

Johnston Recreation Department
Women's Softball
2018 Rules

1. An eleven (11) inch ball will be used (restricted flight-40 core only).
2. Pitching distance is 50 ft. – bases are 70ft.
3. All players must be 18 years of age.
4. Rosters must be turned in and properly filled out by June 1, 2018.
5. Winning team must call in score to Recreation Department 272-3460.
6. All players on the field will have on matching shirts with numbers. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit. The uniform rule will be in effect beginning June 1, 2018. Bring extra uniforms. Umpires will be responsible for enforcing the uniform rule.
7. Do not use bat weighting equipment during warm ups.
8. No metal spikes!!
9. A team that forfeits will pay both umpires and scorers full fee. If teams report to field and game is called prior to a pitch being thrown – umpires receive ½ fee.
 - a. Two umpires – \$27 per umpire, per game.
 - b. One umpire – \$44 per umpire, per game
 - c. One scorer, \$8 per team per game
11. A team that forfeits 2 games will not be allowed in the playoffs, and will be removed from the league. If a team is unable to play a schedule game, you may cancel 24 hours in advance and you will be credited with a loss, but not a forfeit, Please be considerate.
12. All USSSA certified bats will be allowed. Please see the current USSSA mark on page 9 of the 2018 USSSA Slow Pitch Rule Book: https://ussa.com/docs/2018/2018_SP_RuleBook.pdf
13. Once the schedule is completed and a team needs to cancel a game, you need to notify JRD in ample time that the other team, scorers and umpires are notified of the forfeit. (at least the day before), The game will be declared a forfeit but not held against you . In contrast, if you go to the field and forfeit the game it will be held against you and you will need to pay both scorers and both umpires' fees. We are working hard to try to avoid inconvenience to the league and its players.
14. **COURTESY RUNNERS:** One courtesy runner per inning (one time) may be used, The courtesy runner will be the last recorded out. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time /her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out. The batter must declare a courtesy runner will be used before the first pitch of the at bat.

Games:

1. Teams may play 11 defensive players, an official game can be played with a minimum of 9 players.
2. All games must start if at least 9 players from each team are present.
3. Players who come late will be placed at the bottom of the batting order and may take the field immediately if their team is on defense.

4. A ten (10) minute grace period will be allowed for the first game only.
5. No warm up pitches or infield balls will be allowed after the second inning.
6. The following run rules will be in effect: 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, 12 runs after 5 innings. It is not necessary for the home team to bat if they are ahead by the required number of runs to end the game.
6. A three (3) ball and two (2) strike counts will be used. Batter will be declared out on the second foul ball after the first strike.
7. Teams will have a continuous batting order.
8. Once player takes the field defensively she must remain there for 3 defensive outs, unless injured. See #10.
9. If a player leaves the game because of an injury or an ejection that player is not allowed to return to the game. Her batting spot in the order does not become an out, each batter below her moves up. If injured player is a base runner and she leaves the game, then the person who made the last out may run for her.
10. The home team must supply a new ball and the visiting team must supply either a new ball or a good condition used ball.
11. If umpire does not show for the game and both coaches agree to have spectator umpire then the game will be official.
12. Games called because of inclement weather without completing 5 full innings will be played from the exact point of cancellation – save the score sheet!

Awards

1. Championship team trophy and t-shirts.
2. Play-off champs will receive the same as league champs. However, if team wins both the league and play-offs they will receive one set of individual awards (sweatshirts/long-sleeved t-shirts)
3. In the event of a tie for first place, the following tie breaker will apply.
 - a. If between 2 teams, how they fared against one another.
 - b. If more than two teams – a coin flip will break the tie. All teams will be declared co-champions.

Conduct

1. If a player or coach is ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike action, they must sit the next two scheduled games. A second occurrence will be a 5 game suspension. A third occurrence will result in an indefinite suspension.
2. No alcoholic beverages allowed before, during, or after the game on town property. If caught drinking during the game your team will forfeit. Please help keep fields clean!! Teams are also responsible for their fans.

Games Subject to Change Only:

1. By commissioner for team participating in ASA State or National qualifying tournaments and USSA State tournament.
2. Due to commissioner's error in schedule.

Protest

Protests must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of registering the protest with the umpires, scorer, and opposing coach. Protests will be heard and addressed by league commissioner and the state and local Umpires in Chief. Each protest must be accompanied with a \$30.00 fee. Protesting team must notify scorer, umpire and opposing coach of the protest before the next pitch.