



**HOWELL AREA PARKS &
RECREATION
AUTHORITY**

925 W. Grand River, Howell MI 48843
Office: 517-546-0693 Fax: 517-546-6018

Adult Co-Ed Softball League Rules

1. **Rules of Play:**
 - a. The League will operate according to official co-ed, slow-pitch softball rules.
(See below for further explanation of rules.)
 - b. Each game shall consist of seven innings of play. Games will be terminated at the end of the 5th inning if a team is ahead by 15 or more runs. Playoff games must go the full seven innings.
 - c. Free Substitution - A player may leave the game and be reinstated into the lineup. A player removed from the game must stay out at least one complete inning. The substitute who enters the game must compete for at least one complete inning. If a player is substituted in the middle of the inning he/she must finish that inning (fielding/batting) and play a the next complete inning (fielding and batting), unless an injury is occurred. If a player is reinstated, he/she cannot bat sooner than he/she would have if they had remained in the game.
 - d. There are no designated hitters.
2. **Team Size:** Eight players are necessary to play a game. Any team with less than eight players will forfeit the game to the opposing team. Ten (10) players will constitute a full team. There cannot be more males than females on the field during a game. It is possible to play with 4 males and 4, 5, or 6 females, or 5 males and 5 females. Also the outfield positions can not have more than two men.
3. **Equipment:**
 - a. Each team will provide its own equipment for play, except for game balls.
 - b. All bat handles should be taped or have a protective grip.
 - c. No metal spikes are permitted. Players are allowed to wear either rubber or plastic spikes.
 - d. Players should remove all jewelry before playing.
 - e. Batting helmets are recommended for all teams.
 - f. Teams are responsible for supplying their own game books.

SCORE SHEETS ARE TO BE TURNED IN TO THE REC. DEPT. BY MONDAY FOLLOWING THE GAME.

This can be through e-mail to cgalatis@ci.howell.mi.us , faxing score sheets to 517-546-6018, or by dropping them off at the Bennett Recreation Center located at 925 W. Grand River.

4. **First Aid:** Each team is responsible for having a first aid kit at all games. This kit should contain ice-packs, bandages, water or rubbing alcohol to clean cuts, and any other necessary supplies.
5. **Umpires:** The Howell Area Recreation Authority will provide the official umpire for each game. His/her decision on all matters pertaining to the playing of the game will be final. The umpire and the captains before the start of the game will establish ground rules. Teams will pay the official prior to the game.
6. **Sportsmanship:** Coaches are responsible at all times for the conduct and attitude of their players and fans. They are expected to set a positive example. The Howell Area Recreation Authority reserves the right to dismiss a coach or player if he or she does not set a good example.
7. **Rainouts:** Decisions to cancel a game due to the weather will be made by the Howell Area Recreation Authority by 4:00 PM. The coach is responsible for calling the Howell Area Recreation Authority after this time to inquire on the status of their game. In the event of wet grounds, the umpire or league director will decide if the field is playable. If the game is not canceled at 4:00 PM, all teams must arrive at the diamond ready to play the game. You can call our weather hotline after 4:00pm at (517) 546-0693 ext. 7770
8. **Forfeits:** Each team will pay a forfeit deposit of \$48.00 before their first game. This deposit is covering the umpire expenses for both teams. Failure of a team to appear at the appointed time and place will constitute a forfeit of the game. A grace period of ten (10) minutes will be allowed before the game is forfeited. The Howell Area Recreation Authority reserves the right to drop a team from the schedule after it has forfeited twice.
9. **Scorekeeper:** The HOME team must bring at least one extra person to act as the official scorekeeper for each game. All results **MUST** be submitted to the Howell Area Recreation Authority by the first Wed. following the game. (Failure to report accurate scores on time may result in lower seeds at the league tournament.)
10. **Smoking:** There is no smoking allowed on Howell Public School property.
11. **Additional Explanation of Co-Ed Rules:**
 - a. There must be at least four (4) females on the field at all times. A female must be either the pitcher or the catcher, and a male must be whatever the female is not. There must be two (2) other females in the infield (3 bases or shortstop) at all times. There must be two (2) females in the outfield.
 - b. Batting order shall alternate sexes. If a team is playing with more females than males, they are allowed to bat two (2) females in a row.
 - c. If a female is injured or thrown out of a game, and there is no female to replace her, the position must remain un-filled and her spot in the batting order shall be counted as an out. A male does not have to come out of the game to make the game even (male/female) in this instance.

- d. Under no condition is a runner permitted to steal a base when a pitched ball is not batted. The runner must return to his/her base. Base runners may leave their base when a pitched ball is batted or reaches home plate, but must return to that base immediately after each pitch that is not hit by the batter. In other words, there is no base stealing or lead-offs.
- e. When the umpire has called four balls, the ball is dead. On any walk to a male hitter, (intentional or not) the next batter, a female, has her choice of walking or hitting until she steps into the batter's box.
- f. The batter is out if the third strike is a foul ball.
- g. There is no bunting or chopped swings allowed.
- h. A pitch must reach a height of at least six (6) feet. It will be called as a ball if it does not reach that height.
- i. Each batter will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count

12. Tournament Play:

Up to an eight (8) team league will be established. Each team will play against all other teams once. The final season record will determine the tournament seed of each team. If there is a tie (record wise) or there is a "round robin" situation, the team with the highest run total through out the year will be awarded the higher seed. (See attached tournament sheet for details.) **NEW: Teams will pay the umpire for all Tournament Games.**

13. Time Limits:

First games of the evening should begin at approximately 6:00pm. Games may last no longer than 1 hour and ten minutes. No inning will be started within 5 minutes of the time limit. The second game of the evening should begin at approximately 7:00pm and the third game should begin at 8:10p.m.

14. 1 Up Home Run Rule:

Your team may only hit 1 more home run than your opponent. (Example: Team "A" hits a home run. Team "A" may not hit another home run until team "B" hits a home run. Team "B" could hit two home runs in a row as team "A" was up a home run to start; Team "B" could not hit three in a row as this would make them two home runs ahead of team "A").