CITY OF FERNDALE

2013

ADULT SOFTBALL

RULES & REGULATIONS

(Revised August 26, 2013)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Ferndale Recreation Adult Softball Program.

Our goal is to offer you the opportunity to participate and have fun in a softball program whatever your playing ability. We strive to conduct a quality, well-organized program that offers good playing facilities and quality umpires. To offer a program that offers the greatest number of people the opportunity to play at minimal cost, as well as a program that is fair to all.

We realize that individuals and teams have different competitive desires. We hope our league offers the opportunity to fulfill these desires in a positive manner. We ask for your assistance in keeping the program in the proper perspective for the benefit of all players, coaches, and spectators.

Safety of all players, coaches, and umpires is a major priority. Please adhere to the rules. The rules are there to provide safe playing conditions for all. Your suggestions and recommendations are always welcome. We wish the best of luck to all participants. Have a safe, enjoyable season!

Recreation Staff

Recreation Director, Jill Manchik

FERNDALE RECREATION
SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES
2013

By-Laws

ARTICLE I

Section 1 All leagues are governed by the rules of the Amateur Softball Association with the following modifications.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Leagues have no residency rule.

Section 2 All players must be at least 18 years of age on or before July 31, 2013 or a high school graduate. *Under no circumstance may a player be a member of a high school baseball or softball team and/or a member of a recreation softball team at the same time.* A player may join a team once his/her high school season has been completed or upon graduation.

Section 3 No player shall appear in the line up of any team in the League unless his/her name is legally affixed to a contract on file with Ferndale Recreation. All player names must appear on the team roster. Players should not appear on more than one roster per league. The date for all contracts and rosters to be turned in will be established at the beginning of the season and given to each manager at the manager's meeting.

Section 4 Prior to the scheduled third game, players may be added to the roster only after their signature on the waiver is verified by the Recreation Staff and fees are paid (if applicable).

Section 5 There is not an individual contract cost for 2013. The league fee is $550 for Coed, $775 for Men's.

Section 6 A team may carry a maximum of 20 players. This includes 16 players and 4 substitutes.

Section 7 In the event a player is unable to continue to play because of a serious injury or illness, said team shall be allowed to replace the injured player(s). The injured player shall be retired and will not be eligible to play with any team in any Ferndale league for the remainder of the season. Proof that the injured player has suffered a serious injury must be filed with the Recreation office. This proof must be submitted before the player replacing the injured player can be used. The new player must be sign the roster before he/she is to play.

ARTICLE III – SCHEDULES

Section 1 League games shall be played on the dates and times designated by the Recreation office.

Section 2 Make-up games will be made up at the discretion of the Recreation Staff. Every attempt will be made to play them on the designated game day(s).

Section 3 In the case of inclement weather, game called by the umpire, man or nature related incidents, including 4.5 inning games, if the home team is ahead this shall constitute an

official game.

Section 4 Game time plus ten minutes is forfeit time unless the preceding game is running late. When this occurs, the next game will begin five minutes after the preceding teams leave the field. Umpire will designate official start of game.

Section 5 Any team that forfeits a game during the season will be charged $100 for that game. In addition, teams that forfeit more than 2 games shall automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season. Teams who have unpaid forfeit fees will not be allowed to register the following season until the fees are paid. All forfeits shall be awarded to the opposing team in any unplayed game. NO REFUNDS SHALL BE GIVEN ON THE TEAM'S ENTRY FEE BECAUSE OF FORFEITS.

Section 6 Tie games will not be replayed.

Section 7 There will be a 65 minute time limit on all games. NO new inning can start after 65 minutes from the beginning of the game. Any inning which has started when time elapses will be completed. (Official's time shall be official.)

ARTICLE IV – MANAGERS

Section 1 Managers are responsible for the eligibility of their players and shall personally sign all contracts. Managers are also responsible for their team's conduct and appearance on the playing field. Any use of an illegal player will be grounds for dismissal from the league by the Recreation office.

Section 2 Any change in manager MUST be filed at the Recreation office presenting the new manager's name, address, and phone number. Work and home number required.

Section 3 In case of an inquiry questioning the eligibility of any member of the team, the manager is responsible for producing any evidence or records requested.

ARTICLE V – PLAYING RULES

Section 1 Teams may begin with 8 players, but must finish a game with nine players.

Section 2 Bases will be set at 70 feet. Pitcher's rubber at 50 feet.

Section 3 Teams will have the option of using an extra player (EP). Once a player is substituted for the extra player, he/she can re-enter the game. The extra player may bat anywhere in the line-up. The use of an extra player is an option that is decided upon before the line-up is turned in. A team does not have to use an extra player. Eleven can bat. Any 10 play defense at any time.

Section 4 Count is 1-1 to start, only one foul ball to give.

Section 5 Players on or off the field shall conduct themselves in an orderly and sportsmanlike manner.

Section 6 Players must wear shirts and shoes at all times. NO metal cleats! No wrist jewelry may be worn.

Section 7 Any player or manager found guilty of inciting others to or striking an umpire, spectator, or member of the opposing team shall be suspended for the season. Further action may

be taken by Ferndale Recreation and/or the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

Section 8 Players suspended for the season have the right to appeal to the protest board of each league, made up of two team managers, the umpire in chief, and Recreation Director. All player and/or manager suspensions from adult athletic play by an organization member of the Northwest Parks and Recreation Association or ASA is duly and equally honored by the City of Ferndale.

Section 9 Any player ejected from the game will be automatically suspended from play. An ejected player MUST sit out two additional complete games. If the suspension occurs in the final regularly scheduled game, the suspension will carry over into the playoffs. Depending on the offense, the suspension may be longer than the above mentioned. Length of suspension will be determined by the Recreation Department.

Section 10 Any off-color language may constitute reason for dismissal from the game for un-sportsmanlike conduct.

Section 11 Use of a suspended or ineligible player shall mean automatic forfeiture of any game in which this player competed and suspension of the illegal player for the rest of the season. If under the direction of the team manager, the manager will be suspended for two games.

Section 12 In case of a questionable decision by an umpire, only the team manager or playing captain may question the umpire about the decision.

Section 13 **NO SMOKING** – players are not allowed to smoke within the fence, on the players bench, or what is commonly known as the playing field. Players will be expelled from the game for violating this rule.

Section 14 ***NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES*** *— players or spectators are not allowed to bring any intoxicating beverages either before, during, or after the game onto the athletic field or anywhere inside the ball park.* ***(NO ALCOHOL IN THE STANDS!)*** *Players violating this rule will be suspended for that game, plus three additional games. On the second offense, the player will be suspended from the league.*

Section 15 **NO** glass containers in the stands or near player's benches.

Section 16 Both teams shall furnish a competent ball chaser for each game.

Section 17 All bats, players, and playing equipment MUST be kept inside the dugout or close to the player bench. Only the on-deck batter is allowed outside the dugout or off the bench.

Section 18 All players, managers, and coaches not participating in the game shall be seated on the player's bench at all times. The only persons permitted on the player's bench shall be eligible players, two coaches, one manager, one bat boy and one team scorer.

Section 19 Mercy rule—12 runs after four and one half; 25 runs after three and one half.

Section 20 **All leagues Diamond 1 will have a home run rule. Each team may hit four home runs per game.** Any home runs over four shall be counted as an out. **Diamond 2 will have two home runs per game.** Any home runs over two shall be counted as an out.

Section 21 Ferndale Recreation is not liable for any injuries. (NOTE: If ambulance service is required, the injured party will be billed for the city ambulance service.)

Section 22 A courtesy runner may be used only in case of injury and is meant to be used only once

per inning, per team. The injured player must return to the game or be replaced.

Section 23 **The Women's division will play with the 11 inch ball. The Men's and Co-ed's will play with a 12 inch ball. All balls are .44 core, ASA certified.**

Section 27 Ferndale Recreation reserves the right to place all teams into the league or division that it feels is best suited to the team's playing ability.

ARTICLE VI – PROTEST

Section 1 Protest of any game MUST be made in writing and filed at the Recreation office along with $50 protest fee NO LATER THAN 24 hours after the game in which the alleged violation occurred. Protests cannot be made on a "judgment call". Protests will only be accepted for alleged rule violations.

Section 2 The "letter of protest" MUST include the date, name of umpire, score-keeper and all matters pertaining to the alleged violation, citing the rule or rules that were violated. Forms for this purpose are furnished by the Recreation office. Intent to protest MUST be made known to the umpire, scorekeeper and opposing team before the next pitch.

Section 3 If the protest is denied, the $50 protest fee shall become the property of the Ferndale Recreation.

Section 4 The $50 protest fee shall be returned if the protest is upheld.

Section 5 All protests shall be acted upon by a Protest Committee (Recreation staff and Umpire Assignor) on scheduled protest hearing dates ONLY!

ARTICLE VII – WEATHER

Section 1 If threatening weather exists during the day, team managers should call the Weather Hotline at (248) 544-6767 Extension 4, after 4:30 PM for game status. The hotline will be updated until 5pm. After this time all game decisions will be made at the field.

Section 2 In case of threatening weather conditions, the umpire shall determine the starting time or the conclusion of any game.

Section 3 If the first game on a field is called because of poor weather and/or field conditions, call the Recreation Director at (248) 867-2743.

Section 4 Rained out games will be rescheduled by Recreation Staff.

Section 5 Teams(s) not appearing for a rescheduled game shall forfeit that game. Teams will be notified by phone and/or email of the rescheduled game, day, date, and time.

ARTICLE VIII – LEAGUES

Section 1 All Adult Softball Leagues will be scheduled 8 games (fall) - 12 to 14 games (spring) depending on the number of teams registered. Teams are guaranteed one less than the regular number of games scheduled. Every attempt will be made to reschedule rain out games.

Playoffs The top four teams in each league will be scheduled in the tournament at the end of the season. Time limit of 65 minutes is in effect for all games except the Championship game, which will be played to completion. Higher seed in all games is home team. The home team will keep the official score. All playoff games for each league will have two umpires. In the event a playoff game is called due to inclement weather the 4.5 inning rule is not in effect, the game will be rescheduled and will start at the point in the game which it was called.

ARTICLE IX – TEAM ENTRY FEES

Team entry fee includes staffing, game balls, score book, one rule book per team, officials, ASA team registration, trophies/awards (as indicated in Article XI, Section 1 below) and tournament games (as indicated under each league in Article IX, Section 1 and 2 above).

ARTICLE X – TROPHIES OR AWARDS

Section 1 Individual awards for the first place teams in the League (Spring and Fall).
Individual awards for the first place teams in the Playoffs (Spring and Fall).

Section 2 Awards for First-place sponsor. (All leagues – Spring and Fall)

ARTICLE XI – PLAYER CONTRACT FEES

There are not contract fees for the adult softball league. However, a picture Michigan ID is the only proof that will be accepted if there is a question regarding an illegal player. All players must sign their team roster prior to playing.

ARTICLE XII – BLOOD RULE

If a player sustains a scrape or cut that is bleeding, the player MUST be removed from the game until the injury has been tended to and blood is no longer exposed.

ARTICLE XIII - PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators.

Points of Emphasis:

1. ONLY managers shall converse with the umpires over any rule or decision made concerning a particular play.
2. Anyone not associated with a team will not be permitted on the player's bench or dugout during the game. Only players, manager, coach, scorekeeper, bat carrier and sponsor will be allowed on the player's bench.
3. Any player ejected from a game will be suspended for that game and a minimum of two additional games.
4. Any player who is ejected from two separate games during the season will automatically be suspended for a minimum of one calendar year.
5. No player shall shove, push, lay a hand upon, or physically attack an umpire or player before, during, or after the game. The player shall immediately be ejected from the game and receive a minimum suspension of one calendar year.
6. No player shall use abusive verbal attacks or threaten an umpire or player before, during, or after the game. The player shall immediately be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of one game.
7. No player shall refuse to abide by the umpire's decision or use tactics or demonstrations which show disapproval. Any player doing so may be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of two games.
8. Any player who has been ejected from the game must not heckle the umpires. If, after a warning to the team manager/captain, the offender continues to heckle the umpires, the game will stop and a win will be awarded to the opposing team.
9. No alcohol will be allowed on the bench or in the stands. Violation equals suspension from that game plus four additional games. Second offense – player is suspended for the rest of the year.
10. Count is 1-1 to start. Only one foul ball to give.
11. Coed – After a male player walks, the female player can choose to hit away or walk. Male player does not advance, if female chooses to hit.
12. Coed - Only using the 12-inch ball. We are not switching between 12-inch and 11-inch.
13. Coed – Do not have to alternate male and female players. Two females and two males must play in both infield and outfield. See ASA rule book.
14. Team manager for the winning team must text or email the game score to the league coordinator within 24 hours. It is important to note the winning team name in your text or email.