

NORTH SMITHFIELD WOMEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

2024 Season

- Games are 7 innings. For a game to count, there is a minimum playing time of 4 complete innings. If a game is canceled due to inclement weather before the 4th inning is completed, then the game will be rescheduled at the end of the season.
- There are no forfeits. This is a non-competitive league. If not enough players show up for your team, use players from the other team. Fill positions starting with right field, going around the outfield, and then catcher. A team that is short players may borrow players inning by inning from the opposing team, or both teams can play with an even amount of players if some women want to switch teams for the whole game. If substitute players are being used at any of the above mentioned positions (including catcher), they are expected to make any and all plays at the position in question to the best of their ability.
- If a team cannot field 11 women on the night of a game, you are only allowed to accept substitute players from another team in the NSWSL... No exceptions! It is a liability to have any unregistered player on the field.
- The 5 run rule per inning will be in effect until the last inning, which is unlimited runs.
- If, during the course of a game (with the exception of the last inning), a team is up by 10 runs or more, players on that team should only advance runners one base at a time during at bats until the score gap is closed to a lead that is less than 10 runs. **(Exception: See next rule)**
- A team is only allowed 2 out-of-the park home runs per game at fields that have a fence. Any additional out-of-the-park home runs in the game will be treated as ground-rule doubles. Any players on the bases may only advance two bases each. This rule will still hold true if there is a 10+ lead. If the home run is out-of-the-park, players should still be allowed to advance exactly two bases.
- Continuous batting order: Late arrivals are added to the end of the batting order. Teams should not be taking "outs" if a member of their batting order does not show up to the game, or has to leave the game due to injury. This is a non-competitive league.
- No bunting or stealing.
- On the third strike, if a ball is fouled, one more attempt is given to the batter. If another pitch is fouled, then the batter is out.
- Infield fly rule will be followed. (Umpire's discretion)
- Pitchers must have an arc of 4 to 10 feet.
- Unlimited substitutions for all positions including pitcher. Substitute runners are allowed. The runner will be the last person out from the previous inning.
- ALL BASES may be over-run at all times. All over-runs have to be straight through the bases. No turn or motion to go to the next base can be made otherwise you can be tagged out. Sliding into a base is

only optional, and is not necessary if you choose not to. PLEASE TRY TO AVOID CONTACT FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY!

- Play is halted as soon as ball arrives in the infield. Runners who are halfway or more to the next base are allowed to advance to the next base at their own risk. They may still run back to the previous base. Tagging a runner out is allowed.
- On any over throws, the ball is live off the fence (for all fields). If thrown beyond the fence, over the fence or at a field without a fence, dead ball will be called and the runner advances to the next base.
- If necessary, the umpire may call the game due to time constraints, weather, or darkness.
- Games may end in a tie. Wins and losses are not counted. There are no playoffs. All of these rules support the non-competitive nature of our league.
- Bats are to be checked at the beginning of every game. Umpires will tell you whether a bat is legal or not. If you are found using that bat after it is checked by the umpire, you will be thrown out of the game. **All bats need to be USA or ASA approved.**
- **If there is a discrepancy in score, bookkeepers should report the discrepancy to managers, and team managers can discuss with the umpire.**
- Rosters are balanced to the best of our ability to make sure everyone has fun! If team roster alterations need to be made from year to year to uphold the non-competitive nature of our league, then the league President reserves the right to make these changes. If changes need to be made, you will be given the option to stay with a friend or two when being moved to another team.
- All team managers are responsible for ensuring that their team adheres to these league rules.
- Umpires are allowed to eject any players who are being rude, unnecessarily argumentative, or intentionally delaying the progression of a game. The umpire will issue the player an official 1st warning, and then the 2nd offense will be an ejection. Any and all player complaints should be directed to the team manager. The team manager can then respectfully approach the umpire with any concerns. If a player is ejected, the team will take an out in the batting order when their spot comes up.

THESE ARE OUR OFFICIAL LEAGUE RULES, AND THE LEAGUE ADMINISTRATORS WILL REFER TO THESE RULES WHEN ATTEMPTING TO SETTLE ANY AND ALL CONFLICTS THAT ARISE DURING THE SEASON. HOWEVER, IT IS AN EXPECTATION THAT OPPOSING TEAM MANAGERS TALK TO EACH OTHER TO AVOID CONFLICT AND DISCONTENT WITHIN THEIR OWN GAMES.

REVISED: FEBRUARY 2024