

2020 SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS



It is the responsibility of the managers to acquaint themselves, the team, sponsor, and all players with the rules and regulations as set forth in the following pages. It is also their responsibility to abide by these rules and control the actions of their players at all times.

**IGNORANCE OF THE RULES WILL NOT EXCUSE YOU OR YOUR PLAYERS
NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED**

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REGISTRATION & MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES - SECTION I

1. TEAM REGISTRATION: All teams must submit a **Softball Application** along with the associated fees to be considered to register a team by the specified registration period. Applications can be obtained from the County Parks website (countyparks.com), Organized Sports Office or by mail if requested.
 - (A) All guidelines of registration including dates, times, fees and leagues are outlined in the specific application form.
 - (B) Information on the application form must be filled out completely and signed (electronic signatures are accepted) by the Manager. Falsified information may lead to discipline (i.e. ejection, suspension, removal from sports leagues) up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION: All players **MUST** be registered on the Milwaukee County Parks **Roster Form**. There is no limit to the number of players on a team roster.
 - (A) Player Participation - With regard to participation in leagues organized and regulated by Milwaukee County Parks, softball players are permitted to register and play on **ONLY ONE TEAM** on **ANY GIVEN WEEKDAY** (Monday through Friday). Leagues organized and regulated by Milwaukee County Parks include **ALL** Men's & COED leagues (Competitive + Social).
 - (B) For **Tournament Play**, if players are registered on multiple teams that participate in tournament play, players must choose only one (1) team to participate on. Players caught playing for more than one (1) team in any County Softball tournaments will be suspended for the remaining tournament schedule; Manager's and Players may be disciplined up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks. Please refer to the tournament rules and regulations for more details.
 - (C) Registration Deadline - In order to qualify for a team's County Tournament roster (if applicable), a player **MUST** be registered by June 10th of the current year. All players can be registered anytime for the regular season.
EXCEPTION: Players **CANNOT** be added for a league position playoff.
 - (D) A player cannot register with any other team unless officially released by the manager. (See Release Rule 5)

3. ELIGIBILITY: Players who are properly registered and approved by the Organized Sports Department are eligible to participate in leagues organized and governed by the Milwaukee County Parks. Any player who **participates** (listed on the official roster form) must pay a \$15.00 player fee (early registration) or \$20.00 player fee (late player fee).
 - (A) All players **MUST** be at least eighteen (18) years of age to participate in any Milwaukee County sports league.
 - (B) Using ineligible players in regular season and tournament play will result in forfeiture of games; Managers and Players may be disciplined up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks. A team found guilty of using ineligible players shall forfeit their right to league awards and any post-season playoff birth.
 - (C) If a suitable women's league is not available, female players have the right to play in a men's league.

4. ROSTER FORM INSTRUCTIONS: This office files team roster forms; however, the manager and player are fully responsible for a player's registration eligibility. Failure to abide by registration rule (2 A-D) automatically causes a player to become ineligible. Failure to register will result in forfeiture of all games that the ineligible player participated in.
 - (A) Roster forms are in a fillable pdf format and must be electronically filled out and emailed before the first week of the season. Any player joining a team after the roster form has been submitted must call or notify us by phone or email and pay associated fees before playing.
 - (B) Incomplete or improperly filled out roster forms will be returned to the manager. The player involved will not be eligible to participate until the roster has been properly filled out.
 - (C) Each player is **REQUIRED** to provide all requested information listed on the roster form (DOB, Name, Address, City, Zip, e-mail) to be eligible to participate.
 - (D) Rosters are due the first Monday that leagues start each session.
 - (E) The first (11) players listed on the team roster are already paid for (in the team registration application). Any player that registers after the early registration period ends will pay a player fee of \$20.00. No payment is required for more than 15 players that are registered on any team roster.

SAMPLE OFFICIAL ROSTER FORM

OFFICIAL SOFTBALL TEAM ROSTER



DAY OF WEEK	LEAGUE NAME	TEAM NAME
Monday	West Milwaukee #2	Bayside Ballers

MEN'S	COED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ALL participants must be listed on the roster with all information correct and complete. Complete list of Milwaukee County Parks Roster and Rules & Regulations see rulebook online at countyparks.com. TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT ISSUE PHOTO I.D. AT ANY TIME.

	DATE OF BIRTH (M/D/YYYY)			PLAYER'S NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	E-MAIL
1	08	23	1980	Zack Morris	123 Bayside Drive	Milwaukee	53220	zack.morris@baysidehigh.edu
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

PLAYERS ADDED AFTER TOURNAMENT DEADLINE - June 15th, 2015

1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

I am the coach/manager of the above team and guarantee all of the information supplied above is correct to the best of my knowledge. The players are eligible to compete with my team in the season play of Milwaukee County Parks and agree to be bound by the rules and the bylaws of Milwaukee County Parks. I understand that it is my responsibility to know the rules and bylaws of Milwaukee County Parks, and that ignorance of a rule or bylaw does not negate the penalty for my team or myself.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE OF COACH/TEAM MANAGER Zack Morris DATE 2/18/15

OFFICE USE ONLY
DATE ALTERED: _____
DATE ALTERED: _____
DATE ALTERED: _____

5. **RELEASES:** When a manager releases a player after the season has started, an official release form must be filled out and submitted. The player is then eligible to register with another team if all other registration rules are followed. **EXCEPTION:** Rule on Team Disbandment (Rule 20). A player refused a release by a manager can appeal to the Organized Sports Office in writing for a release. This office will make a final decision within 5 business days.

PARK RULES & POLICIES - SECTION II

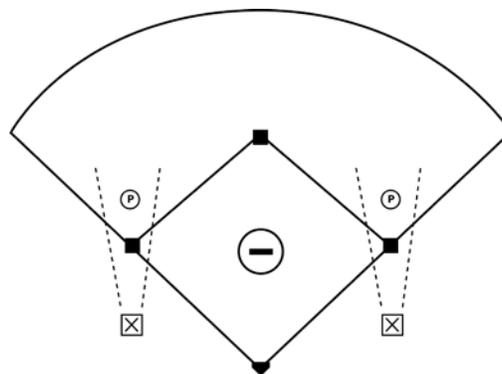
6. PRACTICE PERMITS: Permits must be obtained to reserve any athletic field. Permits can be obtained directly from the Public Service/Organized Sports Office in person or over the phone.

- (A) Reservations for practice with use of lights will depend on park personnel schedule and varies from park to park. The Park Supervisor's decision on issuance of permits is final.
- (B) Permits will be issued only on a week-to-week basis (7 day rolling schedule).

7. FIELD RULES:

- (A) There are no home fields.
- (B) The field lights will be turned off fifteen (15) minutes after conclusion of final game.
- (C) All players can check the County Parks website for up-to-date field conditions (countyparks.com) or the manager can call the Organized Sports Office (414) 257-8030 between 4:00-4:30 PM. Individual managers will **not** be contacted for cancelled games if games are cancelled prior to 4:00pm. Communication of cancellations after 6pm will be provided on the Organized Sports Facebook page.
- (D) Pre-game practice: No scheduled game will be delayed for practice.

- Pre-game practice is only allowed if time is available.
- All pre-game batting practice **MUST** be held from positions as shown in the diagram on this page.
- Batters (X) **MUST** hit from areas as designated, which are about 10 feet from either side of home plate.
- Pitchers **MUST** pitch from just behind 1st/3rd base.
- At no time are batters to hit from 1st/3rd base, unless the field is situated so as not to pose a hazard to private property or does not face toward a street.



The above pre-game practice regulations were instituted due to balls being hit onto streets, causing damage to passing vehicles or causing other private property damage. BE ADVISED, players are fully responsible for property damage they may cause at any time before, during, or after a game. Players are not allowed to hit "fungos" into a backstop or dugout fence. Failure to adhere to this rule may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks.

8. ALCOHOL & SMOKING: No person shall bring into or drink any spirituous, vinous, malt or mixed liquor in any park or parkway except in such areas as designated by the Department of Parks (picnic areas with a picnic permit) or such places where beverages are sold by license of the Department of Parks. Smoking on the field of play, which includes the team bench, is prohibited.

9. BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS: This rule applies to all Milwaukee County Softball Leagues. **IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT MANAGERS AND/OR PLAYERS HAVE A FIRST AID KIT TO TREAT MINOR INJURIES. OFFICIALS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RENDER FIRST AID TO AN INJURED PLAYER.**

A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has an excessive amount of blood on their clothing shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. Excessive blood on clothing means it is saturated to the extent that blood might transfer to another person or the blood could soak through to the skin. This also applies to a blood soaked bandage. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time [**two (2) minutes**], the individual will not have to leave the game. If after two (2) minutes, bleeding cannot be controlled, player must be removed from the game.

THE UMPIRE SHALL:

- (A) Stop the game and allow treatment if bleeding must be stopped and/or an open wound covered before the player is allowed to participate further.
- (B) If necessary, notify the manager that the injured player must be replaced with a legal substitute (one who has yet to participate in the game).
- (C) Player who was forced to leave the game may re-enter after bleeding is controlled and wound is properly covered. This is not counted against a team's re-entry or related substitutions.
- (D) Player who substituted for the bleeding player would still be eligible to play later in the game as a legal substitute.
- (E) All "exits from" and "entries into" the game for the purpose of this rule are not counted against a team's substitutions.
- (F) If a player must leave the game because of this rule, and no legal substitutes are available, the game will continue with one less player (even if they go below the 9 player minimum limit) until the bleeding is stopped and/or the wound is covered. The player may then re-enter the same position in the batting order without penalty. In coed leagues there cannot be more men in the game than women.
- (G) If the player forced to leave the game is a base runner, and no legal substitutes are available, he/she must be replaced by a player who will not come to bat before the replaced player would have scored.

LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS - SECTION III

The official softball playing rules as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) are used for all county softball leagues. Exceptions made are as mentioned on the following pages or where local ground rules and time limits dictate otherwise. We recommend that all managers procure a current rulebook to familiarize themselves with all playing rules.

10. PLAYER GAME SIGN-IN:

- (A) All players playing on given day MUST be listed on the game sheet; all names must be **printed** and **legible**.
- (B) Each team must have the minimum number of nine (9) players listed on the game sheet at scheduled game time.
- (C) Players that happen to arrive late will be allowed to sign-in when they arrive if the game was not forfeited due to lack of players. No player is allowed to sign-in after completion of the game or after the game is forfeited.
- (D) Managers, not umpires, are responsible for printed and legible names listed on the game sheet.

11. GAME RULES:

- (A) Official line-up - A full team in slow pitch softball consists of ten (10) players. However, a team will be permitted to start a game with nine (9) players. If a tenth (10th) player arrives he/she may be used but MUST fill the tenth (10th) position in the batting line-up.

- The "re-entry" rule will be allowed in all County softball leagues. Please see ASA ruling for specifics.
- The "Extra Player" rule will be allowed on an optional basis in all county softball leagues.

If due to injury, ejection, or other emergency a team cannot field eleven (11) (if using EP) or ten (10) players, they will be allowed to continue with as few as nine players. If the player who is forced to leave the game is a runner (or batter), that player cannot be replaced by a player currently in the lineup. The base (or batting order position) is vacated and no "out" is called. At no time will a team be permitted to play with less than nine (9) players. This county rule supersedes the ASA "shorthand player" rule. We **do not** call for an **automatic out** if a team is forced to drop from eleven (11) to ten (10) or from ten (10) to nine (9) players.

- The manager should report substitutions to the umpire. The umpire requires no announcement of such substitution. No penalty is involved if a substitution is not reported. A substitute is considered in the game when they take their position as batter, fielder, runner or pitcher.

- (B) BASES – All adult slow-pitch leagues shall have a base distance of seventy (70) feet.
- (C) PITCHING RULES -- The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least six (6) feet from the ground. The pitched ball must not reach a height of more than twelve (12) feet at its highest point from the ground. All pitchers have 10 seconds after receiving the ball to proceed with the pitch. If the pitch has not been thrown, the

umpire will signal an automatic ball and the count will restart. A strike mat will be used for all games. **A legally pitched ball that hits the home plate or mat will be ruled a strike.**

- Strikes - Two (2) called strikes or one (1) swinging strike shall be an out.
- Balls - Three (3) called balls constitutes a walk.
- Pitching Distance is to be fifty (50) feet in all leagues. (Pitchers can move five (5) feet back from rubber)

Any illegal pitch will be called by the umpire by using both verbal & hand signals. If a batter swings at any illegal pitch, it is nullified & all play stands.

- (D) FOUL BALLS - Any foul ball is an out. A foul ball caught shall be played as in official softball. The batter is out and base runners may advance at their own risk.
- (E) The Official Rules "HOME RUN/RUN CLASSIFICATION" provides for a limit on the number of over-the-fence home runs in a game and runs allowed in an inning depending upon league classification. All leagues will have a seven (7) runs scored rule per inning (**no run rule for last inning played**). Any homerun/runs over the limit per league classification shall be an **inning ending out**.
- **WM Homerun rule** - All balls that strike a light pole 'in the field of play' at West Milwaukee Park will be considered **live**, no matter where on the pole the ball is struck. A homerun will be considered when a batted ball strikes a light pole and then goes over the outfield fence. This will count in the homerun allotment. If a ball is caught off the light pole, the batter is **NOT** automatically out but the play will continue to be a live situation.
 - For all homeruns hit, players are **REQUIRED** to touch every base then home plate before leaving the field. Failure to do so, by any/all players, will result in automatic outs and runs will not be counted.
 - For **ALL** County run tournaments, the "Home Run/Run Classification" is in effect.
- (F) STEALING – Base stealing is **NOT ALLOWED** in Milwaukee County Parks slow pitch softball games. Each runner may leave a base when a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground or reaches home plate, but must return to that base immediately after each pitch not hit by the batter.
- (G) OUTS – Home/Away teams are listed on the league schedules. Please refer to this schedule.
- (H) TOURNAMENTS- To be eligible to participate in a Milwaukee County tournament, a team must be registered for league play within the Milwaukee County Parks competitive softball leagues. All teams are eligible to participate in tournament play on a first come, first serve basis. Teams who register must pay required fee at the time of application. Please see tournament rules for more details.
- (I) COED LEAGUES - The same rules as those adopted for Social leagues will apply, with the exception of the following special rules for the COED division:
- a. Players and Substitutes - A coed softball team is made up of ten (10) players (5 female/5 male) that can play in the field and bat. For extra players (EP), please refer to (g). If due to injury, ejection or other emergency, a team is forced to drop to 9 players, teams must have a minimum of 4 females that play defense and bat.
 - b. Teams are allowed to start with 9 players (no more than 5 males). If teams choose to only play with 4 females, teams are only allowed to field and bat 9 players total. Substitutes are allowed.
 - c. Defensive Positioning - The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch unless all defensive players are positioned in fair territory, except the catcher who must be in behind home plate. There are no specific rules for defensive positioning (example: all female players may play in the infield). However, only (1) position switch will be allowed per inning once defensive positions are determined at the beginning of said inning. Defensive positioning may be adjusted between innings. **No more than (4) infielders are allowed to be positioned in the infield at all times (not including the pitcher/catcher position).**
 - d. Batting Order - The batting order shall alternate between sexes at the top of the order. Exception is when there are more males than females playing and two males must bat consecutively at the bottom of the order or bottom and top of the order.
 - e. Female Strike Rule – All female batters receive an extra swinging strike or foul ball before being called out on the first strike only.
 - f. Walking a Male Batter - **Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award.**
 - g. Extra Player - An extra player, referred to as an "EP", is optional, but if used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game and the players must be listed on the game sheet. If the EPs are used they must be used the entire game. Failure to complete the game with the EPs results in forfeiture of the game. (Exception - See g-2) Substitutions are allowed at any point during the game, but need to enter and exit the game using the same person and replacing them in the batting order.

g(2) If using 12 players (two females or 1 of each are allowed) or 11 players (1 female or 1 male), all players must be designated to bat, and any 10 (at least 5 females) must play defense. Defensive positions may be changed only once (1) during a specific inning, but can be changed between new innings. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game. If an injury, ejection or other emergency occurs while using the 12 player EP and the player leaving the game is a female, and no female substitute is available, the male either preceding or succeeding that female player in the batting order must be removed from the game so that there are not more than two males batters are batting consecutively.

12. GRACE PERIOD:

- (A) The umpire will allow a ten (10) minute grace period before forfeiting a game due to lack of players, or for failing to produce proper game ball. As soon as nine (9) players are present or proper game ball is available, the game must begin.
- (B) The grace period time is charged against playing time.

13. TIME LIMITS/RUN RULE: All games are to be seven (7) innings but with time limits as shown below:

- (A) All games will have a fifty (50) minute time limit, with a fifteen (15) run rule after the completion of five (5) innings have been played. No new inning is to start after the time limit has expired unless the game is tied.
- (B) Tie games – In the event of a tie at the completion of the inning during which the time limit expired, **one (1)** extra inning will be played. Games that end in a tie after time limit and required extra inning are official “tie games” and will not be rescheduled.
- (C) Time used up due to weather delay, removal of injured players, or light failure will not be charged against playing time.
- (D) When a game is started late due to a previous game finishing late or due to inclement weather, the time limit will run from the actual starting time of the game.
- (E) If either scheduled team is at fault for a late start, the time limit will run from the actual scheduled time.
- (F) Umpire’s time will be official at all times.

14. SCORING: The umpire will keep a running score for each inning. Umpire's decision on runs scored will be final. Managers should check the score with the umpire every inning. If there is a discrepancy, discuss it with the umpire at the time. Keep in mind that the umpire's decision is final. No protests are allowed on “runs scored”.

15. EQUIPMENT: The Milwaukee County Parks does not furnish any equipment (with exception to tournament play). Balls, Bats and other playing equipment are to be furnished by individual teams.

- (A) Balls - The Milwaukee County Parks determines the ball used for the current year. **All leagues will be using the Dudley .52/275 ball.**
- (B) The following procedures on balls must be adhered to in all scheduled league games.
 - a. For **ALL** leagues, the **HOME TEAM** manager must give the umpire one new ball (in a sealed package) before each game. It must be the ball officially adopted by the league. This ball must be purchased from the organization, which was awarded the adoption.
 - b. Game balls are not to be used in pre-game warm-up or for infield practice throughout the game.
 - c. Having the wrong ball could very well cause the game to be lost on a forfeit. Any protest based on an improper game ball must be lodged with the umpire before the start of the game.
 - d. In the event a game ball is lost, the **HOME TEAM** manager will supply another ball. Additional balls do not have to be new, but must be in a condition satisfactory to umpire and **must be the ball officially adopted by the league.**
 - e. At the conclusion of the game, the umpire shall give the HOME team the game ball.
- (C) Bats – All bats must be approved for the Milwaukee County Parks Softball Leagues according to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) certified bat list.
 - a. When a batter is discovered using a **BANNED** bat...
 - First Offense...the batter is “out” and shall be disqualified from the game
 - Second Offense...the batter is “out”, shall be disqualified from the game and shall be **SUSPENDED** for the remainder of the season, a minimum of the next five games, or will carry over into the following season.
 - b. When a batter is discovered using an **ALTERED** bat...

- The batter is “out”, shall be disqualified from the game, and shall **RECEIVE A LIFETIME SUSPENSION**.

FOR PROTESTS OF ALTERED BATS, PLEASE SEE PROTEST/APPEALS (SECTION V).

- (D) Masks or other Protective Equipment – All participants may use these and are optional.
- (E) Shoes – Per ASA Rule 3, Sec. 6G, shoes with metal spikes are legal for Competitive leagues. This department recommends the use of rubber cleats. Metal spikes are **ILLEGAL** in all Social leagues.
- (F) Casts and Jewelry – ASA Rule 3, Sec 6E & F deal with these topics.
- Casts/Prosthesis – All casts and splints must be padded. Prostheses may be worn. Braces with exposed hard surfaces must be padded. Any of this equipment judged by the umpire to be potentially dangerous is illegal. Note: Any decision by the umpire should be based on whether or not a device worn or used by an individual with a disability changes the fundamental nature of the game or poses a significant risk to the safety of other players.
 - Jewelry – Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. NOTE: Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible. **UMPIRES DECISION ON THE LEGALITY OF ALL JEWELRY IS FINAL.**
- (G) Uniforms are optional in all County Softball Leagues.
- (H) Mats have been installed at all county softball league sites and will be used to enforce balls and strikes. If a pitched ball hits any part of the plate/mat and is within the allowed arc of 6 to 12 feet it shall be called a strike.

16. **POSTPONED GAMES:** Milwaukee County Parks is the only agency that can postpone, cancel or reschedule any games. The only exception to this rule is when park personnel or an official is forced to do so at the field of play.

- (A) Games will be postponed or rescheduled only under the following conditions:
- a. Poor weather/field conditions or extreme emergencies.
 - b. Due to light failure.
- (B) Inclement Weather
- a. In the event of rain or if field conditions are questionable, please call the office at 414-257-8030 or visit the county parks website (<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Experience/Get-Active>). After 4:30pm it will be umpire’s discretion at any time.
 - b. When rain interrupts a game or lightning occurs in the immediate park area, the umpire shall take the necessary steps to suspend play, and shall decide if the game should be continued. Before calling a game completely, the umpire will wait a reasonable length of time. The umpire’s decision will be final.
 - c. Any game called off due to rain or other weather conditions before it is considered an official game will be replayed from the beginning if it is rescheduled. **OFFICIAL GAME** - A game is considered official when five (5) innings have been completed or if the home or “out” team has scored more runs in four and a half (4 1/2) innings than the visiting or “in” team has scored in five (5) innings of play.
- (C) Any game called off due to **light failure** shall be resumed from the point of interruption if it is rescheduled. Official games do not apply to light failure. Games halted due to **darkness will not** be resumed if they are considered official games or official tie games.
- (D) Postponed games will be rescheduled at the discretion of this office. If at the end of the season a previously postponed game has no bearing as to league awards, the game will not be rescheduled.

17. **FORFEITS:**

- (A) A team shall lose a game on forfeit if they:
- a. Do not show up or appear with less than a minimum team (9 players) at scheduled game time.
 - b. Quit in defiance of an umpire's decision.
 - c. Fail to field at least nine players at any time.
 - d. Fail to supply the proper game ball(s) as prescribed by the rules. (See Game Ball Rules)
 - e. Do not heed umpire's warning on discipline.
 - f. Infraction of any County eligibility, registration, or participation rule will result in forfeiture of a game(s).

- (B) No team will be awarded a game on forfeit unless it has at least nine (9) players on the field and signed on the signup sheet.
 - (C) When a team forfeits any game they are required to pay a forfeit fee prior to next scheduled game. Exception: Injured Players during the game that makes a team drop below (9) players. If a team forfeits a game and contacts the Organized Sports Office prior to 24 hours of scheduled game, the forfeit fee will be reduced to \$15.00. If a team does not notify this office or notifies with less than 24 hours, the team shall pay a fee of \$25.00. **This fee MUST BE PAID prior to next game or future games will be forfeited as well until fee is PAID.**
 - (D) This office will notify all team managers when a team is to be dropped from a league. Milwaukee County Parks is the only agency that can officially drop any team for any reason they feel is necessary.
 - (E) When a team has been officially dropped, their opponents will be credited with an automatic win for any remaining scheduled games. No refunds will be issued for games not played.
18. AWARDS:
- (A) No league awards are presented by Milwaukee County Parks but are presented by the ball adoption winner in the summer season. The organization that received the ball adoption is responsible for the number and quality of awards. No awards are given to any teams during the fall session.
 - (B) At completion of the summer season, this office will notify the manager(s) and ball adoption winner as to "awards won" in summer county leagues. It is the manager's responsibility to make arrangements with the adoption winner for league awards (ordering/pickup).
19. INJURY: The Milwaukee County Parks shall not be responsible for any injury, which may be incurred by a player. It is recommended that all players be covered by some type of their own insurance.
20. TEAM DISBANDMENTS: The manager of a team that is disbanding before the season is completed must notify this department immediately. The remaining games will be credited to its scheduled opponents. When a team disbands, its players will be at liberty to register with other teams.
21. SEASON CLOSE: The regular season officially closes two (2) working days after each league's final game. No protests will be allowed after such period.
22. COMPLAINTS (OFFICIALS):
- (A) It is not necessary to report an official's name. This department has a record of each official assigned.
 - (B) All complaints on officials should be made in writing. Such complaints must include specific information on officials' infractions, etc.
 - (C) When a complaint on an official is made, this department will further check the efficiency of said official and, if need be, take proper steps to correct any deficiencies.
 - (D) The Organized Sports Department assigns umpires. They are our representatives and as such are authorized and required to enforce all rules. They have the power to order a player, coach, manager or sponsor to do or omit to do any act which in their judgment is necessary to give force and effect to one or all of such rules and to inflict penalties as prescribed. Such umpires shall have the authority to make decisions on any situations not specifically covered in the rules. Umpires at any time can deem a bat unsafe for any reason and pull the specified bat out of a contest at any time. Proper documentation will follow this action.
23. COMPLAINTS (FIELD CONDITIONS):
- Complaints on field conditions should be made in writing to this office. Managers may ask the umpire to note such complaints on the game sheet. Such complaints should be specific as to what and where the problem is located, etc. Keep in mind that this office does not maintain fields but will follow up on all such complaints.

CODE OF CONDUCT - SECTION IV

24. CONDUCT AND ACTIONS: "Player" means any participant in any organized recreational activity and includes player, manager, coach, statistician or sponsor.
- (A) Player Conduct - It shall be the responsibility of the manager to control the actions of their players on the bench and on or off the field. Managers, coaches and players are responsible for their conduct from the time they reach the park until the time they leave.
 - (B) Unsportsmanlike Conduct - No person shall interfere with or in any manor hinder, threaten, harass, intimidate any participant nor any employee of the department of parks and recreation. This includes affecting the enjoyment and betterment of the leagues. Conduct may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks.
 - (C) Derogatory Remarks, Profanity, Obscene Gestures, Threats, etc. - directed toward any game official, park employee, department official, other players or spectators will not be tolerated. These infractions may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks. Managers are responsible for bench conduct and control of team members' actions at all times.
 - (D) Physical Confrontations - Fighting is any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage an opponent in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact. Any "Player" (as defined above) involved in a physical confrontation (fighting) will be ejected immediately and is subject to further disciplinary action.
 - (E) Throwing Bats - Deliberate throwing of the bat or other equipment in anger or disgust will not be tolerated. This will mean immediate ejection from the game without warning and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks. An incident involving a player tossing or flipping a bat "Accidentally" will result in the player's team being given a team warning by the umpire. A repeated violation will result in the ejection of the offending player from the game.
 - (F) Judgement Calls – All called balls and strikes cannot be disputed and arguing on the judgment of balls and strikes will result in a team warning. Any repeat offense will result in the ejection of that player, manager or coach and is subject to further disciplinary action. Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final.
 - (G) Team Spokesman - The manager is the only person to confer with an official on a disputed play. Such conferences must be kept to a *minimum* and conducted in a *sportsmanlike manner*. Keep in mind that constant arguing, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated and could mean ejection from the game and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks.
 - (H) Player Ejections - Any of the above mentioned of participant conduct could mean immediate ejection from game.
 - a. When an official ejects a player, the ejected player must produce a valid photo identification that includes the name of particular player, the manager is **required to comply** with the official's request. Lack of cooperation from any manager or team in regards to such ejection may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks.
 - b. Ejected players are to leave the field of play immediately. This includes the player bench and the area around the bench. If necessary to control the game, umpires have the authority to eject offenders from the park. When ejected from the park, they are to leave immediately. It is the manager's responsibility to see that the individual abides by such rules. If the manager is ejected, a team representative may fill in.
 - c. If a player is ejected and continues to harass the official, the manager will be warned to control their player's action. If the manager does not comply, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. In any serious unsportsmanlike conduct incident such as teams fighting or complete loss of control of players by a manager, the umpire shall have the authority to forfeit the game without a warning.
 - d. Ejected players subject to discipline are notified of such action by this department. The player disciplined has the right to a hearing. Request for a hearing must be made to the Organized Sports Office within three (3) days of notification of such discipline if applicable.
25. SUSPENSIONS: The Milwaukee County Parks reserves the right to discipline without recourse any participant for any act which is in violation of the rules.
- (A) Enforcement and Recognition of Suspensions
 - a. Suspensions imposed by any South East Park Recreation Council (SEPRC) member department will be recognized by Milwaukee County and visa versa.

- b. A suspension by any sanctioned or approved local, state or national tournament will be recognized *if* a South East Park Recreation Council (SEPRC) member makes such suspension.
- c. A hearing on a suspension must be requested through the department initiating such suspension.

***** South East Park Recreation Council (SEPRC) *****

Brown Deer, Franklin, Germantown, Grafton, Greenfield, Greendale, Hartford, Milwaukee City, Milwaukee County, Muskego, Nicolet, Oak Creek, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, West Allis-West Milwaukee and Whitefish Bay

(B) Suspended Player Rules

- a. Suspended players cannot be registered until tenure of suspension is completed. If already registered, a suspended player cannot be an active participant until such suspension is lifted.
- b. Suspended players cannot be on the team bench or have any voice in running the team. If a suspended player continues to play or is an active participant in any way, further disciplinary action will be taken. If the manager has knowledge of such suspension, that manager is also subject to disciplinary action.

PROTESTS & APPEALS - SECTION V

The act of participation by all players in organized recreation activities evidences the player's agreement that he/she has acquainted himself/herself with and will abide by the rules as a condition of his/her privilege to participate in the activity.

Protests (Formal Procedure) - The team protesting must declare to the official that they are playing the game under protest. This should be noted on the game sheet. Game should continue to be played now under protest. Next, a protest must be submitted in writing to the Organized Sports Office with evidence supporting the protest. There is a mandatory \$20.00 filing fee that must accompany the protest. If the protest is won, the fee will be returned to the sponsor/manager, and if lost, the Milwaukee County Parks will retain the fee. Milwaukee County Parks reserves the right to reject any protest that in its judgment had no direct effect on subsequent play or in the final result of game.

26. Eligibility:

- (A) If player eligibility is questioned during any contest, players must produce a valid pictured ID to the umpire. If no proof is given, the team may forfeit the contest based on use of illegal players. All players must have a valid pictured ID with them at all times.
- (B) Protests during regular season must be made in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of said game to the Organized Sports Office and must be filed with any supporting evidence. During the County Playoffs, protests can be made verbally to the Umpire and if possible Organized Sports Coordinator or Tournament Personnel and must be addresses immediately. At that time, the tournament personnel will determine if protest is valid.

27. Playing Rules:

- (A) Any protest involving an umpire's judgment will not be accepted. A protest will only be accepted if it involves a playing rule interpretation.
- (B) The umpire **MUST** be notified of a protest on a playing rule interpretation at the time of the play. Such notification must be made before the next pitch.
- (C) Protests on rule interpretations must be made in writing to the Milwaukee County Parks office no later than 5:00 P.M. on the next working day. During County Tournaments, protests on rule interpretations must be made immediately to the Umpire and Organized Sports Coordinator/Tournament Personnel before play can continue.
- (D) A ***formal protest must contain*** the following information:
 - a. Date, time and place of game.
 - b. The rule and section of the Official Rules or County Rules under which the protest is made.
 - c. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
 - d. All pertinent facts involved in the matter protested.
- (E) If or when a protest on rule interpretation is allowed, this office will reschedule protested game and will decide from which point game will be replayed.

28. Altered Bats - If a team suspects that an altered (shaved, painted etc.) bat is being used, the option of protesting that piece of equipment is possible. The bat will then be confiscated and sent in to a reputable testing facility to be tested.

(A) If a bat is protested, the following procedure must be followed:

- a. The umpire should be told that you are protesting that bat. At that time, a team representative should point out the bat that the umpire will be removing from the game. After the game is concluded, the umpire will take the bat with him/her. This department will then make arrangements the next day to pick up/drop off the bat.
- b. The protesting team must pay an \$800.00 protest fee made payable to Milwaukee County Treasurer. This fee must be paid within two (2) Business days of the protest. If the bat is found to have been altered, the protesting team will be refunded \$800.00 and the owner of the bat shall pay the \$800.00 to the Milwaukee County Parks for the price of testing the bat. *If the protesting team at any time decides to revoke the protest, a \$150.00 fee will be assessed to that team.*

If that fee is not paid by the next scheduled game the protesting team will forfeit and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks.

- c. It will be the Organized Sports Office's goal to get the bat results within one (7 business days) week of the protest. Please know that depending on the availability of the testing facility, the time frame may be longer than one week.
- d. If the bat is found to be altered, the game in which the protest occurred would be forfeited by the team in violation and is subject to pay the \$25.00 forfeit fee and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee County Parks.

(B) Confirmation of Altered Bat use - The Milwaukee County Parks Department takes the safety of its participants very seriously and has no tolerance for participants who cheat and endanger the safety of others. This violation is very serious and the following penalties will be the result of use of an altered bat:

- a. The player who used the bat will have a lifetime suspension from all Milwaukee County Parks sports leagues and will be reported to SEPRC.
- b. The manager of the team found to be using the altered bat will serve a one-year suspension from all Milwaukee County sports programs and will be reported to SEPRC. If a manager is connected with a second violation, he/she will then receive a lifetime suspension.

29. Appeals Process - When appealing to be reinstated for participation from serving a suspension, a player should follow the procedure below:

- (A) An appeal must be made in writing to the Organized Sports Office within two weeks after the notice of suspension (suspensions are only appealable if longer than (5) five games).
- (B) Milwaukee County Parks will review the request to determine if the violation is an appealable offense.
- (C) The Milwaukee County Parks will contact the suspended player and designate a date and time for a reinstatement hearing. During this hearing the suspended player may plead his/her case to Milwaukee County Parks. Offending parties are allowed to have a witness or be represented during this hearing.
- (D) Following the hearing, Milwaukee County Parks will review the hearing and all of the information presented to make a decision on whether the appeal to be reinstated will be granted.
- (E) The Milwaukee County Parks will contact the suspended player within 48 hours of the conclusion of the hearing.
- (F) If or when the player is reinstated, they will remain on probation for 1 year from the date of reinstatement.
- (G) The decision of the Milwaukee County Parks Department is final.

ALL MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THESE PAGES WILL BE DECIDED ON BY THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS.