

**NORWALK RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT
BY-LAWS - 2021 SUMMER SOFTBALL**

OBJECTIVE

Provide a fun, competitive recreation program for Norwalk area residents while promoting good sportsmanship and clean competition

ORGANIZATION

1. The Norwalk Recreation and Parks Softball Program will be comprised of the following leagues:
 - Monday and Tuesday Men's Slow Pitch
 - Wednesday Wood-Bat
 - Wednesday CO-ED
 - Thursday Men's Industrial
2. Players must be 18 years of age by April 25, 2021
3. Non-residents pay a \$50 parking fee for Calf Pasture Beach after 5pm weeknights (see "fees")

FEES

1. The league fee of \$650 due in full at the time of captains registration, and covers administration, supervision, bases, softballs, lights, awards, bats, scorebooks and playoffs.
2. Umpire fee is \$35 cash per team, per game. Umpires are to be paid before each game begins.
3. Non-residents must pay a \$50 parking fee to their captain and submit their license plate information the first night of play. Captains will submit one check and form for all non-residents, payable to "The City of Norwalk" to the field supervisor on the first scheduled game night.

LEAGUE PLAY

1. League play will start May 1, 2021 and include 12 games to be completed before July 31, 2021.
2. All games will be played at Calf Pasture Beach.
3. There will be a 15-minute grace period on weekday 6:00 p.m. games only.
4. The recreation department will provide softballs and bats for each game.
5. Teams must start games with a minimum of 9 players. However, teams may continue games with less than 9 players under the following conditions:
 - A. A player becomes ill or is injured during a game and is removed and the team has no replacement for the injured player.
 - B. A player leaves the game because of an emergency.

When a vacancy occurs, the team losing the player will continue the game with an automatic out each time the vacated player's turn at bat is reached.

 - Example #1: A team starts a game with 9 players. The #2 player in the line-up is injured and leaves the game. The team may continue with 8 players and each time the #2 batting position comes to bat an automatic out is recorded.
 - Example #2: A team starts a game with 11 players including an E.H. The #1 batter is injured and leaves the game and no substitute is available. The team may continue with 10 players in the field. Each time the #1 batting position comes to bat an automatic out is recorded.
6. Teams will forfeit if a player is ejected by an umpire and a team cannot field 10 players on defense, or 9 players if the team began the game with 9 players.
7. Cancelled games will be posted on the QuickScores app by 5:00 p.m.
8. Rules governing this program will be 1) Current USA Slow Pitch Softball Rules and 2) Norwalk Recreation Department by-laws. The Norwalk Recreation Department By-laws will have preference over USA rules.

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9. Teams may use as many extra players (EH) as they want per game. In other words, a team may start a game with a batting order of ten or more players and play any combination of 10 players in the field. The defensive players can be changed at any time in the field, but the batting order must remain constant throughout the game.
10. Any team with a 15-run lead at the end of three innings or 12-run lead at the end of five innings will be awarded a win. An inning started must be completed, or played until the home team exceeds the run rule.
11. Teams will be given a minimum of two days' notice for all makeup games.
12. The umpires will keep the official score book for each game.
13. The supervisor and the director shall review and monitor all teams and players, and may question any discrepancy that may arise, including player eligibility, and take action to resolve the problem.
14. A team forfeiting two games may be dropped from the league at the discretion of the director.
15. All rules are in effect throughout the season.
16. The director will have the authority to veto any proposed rule changes if in his/her judgment they will be detrimental to the program.
17. Rainout games not made up by the end of scheduled play will be made up only if they have a bearing on determining the top two teams in the division.
18. Courtesy runner: One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. Courtesy runner will be the player who was last out. At the beginning of the game, captain must identify, to the umpire, which player, or players if male and female in Co-Ed, will need a courtesy runner(s.) Exception is if someone is injured during the game and then needs a courtesy runner.
19. Strike Zone: All slow pitch games will include a home plate extension mat behind the plate. Any pitched ball that hits the mat, in addition to home plate, will be a strike.
20. Time limit. Each game will be one hour or seven innings, whichever comes first. No new inning will start after 60 minutes.

SCHEDULES

1. Schedules will be available online at www.norwalkct.org/317/schedules
2. Schedules will not be changed unless deemed necessary by the director

ROSTERS

1. Maximum number on roster is 20.
2. Teams are allowed unlimited non-residents.
3. Player registration and signing of waivers will be done electronically.
4. Rosters must be filled out completely, signed by coach, and turned in with league fee.
5. Players may participate on one Monday or Tuesday team only. In addition, a player may play on Wednesday and Thursday teams, and any USA team or USA league outside this program.
6. If a team claims a player is a resident when he or she is not, that player will be deemed illegal and ineligible.
7. Any manager or team playing an illegal player may be suspended from the league for a period of up to one year starting with the date of the protested game. The team may be dropped from the league, lose the right to play the following year, and forfeit all fees.
8. If a player wishes to change teams and a coach will not release that player, the player may request a hearing with the rules committee, which will make the final decision.

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9. The rules committee will include five elected team representatives. The director and supervisor will be consultants and may appoint one other committee member. The director will break a tie.

ADDING/DROPPING PLAYERS

1. A manager or coach only may add players by emailing the director before the player is eligible to participate. An add/drop card must be turned in to the recreation department. The effective date on the card cannot precede the date the card is turned in to the office.
2. A player being added must call the director to arrange a mutually beneficial time to meet and sign the waiver in person in advance of any games. The player must show a driver's license.
3. Coaches only may drop a player from their roster.
4. Any paperwork that is not properly filled out will be invalid. The director will verify add/drop cards.
5. During the season, a team may add up to two players that have played for another team in the program.
6. Players may change teams once per season.
7. Teams may add and drop players until 5:00 pm April 26, 2021. After that date, all rosters will be frozen for the remainder of the season, including league play-offs and tournaments.
8. When a coach follows proper roster change procedures, the transaction will take effect immediately. There is no waiting period for players who are Norwalk residents.

CONDUCT

1. Coaches are to control their players at all times.
2. If a player is ejected, he/she must leave the field and site immediately. If he/she does not leave, the umpires will award the game to the opposing team regardless of score or inning and that player's team will receive a forfeit.
3. An ejected player may be suspended from further play for varying lengths of time for the following:
 - A. Fighting or abusive language.
 - B. Any act of aggression with intent to physically harm another person.
 - C. Any unsportsmanlike act or gesture not in the spirit of the program.
 - D. Use of illegal equipment as determined by the umpires or the recreation department.
 - E. Falsifying residency status to avoid purchasing a parking sticker. That player's team will forfeit the right to complete the season and will lose the fee.

PROTESTS

1. The director and rules committee will handle protests, rule changes, disciplinary problems, and administrative issues.
2. Judgment calls by umpires are not subject to protest.
3. Any protest concerning a rule interpretation must be reported to the umpire and the scorekeeper before the next play. A coach must request a time out and inform the umpire politely that he/she is protesting the umpire's interpretation of the rule in question.
4. Protests must be filed with the recreation department within 48 hours (excluding Saturday and Sunday) of the scheduled time of the contest in question.
5. Protests must be typed and include time and date of game in question, and a detailed description of what took place.
6. Any protest concerning player eligibility may be filed by any team through the last game of the season, including playoffs.

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7. If a team files a protest, the home team must present the score book at the hearing. If the book is not presented or was kept improperly, the home team will lose the protest.
8. All protests must include a \$50 payment, which will be returned if the protesting team wins the protest.
9. It is the protesting team's responsibility to include pertinent documentation concerning the protest. If the protest concerns the age rule, the person in question must provide proof of age to the director within five days of notification. If the player fails to comply, a forfeit will be ruled.
10. In the event a rules committee member's team is involved in a protest or problem, that committee member will not be allowed to vote on the matter. In such an instance, the director may appoint a temporary replacement, which may include an individual outside the program.
11. All director's decisions are final.

PARKING

All persons using city parks or participating in a recreation program are to park in designated parking areas only. This rule applies to players, coaches and spectators. Vehicles should not be driven or parked on the grass. It is the intention of the mayor, city council, and Recreation and Parks Department to preserve our parks and to prosecute those persons who damage our parks. If anyone affiliated with a team in the softball program violates the parking rules, that team will be dropped from the program and forfeit all fees after one written warning has been issued by the director to the coach of the team.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Players are responsible for their own insurance.
2. All team members should be given an opportunity to play in every game.
3. Coaches are encouraged to contact the recreation department with problems or concerns.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS!

Sandy Korkatzis, Superintendent of Recreation
Norwalk Recreation and Parks: 203-854-7257
Schedules and standings: [www. Quickscores.com/norwalkct](http://www.Quickscores.com/norwalkct)