



## 2021 ADULT SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES

*Revised 6/1/21*

The Waterford Parks and Recreation Department and the League Supervisor reserve the right to rule on any matter not expressly covered by the rules listed below or A.S.A. Rules. Managers are responsible for reading and knowing the contents of these rules.

### ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department Adult Slow Pitch League.

### ARTICLE II - OBJECT

Promote and conduct amateur softball contest for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of the players and for the furtherance of clean sportsmanship and kindly understanding between the teams involved.

### ARTICLE III - MANAGEMENT - PLAYING RULES

This organization and all games shall be governed by the official A.S.A. Softball Rules, except as modified by M.D.A.S.A. and M.R.P.A. for conditions of the state, and/or the Parks and Recreation Department for conditions of the Township of Waterford.

### ARTICLE IV - TEAM REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY / PRIORITY

All amateur teams are eligible to enter. A system of priority is established to control preference and right of teams when it pertains to league registration. The system of priority is as follows:

2021 SUMMER LEAGUES	2021 FALL LEAGUES
<p><b>First Priority Teams = Returning 2019 Waterford Fall League Teams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have <u>51%</u> of their summer roster. Does not matter who the sponsor was.</li> <li>• Must submit entry fee before set deadline.</li> <li>• Must be in good “standing” with this department.</li> </ul> <p><b>Second Priority Teams = Returning 2020 Waterford Summer/Fall League Teams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If openings exist after first priority has ended. Teams must have <u>51%</u> of their fall roster. Does not matter who the sponsor was.</li> <li>• Must submit entry fee before deadline.</li> <li>• Must be in “good standing” with this department.</li> <li>• Teams may choose the night(s) they want to play, if openings exist.</li> <li>• Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.</li> </ul>	<p><b>First Priority Teams = Returning 2020 Waterford Summer/Fall League Teams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have <u>51%</u> of their fall roster. Does not matter who the sponsor was.</li> <li>• Must submit entry fee before set deadline.</li> <li>• Must be in good “standing” with this department.</li> </ul> <p><b>Second Priority Teams = Returning 2021 Waterford Summer League Teams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If openings exist after first priority has ended. Teams must have <u>51%</u> of their summer roster. Does not matter who the sponsor was.</li> <li>• Must submit entry fee before deadline.</li> <li>• Must be in “good standing” with this department</li> <li>• . Teams may choose the night(s) they want to play, if openings exist.</li> <li>• Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Third Priority Teams (IF OPENINGS EXIST) = NEW TEAMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teams who <u>did not</u> play in Waterford in the 2020-21 summer/fall seasons OR teams who played in Waterford but do not have 51% of its players returning.</li> <li>• Teams must submit a roster when registering.</li> <li>• Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.</li> </ul>	

- A. Teams who do not register by their priority deadline lose their priority status and will be placed in a division at the discretion of the League Supervisor.
- B. Any team who won their division in the summer/fall and claims they do not have 51% of their roster returning must submit a copy of their roster when registering and will be considered a third priority team.

- C. Teams are responsible to give correct information to this office when registering. The information provided to us is what we will use in future correspondence. If incorrect information is provided and a team is placed in the wrong division, we will make every effort to place that team in the correct division. However, this may not always be possible. It is up to each team to provide us with up-to-date accurate information.
- D. **Teams attending the Mandatory Coaches Meeting will start the season with one win, teams not attending will start the season with one loss.**

#### **ARTICLE V - DIVISION PLACEMENT**

- A. Any returning teams who won their division (not playoffs) **two years** in a row and has 51% of their players returning **must move up a division** if one exists.
- B. **There are no guarantees returning teams will be placed in the division they played in the previous year. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to adjust teams from one division to another to promote competitive play. If an upper and lower division is deemed necessary due to the number of teams, then consideration will be given to where teams finished the previous year as well as the competitiveness of the league, which they played in. New teams will be placed in divisions after returning teams have been placed. Teams finishing with a 500 record may be forced to move up a division depending on the competitiveness of their division. Consideration will not be given on the basis that team composition is not the same as the previous year.**
- C. **The Softball League Supervisor's decision on team placement is final.**
- D. **Once schedules have been completed, if team requests a refund, it will only be given if a replacement team can be found.**

#### **ARTICLE VI - OUTSIDE COMPETITION**

Teams entering the league shall be allowed to play games with outside sanction or unsanctioned clubs. However, **league games have preference and must be played as scheduled.**

#### **ARTICLE VII – PLAYERS**

**Each season players must sign a NEW player waiver. Players can not carry over their player waiver from the summer to the fall season. If a player is playing on more than one team during any given season, they must fill out a waiver for each team they are playing with and appear on each team's roster.**

##### A. Eligibility

1. The number of players per team shall not exceed 20 at any time. When a team has 20 players under contract, a player must be released before another can be signed. Each team must have a minimum of 12 players signed up.
2. Age requirements: All players must have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to play.
3. A player may compete in two slow pitch leagues run through the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department.
  - a. Players must fill out a player waiver with each team.
4. No two teams may have more than three (3) players in common on their roster.
5. No player that is currently on suspension from M.D.A.S.A., M.A.S.A. or U.S.S.S.A. will be allowed to participate in a Waterford Slow Pitch League until his/her suspension is lifted.
6. To prevent forfeits, we strongly encourage you to fill your team roster to the maximum 20 players.
7. You may play on more than one team on any given day but if you are playing on two teams in the same division, at playoffs you may only play on one team. You cannot play on both during the playoffs.
8. For each team that you play on or sub for you must be on the roster and have a waiver form turned into the Recreation Office.
9. Lower division teams may have a maximum of 2 men and/or 2 women from teams in divisions above them listed on their roster. These may be regular players or substitutes. Again, players must be on the roster and have a waiver filled out and turned in at the Recreation Office for each team that they play for. These will NOT be accepted at the field

##### B. Waivers and Team Rosters

1. Due before **first scheduled game** and **must be turned in at the Recreation Office, 5200 Civic Center Dr, Waterford, MI 48329 or emailed for Joe Okaiye at [Jokaiye@waterfordmi.gov](mailto:Jokaiye@waterfordmi.gov)**. Teams must submit a completed roster, minimum of 12 players listed with completed waivers for those 12 players.
  - a. **Team rosters and waivers will only be accepted at the Recreation Office or emailed to Joe Okaiye at [Jokaiye@waterfordmi.gov](mailto:Jokaiye@waterfordmi.gov). No rosters or waivers will be accepted or taken at parks by the field supervisor.** Teams and players can turn in forms up until 4:30 p.m. the day of their game, except Sunday Coed teams, who must have roster and waivers turned in the Friday prior to their first game to be eligible to play. Rosters or waivers not in office by day of game or the Friday prior to the first game for Sunday Coed will **not** be considered acceptable.
  - b. Failure to turn in the minimum 12 waivers will result in forfeiture of first game and the team will be suspended from playing until the minimum 12 waivers have been turned in.
  - c. Falsification of information on a waiver will result in a 2 game suspension from all adult softball programs.

C. Player Additions

1. The player will be eligible to play as soon as he/she signs and turns in a waiver to the Recreation Office and is added to the team's roster.
2. **Players may not be added to roster after the fourth week of the season (third week for fall)**, with the following exception:

*To avoid games being forfeited due to not having enough players, the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department is allowing teams to add players to their team throughout the season provided the following:*

1. *A team is only adding player(s) because they do not have 8 players at game time.*
2. *Team managers agree at the pre game meeting that it is OK to have player(s) added.*
3. *Player(s) being added must fill out a waiver form and turn in to the Park Supervisor before stepping onto the field.*

\*\*\*\*Teams may NOT add players if they can field a legal line-up at game time.

D. Player Releases

1. To release or to become released an official release form provided by the Parks and Recreation Department must be signed by the manager. The player must also return all club property in his possession and be in good financial standing with the team from which he is released.
2. Any player appearing ready to play in three consecutive games and is not used in any of the three games may demand his release from the manager.
3. Releases will become valid and complete when received by the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. The third week of the season is the last day a player may be released from a team.

E. Player Transfers

1. A signed player must obtain a release from one team before he/she may sign with another.
2. Players who were absent from games, which caused a team to forfeit from the league, will not be eligible to transfer to any other team during the current season.
3. Players who were present for their team at forfeited games, and their team has forfeited out of the league, those have the right to sign with any team. **Note: This rule is not valid after signing deadlines.**

F. Protesting a Player's Eligibility

1. **Protest must be made verbally to umpire(s) before last pitch of the game. No protest will be accepted after completion of game. Protesting team must clearly indicate to umpire(s) which player(s) they are protesting. Umpires will inform the Park Supervisor of the protest and player(s) who are being protested.**
  - a. **Umpire(s) will ask protested player(s) to produce picture identification to either himself/herself or a Parks and Recreation official. Picture identification must include at least one (1) of the following:**
    - birth date
    - license number

- **home address**

**If they can not, the player(s) will have (2) working days to provide picture identification to the Parks and Recreation office. A copy of their picture ID will be made and shown to the protesting team for identification of player(s). If player(s) in question are found to be illegal, the game will be forfeited.**

2. The Park Supervisor will send a game report to the Recreation Supervisor the next working day. Umpires will submit a written game report to the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department within 48 hours. The League Director or Recreation Supervisor will determine whether to accept or deny the protest based on information provided.
3. If the protest is denied, the protesting team can request an official protest hearing before a protest board and the board's **decision will be final**. **The protesting must file a formal protest with the Recreation Office no later than 4:30 p.m. the following working day accompanied by a \$50.00 per player protest fee. The players being protested must be the same players that were told to the umpires the night of the protested game. Teams cannot change their protest once it has been given to the umpire.**
4. Penalties for using an ineligible player:
  - a. The team manager (person listed on schedule as manager or person acting on their behalf if the listed manager is not at that game) will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) games. The suspension will be served only with the team he/she was suspended from. Suspensions will carry over to the next season or year.
  - b. A win will be given to the opponent for the game that was legally protested.

## ARTICLE VIII - THE GAME

### A. Other Playing Rules

1. Bases have been moved to 70 feet for all leagues.
2. The pitchers mound will remain at 50 feet, however, due to safety concerns, you will be allowed to pitch from an imaginary 6 foot box beginning at the 50 foot mound and extending 6 feet back.
3. **The first dozen of balls will be provided by Waterford Township Parks and Recreation and will be given out at the managers meeting. Additional balls/sets will be available for purchase at the managers meeting, or at the office. There will be single ball sales at the parks if available.**
  - a. **Balls to be used:**
    - **Men: Yellow 12 inch Trump Stote .52 core 300 compression**
    - **Women: Yellow 11 inch .44 core 375 compression**
    - **Coed: Yellow 12 inch Trump .52 core 300 compression and 11 inch .44 core 375 compression**
  - b. **NO ROCK OR EVIL BALLS WILL BE ALLOWED!**
  - c. **Any back-up softballs used during games must be the same specifications listed above and have a legible core and compression printed on them (Trump Store .52 core 300 compression for Men's and Trump Stote .44 core .375 compression)**
4. At the pre-game conference each team must:
  - a. **Pay one umpire \$15.00 before the start of the game. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game.**
  - b. If a team forfeits, neither umpire is to be paid. Umpires will be paid by the Parks and Recreation Department. The forfeiting team will need to pay a \$30.00 forfeit fee at the Recreation Office before their next game or they will continue to forfeit games until the fee is paid.
5. **Courtesy Runner** Men: Last out made shall be courtesy runner – can only be used **once** in an inning. Coed: Teams may use 1 male and 1 female per inning. Women: Last out made shall be courtesy runner – can only be used **once** in an inning. However, Additional courtesy runners may be used if decided to do so at the pre-game discussion with the umpire. Players needing this “courtesy” should be indicated at this time. If there is no agreement, rule reverts back to rule stated above for the men.
6. Batting team is responsible for returning into play softballs that have been batted or thrown out-of-play.

7. **Time Limit - International Tie Breaker** - All games tied at time limit will start with the I.T.B. at the next full inning, starting 5<sup>th</sup> inning or less. No new inning shall start after the game has progressed one hour regardless of the number of innings played. **The only exception being as follows:**
  - a. **Tie game at time limit - The last out made becomes runner on second base to start extra inning. Each ½ inning starts with one out. The game will continue until one team has scored more runs than other team in their half of the inning or before the third out is made.**
  - b. **ONLY TWO ADDITIONAL INNINGS SHALL BE PLAYED IF A GAME ENDS IN A TIE. Exception: During playoffs, game will be played until a team wins.**
8. **Mercy Rule** - A game shall be terminated and deemed complete when one team is leading another team by 20 runs at the end of three (3) innings, fifteen (15) runs after four (4) innings, or 10 runs after five (5) innings.
9. **Equipment**
  - a. No metal spikes may be worn. Players must wear soft or hard rubber cleats or tennis shoes.
  - b. Casts, exposed jewelry: such as wrist watches, bracelets, large or hoop type earrings and neck chains or any other item judged dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game.
  - c. **Bat Testing** We reserve the right to perform random bat testing throughout the season. If a tested bat is found to be illegal, it will be taken out of the game and returned to the player following the conclusion of the game.
  - d. All bats must have the ASA STAMP OF APPROVAL stamped on it in order to be used. Bats made before 1999 that have been approved by ASA will be allowed to be used.
10. Any player who throws the bat in a careless manner is subject to immediate ejection.
11. **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER/EXTRA PLAYERS:** A legal line-up **may** consist of any/all players who are present at the start of the game. Anyone in the line-up is eligible to play defense in any position during the game as long as no more than 10 play defense at any given time. Once a line-up has been made, and the game has begun, it must be followed throughout the game. **EXCEPTION:** If a team began the game with less than 10 people, they may add players **only until there are 10 in the line-up** as soon as they arrive. Additional players may come into the game only if substituting for a player already in the line-up. Teams will NOT be penalized for playing with less than 10 players. Coed teams starting with less than 10 players should plan their line-up accordingly (SEE BELOW B, 3)
12. **Second game of double header league will start 5 minutes after 3<sup>rd</sup> out of first game.**
13. If the first game of a double header is a forfeit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> game will start 30 minutes after umpire declares the first game a forfeit.
14. Each batter will inherit a one ball and one strike count.
15. Each batter will be allowed (**one extra**) foul ball after two strikes.
16. **HOME RUN RULE:** Teams will be allowed a total of **six (6) home runs per game.** After a team has hit **six (6) home runs, the ball is dead the batter is out and no runners can advance. This rule will be in effect for all leagues.** If a ball hits a player's glove and goes over the fence for a home run, this will **not** count toward the team's **six (6) home runs.** Players do **not** have to run the bases after hitting a home run.
17. During coed games outfielders must remain at least 25' from the infield when a player on the opposing team is at bat. Infield is defined by where the grass from the outfield meets the infield dirt.
18. Upon the completion of a game, both managers need to verify the score on the scorecard and sign the scorecard. If the umpire forgets to ask you to do this, it is your responsibility to ask for the card. In the event of an error on the scorecard, you will have 2 weeks from the date of the game to notify the League Director of the error. After that the score will stand. The only way to overturn the score is if both teams have kept an accurate scorebook and both scorebooks are brought to either the League Director or the Umpire in Chief.
19. Game time is forfeit time. The game will start at the scheduled time or 5 minutes after the completion of the previous game.
20. If a team starts the game with 8 or 9 players, there will be no "out" issued for the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order. This team is at a disadvantage defensively and will not be penalized further.

B. Important A.S.A. Rules

1. **Rule 2, Section 3, H – FIRST BASE**

The double base is approved for use at first base. Half the base is white (over fair territory) and half is orange or green (over foul territory). A batted ball hitting the white portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting the colored portion is declared foul. On extra base hits or balls to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter -runner may touch the white or colored portion.

2. **Rule 4, Section 5 – RE-ENTRY**

- a. Any player, may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up.
- b. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time.
- c. If a player re-enters the game a second time or a player re-enters the game in a position in the batting order other than their original starting or substitute position, this is considered an illegal re-entry.

3. **Rule 4, Section C, 3 - COED LINE UP**

4. Teams must alternate male and female batters in the batting order. If a team begins the game with less than 10 players, but are expecting more to arrive, they should plan accordingly in the line-up for the addition of these players so that the order will continue to alternate male, female. Any/all players present at the start of the game **may** be placed in the line-up however, at no time may a team play defense with more males than females. There will be no penalty for two females batting back to back but an out will be given (between batters) if two males bat back to back. Teams may always play defense with more females than males but are not allowed to play defense with more males than females.

C. Game Forfeiture

1. A game will be forfeited as a result of:

- a. A team's failure to appear for any scheduled game. Game time is forfeit time.
- b. Team not having eight (8) players at game time.
- c. Teams may add 9<sup>th</sup> and/or 10<sup>th</sup> players (offensive & defensive) at the end of any half-inning. Players must be placed in the last positions in the batting order.
- d. After the game begins a team falling below eight (8) players will forfeit the game. A team may finish with eight (8), nine (9) or ten (10) players due to injury, illness, emergency or an ejection, but will be forced to take an out(s) each time the player(s) that left the game are scheduled to bat. **At no time shall a team be allowed to play with seven (7) players.**
- e. Attempting to or conspiring to lose or prolong a game.
- f. A team whose game is declared forfeited by the umpire due to unwillingness to play by its players, manager, or sponsor shall have all its players, managers, and sponsors automatically suspended from all recreational activities sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department for an indefinite period of time.
- g. If a team forfeits, neither umpire is to be paid. Umpire will be paid by the Parks and Recreation Department. The forfeiting team will need to pay a \$30.00 forfeit fee at the Recreation Office before their next game or they will continue to forfeit games until the fee is paid.

D. Game Rescheduling

1. A team may reschedule a game if they know in advance if their team cannot make a scheduled game. The manager must contact the opposing team to agree on a new time and date for the rescheduled game. In addition, the new date and time must be approved by the Waterford Parks and Recreation Supervisor. These steps need to be completed 48 hours prior to the scheduled game. Failure to complete the appropriate steps 48 hours prior to the scheduled game will result in a forfeit.

E. Protests

1. Protests that shall be received and considered concern matters of the following types:
  - a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
  - b. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
  - c. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.

2. The notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch. *Exception: Player eligibility - see Article VII, F.*
3. A manager or acting manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being conducted under protest. An official written protest must be filed with the Parks and Recreation Department no later than 4:30p.m. The following working day and must be accompanied by a \$50.00 check, cash or money order made payable to Waterford Parks & Recreation.
  - a. The official written protest should contain the following information:
    1. The date, time, and location of the game.
    2. The names of the umpires. The rule and section of the official A.S.A. Rule(s) or local rule(s), under which the protest is made.
    3. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
    4. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
4. The Protest Board, appointed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, will rule on the protest within fourteen (14) days of the protested game.
5. Any team failing to have a representative at the pre-season **Mandatory Coaches Meeting** will **lose** the right to protest in **any** softball game.

#### E. Ejections

1. A player has **two minutes** to leave the park with the game being suspended until player leaves (time clock will be stopped only if opposing team is behind). Umpire will give a two-minute warning for ejection and player will leave. Ejected players or coaches/managers that have been asked to leave have two minutes to leave the park. If player is not gone by warning time that team will forfeit the game - no debate. Park Supervisor also has right to eject a player and the same two-minute warning is in effect. **'Leaving the park' means outside of the front gate by the two-minute deadline.** Managers will be responsible for player conduct. **Exception:** Player and coach ejected for violating re-entry rule may stay but not in dugout or coaching bases.
2. Penalty for ejections will be as follows:
  - a. **FIRST EJECTION OF THE SEASON:** Suspended one day/night of play.
  - b. **SECOND EJECTION OF THE SEASON:** Suspended additional days/night of play.
  - c. **THIRD EJECTION OF THE SEASON:** Season ending suspension. Player may request a reinstatement hearing.

These suspensions are the minimum number of games a player, coach or manager can be suspended for. Further action may be taken if necessary. Players ejected from a game will be ejected for the remainder of the game or games for the day/night of play

3. Any two game suspension will be served with the player's team he/she received the suspension with. Any suspensions greater than 2 games, will be served with **all** teams that player is registered with. (Players with suspensions greater than 2 games will be unable to participate in any Waterford adult softball league game until he/she has completed serving the suspension from the team that he/she was suspended from.)
4. **Season Ending Suspensions**

Any person ejected from a game for any of the infractions listed below (A,B,C,D,E,F), that person will be suspended for the **remainder of the season**. The ejected person must submit in writing, to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a reinstatement hearing, but not until a **six game (three game for fall leagues)** automatic suspension has been served. The Board will review and make a recommendation. All suspensions will carry over to the next season. These suspensions are the **minimum number** of games a player, coach or manager can be suspended for. Further action may be taken if necessary.

  - a. If directing threats toward another player, umpire or park supervisor.
  - b. Refusing to leave the premises after being ejected (plus forfeiture of game).
  - c. Returning onto field after being ejected or directing any remarks toward an umpire or park supervisor from the bleachers, parking lot or playing area.
  - d. Throwing a bat in anger, even if only into the fence.

- e. If fighting with or directing physical violence toward another player, umpire or park supervisor
- f. Third ejection of season.

F. Rain Outs – The rain out number is 248-618-7670

***On days when it is or has been raining, the Parks and Recreation Department shall put a game status update on the rain out recording at 5:00 p.m., this will give us time to inspect the fields and if possible get them ready for play. After 5:00 p.m., teams are required to show up at the park unless otherwise notified by this department or by calling the rain out number for a game status update. After 5:00 p.m. games will be called off at the park by the League Director, field supervisor or umpires. The rain out recording will be updated throughout the evening. We will make every attempt to play the games as scheduled. Sunday Coed teams should check the rain out number 1 hour before game time.***

**G. ZERO TOLERANCE PROFANITY / CONDUCT POLICY**

- a. Profane language and improper behavior will not tolerated by the umpires or park supervisors. The use of profane language or improper behavior during a game will result in the following action being taken:
  - 1. **DURING GAME:** Any player, coach or manager determined by the umpire (in his or her opinion) to be using profane language or displaying improper behavior (behavior that a reasonable person would not display) will be **ejected** from the game with **NO** warning given.
  - 2. **BENCH WARNING:** If profane language is heard coming from a team's bench and the individual cannot be identified, a bench warning will be issued. If it happens a second time, and the individual cannot be identified, the manager/coach will be ejected. If the manager/coach is not a participant in the game at the time of the ejection a player in the game must be taken out of the game and not allowed to return or be replaced in the lineup. An out will be taken each time the player taken out of the lineup is scheduled to bat. Once a player has been ejected, the length of suspension will be as follows:
    - a. **FIRST EJECTION OF THE SEASON:** Suspended one day/night of play.
    - b. **SECOND EJECTION OF THE SEASON:** Suspended additional days/night of play.
    - c. **THIRD EJECTION OF THE SEASON:** Season ending suspension. Player may request a reinstatement hearing.
  - 3. Players will also be subject to suspensions if before/after a game they harass an umpire or park supervisor.
    - a. Any bench personnel entering the playing field to show objection to the umpire's call shall be subject to ejection.

**H. Umpires**

- 1. Are sub-contracted employees of the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department.
- 2. They are to be A.S.A. registered.
- 3. They are to be paid cash before the start of each game.
- 4. They are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.
- 5. They will be subject to review if a complaint is filed against them.
- 6. They will be subject to review if it is brought to the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department's attention that they are abusing their authority.
- 7. They will be suspended or released if found to be conducting themselves in a less than professional manner.
- 8. The Umpire in Chief will schedule all umpires for league play and review their umpiring during the course of the season.

**ARTICLE IX- PLAYOFFS (SPECIAL RULES)**

- A. Format - All teams will participate in single game elimination playoffs. Playoff games will **only** be rescheduled due to cancellation caused by inclement weather. Games will be played according to schedule.
- B. Eligibility - In order to participate in league playoffs a player must have turned in a waiver and appear on a team roster before the deadline to add players has expired.
- C. Time Limits - There will be a **one hour** time limit for playoff games with the exception of the championship game, which will be played to completion.



- D. Mercy Rule - Same rule as applies to regular season with the exception of the championship game, which will have a twelve (12) run mercy after five (5) innings.
- E. Ejections - Any individual ejected from a playoff game will not be allowed to participate in any further playoff games. Only player eligibility can be protested during playoffs.
- F. Umpires – The umpire will be paid \$15.00 by each team prior to the start of each game including play-offs. Two umpires will be used in the Championship game and each team will be required to pay each umpire \$15.00 prior to the beginning of the game.
- G. Teams must provide new softballs for all playoff games.
- H. Playoff Procedures
  - 1. The Recreation Department will decide playoff procedures or systems of determining league winners at the end of the regular league schedule.
  - 2. Teams tied for League Championship: no playoff game to decide winner. Winner will be determined by head to head season competition or if still tied, teams who had the **least** amount of runs scored against them between tied teams during head to head play will prevail. Next would be most runs scored (as above).
  - 3. Ties for positions other than 1<sup>st</sup> place will be determined as follows:
    - a. See Playoff Procedure Rule H-2.

#### **ARTICLE X - AWARDS**

- A. T-shirts will be given to teams who are named league and/or playoff champions (If multiple divisions are formed). The maximum number of t-shirts per team is twenty.

#### **ARTICLE XI - PARKS AND RECREATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The umpires and park supervisors are the representatives of the Parks and Recreation Department, and officially in charge of the game and park. They are in authority over the players, managers, coaches, batboys, sponsors, and spectators in enforcement of legal rules and regulations.
- B. The Township of Waterford, Parks and Recreation Department, team sponsors, and team managers shall not be responsible for any injuries sustained by any members of the teams.

#### **ARTICLE XII - PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Only a duly designated team captain or the team manager is allowed to discuss with the umpire and interpretation of a rule. The identity of the team captain shall be made known by the manager preceding a game.
- B. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the parks.** Any players or managers discovered drinking will be immediately suspended indefinitely. Any team who has a player ejected for drinking will be given a written warning. If players are caught drinking again and suspended, the team will also be suspended for their next two (2) games.
- C. All the program participants must recognize that softball can be a potentially dangerous sport and that injuries are common. Players must acknowledge that certain equipment, such as bases, fences and backstops are part of the playing field and are not intended to be moveable. These structures should be approached with caution.
- D. Players, coaches, managers or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, officials, or spectators; or commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
- E. There will be no more than two coaches for each team to give words or signals of assistance and direction to the members of their team while at bat. One should be stationed near first base and the other near third base. Each coach must remain in these designated areas.

#### **ARTICLE XIII - MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT**

- A. Responsible for all above Players Responsibilities and Conduct and the following items:
  - 1. Sponsor's property (signed release cards will be evidence that sponsor's property has been returned).
  - 2. Conduct and appearance of players.

3. The enforcement of the rules and regulations of the Parks and Recreation Department and conduct of players under contract with their respective teams.
4. The filing of protest for his/her team.
5. Team fans.

#### **ARTICLE XIV - PRACTICE DIAMONDS**

- A. Due to the heavy game schedules on the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department fields, we **cannot** guarantee that teams will be able to practice on our fields.

#### **ARTICLE XV - SCHEDULED GAMES AND MAKE-UP GAMES**

- A. Teams will be scheduled to play a certain amount of games depending on the leagues they are in. This does not mean teams will play all games scheduled. If weather conditions dictate the cancellation of several nights of ball games and because of time, we cannot make every game up, some games that will have **no** bearing on the playoffs may not be made up. Games with playoff ramifications will be made up first and if time allows, other rainout games may be made up.
- B. Rained out games will be made up as soon as possible during the season if time permits. After the season has ended, two (2) weeks will be set aside for make up games that have a bearing on the playoffs. Games will be made up on the same nights teams play during the season. **If divisions have more than two (2) rainouts during the season, they may be forced to play make-up games on the two (2) weekends following the last week of play. Men will play on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon/evening. Women and Coed will play on Sunday afternoon or evening. These teams may also have their make-up games scheduled on another week night in order to get games in before playoffs are played.**
- C. **Games will be scheduled at the convenience of the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department and must be played when scheduled.**

#### **ARTICLE XVI - WEATHER CONDITION POLICY**

Games will be suspended by the umpire or park supervisor for the following reasons:

- A. Lighting has been seen and/or thunder has been heard. Each time additional lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the minimum 30-minute waiting period should be reset (ASA Guidelines).
- B. A tornado warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. Tornado or severe thunderstorm siren signals an immediate cancellation of the activity. If shelter is provided for all participants, they should be directed there immediately. If no shelter is available, participants should evacuate the area.
- C. A thunderstorm warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. We will monitor the weather conditions during the evening and if the National Weather Service has ended it's warning, games will continue, if not they will be made up at a later time if possible.
- D. Waterford Parks and Recreation Department Heat Index Policy will be followed.