



LEAGUE WEBSITE:
<http://www.cityofdover.com/departments/parks/leagues/>

WEATHER LINE:
(302) 736-7155

REPORTING SCORES:
(302)736-7050

2016 SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS

1. NAME
The League shall be known as The City of Dover Slowpitch Softball League.
2. ORGANIZATION
The City of Dover, Sports Coordinator, hereafter referred to as the Director will preside over the League and his decision is final.
3. BEGINNING DATE
League Play will begin Tuesday, April 26, 2016.
4. WARM UP PERIOD
Prior to the first game the field will be available to both teams for open practice. Managers must **clear players from the field** and submit their lineups to the umpire by 6:40 p.m. No formal infield, outfield or batting practice is to be taken between first & second or second & third games.
5. BETWEEN INNINGS
Following the first inning the pitcher is allowed only one pitch between innings, unless it is a new pitcher entering the position.
6. DURING INNINGS
The ball is **not** to be thrown around the infield or outfield following an out.
7. STARTING GAMES
Early games will begin at **6:45 p.m. without "grace" period**. Teams playing the second game must be present and ready to play at **7:45 p.m.** Teams playing the third game, when scheduled, must be present and ready to play at **8:45 p.m.**
8. LINE-UP CARDS
Line-up cards in triplicate are supplied by the City of Dover Parks & Recreation and are to be used for each game. The original goes to the umpire and a copy to each team. Player's first initial and last name, as well uniform numbers, must be used on the line-up card. Line-up cards must be printed legibly and match the name listed on the team's official roster. *No nicknames*. If the Director cannot determine a player's name, that player will not receive credit for the game played.

When making substitutions, it is the managers' responsibility, at the time of substitution, to confirm that the umpire has recorded the substitution on HIS line-up card. If the umpire has not recorded the substitution the player will not be credited for a game played.
9. POSTPONEMENT
No game may be postponed by anyone other than the Director, his representative, or the chief umpire. Games can be called off by the Director or his representative due to wet grounds not later than 6:15 p.m. If not called off by the Director or his representative, **BOTH TEAMS MUST REPORT** for a decision by the chief umpire at the starting time. It is the chief umpire's decision after 6:15 p.m. **Postponements or relocations decided before 4:45 p.m. will be announced on the Parks & Recreation Department's Weather Line at 736-7155 and posted on the City website. Anyone signed up for RainedOut will receive instant notification on their cell phone.**

10. RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- A. The Director will be responsible for the rescheduling of games. **Games may be rescheduled on weekdays other than your regularly scheduled league nights.** Once 24 hours of notification has been given by posting on the City of Dover website, a forfeit will be issued to teams unable to field a team.
- B. All rescheduled game dates will be listed on the City website, no other notification will be made.
- C. Weekend of July 23 - 24 has been reserved for mandatory make-up days if needed. Games on the above dates will be scheduled by the Director as he deems necessary. Forfeits will be issued to teams unable to field a team.

11. GAME BALLS

The official game ball for the league will be ASA approved MSP 52 core ball with 300 compression. This ball must be used in all league games. The Home team will provide one new and one acceptable official game ball to the chief umpire at the start of each game.

12. ROSTERS

Each team will submit their official (typed or printed) player roster to the Director on or before the announced date of April 18, 2016. After rosters have been submitted to the Director, a team may drop players from and/or add players to their roster on the following dates: **May 16-17, 2016.** These are the only dates a player may change from one team to another without the managers' approval. There will be a second add date on **June 14, 2016.** A maximum of two (2) players may be added to your roster at this time; however teams may not drop players. Team rosters must not exceed the maximum limit. Any player who has been listed on a 2015 City of Dover Parks and Recreation Softball Northern or Southern roster is not eligible to be added.

No player can play with more than one team in the league. He shall be considered a member of the team on which he plays **first.** Rosters must show first and last name of all players and not exceed twenty (20) names.

All rosters will be posted on the City of Dover website. It will be the responsibility of the team managers to confirm that their roster posted on the league website is correct. If managers do not have internet accessibility it is their responsibility to delegate to someone on their team who does.

The recommended age for participation in the softball program is 18 years by the start of the season. Players under eighteen (18) years must provide parental approval to the City of Dover Parks and Recreation Department. No players under the age of 16 will be permitted.

Eligibility for play in the City of Dover Parks & Recreation League does not guarantee eligibility in state tournament competition. Please consult your State Tournament Chairman for specific requirements.

13. PAYING PLAYERS

No player shall be paid in any form for playing in the league.

14. UNIFORMS

All players on a team shall wear uniform shirts that are alike in color. Numbers at least six inches high must be on the front or back of all uniform shirts. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers. Managers can appeal any opposing player who is out of uniform. Managers must make the appeal the first time the player in question comes to bat. If the appeal is upheld, that player will be automatically "out". That player may then complete the game without further penalty for being out of uniform. Mandatory Uniform Rule will be enforced beginning **May 12, 2016.**

15. PLACE OF PLAY

All games shall be played at the officially designated City of Dover fields.

16. CONDUCT

Each team manager shall be responsible for the conduct of his players at all times.

- A.1. Player(s) will be ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct (physical or verbal abuse of a player, verbal abuse of an official, or any situation that the official deems unsportsmanlike). Ejected player(s) will automatically be suspended for the next scheduled league game. **Additional suspensions may be given at the Directors discretion.**

- A.2. Any player ejected a second time within one year of the previous ejection will be suspended for the next two (2) scheduled league games. **Additional suspensions may be given at the Directors discretion.**
- A.3. A third ejection within one year of the first ejection will result in expulsion from all City of Dover Parks & Recreation and Kent County Church leagues for at least a one year period from the date of the most current ejection. **Additional suspensions may be given at the Directors discretion.**
- B. Any player(s) who verbally harasses an official or staff member after a game or during suspension will be suspended for three (3) weeks from all City of Dover Parks & Recreation and Kent County Church League softball games from the date of the infraction. **Additional suspensions may be given at the Directors discretion.**
- C. Physical abuse, during or after a game, of an official or staff member will result in expulsion of that player(s) from **all** City of Dover Parks & Recreation Leagues for at least a one-year period. **The Director will review any other actions felt to be detrimental to the League. Players, groups of players, and/or entire teams will be suspended from League play if necessary.**

NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED ON PREMISES There will be no alcoholic beverages permitted on any of the playing fields, spectator areas, or parking areas before, during, or after play. The drinking of alcoholic beverages on City property violates an existing City ordinance that will be strictly enforced by City officials. Any violations of this rule will be reviewed as described above. In addition, detection (smell) of any intoxicants on any player could result in immediate ejection from the game by the umpire.

17. CONTROL OF BENCH

Players, managers, and one scorekeeper are the **only** persons allowed on the players' bench during games.

18. FEES

- A. Franchise Fee: Each team will deposit a franchise fee, set by the Director, payable to the City of Dover for the purpose of League operating expenses. The City of Dover will be given the responsibility of paying expenses incurred by the League for umpires, certain equipment, electricity, and other authorized expenses.
- B. Forfeit Fee: If a team forfeits a game, that team must pay thirty dollars (\$30.00) to the City of Dover Parks & Recreation Department before it can continue to participate in the League. Any team that forfeits more than two games is subject to expulsion from the league.
- C. Breakage Fee: Each team is responsible for any and all League equipment. The Director will assess any team or teams responsible for the loss or breakage of equipment accordingly, with the necessary replacement costs being charged to that team. Failure to pay this charge will result in suspension from the League.

PLEASE REPORT DAMAGED OR MISSING EQUIPMENT TO THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

19. PROTEST

Any protest must be made to the umpire at the point of play and submitted in writing to the Director within twenty-four (24) hours of the game protested. The written protest must contain the following information:

- A. The date, time, and place of the game.
- B. The names of the umpires and scorers.
- C. The rule and section of the official rules or local rules under which the protest is made.
- D. The information, details, and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest.
- E. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.

The Director will review the protest and rule on it within ten (10) days of the date received. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the written protest to the City of Dover Parks and Recreation. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the fee shall be forfeited to the City of Dover and used for operating expenses. All rules governing protest other than those stated above shall be those outlined in the Official ASA Rule Book.

20. REPORTING GAMES

The **winning** team **must** report the score to the Parks and Recreation Office by 9:00 a.m. of the day following the game.

21. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITY

The Home team is required:

- A. To provide game balls.
- B. Home team of the last scheduled game on each field must turn off the lights immediately after game. **Non compliance will result in a fine.**

22. OFFICIAL RULES

ASA Slowpitch Softball Rules will be used unless amended by the League By-Laws.

23. RULE BOOK AMENDMENTS

- A. (Rule 4. Players & Substitutes) A team must have the required number of players present to start or continue a game. 1. Change to - Nine (9) men may start a game; no less than eight (8) men may finish a game.
- B. If a player is injured and removed from the game and the team has no substitute, each time the player is scheduled to bat, his turn shall be skipped with NO PENALTY. If a player is injured, cannot run the bases, and is removed from the game, then the player who made the last out will complete the base running for him.
- C. If a player is ejected from the game and the team has no substitute, each time the player is scheduled at bat, and his turn shall be recorded as an OUT.
- D. Run Ahead Rule: Twenty (20) after four innings or fifteen (15) after five innings.
- E. All batters will start with a one and one count at the plate. The third strike foul will remain an "out" with one courtesy foul.
- F. Home Run Rule:
Teams will use the one up Home Run rule. (No team can advance further than one home run ahead of it's opponent at any point during the game.) Any home run beyond this limit will be penalized as an "out".
NOTE: All home runs are "walk off"; bases need not and will not be run.
- G. A Stop Time/Curfew is in effect at the New Street ball field. All lights must be turned OFF by 10:15 p.m. No new inning after 10:00 p.m. Teams in violation of this policy may be suspended from the league.
- H. All bats must be approved by ASA or USSSA for Championship play in order to qualify for league play. ALL BATS ARE SUBJECT TO RANDOM TESTING CONDUCTED BY CITY OF DOVER OFFICIALS.
- I. (Section 4.G, Base Stealing) All Divisions *WILL NOT* be following the ASA allowance of base stealing.
- J. Forfeits - All forfeits will be recorded as a 7 – 0 win for the team receiving the forfeit. The forfeiting team will receive a 30 -0 loss. This is for playoff tie-breaking purposes.

24. THE CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER

The continuous Batting Order is optional – either team may exercise their option to use or not to use the Continuous Batting Order. But when used:

- A. Teams **MUST** inform umpire **PRIOR** to start of game that the Continuous Batting Order will be used and may not change their option once the game starts.
- B. Teams may not add additional batters to the batting order once the game has started.
- C. Teams may not drop a player from the original batting order line up after the game starts, unless under the substitution rule.
- D. Teams may list up to 20 players in the Continuous Batting Order.
- E. Any 10 players in the Continuous Batting Order may play defense at any time. Change between "continuous hitters" and defensive position is not considered to be a substitution. Players must remain in the same position in the batting order throughout the game.
- F. The RE-ENTRY rule applies to all players listed in the Continuous Batting Order.
- G. When a void in the batting order is created due to a player being removed from the game, the manager must insert another player (under the substitution rule) in their place. If no player is available, an out will be declared each time that players' at bat occurs for the remainder of the game.
- H. If a batter/runner or runner is injured while on base and can not continue, and there are no legal substitutes, the

player who committed the previous out will become the runner. The injured runner may not return to the game and his/her spot in the lineup will become an out in all future at bats.

25. SEASON LEAGUE AWARDS

First and Second place regular season league trophies will be awarded.

26. ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYOFFS

Any player, to be eligible for the playoffs, must have played in at least five (5) games during the regular season for the team he intends to play for in said playoffs. **NOTE:** *It is the responsibility of the managers to follow their player's playoff eligibility on the league website. If managers do not have internet accessibility it is their responsibility to delegate to someone on their team who does.*

27. LEAGUE PLAYOFF PROCEDURE

All league regular season Champions will be determined through the following playoff procedure:

A. If, at the end of the regular season, teams should be tied in their League, the following steps will be taken to break the tie in lieu of playing extra games:]

- 1) Head to Head competition will be used to determine which team will take the higher or lower position in the standings.
- 2) If the teams have played an even amount of times and are still tied after *Step 1* the lowest amount of runs allowed during head to head competition will break the tie.

If the teams are still tied after *Step 2* the lowest amount of runs allowed during all regular season games will break the tie.

- 3) Coin Toss.

NOTE: If more than two (2) teams are tied, series records will be used, including head to head among series ties.

28. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS

The top four (4) regular season finishers will advance to a double elimination playoff tournament.

29. ASSUMPTION OF RISK

The City of Dover Parks and Recreation and its officers assume no responsibility for injuries to the members of any team holding a franchise in this league, no matter under what circumstances incurred and adoption of these rules by the team managers shall be the equivalent of full and lawful release and discharge of any claim that any members may have or that may arise in the future against any of the above-named for injury to their person or property.