

2023 Westwood Men's Softball League Rules

League Co-Commissioners:
Chris Connolly: 347-386-8639
Todd Kenny: 973-727-8028

TEAM RULES

1. League fees of \$850 must be paid before the season starts on a decided date each year. Your team will be prohibited from playing until the fee is paid in full.
2. Team rosters must also be submitted prior to the season starting on a decided date each year.
3. All players must provide a copy of their driver's license to validate their current living address.
4. Rosters will consist of up to 17 players with a maximum of 5 out-of-town players allowed on a team.
5. All players must be 25 years of age or older to participate.
6. All prior "grandfathering rules" allowing players to be Westwood Resident eligible will not exist going forward (Westwood business owners, children of parents that still live in town, Westwood employees, etc.) You must have an up-to-date Westwood address to be considered a Westwood resident.
7. Rosters may be updated through June 1, 2023 providing that the league is notified 24 hours in advance of the game. It is the responsibility of the team manager to submit their roster to the league commissioner(s) prior to any new member playing in a game
8. Any team that forfeits four or more games can be prohibited from playing in the league the following year. The team may complete its schedule and may play in the playoffs.
9. A player can only play on one team during the season for the league. If the player is caught playing on a second team that game will be forfeited.
10. Team uniforms are expected to be worn during all games and must have numbers on the back. Please try to have uniforms in place by the third week of the season.

FIELD CONDITION & PLAYABILITY RULES

1. In the event of Inclement weather, the REC department will make a preliminary decision on whether or not the fields are playable. If it is decided that the games are not to be played, the commissioners will contact both teams and the umpire assignor TONY DAVINO 201-248-5057.
2. If the game is not rained out by 4:30pm, but it starts to rain between 4:30pm and 6:15pm, then your team must go to the field to decide whether to play or not.
3. If there is standing water on the field and the umpire does not want to play the game, the game will be suspended and rescheduled. Umpires have final say if they deem the field non-playable and unsafe.
4. DO NOT rake clay into grass. If the field is unplayable do not play and contact the league commissioners to see if the game can be played at another field that day.
5. Rained out games are to be played on the scheduled day set by the league rules. If a team can't play on the rain out date scheduled by the league, the game will be considered a forfeit.

UMPIRES

1. All Westwood Men's Softball games will have one umpire to officiate the regular season games, and two umpires will be officiating the playoff and championship games.
2. Anyone thrown out of the game by an umpire will receive a one game suspension. If the same player gets thrown out of another game that player is suspended for the remainder of the season including playoffs.
3. There are NO protests allowed - what the umpire(s) rule will be the final decision for a game.
4. If there are any problems with umpires, a complaint must be submitted to the league commissioner the day after the game. Included in the complaint will be the umpire's name and a detailed description of why he/she should not umpire any further games in our league. Then the commissioner will decide whether to submit the request to have the umpire in question removed from Westwood Men's Softball games.

GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

1. Westwood Men's Softball is a Slow Pitch Softball League.
2. The winning team will notify the league commissioner(s) of the game results immediately following the game by sending a text to Todd Kenny 973-727-8028 and Chris Connelly 347-386-8639
3. The 2022 Standings will be posted weekly via the league website.
4. Fighting will not be tolerated at all. Anyone fighting (physical contact) will be suspended for the season - verbal fighting will carry a one-game suspension.
5. Teams will only use league approved bats from any of the past seasons.
6. Any teams using a non-league approved bat will forfeit the season and not be allowed to return the following season.
7. Each team will play nine regular season games, and at least one playoff game.
8. Absolutely no changing at the field outside of your car, reported incidents will result in suspensions. The 1st reported incident will result in a 1-game suspension; 2nd reported incident will result in the suspension for the rest of the season.
9. NO Alcohol drinking during the games - NO drinks on the field of play.

PRE-GAME GROUND RULES

1. All games will start at 8:30pm with 8:45pm being the forfeit time.
2. If your team has only 9 players at 8:30pm the game must start on time. However, if you only have 8 players, you will be granted a 15-Minute window for any extra players to show up and the game does not have to start until 8:45pm. If no extra players show up, you must start the game with 8 players or forfeit the game.
3. Players who arrive after the game starts must be inserted at the end of the batting order without penalty.
4. Games will consist of 7 innings with 5 full innings being needed for an official game, 4 1/2 if the home team is leading.
5. If the umpire does not show up at all, the coaches can agree to play the game using an agreed upon person as the umpire or they can have the game rescheduled.

6. Home team should prep the field and put in the bases.
7. Bases should be 65 feet.
8. Pitcher's Mound should be 50ft.
9. Each team will supply 1 League Supplied Softball (Types of balls will be determined before the season starts).
10. The league will supply a 25"X35" mat which will be used by all teams for the official strike zone.
11. If a double-sided 1st base is available then it may be used if agreed upon by both teams.
12. NO metal spikes - anyone wearing metal spikes will be removed from the game. If he can change to rubber cleats or sneakers he may re-enter the game.
13. Teams may bat up to 17 Players, but if you start with 17 players you must finish with 17 players in the batting order, or when that turn comes up it will be an out. (Can be left up to the discretion of the coaches **prior to the start** of the game)
14. Unlimited substitutions: players can rotate and re-enter the game, providing players occupy the same position in the batting order.
15. Each team must field at least 8 players to start the game. If a team cannot field 8, it must forfeit. If a player has to leave once the game has started, that team may continue to play as long as it can field 8 players. If they cannot field 8, they forfeit.
16. COURTESY RUNNER – Each team is allowed 3 courtesy runners per game. The last batted out must be the courtesy runner (unless that player is a player that is identified already as someone who needs a courtesy runner).
17. Any additional runners should be agreed upon before the game.
18. In the 1st Inning with no outs the last batter in the order will be the runner.
19. In case of a game stoppage due to inclement weather before the end of the 5th inning or 4 ½ innings, if the home team is leading, then the game is replayed from the beginning on a rescheduled date.
20. In case of a game stoppage due to inclement weather AFTER the fully completed 5th inning, then THE GAME MUST revert back to the last complete inning and the game is over. If the game is locked in a tie, then teams will each receive a tie in the standings.
21. The fenced-in area around the rocks in left field - if a ball goes into the drainage area it's a ground rule double. If the ball goes over the fenced area on a fly over the bike rail it's considered a home run - Umpires discretion!

22. On the Upper Field C, if the ball goes down into the left field dipped area by fly or ground rolling it's automatically a ground rule double no matter the distance of the hit ball.
23. There will be a **5 Home Run Limit** per game for each team.
- a. Any home run that is hit after the ***maximum amount of five is hit***, will be an ***automatic out***.
 - b. ***Inside-the-park home runs*** will not count against a team's total amount of home runs.
 - c. This rule will only be in effect on the Lower B Field or any other potential field that has fences to hit over for a HR.

IN-GAME RULES

1. The league is governed by ASA slow pitch softball rules and will default to them if not outlined specifically in the current league rules.
2. The pitching is strictly lob pitch. No speed at all on the pitch. The arc is 6-12 feet from the ground.
3. An illegal pitch will be called if either the pitch is too high, too low, or too fast and will be called a ball.
4. If an illegal pitch is called and the batter hits the ball, it's a live ball.
5. A batter can NOT move around anywhere in the batter's box prior to, during, and after the pitch is thrown and hit.
6. The batter must start in the batter's box and end in the batter's box. If there is no box it's up to the umpire's discretion to advise accordingly.
7. There is NO bunting.
8. There is NO base stealing.
9. Runners may leave the base when the ball crosses the plate or is hit.
10. Collision Rule – (Slide -Avoid- or Surrender) ASA enforced. The umpire has the final say on the decision to slide or avoid scenarios.
11. If the batter is hit by the pitch, a ball is awarded - no advance by runners unless it's ball four and the batter is awarded first base and all other runners must advance due to the force.

12. If the pitcher throws a ball out of play on a pitch (over the backstop) no bases will be awarded to the runners and it will be called a ball.
13. The Batter will start with a 1-1 count.
14. 3rd Strike foul is an automatic out.
15. There is a 15 run rule in effect after 5 full innings have been completed or 4 ½ if the home team is leading.
16. After the 5th inning, any team that is behind by 15 or more runs must get their at-bats for that inning.
17. If a team scores 15 consecutive runs in an inning the teams will automatically switch sides.

PLAYOFF RULES

1. Playoff format will play out as seen below: Single Elimination for each round



2. Teams with identical records will use the following **Tie Breakers** in order to determine playoff seedings.

- a. The first tie-breaker will be decided by head-to-head records.
 - b. The second tie-breaker (if needed) will be fewest amount of runs allowed for the season.
 - c. The third will be total runs scored for the season.
 - d. Lastly a coin toss will decide the tie-breaker.
3. The team with the best seed in each series will be the Home Team.
 4. You must play in 5 games to be eligible for the playoffs.
 5. In case of rain or inclement weather in a playoff game, the game will be continued to completion from the exact point when it was delayed and paused. There will be no reverting back to previous innings like in the regular season.
 6. The 15-Run rule and the 15-Run Per Inning rule are in effect for the “Play-In” and Quarter Final Rounds.
 7. Both 15-Run rules will be removed for the Semi Finals and Championship Rounds.

