

2014 EUCLID CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

Classification:

Co-Ed – Class D. The League will be set up according to the number of teams that are in each division. This year, there are three divisions with doubleheaders and split-format schedules played on Friday nights.

Official Rules Governing Play:

Official rules adopted by the Euclid Sports Commission shall govern play under the jurisdiction of the Euclid Parks and Recreation Commission. Players must be 18 years old before the last scheduled game of the regular season. **ANY RULE IN THE CO-ED RULES AND REGULATIONS NOT COVERED BY THE BASIC RULES OF THE LEAGUE WILL REFER TO THE 2014 AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (A.S.A.) RULES.**

Entrance Procedure and Fees:

The entry fee for the Co-Ed league is \$545. The fee includes league fee, A.S.A. registration fee, three dozen softballs, and "Benander Games" statistics. The fee this year does not include a forfeit fee. If a team forfeits, it must pay the \$54 forfeit fee (or \$108 if doubleheader) before its next game.

Medical Service:

The Euclid Parks and Recreation Commission will not assume any responsibility for injuries or medical fees. It is recommended that each player carry his own medical insurance.

Additional Players & Releases:

The first night of play your contract cards are you official team roster. Players may be added up to June 6, 2014, but at no time may the player limit be exceeded. All released players must be properly released in writing to the league director. **TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEAGUE PLAYOFFS, A PLAYER MUST HAVE PARTICIPATED IN FIVE (5) REGULAR SEASON GAMES. PLAYERS WITH EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE RULED ELIGIBLE BY APPROVAL OF THE EUCLID SPORTS COMMISSION.**

NO PLAYER SHALL BE ADDED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AFTER JUNE 6, 2014 UNLESS SPECIFIC APPROVAL IS GIVEN BY THE EUCLID SPORTS COMMISSION.

If a player wants to be released and the manager refuses to do so, the player, if he or she has a valid reason, may appeal in writing to the Euclid Sports Commission for the release. If approved, the player must follow the regular league rules concerning a released player who wishes to play for another team in the league.

League Play:

The Euclid Co-Ed League will open play on Friday, April 25, 2014. Doubleheaders will be scheduled at 6:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. on diamonds #3 and #4. Divisions I & II will play each other with a split format schedule with the odd game(s) being played on Diamond #6. Division IV will play with a split format schedule with the odd game(s) being played on Diamond #6.

Contract Cards:

All players, managers and coaches must be under contract. No player, manager or coach will be allowed on the field of play without being under contract. Contract cards must be properly filled out (i.e. – **division, player name, date of birth, address, city/state/zip, team name, team last played with, and telephone #**) with the player's and manager's signature on the back, and filed with the Recreation Office. Contract cards for residents are free with proof of residence and contract cards for non-residents must include a \$20 non-resident fee. A non-resident playing on more than one team in any of the Euclid leagues must pay the \$20 non-resident fee for one team and \$10 for each other team he or she plays on. **NO PLAYER IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A REGULAR SEASON GAME UNTIL HIS CONTRACT CARD IS FILED WITH THE LEAGUE OFFICE. STARTING ON THE FIRST DAY OF PLAY, A TEAM WILL BE PENALIZED TWO RUNS FOR EACH PLAYER THAT PLAYS WITHOUT A VALID CONTRACT. A VALID CONTRACT IS ONE THAT IS ACCOMPANIED BY EITHER A \$20 NON-RESIDENT FEE OR TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCE FOR A RESIDENT.** A player released prior to the deadline for filing contract cards, **JUNE 6, 2014**, may transfer only once during the season to another team. A player must wait one calendar week if he or she transfers to a team in the same division. There is no waiting period when switching divisions. (Note: A player may not play games in two divisions in the same night.)

Schedule Time (with ADDENDUM FOR 2014):

Schedule time for all games is that time listed on the schedule given to managers.

ADDENDUM FOR 2014: YOU MUST HAVE 8 PLAYERS TO START! *The team with 8 players will receive an automatic out each time the 9th and/or 10th positions in the lineup are scheduled to bat. They must insert their 9th and 10th player(s) into the lineup as soon as they arrive. Their opponents will furnish a defensive catcher who will only retrieve pitches for the other team. The catcher will not be involved in any way once the ball is batted into play. The rule will be in effect even if BOTH teams only have 8 players. This rule is in effect for the purpose of avoiding forfeits based on a team or teams not having enough players to begin the game. It will also be enforced if a team, at anytime during the game, is forced to play with 8 of their own players due to injuries and/or ejections occurred during a game. (end of addendum).*

THERE WILL BE A 5-MINUTE, NO PENALTY GRACE PERIOD FOR THE FIRST GAME OF THE DAY ONLY IF A TEAM HAS LESS THAN EIGHT PLAYERS. AFTER THAT, A 10-MINUTE PENALTY GRACE PERIOD WILL START. THE TEAM WITH ENOUGH PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE **ONE RUN** FOR EACH MINUTE THAT THE GAME IS DELAYED. THE GAME MUST START, THOUGH, WHEN THE TEAM CAN FIELD EIGHT PLAYERS. **THE GAME TIME LIMIT WILL START AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 10-MINUTE GRACE PERIOD.** THE 10-MINUTE PENALTY GRACE PERIOD WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR THE REST OF THE GAMES THAT NIGHT, BUT NOT THE 5-MINUTE NO PENALTY PERIOD.

Second, third and fourth games will follow on lighted fields immediately upon completion of the previous game PROVIDING BOTH MANAGERS ARE IN AGREEMENT TO DO SO, BUT WILL START NO LATER THAN THE SCHEDULED TIME.

Pitching Arc:

The pitching arc for A.S.A. is 6'-12'.

Postponements:

There shall be no postponements except in the case of rain or changes deemed necessary by the league director. In case of wet grounds, teams are to call the Recreation Hot Line (216-289-8121) to see if games are on or off (the message will be put on the recording by 3:00 p.m. if possible). In case of rain after 5:00 p.m., the umpire will use his judgment in calling the game at the field. **We will again be under a partial no make-up policy. Some open dates will be left in the schedule for make-up games. When these are used up, no other games will be made up except on a night when a partial schedule has been rained out. IF THERE ARE NO RAIN OUTS WHEN THE MAKE-UP WEEK COMES UP ON THE SCHEDULE WE WILL SIMPLY MOVE THE LAST WEEK OF THE SCHEDULE UP TO THE CURRENT WEEK (i.e. – no off dates because of no rain outs).**

Forfeitures:

Any team which forfeits a game will pay the umpire and scorers fee for both the forfeiting team AND the non-forfeiting team. A one-game forfeit fee is \$54 while a double-header is \$108. (Note: there is no forfeit fee in the original entrance fee).

****** 2014 CO-ED LEAGUE FORFEIT RULE CHANGE ******

Any team that forfeits a total of four (4) games for any reason will be automatically dismissed from the league for the remainder of the 2014 season, including playoffs (and must still pay any forfeit fees accumulated). This rule is in effect whether the four games are accumulated via two doubleheaders or otherwise.

One and One Count:

All batters will start with a one ball and one strike count as they step into the batter's box. **A BATTER WILL BE ALLOWED ONE (1) FOUL BALL AFTER REACHING A COUNT OF TWO STRIKES.**

Time Limit on Games:

No new inning will start after one hour and ten minutes of playing time in all games except the last game of the night. **THAT GAME WILL HAVE THE PARK CURFEW OR A CAP OF ONE HOUR AND TWENTY MINUTES AS ITS TIME LIMIT.** Tie games will be counted as ½ win and ½ loss. A game halted by time limit will be ruled an official game.

Expedite and Mercy Rule:

After 3 ½ or four innings, if a team coming to bat leads by 18 runs or more or, after 4 ½ or five innings, the team coming to bat leads by 12 runs or more, the game will be over and the leading team will be declared the winner. If the home team reaches the run spread during its half of the inning, the game will end at that time. Also, after the first inning, a pitcher shall have one warm-up.

Park Curfew Rule:

No new inning may start after 10:55 p.m. (An inning that starts before 10:55 p.m. will be completed). If a tie is not broken by that time, the game will be counted as ½ win and ½ loss.

Number of Players:

A team may start a game with 9 players (5 males and 4 females or 4 males and 5 females) and finish with 9 players. **YOU MAY NOT START A GAME WITH 7 PLAYERS OR LESS.** All nine players will bat, however the tenth spot in the lineup will be an automatic out. A team may designate the 10th spot in the batting order for a player that has not arrived. The team doesn't need to designate a particular player's name, just the fact that they are planning to use a 10th player. If the 10th player shows up, he/she may be put into the line-up immediately, providing the 10th spot was in the line-up prior to the start of the game.

A team may also start with 10 players (6 females and 4 males) but not the reverse. However, as soon as a male gets to the game, he may be inserted for the extra female player.

A TEAM MAY USE UP TO TWO EXTRA HITTERS IN THEIR LINE-UP. It must be a male AND a female. If the team wants to use just one extra hitter then the 12th spot in the batting order will be an automatic out.

Batting will be as follows:

1. You must alternate all the way through the line-up.
2. If a man walks, it is a two-base award. The man will go directly to second base. Runners already on base will advance if forced off by the two-base award. The female must bat. They no longer have the option. The exception is with two outs, if the man is walked either intentionally or unintentionally, the female has the option to bat or go to first base.

In the ten fielding positions, pitcher and catcher must be split – male/female; the infield and outfield must have two males and two females. (Also, you do not have to tell the scorekeeper when changing defensive positions.)

Official Ball:

The official ball will be the 44 core, 375 compression ball handed out at the organizational meeting. (Note: Men's ball ordered was 52/300)

Safety Rule:

WHEN A PLAY IS BEING MADE AT ANY BASE, THE RUNNER MUST EITHER SLIDE OR GIVE UP. ANY PLAYER ATTEMPTING TO KNOCK DOWN A FIELDER WILL BE CALLED OUT AND EJECTED.

Alcoholic Beverages:

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the playing area. Any player or team caught using alcoholic beverages in the playing area will cause the game to be forfeited. Playing area includes all area surrounding the field, including the stands.

Uniforms:

All teams will be encouraged to wear uniforms but there is no uniform requirement this year. However, shirts must be worn at all times while in the playing area.

Bats:

Only A.S.A. approved bats with a 1.2 rating will be allowed. **ALL BATS MUST HAVE AN A.S.A. STICKER ON THEM!!!**

ATTENTION: IF A BAT HAS AN A.S.A. STICKER ON IT BUT IS LISTED ON THE "A.S.A. NON-APPROVED BAT LIST WITH CERTIFICATION MARKS" LIST (HANDED OUT AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING) IT IS AN ILLEGAL BAT!!! (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Players using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game and given the following choice:

1. Either let the bat be confiscated by the league director for the balance of the season
OR
2. The player will be suspended for the balance of the season.

Umpires:

Two umpires will be assigned to all games. Umpires will be paid prior to each game by the teams. **(Give both fees to the scorekeeper)**. The fee is \$20 per man per team for each seven-inning game. The umpire is entitled to \$10 per team for all games less than five innings in which inclement weather has been a factor in calling the game. If only one umpire shows up for the game, the game will be played and each team will pay the umpire \$15. If no umpire shows up for a game, the game will be played and there will be no walks and the teams will agree on put outs.

Scorers:

Scorers will be assigned to all games and will be paid prior to each game by the teams. The fee is \$7 for each seven inning game for each team. The scorer will forward the scoresheet to the league director with copies to each team. If a scorer fails to show, each team is responsible for its statistics and must report same to the league director.

Language Rule:

A player using profanity will force his team to take an "out" before the next batter when his team bats. No batter will miss his turn at bat (unless the player who used profanity is the first batter of the inning), but an out will be given to the team at bat. **The penalty for a 2nd infraction of this rule is automatic ejection!**

Trophies and Plaques:

The Euclid Recreation Department will provide awards for the championship teams. A team's choices include: \$100 off of the next season's entrance fee, trophies, plaques, or t-shirts.

Vacations:

Teams will not be permitted to withdraw from participation for a vacation. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE.**

Special Memorial Park Rule:

The Euclid Recreation Commission has ruled that there will be NO batting practice in Memorial Park unless it is on a ball diamond.

The following home run rule applies to teams playing on Diamond #3 or #4. **Three** out-of-the-park home runs will be allowed per team with a **one-up** rule to **five** for each team. That is, once both teams have reached the three home run limit, either team may hit an additional home run. However, no team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team. **ALSO, THE HOME TEAM, IN THE BOTTOM OF THE LAST INNING, MAY HIT ONE HOME RUN TO PULL EVEN WITH THE NUMBER OF HOME RUNS OF THE OPPOSING TEAM, BUT MAY NOT HIT A HOME RUN TO GO ONE UP!** Any out of the park hits after three that violates the above rule will be considered an out. **After five home runs, any out of the park hits will end that team's inning and the batter will be given an out as his time at bat.** Inside the park home runs do not apply.

Protests:

When a matter of protest arises during a game, the manager of the protesting team should immediately notify the umpire. The umpire then must announce to all concerned that the game is being played under protest. The protesting manager should verify that the umpire has announced the protest to all concerned parties. This will enable all parties to take notice of the conditions surrounding the protest and will aid in the proper determination of the issue. The protesting manager should make sure that the protest is stated on the official scoresheet.

NOTE: Only rules of interpretation can be protested (this DOES NOT include the following):

- **Out or safe calls**
- **Fair or foul ball calls**
- **Ball and strike calls**
- **Any other "judgment" calls made by the umpire**

Protests must be filed in writing with the league director within 48 hours of the regularly scheduled game. Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays are not included in the 48 hour limit. A \$25 protest fee must accompany the written protest. The protest fee will be returned if the protest is decided in favor of the protesting team.

With no pictures on the contract card, protests involving player eligibility should be handled as follows:

1. Go through regular protest procedure by telling the umpire and scorer about the protest.
2. Have the suspected player sign the back of the scoresheet.
3. Follow up with protest in writing with the \$25 fee.

Smoking Rule:

SMOKING IS PROHIBITED ON THE PLAYING FIELD. THIS INCLUDES THE PLAYER'S BENCH AREA. UMPIRES ARE DIRECTED TO STOP THIS PRACTICE. (Penalty: ejection of current game + 1 game)

Rule Enforcement – League Director Authority:

The league director has the authority to take appropriate action when irregularities are discovered.

Designated Runner:

Before the game starts, a team may designate a player that a runner may be used for any time the player gets on base (only one...**NOT** ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE). The runner will be the player who made the last out before the designated player gets on base. **IMPORTANT: Again, this must be told to the scorer before the game starts.** (Suggestion: let the scorekeeper and umpire know when you turn in your line-up.) If running for a male, it will be the male that made the last out. If running for a female, it will be the female that made the last out. If a player is injured during the game, the designated runner may be switched to that player. (This may be the newly injured male switched for the original designated female or the newly injured female switched for the original designated male).

Rowdism – Disorderly Conduct:

Only the manager (or acting manager) and player(s) involved may dispute with the umpire. No rowdism or disorderly conduct on the part of players, managers or coaches or their supporters shall be tolerated before, during and after the game. Managers are to control their spectators as well as their own players. **NOTE: Players, coaches, or managers are still under the authority of the umpire AFTER THE GAME.** Violators will be severely disciplined by the Euclid Sports Commission. It is the duty of the umpire and scorer to report such instances immediately.

All softball games are conducted under the jurisdiction of the Euclid Recreation Commission. The Arbitration Board shall consist of at least three members of the Euclid Sports Commission and will meet when deemed necessary by the league director to handle matters of protest, appeals and disciplinary action.

Any person ejected for any violation is automatically suspended for the next game in which his/her team participates with further action coming from the Arbitration Board when deemed necessary.

Any team member ejected for fighting is automatically suspended until the case is decided by the league director or the Arbitration Board.

ANY TEAM MEMBER (MANAGER, COACH OR PLAYER) EJECTED TWO (2) TIMES DURING THE SEASON WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE BALANCE OF THE SEASON AND THE CASE SUBMITTED TO THE ARBITRATION BOARD FOR FURTHER ACTION.

Any player who physically attacks an official shall be indefinitely suspended and the offending team may also be expelled should it be deemed necessary by the league office. The game may be ended at the time of the infraction if the umpire feels further problems may occur. A hearing shall be given to the offending player in front of the proper authority. The Arbitration Board shall review all cases involved under the rules of disciplinary action with a minimum of three members being present. The above provisions applying to suspension shall include all players, coaches and managers.

Player Conduct Rules:

NO PLAYER SHALL:

1. At any time lay hand upon, push, strike or threaten an official.
2. Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
3. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an official's decision by throwing gloves, bats, balls or any other forceful action.
4. Be guilty of heaping personal verbal abuse upon any official for any reason.
5. Discuss with an official in any manner the decision reached by such official unless the player was directly involved.
6. Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the playing of the game against the body and person of an opposing player.
7. Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, official or spectator.
8. Be guilty of abusive verbal attack upon any player, official or spectator.
9. Use profane, obscene or vulgar language in any manner at any time.
10. Appear on the field of play at any time in an intoxicated state.
11. Be guilty of using alcoholic beverages in the playing area.
12. Be guilty of gambling on any game or the outcome of the game with any spectator, player or opponent.
13. Smoke while going on or coming off the playing field or while on the field of play or playing area (which includes the bench area).
14. Be guilty of discussing publicly with spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner, any play, decision or personal opinion of other players during the game.
15. Be guilty of intentionally throwing the bat, glove or any other equipment.