

# Northampton Parks & Recreation 2020 Fall Softball League Information Men's & Coed

## **Updates for the 2020 Season**

Due to the anticipated smaller number of teams that are interested in playing softball while following the new regulations, we are going to be holding all games for Men's and Coed at Maines Field. The updated guidelines can be found at the end of this email.

**All of the new guidelines that are listed are state and local mandates. In effort to keep all participants safe, they absolutely have to be followed or we will be forced to end the season early.**

## **Divisions**

If the mix of teams permits, we will have two divisions for both Men's and Coed if enough teams have signed up - the higher division is the most competitive, etc. Be sure to indicate your preference of division on your roster form. The division your team plays in **will be decided by Parks & Recreation staff**, but your preference will be considered. Final team placements will be decided according to the roster you submit.

## **Registration deadline: August 31**

All fees, rosters, proofs and the signed player conduct form must be turned in by this time. All must be turned in together. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is limited space in the league.

## **Anticipated League Start Date: September 8**

## **League Format**

- Maximum of 12 teams in both Men and Coed.
- All teams play a 12 game schedule with double elimination playoffs.

## **Playing times & sites**

Times: All games will be at Maines Field, Riverside Drive in Florence

Mon. - Fri., 6:15pm & 7:45pm

Sundays, 10:00am - 6:00pm

(Games cannot go longer than 1.25 hours to enable first set of teams to leave facility before next group arrives to play. This year game time start will be forfeit time.)

We will play Sunday of Columbus Day weekend

## **Entry Fees**

There is a forfeit fee built into the total fee so the ump's are paid, even when teams forfeit. Teams that do not forfeit will receive the entire amount back at the end of the season.

**Fees:** League Fee: \$ 340 per team  
Forfeit Fee: \$ 132 per team (equal to 3 games)  
\$ 472

*Plus* Player Fee: \$5 per player\*

*\* Player fee is non-refundable and non-transferable*

## **Umpires**

Teams pay the umpire cash at the field. The ump fee is \$44. Each team pays \$22 to the ump before the game. (If 2 ump's are used for the playoff finals, each team must pay \$25.)

## **Non-resident fees**

Additional non-resident and/or extra player fees may apply. Refer to player eligibility section. All fees must be paid before the team may begin play. All checks payable to City of Northampton.

Any check returned will be subject to a \$25 service charge. Balances then must be paid in cash. Teams will be dropped from the league unless balance is paid in full.

## **Extra Players Fee**

There is a \$10.00/player fee for every player on the roster above 15 for the Men's League.

## **Player Eligibility**

A. **Residents** - Anybody whose primary residence is in or owns property in Northampton is considered a Northampton resident. Players who are trying to meet this requirement **must** have their residence or property listed on the roster so it can be confirmed. Teams that misrepresent addresses to meet the residency requirement may be dropped from the league.

B. **Non-residents** - Anybody who does not live in Northampton, Florence, or Leeds must pay an additional **\$10 each**.

Maximum \$100 for all non-resident fees other than entry and player fees.

Proof of residency or place of employment for all new players must be submitted with your roster.

**New teams and/or players: Proof of residency or place of employment for all "resident" players must be submitted with your roster**

Xerox copies are required. All must be submitted together. Proof may consist of a copy of a pay stub, license, or a recent bill, for example. Information must be current. Official Personnel Director letters only are accepted as a proof letter from a business. Phone book listings must list the full name. City Census will also be checked to verify addresses.

## **Requests**

Any date(s) your team can not play must be clearly indicated when you turn in your information. Please indicate the dates on the front of your roster form. This includes Saturdays. It is not guaranteed you won't play those dates but we'll try to accommodate. We are unable to grant request to never play on weekends. It is virtually impossible due to the large number of games scheduled on these days. You may request a couple of them off or that Sunday morning or late afternoon is better. We cannot schedule games around other town leagues or tournaments. No games (regular season, playoffs, or rain-outs) can be switched once they are scheduled.

Due to the nature of playoff games, team date restrictions cannot be considered when scheduling playoffs. Weather cancellations for playoff games will be rescheduled as soon as possible and may even be rescheduled for the following day.

## **Reserving Practice Fields**

Teams who have registered may reserve practice fields. A team may reserve two practices at a time, but may not reserve additional fields until these two dates have passed.

You may reserve a field by calling or emailing Parks & Rec. (587-1040). The reservation form is important to have with you in case there are others on the field you reserved. Field reservations may be delayed this year depending on the DPW's availability to prepare the field.

## **Game Scores**

The winning team manager is responsible for calling or emailing Parks & Recreation the game score the next day. Please stay on top of this as it is hard at the end of the season to try to find all the scores.

## **Players Pool**

If you are seeking additional players for your team, please consider individuals from the player's pool. We will receive many names to add to this pool. An updated list may be received from the Parks & Recreation Office during the player add period.

## **Player Conduct and Safety Form**

Regulations regarding player conduct and safety information are the responsibility of each team member. Please read them carefully. No team will be accepted unless these forms are signed by all players and turned in at the time of registration.

A copy will be made for the manager upon request.

## **Schedules Available**

Season schedules may be picked up at the Parks & Recreation Dept. or emailed. Team balances must be paid in full, along with original rosters and player conduct and safety form signed and turned in, in order to pick up/receive schedules.

**Thursday, September 3, after 11:00 a.m.**

**Schedules will be emailed to team managers when they are ready.**

## **Bats**

Men's: All bats must be stamped with ASA approved stamp, 2013 or later.

Coed: All bats must be listed on the leagues bat list.

**Umpires have consent to check all bats prior to the start of the game.**

## **Rosters**

Please print or type **clearly**. Rosters must have complete addresses of all players. All changes must be in writing on the league add/drop form and be accompanied with all appropriate fees as specified in the league rules. All players on add/drop form must sign player conduct and safety form before form can be turned in. Players can only play/be listed on 1 roster for the season including playoffs.

***Add/drop deadline for rosters: Friday, Sept 18***

**Home Run Rule** A team can only hit 5 home runs in one game (including extra innings). Each additional home run will constitute an out.

# **Massachusetts Guidelines for Adult athletic play in Phase 3, Step 1, Expansion**

As stated earlier, these are not recommendations, these HAVE to be followed in order for NPRD to offer you the opportunity to play. Teams/Players are expected to be fully responsible for their actions in effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If they are not adhered to, it will jeopardize teams and or leagues ability to operate. It will not be the umpire's responsibility to enforce the requirements.

\* Please note State and Local regulations change frequently, and these will be updated accordingly.

## **Guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19**

### **PLEASE READ THESE CAREFULLY!**

1. Face coverings and social distancing of six feet is required when participants are not actively engaged in an activity (e.g., on "bench", pre/post practice/games, walking from cars, etc.).
2. Players must wear face covering when batting and running the bases. All players must wear face covering when on defense, except the pitcher and outfielders.
3. Dugouts and bleachers will be closed. Players should bring their own chair and must be 6' apart.
4. Players must stay 6ft apart while they are outside of the playing area.
5. Absolutely no spectators/fans are allowed at the field.
6. Players must sanitize their hands at arrival, and should throughout play also.
7. Teams will not be allowed to congregate at any part of the field or parking lot before or after their scheduled game. Players must come directly to the field, play and then leave. Linger is NOT allowed.
8. Games will start at 6:15 and 7:45. Teams can arrive at the field 10 minutes before their game, no earlier, and must vacate the field and parking area as soon as done. No innings can start after 1 hour of the official start time, games MUST be completed in 1.25 hours.
9. Game time is forfeit time. We moved the start times for the games back 15 minutes to make sure everyone can make it to the field on time.
10. Bathrooms will not be available during the program.
11. No seeds, gum, etc., things that will be spit or on the ground.
12. Players must sanitize their hands when they arrive and are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently during the games. Sanitize when you get there, throughout the game, and when leaving.
13. No tournament play is allowed.
14. Sportsmanship should continue in a touchless manner – no handshakes/slaps/fist bumps, etc.
15. Umpires are required to wear facial coverings and maintain social distancing of 6 feet from players, and other persons at all times.
16. Water fountains can only be used as bottle filling stations.

17. Each player must have their own personal equipment (water bottles, gloves, helmets, chairs, protective gear, etc) and can not share it with other players from either team. Softballs will be sanitized at the end of each inning.
18. If a team decides to share a bat it needs to be sanitized between each use. Sanitizers for this purpose will be provided by the team.
19. Teams will have to provide a roster for each game with the player's full name and phone number to allow for contact tracing.