

New Milford Parks & Recreation

CO-ED Slow Pitch Softball Rules for 2024

1. **Eligibility Rule:** The league will follow the Player Eligibility Rule established by the New Milford Parks and Recreation Department. This rule is explained in detail in a separate publication available from the Parks and Recreation Office. A player's eligibility can be questioned at any time. The request must be put in writing to the Parks and Recreation Department with a \$20.00 fee. If the player is found ineligible the fee will be returned.
2. **Alcoholic Beverages:** It shall be the responsibility of the team manager to insure that there is no consumption of alcoholic beverages by his/her team members during the game as long as the players and fans are on the public fields. This will result in a forfeit against any team that breaks the rule. Also, there is an ordinance passed by the Town Council that affects the drinking of alcoholic beverages in areas after games. This is explained in a separate publication that is available at the Parks and Recreation Office.
3. **Shoes and Equipment:** Proper footwear is required. Shoes that have exposed metal on the sole are illegal. Any player detected playing with illegal equipment must be removed from the game immediately until the equipment is changed. The game will not be delayed for the equipment change. If a starter was removed for illegal equipment, he/she may re-enter the game. However, a substitute removed for illegal equipment may not re-enter the game. If a player refuses to remove illegal equipment the umpire shall eject him/her from the game and suspend him/her from the next game the team is schedule to play. The umpire's discretion in determining improper equipment cannot be protested. No jewelry or other items such as casts, splints, etc. may be worn during any game. No work shoes will be allowed. Managers are requested to assist in enforcing this rule.
4. **Uniform:** All team members should have the same color shirt by September 20, 2023. The intent of this rule is for players to have the same color and type of shirt.
5. **Masks:** All teams' catchers are required to properly wear a catcher's mask. The game will not begin without a mask. A player refusing the mask will immediately be ejected from the game.
6. **Ball:** The ball of play is to be furnished by the league. One new ball per game will be provided for the Co-Ed Softball League. After the ball provided by Parks & Recreation it is the responsibility of the teams to provide backup balls of the same type. The ball to be used will be a 12" synthetic cover with a 47 Core and a compression of 375.
7. **Bases:** The New Milford Parks & Recreation Softball league uses double first base units. Runners must run to the orange part of the base unless it is a hit to the outfield, there is no play being made on them, or the fielder occupies the orange part of the base, in which he can run to the white part of the base. Runners not following this rule will be called out on appeal. If a runner does not run go to the orange part of the base and makes contact with a fielder he may be ejected from the game at the

discretion of the umpire. Umpires will set and pick up the bases for each game and install foam plugs at the end of the evening. The Co-ed Softball league will use a strike zone mat. A legal pitch that hits any part of the mat or home plate will be called a strike.

8. **Team Rosters:** The number of players that can be placed on a roster is limited to 25. Each player must sign the roster before playing in a game. If an individual plays in a game without having registered first by signing the roster, the team will forfeit the game. Rosters are due at the Parks and Recreation Office before the team's first game. Players are allowed to be on only one roster. It will be the responsibility of the team manager to make sure all players on their roster meet the eligibility requirements.
9. **Additions to Rosters:** Addition of new players (not transfers from another team) to rosters prior to September 27, 2020 must be made in advance of playing by notifying the Parks and Recreation Office and submitting a completed registration form. This is the last day to add players to your roster. This must be done before 4:00pm on any given day. Roster and add on sheets are available at the Parks and Recreation Department. If an out of town female player is injured during the season she may be removed from your roster and another female may be added with the approval of the Parks & Recreation Director.
10. **Transfers to Another Roster:**
 - A. Anyone who is on a team roster and would like to change to another team may do so if he/she has not played in any game for the team/he she is currently on and the change takes place before September 20. After September 20, such a change must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. A note must be submitted from the manager releasing the player from their team.
 - B. Any request for a transfer to another team roster once a player has participated in a game must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department regardless of when the request is made. The player in question must first notify his/her manager of his/her desire to transfer before the request can be acted upon. A note must be submitted from the team manager releasing the player from the team.
13. **Game Times:** All games are scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm. A forfeit will be declared within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time. If a team is not fielded by game time, the umpire shall then designate a timepiece for declaring the actual forfeit time. At precisely 15 minutes past this scheduled game time a forfeit shall be declared, unless the team is able to field a minimum of 9 players. This means that a player must be out of his or her vehicle and on the field.
Game times for "A & C" fields for the second game will be 2:15pm. Game times for the third games will begin at 3:30pm. There will be no forfeit time for the second or third games. If a previous game goes beyond the scheduled time, teams must field a team immediately. Teams are allowed three rounds of infield practice immediately after the end of previous game.
14. **Protests:** All protests must be made by the team manager to the umpire before the next pitch is thrown. They must also be put in writing by the manager and umpire involved and submitted to the Parks and Recreation Office with a \$20.00 fee attached

within 48 hours after the protested game has been played. If the team wins the protest, the team will be returned the protest fee.

15. **Player Suspensions:** Any player that is ejected from a game by the umpire will be suspended for the next games their team plays. If any player is ejected from two games during the season, he/she will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the current season, play-offs included. Any player who physically abuses an umpire before, during, or after a game shall be suspended from all Park and Recreation Leagues for one year. They must meet with the Parks and Recreation Department before they can be reinstated. Threatening or a physical altercation of any kind will not be tolerated. Should threatening or a physical altercation of any type occur all parties shall be ejected from that game, the following two games, up to and including the entire season. A hearing will be held to determine the actual length of the suspension. Inappropriate behavior is not tolerated.

16. **Foul Language:** Any player using foul, obscene or vulgar language will be ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpire.

17. **Cancellations:** In the event of inclement weather, the Parks and Recreation Department will make a decision to cancel games no later than 11am. If games are being canceled, an announcement will be put on the answering machine at the Parks & Recreation Office by calling 355-6050. If games are not called by 11:00am. it is then the responsibility of the umpire to make the decision at the scheduled game time. Umpires must remain at the playing field at least 15 minutes past the scheduled game time before declaring the game canceled. If a game is in progress and is stopped due to inclement weather, the umpire must wait 15 minutes past the scheduled game time before declaring the game canceled. If the first game on any field where more than one game may be scheduled is canceled due to weather or other field conditions by either the Parks and Recreation Department or the umpire, then the second games are automatically canceled as well. Makeup games will be rescheduled on the following Wednesday evening at Young's Field or the following Sunday at Pettibone.

18. **Tie Breakers:** (Tie breakers are to be followed in order)

1. The first tiebreaker for all ties will be the team's record against each other.
2. Run differential against each other
3. Total run differential
4. Coin toss for other ties.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS:

Two (2) Playoff Championship Trophy

19. **The league will be governed by U.S.A. Rules with the following exceptions:**

- a. **Legal Team:** A team is allowed to have ten (10) players on the field at one time. Ten players constitute a legal team. A team may, however, play with a minimum of nine (9) players, only if their other players are not in attendance at the game. Any team that field's less than nine (9) players will not be allowed to play by the umpire and their game shall be forfeited to the other team (Can have more Women in order to have ten players Example 7 Women and 3 Men).

1. If you bat 9 players you may play with either 5 Men or 5 Women
 2. If you bat 10 players you must have 5 Men and 5 Women
 3. If you have 11 players you must have 5 Men and 6 Women
 4. If you bat 12 players you must have 6 Men and 6 Women
- b. **Batting Order:** Men and Women must alternate in the batting order until either all Men/Women are used.
1. **Substitutes:** Must be Man for Man or Woman for Woman.
 2. **Base on Balls:** If a man is walked with a woman following in the lineup he will automatically proceed to second base. With less than 2 outs the woman in the lineup must bat. With 2 outs the woman has the option to bat or to walk.
- c. **Courtesy Runners:** Courtesy runners are allowed. The runner will be the last out (of the same sex), unless he/she is also in need of a courtesy runner. In this case the last out (of the same sex) prior to the previous batted out will be chosen. If a courtesy runner is on base when it becomes his/her turn to bat, a new courtesy runner shall be chosen. If selected to run the designee must run unless he/she has also requested a courtesy runner. Each team cannot have more than three players who need courtesy runners in a game. If a team feels that another team is taking advantage of the rule, they are to report that to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- d. **Designated Hitter:** Each team has the option to use the DH or not to use it. The DH must be in the lineup before the game starts. Any of the players may be used in the field as long as you keep five (5) women in the field at all times. The batting order may not change. None of the players may be used as a pinch runner or pinch hitter. If a team does not have any substitutes and falls below the number of players that it started the game with, then it shall be an automatic out each time it is the player's turn to bat. If a team cannot put nine (9) players in the field, then it is a forfeit.
- e. **Ten run rule:** If the visiting team is ahead by 10 runs or more at the end of the fifth (5) inning or any inning thereafter, then the game is over. If the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs after the top of the fifth inning or any inning after that. Any game stopped because of darkness will be a suspended game. Any player can be intentionally walked only once in a game.
20. **Approved Bats:** The use of Triple Wall & Titanium bats by anyone is forbidden). Women may use USA approved composite bats that hold an up to date certification mark. Men may only use bats that are made entirely of wood. **Illegal Bats: The Men's League shall only use bats made of wood. All bats should be labeled official softball (no baseball bats allowed). Bats can be laminate and be made of a combination of the following woods: maple, ash and/or bamboo. No other materials shall be used in or on the bat including but not limited to metal, synthetic materials, cork etc. Bat handles may have fiberglass grips in order to strengthen the bat. Bats shall meet ASA dimensions and this will be checked at the field. Wood bats can be no longer than 34" and the diameter can be no larger than 2.25".** The Women's league will follow the USA rule in regard to the legality of bats being used with the following exceptions: **the use of titanium and triple wall bats are not allowed in the New Milford Parks & Recreation Department Softball Leagues.** If you have any questions regarding the legality of any bat or the possibility of future banning please contact the Parks & Recreation

Department before using or purchasing a bat. Any player caught using an illegal bat will be immediately ejected from the game. Use of an illegal or altered bat may be justification of game forfeiture and possible suspension. Employees or Officials of the Parks & Recreation Department may confiscate a bat at any time if they suspect it to be illegal in any way; failure to turn over bat will be just cause for immediate game forfeit and player suspension.

21. All eligible bats must bear either the ASA approved 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 certification mark as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA non approved list, **or**



1. Must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; or
2. Must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.

ANY PLAYER OF TEAM CAUGHT USING AN ILLEGAL OR ALTERED BAT WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF GAME FORFEIT OR SUSPENSION FROM THE LEAGUE.

22. **Umpires:** The use of only 1 umpire for all games including playoffs.
23. **Full Count:** A batter will begin with a 0 ball and 0 strike count. A foul ball with 2 strikes results in an out.
24. **Outfield Arc:** an outfield line will be drawn at 175 feet from home plate. Fielder must not cross the line until the bat makes contact with the ball. If a player is caught abusing this rule the hitter automatically receives a single and all runners in a forced situation advance 1 base. The player and team will be given a warning; if the situation occurs again in that game the offender will be ejected immediately.