

# SOFTBALL RULES

## TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA Y & R

Revised: January 5, 2016

### SECTION 1: TEAM, UMPIRE, AND PERFORMANCE FEES

#### Article 1a. FEES

The collection of team and non-resident fees is the responsibility of the team manager/captain and are to be paid with cash or a check made payable to the Town of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Department. All fees must be paid by May 1, 2016.

#### 1b. TEAM FEES

Be it resolved that the following recreational fees are established effective January 1, 2016 for the 2016 summer season:

#### 2015 SOFTBALL TEAM REGISTRATION FEES

<u>League</u>	<u>Registration Fee</u>	<u>Resident Team Discount Fee</u>
Coed	\$450	\$370
Women's	\$450	\$370
Men's	\$450	\$370
Wooden Bat	\$310	\$310

- There are no residency requirements for a team paying normal registration fee. Residency requirements for resident team are 90% of players on roster must be Cheektowaga Residents and all must turn in proper ID and Bill Mailing with matching address..
- A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to register each team.
- All ASA Fees & the umpire forfeit fee are included in the Registration Fee.
- If a team does not forfeit during the course of the regular season we will pay for the final regular season game umpire.

1c. The Southtowns Umpire's Association is an independent organization from the Town of Cheektowaga. The Town of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Department contracts with the Southtowns Umpire's Association for the league.

#### 1d. UMPIRE FEES

Each team will pay the umpire \$18, one-half his/her normal fee before the start of any game. Any team that fails to make this payment will be subjected to penalties that may include the forfeiture of any game and suspension of the team from the league.

#### Article 2. NON-RESIDENT USER'S FEE

Non-resident fees are included in regular team registration fee.

#### Article 3. REFUNDS

There will be no refund of any fees paid if a team is ejected from the league. Teams ejected from the league must still pay the full amount owed for the league fees.

### SECTION 2 – PROTESTS

Article 1. The Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator, if accepted, will act upon all protests. His/her decision is final.

Article 2a. Umpire's decision must be accepted and considered as final without question.

2b. A protest may be filed only if a misinterpretation of rules should happen to occur. Proper procedures must be followed if the protest is to be legal. The manager/captain must call time and notify the umpire and the opposing manager/captain of the protest immediately. If one pitch is thrown after you feel there were grounds for a protest your protest will not be valid. It must be done immediately. The scorebook must be signed by the umpire to verify that the game is being played under protest. These scorebook pages must be turned in with a letter of protest. Again, after one ball is pitched, no protest will be allowed to be filed (exception – Section 2, article g).

2c. In filing a protest, the rule or situation in question must be stated. Unless the rule/situation is stated, the Softball Coordinator will not accept a protest.

2d. Protests must be submitted to the Softball Coordinator within 48 hours of game time.

2e. Managers/captains seeking to file protests should contact the Softball Coordinator the following day if they have questions concerning the filing of the protest.

2f. If a protest is upheld, the two teams involved must pay the umpire when the game is replayed. The protested game will be played from the point of protest or infraction. Any roster player may be used to replace a player who participated in the original game and is absent or injured and is unable to participate in the replaying of the protested game.

2g. Protests concerning illegal players may be filed at any time prior to the end of the regular season.

2h. Protests concerning illegal players in a playoff game must be filed prior to the completion of that particular playoff game.

2i. All protests will cost the protesting team \$20.00 and will not be refunded win or lose of the protest being filed. If the \$20.00 does not accompany the protest the protest will not be valid and will be thrown out no exceptions.

### **SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTERS**

Article 1a. Each player of each team must be undersigned to the team's roster.

1b. By April 12, 2016 the manager/captain of each **resident team** must submit the team **roster including proofs of residency** for resident team discount to the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Department.

**1c. Rosters must be turned in by May 27, 2016, if they are not turned in by this date the team captain will receive a phone call warning and then after this games will be forfeits until the roster has been turned in.**

1d. Only those players on the roster will be allowed to participate in the games to be played. Additional players may be added in advance of participation. After the first game is played, no player may be added to another team within the same division.

1e. To be eligible to participate in playoffs, a player must have participated in 50% of the games that are guaranteed by the Town Of Cheektowaga which would be 5 out of 10 and be on roster prior to July 10, 2016.

1f. Any team using an ineligible player or anyone using a fictitious name and/or address shall be ejected from the league with no refund. This may occur immediately after the start of the first game of the season.

### **1g. Any team not having a roster on file will not be eligible for the playoffs.**

Article 2a. All rosters are open to inspection by all league managers/captains. Rosters must be neatly filled out or they will be rejected.

2b. Acceptable proofs of residency (with players' name on it) are:

1. Drivers License
2. Voters Registration
3. Utility Bill
4. Property Tax Bill
5. Town of Cheektowaga Resident Discount Card - Town Identification Card

2c. Each team may carry a roster of twenty players.

### **SECTION 4 – POSTPONEMENTS**

Article 1a. After the start of the game, the umpire assigned to the game shall be the sole judge of whether or not the field and/or weather conditions are favorable or unfavorable for play.

1b. If a game is postponed at the site or before it becomes a legal game, the home team must submit a scorecard with the umpire's signature, the status of the game, and why the game was postponed. Failure to submit the scorecard as requested will result in forfeiture of both teams.

Article 2a. It is prohibited for any manager/captain to postpone a scheduled game without permission from the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator.

Article 3. Unless notified by the CY&RS Softball Coordinator, all manager/captains with respective teams will show up at the designated field for a scheduled game. In the case of inclement weather or wet grounds, only team managers/captains are requested to call the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator's office at 656-2294 or go online to [www.tocny.org](http://www.tocny.org) after

4:00pm to determine if the games will be played. Games will be postponed when diamonds are unplayable. Managers/captains should appoint an assistant so that the Coordinator can contact that person if the manager/captain cannot be reached.

**Article 4a. The Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Department reserves that right to cancel regular season and playoff games at its discretion at any time.**

Article 5. Umpire fees for all postponed or suspended games are as follows; \$2 per inning per team shall be paid for number of innings to be finished.

## **SECTION 5 - GAMES**

Article 1a. Each game will be 7 innings or 1 hour & 10 minutes. No new inning will start 1 hour & 10 minutes from the start of the game. If tied after 7 innings, extra innings will occur if time permits. If not, the winner will be determined by who scored more runs in the previous inning going back as many innings necessary to determine a winner. **There are no ties!**

1aa. Games will be played on 65 ft. diamonds.

1b. All regular season games will begin promptly as scheduled. A team failing to be ready to play at the scheduled time forfeits the game to the scheduled opponent at the discretion of the umpire. There is, however, a **TEN MINUTE** grace period before the game is forfeited. If a grace period is used, the game will be shortened the amount of time used to start the game. If an umpire is late for a game the teams shall still play their full game time.

Article 2a. A team awarded a win by forfeit must submit a scorecard with a winning score of 7-0 and the word "forfeit" written on the back of the card.

2b. Two forfeits will suspend the team immediately for the remainder of the season and still owe all league fees if not already paid in full.

2c. Opponents of suspended teams will be awarded a forfeit, 7-0 win.

Article 3. A team may start and play with nine players. A team starting with 9 players must finish with 9. No out will be taken for missing a 10<sup>th</sup> batter. If a team starts with 10 players they must finish with 10 players, with the exception of a voluntary leave by a player, in which then the team must take an out for them. A team playing with 10 must have a sub for an ejected player to continue and finish with 10. If not the result is a **forfeit**.

Article 4. Players are prohibited from wearing metal spikes. Any participant wearing metal spikes will be ejected from the game.

Article 5. The team at bat is responsible for retrieving balls.

Article 6a. **The winning team must deposit the scorecard, complete with all required information in the designated drop box located on the side of the Losson Recreation building next to the display cases, or on the facilities building at Town Park, next to diamond 1. Each Team must sign the scorecard. The league name and the game # must be written on the scorecard in the space provided.**

6b. **All information submitted on the scorecard should be clear and legible. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disciplinary action by the Coordinator, which may include forfeiture.**

6c. **If the winning team fails to return a scorecard or a phone call within 48 hours after the 8:00am deadline, both teams will be credited with a loss for that game.**

6d. **A second occurrence of any scorecard violation may result in disciplinary action by the Coordinator, which may include forfeiture and/or suspension.**

**6e. Any scores not reported by week 10 will be recorded as losses.**

6f. **The 12 run rule applies after five innings. 20 run rule applies after the team behind has been up to bat 3 times. Team down by 20 runs after 3<sup>rd</sup> at bat is not entitled to last at bat once down by 20.**

6g. There are three courtesy runners allowed per game. Only one courtesy runner may be on the bases at any time. The same runner may not run 2 times consecutively

6h. If a game is tied at the end of regulation, there are no extra innings (exception: **only if time permits**). If no time permits the tiebreaker will be as follows: Team scoring more runs in the last inning of play wins the game, if still tied it goes to the inning before that and so on until a winner is determined.

6i. There is a three homerun limit on over the fence hits. After 3 over the fence home runs, these hits will be outs.

6j. Exception for 6i: The homerun limit does not apply to **Women's** leagues. Also if a woman hits a home run in coed it does not count to the three homerun limit, so the team will still be at the same number of homeruns after a woman hits a homerun, as they were before she hits the homerun.

6k. **Game balls - Any team using a non-issued 2016 season game ball will forfeit the game.**

6l. If a runner leads off and the batter swings and misses the runner is out (**no warnings**).

6m. **THE Town Of Cheektowaga SCHEDULES 12 GAMES BUT ONLY GUARANTEES 10 GAMES TO BE PLAYED IN THE SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE, NO EXCEPTIONS. \*\*\*see rule 4a\*\*\***

6n. **The Town Of Cheektowaga reserves the right to not play a rained out game at the end of the season if it will have no bearing on the outcome of the final standings before playoffs. Therefore, this will be the exception to the rule (6m) in that if this would be the eighth, ninth or tenth game, all three of the game(s) will not be played and the league will not re-schedule if it runs into the scheduled playoff time. Weather in Cheektowaga, NY is very unpredictable and this will be the exception to rule 6m.**

6o. **A green strike zone mat will be utilized for league play. A pitched ball landing on the plate or mat will be a strike as long as pitched with a legal 6 to 12 foot arch in men's leagues and a 6 to 12 foot arch in coed and women's leagues.**

Article 7a. The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules will apply in those situations where there is no conflict with rules of the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball League and the judgment of the Coordinator.

7b. The Coordinator reserves the right to amend the rules of the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball League at any time.

7c. Teams and/or players seeking exclusion from these rules and regulation may do so in writing to the Coordinator. In the request for exclusion, a detailed explanation of the extemporary situation and/or condition should be accompanied with all pertinent information and evidence.

Article 8a. It is the responsibility of the team representative to inform the team's players and manager/captain of the outcome of the pre-game umpire's meeting (ground rules).

Article 9a. No women are allowed to play in Men's A or B leagues. Maximum one woman allowed playing in men's C leagues and she must play an outfield position.

9b. All-women teams cannot play in a Co-Ed league.

## **SECTION 6 - PLAYER CONDUCT**

Article 1a. No alcohol on the field, No player is allowed to drink alcohol while playing. Any player caught consuming Alcohol while playing will be ejected.

1b. No unsportsmanlike conduct by players, managers/captains, coaches, or duly authorized representatives will be tolerated. Any person judged guilty of violating this rule should be subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Coordinator.

**1c. Any player ejected from a game will serve an automatic 1 game suspension. A second violation will result in an automatic 6 game suspension. Both suspensions can include playoffs.**

1d. Any team that uses a player that has been suspended will result in that teams captain being suspended. If the team does not have enough players to finish the game when the captain and suspended player are ejected the team will forfeit.

1e. Any player, manager/captain, coach, or duly authorized representative physically contact an umpire in an unsportsmanlike manner will be immediately suspended. He is no longer allowed to participate until a hearing is held with head of umpires, umpire involved, player involved, softball committee, town board member, and head of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services.

Article 2. By being on a roster for any Cheektowaga League you are agreeing to abide by The Town of Cheektowaga's Zero Tolerance Policy/Code of Conduct and can be suspended as a captain/individual for the actions of yourself or your team as the manager

## **SECTION 7 – PLAYOFFS**

Article 1a. If there is a tie for first place in a division, the tie breaker will be a head-to-head season record. Then runs scored and against + - will be used. If that is a tie, it will be based upon record against the other playoff teams.

1b. Ties for second and/or third place will be broken using regular season record between the teams involved. If this is also a tie, record against the other playoff teams will be the criteria.

1c. Two or three way ties for fourth place will be broken using the following criteria:

- a. Record between the teams during the regular season
- b. Run difference between teams
- c. Record against the other playoff teams.
- d. Difference between total runs scored and total runs allowed during the regular season
- e. Coin toss

Article 2. Playoffs will start on the first available scheduled date following the completion of the regular season and is not limited to "league night."

Article 3. For all inter-divisional playoffs, the team with the best record in games played between the teams involved or wins a coin toss, is the home team.

Article 4. Each team will pay the umpire \$18, one half the normal fee, before the game is played.

Article 5. For the inter-divisional playoffs, Article 2 and Article 4 will apply with the home team being decided by a coin toss.

Article 6. Pairings for the inter-divisional playoffs will be decided by a drawing.

Article 7. There will be no time limit for championship games ONLY. Hour and 15 Minute time limit still applies for other playoff games. All games will be at least 5 innings. 12 run rule in effect after 5 innings.

\*\*\*Exception 1: length of season due to weather may force a change in section 7 article 7 rule.

\*\*\*Exception 2: Number of teams allowed in playoffs is subject to change due to weather

See index

## **SECTION 8 – SPECIAL RULES**

### **Coed-**

Article 1. The batter becomes a runner when four balls have been called by the umpire. The ball is dead. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) has to bat with 0 or 1 out.

EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. Note: Should female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during this dead ball period. A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.

Article 2a. There is no position rule. Any player (Male or Female) may play any position. However, there must be an equal number of Males and Females on the field and there must be an equal amount of males and females in the outfield, the infield as well as pitcher and catcher being opposite sex.

2b. Teams may start and play with 9 players but the ratio has to be 5 females to 4 males. A team may also play with a ratio of 6 females and 4 males. In the case of 9 players, batting order must be female, male, female, etc. with no out taken for the 10<sup>th</sup> batting spot.

2c. Batting order must be male, female, male, female, etc. A team may also bat 12 batters not 11 and they must be male female based on the batting order.

2d. A male outfielder cannot throw a female batter out at first.

### **All Leagues-**

Article 3. Any team winning their league championship, **AS WELL AS THE TEAM FINISHING IN FIRST PLACE DURING THE REGULAR SEASON, IN A TWO DIVISION LEAGUE THE FIRST PLACE TEAM FOR EACH DIVISION WILL BE MOVED UP**, will be moved up to the next highest league (ex. C to B, B to A) for the following season for 1 year.

**The Town of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Youth Services Softball league will not allow stealing in any leagues.**

## SECTION 9 - BATS

1. Must bear **either the ASA approved 2000, 2004 certification mark, the ASA 2008 certification mark, or the 2012 certification mark** as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA Banned Bat List unless it also bears an ASA approved re-certification mark shown below, **or**



2. Must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; or
3. Must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.
4. **THE TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA SOFTBALL PROGRAM HAS PURCHASED A BAT COMPRESSION TESTER AND WILL IMPLEMENTING A STICKER SYSTEM SO THAT ALL BATS USED IN THE TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA LEAGUES WILL HAVE TO HAVE BE TESTED AND STICKERED BY END OF WEEK 2 TO BE USED THE REST OF THE SEASON AND IN THE PLAYOFFS. ANY BATS WITHOUT A PROPER STICKER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE USED IN LEAGUE PLAY.**

**Check out the list of certified equipment at [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com)**

All wooden bats will continue to be approved for ASA Play regardless of whether they bear an ASA approved certification mark or are included on a list of approved bats published by the ASA National Office.

Article 4. Any player caught using an illegal bat will result in an automatic ejection from the game.

Article 5. Score Cards. It is the responsibility of the Winning Team to report the scores to the Softball Office. Before the start of each game, both teams must sign the scorecard and give it to the umpire. Upon completion of the game, it is the Winning Team's responsibility to get the card from the umpire and turn it into the office.

Article 6. All other ASA rules apply.

**If you have any questions, please contact Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator at 656-2294 after Friday, April 8th.**

## 2016 Season Notes

\*Office Hours – we will try to have someone in the office Monday – Friday from 2:00pm-9:00pm.

\*Scores may be called in at 656-2294 – please submit the original game card in the drop box located on the side of the Losson Recreation building next to the display cases.

**\*Rainouts – I will not know the status of the diamonds until 4pm on rain days. I may also leave a message to call back after 5pm. Please designate 1 person to call for the status of games. You may also check status of games online at [www.tocny.org](http://www.tocny.org) by clicking youth and recreation button and Softball button.**