

# **Adult Softball Rules**

## **Pacesetter Park**



## **WELCOME SOFTBALL ENTHUSIASTS!**

### **General Information**

- Everyone at Sylvania Recreation Corporation and Pacesetter Park would like to thank you for participating in the upcoming season! Our hope is that you have the best possible experience this year.
- Sylvania Recreation organizes, conducts and maintains recreational programs for Sylvania. We are proud of the facilities and programs we can offer for your leisure. The support of the community, as well as elected officials, helps make our total program possible. Their support enables us to serve the leisure needs of all citizens in the community.
- Please use this pamphlet as a resource to assist you and your team throughout the season. This resource is subject to change if deemed necessary.
- If you have any questions do not hesitate to call our office at 419-882-1500.

### **Facilities and Staff**

#### **Sylvania Pacesetter Park**

8801 Sylvania-Metamora Rd  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
419-885-1982

#### **Recreation Office**

7060 W Sylvania Ave  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
419-882-1500  
419-885-7146 fax

#### **Maintenance Office**

Pacesetter Park  
8801 Sylvania-Metamora Rd  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
419-882-1500

#### **Emilio Rosas**

Athletic Manager  
419-882-1500 ext. 7722

## Pacesetter Park Rules

### Park Policies

- Please visit the website – [www.playsylvania.com](http://www.playsylvania.com) for more details!

### Lightning Detection System

- This system is set up for park patron's safety.
- When the siren sounds at a solid *continuous level*, *games or practices need to be suspended and patrons need to seek shelter*.
  - This means under an open-air structure, gazebo, or your vehicle. If the danger clears an all-clear siren will sound (Hi-Lo tone).
- At that time a supervisor will evaluate field conditions and games can either begin or will be suspended.

### Field Practice

- No practice is permitted on the ball diamonds unless a field permit is present or it is scheduled through the recreation office. For softball, soccer, lacrosse, and flag football, practice is permitted on the west property of the park (past picnic pavilion).
- **NO GAME FIELDS can be used for practices.**
- You must have a permit to be allowed on to any game field area. These are issued through the SRC office at 419-882-1500.

### Tornado Siren

- If the tornado siren sounds, all games and practices **MUST** be suspended and you must seek shelter or leave the park.
- **NO ONE** is allowed to remain out in the park. Shelter area at the park is limited.

### Report Unsafe Conditions

- The Sylvania Recreation Corporation and Pacesetter Park is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for those who use our facilities.
  - However, should you notice any unsafe conditions at any of our sites, please bring it to our attention. Notify us at 882-1500 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ANY PLAYER, TEAM, OR COACH FOUND BREAKING THESE POLICIES WILL BE IN JEOPARDY OF LOSING THE USE OF PARK PRIVILEGES AS WELL AS POSSIBLE FINES IMPOSED BY THERE USER GROUPS.**

## **Items Not Permitted at Sylvania Pacesetter Park**

- **NO ALCOHOL!** – Players may not bring any alcoholic beverages into the park. If players are found with alcohol the player and team manager risk being suspended. If a repeat offense occurs from that same team, the entire team will be suspended from the league.
- **NO SMOKING!** – Players may smoke in the parking lot areas only.
- **NO BATTING PRACTICE INTO FENCES OR BACKSTOP!**

## **Notice to Participants**

- Sylvania Recreation carries no personal medical insurance and assumes no liability for personal injuries or loss of personal property of persons participating in these activities.
- A participant's individual or family policy must cover any medical costs incurred. Managers should check with U.S.S.S.A. about purchasing individual players insurance.
- This information can be obtained by looking in the U.S.S.S.A. rulebook or usssa.com website.

## **USSSA Governing Body**

- The following house rules will be followed first and foremost.
- All rules not covered by the house rules, please follow: United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Slow Pitch Rules.
- Check out their website: [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com).

## **Sylvania Recreation Rules**

### **League Administration**

- Sylvania Recreation completes league scheduling. Schedules will be made available to team managers prior to the season starting.
- The Maumee Valley Umpire Association assigns umpires for all adult leagues. The coordinator will strive to have two umpires for Men's games and one umpire for Co-Ed.
- League Standings will be posted at [Playsylvania.com](http://Playsylvania.com)
- Make-up games will be scheduled at the end of the year during the specified make-up dates. For all leagues, two weeks of rain make-ups have been scheduled into the season.
  - If these two dates are used and additional dates are needed, a triple-header format may be used. If this date is used and additional dates are needed, weeks that teams play single games a double header could be added.
  - Teams will have to be flexible for make-up scheduling. If both teams cannot make their scheduled make-up, and notice is given to the recreation office four days prior to the game, the game will be canceled and not counted against either team's record.
  - A four-day notice must be given on all games in which a team will be unable to field nine players or it will lose its forfeit fee.
- All supplies: rulebooks, scorebooks, rosters, softballs, etc. will be given out prior to games Week #1.

## **Team Rules**

- Uniforms must be of similar color and material with individual numerals on each uniform is required.
- All exposed jewelry or items that are judged to be hazardous or potentially dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game.
- **EFFECTIVE SEC. 10 B, Page 14.** - No metal spikes are allowed – see USSSA Sec 8. Shoe rule. Page 13.

## **Player and Roster Eligibility**

- All players participating in a Sylvania Recreation Adult League must sign his/her team roster/liability waiver.
- Roster are limited to 20 players, Co-Ed softball 24 players.
- Players may only be rostered on one (1) team per league.
- SRC rosters will be distributed to teams Week #1. Players can be added to a roster anytime during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the regular season. After the halfway point all rosters shall be frozen.
- All players must bring some form of photo ID to every game. The Site Supervisor or Program Director reserve the right to perform random ID checks before selected games.
  - All players must show ID or they will not be permitted to play.
- Substitute players need to be indicated on team roster. If a player is not listed on the team roster they cannot play without approval of the opposing team.
- League officials reserve the right to make exceptions to this rule in event of injury, player quitting, etc.
- **All roster questions or protests need to be completed prior to the start of the game.**

## **Player Conduct**

- Players will be expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and sportsmanlike manner.
- **PROFANE or ABUSIVE LANGUAGE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF AN UMPIRE CAN HEAR IT THE PLAYER IS EXPECTED TO BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME.**
- Players who use abusive language will be ejected. Players who provoke a confrontation will be suspended from the league.
  - **Players who are ejected from a game can face additional suspension.**
  - **Length of suspension is up to the Director's discretion.**
  - **IF EJECTED A PLAYER MAY NOT RETURN TO THE PARK UNTIL THAT SUSPENSION IS SERVED.**
- A second ejection of the same player will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season. If a team has two ejections of players, that team will be placed on probation.
  - If at any time during the remainder of the season a player is ejected, that team will forfeit the next two games and possibly be suspended from the league.
- Throwing equipment, striking an official, player, spectator, destruction of property, and threatening staff are grounds for suspension from Sylvania Recreation leagues.
- After a player is ejected he or she must leave the facility.
  - This "facility" is defined as the complete complex and parking lot. If the player refuses to leave in a timely manner, the team will forfeit the game.
- At the managers meeting before each game the manager will designate a captain. This is the only person who is allowed to approach an umpire about a call.
  - This must be done following all player conduct rules.
  - The captain is subject to ejection if he breaks any of the player conduct rules.
  - If any other player other than the captain approaches the umpire about a call than that player is subject to ejection.
- The only personnel allowed on the field during play are; the fielding team, base coaches, the batter, and one on deck batters.
- The game will not resume until all unnecessary personnel are off the field. If a team refuses to do so in a timely manner than the game is subject to forfeit.
- The Managers/Coaches of a Sylvania Recreation Registered Slow Pitch Softball Team and the umpires of a Sylvania Recreation Slow Pitch Softball game/tournament shall not allow anyone other than a Participant, Manager, Coach, Trainer or Sponsor to be in the dugout, bench or field of play during a Sylvania Recreation Game.
- Managers, Coaches, Trainers and Sponsors, unless otherwise approved by the Sylvania Recreation Department, must be at least 18 years of age.
  - The first violation of this rule shall be a warning by the umpire. The second violation or refusal to heed the warning issued on the first violation shall be an immediate forfeiture of the game.
- **COACHES or MANAGERS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR PLAYERS.**
  - League administrators have final say in the suspension ruling and may alter or change this rule as they see fit and as it applies to the situation. Sylvania Recreation will not tolerate inappropriate player conduct!

## **Player Conduct continued**

- Managers, coaches, players, substitutes, trainers, team spectators, or other team members or occupants of the bench, shall not, from any place, including the coaches boxes
  - Incite, or try to incite by words, or sign, or demonstration, either opponents and/or spectators.
  - Use of language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, the umpires, directors, or spectators.
  - Use of profane or abusive language or taunting will not be tolerated. Players violating this rule can be ejected from the game without warning.
- Balls & Strikes shall not be argued, carelessly throwing a bat or glove and all flagrant offenses (including a first offense) shall cause the offender to be immediately removed from the game and playing area. An ejected player must leave the park immediately
  - **REFUSAL TO DO SO IN A TIMELY FASHION WILL RESULT IN THE TEAM FORFEITING THE GAME.**
- When team members continue to harass the umpires from the bench, and he is unable to detect the offenders, the umpire shall first give warnings, and then if repeated, eject the manager.
- If harassment continues the game will be called a forfeit.
  - **SEE FORFEITED GAME**
- Due to safety concerns, at no time can a camera, audio or video device be worn or used by a player or coach on the field of play.
- Any exception must be approved by the Sylvania Recreation Department or their designee

## **Players**

- Players must be 18 years of age to participate.
- If requested by an official, a player must produce positive identification with a photograph; i.e. driver's license or student I.D.
  - If the requested player cannot furnish I.D., that player will be ejected and the game will be played under protest. If that player is found to be a non-roster player, the team will forfeit the game.
- Sylvania Recreation Players cannot be rostered on two teams in the same league.
- Teams caught using illegal players will forfeit all games that the illegal player played in. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
- Players found playing ineligible will be suspended from the leagues and the game(s) in which the player participated will be declared a forfeit for the team on which he or she played.
- Players may only change rosters 1 time. The player must be dropped off the original roster by the manager and then must resign the new roster. This has to be done before the roster addition deadline.

- A team must have the required number of players present in the dugout or team area to start or continue a game.
- Men's League- a team shall consist of ten players plus **two** extra hitters (optional).
- Mixed League- a team shall consist of ten players plus two extra hitters
  - **MUST BE ALTERNATING SEXES; SEE MIXED SPECIFIC RULES**
- A game may begin with nine players, but when and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the line-up at the tenth batting position.
- Whenever a team is playing with only nine an out **WILL** be taken in the tenth or position in the batting order.
- If a team is playing with ten an out **WILL NOT** be taken in the eleventh position.

### **Substitutes**

- Manager or team representative of the team making the substitution shall immediately notify the scorekeeper at the time a substitute enters.
- Any player may be substituted for and removed from the game, whenever the ball is dead. Opposing team should also be notified of substitution change.

### **Short-Handed Due to Injury or Ejection**

- Teams may have a minimum of nine players due to injury or ejection.
- If a team has nine players playing with no substitutes to replace an injured or ejected player, the game is over if a team drops to eight players.
- If a team starts with 10 players and drops to 9 due to injury or ejection an out must be taken in the 10<sup>th</sup> batting spot.

### **Extra Players Men's**

- One or two player (AH) is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game and listed in the line-up. If the AH is used, the AH must be used the entire game.
- If a player is injured or ejected an out will be taken during their spot in the line-up and the team will continue with 11 players.
  - The injured player may return to the game once their line-up spot has been taken.

### **Extra Player Co-ed**

- In Co-Ed the AH (2) must consist of a male and female.
- If a player is injured or ejected an out will be taken during their spot in the line-up and the team will continue with 11 players.
- The injured player may return to the game once their line-up spot has been taken. Teams may bat an extra female only.

## **Re-Entry**

- Any of the starting players, including an AH, may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, provided players occupy the original positions whenever in the line-up.
- Non-starting players may not re-enter. The starting player and his substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time.
- Improper Re-entry examples:
  - Starter who re-enters in an incorrect batting order.
  - Starter who re-enters a second time.
  - A substitute who re-enters the game.
- Violation of the re-entry rule is handled as a protest when brought to the attention of the umpire by the offended team and may be made anytime while the player is in the game.
- The illegal player shall be ejected. The position in the line-up where the player entered illegally shall be filled by a substitute.

## **Legal Bats**

- All bats must have the USSSA "Thumb print" marking on the bat
- As of 1/1/2015 no bat will be "Grandfathered" in
- The following are the only approved brands by USSSA
  - Anderson Bats, Baden Sports, Boombah, Combat, Dick's Sporting, Goods/adidas, Easton, GSC, Hillerich & Bradsby/Louisville Slugger, Jak'd, Marucci, Miken, Mizuno, Rawlings Sports, Rip It, Wilson/DeMarini, Worth.
- **Sylvania Recreation reserves the right to confiscate a bat!**
- **Bats will be checked by umpires before games!**
- **Anyone found using an illegal bat, meaning a bat this is rolled, shaved, or altered in any way, will be subject to permanent removal from the league!**

## **The Official Softball**

- Sylvania Recreation will provide all balls for league play. A .44 COR, 375 lb. compression ball will be used in all leagues. Personal balls are not permitted.

## **The Game**

- There are no tie games in any league. The game is played until a winner is decided.
- Rainouts are also played exactly where the game is left off, unless rule 2 applies.

### **Game Length**

- A regulation game shall consist of seven innings.
- A game called by the umpire or supervisor during regular season play which cannot be resumed within 30 minutes, will be a regulation if **four or more innings** have been played, or if the home team is ahead in the incomplete fourth inning.
- For all leagues there is a time limit of ONE HOUR, FIFTEEN MINUTES from the scheduled start time.
- No new inning may begin after one hour and ten minutes. Home team must get last at bats and finish inning unless home team is ahead in the incomplete inning.
- If the game is tied at the end of one hour, fifteen minutes, each team will place a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> Base to start their at bat each additional inning.
- The runner must be the last batted out. League official may make judgment call if the games hinder the following league.
- The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of rain, darkness, panic, or for any other cause which puts the umpire, players or the patrons in danger.
- At the beginning of a game, or when a pitcher relieves another pitcher, not more than 1 minute may be used to deliver no more than two (2) practice pitches to the catcher or another teammate.
- Between all other innings, only one practice pitch will be permitted.

### **Pitching Distance**

- The pitching mound will be set for all leagues at 50 feet with a box extending 6 feet back and the width of the pitcher's plate.

### **Base Distances**

- 70 feet

### **Number of Field Players**

- 10 total player anywhere on the field

### **Mercy Rule**

- 20 runs after three innings, 15 runs after four innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings. (Rule 4 Sec .3F Page 24)

### **Sliding Rule**

- If there is a play at 2b, 3b, or home, this means the ball has already arrived at the bases before the runner is within sliding distance, all players must slide into the base they are running to, avoid flagrant contact, or concede the base.
- Any player who does not slide, avoid flagrant contact, or concede the runner will be declared out. If a player deliberately goes after the fielder, he will be ejected from the game.
- It is the umpire's judgment call.

### **Bats on the field**

- If a live ball hits any bat laying out the play is dead. See U.S.S.S.A. rulebook for more information.

## Courtesy Runners

- One courtesy runner per inning (one time) may be used (Coed can use 2, 1 for men 1 for women).
- The courtesy runner can be any player in the lineup.
- If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.
- The designated pitcher may receive a courtesy runner at any time; this does not count toward the courtesy runner limit for the inning. This exception applies only to the current pitcher of record. If the pitcher changes, the new pitcher is eligible for this courtesy runner, and the previous pitcher is no longer eligible.
- In the Mixed Program, any male player in the lineup can run for any male, and any female player in the lineup can run for any female.
  - If a second courtesy runner of the inning, or one not from the lineup, enter the game, and the defensive team completes a proper appeal before the next pitch, illegal pitcher action, intentional walk, or before all fielders have left fair territory, the runner will be declared out.
  - Note: For any program using an offensive ejection, any player who has been offensively ejected cannot become a base coach or courtesy runner.

## Orange Safety Bag

- At first - on the initial throw to first base from the infield or outfield, the batter/runner **MUST TOUCH** the orange portion of the base but not the white.
- If legally appealed by the defense during a live ball situation, the runner will be called out. The defensive player must always touch the white portion.
- This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base.
- This does not include
  - Returning to base after an overthrow
  - Running on a base hit to the outfield (runner may touch the orange or white part)
  - Re-tag to advance on a fly ball.
  - On any attempt to force the batter runner out at first base on the initial throw that pulls the defense off first base into foul ground, the defense and the batter may use either the white or colored portion of the base.

## Pitchers Net

- A pitcher's net may be requested by the pitcher or team and will be used only by that team.
- The opposing team is ***not required*** to use a pitcher's net.
- The decision to use a pitcher's net is made on a team-by-team, game-by-game basis.
- Any ball hit into the pitcher's net will be considered a foul ball.
- A ball hit into the pitcher's net with two strikes will be an out.
- ***The team using the net is responsible for moving the net to and from the area in front of their own dugout.***
- Once a team has chosen to use the net, that decision applies for that team for the remainder of the game.

## Home Run Rules

- The following home run rules will be used for designated programs. The following are home run limitations per game, team, and league.
  - Over-the-fence home runs are limited in selected Sylvania Recreation programs.
  - All fair untouched fly balls over-the-fence in excess of the limit will be ruled an out and base runners do not advance.
  - All home runs before hit before the limit are base clearing home runs.
  - The batter and base runners do not have to run the bases.
- DHH (Designated Homerun Hitter) is the player whose position in the order, without penalty, may hit a homerun every time at bat.
  - Teams must designate their DHH spot in the batting order prior to the start of the game, or there won't be a DHH for that team.
  - Should the DHH be walked, whether intentional or not, the next person to hit a homerun may do so without penalty, until the DHH's spot comes back up in the line-up.
    - To clarify, the DHH is a predetermined spot in the batting order that carries the DHH designation. If a substitute enters the game in the DHH position in the batting order, he is considered the new DHH. In Co-Ed play, this rule is gender specific.
- Sunday Co-Ed – 1 + DHH
- Sunday Men's – 2 + DHH
- Monday Men's – 3 + DHH
  - In all leagues, after the home run limit is hit, any player that hits a ball over the fence will be an out. Teams are responsible for retrieving balls hit over the fence. Balls that teams throw into the game must conform to the leagues ball standards.
  - FALL LEAGUE: For fall league play the above home run rule will apply.

## Forfeited Game

- Sylvania Recreation has a strict forfeit rule. **Managers must notify Program Director 48 hours prior to game time in order to cancel game without losing team forfeit fee.** If a team forfeits two games, that team has three business days to place another forfeit fee on deposit with the Sylvania Recreation office. If the team fails to place the deposit with the office within three days, that team will be suspended from games for the remainder of the season.
- The umpire in favor of the team not at fault shall declare a win in the following cases:
  - If a team fails to appear upon the field, or once on the field, refuses to begin the game for which it had been scheduled, at the time the game was assigned.
  - If after a game has begun a team refuses to play or resume play as directed by the umpire.
  - If a team uses tactics noticeably designed to delay or hasten the playing of a game.
  - If an ejected player does not leave the field immediately when ordered to do so.
  - If, after the umpire has suspended play, one side fails to resume playing within two minutes after the umpire has declared "Play Ball".
  - If an ejected player is discovered participating again.
  - If, after warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game is willfully violated.
    - No Pitch is required to deem a game a forfeit.

## **Protest**

- A protest may be made when a team believes an umpire incorrectly applied or interpreted an official playing rule or adopted ground rule. **Judgment calls cannot be protested.**
- During a game, the protest must be made **immediately and before the next pitch**. The game will then be considered a protested game until decided by the Recreation Office.
- A written protest must be filed within **48 hours of the end of the game** and include:
  - Date, time, and location of the game.
  - Names of the umpires and scorekeeper.
  - The specific rule involved.
  - The umpire's decision and relevant facts.
  - A \$100.00 protest fee, payable by cash or money order.
- Possible outcomes:
  - Denied: Game result stands; fee is not refunded.
  - Allowed: Game resumes from the point of protest; fee is refunded.
  - Allowed with forfeit: Game is forfeited to the team not at fault; fee is refunded.

## **Mixed Specific Rules**

- Mixed Outfield Arc
  - All 4 outfielders must play behind the 140-ft arc in the outfield when a female is up to bat.
  - They may cross the line as soon as the batter contacts the ball.
  - If an outfielder is out of position, the ball will be considered dead and the batter will get a new pitch. If a team is playing extra infielders the extra infielders must be on the dirt when the batter contacts the ball.
- Mixed Female Rule
  - There must be at least five females in the line-up and on the field at all times unless playing with 9, if a team plays 4 females, an out must be taken during the 5<sup>th</sup> female spot in the batting order.
  - The females may play any defensive position. The batting order must alternate sexes. Teams cannot use additional hitters if they play with only five females.
  - A male and female must be used when playing with additional hitters.
- Mixed Walk Rule
  - If a pitcher walks a male and the next batter is a female, she has the option of taking a base on balls or hitting. The male automatically takes second base. If a male walks and the next batter is a male, he must bat. The male who walked must stay on first base.

## **League Tournaments**

- Will play a single elimination tournament at the end of the season.
- In the case of inclement weather, the tournament date is tentative.
- Tournaments will be scheduled after the rain make-up dates.
- If the season does not have a rain out, then the tournament will immediately follow the conclusion of the regular season.
- Seeds for the league tournament will be determined by:
  - Record
  - Head to Head
  - Run Differential
  - Coin Flip