

Normal Parks and Recreation  
100 E. Phoenix Ave  
309 454-9540

## MEN'S CHURCH LEAGUES 2022

### GENERAL RULES

1. League will be offered Tuesdays at Champion Fields with game starting times ranging from 6:00-9:00pm. Games cancelled due to the weather or unplayable fields will be rescheduled by the Normal Parks and Recreation Department.
2. There will be no grace period for starting times. Scheduled game time is forfeit time. Teams forfeiting a game will be contacted for an explanation. Two forfeits may result in expulsion from the league.
3. The cancellations of games for a given evening will be decided by the parks and recreation department between 2:00-5:00pm. If games are cancelled, it will be announced on the Town of Normal Rec Line, 433-3434, category 4. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE PARKS AND REC OFFICE.** Games can still be cancelled after 4:30pm, but at this time it will be left up to the umpire's/site supervisor's decision. Four innings will constitute a complete game. Any game cancelled before it becomes an official game will start over when rescheduled.
4. All players are encouraged to have some type of accident insurance coverage. Neither the Parks and Recreation Department nor the Town of Normal is responsible for covering medical expenses resulting from an injury. Team insurance may be obtained through USA Softball
5. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Town property. Players may not play while under the influence of alcohol. **Smoking is prohibited inside Champion Fields** except for designated area between fields 2 & 3 on the far east end.
6. Respect the decision of the umpire at all times. Umpires have the authority to eject a player from a game and can recommend to the Recreation Supervisor that the suspension be for one game or the remainder of the season.

### ROSTER RULES

1. Players must be 16 years of age as of January 1, 2022.
2. All players must attend the church they are playing for.
3. A team shall consist of ten players. A team must have nine players (all on their roster) to start the game. There is no penalty for playing a man short, a 10<sup>th</sup> player may be added at any time.
4. There is a limit of 20 players allowed on the official roster.

5. Managers may add/drop a player to/from the roster by filling out an add/drop form. These forms must be submitted to the parks and rec office by the team manager. No fee for adding players as this is covered in the roster fee. **LAST DAY TO ADD PLAYERS IS JUNE 24.** Rosters will be checked for tournament play
6. The eligibility rules will be left to the manager's discretion and are subject to being checked at anytime by the recreation office or at the written request of a manager. Use of a non-rostered player, if objected will result in forfeiture.
7. There is no limit to the number of leagues a player can play in for the Normal Parks and Recreation Department.

### **LEAGUE RULES**

1. Official ASA 12" Slow Pitch rules will be observed, including the following:
  - a. Umpires will keep official score. **HOME** team will keep official scorebook, visiting team should also keep book to avoid discrepancies.
  - b. A team must have nine players to start a game. Tenth player can be added any time. **There is No penalty (automatic out) for only having 9 players.**
  - c. Batter will **begin a ONE and ONE count**, after 2 strikes 2nd foul ball is an out.
  - d. **RUN RULES 20** after **three, 15** after **four, 10** after **five**.
  - e. If an EH (extra hitter) is utilized it must be used for the entire game. Failure to do so will result in an out or forfeiture if player is ejected with no substitute.
  - f. **TIME LIMIT - 60 minutes. NO INNING WILL BEGIN AFTER TIME LIMIT!**  
Inning underway will be played to its completion. If a game is tied after completion of inning, it will remain a tie.
  - g. A ball and strike mat will be used.
  - h. **SAFETY RULE -** All plays at home plate are force-outs, with defensive player needing to only step on plate. Tags and sliding are not permitted for plays at the plate. Sliding results in an automatic **OUT**.  
(Home plate is similar to first base in method of putouts). A chalk line will be located 20' from home plate, once the runner crosses line on his/her way home they can't return to third base.  
**Runners are permitted to step on ball/strike mat instead of home plate on close plays. Runner's responsibility to avoid contact with catcher.**
  - i. **HOME RUN LIMIT:** Each team is allowed (2) two home runs per game (over the fence). Any in excess of two will result in an out. Baserunner(s) & batter are not required to run bases.
  - j. **PITCHING RULE -**, Maximum height 12' Minimum 6'  
**Intentionally hitting up the middle at pitcher is not permitted. For safety of players if the umpire feels a batter intended to hit pitcher or even comes close the play is ruled dead ball out with batter ejected from the game. Champion Fields has pitcher's masks that can be borrowed during games. Check with the concession stand and be prepared to leave your driver's license.**
  - k. **Courtesy Runners-** Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used only once

per half inning.

## **PROTESTS**

All protests must adhere to the following procedure. Failure to do so will mean the protest will not be heard.

1. The manager of the offended team must notify the umpire before the next pitch that the remainder of the game is being played under protest.
2. The umpire will then mark the scorebook; sign it, showing the balance of the game is being played under protest.
3. The game will continue, before the game ends the offended team must leave \$10.00 with the umpire as a protest fee.
4. The offended team must within 24 hours present in writing the basis of the protest and turn it to the Normal Parks and Recreation Department.
5. If the protest is allowed the game will be rescheduled and resumed from where it was protested, the \$10.00 will also be refunded.
6. If the protest is **not** allowed, the \$10.00 is forfeited.

## **AWARDS**

1. T-shirts will also be awarded to league and tournament champions.
2. Ties in league standings will be broken in the following sequence.
  - a. Basis of direct competition with team in question.
  - b. Runs scored versus runs against in direct competition with teams in question.
  - c. Total runs scored versus total runs against for the entire season for all games played in league competition.

## **BLOOD RULE**

If at any time blood is seen on the body of a player, the umpire will stop the game. The wound must be cleaned and/or covered before the injured player is allowed to resume play.

If the uniform has blood, the player must remove that article of clothing and exchange it with another or clean it thoroughly with water.

Should the umpire feel that it would take too long to take care of situation at hand, a substitute may report for the injured player without using the re-entry rule.

## **POLICY FOR SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The Town of Normal Parks and Recreation Department has established the following policy for softball leagues taking place when severe or tornado weather is in the area.

If during the time a game is underway, the Civil Defense Tornado warning sirens are activated, all games will be immediately cancelled for the remainder of the evening. If these same sirens are sounded within an hour of the beginning of league play, all games for the evening are cancelled.