

# Ithaca Mens Softball League Constitution

The Ithaca Mens Softball League purpose is to provide the local community the opportunity to play recreational slow pitch softball in a fun, fair, and family-oriented atmosphere that promotes good sportsmanship in a competitive environment. League members are required to uphold the Code of Conduct while respecting players, coaches, umpires, spectators, league officials, and all authorities associated with Cass Park and the City of Ithaca Recreational Department. The league will also support and provide increased visibility for its sponsors and be a positive organization in the local community.

## **I BYLAWS**

- 1) The name of the league is Ithaca Mens Softball League. Changes to that name may be made by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors
- 2) League Positions—The League will have the following officers:
  - a) *The Commissioner* - is responsible for overseeing the league and ensuring it runs smoothly. The commissioner will, from time to time, designate others to perform duties necessary for the league to continue running smoothly.
  - b) *The Treasurer* - is responsible for collecting fees and ensuring fiscal responsibility of the league. In the absence of the Commissioner, the Treasurer or other person(s) designated by the Commissioner may act on his behalf.
  - c) *Board of Directors* - BOD
    - (i) Number of BOD members may vary from year to year but must have a minimum of 6. Members must have vested interest in league and fully support the mission statement, as well as show or have shown a willingness to dedicate time and energy to ensure the smooth functioning and growth of the league. Members do not have to be current players.
    - (ii) New BOD members must be approved by a 2/3 vote of current BOD members.
    - (iii) The BOD makes rulings on sportsmanship violations on a case-by-case basis, these decisions are final. There is NO appeal. ALL BOD decisions are final.
- 3) Fees
  - a) Team fees due will be determined no later than 1 month before the first game of the season
  - b) Fees are due no later than two weeks before the first game of the season
  - c) Teams that have not paid their fees will forfeit any games scheduled until the date such fees are paid in full
  - d) Fees collected will be used to pay for the commissioner's budget & league supplies (softballs, field usage fees, ASA dues, umpires, insurance, other equipment as necessary)
- 4) Budget
  - a) \$500 will be allotted to the Commissioner. It is the discretion of the commissioner to determine appropriate allocation of funds between salary, league organization, consulting fees, or other items necessary for the league to continue running smoothly and successfully
  - b) Treasurer will be allotted \$100
    - (i) All league expenditures must be approved by the Treasurer
  - c) Web Master will be allotted \$50
  - d) Secretary of the League will be allotted \$50
  - e) Grounds Keeper will be allotted \$50

## II RULES OF PLAY

- 1) All rules of play follow the ASA's official rules of softball (can be referenced on [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com)), with the following exceptions stated in this document.
- 2) When a runner is heading toward a base other than first base on which a play is being made, that runner must either slide or give up the out. **CLAUSE D-1A and D-1B ONLY APPLIES IF THERE IS NOT A SECONDARY HOME PLATE**
  - a) If there is a throw to home and a runner does not slide at home plate and makes contact with the catcher, that runner is automatically out, the play is "dead," and other runners may not advance further.
  - b) If the runner is heading toward home plate and there is no play at the plate, the runner may step on the strike mat in place of home plate.
- 3) Commitment Line Rule for plays at home plate: As a player is rounding third and heading for home once they cross the commitment line the play at home plate becomes a force play with the tie going to the runner.
  - a) There will be a second home plate approximately 8 feet away from the first home plate that all runners scoring will run to. The umpire will make the call of out or safe based on force play rules.
  - b) The commitment line will be clearly marked and noted before each game. It will be at the center point between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home plate. Once a runner passes this commitment line they cannot retreat back to third base and any play at home plate involving that runner will be considered a force play. No fielder can physically tag the runner after he passes the commitment line or runner will be automatically safe.
- 4) Two foul rule: on two strikes, if the batter then fouls out twice, on the second foul the batter is called out.
- 5) Courtesy runners:
  - a) Each team is allowed to put in a courtesy runner for up to four players, per team, per game. Whenever these four players get on base they are allowed to have a courtesy runner.
  - b) In the case of injury or other extenuating circumstances after a team has already used the full four courtesy runners, it is at the two team captains' discretion to determine if additional courtesy runners will be utilized
  - c) The courtesy runner will always be the previous player called out for the team at-bat. If the previous player called out is one of the four players in need of a courtesy runner, the courtesy runner then becomes the penultimate player called out
  - d) In the first inning with no outs a coach can pick any player as a pinch runner
- 6) Double Headers:
  - a) During the first game of a double-header, "split" or otherwise, if the home team is ahead by ten or more runs by the end of the fifth inning or takes a 10-run lead at anytime after the conclusion of the top of the fifth inning, that team is automatically deemed the winner of the first game, and the second game commences.
  - b) No game may end during the top half of a double-header.
- 7) Base runners may not take leads. A runner's foot may leave the base no earlier than when the ball reaches home plate
- 8) If a ball in fair territory hits a tree, pole, leaf, or other inanimate & above-ground object, and is caught on the fly by a fielder, that ball is considered still in play (not an out). In foul territory, a catch under these circumstances is not an out, but rather a foul ball
- 9) If a player bats out of order, that player will take an "out." Batting out of order is only considered once the batter is allowed a pitch.
- 10) When a batter is running to first base, he must touch the outside safety bag, or he will be called out for interference if there is a play at first base

11) Pitcher may pitch and release the ball up to 50 feet from the front of home plate

12) Pitcher will pitch a 6' to 12' arc

13) Individual Field Rules

- a) Field 2 rule (Tennis Courts): If the ball hits an overhanging branch in left field of fair territory, it is an automatic double.
- b) Field 3 rule (Hangar Theater): Hitting the tree in the air is an automatic home run, hitting the ball into the woods or weeds on the fly is a home run, and the ball bouncing into the woods or weeds without contacting a defensive player is an automatic triple. If it contacts a defensive player and goes into the woods or weeds it's "all you can get."
- c) Field 4 rule (Sun Field): Hitting trees on a fly to left field is an automatic home run, and a ball that bounces into the trees without touching a defensive player is a ground rule triple. If it contacts a defensive player and goes into the woods or weeds it's "all you can get." Hitting the overhanging tree in fair territory on a fly to right field is an automatic double. If the ball rolls into the bushes near the water fountain then it becomes a ground rule triple.
- d) Field 5 rule (Willow Tree Field): If the ball hits the tree in the air it's an automatic home run. If the ball goes over the tree and into the woods/weeds it is an automatic home run. If it bounces into the woods/weeds without being touched by a defensive player, it is a triple. Touched balls winding up in the weeds/bushes is "all you can get"

### III BASE COACHES / UMPIRES

- 1) The at bat team provides base coaches for first and third base
- 2) Teams will pay \$40 to the Umps per game. A forfeit will result in that team paying the entire Umpire fee for that game.
- 3) When we don't have Umpires, base coaches are responsible for the following.
- 4) The first base coach is responsible for calling safe or out at first base.
- 5) The third base coach is responsible for calling safe or out at second or third.
- 6) If the third base coach misses the play, he refers to the first base coach.
- 7) If no base coaches are available during a play, the pitcher shall fairly call safe or out.
- 8) Plays at home plate are called by the on-deck batter. If the on-deck batter misses the play, the catcher calls the play.

### IV EQUIPMENT

- 1) All home teams are required to bring:
  - a) Four bases: two for first base—one for the first basemen, and one for the runner; one for second base; one for third base.
- 2) A "wooden strike mat" which will be provided by the league.
- 3) A new ball for each game, except double headers
  - a) Balls will be given out by the commissioner at the beginning of the season and their physical composition will be determined during each year's winter meeting regardless of ASA's current standards
  - b) Bases will be provided by the individual teams
  - c) No metal cleats shall be worn at any time during play
  - d) ASA- Approved bats only. Yearly list of approved ASA bats will be provided on our website via our web master. Bats not on list will be deemed "unapproved"
  - e) Bats that have been altered or shaved are "illegal". If a batter is found to be using an illegal bat:
    - (i) The player using an illegal bat will be banned from play for a full calendar year (365 days)
    - (ii) The violating team will forfeit the current game and all previous games in which the

violating player participated.

- 4) When a batter hits a player causing serious injury, the bat is shipped to ASA officials for inspection
  - (i) Team reps have the right to inspect bat-bags and bats prior to and during games

## **V PLAYOFFS**

- 1) To determine player eligibility, divide the total number of nights scheduled for game(s) by 2. That number is the total number of games played required for playoff eligibility. Forfeit games of teams that did not forfeit can use that game as "played for the entire roster."
- 2) At least one umpire should be used for each playoff game.
- 3) The playoff schedule determined by the bracket provided by the commissioner will be approved by the board.
- 4) The commissioner will designate fields for the playoffs
- 5) A coin flip will determine home field advantage when a final playoff is needed.
- 6) If a player is unable to play at least half games due to documented injury(s) it will be up to a committee of team representatives to decide by a 3/5 or greater margin that the player may be eligible for playoff participation; all cases must be brought to the committee's attention in writing or during a meeting and voted upon at least 108 hours before the first league playoff game is scheduled to commence.
- 7) Any player may be added to a playoff roster in extreme circumstances (such as an act of god or natural disaster) if a 3/5 or greater margin of a committee of team representatives agrees upon it.
- 8) Tiebreaker: Winner of the regular season matchup; then total runs scored.

## **VI RAINOUTS**

- 1) Cass Park will be the first to determine if a game is officially rained out. Usually by 3:00PM Cass Park will contact the Commissioner, who in turn contacts team representatives and players on the email list and website.
- 2) The league Rain-Out Spokesman will decide if the games will be played based on his opinion of the field conditions at that time. Usually by 4:00P.M. If the Rain-Out Spokesman determines the fields to be unsuitable for play, he will contact the Commissioner. The Commissioner will post it on the League website page and email list.
- 3) Once the game has begun it is up to the discretion of the Umpire if the game can continue.
- 4) If the weather is questionable but no one has been contacted in regard to a rain-out, teams are expected to report to their fields at the appropriate time, ready to begin the game with at least nine players, or they will forfeit.
- 5) If both teams at a game are at the field ready to play, but weather/field conditions are still questionable, at least one team rep can deem conditions inappropriate/unsafe for play then the Commissioner should be contacted to reschedule the game.

## **VII TEAM ROSTERS**

- 1) A team may have no more than 12 players in their line up at the start of the game. 2 EPs (extra players) are allowed in the lineup.
- 2) Each team requires 8 players to begin play, and nine players by the final out of the final inning. If a team begins play with 8 players, the team may add up to two players during the game but must notify the opposing team of the addition(s).
- 3) If a team begins play with 9 players, the team may add one player, but must notify the opposing team of the addition.
- 4) If a team begins with 10 players, no more players may be added.

- 5) A team may substitute players at any time but must notify the opposing team of the substitution. A starting player who is substituted out may re-enter the game at any time but must re-enter in his initial line-up position. A starting player may re-enter after a substitution no more than one time per game. Non-starting players who are substituted may not re-enter the game.
- 6) Changing teams: If a player wishes to change teams after the season has begun, he must:
  - a) Do so no later than June 15
  - b) Give notice to his current team
  - c) Obtain written permission from the majority of team representatives
  - d) To be eligible for the playoffs, the player must play with his NEW team for at least half the games needed for playoff eligibility
- 7) Team stats will be posted to our league website before each game night by game time of each calendar week. Games not recorded by game night will not count towards player's eligibility for the playoffs. Stats must note every at bat.
- 8) The person responsible for entering stats on the website will be suspended from playing for their respective team if they fail to meet the Thursday deadline. The person responsible for entering stats must be a regular and eligible player for playoff competition. One warning a year will be allowed per team
- 9) Each team must have TWO designated representatives known to the commissioner by the first game of the Ithaca Mens Softball League season. If no representative is designated the team rep will sit.

## **VIII BEHAVIOR**

- 1) Players are expected to behave in a sportsman-like fashion, with the understanding that families and young children may be present during games.
- 2) Starting a physical fight will result in ejection from the current game and the a minimum of 2 subsequent games; To be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 3) Abusive language, especially toward team representatives, the Commissioner, and/or umpires, will result in ejection from the current game and may also result in expulsion from the next scheduled game, to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Directors.
- 4) Code of Conduct must be signed by every player in order to play. One warning for no signature per player will be allowed.
- 5) Follow Cass Park's Carry in carry out policy. Teams that leave garbage behind will be fined.
- 6) All suspended players must physically be on their team's sideline during their suspension in order to receive eligibility for their next non suspended game.
- 7) The League Commissioner and Board of Directors have the right to ban any player based on their judgment. The following individuals are banned from the League:

## **IX PROTESTS**

- 1) Protests of any kind must be put in writing or e-mailed prior to the start of both team's next scheduled game, preferably within 24 hours of the incident or they will not be considered valid. All decisions made on protests are final.
- 2) Protesting teams/players must pay a fee of \$25 to the league for each protest. If the protest is ruled in favor of the protester, this fee will be returned.
  - a) Protests concerning behavior will be examined by the Board of Directors
  - b) Protests concerning other matters will be left to the commissioner's discretion. The commissioner may choose to bring any issue to the Board of Directors.