

**NICOLET RECREATION DEPARTMENT SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL**  
**MEN'S LEAGUES RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**1. ASA BANNED BATS: VIOLATION/ PENALTY:**

It is the responsibility of each player and team manager to ensure that all equipment used by its players or team members is legal under the ASA standards. As our league is recreational, slow pitch and fast pitch bats are allowed. Fast pitch Softball bats are legal as long as they are ASA legal.

**2. LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

The Nicolet Recreation Department offers our adult league as a recreational league for the purpose of providing a low key softball experience. Therefore, we do not require a "sign in" before scheduled games. We trust that managers will field a team that is consistent with this philosophy and not recruit players for specific games to gain an advantage. If a team is short players for a game, a team may "borrow" players from another team. However, those players shall play the outfield and bat last in the order.

**3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

Players who are 18 years of age or older. There are no individual player fees.

**TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

All teams are subject to the same fee: Team fees: **\$500**

**4. OFFICIAL LINE-UP**

A team may start a game with a minimum of seven (7) players. In that case, the opposing team will supply a catcher whose ONLY job will be to return the ball to the pitcher. That player may not participate in any other plays.

**5. TWELVE MAN (12) BATTING LINE-UP**

All leagues will have the option of having eleven (11) or twelve (12) players in their starting line-up. The extra players will assume a position in the batting order, but will not play on defense in the field. They may exchange with a teammate and play in the field, but their batting position will not change. Players in the starting line-up must always bat in the same position for the length of the game. A manager must decide at the **start of the game** whether to have a starting line-up consisting of 9, 10, 11, or 12. This decision cannot be changed afterward.

Roster batting is allowed. Meaning that a team may bat as many eligible players they have at the start of the game. Extra players (beyond 10) must accompany the bottom spots in the order and may enter defensively only once.

Extra players arriving late, may play but a manager cannot change the number of players in the line-up already designated at the start of the game. Exception: If a team starts with nine (9), they may later add a player to the starting line-up to make ten (10).

**\*\*NOTE** Please plan accordingly when choosing the number of players that will make up your starting line-up. Know the rules and how they will affect you. Example: If a team starts a game with ten (10), eleven (11), or twelve (12) players in the line-up and loses a player for whatever reason, an automatic out will be recorded each time that players turn to bat comes up. But a team starting with nine (9) players in the line-up will not be charged an automatic out after the ninth batter has hit.

**6. INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If there is any doubt as to whether or not the diamonds are in playable condition, players may call the Nicolet Recreation Department cancellation hot line (351-7589). A recording will let you know of any cancellations. If the recording does not mention any cancellations, then assume you will be playing. It is the responsibility of the manager to inform his or her players of any cancellations. When rain or weather conditions interrupt a game, the umpire will determine whether playing conditions are safe to continue. A game rained out in mid game or later will try to be rescheduled. However, if that is not possible, the game will be awarded to the leading team. Again, players should contact their manager with any concerns about field conditions. Rained out games will be re-scheduled at the conclusion of the regular season or in the form of doubleheaders.

**7. LENGTH OF GAME-TERMINATION OF GAMES**

- A. Official seven (7) inning game or a 50 minute time limit..whichever comes first.
- B. Games will terminate as follows: No new inning after 50 minutes with one exception (8C).
- C. Games tied after seven (7) innings or 50 minute time limit, **will** be allowed to continue one extra inning. If the game remains tied after the extra inning is played--the game is terminated and recorded as a tie even if the game is still under the 50 minute time limit.
- D. The umpire's watch will be official for timing the game. (Managers should check with ump for official game time).
- E. If a team is leading by fifteen runs or more after 4 innings, a game may be terminated by mutual consent of the two managers.

**8. GRACE PERIOD**

The umpire will allow ten (10) minutes grace before forfeiting the FIRST game only. This grace period is intended only for teams unable to place a minimum of seven (7) eligible players on the field at scheduled game time. If the grace period is used, it must be understood by both teams that, regardless of the actual starting time of the game, the game will be fully played as specified in the league rules. The second game will then be played immediately following the conclusion of the first game. This will be strictly adhered to.

**9. NOTE:**

The Nicolet Recreation Department reserves the right to reject any protest that, in its judgment, had no direct effect on subsequent play or in the final result of the game.

**10. PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- A. Every player must sign the Team Roster Form that must be on file in the Recreation office before he or she is eligible to play. A player must sign his own name to the form.
- B. A player being added to a team's roster must have signature on a roster form. There is no deadline to adding a player to your roster.

11. **SLIDE RULE**

Players are not required to slide. They are however, required to avoid contact. If in the umpire's judgment, a player initiates contact determined unnecessary or dangerous by the umpire, that player will be called out regardless of the outcome of the play and depending on the severity of the intended contact, may be ejected from the game.

Regarding a base runner going to second base in a possible double play situation:

A base runner going to second base is NOT required to slide. However, the runner is required to veer in order to prevent obstruction with the throw to first. If, in the umpire's judgment, the runner has obstructed the throw to first, a double play will be called. The fielder who is throwing to first base IS NOT required to actually throw the ball in order for obstruction to be called.

12. **ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO**

Alcohol and tobacco are strictly prohibited on or near the playing field. Alcohol and tobacco are strictly prohibited on school grounds including the parking lot. Players abusing this policy may be subject to suspension for the remainder of the season.

13. **A COURTESY RUNNER** is a player who substitutes for a base runner who is safely on base. The courtesy runner replaces the base runner until he scores, is forced or tagged out, or the inning ends. The player who was substituted for the courtesy runner then returns to the same position in the line-up and the courtesy runner returns to his place in the line-up or on the bench. We are a recreation league. Therefore in the spirit of friendly competition, managers should inform umpires and the opposing team that they are requesting a courtesy runner before the courtesy runner will be allowed to take the base. Available substitutes (players on the bench who are not in the starting line-up) must be used first as a courtesy runner. If no substitutes are available—the courtesy runner shall be the player in the line-up that made the last out. Courtesy runners are allowed without limit during the game provided the rules as to who is allowed to be a courtesy runner are followed.

14. **FORFEIT POLICY:** Any adult softball team forfeiting a game for any reason will be assigned a loss for the forfeited game and subjected to a department fee. A team may notify the Recreation Department if they do not have enough players to play a game. In that case, the opposing manager may choose to reschedule or accept the forfeit. If the forfeit is called in to the Nicolet Recreation Department in sufficient notice to contact the opposing manager and the scheduled umpire, the fee will be \$25.00. If the forfeit occurs without sufficient notice, the fee will be \$50.00. The Recreation Director will determine if sufficient notice took place. The fee must be paid in full to the Nicolet Recreation Department no later than 72 hours after the forfeit occurs. Failure to do so will result in another forfeit. Any adult softball team accumulating two forfeits during the season will be subject to an immediate removal from the league without a refund. All remaining scheduled games with a team that has been removed from the league will be credited to the opponent.

15. **KLETZSCH PARK #1 (LEFTFIELD TREE):** The trunk of the tree is in foul territory and any ball striking the trunk on a fly shall be ruled a foul ball out. Part of the branches do hang in fair territory and if not judged foul by the umpire—the ball is considered a live ball and should be played accordingly. If the umpire judges the flight or path of the ball to be obstructed by the tree in fair territory, the umpire is to call obstruction and award bases accordingly. A ball hitting the tree is never to be called an automatic homerun, double or any other hit or out and it is not a dead ball until the umpire declares so.

16. **STANDINGS**

**At the end of the season, the team with the best overall record will be considered the league champion.**

**If two teams tie for first place, head to head competition will determine the league champion.**

**If the two teams tied for first place split the games between them—the next tie breaker shall be most runs scored in games between those two teams.**

**If the two teams tied for first place split the games between them and scored an equal amount of runs against each other—the final tie breaker will be a one game playoff to determine the league champion.**

**In the unlikely event that three or more teams tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place—a mini-round robin tournament will be instituted at the director's discretion to determine league champion. Random selection (coin flip) will determine tournament seeding.**

**There are no tiebreakers for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place. If two or more teams tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place—they will simply share the place finish.**

Please note that all ASA rules apply to *tournament* play NOT recreational leagues such as Nicolet's. If our or any recreation department does not specifically state a different interpretation of a rule, then the umpires and players are expected to concur with the ASA rule book. If however, Nicolet or any other league specifically interprets a rule different from that of the ASA rule book, players and umpires should adhere to the league mandated rule interpretations. Please contact the Recreation Director with any questions or concerns at 351-7567.