

**TORRINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL RULES – 2024**

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. The Torrington Parks and Recreation Department will enforce all eligibility rules.
2. Each manager must sign the team's roster, certifying that all information is complete and accurate. Any fraudulent information given on a submitted roster and/or violations of the eligibility rules at any time will result in a suspension from the league and possible expulsion.
3. Any team found playing illegal players will be issued up to a 10-game suspension and \$30.00 fine for both the manager and player(s) for the current season for first time offenses. If there are less games remaining in the season, then the number of games issued with a suspension, the remaining games of the suspension will carry into the next season. If a manager and/or player are found violating this rule more than once, the manager and/or player will be subject to expulsion from the league. The Recreation Director reserves the right to issue the final decision on the terms of the suspensions and fines. Fines must be paid before reinstatement.
4. The Recreation Director reserves the right to issue the final decision on any player's eligibility.

ROSTERS AND SCHEDULES

1. All rosters must be legible and filled out completely or they will not be accepted. All rosters shall include complete and accurate address, phone number, date of birth, and email address. All players must sign the waiver.
2. Each team is allowed to carry 20 players and a playing manager. Team Rosters are required to have 14 players on the roster to be accepted.
3. Any active manager, coach, and/or scorekeeper that does not actually play for the team must also be included on the roster and sign all league waivers. If a manager or coach does not actually play for the team, they do not be included in the 20-player limit.
4. Roster changes must be emailed to the Director. Once divisions have been created a player add-on form will be required to be submitted. All requests for roster changes will be inspected by the Rec Dire
5. Until the new player is approved, the player is not allowed to play in any league games.
6. The Men's and Women's League's should both start tentatively April 22nd depending on weather (subject to change.)
7. Rosters will be frozen after July 15, 2024.

BATS – MEN'S LEAGUE:

1. ASA and USSSA 240 Stamped bats are allowed to be used in the league. All bats must be tested and will be stickered if they pass. If you use a bat without an official sticker, you will be ejected from the game.

2. The Park and Recreation Department and its designated representatives reserve the right to inspect any bat used in league play.

BATS – WOMEN’S LEAGUE:

1. ASA and USSSA 240 Stamped bats are allowed to be used in the league.
2. The Park and Recreation Department and its designated representatives reserve the right to inspect any bat used in league play.
3. Little League bats are prohibited.

SOFTBALLS

1. All softballs for both men and women’s league will be provided by the Recreation Department.

EJECTIONS AND PROPER CONDUCT

1. PARTICIPANT BEHAVIOR POLICY Any form of discrimination, abuse, and/or unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Any violation of federal or state law, or city ordinance.
 - b. Deliberate or reckless disruption of any park activities or programs.
 - c. Failure or refusing to obey park ordinance or park rules as directed by city staff or sign.
 - d. Threatening or intimidating others through verbal abuse, profanity, obscene gestures, or other means.
 - e. Intentionally or recklessly damaging or defacing any park property or equipment, or personal property of others.
 - f. Fighting or other assaultive behavior.
2. SPORTS BEHAVIOR POLICY – Torrington Parks and Recreation seeks to promote and maintain a fun, safe, and family-friendly environment. As a result, all players, coaches, spectators, staff, and officials are expected to act in a respectful and courteous manner towards one another. This policy extends to anyone at the playing site either before, during, or after a game.
3. Team Manager’s Responsibilities –
 - a. While each individual is responsible for his/her own actions, Team Managers will also be held responsible for the conduct of their team members, coaches, and spectators. Team Managers are expected to assist the game officials to maintain a positive playing environment. To aid in this, only the Team Manager (or Acting Team Manager) is permitted to confer with game officials.
4. EJECTIONS, GAME FORFEITURES, AND SUSPENSIONS - Game officials have the authority to eject any individual from the playing site and/or forfeit a game in response to violations of the rules or policies. The Recreation Director will review each case and levy additional suspensions against individuals and/or teams as deemed appropriate based on the severity of the violation(s). Suspensions may vary from one game to a lifetime ban.

5. Players ejected from a game will automatically receive a 2-game suspension and \$20 fine. The Recreation Director reserves the right to issue additional suspension days and/or fines. Fines will be set according to the incident; suspensions and fines may carry into the following season.
6. The umpire will report all ejections in writing within 24 hours of the ejection to the Recreation Director. The Recreation Department will notify the manager of the suspended player. The Recreation Director reserves the right to issue the final decision on the terms of the suspensions and fines.
7. Fines must be paid before reinstatement.
8. Any player ejected from a game must leave the playing field and if misconduct continues, officials may order the player to leave the complex or his/her team risks forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the league.
9. A player who violates his/her suspension will be suspended for a minimum of 5 games. The game that the player played in will be forfeited. Second infraction will result in the individuals' suspension for entire season.
10. Umpires and managers will be responsible for conduct of players during the softball game. If player or players are found to be acting in an unsportsmanlike manner including swearing or taunting; the manager may be given 1 (one) verbal warning by the umpire. The second offense in game will result in the ejection of the player or players plus fines as stated in rule #3. If the umpire cannot determine which player on the bench said something, the manager will be ejected. At the discretion of the Recreation Director, a player that is ejected for profanity, taunting, or physical/verbal altercations may be subjected to a longer suspension or possible expulsion, depending on the severity of the situation.
11. There will be no contact with an umpire. Any participant that makes contact with an umpire will have a hearing with the Recreation Director about the incident before fines are imposed.
12. Anyone serving a suspension is not allowed on the playing field at any time while serving their suspension.
13. No alcoholic beverages on city owned or leased property. If a player is found with alcohol on the playing field or with the softball facilities, the player is subject to an ejection from the game. No smoking on the playing field or player benches.

PROTESTS & FORMAL COMPLAINTS RE: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. All protests must be made on the field to the umpire prior to the first pitch. Protests may only be made for rule interpretations; an umpire's judgement call will not be considered. For any protest to be reviewed, the manager of the team protesting must submit their protest in writing to the Recreation Director within 24 hours. Protests must include a \$25.00 protest fee. Any protest that is sustained, the protest fee will be refunded. The Director will make the final decision.
2. Any complaint regarding player eligibility must be made in writing within 24 hours to the Recreation Director. Complaints regarding illegal players must include \$25.00 fee. If a complaint of an illegal player is confirmed by the Director of Recreation, the fee will be refunded.

BALLS AND SCOREBOOKS

1. The Parks and Recreation Department will supply all softballs and scorebooks.
2. Teams must use the softballs given to them by the Parks and Recreation Department.

RAINOUTS

1. Games that must be postponed because of rain will be emailed through QuickScores by 4 PM.
2. The umpire will make all decisions about games after 4:30 PM.
3. If the first game of the day is cancelled all the following games that day will be cancelled.
4. Games that must be postponed because of rain will be posted on the Torrington Softball Facebook Page.

RAINED OUT AND SUSPENDED GAMES

1. If the game has completed 4 full innings and the home team is ahead, the game will be deemed official.
2. In the event of a rain shortened or suspended game when the score is tied, the game will start over from the beginning.

COURTESY RUNNERS

1. 1 runner per inning. Anyone on the roster for the men's league.
2. 2 runners per inning. Anyone on the roster for the women's league.

BATTING ORDER

1. Teams may bat up to 12 hitters.
2. If any extra hitter leaves the game and cannot be replaced by a player that has not played in the game, that spot in the lineup becomes an out, unless the player is injured.
3. Once the game starts, teams may not add an extra hitter or hitters to their line-up.

SCOREKEEPERS

1. Each team will supply a scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will meet with the umpire between innings to agree on the score.
2. The Umpire is responsible for reporting the scores of all games to the Recreation Department.

CLEATS

1. Only rubber spike cleats will be allowed; no metal spikes at all - NO EXCEPTIONS.

BASERUNNER INTERFERENCE

1. When a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains on his/her feet and crashes into the defensive player, the ball is dead and the runner is out.
2. An errant throw drawing the defense into the path of the runner and contact is made, the runner is not out.
3. To prevent the out ruling, the runner may slide, go around the defender, or return to the previous base touched. If the runner slides, it must be a legal slide.
4. If the defensive player is not in possession of the ball and impedes the progress of a runner legally running the bases, obstruction shall be called. When play is over, time shall be called and base(s) awarded that in the umpire's judgment would have been obtained had there been no obstruction. Interference supersedes the obstruction rule.

RE-ENTRY RULE

1. Any player may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions in the lineup.

MERCY RULE

1. A team leading by 20 after (3), 15 after (4), 10 after (5).

SPEED UP RULE

1. The pitcher will be allowed three (3) warm-up pitches only, no matter when he/she enters the game.

FIRST PLACE TEAMS

1. If a team comes in 1st place in the regular season or wins the playoff tournament, the team will move up a division in the following year.

RULES

1. Torrington Recreation Department rules.
2. ASA/USA Official rules.

INJURIES

1. The City is not responsible for any injuries of players or game officials.

MENS HITTING RULES

1. Batters will start with a 1-1 count. No foul
2. Home run limit is 5 per game. Additional home runs are outs.

MENS PITCHING RULES

1. The ball, when pitched, must be a minimum of 6' from the ground while not exceeding a maximum height of 10' from the ground.

2. Batters will start with a 1 - 1 count. No Foul.

WOMENS LEAGUE RULES

1. Women must be 14 years of age or older.
2. Each team will play 14 regular season games.
3. The allowable form of pitching will be a 10 Man Modified Pitch.
4. The batter hit by pitch rule will be in effect.
5. All women catching must wear a catcher's mask with a throat protector.
6. Hitters start with 0-0 count. No foul. If the batter hits a foul ball with 2 strikes, they are out.
7. Home run limit – Unlimited.
8. Mercy Rule – 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings.
9. Helmets are recommended but not required.
10. Time limit – 70 minutes + 1 more inning. The umpire will announce 70 minutes, you finish the inning, and you play one more inning.
11. Coin toss – Each game, the coin toss will determine which team is Home & Away.
12. Umpire fee – Each team pays the umpire \$25 per game at the coin toss.

Pregnancy Rule

Pregnant women will be allowed to participate in the program upon providing a written letter from their doctor stating that there is no risk of injury as a result of their participation, and at what point they are not safely allowed to play. The Torrington Parks and Recreation Department recommends that pregnant players do not play in a game for their own safety.