

## **2016 FALL SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS**

1. **General** - The Northwest Ottawa Recreation Authority (NORA) is a cooperative program sponsored by the City of Grand Haven, Grand Haven Charter Township, Grand Haven Board of Education, City of Ferrysburg, Robinson Township, and is administered by the Board of Education. The activities are conducted for the residents of the Grand Haven Area Public School District consistent with the following principles.
  - a. NORA follows ASA rules with modifications.
  - b. The Recreation Authority reserves the right to restrict the participation of non-residents and make decisions of eligibility of all players.
  - c. Make decisions on all protests and disputes.
  - d. Has jurisdiction over questions that are not specifically covered by these rules and regulations.
  - e. Resident teams are defined as a team roster consisting of 75% or more resident players. Resident = Lives in GHAPS District Boundaries: GHCity, GH Twp., City of Ferrysburg, or Robinson Twp.
2. **Team and Player Eligibility** - Team player fee and roster with complete player information must be turned into the Recreation Office prior to team's first game or forfeit game(s). Players must be at least 16 years old.
  - a. **Player deadline** – new players may not be added to teams for the last two scheduled (2) games (Rule doesn't include rescheduled rainout games or extra scheduled games as part of the last 2 games). If teams were short players for those games, then they would need approval from the opposing manager on site.  
(Exception: player substitution from the stands agreed upon by both team managers).
  - b. **Teams** - rosters are limited to 20 players.
  - c. **Players** - player may play on more than one team, however, player cannot play for two teams on the same division league night.  
(Exception: player substitution from the stands agreed upon by both team managers).
  - d. **NO transfer of players allowed**, unless team dissolves.
  - e. **High School Students** - shall not violate the codes of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Those students participating on High School sport teams may play after season ends.
  - f. **Managers** - are responsible for player eligibility. All players must be listed on team roster. Rosters are available for inspection during office hours.
3. **Equipment**
  - a. **Uniforms** are not necessary.
  - b. **Balls** – game balls will be provided by league. Home team will provide game ball and visiting team is asked to provide back up ball. Ball specifications are to be used as follows: **All Leagues: 12" ball, COR 52/300 rating**
  - c. Additional COR 52/300 game softballs will be available for purchase at NORA for \$8 each.
  - d. **Illegal bats** are defined in the ASA Bat Certification Hand Out. **If player caught with illegal bat, the player will be called out.**
  - e. **Metal spikes** are not allowed. The liability of someone getting hurt by metal spikes is so great that they will not be tolerated.
  - f. **Proper team equipment** is the manager's responsibility.
  - g. **If a team is caught with metal spikes – Player is out for the game.**
4. **Games** - games will not be rescheduled for team convenience. Official ASA rules will govern with the following local rule exceptions:
  - a. **Number of players** - minimum of (9) players are required to start (or continue a game). If the required number of team members are not present, the game will be a forfeit. You may pick up a player from the stands (limit 2 players/game) vs. forfeiting the game, only if both managers agree prior to the start of the game. Players from the stands can be from the same division, but only if agreed by both managers prior to the game. Both managers must put the agreed players full name on the score sheet along with their signature. If both teams cannot agree, then game is still considered a forfeit. Game time is forfeit time. Umpires will not be required to work game that is a forfeit.
  - b. **Coed players** – Team must consist of at least 50% or more female players (at least 5 female players total). Minimum 2 female players on outfield and infield. Must have female pitcher or catcher. Teams may start the game and play with 9 on the field (4 female/5 male).
  - c. **Games** - will automatically end and are official if one team has a ten (10) run lead after 4 ½ innings with the home team ahead, or if one team is ahead by twenty (20) runs after 3 ½ innings with home team ahead.
  - d. **Rained Out Games** - games will be rescheduled with the game starting over. However, games will be official after 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead.
  - e. **Coed** - Only for Coed, a line will be placed on outfield at **180ft**. Outfielders must stay behind the line until batter swings, makes contact with the ball, or until it crosses home plate (both male and female). If the line is crossed, batter will take result of play or take 1<sup>st</sup> base. All runners will advance one base if forced.
  - f. **Time Limits** – Games limited to 1 hour. No new inning shall begin after 1 hour from start of game with game being official regardless of inning.
  - g. **Tied games** - if a game is tied, it may continue until tie is broken at end of complete inning. First game can continue within the 1-hour time limit until 9 innings, second game until darkness (exception: Mulligan's Hollow). Umpires time is official.
  - h. **Tie Breaker Rule** - If after the completion of seven (7) innings of play, the score is tied, the following tiebreaker rule will be played to determine a winning team. Starting the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter if time permitted, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning be placed on second base (ei., If the number five batter is the lead off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base). If the tie is not broken in the allotted time, then the tie game will be rescheduled only if it affects the team league standings for first place.

i. **Batter counts:** Men's and Co-ed are a 1-1 count on the batter. Batter will start with 1 ball, 1 strike count and allowed one grace foul on 3<sup>rd</sup> strike only.

j. **The Extra Hitter** - (EH) rule will not be in effect due to unlimited substitution rule. (See Unlimited Substitution Rule)

k. **Strikes:** \*REVISION FOR MEN'S & COED 2016: A pitched ball that hits home plate, and is at the appropriate height, will be called a strike.

l. **HOME RUN LIMIT=**

**Mens: 2 HOME RUN LIMIT.** When one team reaches 2 home runs they have to wait until the opposing team reaches 2 home runs before they are allowed another home run. If they do hit a home run before the opposing team hits 2 home runs the batter who hit the 3<sup>rd</sup> home run is out. Once each team reaches 2 home runs then it goes to 1 home run per team until the opposing team also hits 1 home run. If the team hits 2 home runs before the opposing team hits 1 home run the batter is considered out.

**Coed: 2 HOME RUN LIMIT.** One team hits 2 home runs, their next home run is considered an out until the opposing team hits 2 home runs and re-sets it.

**Coed: Run Limit per Inning-** 10 runs is the max scored by one team in an inning, until the last inning.

\*Fall Revision for 2014 for Coed and Men's - If a team has reached their home run limit in the bottom of the last inning of play, they ARE ALLOWED to go one up on the other team.

m. **MERCY RULE:** Mercy is 20 runs ahead after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, or 10 runs after 5 innings.

5. **Unlimited Substitution Rule -**

- a. **All players first and last names** must be listed in batting order for entire game.
- b. If a player comes late for a game that player must be added to end of existing batting order. If a player is not present, do not put in batting order.
- c. If a player listed in batting order of a team using the "unlimited" substitution is taken out of game for injury or having to leave game early, that position in batting order is skipped with no penalty.
- d. **If a player reaches base safely, men's division has the option of using a courtesy runner, (1 per inning). The courtesy runner must be the last batted out. If there were not any outs in the game yet, then the courtesy runner would be the last person in the line up. Coed can use 1 courtesy runner for a male and 1 for a female per inning. If a person is injured going to a base, they may use a courtesy runner as long as one has not been used in that inning. The runner they would use is the runner who would have come in to run for them when they reached the original base. The injured player may re-enter the game later.**
- e. Free substitution will be in effect at the beginning of each half inning for team taking field. Once half inning has started, the defense can only make one defensive substitution change except for an injured player or replacement of pitcher.
- f. The unlimited substitution rule is designed to enable a team to play as many players as possible.
- g. **No stealing in these slow pitch leagues.**

6. **Regular Substitution** - allows teams to play and list 10 players in the batting order. Because "unlimited" substitution rule allows skipping a batting spot with no penalty if a player is injured or having to leave game early, a team playing with 10 players under regular substitution rule and dropping to 9 players may also skip that position in the batting order without penalty.

7. **Appeal Plays** - umpires will call runner out for missing a base or leaving a base before fly ball is caught when play ends. All consequences remain the same if appealed. Appeals may still be made for batting out of order or illegal re-entry.

8. **Protests** - no protest will be accepted on judgment calls. No protest will be considered unless made in accordance with ASA rules. Managers must inform umpires before ball is put back in play that the game is being played under protest. The umpire then will note protest on score sheet. You must file a protest within 48 hours of the game, along with a \$25 protest fee. Illegal roster protest can be made at any time during the season.

9. **Rained Out Games** - information on cancellation of games due to rain or severe weather will be announced on WGHM FM/AM (92.1), listed on the NORA website ([www.ghaps.org/NORA](http://www.ghaps.org/NORA)) or call the Recreation Program Office cancellation line at 850.5125 starting at 4:00 p.m. If decision to play game is made at the field the umpire will decide if field is playable. Teams should report to field if in doubt.

10. **Conduct of Players** - unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, obscene language, unnecessary roughness, threatening comments will not be tolerated on or off the playing field. Umpires have authority and are asked to eject any player from games for unsportsmanlike conduct. The Recreation Department has the authority to suspend any player or manager for just cause. Anyone caught in the use of profanity will be ejected from game and suspended for the next game.

- a. Any player, coach or manager ejected from game is automatically suspended from that persons next game in our leagues. Upon review, The Recreation Department may suspend player, coach or manager indefinitely. Player shall not be present at their team games during suspension.
  - b. Managers or players ejected from game must leave ball field and park or their team will forfeit the game.
  - c. Players found guilty of false registration, i.e. assumed names, fictitious address, falsifying age, etc, are liable to suspension. Managers playing ineligible players are also liable to suspension and forfeit game(s).
  - d. Smoking will not be allowed on playing field, dug outs, or in coaches boxes. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any field at anytime with players liable to suspension or forfeit game.
11. **Score sheets** - will be provided to managers and umpires before start of season. Home team will provide score sheet. One score sheet will be used with **correct team name** and batting order filled out **with both first and last names of players (printed legibly)** before start of game. The umpire is asked to turn in the score sheet at the Recreation Office after game. League standings and schedules are also available on the NORA website at [nora.ghaps.org](http://nora.ghaps.org). Become a friend or fan on Facebook.