

SOFTBALL COACHES MEETING AGENDA

Revised 4/1/15

Our future is dependent on you! Since opening in 1994, we realize our future is the players.

Thanks for choosing to play in our programs. **The sports complex belongs to all of us.**

- **For you-The sports complex is a great place to go to have fun, see friends, and meet people.**
- **For us-It's a family business. We have invested our life savings and tens of thousands of hours of our lives in the sports complex.** We appreciate your confidence and trust. We need you and we appreciate your participation!

Softball Evaluation: We want your input to offer the best program we can.

- We are thankful that you have chosen to play in our programs. We couldn't do it without you.
- If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our program, please let us know.
- Please recommend us to your friends.

NO DRINKING POLICY

Coaches must cover this drinking policy with every player. This will be strictly enforced. There will not be any warnings.

1. Any player or spectator that is drinking will be written up and immediately evicted from the premises. If the person does not leave immediately the sheriff will be called. The person will not be allowed back in the sports complex until the fine has been paid."
2. The player or spectator will still be responsible for any fines assessed by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission or the Sheriff's Department. The maximum fine from the LCC would be \$300. This payment would be made to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission or the Sheriff's Department.
3. Three strikes you're out policy
 - a. Strike 1: The player or spectator is immediately ejected. There will also be a \$50 fine. The player is not eligible to play until the fine is paid.
 - b. Strike 2: The player or spectator is immediately ejected. There will also be a \$100 fine. The player is not eligible to play until the fine is paid.
 - c. Strike 3: The player or spectator is immediately ejected. The player will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Rec Sports will not receive one cent of this money. The money will be donated to Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.

We need your help. Clearly explain the no drinking policy to each player and spectator that is affiliated with your team. **Please sign the form that indicates that you have been informed of the "Three Strikes-You're Out" Drinking Policy. Teams will have to sign this the first night of play.**

1. **Start Date: The week of Monday, April 13.** The Friday league will start May 1 and the Sunday league will start on May 3.
2. **Facebook Group:** Go to Facebook and search Rec Sports Softball and join our group. This is a great way to post highlights, form a team, look for players, and get subs. There are hundreds of people already in the group.
3. **Field Rentals:** Fields can be rented out for two hours for \$25. Fields are available from 6:00 pm until dark until the season starts. The Friday and Sunday league do not start until May. Fields are available to rent on Saturday's until tournaments start (Usually the last Saturday of April) or Sunday's for the entire season. Saturday and Sunday rental times are 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7, and 7-9. Please click on the Pay Now button on our website and download the Field Rental form on the bottom of the Softball page or on the message line next to Need a Team/Player.
4. **Bats:** Beginning in 2015 all softball bats must have a 2012 or later NSA approval stamp on the bat. New teams ask other teams for recommendations on NSA bats. Craig's list is a great option.
5. **Courtesy Runners/Runners Out of the Box -** Teams will be allowed one courtesy runner in addition to any runners out of the box each inning. Teams can choose anyone they want to be the courtesy runner. Teams must not choose a courtesy runner who will be coming up in the lineup. If the same injured runner gets on twice in the same inning, a courtesy runner will be allowed both times. Courtesy runners should inform umps before games. Co-ed courtesy runners must be of the same sex. Runners out of the box will have to start behind the indicated line. If a team uses a "runner(s) out of the box," it will not count as their one courtesy runner for that inning. "Runners out of the box" can only be used for the pitcher, catcher, first baseman, or designated hitters and should be designated prior to the start of the game if at all possible. A batter can have a runner out of the box by describing his reason along with plate umpire approval. If a team member plays defense, they must be entered into the lineup to bat.

6. **Balances:** Save money if paid in full by May 1. Teams with a balance must pay \$50 per game.
7. **Softball Packet**
 - a. Why Play Rec Sports
 - b. **The website home page has all the dates.** Free Tournament for Rec Sports Teams: Limited to the first 24 teams that enter. There will be a \$50 forfeit fee if a team doesn't show.
 - i. Coed: June 6
 - ii. Men's: June 13
 - c. Free Berth to the Final 4
 - i. Coed: August 15
 - ii. Men's: August 29
 - d. August Session: Free Tournament for Rec Sports Teams: Limited to the first 24 teams that enter. There will be a \$50 forfeit fee if a team doesn't show.
 - i. Men's: September 12
 - ii. Coed: September 19
8. **Waiver/Roster Packet**
 - a. Waiver/Roster to turn in at the fields the first night
 - b. Informed of No Drinking to turn in at the fields the first night
 - c. Waiver/Roster to turn in at the fields for players who are not there the first night. Additional rosters can be downloaded from the website.
9. **Adding Games:** 4 games for \$100. \$45 per game with umpire fees (\$4 per player).
10. **Trading Games:** If your team is playing a night other than Friday or Sunday, you can give up one game on your night and get two games on a Friday or Sunday. They have to be in increments of two and you can give up as many as 6 games and get as many as 12 games.
11. **Scheduling:** We try to schedule 3 weeks out so we can keep games as fair as possible. We want you to have a great experience.
12. **Shots on the River Restaurant:**
13. **Tips for Coaches:**
 - a. Collect umpire fees before the season starts. If you're playing 20 games, collect \$40 per player before the season starts. With league fees and ump fees, it's about \$5 per player per game.
 - b. Website Schedules and standings: **Please check this weekly.**
 - c. Cancellations at 4:45: www.recsportsonline.com or call the Weather Number at 222-5010.
 - d. Individual Player Lists
 - a. On the Home Page below the sports, click on "Need a Player/Team"
 - b. There is a link at the top of the page that says "View Individual Player List." Click on this link.
 - c. Go to softball and click on this. There are about 100 names on the list.
 - d. Invite a number of people and choose the players that would be a good fit for your team.
14. **Softballs:** We will be using the same softballs that we have used the past few years until they run out. The new softballs required by NSA on 1-1-15 is the 52/275 softball. This softball has a core that is harder but the shell is softer and safer. The NSA 2012 bats work best with these softballs. NSA uses the best softballs and bats. **In order for us to continue providing softballs, we need your help retrieving them.**
15. **Vote on Preference for Awards:** Plaques or Sponsor Trophies. We will have both options available. We also have different color combinations for shirts.
16. **Playoff Format:** Most leagues it's strictly best record. In our softball leagues every team makes the tournament and the tournament winner receives the awards.
 - a. Teams could play up to six games in the tournament. **We figure teams will play two games. If a team signs up for 20 games, they will get 18 games plus the tournament.** Teams may play one game but could play six.
 - b. If a team would rather play 20 regular season games and not play in the tournament, please let us know.
 - c. The first and second place teams will receive a bye until the semifinals. We have the 5th place team play the 8th place team and the 6th place team play the 7th place team. The winner of the 5th place game plays the 4th place team. The winner of the 6th place team play the 3rd place team. The winner of the 4th place game plays 1st place. The winner of the 3rd place game plays the 2nd place team. The winner of the 1st place game plays the 2nd place team for the league championship.
17. **Softball Scramble: George Vander Hyde**
18. **Social Media: Facebook and Twitter**
19. **NSA Excess Accidental Medical Insurance Plan:** go to www.playnsa.com to get information on team insurance.

20. Website: www.recSPORTsonline.com
- Schedules and League Standings: **Please check this weekly. Follow us on Twitter and/or Facebook.**
 - Individual Player Lists:
 - Flyers and Registration forms on all programs for all sports
 - Renting out fields/facility use permits: \$15 for an hour and a half. Forms are on the website. Available April 14.
 - Waiver/signed rosters
 - Cancellation info after 4:45
 - Rule sheets
21. **Umpires:** Umpires will miss a small percentage of calls. However, umpires must be hustling and giving you your money's worth. If umpires don't treat you with appreciation and respect and give a great effort, I want to know.
- a. **Mercy Games:** The losing team gets to bat clear the bases, bat and clear the bases until 10 minutes before the next game.
22. Improvements
- Website improvements.
 - Replaced all the lights in July.
 - Improved protective netting installed between fields 2 and 4.
 - Pine Island Services will be handling all field maintenance for the 6th season. Andy Bird worked for two years at Fifth Third Ball Park and one year at Comerica Park. He is currently working for Michigan State University on their athletic fields. He is a consultant with Pine Island Services.
 - Lights on fields 2 and 4.
 - Over 1500 tons of stone-dust have been added the past seven years.
 - Watering the infields before game time when it's dusty.
 - Rakes and water for batters boxes.
23. **Fundraiser Opportunities:** Run a Saturday softball tournament at the sports complex. Pay a rental fee or keep 50% of the profits. The cost is \$20 per team for sanctioning and \$100 for awards.
24. Recent Rule Changes
- a. Mat: if the ball touches any part of the mat it is a strike.
 - b. Our coed line is at 75 feet. Four outfielders must play behind the line until women batters make contact.
 - c. To allow teams to play more innings we do not have a grace foul. In the women's league, there is a grace foul.
 - d. Other proposed rule changes?
 - e. Playoff Protests: Players must be on the roster and must have played at least 40% of the games. The opposing team will get two player protests at no charge. Protests must be made before the game. **If a player is not there at game time, the player may be protested when they arrive.**
25. Our philosophy on Recreation Programming
- 10 and 11 team leagues
 - a. Play everyone once and then divide into two divisions if necessary.
 - b. If there is a team that is definitely too good for the league, we have given a second set of awards.
 - **We can switch your team to another night or another location to make this a great experience for you.**
26. **Forfeit philosophy:** Treat other teams the way you would want to be treated. Everyone loses with a forfeit. **If a team forfeits, they will have to pay umpire fees for both teams.** Rec Sports and umpires will do all they can to prevent a forfeit. Show up with four players and our umpires will get you players so there will be a game.
- What we do to prevent forfeits:
 - a. Sign players up at the field until July 1 for the summer league and October 1 for the fall league. Teams may make three roster changes after that time. Teams may make additional roster changes with the approval of an umpire or Rec Sports.
 - b. We allow you to start with 7 players
 - c. Bat first to give you more time for players to arrive.
 - d. The team who is short players can bat multiple innings and then the team in the field bats multiple times.
 - e. Other team supplies the catcher
 - f. Pick up players from previous games, people that are in the stands, people that get there early, etc.
 - Let us know ahead of time
 - a. Even the day of- Call another team or ump and try to pick up a game for another team.
 - b. More time means the better chance of saving you money.
 - c. Avoid paying double ump fees.

- Be honest if your team is short players.
 - a. Talk with the opposing team:
 - i. May give you players
 - ii. Allow you to pick up players from other teams
 - iii. Allow you to add spectators
 - b. Find another team who is willing to stay and play a double header. The team that is stepping in to play gets their choice if they want to take the game as an official game.
 - c. The amount of the forfeit fee must be paid prior to the next game.

TIME LIMITS

27. Time Limits: We must strive to play every inning of every game.
- Our goal is to keep games moving in a prompt and orderly fashion, to keep games on schedule. However, we must create an environment that allows players a relaxing, recreational opportunity.
 - Time Limits – Our time limit rule states that no inning begins after 55 minutes of play unless there is sufficient daylight. If the game is within two runs or less, the time limit will be extended to 60 minutes if there is at least one hour per game for remaining games. **The first week of the season we will have approximately two hours and 15 minutes to play two games.** Each week we will gain 11 minutes of daylight. In June and July we will often have approximately three and a half hours to play these three games. **If we have three and a half hours of daylight, one hour and ten minutes should be allowed for each game.**
 - The first inning allow five warm up pitches and an infield ball. In subsequent innings, allow one warm up pitch and no infield balls.
 - If teams aren't hustling, then they are not as concerned about the time limit. These teams may be more interested in just playing for recreation. If teams are hustling, be flexible on the time limit because you can probably make up time in subsequent games.
 - If a game is running behind, umpires should start notifying teams at least 25 minutes before calling the game. Tell each team that no inning will start after a specific time on your watch. Let each team see your watch so that there is no misunderstanding about calling the game for a time limit. Place the start time on your scorecard for verification purposes.
 - Late summer/Fall sunset times – After June 21, the sunset is one minute and thirty six seconds (1:36) earlier than the day before. This figures out to approximately eleven minutes per week.

NOTE: There will be a 1:36 adjustment for each day. If it is a sunny day, add 10 minutes to the darkness time.

	Start Time	Games	Sunday Games	Monday Games	Tuesday Games	Wednesday Games	Thursday Games	Friday Games	Darkness
April 10	6:00 PM	2		14	14	14	14	0	8:14
April 17	6:00 PM	2		14	14	14	14	10	8:25
April 24	6:00 PM	2		14	14	14	14	10	8:36
May 1	6:00 PM	2		14	14	14	14	12	8:47
May 8	6:00 PM	3	8	16	16	16	16	12	8:58
May 15	6:00 PM	3	8	16	16	16	16	12	9:09
May 22	6:00 PM	3	4	16	16	16	16	0	9:20
May 29	6:00 PM	3	0	0	16	16	16	16	9:31
June 5	6:00 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	16	9:42
June 12	6:00 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	16	9:53
June 19	6:00 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	16	10:04
June 26	6:00 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	0	9:53
July 3	6:00 PM	3	16	0	0	16	16	16	9:42
July 10	6:00 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	16	9:31
July 17	6:00 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	16	9:20
July 24	6:00 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	16	9:09
July 31	5:45 PM	3	16	16	16	16	16	16	9:04
August 7	6:00 PM	2	16	14	14	14	14	14	8:53
August 14	6:00 PM	2	16	14	14	14	14	14	8:42
August 21	6:00 PM	2	16	14	14	14	14	14	8:31
August 28	6:00 PM	2	16	14	14	14	14	0	8:20
September 4	6:00 PM	2	16	0	14	14	14	14	8:09
September 11	5:50 PM	2	16	14	14	14	14	14	7:58

September 18	5:40 PM	2	16	14	14	14	14	14	7:47
September 25	6:00 PM	1	16	12	12	12	12	12	7:36
October 2	6:00 PM	1	16	12	12	12	12	12	7:25
October 9	6:00 PM	1	16	12	12	12	12	12	7:14
October 16	5:50 PM	1	16	12	12	12	12	12	7:03
October 23	5:40 PM	1	16	12	12	12	12	12	6:52

28. T-Shirt Raffle