



## CITY OF KETTERING

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

### 2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE GENERAL RULES

1. Rules and regulations not covered in the Official WSL rulebook or in these rules will be considered judgement calls of the officials and not subject to approval. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department have the right to change any rules to ensure fair and safe play.
2. All games will be played on the property of the City of Kettering. All rules and regulations pertaining to the City of Kettering will be observed and enforced. **Absolutely no smoking or alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the buildings or parks. This includes parking lots.**
3. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department will remain the final authority on all matters pertaining to this program and reserves the right to arrange teams and leagues for the purpose of the parity
4. The manager, coach and or captain of a team are responsible for the conduct of their player's before, during and after the game; until they leave the premises. Failure to comply with the rules will subject the offender, manager, coach or captain to disciplinary action. Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct, including the use of profane language may cause the removal of the offending player by the official. Continued abuse may cause dismissal from the league by the league supervisor. **Any player removed from a game will received a week suspension from all Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department operated games.** Ex. If a player is removed from a game on Monday they are not allowed to play again until the following Tuesday. Any player that is removed from two games during the season will be removed from all leagues without refund.
5. **5 minute grace period.** Players must be signed in and ready to play no later than 5 minutes past the game start time. Teams that forfeit three games will be removed from the league without refund.
6. The Flip-Flop Rule will be used for all Leagues.
7. It is the responsibility of the managers to check [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org), in regards to field conditions any time after 3 p.m. Monday – Friday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. The league supervisor, along with the maintenance crew, will determine conditions of the field before the game. In the absence of the supervisor, the umpires will determine field conditions.
8. Postponed games will be rescheduled by the League Supervisor. All incomplete games due to weather or circumstances beyond our control will be played from point of suspension. A called game will be regulation if 4 innings have been played or if the game is in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> with the home team winning.
9. Rescheduled games will be played later in the season (potentially as double-headers). Leagues that experience excessive rained out games may have to play make up games on an alternative day than normal, including Saturdays.
10. There is a 3-run limit on home runs for all leagues. The batter and runners are not required to run the bases on fair-batted balls over the fence. After the third home run, the rule will go to progressive.
11. Protests must be made by the manager of the protesting team to the umpire before the next pitch is made to the batter, or infielders have left fair territory, and the umpire must make the proper entry on the score card. Written protests must be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department, 2900 Glengarry Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45420, within 24 hours or the next working day, accompanied by a \$50 protest fee, which will be returned if the protest is permitted. The protest will be decided by the Adult League Coordinator and the Sports Supervisor. Protest of ineligible players must be made by the second inning that they play.

## 2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

1. All teams must be World Sports League (WSL) sanctioned. This is included in your league fees. If already sanctioned through another league or for tournaments, the exact team name must remain the same. Once sanctioned; each team receives one WSL rulebook and scorebook. It is good for the year.
2. A player must personally sign a roster before playing in any game, and a complete team roster **PRINTED OR TYPED** must be filed on the night of the first game at the game site. Failure to turn in a roster at the first game at the game site will result in a forfeit of the first game. After the first night, managers may add or delete players at the field provided that changes are made before game start. All substitute players will need to be listed on the roster. Please designate a back-up manager on your roster. The team manager is responsible for the accuracy of the team roster. She/he should list her/his home and business telephone number. All players should carry identification to games. Players are subject to and ID check at every game.
3. **Players may be added to the roster until the third game** of the regular season (exceptions must be approved by sports supervisor). It is the captains' responsibility to have all players' names and signatures on the roster **BEFORE** a player participates. **Roster maximum is 20 players.** Contact the Adult Sports Coordinator if you need to add more than 20 players to a roster. No player may play on more than one team in the same league except for emergencies in the Senior League.
4. Any team found to be playing with a player that is not on the roster will forfeit the game. Any person playing under an assumed name will be ineligible for play in and/or participation in Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts programs indefinitely. The team will forfeit all games played with an ineligible player and may be suspended from the league.
5. No players under 18. Age deadline is date of first game. All players must be out of high school
6. **Men's teams may field nine (9) players at the start of the game with no penalty.** If a team fails to field at least 9 players at game time, they must forfeit. If a player is injured during a game and the number of players' drops to eight and the team has no substitute for that player, an out will be declared when their position comes up in the lineup. Teams participating in Kettering Men's Softball leagues may include up to but not exceeding two non-male players on their rosters.
7. Co-ed teams may field nine (9) players at the start of the game with no penalty. **Co-ed teams must field a minimum of five females at all times.**
8. Church league teams must field a minimum of **three females at all times.**

## 2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE EQUIPMENT RULES

1. All players must wear a shirt, pants (shorts) and closed toe shoes that can be tied, strapped, or attached with Velcro (Crocs & slides/flip flops are prohibited). **NO STEEL SPIKES** of any kind are allowed. Any players caught with steel spikes after a team warning will be ejected.
2. All leagues will be played using 12" balls. Game balls are supplied by The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. Balls should be returned to the league supervisor.
  - a. It is the batting team responsibility to retrieve home runs and foul balls
3. All non-wooden bats with an official ASA/USA, USSSA, or WSL stamp and have a BPF of 1.20 can be used. Umpires will determine if a bat is illegal

## 2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE & SCORES

1. Game schedules and weather updates are posted online <https://www.playkettering.org/adult-softball/>
  - a. It is the manager's responsibility to check their email and our website for any updates. Managers should make sure the contact information listed on the roster is accurate.
2. Scores will be updated weekly and available online at <https://www.playkettering.org/adult-softball/>
3. Forfeits are scored 10-0

## 2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE GAME RULES (ALL Leagues)

1. All WSL rules apply to City leagues unless specified in the local rules below.
2. All players not on the field must remain behind the bench restraining lines, except base coaches and the batter on deck. There will be no person(s) allowed in the dugout unless they are on the team roster, this includes spectators.
3. No new innings after 65 minutes. When a game is **tied at the end of seven innings or a full inning after 55 minutes**, the international tiebreak rule will be used. Each team will start with the one out and the last batter from the previous inning will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. All other rules remain the same.
4. A player assumes a count of one ball and one strike when he/she steps into the batter's box. **No courtesy/free foul**
5. Only players, managers, coaches and scorekeepers are permitted on player benches. **The manager is the only person allowed to discuss a play situation with the umpire.**
6. In the event of a tie for league champs and seeding, head-to-head record will decide the **tie breaker**; if it is still tied,
  - a. the best record against the top four seeds
  - b. run differential
  - c. coin flip
7. Mercy/Run Rule:
  - a. 20 Runs after 3 innings
  - b. 15 Runs after 4 innings
  - c. 10 Runs after 5 innings
8. **"Digging" in the batter's box is prohibited.** A warning will be given to players scratching in the batter's box. The umpire may call the batter out if the scratching continues.
9. A defensive player may not intentionally block a base unless they are in possession of the ball.
10. There is no restriction on defense — free substitution. Example: A player may play first base for (2) innings, rest an inning, and then play third base an inning. However, a player must bat according to the lineup given to the scorekeeper.
11. Behavior of players and spectators is the responsibility of the team manager. **Violence, physical and verbal abuse will not be tolerated.**
12. All music shall be turned OFF once games have started. If the music is not turned off, the team will have one out to start the inning. If the music continues, the umpire can forfeit the game.
13. No pitch faking is allowed.

## **2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE CO-ED SPECIFIC RULES**

1. A co-ed team may choose to play more females than five but may never drop below the minimum. If a team fails to field the specified players, they must forfeit the game. Co-ed teams must bat an alternating line up of males and females until all males have been used. The continuous batting rule allows for two or more female players to bat consecutively but at no time shall male players be allowed to bat consecutively; this includes the turnover of the batting lineup.
2. If a co-ed team starts a game with no more than 10 players they must finish the game with the same number of players. If a player is injured and leaves the game an out will be called if not substitution is available to fill their position in the batting lineup
3. One male player & one female player on the roster in/or out of the batting lineup may be a courtesy runner for any one player of their gender in an inning. If the runner is in the active batting lineup and is on base as the runner and his/her turn at bat comes up that batting position will be declared an out. A pitcher can get a courtesy runner at any time if they were to get on base.
4. A 12" ball will be used for every batter
5. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat.
6. A 10-foot scoring line (scoring plate) will be used for baserunners to score. Runners are not permitted to touch home plate or go over home plate. Runner will be called out if they touch home plate instead of the scoring plate. The commitment line is 20 feet from home plate and will be enforced. The defense must touch home plate to record an out at home. Tagging the runner is not permitted. Runners **MUST** avoid contact with the catcher

## **2023 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE SENIOR SPECIFIC RULES**

1. Teams may play with a maximum of eleven (11) defensive players and a minimum of nine (9). If fewer than nine (9) players show up, the game will be a forfeit. A team with 9 or 10 players may borrow players to make 11. The opposing manager will pick the 1 or 2 players from the opposing team needed to make 11 on the other team. Borrowed players may play anywhere in the field and bat in any spot in the order. A forfeited game may be played for fun, but the forfeit stands.
2. League games consist of 7 innings. The half inning will be over when the offensive team has scored 5 runs with the exception of the team that is behind. A team behind can score up to a tie or 8 runs, whichever comes first. There is no limit of how many runs can be scored in the 7th inning by either team.
3. No run rule. No new innings after 75 minutes.
4. Each player can act as a courtesy runner only once per inning. The penalty for attempting to act as a courtesy runner more than once in one inning is an automatic out for that runner. If a courtesy runner is on base when it's his turn to bat, he will be out as a base runner but will take his turn at bat. A courtesy runner cannot be replaced by another courtesy runner. If he is the 3rd out, then he will bat first the next inning unless injured.
5. A runner must touch the "scoring plate" before the defensive player in possession of the ball touches "home plate." The runner will be automatically out if he touches "home plate."
6. A strike mat will be used at home plate. The mat and any part of home plate will be a strike, providing that the pitch is within the 6-12' height zone.