

**RIDGEFIELD PARK BOARD OF RECREATION
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL RULES**

1. **FIELD SIZE:** 45 feet to pitchers mound (46 feet is rule book – ASA)
60 feet between bases
2. **BALL:** 12 inch regulation softball (white or optic yellow Dudley 12" ball)
COR of the softballs should be .47 or .44 (not .50)
(Not the red stitched ball, not the 11inch small ball)
3. **GAME TIME:** See printed league schedule for game times (8:15 p.m.)
 - 3.1 Forfeit time is 15 minutes after scheduled game time (8:30 p.m.)
 - 3.2 Each team will be permitted to forfeit one game for which the league will pay the umpire. Any additional forfeits by a team will result in that team having to pay the umpire. That team cannot play any additional games until the umpire fee has been paid. Games not played by that team will not be made up and will result in forfeit wins for that team's opponents. If a team forfeits four games, it cannot participate in the playoffs that season.
4. **INNINGS:** Full game: Seven innings
Official game: four and a half innings if home team is ahead; five full innings if visitors are ahead. **REGULAR OR PLAYOFF GAMES**
 - 4.1 12 run mercy rule: The game will end when the losing team is down by 12 or more runs any time after 5 innings have been completed and the home team has had its opportunity to bat last.
Example: visitors go ahead by 14 runs in the top of the 6th inning – home team gets to bat in bottom of 6th before the game may be ended.
 - 4.2 Games not completed due to darkness or weather conditions will be official if 4-1/2 innings have been played and the home team is ahead or five full innings if the visitors are ahead. The score reverts back to last full inning played if game is called during the 6th or 7th innings due to weather or darkness. If 4-1/2 innings have not been played (home team ahead), then the game will be rescheduled. The league will play the ASA rule book rule, which is 4.5 or 5 full innings for both regular season games and playoff games.
No special deviations for playoffs.
 - 4.3 In regards to any lightning situation, the rule is very clear. As soon as lightning is seen or thunder is heard by the umpire, the game is IMMEDIATELY suspended for 30 minutes. Each new time lightning strikes or thunder sounds, a new 30 minutes of waiting begins. This is solely the umpire's decision.
5. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS:**
 - On Defense: Minimum of 9 on the field, maximum of 10 on the field
 - On Offense: Minimum of 9 batters (see below) Maximum unlimited.

PLAYERS MUST PLAY IN AT LEAST SEVEN REGULAR SEASON GAMES IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN PLAYOFFS. PLAYERS CANNOT BE ADDED AFTER MAY 1. MAY 1st IS THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR ADD-ONS.

1) Both teams must email both line-ups after every game (within one week at latest) to the current Registrar who will make sure players have participated in seven regular season games prior to the playoffs. If both line-ups are not turned in within one week, you will not receive credit for that game. Line-ups must be handed in on a timely basis to the Registrar. Teams have one week to turn in both line-ups for every game.

(2010 Registrar: Diane Maglione catmag1217@msn.com)

- 5.1A If your team loses a batter in the line up when the team is batting ten or fewer, then that position in the batting order will be an automatic out, unless you have a batter to put in that spot.
- 5.1B If your team is batting 11 or more players then every player after that missing batter will just move up a spot, and the team will not have to take an out. If you have a batter to put into that spot, you can do that.
- 5.1C Once a player is removed from the batting order, that player is now OUT of the game. She may return to the line up once more during the game, but must return to her original spot in the batting order.
- 5.1D Batting out of order is an automatic out if the other team catches the batter out of order infraction BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH IS THROWN.
- 5.1E If the coach or statistician from the team you're playing requests your line-up, you must submit your line-up and make them aware of any changes you made in your line-up during the game.
- 5.1F If you make a change in your line-up during the game, you must let the umpire and the other team know about this change.
- 5.1G A batter with two strikes will be out if she fouls off another pitch. This is called "The Third Strike Rule."

6. PITCHING:

- 6.1 Slow pitch rules to be followed with the following exception: Pitching Arc will be 3 feet to 8 feet from the ground. There must be a perceptible arc – no modified fast pitching.
- 6.2 An illegal pitch (12 feet high or completely flat for example) will be called by the umpire while the pitch is in flight – loud enough for batter and catcher to hear. The pitch is an automatic ball if the batter doesn't swing. If she chooses to swing anyway, she gets whatever results from that swing (examples: home run, pop out, strike, etc.)
- 6.3 There is no limit on the number of illegal pitches that may be thrown during a game.

7. BASERUNNERS:

- 7.1 Baserunners may not leave the base until the ball crosses home plate. If a runner leaves early, the umpire will call that runner out (no warnings).
- 7.2 A base runner may not crash into a fielder who is making a play on a batted ball. Base runners may run around the fielder, slide, stop, run back to the last base or be tagged out. Crashing into a legal fielder playing the ball or holding the thrown ball is unsportsmanlike behavior. Baserunner is called out on that play for interference. Base runner **MAY** be ejected from game as well, depending on severity of crash (umpire's judgment).
- 7.3 Courtesy Runners: If a courtesy runner (or two of them) is required, the opposing coach and umpire are to be made aware of that prior to the start of

the game (unless an injury obviously occurs during the game). Courtesy runner is the player who made the last out.

7.4 There is no stealing, bunting or chopping down on a pitched ball.

8. OVERTHROWS:

ASA rules: runners are awarded two bases from the base they last touched when the **throw was released from the fielder's hand**.

Note: Time may be called by any fielder as long as the ball is being held by a fielder while she is in the infield. It doesn't have to be the pitcher in the pitching circle. Runners must immediately return to last base occupied after umpire calls time out. Umpire will not call time out if a runner (or runners) is on the run. So a fielder cannot make a runner return to a base when the runner is making a legal attempt for the next base. The umpire's judgment must be used in this situation. Once the umpire calls time – the ball is dead – all runners must be at a base or return to the last base she legally touched if she is off base and just standing when umpire calls time out.

9. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

Fighting will not be tolerated. A two game suspension will be imposed (meaning that game plus two full additional games). A second offense at any future time will result in expulsion from the league.

FURTHER CLARIFICATION:

#1) Any deliberate, physical hitting of an opposing team member by a player or a team's coach/manager or any team personnel should result in a 2 game suspension. This means the game the incident happened **AND** the next two additional full games.

*****(The incident MUST be written up by the umpire and sent to the umpiring Association right away. The umpire shall also call the Association that night with a preliminary report.)*****

#2) For behavior that is deemed by the umpire to be unsportsmanlike towards the umpire or anyone involved in the game (verbal abuse, gestures, etc.), the punishment is ejection from THAT game **and** ONE additional full game immediately following the game in which the ejection happened. If a player, manager or anyone on the team bench (scorekeeper, etc.) is ejected from a game for abusive language or gestures towards an umpire or another player or team personnel, that player/coach/team personnel will leave the grounds within 60 seconds of the ejection and remain out of sight (parking lot) for the remainder of that game. The ejected person will be automatically suspended from the next (one) game. Should the same person be ejected a second time during a season, the automatic suspension shall be the 2 games immediately following the game where the ejection occurred.

Any ejected person who approaches an umpire after the game in which that person was ejected (ex: come after the umpire in the parking lot after the game to continue, etc.) will be suspended **2 full games** (not just the one game the ejected person already has earned.)

#3) If a player crashes into another player who is holding the ball trying to make a play, that crashing player is called out on the play, and is ejected from that game only. The only addition to this #3 would be if the player then did not leave the field within 60 seconds of her ejection for crashing (and move to the parking lot for the remainder of that game.) If she continues to remain past 60 seconds after the umpire orders her to leave the playing area and continues with some additional unsporting behavior, THEN the additional punishment of a one game suspension (next game) can and should be levied on that player.

THE GAME IN WHICH THE PLAYER WAS EJECTED DOES NOT COUNT AS ONE OF THE SUSPENDED GAMES. SUSPENSION BEGINS AT THE NEXT GAME PLAYED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXPULSION EVEN IF IT A PLAYOFF GAME.

9.1 A player that is suspended twice in one season (for non-fighting, abusive behavior) will be expelled from the league for the rest of the current season and all of the following season.

- 9.2 Consumption of alcoholic beverages in the field area is prohibited – by league rule and Village ordinance.
- 9.3 Bat throwing:
careless throw – results in a team warning, next infraction the player is ejected from that game only.
Deliberate throwing of the bat – immediate ejection and two game suspension.
- 9.4 Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players and fans.
- 9.5 Teams involved in an ejection must notify the Board of Recreation secretary by email immediately after the game that the ejection occurred.

10. EQUIPMENT:

Only bats that are ASA approved may be used. See ASA website.

Team uniform shirts must be worn – **no exceptions**.

Catchers must wear masks. **If any injury occurs while a player is catching, she may not be fully covered by Village insurance if she chooses not to wear the catcher's protective gear.**

Home team must supply bases and game ball.

No metal spikes are to be worn. Umpires will check prior to start of game and player will be asked to remove spikes or be ejected from game.

One coach at a time in coach's box at first and at third base.

No smoking on the team benches, field area, coach's boxes, etc.

11. PLAYOFFS:

Only top six teams that followed all rules will make the playoffs. First and second place teams will get a bye in the opening round.

Players must play in at least seven regular season games in order to be eligible to play in playoffs.

Playoffs will be held as best of 2 out of 3 games.

Registrar will keep track of who is eligible to participate in playoffs.

Only teams that complied with all Board of Recreation rules will be eligible to participate in playoffs – **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

- 12. Fields are at a premium! You must play when scheduled.

RAIN DATES: In the event of a rain out, games will be rescheduled in the order in which they were cancelled. Teams will be given a rain date and if team is not available (for any reason), then that team must forfeit the game. Scheduling conflicts, vacations, unable to field a team, etc., are not a reason to cancel a game. If a rain date is available, games will be scheduled. If at the end of the season not all rain dates are able to be made up in order for the playoffs to continue on a timely basis, then a point system will be assigned to those games. Playoffs will start on time in order for the season to move along. A schedule will be issued prior to the start of the season allowing for specific rain dates, which will be adhered to by all teams.

There will be no cancelling of games unless there are extenuating circumstances (not a simple scheduling conflict), which must be agreed upon in advance by the Board. If a team plays in more than one league, they must decide which game they will forfeit as there will be no scheduling changes due to game conflicts. Games must be played as scheduled in order for the playoffs to start on time.

- 13. Park lights must be out at 10:00 P.M.
- 14. According to Village ordinances, please remember this is an alcohol and dog-free park.

15. Safety and sportsmanship are the main priority of the Ridgefield Park Board of Recreation. Please conduct yourselves accordingly!

If there are any questions concerning the league, please contact:
Board of Recreation (201) 641-4950 ext. 610 or the Board of Recreation Secretary at
BarbaraDeLuca@msn.com who will pass along your concerns to the entire Board for a reply.

Rules Last Revised 2010 after 1/27/10 meeting with all teams