

HIDDEN LAKE PARK SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES
All Leagues are governed by NSA Playing Rules and By-laws

ROSTER

Players may only be rostered on one Hidden Lake Park Softball Division Team per night.

Once a player has signed onto a team he/she is committed to play for that specific team exclusively on that night. Rostered players cannot substitute for other teams on the same night. Managers who knowingly recruit illegal players can be suspended for the remainder of the season and players who fill in for other teams will draw a three (3) game suspension. Offending teams will forfeit the game (**this includes post season tournament play**). Teams may add eligible players to a roster at any time during the season, but must play a minimum of four (4) games to participate in post season play. The team roster and release are kept at the softball concession stand for players to be added. **It is imperative that all players sign the Adult Softball League Release.** Players requesting a roster release may do so by written request and can be obliged by the approval of the team manager and Softball Director.

PARK PLAYING RULES - ALL DIVISIONS

General Team and Player Procedures

Teams may start a game with eight (8) players. No delays. The 9th player may enter the game at any time. If the 10th player (with a 9 player roster) arrives BEFORE the end of the first inning, he/she may bat and play defense; otherwise he/she may only bat and substitute defensively for a starter. Slaughter rules remain the same for shorthanded teams. Ejected or injured players creating a team of less than eight (8) players will constitute a team forfeit. Teams may use up to two (2) extra hitters but must be present at the start of the game, they may substitute freely at any position with no change to the batting order. An automatic out would come into effect if there is an injury and no substitutes are available .

HOME TEAM should provide the official scorebook and scorekeeper. The official scorekeeper should acknowledge the game score at the end of every half inning with the home plate umpire. Teams should exchange batting order line-up cards prior to the game to reduce confusion.

A ten (10) minute grace period is permitted for the **FIRST** scheduled game **ONLY**. Subsequent games will start promptly afterwards or at the scheduled times. Teams who forfeit two (2) games without notice will not be permitted to participate in post season play. The Softball Director must be notified by 3:30 pm of the game day to be excused. A reinstatement fee of Twenty Five dollars (\$25.00) per game will be assessed to offending teams. Once paid, teams will be tournament eligible. Teams who qualify for regular season awards and have unpaid, unexcused forfeits will have their awards adjusted accordingly.

All bats must be on the NSA's approved bat list which can be found at www.playnsa.com.
(Required logo for all NSA approved bats)



Must use NSA approved softballs (with NSA ICON logo) with a .44/400 compression for Men's league and .52/275 for co-ed league.

*A double coin flip will determine HOME & VISITING team before each game following a pre game meeting with the umpire.

*All pitchers MUST wear a facemask! No exceptions.

All Batters will begin with a 1-1 count. There will be no courtesy foul.

The slaughter (mercy) rule occurs at a Twenty (20) run lead after Three (3) innings; Fifteen (15) runs after Four (4) innings; Ten (10) runs after Five (5) innings of play. Mercy rule applies to shorthanded teams as well.

*Men's/ Co-Ed play will play with a **five (5)** home run limit. Each additional HR will result in an out.

*Players added to a team's roster must be done before 5:30pm at the Hidden Lake Park Concession Stand, in order to be eligible to play that night. **Players may be added up until the 8th week to be eligible for the post season tournament.**

Players are to be properly attired - shirts, pants or shorts and athletic shoes - no metal cleats of any kind. Jewelry - hanging or looped jewelry; necklaces, bracelets and watches are to be removed. Violations can result in player disqualification or batter called out.

*All teams must have COMPARABLE NUMBERED SHIRTS. Failure to have COMPARABLE NUMBERED SHIRTS will result in the properly dressed opposing team choosing whether they want to be home or away.

All games are limited to 1 hour and no new inning of play may commence after 1 hour. Regular season games may end in a tie.

Umpires may invoke the "flip-flop" rule when appropriate.

Umpire judgments cannot be protested. Rule interpretations are grounds for protests and are best settled by conference of the protesting manager, home plate umpire and Softball Director. Formal protests, unresolved at the time of play, must be properly filed by NSA rules and submitted in writing with the \$25.00 protest fee within 48 hours to the Softball Director.

1st Place Tournament winners will receive a trophy. 1st Place Regular Season winner will receive a plaque.

Tournaments will be seeded based on regular season standings at Softball Director's discretion.

PLAYER DISCIPLINE

The following infractions can result in expulsion;

1. Intentional bat throwing.
2. Excessive Foul language, argument of umpire judgment calls, threatening or disrespectful comments addressed to anyone, fighting, and park property defacement.
3. Deliberate player actions which can impede, delay or alter the progress of the game.
4. Verbal player intimidation of any kind to anyone.
5. Overly aggressive, excessive or unsportsmanlike play.
6. The consumption of alcoholic beverages during the game of play by a player, manager, coach or scorekeeper.
7. Alcohol is allowed but must be kept away from the fields. No glass bottles!

Warnings of these infractions are not mandatory from umpires; enforcement of these violations is handled by HLP umpires, Softball Director or local police dept.

Players & Manager may be ejected for egregious actions/behavior. Managers will be asked to identify subject players and cooperate with any player punishment. The Softball Director can impose further penalties, depending on the severity of the incident. Ejected players are required to remove themselves out of sight and sound from game umpires. Since that player is ineligible to play his/her next game it is advised that they leave the park. This umpire judgment call becomes necessary to preserve the integrity of the game and instill sportsmanship. The Softball Director will not reverse umpire ejection calls.

CO-ED RULE ADDENDUMS

General Team and player procedure rules all apply to the co-ed division with the following changes:

- A. Teams may use extra hitters provided males do not exceed females and must be present at the start of the game. Extra hitters cannot be added to the line-up once the game has begun.
- B. When a female leaves a 12 player line-up, the lineup is adjusted by reducing one male player to maintain the equal male to female ratio 5 males and 5 females.
- C. Teams who start with 9 players may continue with a 5 male and 4 female advantage. Teams may not add extra hitters to a 9 player roster. Late arriving players become the 10th offensive player or defensive substitute.

- D. You can play with 6 men and 4 women, or if you play with 12, you can play with 7 men and 5 women. **A female CANNOT be a pitcher or catcher in a 6/4 format.** The other females can play any other position, other than pitcher, without regard to any specific number of infielders or outfielders being male or female, but must still have 1 female in both infield and outfield.
- E. The batting order in 6/4 shall be no more than 2 male batters in a row. After 2 male batters, there **MUST** be a female batter. If the male batter walks, and another male follows, the male batter that walked would only be awarded 1 base. If a female batter follows, then the male batter will be awarded 2 bases.
- F. No more than 6 men on defense.
- G. Female batters have the option to walk or hit following a base on balls to the previous male hitter. A male batter who walks is always awarded second base.
- H. Men and women alternate throughout the batting order. Teams may play with more females than males and can bat females consecutively.
- I. **ALL** outfielders must remain behind the 200' markers until the ball is hit by the batter.
- J. Men are allowed to use their own bat, as long as it's an NSA approved Slow-Pitch softball bat **with the current 2012 logo.**
- K. Batting order cannot be changed once game has started

In case of rain or inclement weather, managers or coaches should call the Park office at 219-980-8790 for field conditions or make up dates, then advise his/her teams accordingly. **PLEASE** call after 3:30 for this decision. Attempts will be made to make the fields playable.

Athletic parking passes are \$15.00.