

ONALASKA PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MEN'S SOFTBALL - Thursday Nights
2024 LEAGUE RULES - Revised 05-02-24

A. Player Eligibility Requirements

1. All participants must complete and sign the Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement before they will be allowed to participate in the league.
2. All participants must meet one of the following resident requirements:
 - A. Reside within the corporate city limits of Onalaska.
 - B. If you reside outside the corporate city limits, you are considered a Non-resident..
3. All user fees must be paid before an individual will be allowed to participate.
4. All participants must be 18 years of age or a graduating high school senior.

B. Team Roster Requirements

1. Teams will be not be limited to the number of players on a roster (only 13 receive awards if it applies)
2. Teams are not limited to the number of non-residents on the roster.
3. A completed "Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement" / this is your roster, must be submitted to the Recreation Department by **May 9, 2024**. This is considered your roster.
4. **Any subs after May 9, must be added to the roster.** The Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement are on file in the Recreation Office and at the fields.
5. Rosters shall be frozen after **July 11, 2024**
6. **Players for the playoffs must be on the "Player Waiver Agreement / Roster" by **July 11, 2024**.**
7. **Players are allowed to be on only one roster. Players cannot be on an "A" roster and a "B" roster or two "A" rosters or two "B" rosters.**
8. **Players are not allowed to switch teams once the season has started unless the original team's manager gives written approval and submits it to the Park and Recreation Office. Switch must be made before **June 27, 2024**.**
9. All players must be on the team's official "Player Waiver Agreement" 24 hours prior to taking part in a game. Any player who knowingly falsifies the Player Waiver, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement will be suspended from the program he is participating in for a three (3) week period. Any further falsification of player contracts by any member of the same team will result in the suspension of all individuals on said team for a three (3) years period from any activity sponsored by the Onalaska Park and Recreation Department.

C. Game Requirements

1. **League play begins Thursday, May 9, 2024.**
2. Teams must give a twenty-four (24) hour notice prior to the scheduled game if they are unable to field a team. Games will be ruled a forfeit by the team which is unable to field a team. The Park and Recreation Department must be notified.
3. Only personnel involved in the game will be allowed on the player benches. This will include players, scorekeepers and sponsors. Teams are not allowed to have bat boys/girls.
4. **This rule will be enforced – Players, managers, coaches or any person on the bench are prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages during the game in any part of the play area (benches, bleachers, parking lots etc.).** If the umpire sees a player, manager, coach or any person on the bench consuming alcohol on the bench or leaving the bench area to consume alcohol, that individual will be automatically ejected from the game. The umpire also has the right to refuse a player from playing or may disqualify a player if he feels the player is intoxicated and may cause harm to himself or another individual.
5. **Profanity / Foul Language Rule** – The use of any profanity will not be tolerated at any volume level or under any circumstances. If a player uses profanity while on the hitting team, that player will be automatically ruled out and the next hitter will also be ruled out. If the player using profanity is already the third out, the first hitter up in the next inning will be ruled out as well. If the player using profanity is in the field, the first hitter on their team when that team comes up to hit, will be instantly ruled out and will not hit.
6. **No player/manager/bench personnel may leave the dugout and come out to the field to argue a call. The player/manager/bench personnel will be automatically ejected.**
7. All team managers must submit, to the umpire, a line up card containing the full names of all players participating in each game, prior to the start of each game.

8. One umpire will be provided for each game. The umpire will keep the scorecard up to date at all times. In the event an umpire does not arrive for the game, managers have the option to either call the game or select a substitute umpire. Both managers must agree to this before the start of the game.
9. All games shall be seven (7) innings or 55-minute limit from start of game. **No new inning will be started after 55 minutes.** However, once a new inning begins and time expires, that inning must be completed.
 9. A. A game that is suspended after 5 innings are played (4 ½ innings if home team is ahead) shall be ruled a complete game. The final score of a game that is suspended during the 6th or 7th inning will be based upon the last complete inning played. A game that is suspended before 5 innings are played (4 ½ innings if home team is ahead) shall be declared a cancelled game. If the game needs to be rescheduled the game will start over.
 9. B. **Games that are tied after seven (7) innings have been played and the time limit has expired, will be allowed to continue for up to 2 extra innings.**
10. **Mercy Run Rule:** The game shall end if one team is ahead by 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings or 12 runs after 5 or 6 innings.
11. The two-strike rule will be used for all games. Any combination of two (2) strikes (called, swinging and fouls) the batter will be called out.
12. If the second strike is a foul ball and is caught, runners on base may advance with the risk of being put out.
13. Three (3) balls shall constitute a walk.
14. Home plate and the blackmat extending behind home plate shall constitute the strike zone. If the catcher touches the ball before it hits the ground it is an automatic ball.
15. There may be up to ten (10) players on the field. If a team has a player(s) ejected from a game and that team drops below eight (8) players on the field, the game is instantly ruled a forfeit, and game will end, regardless of score. A team having less than eight players to start a game will automatically forfeit the game and the game will not be played. Games will start at scheduled game time or immediately after previous game had ended. Eight (8) players must be at field by the end of the previous game, **not on the way to field.**
16. A player who starts the game, may leave the game and re-enter in the same position occupied in the batting order. A player who does not start the game may enter and leave the game and re-enter so long as he occupies the same position in the batting order. If a player leaves the game twice, he will not be allowed to re-enter the game again. Umpires must be notified of all substitutions.
17. Umpires decisions are **FINAL**. No Appeals/ protest allowed.
18. Pitching regulations shall be as follows: (50 ft. Pitching Distance)
 - A. **Jimmy Olson East & West Fields**—The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of 6 feet from the ground to a limited height of twelve (12) feet.
 - B. The pitcher shall take a position with BOTH feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with the pitchers plate. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitchers plate throughout the delivery. Both the pivot and non-pivot foot must be within the length of the pitchers plate when on the ground or on the pitchers plate.
19. **The official ball for this league shall be an A.S.A. approved 12” optic covered softball. The ball must have the ASA logo, have a cor. of .52 and compression ratio not to exceed 300.** Legal softballs include: A.D. Star, Anaconda, Champro, Diamond, Dudley, deBeer, Worth
20. **Each team will hit their own ball.**
21. Games will be canceled in case of bad weather or poor field conditions. Individuals may call the department’s information hotline number 608-791-0833 or go to the City’s website: www.cityofalaska.com, go to “Park and Recreation” to check if games have been canceled. Managers will not be contacted. Rainouts will be decided between 4:30pm – 6:00pm. If games are canceled or poor field conditions develop after 5:00pm please show up at site. Umpires will decide if fields are playable. Umpires decisions are final.
22. Cancelled games will be made up at the end of the season if only if time allows. Cancelled games will be made up in the order (according to date) that they were cancelled.
23. Steel spikes are **not** allowed.
24. All teams will be required to run on and off the field.
25. Bases:
 - A. **Base distance: 70ft.**
 - B. A runner cannot leave base until there is contact between the **bat and ball** of a pitched ball, otherwise the runner will be called out.
 - C. **Double First Base:** When using the double first base, the following will apply: a batted ball hitting any part of the white portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting the colored

portion is declared foul. Whenever a play is being made on the batter/runner, the fielder must use the white portion and the batter/runner must use the colored portion. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double first base, the batter/runner may touch the white or colored portion of the base. Should the batter/runner return, he must use the white portion. When tagging up on a fly ball, the white portion must be used.

26. **Runner must AVOID CONTACT on all close plays at ALL BASES.** A runner that does not avoid contact on a close play, will be called out. *It is the runners responsibility to avoid contact.* Any runner that intentionally or unnecessarily collides with a fielder shall be called out. No roll slides allowed at any base. A runner cannot run over the catcher or fielder. Fielders/Catchers cannot obstruct a runner unless in possession of the ball and attempting to make a putout, or in position and have a reasonable chance to receive a thrown ball. (Umpires discretion)
27. Unlimited Batting Order: This rule will incorporated as follows;
- A. Use of this rule is optional for each team. Teams must decide before each game whether they will use the rule or not. Once a team elects to, they must use it for the entire game.
 - B. Teams must designate ten (10) defensive players within their batting order. They need not be the first 10 players listed in the order.
 - C. Once a game begins, the number of positions in the batting order remain constant for the whole game, with the following exceptions: teams which begin play with eight (8) or nine (9) players may add late coming players to their line-ups in the ninth and tenth batting positions and said players may enter the field of play. Once the number of batters reaches the total of ten (10), no players coming late may be added to the batting order. Late coming players may be used as substitutes for the game.
 - D. If managers list all of their players in the batting order and a player is injured, no penalty will be assessed. It is the umpire's decision whether a player is injured. If a player is ejected with no substitute to replace that player an out will be assessed each time that player is to bat after the ejection.
 - E. Teams may choose to bat any number of players desired over the minimum allowed. Example: if 14 players come, you could choose to bat 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14 players. If 12 batted, two could be used as substitutes.
 - F. Those players who are listed as designated batters may enter the defensive field of play at any time; the batting order may not be altered. A designated batter entering the defensive field of play is considered as a position switch.
28. **A limit of six (6) over the fence home runs will be allowed. All balls hit over the fence by a team in excess of the limit of six will be ruled an out.**
29. As of 2020!!! **A courtesy runner** may be utilized **only once per team at bat (1/2 inning)** for a base runner. The courtesy runner can be any eligible player (a player in the game or a sub) that is not coming up to bat.
30. All rules shall be in accordance with USA Softball Official Rules of Softball for 2024 unless otherwise amended by the league rules.
31. **On a hit foul ball that does not go above the batters head and is caught, will be ruled an out. In most cases this will be a ticked foul ball that goes back to the catcher and is caught.**

D. **Umpires**

- 1. Umpires jurisdiction begins when he/she arrives at site and ends when he/she leaves the site.
- 2. Umpires have final jurisdiction over the following;
 - A. Cancellation of game at site.
 - B. Removal / ejection at site of player, forfeits of games.
 - C. Official game time.
 - D. Regulation balls and bats.
 - E. All judgement calls (balls/ strikes, safe/ outs)

E. **Equipment**

- 1. The ball must be a 12" optic covered, must have the ASA marking, have a COR of .52 and a compression ratio of 300. ***Each team will hit their own balls.***
- 2. Bats that are approved by the ASA will be allowed. **Bats must bear either the ASA 2000 Certification Mark, the ASA 2004 Certification Mark or the ASA 2014 Certification Mark.** However any bat made of or containing titanium will not be allowed. A complete list of banned bats is available at the Park and Recreation Office, on the city website or visit the USA Softball website: www.teamusa.org
- 3. **If an "altered bat" is found in the dugout, and no player confesses to the ownership of the bat, all players can be ejected, and any of the players can face a suspension up to three years.**

F. **League Standings.**

1. Standings are based on winning percentage.
2. If teams have the same winning percentage, the tiebreaker will be head to head winner. If teams split head to head games, the tiebreaker will be the least total runs given up in the games played against the opponent with the same winning percentage.
3. If no game was played between teams, a tie will be declared.
4. If more than 3 teams tie, the tiebreaker will be the total least runs given up during the season.
5. Playoff champions will receive champion t-shirts (up to 13) from the Park and Recreation Department.

G. **Player Conduct Guidelines**

1. Player and managers will conduct themselves decently at all times. **Players are prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages during the game in any part of the play area (benches, bleachers, parking lots etc.).** Drinking is prohibited on the field and on the player's benches at all times. This includes players, managers, coaches or any person on the benches. **The umpire has the right to refuse a player from playing or may disqualify a player if he feels the player is intoxicated and may cause harm to himself or another individual.** Abuse of this rule may also result in the termination of the game (umpire's discretion).
2. Foul language/swearing directed toward an umpire will not be tolerated. The player/person/teams involved will be immediately ejected from the game and required to leave the park. If ejected parties do not leave the park, the game will be stopped and officially ruled a forfeit.
3. **AS OF 2018!!! If a player or manager is ejected, the umpire may also eject another player or the manager at his/her discretion.**
4. A team, player or players who persist to make a game a "farce/joke" through deliberate actions deemed inappropriate for adult play (game delays, pranks, lack of hustle, throwing of equipment etc.) may be ejected from the game.
5. Players who have repeated violations of the rules and fail to exhibit a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship will be banished from the league for the remainder of the season. Any players ejected from a game must leave the park for the remainder of the day/night and will serve a suspension.
6. Any player ejected during the last game of the season shall serve the suspension at the beginning of the following year.
7. **Players ejected from a game shall be suspended from league play for two games (next scheduled played games). Players being ejected from 2 games during the course of the season shall be suspended from the league for the remainder of the year.**
8. Players may be suspended from play for un-sportsmanlike conduct displayed before a game or after the game is completed. Players will be suspended for two games
9. Any player who physically attacks/ strikes or attempts to strike a game official or umpire, will automatically be barred from further play in this league or any other league sponsored by the Recreation Department, for a 2 to 5 year period from time/ date of the incident. The Park and Recreation Department will establish penalty period. This includes but not limited to: spitting, hitting umpire with bill of cap or other equipment, tapping umpire with finger, pushing, kicking or throwing dirt at umpire. A repeated offense after suspension is served will result in player/ players being barred permanently from this league or any other league sponsored by the Onalaska Park and Recreation Department.
10. Players and managers shall refrain from expressing inappropriate sexual, racial or discriminatory gestures, actions or comments towards other players, park and recreation staff (umpires/referees, site supervisors, coaches), school district personnel, etc.
11. Players and managers shall refrain from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature toward park and recreation staff (umpires/referees, site supervisors, coaches), school district personnel, etc.
12. Players and managers shall refrain from harassment is any verbal, written, visual or physical act that creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive environment or interferes with any park and recreation staffs (umpires/referees, site supervisors, coaches), school district personnel, e job performance.
13. Players and managers shall refrain from hostile environment or harassment by players or outside vendors in which an employee cannot perform their job without feeling uncomfortable, harassed or threatened.
14. The Park and Recreation Department also reserve the right to make decisions that it deems necessary to maintain the integrity of the program.