

**SHAKER HEIGHTS RECREATION SOFTBALL PROGRAM**

**2014 Rules and Regulations**

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## **I. ADMINISTRATION**

- A. The operation of the Shaker Heights Slow Pitch Softball Program is the responsibility of the Shaker Heights Community Life Department.
- B. Those individuals who desire to participate in this program do so with the knowledge that the Shaker Heights Community Life Department establishes all policies and regulations the overall operation of the Softball Program. Managers and coaches may be consulted on matters concerning the operation of the program, but their opinions are not binding.
- C. The Shaker Heights Community Life Department shall organize the league, prepare and release publicity and in general conduct the business of the league.

## **II. TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- A. All teams that participated in last year's program will be given first priority to register up to the announced deadline date.
- B. After the deadline date new teams who wish to join the league may register on a first come, first serve basis.
- C. Resident teams are defined as having 50% or more of the team's players being residents of the Shaker School District.
- D. Each Men's league has a capacity of 10 teams.
- E. All checks must be payable to the City of Shaker Heights.

## **III. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. All players must be 18 years old by May 1.
- B. Managers must bring a current copy of their roster to each game. The roster must have a Shaker Heights Community Life stamp to indicate it is an approved copy.
- C. All players must bring a driver's license or other photo ID to each game.
- D. If player's eligibility is questioned, the manager shall then produce his roster and the player in question shall produce his ID. Failure to produce either could result in a forfeit.

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### **IV. ROSTER**

- A. Team captains must present the team's roster to the Shaker Heights Community Life office at the time of registration. Rosters must contain each player's first and last name, address and phone number.**
- B. The mid-season policy on player additions to a team's roster is as follows:  
  
The manager notifies the Recreation Department office 2 days in advance of the players' intended eligibility date.**
- C. A player must play in at least 25% regular season games (for the same team) in order to be eligible for any post-season competition (regular season playoffs and post season tournament). Valid written medical notices will be the only exception to this rule.**
- D. There will no roster changes beyond the halfway point in the schedule.**

### **V. PROTESTS**

- A. There may be a protest of player eligibility anytime during the game. After the final out of the game, the protest may not be filed.**
- B. All games in which ineligible players are detected by the scorer during the game, or who are found ineligible pursuant to a manager's protest shall be forfeited.**
- C. No protest shall be permitted on judgement calls made by an umpire during a game.**
- D. Protests concerning a play must be made to the umpire prior to the next pitch. Protests concerning ineligibility must be made before the final out of the game. Protests must be presented in writing within one (1) business day following the game, along with a \$20 fee to the Shaker Heights Community Life Department office. The \$20 fee shall be returned only if the protest is upheld.**
- E. The manager of the protesting team shall notify the umpire who will notify the opposing manager and official scorer (that the game is being continued under protest).**
- F. The League Commissioner shall rule on all protests and take the necessary action. The manager of the protesting team has the right to set up an appointment to state his case with the individual listed above.**

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### VI. EXTRA PLAYER

- A. A team may place eleven (11) hitters in the line-up with one as an E.P. (extra player).
- B. A team may not place nine (9) or ten (10) hitters in the line-up with one as the E.P.
- C. The E.P. must start the game and remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
- D. The number of players in the lineup may not decrease except for injury or ejection. Should the number decrease due to ejection, and if there is no substitute, that spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. Should the number decrease due to injury, the game shall proceed by skipping that spot in the order without penalty until the number of players reaches seven at which time the game shall be ruled a forfeit.

### VII. RULES

- A. A team must have minimum of eight (8) players present to qualify as complete team to start a game. A pitcher and catcher must be used as part of the eight players. During any point of a game, if a team is reduced to seven (7) players or less, the games will be ruled a forfeit against that team. Also, if a team starts with less than ten (10) at any time during the game, the tenth player may be added to the end of the line-up. Ten will be the maximum allowed. If starting with nine (9), E.P. may not be added.
- B. There will be a ten-minute grace period for a single game or the first game of a doubleheader.
- C. Team lineup must be given to the official scorekeepers at least ten minutes before the scheduled game time.
- D. All substitutions to be made during the game and before are to be made by the captain not the player.
- E. Players are permitted to ask the scorer about the score and the batting order only. Players and coaches are not to dispute the ruling of a play made by the scorekeeper. Intimidation of the scorer will not be permitted.
- F. A twelve run rule will be in effect in the fifth inning.
- G. The games will consist of seven innings for the Men's League.

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- H. A player may not be taken out without substitution (example: a player may not be removed from a game just to pass him over in the order. If however, a player is removed from the game due to injury, no automatic out will be called. This injury is to be reported and validated to the best of his or her ability by the umpire.
- I. Metal spikes are prohibited in all Shaker Heights Community Life Department Softball Leagues.
- J. The Shaker Heights Community Life Department will not be responsible for any injury to a player or spectator. In addition, the Shaker Heights Community Life Department will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged property.
- K. The distance between bases will be 65 feet.
- L. Softballs will be supplied to all teams by the league.
- M. A.S.A. rules will be enforced except for the local variations found on the pages of these Rules and Regulations.
- N. There will be one hour and ten minute time limit on the first game of a double-header and a tournament single game that is part of a double-header. No new inning will begin after one hour and ten minutes has elapsed. There is no time limit on a single regular season game or the second game of a double-header.
- O. Uniforms are not required in the leagues. Matching shirts are encouraged. Kerchiefs are permitted.
- P. Courtesy runners are permitted with the opposing managers consent (medical reasons, injury). The courtesy runner shall be the player who made the last out.
- Q. All batters will start with a one-ball/one strike count.

### **VIII. CONDUCT AND EJECTION**

- A. Any player or coach ejected from a game (reasons other than fighting) will draw an automatic suspension from the next actual game played by their team (no sitting on bench or coaching while the suspension is taking place).

- B. If a player or coach is ejected from a game a second time, he will sit out the next two actual games played by their teams.
- C. If a player or coach is ejected from a third game, he will be on suspension for the remainder of the season and will be on probation for the next season as well.

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- D. If a player or coach is ejected from a game due to fighting to deliberately or intentionally attempting to injure an opponent, he will draw an automatic six game suspension from his team.
- E. If a player or coach is ejected from a game a second time due to fighting or deliberately or intentionally attempting to injure an opponent, he will draw a suspension for one calendar year to be on probation for the remainder of the next season.
- F. If a player or coach assaults or attempts to assault or threaten an official from the league (umpire, scorer, commissioner), such conduct will result in expulsion from the league (lifetime) as well as prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.
- G. The Commissioner and the umpires have the right to direct a player or coach to leave the field and the school premises. If such directed players do not leave their action will cost their team a forfeit.
- H. If a manager has a complaint about an umpire, he/she is to put the complaint in writing, stating the field location, plus the date and time of the game and mail it to the Shaker Heights Community Life Department Softball Commissioner.

### **IX. FORFEITURES**

- A. Teams entering the league shall recognize as a first priority their obligation to the league's schedule.
- B. Any team receiving a forfeit will be put on probation for the remainder of the season. The forfeiting team is responsible for paying all umpire and scorer fees.**
- C. A second forfeiture by any team may result in the team's expulsion from the league.**
- D. A team that forfeits the first game of a doubleheader shall automatically forfeit the second game.

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### **X. PROBATION**

- A. Any player, coach or team already on probation will be automatically expelled from the league (length of time stipulated in Section XIII) if any further penalties are assessed against the individual or the team.
- B. Teams and players expelled from any league during the previous season may return the following year, but are on probation for the season.

### **XI. RAINOUTS**

- A. Games that are in progress when inclement weather develops shall be called at the discretion of the umpire.
- B. A game shall be deemed official after five complete innings or after 4 1/2 complete innings have been played and the home team is winning.
- C. Do not call the Recreation office until after 5 p.m. (Monday - Friday). Please contact James at 491-2599. Please only calls from managers and appointed captains!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- D. It is the manager's responsibility to contact James Garrett on the next business day following a cancelled game for make-up information. His phone is (216) 491-2599; fax (216) 991-4219; e-mail: james.garrett@ci.shaker-heights.oh.us
- E. The first rainout date may not be made up. Any rainouts beyond that will be made up on Tuesday, or if necessary Sunday evenings.

### **XII. PLAYOFFS, CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS**

- A. Each league will have its own post-season tournament on its regular league day.