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ELIGIBILITY

- A. Players must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age to participate in all leagues.
- B. Players who are or who have formally been under contract to a professional or semi-professional baseball/softball club during the last year are not eligible to participate.
- C. Women are not permitted to play in men's leagues, and men are not permitted to play in women's leagues.
- D. No umpire shall be eligible to play in any league that they have or will have umpired in.
- E. **A player will be eligible for only ONE team/league on which league play is played on the same day. Example: Sunday Coed Upper & Lower divisions, a player can only be on ONE roster between the two leagues. NO substituting from league to league/NO EXCEPTIONS. If not abided, the result will be a forfeit.**

ROSTERS

- A. Each team must submit a complete roster containing the following:
 - 1. Signature of team manager stating that he/she has read and will comply with all the rules and regulations.
 - 2. Name, address, phone number and a signature of each player
- B. **The roster is due at your first game.** The Site Director will be around to collect it.
- C. Rosters can have a **MAXIMUM** of twenty (20) players (Men's league and Women's league) and twenty-five (25) players (Coed League). The **MAXIMUM** number for each league includes players and player-coach, and any AP's.
- D. There are **ABSOLUTELY NO ROSTER CHANGES FOR ANY REASON AFTER GAME SIX (6)** for Summer Single Game Leagues, **GAME SIX (6)** for the Summer Double Header Leagues, and **GAME FOUR (4)** for the Fall Double Header Leagues. Players cannot jump teams within your league. **YOU CANNOT ADD PLAYERS ONCE ROSTER IS CLOSED!**
- E. **SPRING/SUMMER LEAGUES:** A player must be on the roster and have been present and dressed to play, and listed on the game scorecard a **MINIMUM** of **FOUR (4)** Single Games and **SIX (6)** Double Header regular season games to be **eligible for the playoffs.**

FALL LEAGUES: A player must be on the roster and have been present, dressed to play, and listed on the game scorecard a **MINIMUM** of **FOUR (4)** regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

- F. Players cannot play on more than one team per league. If a team is found to be using players from another team within their league, the site director has the authority to call an immediate forfeit. Only teams involved in the game in progress can appeal to the site director.
- G. Roster additions or deletions must be done through the site director on the appropriate form, containing all information and player's signature.
- H. Rec format are as follow.
 - “Rec” 1 travel experienced player per roster.
 - “Open” there are no restrictions.
 - “Upper” there are no restrictions.
 1. A Travel-experienced player shall be defined for ARB League purposes as a player that has been classified (ie. D, C) and played in tournaments, USSSA, GSL, Freedom, One Nation Softball, etc. within the last 3 years.
 2. Exemptions and appeals to this rule shall be made under the discretion of the League Coordinator and the Athletic Director of ARB.
 3. Any team determined to have played more than the allowed number of travel-experienced players, based on their league night rules, is subject to the forfeiture of any and all games in which the infraction is determined to have occurred.
 4. An “Open” just means there are no restrictions on the number of tournament players on the team.
- I. Players must bring personal ID to be checked before games. This will help combat past issues of teams having too many tournament players.

AWARDS

- A. Individual awards (t-shirts) will be given to the league champions.
- B. Sponsor trophies will be awarded to the league champions and runners-up.

GAME RULES

- A. Base distance: sixty-five (65) feet; Pitcher's mound: fifty (50) feet.
- B. Foul/strike rule: All leagues will start with a one (1) and one (1) count. There is one foul to waste. A foul with a two strike count will result in an out. The foul ball, if caught, is live. Base-runners may advance with a legal tag-up and are in jeopardy of being put out if they become detached from their bag before time is called.
- C. Time limit: There will be a 60 minute time limit for all leagues. **No new inning will start after 55 minutes.** Exceptions are tie games and playoffs. There will be no time limit during playoffs.

D. A regulation game consists of SEVEN (7) innings. If a regular season game is suspended by an umpire and cannot be resumed in a reasonable amount of time the game will be considered complete after FIVE (5) or more innings or after the top of the fifth (5th) inning if the home team is winning. Suspended playoff games will be resumed until SEVEN (7) full innings have been played or the run limit (mercy) rule has taken effect. All players from initial game must be present to complete suspended game.

E. Run limit:

1. Twenty (20) runs at the end of three (3) innings; fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings; and ten (10) runs at the end of five (5) innings.

2. When the offensive team scores fifteen (15) runs in one inning, they will take the field.

Extra runs on an over the fence home run **do not** count. Exceptions to this rule are in the seventh inning or extra innings, where you can score as many runs as you can. The over the fence home run counts towards the home run limit.

F. All teams are permitted **3** over the fence homeruns and may have **1 DHH (Designated Homerun Hitter)**. All subsequent HR's hit (after 3) by the team will be **OUTS**. The DHH may hit a HR every at bat without penalty. Teams must designate a position in the batting order that the DHH will occupy **before** the start of the game or they will lose the DHH. If the DHH is walked, the next person to hit a HR may do so without penalty until the DHH's spot comes back up in the line-up.

1. **COED teams:** females have unlimited HRs, men will have 1 HR + 1 DHH

G. Neither batters nor base runners are required to circle the bases on an over the fence home run.

H. Balls will be provided by The Akron Recreation Bureau site director. One (1) new ball per game.

I. **Metal spikes/cleats are not permitted.** The all-purpose athletic shoe is acceptable. Players CANNOT play with metal spikes.

J. ***Game Time- There is NO GRACE Period! This rule will be enforced by site coordinators and umpires. 6:15 means 6:15, not 6:25, 12pm means 12pm, not 12:10. (It is imperative we start on time so games following throughout the day/night are not backed up!)***

1. Eight (8) eligible players; at least four (4) women in coed; must be present to start and finish the game. Late arriving players may enter the game upon arrival **prior to the start of the 5th inning** and must be placed at the end of the batting order. **COED** teams may never have more men than women playing at any given time. **Once a player has batted and established his/her position in the batting order, their position cannot be changed (i.e. once you have batted in the 9th position you cannot be moved to the 10th position).** A player may not be in the lineup until he/she is present at the game. In **COED**, if you start a game with 8

players it is suggested that you begin your lineup with a female so that your late arriving players may enter correctly no matter what order they arrive in.

Can add up to 10 by the TOP of the 5th inning

* In any league where double-headers are played, the second game will start no later than ten (10) minutes after the completion of the first game. This rule is to prevent stalling in case a team is short players.

- K. The lineup card will be exchanged between teams and returned to the umpire by the end of the first inning. The Lineup card must be filled out in the correct batting order using **FIRST and LAST NAMES. No Nicknames!** There will be no protests accepted over the way the lineup card is filled out.
1. Any player who starts the game may re-enter the game once, as long as he/she is in the same spot in the batting order.
 2. If a player is injured, thrown out or leaves the game for any reason and no replacement is available, his/her turn at bat becomes an automatic out.
 3. Up to **two (2) AH/EP's** (extra player) are optional and must start the game.
- L. Any Excessive Jewelry must be removed prior to participating in any game, or if asked by the umpire.
- M. Knee brace with exposed metal must be padded to the satisfaction on the umpire.
- N. It is the responsibility of both teams to provide a scorekeeper. Teams must confirm scores at the end of each half inning with the opposing team. In the event of a discrepancy over scoring that cannot be resolved by the teams it will then be the umpires discretion to decide which scorebook is correct. The official scorebook handed out at the managers meeting will be the only scorebook recognized. **There will be no protests over scoring.**
- O. **Only one courtesy runner per inning may be used. The courtesy runner can be anyone on the roster gender specific.**
For coed games, only a male out can run for a male and only a female out can run for a female. The Pitcher's courtesy runner may be entered for a pitcher on base in addition to the courtesy runner. The pitcher is designated at the start of the game or the last person to pitch to the last batter of the inning. The pitcher may run for another batter as the CR. If the CR is used for the pitcher, it must be a different runner than the standard CR.
- P. The following rules will be for ARB Coed leagues only: The batting order will alternate male/female or female/male. If a male batter walks, the female batter has the option to walk or bat (**after the 2nd out**), with the male batter being awarded two bases. Field alignment will be at the teams' discretion.
- Q. **Bats certified as legal by the governing body (USSSA/GSL/One Nation) will be allowed in all City of Akron Recreation Bureau leagues. If a player is caught using* a non-approved bat, they will be subject to the following:**
1. First offense: Batter called out, ejected from the game, and suspended from the next scheduled game

GAME RULES (continued)

2. Second offense: Batter called out, ejected from the game, and suspended from the next three (3) schedule games.
3. Third offense: Batter called out, ejected from the game, and suspended for the remainder of the season, to include league championships and playoffs.

*** The player must be caught in the act of using the non-approved bat. The opposing team must appeal to the umpire before a pitch is thrown to the next batter.**

Players caught using altered or “shaved” bats will be suspended from all City of Akron Recreation Bureau leagues for one (1) calendar year.

- R. **Rules not covered in this booklet will follow the rule book of the governing body, for the organization currently being used.**

UNIFORMS

- A. All teams should try to wear the same color shirt with numbers, but there is no uniform “requirement”.
- B. Hats- Players follow umpires rules regarding hats. If allowed, players may wear them backwards.

FORFEITURE

ALL FEES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COACH/ TEAM WHO FORFEIT! (Paid immediately) \$25

- A. A team will forfeit a game if one (1) or more of its players is found to be in an intoxicated condition as judged by game officials. The law provides that you must not be intoxicated in a public place and provides severe penalties for persons possessing alcoholic beverages, dangerous drugs, or narcotics at such recreation programs and equally severe penalties for those persons appearing at such activities in an intoxicated state. Game officials are hereby ordered to bar any such person from the area.
- B. If, in the opinion of the game official, a team is excessively abusive, either in a physical or verbal sense, they can stop the game and award the victory to the other team.
- C. A team will forfeit a game if at least eight (8) players are not ready to play at the scheduled starting time. In any league where double-headers are played; or if a rain-out is re-scheduled as part of a double-header; - if the first game is a forfeit, the team will have a ten minute grace period before the second game is forfeited. The second game will start immediately upon arrival of minimum number of eligible players.

- D If a team forfeits two (2) or more games; from not having enough players; during the course of the season; (two weeks in Fall ball); they will not be eligible to participate in the league championships. The exception to this rule is make-up games.

FORFEITURE (continued)

- E Accuracy of the league standings depends upon prompt reporting of scores. **Both teams must report game results to the umpire and sign the scorecard. The league director will have final say on all forfeits.**

SUSPENSIONS

- A. **Any player and/or coach who show physical violence towards an umpire or ARB representative will permanently be suspended from all ARB softball leagues.**
- B. **SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES. ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES WILL BE CAUSE FOR SUSPENSION.**
- C. Any player or coach ejected from a game will be suspended from his/her team's next scheduled game. The Athletic League Coordinator reserves the right to impose further suspensions based upon the severity of the violation.
- D. Any player or coach ejected for any reason must leave the field and park property immediately with no further comment, or he/she will be subject to increased suspension for the remainder of the season, or additional seasons.
- E. Any player under suspension for an ejection is not permitted at the playing site for any reason during the league night from which they were ejected.
- F. **Any player(s) who use(s) the tactic of "trash talking", either directly or indirectly, is/are subject to ejection and suspension for a minimum of two (2) games. Suspended player(s) will be placed on probation for one (1) year from the date of suspension.**
- G. Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct of both players and fans. Teams that fail to comply could be **suspended** from the league, forfeiting all registration fees and future registration priorities. This policy will be in effect ½ hour before the first scheduled game and ½ hour after the completion of the last scheduled game for that night. The site director has the authority to eject players and spectators from the premises.
- H. Repeated violations of the above will be cause for lifetime ban from all ARB leagues.
- I. Lifetime ban only deals with the ARB leagues. Other associations/leagues are not affected. They may impose their own suspensions.

- J. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at City of Akron or Summit County Metro Park fields. Any team or individual will be immediately suspended from all ARB leagues for the remainder of the season for violation of this rule.

PROTESTS

- A. **The Athletic League Coordinator will decide all protests in cooperation with the input from the Adult Softball League contact and the Site Director.**
- B. **All protests must be made to the umpire IMMEDIATELY, and before the next pitch is thrown, according to the governing body (Organization). Both teams will then record the exact conditions prevailing on the field at the time of the protest. The game will then assume the status of a suspended game and the game will continue.**
- C. **Protests can only be made on violated league or rule book rules, not judgment calls.**
- D. **The protest of travel-experienced players must be made to the umpire and site director at the time of said infraction. If a player's status cannot be determined immediately, the game will be resumed to completion and the matter will be resolved via the Sports Director within 48 business hours. If it is determined that the player was illegal, the game will be ruled a forfeit in favor of the opposing team.**
- E. **When protesting a league rule the protesting team must submit in writing, the nature of the protest to the Site Director or the Sports and Athletic League Coordinator at the ARB, 220 S. Balch St., Akron, OH 44302 by 4:30pm the next business day (Monday – Friday). A fifty (\$50.00) dollar protest fee will be required at filing of protest.**
- F. **PLAYOFFS: The ineligibility of a player during playoffs must be protested prior to the final out of the game, to the umpire and site director. A fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee must be handed to the site director at the time of the protest. If the player's identity is not known, the team roster and eligibility sheet will be checked and the player will be required to show identification. If a player does not have identification he/she will be considered ineligible. If a player is found to be ineligible the game will be forfeited and the fifty dollar fee returned. If the player is found to be eligible the game will resume and the fifty dollar fee will be retained by the City of Akron.**
- G. **Only teams involved in the game in progress may protest. A “third party” team may not protest a game they are not involved in.**

CANCELLATIONS/RAINOUTS

- A. All regular season games will be played as scheduled, weather and time permitting.
- B. **Call (330)375-2255, one (1) hour prior to the first game time. If no call is made to cancel, teams must report to the field.**

- C. If a game is suspended prior to being a legal game (**5 complete innings**), it will resume at the point of suspension with the same lineups or eligible subs used as replacements.

SCHEDULES

- A. The Akron Recreation Bureau will provide all schedules for the season.
- B. **Make-up games will typically be scheduled on the regular day/night you play whenever possible. Late in the season or due to excessive rainouts, games will be scheduled on our field availability basis.**
- a. If a league has an odd number of teams in a single game league, there will potentially be occasional double headers scheduled in order to eliminate multiple bye weeks.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. **SINGLE GAME LEAGUES:** Each team will play a total of ten regular season games. The top four teams in the standings after regular season play is complete will advance to the league championships. The first place team will play the fourth place team in one semifinal, and the second place team will play the third place team in the other. The semifinal winners will then play in the championship final. The higher seed will be the home team.
- B. **DOUBLE HEADER LEAGUES:** Each team will play a total of 16 regular season games. The top four teams in the standings after regular season play is complete will advance to the league championships. The first place team will play the fourth place team in one semifinal, and the second place team will play the third place team in the other. The semifinal winners will then play in the championship final. The higher seed will be the home team.
- C. **FALL DOUBLE HEADER LEAGUES:** Each team will play a total of 10 regular season games. The top four teams in the standings after regular season play is complete will advance to the league championships. The first place team will play the fourth place team in one semifinal, and the second place team will play the third place team in the other. The semifinal winners will then play in the championship final. The higher seed will be the home team.

***If leagues are divided into divisions, the top two (2) teams from each division at the end of the regular season will advance to the playoffs. The first (1st) place team from Division A will face the second (2nd) place team from Division B, and the first (1st) place team from Division B will face the second (2nd) place team from Division A. The higher seed will be the home team. The home team for the championship game will be determined by coin toss.**

TIE BREAKERS

- A. In the event there is a tie to determine final standings, the following system will be used:
1. Head-to-head competition

2. Most runs scored during the entire regular season
 3. Least runs allowed during the entire regular season
- B. For leagues with Divisions the final standing will be decided by the overall record. In the event of a tie in the overall record the following system will be used:
1. Head-to-head competition
 2. Division record
 3. Least runs allowed during the entire regular season
 4. Most runs scored during the entire regular season

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Any maintenance of ball fields to get them in playing condition will be done by City of Akron or Summit County Metro Park maintenance staffs only.
- B. **NO PETS ARE PERMITTED (Metro Park Serving Summit County rule).**
- C. Music may not be played when any team is batting at any game. It will be allowed during warm-ups if no other games are in progress. Music must be free of obscenities and vulgar content. If you are requested to turn the music down or off by either **an umpire or ARB representative** and fail to do so you could face ejection and subsequent suspensions. ***Umpire has final say either way***
- D. Team placement procedure: Due to multiple summer coed leagues on Sunday afternoons, ARB uses the following placement procedure to divide teams into upper and lower divisions.
1. Most new teams placed in lower division.
 2. Top team from lower division is required to move up if space is available.
 3. Request of managers
- E. **Matters, situations or happenings not covered in these rules will be handled and resolved by the Contact of Sports and Athletics Leagues and the Sports and Athletic League Coordinator and their decisions will have the best interest of the leagues in mind and will be final.**
- F. **PLEASE NO SOFT TOSS PRACTICE AGAINST THE FENCES.**
- H. **THERE is NO SMOKING or SEEDS allowed in FIRESTONE STADIUM, failure to follow this rule will result in Forfeiture or Suspension.**

Umpire Fees for FALL 2020

- Home team pays \$15, Away team pays \$15. (Each team will pay \$30 per double header)**
- Playoffs: Each team will pay \$15 for 1st round games. Championship Games are covered by ARB.**