

## **Riverview Softball Park**

340 Riverview Ave. • Elkhart, IN 46516  
Telephone: 574-293-1128 • Fax: 574-522-7808  
Website: www.elkhartindiana.org/softball



## **Elkhart Parks & Recreation Office**

229 South 2nd St. • Elkhart, IN 46516  
Telephone: 574-295-7275 • Fax: 574-522-7808  
Website: www.elkhartindiana.org/parks

# **Elkhart Softball League**

## **2023 Softball League Playing Rules**

### **Balls**

Each new game will start with 1 new and 1 used ball. Once the ball has been hit out of play, the team up to bat must throw in another legal 52/300 optic softball when asked by the umpire. Teams that do not bring extra game balls to the park will be required to purchase one from the facility coordinator for \$5.00, prior to the start of the game. In coed, the ball that is hit out, is the ball that needs to be thrown in. NOTE: City of Elkhart will be using a core 52/300 compression optic yellow WORTH ball. Home run and foul balls must be retrieved immediately by the team that hit the ball.

### **Bats**

ALL men's leagues may use any **LEGAL** 1.20 bat. For Co-Ed leagues, WEDNESDAY NIGHT ONLY, both men and women will be allowed to use any **LEGAL** 1.20 that passes the bat testing. THURSDAY NIGHT, men can only use single walled bats. Female players will be able to use any **LEGAL** bat. ALL bats will be compression tested and a sticker will be placed on the bat if it passes for use in all leagues. **All single wall bats will have its own bat sticker applied. (updated 2023)** If a bat is used during the season and/or tournament play that has not been tested and sticker applied, that player will be called out and the next batter in the lineup will bat next.

Note: New bat policy was voted and approved by the coaches and representatives at the fall team meeting in August 2021 with the League Director.

### **Blood Rule**

A player, manager or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform will be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment.

The umpire will:

- A. Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured person would affect the continuation of play.
- B. Immediately call a manager, trainer or other "authorized person" to the injured player.
- C. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitutes, reentry, and shorthanded player, if necessary.

### **Cleats**

**\*\*METAL CLEATS ARE NOT ALLOWED. A PLAYER NOT COMPLYING WILL BE ASKED TO CHANGE THEIR SHOES OR GET A SUBSTITUTE, IF THIS CANNOT OCCUR THE PLAYER WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE GAME.** Steel cleats or other metal related shoes will be forbidden for Elkhart league games.

## Coed Rule Update

When a team is short a male player or players they may substitute a female in his place. Example: women can bat back to back but men cannot. If 2 males bat back to back, effect will an out.

## Coed Walk Rule

A walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. With less than 2 outs the female must bat. With 2 outs the female has the option to walk or bat. A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base could be called out if properly appealed.

## Courtesy Call

If you make a courtesy call to the league director before 9:00a of the night you are scheduled to play, we will try and reschedule with no penalty. After 9:00a, your games will be forfeited. The second time you ask to be rescheduled, it will result in a \$50 forfeit fee to the league director. The third time you asked to be rescheduled, you will be removed from the league. Please consider the other team has paid their entry fees to play games, with the other team not showing up they lose their right to play.

## Courtesy Runners

Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. In coed, the courtesy runner must be a male runner for a male and a female runner for a female. NEW: Also in coed, 2 courtesy runners may be used per inning, 1 male and 1 female. If the courtesy runner is on base at the time he or she is scheduled to bat, an out will be recorded and the next batter comes to the plate. Only 1 courtesy runner may be used per inning, EXCEPT IN COED **WHERE 2 COURTESY RUNNERS MAY BE USED. 1 MALE AND 1 FEMALE. (updated 2023)**

## Ejections

Once a player/coach or dugout personnel has been ejected from a game the following must happen.

- 1) Ejected person must leave complex immediately without question
- 2) Umpire must notify the site supervisor. The site supervisor will escort the ejected person from the complex.
- 3) Umpire is responsible for filling out ejection form and submitting it to the league director within 24 hours of the ejection.
- 4) Player is then ejected from that game he/she played in and the next game played in that league.
- 5) Effective November 1, 2015 All ejected players, must have a sit down meeting with the league director before their next scheduled game.

## Game Times

6:00p, 7:00p, 8:00p, and 9:00p. A 10 minute grace time for 6:00p games only. Scoreboard clock however will start on time at 6:00p.

## Game Rain Out Messages

Scheduled games may be cancelled in advance by the Elkhart Parks and Recreation Department because of inclement weather and/or other unforeseen situations. Otherwise, the supervisor or umpire at the playing field will make the final decision relative to playing conditions. WE HAVE A RAINOUT HOTLINE (574) 293-1128. THIS WILL BE UPDATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE. THEY WILL NOT HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There are 2 ways to check to make sure games are being played that night due to weather conditions.

- 1) Call our weather hotline (574) 293-1128 **AFTER 4:30p** for a recorded update.
- 2) Log on to our automated text messaging. See your nightly schedule for details.

**THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO GET INFORMATION**

## Home Run Rules

The following Home Run Rules Apply:

\*RV Monday night league TBD

\*Men's Tuesday Comp League 3 home runs "over the fence" then 1 up.

\*Men's Tuesday Rec League 1 home run "over the fence" then outs.

\*Coed Wednesday Comp League - 2 home runs "over the fence" then outs

\*Men's Thursday Comp League 3 home runs "over the fence" then 1 up.

\*Coed Thursday Rec League – 1 home for females only, all others "over the fence" then outs

Note: These limits were voted and approved by the coaches and representatives at the team meeting in April 2019 with the League Director.

On any fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run, the batter and all runners are credited with a score. The batter and any runner on base **DO NOT** need to run the bases.

## International Tie Breaker

No game will end in a tie. Example: If the game is tied after 7 innings or after the 55 minute time limit, the visiting team will bat in the top of the next with their last batter that is scheduled for that inning will be placed at second base to begin the inning. Example: if the 4th batter in the lineup is up, then the 3rd batter in the lineup goes to second base. The home team will repeat the same process. The batter will start with a full count 3 balls and 2 strikes and continue until we have a winner. **A courtesy runner may be used in replacement of the scheduled base runner. It must be male for male and or female for female. (updated 2023)**

## League Tournament

After the season is completed, there will be a single elimination seeded tournament. Seeds will be determined based on the following 1) head-to-head, 2) runs scored, 3) runs allowed.

## Line-Up

The lineup needs be presented to the umpire 10 minutes before start of the 1st and 3rd games of the night (6:00p-8:00p). A line up consist of a minimum of 8 players to start at game time. The maximum on a men's team is 11 players and 12 for coed. A coed team the minimum players 4 men/4 female players, the maximum 6 men/6 female players. Only 10 players can play defense, position changes need not be reported. If a player must leave the game for any reason and cannot be replaced, and out will be recorded at his or her time at bat. If this puts a team below 8 players, team must forfeit. Once the game has started, you cannot add the extra hitters.

## Player Rosters

Each player must sign the new (2023) **Player Waiver, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement Roster**. This is a new 1-page document that will be on file upstairs at Riverview. No player can play before he/she completes and signs the roster (NO EXCEPTIONS). A player can play for only one team per league. Example: you cannot play in both Thursday night coed blue leagues. Player may be 15 years of age. **No player can be added past your final regular season game for the season ending tournament.** If a player wishes to play for a different team in that same league after the season has started, the coach of the team that the player was playing for must release the player in writing, in order to join a new team. However, the league director has the right to approve the player changing teams if the player makes the request in writing before they can play with the new team. **The Elkhart Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to accept or reject any team or players registered for league play, and to reject a team name that is considered inappropriate. Also, any printing of names, logos or any other words printed on t-shirts or jerseys that is considered inappropriate.**

## Protests

NO PROTESTS ALLOWED. An appeal must be made before the next legal or illegal pitch is thrown.

## Rain Delays

A completed game now consist of a full 5 innings or 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. If the game is shorter than 5 innings, the game will pick up at the point of interruption and completed with the same score from game kept by plate umpire. New line up can be used at point of interruption with no penalty to either team. Supervisor will make call on all rain-outs for all 4 diamonds and has the authority to pull all teams off the diamonds.

## Run Rule

1 run after 7 inning  
10 runs after 5 innings  
15 runs after 4 innings  
20 runs after 3 innings

## **Scorekeeping**

Each team is responsible for keeping track of how many runs they have scored each inning. Confirm with the umpire so that the score can be placed on the scoreboard after each half inning. Any run discrepancies must be resolved during that inning, not 3 innings later.

## **Smoking and Alcohol Policy**

The Parks and Recreation Department policy for both smoking and alcohol will be enforced during all league play, Coaches and team representatives need to review this with your players and fans before the season begins.

**No smoking, electronic cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, chewing tobacco or alcoholic beverages will NOT be permitted inside the Riverview Softball Complex or Pierre Moran. If an umpire or site supervisor observes a player or fan drinking during a game, he or she will be ejected and the team may be forced to forfeit.**

### CITY OF ELKHART PARK/CITY ORDINANCES

- a. § 96.33/ Section 26- Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs  
No person shall bring dangerous drugs, beer, ale or other alcoholic beverages into any park, or consume, have in possession, sell, give away or handle dangerous drugs or intoxicating alcoholic beverages in any park or park-street.
- b. § 96.25/ Section 15- Peddling  
No person in any park or park-street shall exhibit, sell or offer for sale, hire, lease or let out to any person in any park, any object or merchandise, or anything whatsoever, whether corporeal or incorporeal, tickets for entertainment or other affairs of any description included, except under a permit. No person shall, for advertising or commercial purposes, take moving pictures or photographs within the limits of any park or park-street, except under a permit, or otherwise than in accordance with terms of the permit. Possession of objects or merchandise in quantities, packages or containers customarily associated with peddling shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of exhibiting or offering for sale. Nothing contained herein shall forbid or prevent said Board in its discretion, granting concession contracts and privileges to any concessionaire or permittee on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.
- c. § 153.72 Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places and Certain Places of Employment
  - i. Smoking shall be prohibited in any portion of buildings or enclosed facilities, whether publicly or privately owned that are open for public accommodation, including but not limited to, the following areas:
    1. (A) Auditoriums, convention centers, lecture halls, sports or entertainment arenas, including enclosed places in outdoor arenas or venues and in grandstands or other places of public gathering;
- d. §96.99 Penalty

Any violation of any of the provisions above shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$300.00.

## **Sportsmanship**

These are **RECREATIONAL LEAGUES!** Good sportsmanship is expected at all times.

## **Starting Pitch Count**

1 - 1 count will begin for each batter, male or female, with no extra foul balls.

Exception: after 7 innings or after the time limit of 55 minutes, then you would start with a full count of 3 balls and 2 strikes. **FOUL BALL RULE:** Any foul ball after two strikes is an automatic out. Runners may advance with liability to be put out if the foul ball is caught.

## **Stealing**

No stealing allowed for all Elkhart league games.

## **Substitutions**

Any player may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting order whenever in the line-up.

## **Time Limit for all games:**

No inning will start after the 55 minutes. Clock will start when the umpire says "play ball". This will be kept by the plate umpire.

## **MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. No smoking, electronic cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, chewing tobacco or alcoholic beverages will **NOT** be permitted inside the Riverview Softball Complex or Pierre Moran. If an umpire or site supervisor observes a player or fan drinking during a game, he or she will be ejected and the team may be forced to forfeit.

**NOTE: NO drinking of alcoholic beverages before a league contest. If it is apparent to the umpire that a person is intoxicated, they will not be allowed to play.**

2. Managers are responsible for their fans or followers, and are expected to curtail any excessive, abusive or unwarranted actions between them and the game in progress. Failure to do so may result in forfeit.
3. Any manager (registered or acting) who plays an illegal or non-contracted player will be REMOVED from the league and a new manager selected from the team's remaining eligible players.
4. Foul balls and Home Run balls must be retrieved by the team at bat.
5. It is the manager's responsibility to go over all rules and regulations with their teams. Ignorance of the rules cannot and will not be accepted as an excuse for violations. Review these rules with your team prior to the start of the season.
6. Managers should inform their players that **USA Softball Adult Excess Accident Plan Team Insurance for 2023** insurance is available and can be purchased through USA Softball for either the summer or fall leagues. If you need more information, contact the office at 295-7275 and leave a message for the league director.
7. The City of Elkhart recommends that managers of coed teams not play a woman that is pregnant. There are too many things that could possibly happen during the course of a game that might endanger the mother or unborn child.

8. Practice good sportsmanship at all times, setting an example for your team. Do not argue with the officials. You may ask a question, but when you have your answer let it alone and get on with the game.

## PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated. PENALTY: Suspension from league or tournament play and could be placed on probation for up to a 12 month period. This includes arguing over a call. Good Sportsmanship means being able to accept those things you cannot change graciously.

A. Unsportsmanlike acts defined, to include, but not limited to.

- 1) Unnecessary rough tactics against an opposing player.
- 2) Intentionally spiking or running into a player.
- 3) Fighting. **Four** game suspension is minimum for this, but season long might likely.
- 4) Abusive or obscene language will not be tolerated on the field regardless of whom it is directed at. If the umpire can hear you, ejection will follow.
- 5) Throwing a bat in anger or disgust
- 6) Intentional delay of game tactics
- 7) Personal insults, threats and harassment of opposing players, spectators, umpires and or Riverview staff.

2. Ejections, if a player gets ejected for any reason they will be asked to leave the ballpark, and that player will be removed from ALL games for the next week. Example: if you are ejected on a Tuesday night, you will not be able to come inside the complex until the following Tuesday. That means if you also play on another team on Thursday of the same week as the ejection, you will NOT be able to play on that Thursday. After that the player must schedule a sit down meeting with the softball league director, the Elkhart parks Recreation Director and the Elkhart Park Superintendent before he can be reinstated to play. If an individual player gets ejected for the 2nd time in the season, that player will be expelled for the remainder of the league season.

3. Good sportsmanship means sincerely wishing the best for your opponent. If everyone remembers that, it will be an enjoyable season for all of us. Remember why we are out here in the first place....FUN!!