

SENIOR OZAUKEE SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2020

The Senior Ozaukee Softball League, co-sponsored by the Grafton Parks and Recreation Department, was organized in April 1989. A debt of gratitude is expressed to the many participants of the Senior Ozaukee Softball League, the Grafton Parks and Recreation Department, and the Senior Ozaukee Softball Committee.

LEAGUE RULES

I. The Grafton Parks and Recreation rules and the ASA softball rules will apply for all competition except where special league rules would apply. See following.

A. Player Participation

1. Registration is required: name, address, age, phone number for office records. A fee is required for participation in softball. An accident waiver will be signed at the time of registration.
2. Age limit – A player must be 55 years of age or older by June 15th in order to be eligible to participate that season.
3. Any player may choose to bat only and not play defensively, or play defensively and not bat. Any player unhurt who bats, but later chooses not to bat will be an out.

B. Managers

1. Managers will be selected prior to league play. Managers will designate an assistant to manage the team in the manager's absence.
2. Managers are to substitute players so that all team members are given the opportunity to play at least three (3) innings of each game. Free defensive substitutions are permitted, meaning a player may return to a game defensively.
3. It will also be the manager's responsibility to field a minimum of seven (7) players for a game. If less than seven (7) players are available for a game; that team will forfeit the game to its opponent and a scrub game may be played.

C. Team Rosters

1. Roster size is determined by number of players signed up for that season. Thirteen or fourteen players per team are a workable number. Players wishing to join teams after league play begins will be assigned to teams by the executive committee, if space is available.
2. A minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of eleven (11) players will constitute a fielded team.
 - a. If a team has 9 players to play in the field, the manager may select a player who has been drafted at the same level or lower than his highest player on the roster who cannot play. (Highest defined as the first selected in the draft).

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- b. If a team has 8 players to play in the field, the manager may select two players. His first choice can be any player drafted at the same level or lower than his highest player on the roster who cannot play. His second choice must be someone who was drafted number six (6) or lower.
- c. If a team has 7 players to play in the field, the manager may select 3 players. His first choice can be any player drafted at the same level or lower than his highest player on the roster who cannot play. His second choice must be someone who was drafted number 6 or lower. His third choice must be someone who was drafted number 9 or lower.
- d. If only ten (10) players are available, play with ten (10).
- e. Managers to meet prior to game to confirm substitutions.

D. Batting

1. Any two (2) combination of strikes (called or swinging) will be ruled an out. Three (3) called balls will be ruled a walk.
2. Bunting or chopping is not allowed. A full swing is required.
4. All players on a team will bat throughout the game.
5. Only ASA approved bats are permitted.

E. Pitching

1. The type of ball to be used in league play will be selected by the committee.
2. Ball delivery by the pitcher must be underhand with an arc or not less than six (6) feet, nor more than twelve (12) feet above ground.
3. The pitching rubber will be fifty (50) feet from home plate. Pitcher may deliver pitch from rubber or up to six (6) feet behind it.

F. Base Running

1. Base lengths are sixty (60) feet.
2. Sliding is not allowed. A player will be out if he slides.
3. Plays at any base will be treated as force-outs. It is not necessary to tag a runner at any base. However, situations may arise in which a fielder can tag the runner for the out in which case tagging the runner is permissible. Every effort should be made to avoid the undue hard tag so that injury will be avoided. Exception: Tagging is not permitted at home plate.
4. If a runner runs into a fielder who is attempting a play on the ball, at any base, the runner is out, and could be removed from game if determined to be intentional by umpire. A runner should make every effort possible to avoid contact with a fielder.
5. A player may not leave the base until the pitched ball touches the ground, reaches home plate, or is batted. Exception: Runner will not be ruled out for leaving base if batter strikes out.
6. A runner attempting to score may not touch nor cross home plate but must touch the second home plate located 10 feet outside of original.

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7. A pinch runner is permissible, but must be requested by the runner. The pinch runner must be the last batter not on base. Exception: If this player normally does not run, then the previous last batter will become the pinch runner. A pinch runner may only run once per inning.
8. A player may over-run or go past without touching any base to avoid a collision provided there is no motion to advance. If a player does make a motion to advance, or is caught in a pickle, he must be tagged out. (Exception: Runner crossing commit line need not be tagged).
9. A commit line will be established up the 3rd base foul line, 20 feet from home plate. Any runner crossing this line may not return to 3rd base.
10. It is permissible for a runner to advance to the next base without going back to touch a missed base if the miss was due to avoiding contact with another player.
11. An outfielder cannot throw a batter/runner out at first base. (A short center fielder playing on the grass is an outfielder). If a batted ball touches the outfield grass the batter is awarded first base.
12. A chalk line will be placed at second base to aid umpire.

G. Official Game

1. An official game consists of seven (7) innings. In the event of a tie, after seven innings, an eighth inning will be played to break tie. To start 8th inning, the last player to make out in the 7th inning will take 2nd base. No pinch runner is permitted. The next scheduled batter will lead off the 8th inning.
2. No time limit (the one hour limit is eliminated).
3. If the team losing by 15 runs has batted in the 5th or 6th inning the game ends.
4. Five (5) runs maximum per inning (Except last inning). Also in the last inning, if the visiting team gets a 15 run lead, they stop batting.

H. Miscellaneous

1. Abusive language or behavior by a player toward an umpire shall be cause for the player's ejection from the game. Only managers may discuss/protest an umpire's decision. The umpire's decision will be final.
2. In the event of an intentional violation of the rules by a player, he becomes subject to a one game suspension and placed on probation as to be determined by the Senior Softball Committee.
3. When a team is up to bat, only the batter, the on-deck batter, and the first and third base coaches are allowed on the field. All other players must remain in the dugout.
4. In case of questionable weather, you may call the Grafton Parks and Recreation Department between 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at 262-375-5310. If the game is called before 3:30 p.m., managers will inform their respective players. However, if the rain begins after 3:30 p.m., the teams that play at 6:00 p.m. may have to go to the field to check.

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5. If temperature is 90 degrees or higher at 5 p.m., the game will be rescheduled. (Official thermometer at Bob Sehmer's home).
6. Any player that has played in the league at least 10 years and retires from play will be invited, along with their spouse, to the annual banquet.
7. In the event that a player becomes injured during the course of the ball game, he may be removed from the line-up without penalty and he cannot re-enter the game.

Important footnote: This rule is intended for a truly injured player and must never be used as a "loop hole" late in the game to allow a "better" hitter to replace the scheduled hitter

8. No metal spikes.

I. Playoffs

1. In the event of a tie for first place at the end of the season, applicable teams will play one game for the championship.