

**BURBANK PARK DISTRICT**  
**2016 FALL SOFTBALL RULES**

- A. Rosters are due by the second week. If rosters are not turned in by the second week, you then may forfeit your game and every game until the roster is turned in. Rosters may be updated until the third week in which the roster is final with no additions.
- B. Game times are 9:15, 10:15 & 11:15 a.m. Forfeit time allowance will be 15 minutes (on the umpire's watch) if less than nine players are present. Make sure you thoroughly review your schedule for field location and time.**
- C. Rain-out games will be made up at the end of the regular season. This means that you follow the schedule that is handed out at the beginning of the year and the coordinator will notify you of makeups. Rain-out decisions are usually made around 8:00 a.m. The captain from each team is responsible for checking their game status by utilizing [www.RainoutLine.com](http://www.RainoutLine.com) for the status of games each Sunday. You can download the free app to your phone so you can check on the status of your games. Or you can call 708-290-0094 ext. 40 to check on the game status. **Depending on the severity of the weather, we may play a partial schedule if some fields are in playable condition.**
- D. Prize Money: (Based on a 14 Team League) – Two Division Setup
- 1) \$550 awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> place of regular season for each division
  - 2) \$300 awarded to 2<sup>nd</sup> place of regular season for each division
  - 3) \$350 awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> place of playoffs for each division
- E. Tie breaking procedure:
- 1) Head to Head Competition
  - 2) Head to Head Run Differential
  - 3) Total Runs Scored Against
- REMINDER: If 3 teams tie for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Team "A" beat Team "B" and Team "B" beat Team "C" and Team "C" beat Team "A" then we will divide the prize money equally among the 3 teams. For example: If teams A, B & C tie for first place then we will split the total of all prize money: \$500 + \$300 + \$150 = \$950 between the 3 teams (\$950 divided by 3 = \$317 per team). However, we still will incorporate our tie breaking procedure to determine the playoff seeds. Obviously, if 3 teams tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place then we will only split the total prize money for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The same goes for 3<sup>rd</sup> place if 3 teams tie, we will only split the 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize money (3 teams splitting \$150).**
- F. All teams will make the playoffs unless you forfeit out of the league. All players on the roster are eligible for the playoffs.

G. The regular season will consist of playing 11 games. Playoff brackets will be determined by the regular season finish.

H. Games will be played at Newcastle Park, 8050 S. Newcastle.

**I. All players are allowed to use softball mitts.**

J. Each batter will start with a one ball & one strike count.

K. 1) There will be a 12 (twelve) run slaughter rule in effect after the game is official. An official game is 3-1/2 innings or the losing team must bat four times. Once a game is official and the slaughter rule is in effect (Team up by 12 runs), the losing team must have equal turns at bat.

**Example: If team "A" is batting in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and they go up by 12 runs during their at bats, Team "A" finishes their at bats and Team "B" gets a chance in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning to erase the slaughter rule. If they do not succeed, the game is then over. This is referred to as "equal turns at bat".**

2) If the slaughter rule is obtained, the game is official and the home team is at bat, the game is over immediately regardless of the outs or players on base.

A) 12 Run Slaughter Rule will be in effect for all playoffs.

B) Rain-out situation in playoffs:

1. If the game is official (3-1/2 innings or losing team bats 4 (four) times and weather cancels the game, we will pick up the game exactly where it was left off: score, runners on base, count on batter, inning, etc. If the softball is in playable condition (decided by the umpire) we will use the ball. If not, we will then supply a new one. Due to scheduling, the same umpire may not be available.

2. If the game is **not** official and weather cancels the game, then we will start for the beginning; 0-0 score, top of the 1<sup>st</sup>, no outs and a 1-1 count on the batter. New Game!

K. 1) Captains from each team should meet with their umpire before every game to clarify the ground rules on their field. Designated bases are given to the following fields:

Field #3: Any softball that lands on the garage **on a fly** will be awarded a **homerun**. Any softball that bounces over the fence or rolls underneath the fence will be a ground rule triple

Field #2: Any softball that lands on a fly into the right field playground area (playground starts with the sidewalk) will be awarded an automatic **homerun**. Any softball that rolls into the playground (ball must be past the sidewalk) will be an automatic triple. In both cases the outfielder must hold their hand out to notify the umpire that the softball has reached either the playground area (field #2) or garage (field #3). These designated rules will help ensure the safety of the players as well as the children on the playgrounds.

- 2) Any softball that strikes a power line, weather fair or foul will be an automatic dead ball/no pitch. This will be a judgment call by the umpire. Do not stop playing until the umpire determines that the ball is dead.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. All home team managers for the 9:15 a.m. games must pick up the ball and scorebook from the field coordinator (will be located by the park district garage facility). Field scorebooks must be signed by the umpire with the score and should be left on the bench or home plate after the game. Each team is responsible for entering the correct scores in the official scorebook. Lost scorebooks will result in a \$5 fine assessed to the home team. All fines must be paid before your next game or a forfeit will be assessed.
2. Home team keeps the game ball.
3. Any team forfeiting two games will be put on probation. If a third game is forfeited, then that team will be dismissed from the league with no refund. Three forfeits terminates your team from our league and no refunds will be given. In addition, that team will not have priority registration the next year.
4. Team roster will be a maximum of 20 players, including the captain. The roster must be signed by all players. All captains, please make sure your name, address and phone number is legible for rain-out and award purposes.
5. No metal spikes are allowed. Players will be asked to remove the spikes or be disqualified.
6. **DISCIPLINE:**
  - a) A player ejected from a game will be suspended from the following game. A second game ejection will result in dismissal from the rest of the season including playoffs.
  - b) Any player ejected for physical contact with an umpire will receive a minimum of a 3 game suspension. Depending on the severity of the contact, the suspension could be greater.

7. The slide rule will be in effect for all games. Meaning, any play at the plate the runner must attempt to slide especially if the softball beats the runner. If the runner does not slide, he/she will be called automatically out. This rule will be enforced by the umpire (in their judgment). There can be no protest on this judgment call.
8. Pitching arc will be 6 feet minimum to 12 feet maximum, judged by the umpire. Drag pitching is allowed.
9. All official softball bats as well as official baseball bats are legal in our leagues.
10. Any batted ball that hits the wire, whether fair or foul will be ruled a dead ball. All runners will return to their original base and the pitch will not count towards your count.
11. Protest Process:
  - A) No protest will be allowed on judgment calls.
  - B) You must stop the game and inform the umpire as well as the opposing captain.
  - C) Ask the umpire to write down their interpretation of the rule in question.
  - D) You must describe in writing the game situation. Date, time, field # and incident that occurred.
  - E) You must hand in both letters with a \$50 fee within 24 hours for the protest to be allowed.
  - F) If **any one** of the above is not followed, the protest will then be nullified.
  - G) Protest committee will then make a ruling and notify the captains of the decision within one week.
  - H) If the protest committee votes in favor of the protest, the \$50 fee will be returned. If the committee votes against the protest, the \$50 fee will not be returned.
12. No alcohol is allowed on park property. Players will be asked to put it away or be ejected by the umpire if not willing to cooperate.
13. Any rostered players will be eligible for the playoffs. Any in-eligible players will result in an automatic forfeit of the game. Opposing captain must stop the game and notify the umpire, softball coordinator and other captain of player infraction. The softball coordinator will then check the player eligibility list to see if the player in

question has played 4 regular season games. If he/she is not on the list, then the team forfeits the game. If the captain is questioning player identity, then the captain of the team being questioned will be asked to provide a photo ID of the player in question. If the player cannot produce a picture ID, or the ID produced is not on the roster, then the team will forfeit the game.

14. Please use the Newcastle Building Bathrooms for both changing into uniforms and bathroom use. Enter through the front of the building.

15. Extra Hitter Rules:

A. You are allowed to use 2 extra hitters, therefore batting a total of 12.

B. Extra Hitters must start the game or may be added in the 11<sup>th</sup> and/or 12<sup>th</sup> spots.

C. Extra Hitters may bat in any spot of the lineup.

D. An Extra Hitter may be replaced with a substitute from the bench or switched with a defensive player.

E. If a team has 11 or 12 players with no sub and a player is injured or eliminated and cannot continue, the Extra Hitter may replace the player and the team can finish with 10 or 11 players. The extra spot is eliminated with no penalty.

F. An Extra Hitter may enter the game defensively and be replaced by a substitute player on the bench or a player on the field.

Example: You can flip flop the Extra Hitter with your catcher and still keep the catcher in the game, but the catcher must remain in the same batting spot in the lineup.

G. You may use the re-entry rule after a player has been officially substituted for. See rule 18.

16. SUBSTITUTIONS:

A. No team shall be permitted to start or continue a game with less than nine (9) players at any time, no exceptions!

B. If you start your game with 10 players and no substitutes and one of your players is injured and cannot continue to play, then his/her spot in the batting order will be an automatic out every time he/she comes up to bat.

17. Courtesy runners are allowed. The person that made the last out will be the courtesy runner.

18. Re-entry is allowed. We will follow “ASA” Rules that states a player may re-enter only one time during the course of the game and may re-enter at any position, but must re-enter in the same spot of the batting order. Team captain should notify the opposing team’s captain of the change.
19. All park decisions are final.
20. All rules not covered above will be found in the official 16” slow pitch rule book, published by the Umpire’s Protective Association of Chicago.