

Cary Park

District

2024

Spring/Summer

Softball Guide

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All games are played at the Lions Park ball fields. The number of teams registered in a particular league will determine league format. Post-season playoffs are planned for all leagues.

Rules and Regulations

Unless otherwise stated, all league play will be governed by the rules and regulations set forth by the National Softball Association (NSA).

The Cary Park District does not provide hospitalization or medical insurance for players, officials or spectators. Players competing in Park District leagues are responsible for their own health. Any injuries incurred are not the responsibility of the Cary Park District. Players compete by their choice and must sign an injury waiver (team roster) before competing in any league. It is recommended that individual players have personal injury coverage.

I. League Responsibilities

1.01 *The Park District:* The Park District will provide field equipment (bats, gloves and cleats are not considered field equipment. **No metal spikes shall be worn.**), league administrator, softball supervisor, umpires, fields, games balls, and rules and regulations.

1.02 *The League Administrator:* The league administrator will be responsible for enforcing all rules, supervising league play, tournaments, scheduling umpires, maintaining league standings and equipment, scheduling rainouts, and communicating information to team managers.

1.03 *The Softball Supervisor:* The softball supervisor will be responsible for setting up fields, enforcing all rules, supervising league play, tournaments, and serving as a liaison between team managers and league administrator. The softball supervisor will also be on site at all scheduled games.

1.04 *Umpires:* Umpires are responsible for maintaining the orderly progress of each game as defined in the NSA Official Guide and the Cary Park District Softball Guide.

1.05 *Team Managers:* Team managers are responsible for the control of their team members and any spectators, being the team spokesperson, distributing all schedules, rules and regulations.

1.06 *Team Fees:* Team Fees (excluding out of district fees) are **due before the start of your first game.**

1.07 *Schedules:* Schedules will be handed out at the designated team manager meeting.

1.08 League Champions from the recreational league will be moved up one level the following year. Teams may elect to remain in the recreational league; however, they will not be eligible for league awards. Last place teams in the competitive league may move down to a lower level if they wish. To balance out leagues, the league administrator may move multiple teams at his/her discretion.

II. League Rosters

2.01 *Eligible Players:* To be eligible for play all players must be **18 years old or older** before the first game of the season.

2.02 *Players' Names:* All players' names must appear on the office copy of the team roster. If the player's eligibility is contested and the name is not on the roster, he/she is considered an ineligible player. Players must carry ID at all games for roster verification.

NOTE: All games played with ineligible players will be forfeited and a \$50.00 fine will be assessed for each game.

2.03 *Rosters:* Rosters will be limited to 20 players and must be completed and turned into the Cary Park District by the assigned date. Rosters are frozen at that time. **All rosters must be signed by each the player and are due by the beginning of the FIRST game of the season.**

2.04 *Player Change:* Players may be replaced only for the following circumstances: accident, illness, moving, or business transfer. A letter written on business letter head for transfers or a doctor's note must be given to league administrator along with the new player's name and address. The replaced player is then ineligible for play until the next season.

2.05 *Team Manager Change:* Team managers are responsible for notifying the league administrator of a change of address or phone number. If a team member replaces the team manager, the old manager should notify the league administrator of a new team manager.

III. League Play

The following rules will be utilized to ensure order and to prevent delays:

3.01 *Length of Game:* **Games will have a 1-hour time limit. A new inning will not start after the game is 1-hour old, unless the game is tied. A 2 & 2 count will begin after 50 minutes of play at the top of the next inning.** If there is a tie, extra innings will be played until there is a winner. A mercy rule of fifteen (15) runs at the end of the fourth inning, twelve (12) runs at the end of the fifth inning, and ten (10) runs at the end of the sixth inning will be utilized.

3.02 *Forfeits:* An on-field team shall consist of eight (8) to ten (10) players. A team shall not be permitted to start or continue play with fewer than eight (8) players. Forfeit time is ten (10) minutes after the stated game time for the first round of games of the day. For all other games after such forfeit time is game time. A forfeit will be declared when a team cannot field eight (8) players. In the event that neither team can field eight (8) players, a double forfeit will occur. When a game is declared a forfeit, both managers will be notified at once. The official game score will be 7-0 and the forfeiting team will receive a loss. A double forfeit will be scored 0-0, and both teams will receive a loss. A \$50.00 forfeit fee must be paid to the Cary Park District before the team's next scheduled game. Failure to pay the fee before a team's next scheduled game will result in forfeiture of said game.

Any teams forfeiting three (3) games in one season will be removed from the league and lose returning team status.

III. League Play - cont.

3.03 *Pre-game Warm-up:* **There shall be no batting practice on the infield.** Teams may take batting practice in the outfield. At no time shall any team warm up near the playground equipment. Five (5) warm-up pitches are allowed in the first inning. Two (2) warm-up pitches are allowed in each inning thereafter. Infield and outfield ball warm-ups are allowed in the first inning only.

3.04 *Batting/Substitutions:* **Teams will be allowed to bat up to twelve (12) players in a line up.** If a player is injured or ejected, etc... and there is no replacement, each subsequent time that player's name comes up in the order an out will be assessed. Injured players may be replaced according to NSA rules. Players are allowed to alternate between fielding positions and the extra player position as long as the batting order does not change. If a team starts with 8, 9 or 10 players they may add 3, 2, or 1 additional players at the end of the line-up during the game, provided the leadoff man has not batted twice. At the point where you reach the last man in the your batting order, if the additional player(s) you want to add have not shown, you have two options: (1) Add the player to the line-up and take an out in their batting order until they show or (2) Play with the amount of players you currently have in your line-up and use the other player(s) only as substitutions. Substitutions involving players beyond the original twelve (12) will follow the NSA substitution rule and will be allowed into the game only once.

3.05 *Courtesy Runner:* Anyone needing a courtesy runner should be announced at the pre-game conference. This player will require a courtesy runner for all at-bats. The player needing a courtesy runner can only bat and go not farther than first base (since they are injured). A player needing a courtesy runner can only walk, hit a single, hit a homer, or make an out. The subsequent courtesy runner has no restrictions. A player injured during the game may request a courtesy runner. Any team that is blatantly abusing the courtesy runner option (umpire's discretion) will no longer be able to use it and it may result in the cancellation of the courtesy runner option permanently from all Cary Park District Softball Programs.

3.06 *Dugout & Field of Play:* Only registered team members are allowed in the dugout or playing field.

3.07 *Pitching/Batting/Strikes:* Teams will be allowed to bat up to twelve (12) players in a line up (see more in batting/substitutions 3.04). All at bats begin with a 1 & 1 count. A 2 & 2 count will begin at the top of an inning starting after 50 minutes of play. If the third strike is a fouled ball, the batter is out; the ball may be played as a live ball and any action following shall be played as normal play after the catch. **A minimum 6' and maximum 12' pitch arc from the ground will be used.**

3.08 *Home Runs:* Each team will be allowed only five (5) home runs (over the fence) per game. Each untouched ball over the fence exceeding the team's home run limit will be scored as an out. Any ball touched by a defensive player in fair territory, which then goes over the fence in fair territory shall not be included in the total of over the fence home runs.

3.09 *Apparel:* Players and managers must wear a team shirt at all times while on the playing field or in the dugout.

3.10 *Alcohol/Tobacco:* Smoking by any players, managers or umpires while on the field, in the dugout, or coaching a base is **strictly prohibited**. A warning will be given for the first offense. Any infraction afterward will result in a \$25.00 fine. **The Cary Park District Policy states that no alcoholic beverages are allowed at any park site without written permission by the Cary Park District.** Offenders risk

penalty of law and forfeiture of their next game.

III. League Play - cont.

3.11 *Ground Rule Double*: If a batted ball bounces over the fence, a ground rule double will be ruled.

3.12 *Double First Base*: The orange portion of the base in effect exists only on the initial play of the batter/runner.

A. Three factors for play using double first base.

1. If there is no play, the batter/runner may touch either the white or orange base as the batter/runner runs through or rounds first base.
2. On a play where the throw is coming from fair or foul territory down the third base line, the first baseman must use the white portion of the base. No Exceptions. This includes any situation where there is an errant throw. The batter/runner must in all cases use the orange portion of the base.
3. On a throw coming from foul territory down the first base line or behind home plate, the first baseman must use the white portion of the base. No Exceptions. This includes any situation where there is an errant throw. The batter/runner must in all cases use the orange portion of the base

B. If either the defensive player or the batter/runner touches the wrong portion of the base, it will be treated as not touching the base at all.

C. If there is a collision, the player touching the wrong base is responsible for that collision and the umpire will enforce either the interference or obstruction rule.

D. If there is no play on the batter/runner, and the batter/runner misses the base entirely, not touching either white or the orange, he/she must return to the white base.

3.13 *Scorekeeping*: Scoring clipboards will be kept at each field. Game scores will be written on the scorecards, which will require the signature of the winning team manager and the umpire following the game. This is the official score of the game and will be used for standings.

3.14 *Standings*: Standings will be kept by the league administrator. Standings will be determined by win-loss records. Ties will be broken in the following order: (1) head-to-head record; (2) point differential between teams involved; (3) total season point differential (all teams).

3.15 *Protests*: Protests must be turned into the league administrator in writing along with \$25.00 within 24 hours of the incident. Judgment calls on the part of the umpire cannot be protested. Roster checks may be requested and must be done prior to the end of the game. All players must have a picture ID at all games.

3.16 *Banned Equipment*: Contact the league administrator to check on banned equipment or visit www.playnsa.com to find approved equipment page on the web site. If you do not see a certain piece of equipment listed, it is not approved by NSA.

III. League Play - cont.

3.17 *Awards*: Awards will be given for the following

League Champion - \$150 and Plaque

League Runner Up - Plaque

Tournament Champion - \$100 and Plaque.

Tournament Runner-Up - Plaque

V. Conduct

5.01 A league, in order to function smoothly, must have a set of rules and regulations. League rules must be understood by both managers and players. The Cary Park District urges managers, players and sponsors to acquaint themselves with all rules and regulations of the Cary Park District. If there is a question at any time, contact the league administrator. Violators of league rules may bring serious results to a player, manager or team.

5.02 All players will abide by the following code of conduct and those stated in the NSA Softball Rule Book. Only the team manager or pitcher will be allowed to discuss a play or rules with the umpire.

5.03 A team manager is held responsible for the conduct of his/her players at all times and for playing eligible players. A manager must be sure that all players sign the team roster and provide the correct addresses and telephone numbers.

5.04 Verbal abuse or any type of unsportsmanlike conduct perceived by the umpire as being excessive will result, in order: (1) expulsion from the game and a \$25.00 fine paid to the Cary Park District before the team's next scheduled game; (2) expulsion from the playing area; (3) forfeiture of the game.

NOTE: Threatening verbal abuse and/or gestures will result in expulsion from the league.

5.05 Any physical contact (abusive in the umpire's eyes) with the umpire, opposing team, spectators, or Park District staff will result in immediate and permanent expulsion from the league. If both teams are involved in any type of physical contact or fighting, the game will result in a double forfeit and a \$50.00 fine to each team. The \$50.00 fine must be paid to the Cary Park District before both teams' next scheduled games

5.06 A player who intentionally throws a bat before, during, or after a game on the ground, at the fence, over the fence or into the dugout, will be ejected from the game and fined \$25.00, which must be paid before the player is allowed to participate in the next team's scheduled game.

5.07 The league administrator reserves the right to interpret and/or change any of the rules at his/her discretion. In all cases, the league administrator has the final say regarding all rules and league structure. However, teams being affected by any rule change will be notified as soon as possible.

Cary Park District Website
www.carypark.com

You may find information on leagues including schedules, standing, tournaments, and league rules by visiting the Athletics webpage of the website, www.carypark.com. Scores and standings are updated within 72 hours of your last game played.

Inclement Weather

The Cary Park District uses the weather update system, RainOut Line.

Visit carypark.com and click on the RainOut Line banner on the home page. From there you may select to receive text alerts, email alerts or can download the RainOut Line app for your phone.

Cancellations will be decided by 4:30pm the day of games and RainOut Line will be updated.