

WARREN COUNTY ARMCO PARK SOFTBALL COMPLEX

2026 LEAGUE RULES OF CONDUCT & REGULATIONS

SOFTBALL COMPLEX RULES:

Hours of Operation - Softball Complex will open at 5:00 p.m. The Park Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Softball Complex closes 15 minutes after the completion of the last game. **Field Conditions** - When weather conditions warrant, the status of games will be recorded on a phone message at (513) 425-3332 starting at 3:30 p.m. Closures will also be posted at www.warrencountyparks.com

Pets – **Pets ARE NOT ALLOWED inside the Softball Complex.**

Service animals are permitted if they meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. See <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>

Gate Fees - There will be a \$3.00 charge at the Gate. Children under the age of 16 years old and accompanied with their parent(s), and umpires will be admitted free.

Refunds - Refunds will not be given due to rainouts, park ejection, forfeits, power failures or any other circumstances.

Rule and Policy Agreement - Managers and players must agree to abide by the rules and policies of Warren County Park District and the Warren County Armco Park Softball Complex as a condition of participation.

Alcohol/Smoking - No smoking or alcoholic beverages permitted on the field of play or in the dugouts.

Per State Law and Ohio Liquor Control Regulations, alcoholic beverages purchased outside Warren County Armco Park are not permitted to be brought into the park. Anyone purchasing alcohol from Warren County Armco Park or its contracted concessionaire must be 21 years of age. Any individual buying alcohol for a person under 21 will be prosecuted to the full extent and will be indefinitely suspended from Warren County Armco Park. In addition, the team is subject to being dropped from the league with no refund of entry fee.

Food/Beverages – Only fruit and water are permitted to be brought into the Softball Complex. All other food and beverages must be purchased from the concession stand. Coolers and glass bottles may not be brought into the complex. All food, chewing gum, and beverages (except water) are prohibited on the field of play. Seeds are not to be eaten in dugouts.

Commercial Activity – No person shall sell any products or service or solicit donations except with prior written permission from the Park District and payment of a fee.

Use at Own Risk – By entering the Softball Complex, complex users recognize and agree to voluntarily assume all risks associated with entry into and use of the Softball Complex and participation in its activities/events and to release, forever discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless WCPD, its commissioners, employees, officers, agents, volunteers, guests, successors, assigns, event partners and sponsors, from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, arising from their entry into and use of the Softball Complex and participation in its activities/events.

LEAGUE RULES:

Play will be according to the WSL rulebook, with the addition of league rules. League rules will supersede WSL Rules.

Schedules - Schedules will be posted online prior to the beginning of each season.

Team Roster - Upon completion of online registration, team managers are required to submit the roster form online. All players must fill out and sign their individual electronic waiver by the deadline set by the Park District. Any player who does not appear on the team's online roster is considered ineligible (except for eligible pickup players – see below).

Teams may carry up to 20 players on the roster including the manager. All 20 spaces need not be filled in at once. Players may be added to the roster anytime during the first five (4) games of the season. If a player is added the Softball Complex Supervisor must be notified before they play. All players' names and emails must be listed as well as signed electronically by the player.

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If any questions arise concerning a player, it will be the decision of the Warren County Armco Park Softball Complex Supervisor or designee to determine the eligibility of the player in question. The decision of the Softball Complex Supervisor will be final. A player may not play for more than one (1) team in the same league.

The Softball Complex Supervisor will review all the rosters and players names. NOTE: Any team using illegal players are subject to dismissal from the Warren County Armco Park Softball Leagues.

Recreational Leagues - Divisions – When registering team managers are expected to request a division that is appropriate to team's skill level. The Softball Complex Supervisor is responsible for making the final decision on division assignments. The Park District reserves the right to re-assign a team to different division in the event of a mismatch of competition.

Make-Up Games - All games canceled during the regular season may be rescheduled, at the Park's discretion. Games interrupted by rain and are not yet an official game will be resumed at the point of the cancellation. Make-up games schedules will be posted online, and the team manager will be notified.

Illegal Bats – All bats must conform per WSL Official Rule Book and will be tested and must have an approved sticker. No bats will be grandfathered. No bat without an approved sticker will be allowed to be used in games. No Exceptions

Uniforms - Teams are encouraged to wear like uniforms. However, there is no mandatory uniform rule. Shirts and athletic shoes must be worn at all times. No bare feet, flip flops, etc.

Metal Spikes - No metal spikes are to be worn in league play. The umpire will eject any player wearing metal spikes and the Park District may seek restitution for damage to the turf.

Game Balls- Each team must provide their own game balls. The balls must be Worth Gold dot extremes, or Worth Gold Dot or Worth Hot Dot balls. Balls are available for purchase from the concession stand.

Orange Safety Bases – We will now use the orange safety bases at first. We will use the book rule on running to this base. Exception: on overthrows the runner does not need to return to touch the white portion of the bag after running through first, the player may continue running to second base.

Age Limits - These are adult leagues. **No player under 18 years of age is allowed to play – AT ANYTIME.**

Changing Teams – If a player chooses to change teams they may do so, as long as their name is properly added to the new team's online roster. This player must also sit out one (1) league game before playing for the new team. A player may not change teams after the two (2) week grace period referred to in the above paragraphs.

MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

The manager is the primary link between their team and league management. It is the manager's responsibility to obtain all information regarding league play at Warren County Armco Park Softball Complex and to ensure this information is communicated with their players.

Responsibilities include:

- a) Attend managers meeting in March. Date, time, and location will be announced on www.warrencountyparks.com. The Park District will attempt to notify managers who have contact information on file with the Park District.
- b) Inform team of league rules and park policy prior to opening day.
- c) Obtain league information pertaining to registration deadlines, make-up schedules, and league awards.
- d) Submit all league forms (registration forms, rosters, etc.) and payment on time via the Park District's online system (Civic Rec).
- e) Inform the Park District of changes in e-mail address and telephone number by updating their Civic Rec profile and notifying the Softball Complex Supervisor.
- f) **Maintain control over their players in all circumstances including disputes on the field.** Umpires will discuss disputes on the field with the manager only. Players are not to question an umpire's call or ruling.

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- g) Obtain line-up cards ten minutes before scheduled game time from the Softball Office. Make sure official score is kept if you are home team. Both teams must turn in line up cards, and line up cards must be filled out completely and legibly. **Lineup card must contain player's first and last name and position. No exceptions.**
- h) There is no "Fall Session" meeting. New teams will be given a copy of the rules upon registration.

PLAYING RULES:

Warren County Armco Park provides these leagues for wholesome recreation and athletic participation. It is our desire for the games to be played with the maximum participation possible and for each game to be played without cancellation or forfeit, if possible. It is to this end that the following rules changes or exceptions have been added:

A team shall consist of ten players. Teams can bat up to twelve (12) players by using two (2) EH's. (extra hitters)

Teams can start a game with 9 players with no penalty and add a 10th player upon arrival anytime during the game. No additional players can be added except as subs. *Example: Team "A" has 9 players at game time. They can start the game and play with only 9 players. They do not have to take a penalty out when the 10th spot comes to bat. If a 10th player shows up the player may enter the game at anytime and bat in the 10th spot. If any additional players arrive, they can only enter the game as a sub for one of the first ten (10) players.*

Teams that start a game with 10, 11, or 12 players can finish the game with as few as 9 players but then must take a penalty out each time a missing player comes to bat if they do not have a roster sub to take the place of the missing player. *Example: Team "A" starts with 11 players and 2 players are withdrawn from the game for any reason, i.e. injury, ejection, etc. Team "A" must take an out each time a missing player comes to bat if they do not have a roster sub to take that player's place.*

If a team only has 8 players at game time or falls to only 8 at any point during the game, the game is considered a forfeit.

If a team does not have at least six (6) roster players, the game will not count toward official results. The Team Manger must notify the Softball Complex Supervisor.

Player Eligibility – If a player's eligibility is questioned, they must show identification to the Softball Complex Supervisor or designee. If said player refuses to show proper ID, it will be assumed that they are an ineligible player. Any player playing in a game under an assumed name will be ineligible to play in the Warren County Armco Park Softball Leagues. Proper ID is a driver's license, picture ID, or other government issued ID with name and photo. NOTE.... Managers should instruct their players to make sure and bring some type of ID to all games.

Pick up Players - can only be used with the consent of the other team's manager or captain. A maximum of 3 players can be picked up. The team that is short players must ask the other team's manager or captain in the presence of the umpire for approval to pick up. If the manager consents to allow the pick-ups, the game will be played and considered official regardless of the outcome. If the opposing manager does not allow pick-ups, which is the manager's right, then the game is considered a forfeit. **TEAM MAY NOT PICK UP PLAYERS TO REPLACE EJECTED PLAYERS.** *Example: if team "A" is playing with 10 players and a player is ejected; they must play with 9 players, if they have no legal subs. If they then lose another player to ejection they cannot continue with 8 players and the game is a forfeit.*

Teams can only pick up players to make ten (10). A pickup player cannot be used as an 11th player.

Any team that doesn't get the opposing team's approval to pick up player(s) is subject to protest and game forfeiture. Teams that do not want the other team using "pick up" players must protest before the game starts. The protested player(s) shall be removed from the game. If that team does not then have enough legal players, the game will be forfeited.

Pick up players must be at the team's skill level or at a lower level. (ex: middle player can play at upper and middle but cannot play for a lower-level team)

All pickup players must have signed a Warren County Park District waiver to be eligible. This is done electronically. All pick up players who are not on a roster must be on the substitute player roster.

Umpires – Will be responsible for collecting the official line-up cards from both teams as well as their Umpire Fees. They must be filled out completely and legibly, noting who won and lost and what the score was and then sign them.

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Warm Up Pitches - Pitcher will be allowed 5 warm up pitches at the beginning of the game and only 1 pitch thereafter.

Home team's manager is responsible for seeing that the official score is kept for both teams. After the game is completed, the scorekeeper will give the official scorecard to the umpire to sign. The umpire will give scorecards to the Softball Complex Supervisor or designee. Failure to keep score and turn in scorecard in a timely manner, or submission of an illegible scorecard, could result in game forfeit.

NOTE: A friendly tip, "The winning team should double check to make sure the card was turned in."

Length of game - Will be 1 hour No inning shall start after 55 minutes during any game, without exception. Extra-inning games will go to one pitch with no extra foul ball and will be played until a winner is decided. The time clock is in effect every game of the night.

Courtesy Runner – May be anyone on the roster and can be used unlimited times for one player per inning. If the courtesy runner is on base or is substituted for due to injury or blood rule and the player's spot in the batting order comes up in the same inning – an out will be taken for that spot.

Second Foul Ball Rule - No free foul

Run Rule - 20 after 3, 15 after 4 innings and 10 after 5 innings. No flip flop rule.

Home Run Rule - In all leagues, home runs do not have to be run out. Home run hitter does not need to touch first base. All runners on base do not need to touch the next base. There will be no base appeals on a home run. **Home**

Run Limit Rule - Home Run Limit Rule – Teams can hit **3 homeruns** before any further home runs are counted as outs, **plus the Designated Home Run Hitter (DHH)**, who is exempt from this rule and can still hit home runs without them being counted as an out. The DHH will be designated on the line-up card.

Travesty of the Game - If a team is winning a game by the applicable run rule for that inning and has the game under control; then makes silly lineup changes or makes intentional errors, plays or other actions intended to score under the run limit in order to prolong the game will be warned by the umpire that they are making a "travesty of the game" and that players should return to normal playing positions and should make an honest and legitimate effort to make all plays. Failure to do so could result in the game being forfeited. This is an umpire's judgement. Also, in cases where both teams are intentionally making silly or bad plays on purpose; the same procedure will be in effect

Forfeit – Will happen ten minutes after the scheduled start time of the game. The 10-minute clock starts running at the scheduled game time.

In the event there is a reason a team cannot play it's scheduled game 24hr notice will be required. If notice is not provided the team will be responsible for the full \$30 umpire fees. That fee will need to be paid before their next game is played or that game will also be marked as a forfeit. A registration block will be placed on any team having outstanding fees.

Any team forfeiting two (2) games during the year will be dropped from the league forfeiting all fees and awards. All remaining games will be recorded as losses.

A registration block will be placed if

Championship - The champion of each league shall be the team with the best win/loss record in the league overall. The runner up shall be the team with the second-best record overall. If two (2) teams tie head-to-head record, runs allowed, and runs allowed will be used to determine a winner.

Team Awards - Each league will be awarded a 1st place team award.

CONDUCT/PROTEST RULES:

The coach, or acting coach, is responsible for making all team members aware of the league rules and the WSL Rules of Conduct.

There will be 4 levels of suspension for major rule violations:

Level 1) Umpire ejection – minimum ejection from the game

Level 2) Softball Complex Supervisor or designee ejection – minimum ejection from that game + one game suspension

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Level 3) Armco Park Security called – minimum remainder of the session suspension

Level 4) Law Enforcement called – minimum one year suspension

Major Rule Violations:

Insubordination or Arguing - With an Umpire, Softball Complex Supervisor or other Park District employee can result in a suspension.

Vulgar and Obscene Language – Zero tolerance of obscene language. Umpires have been instructed to eject violators. Softball Complex Supervisor and/or Park Security will eject any individual using obscene or vulgar language from the complex. **NO WARNING IS REQUIRED.**

Fighting - Any fighting during a game, will result in a player's ejection from the game, will create an automatic suspension from all league and tournament play with any team at Warren County Armco Park and Law Enforcement will be called. Physical violence will not be tolerated. Violators may be disqualified for the remainder of the season and civil action may be pursued.

The Warren County Armco Park Softball Complex Supervisor or designee will assign a Level to the offense and the length of the suspension. If the Team Manager does not agree they can submit a protest.

Protest – Before filing protest, please read the Official WSL rulebook regarding protests. Any protest based on an umpire's judgement cannot and will not be accepted. Protests based on a direct violation of a rule, or a misinterpretation of a rule will be accepted. All rules protest that are accepted will be reviewed by the protest committee and ruled upon. Every attempt will be made to settle any protest prior to the start of next week's league night. Rulings on full session and lifetime suspensions are appealable to the CEO of the Park District. Other rulings are final.

Method of Protesting – The reason and nature of the protest must be submitted in writing to the Softball Complex Supervisor of the Warren County Armco Park Softball league within 24 hours of the initial ruling. The Protest Committee will review the facts presented and make a ruling. Team managers will be notified as to the result. If protest is upheld for a rule's violation or misinterpretation of a rule, the game will be replayed from the point of the protested incident. If the protest is upheld for the use of an illegal player, game will be forfeited.

THE WARREN COUNTY ARMCO PARK SOFTBALL COMPLEX SUPERVISOR OR DESIGNEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RULE ON DISPUTES OF RULES NOT COVERED HERE IN OR IN THE WSL RULE BOOK.

Softball Complex Supervisor 513-695-3989

513-783-3512 mobile

PROTEST COMMITTEE

Softball Complex Supervisor

Softball Coordinator

Softball Advisory Committee Member

RAIN HOT-LINE 513-425-3332 or www.warrencountyparks.com

E-mail parks@co.warren.oh.us

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