protest.

**Managers/coaches must notify umpires and opposing managers/coaches at the time of the infraction that the game is being played under protest. PROTESTS SHALL BE ON SOFTBALL AND CO-ED SOFTBALL RULE INTERPRETATIONS ONLY!**

### **ARTICLE XIII – CONDUCT**

1. Managers and players shall conduct themselves at all times with good sportsmanship. This league is to promote co-ed sports. The manager/coach is responsible for his/her player's conduct both on and off the field. The use of profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, and the officials will be instructed to eject from the game or area any player, coach, manager or spectator guilty of these offenses. The ejected person will not return to the scene of the game on this occasion.
2. Penalty for ejection from the game will result in the following:
  - A. **FIRST OFFENSE** – suspension from 2 league games. If the offense occurs during the game, the result is ejection from that game, plus the team's next scheduled game. If the ejection occurs after the game, penalty is suspension from the team's next 2 scheduled games.
  - B. **SECOND OFFENSE** – suspension from the Co-ed Softball League for 1 full year from the date of the second offense. This does not include suspension from other Recreation Department leagues.
3. **ANY COACH, MANAGER OR PLAYER PUSHING OR HITTING AN UMPIRE, LEAGUE OFFICIAL, OTHER COACH OR MANAGER, OR FLAGRANTLY ASSAULTING ANOTHER PLAYER WILL BE IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED FROM ALL NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SPONSORED LEAGUES FOR ONE (1) FULL YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE INFRACTION.**
4. Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages – the ordinance prohibiting the drinking of alcoholic beverages on Recreation and School Department property will be strictly enforced. Penalty for consumption of alcoholic beverages by an individual player, coach, manager or a team, at the site of a game, before, during or after the game shall result in the immediate suspension of the entire team from further participation in the league for the remainder of the season. Re-entry status for the following year will be as a new team.

**MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL TEAM PLAYERS KNOWING AND ADHERING TO THE RULES OF CONDUCT!**

### **ARTICLE XIV – RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES**

1. Ensure that the team is properly uniformed prior to the start of the season.
2. Ensure that all members of the team know and adhere to the League Rules.
3. Ensure that entry fee and rosters are submitted by the deadlines.
4. Notify team members regarding time, place and date of games, game cancellations, rescheduled games, postponed games, and any other League issues that may occur during the season.
5. Represent the team at meetings and protest hearings.
6. Ensure that the team brings adequate equipment and first aid supplies to each game.

### **ARTICLE XV – RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAGUE DIRECTOR AND COMMISSIONER**

In areas of misconduct not explicitly covered by the Co-ed Softball League Rules and Regulations, and in particularly egregious cases as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commissioner or her appointed designee, the Commissioner, or her appointed designee shall be empowered to impose disciplinary sanctions similar to or greater than those already provided for in the Co-ed Softball League Rules and Regulations.

