

TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA YOUTH AND REC FALL SOFTBALL RULES

July 31, 2019

SECTION 1: TEAM, UMPIRE, AND PERFORMANCE FEES

Article 1a. FEES

The collection of team and non-resident fees is the responsibility of the team manager/captain and are to be paid with cash or a check made payable to the Town of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Department.

1b. TEAM FEES

Be it resolved that the following recreational fees are established effective January 1, 2019 for the 2019 season:

2019 FALL SOFTBALL TEAM FRANCHISE FEES

<u>League</u>	<u>Franchise Fee</u>
Co-Ed/Men's	\$200

- There are no residency requirements for the 2019 Fall League.
- A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to register each team.
- All ASA Fees & the umpire forfeit fee are included in the Franchise Fee.
- Franchise Fee is due at the captains meeting on Wednesday August 14, 2019
- If a team does not forfeit during the course of the regular season the final regular season game will be free.

1c. The Southtowns Umpire's Association is an independent organization from the Town of Cheektowaga. The Town of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Department contracts with the Southtowns Umpire's Association for the league. The Town Of Cheektowaga and its softball employees will not under any circumstances umpire any games where the Southtowns Umpires Association does not show up for a scheduled game by the Town Of Cheektowaga.

1d. UMPIRE FEES

Each team will pay the umpire \$21, one-half his/her normal fee before the start of any game. Any team that fails to make this payment will be subject to penalties that may include the forfeiture of any game and suspension of the team from the league.

Article 3. REFUNDS

There will be no refund of any fees paid if a team is ejected from the league. Teams ejected from the league must still pay the full amount owed for the league fees.

SECTION 2 – PROTESTS

Article 1. The Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator, if accepted, will act upon all protests. His/her decision is final.

Article 2a. Umpire's decision must be accepted and considered as final without question.

2b. a protest may be filed only if a misinterpretation of rules should happen to occur. Proper procedures must be followed if the protest is to be legal. The manager/captain must call time and notify the umpire and the opposing manager/captain of the protest immediately. If one pitch is thrown after you feel there were grounds for a protest your protest will not be valid. It must be done immediately. The scorebook must be signed by the umpire to verify that the game is being played under protest. These scorebook pages must be turned in with a letter of protest. Again, after one ball is pitched, no protest will be allowed to be filed (exception – Section 2, article g).

2c. in filing a protest, the rule or situation in question must be stated. Unless the rule/situation is stated, the Softball Coordinator will not accept a protest.

2d. Protests must be submitted to the Softball Coordinator within 48 hours of game time.

2e. Managers/captains seeking to file protests should contact the Softball Coordinator the following day if they have questions concerning the filing of the protest.

2f. If a protest is upheld, the two teams involved must pay the umpire when the game is replayed. The protested game will be played from the point of protest or infraction. Any roster player may be used to replace a player who participated in the original game and is absent or injured and is unable to participate in the replaying of the protested game.

2g. Protests concerning illegal players may be filed at any time prior to the end of the regular season.

2h. Protests concerning illegal players in a playoff game must be filed prior to the completion of that particular playoff game.

2i. All protests will cost the protesting team \$25.00 and will not be refunded win or lose of the protest being filed. If the \$25.00 does not accompany the protest the protest will not be valid and will be thrown out no exceptions.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND ROSTERS

Article 1a. Each player of each team must be undersigned to the team's roster.

1b. By Friday August 30th, the manager/captain of each team must submit the team roster to the softball office. Only those players on the roster will be allowed to participate in the games to be played. Additional players may be added in advance of participation. The Softball office reserves the right to forfeit the games of a team whose roster is not turned in.

1c. Rosters are frozen as of Friday September 13th 2019. No person may be added to a roster after this point.

1d. No player may be on more than one roster in the same league, if a player is found to be on more than one roster, that player is not eligible for either team, and becomes an illegal player.

1e. No player is to play for more than one team in the same league, if a player is found to play for more than one team in the same league, that player is not eligible for either team, and becomes an illegal player.

1f. To be eligible to participate in playoffs, a player must have participated in 50% of the games that are scheduled by the Town Of Cheektowaga which would be 3 out of 6.

1g. Any team using an ineligible player or anyone using a fictitious name and/or address shall be ejected from the league with no refund. This may occur immediately after the start of the first game of the season.

1h. Any team not having a roster on file will not be eligible for the playoffs.

Article 2a. All rosters are open to inspection by all league managers/captains and by the softball office. Rosters must be neatly filled out or they will be rejected.

2b. Each team may carry roster of twenty players.

Article 3. **Absolutely** no female is to play in a men's league at any point.

SECTION 4 – POSTPONEMENTS/DELAYS

Article 1a. After the start of the game, the umpire assigned to the game shall be the sole judge of whether or not the field and/or weather conditions are favorable or unfavorable for play.

1b. If a game is postponed at the site or before it becomes a legal game, the home team must submit a scorecard with the umpire's signature, the status of the game, and why the game was postponed. Failure to submit the scorecard as requested will result in forfeiture of both teams.

Article 2a. It is prohibited for any manager/captain to postpone a scheduled game without permission from the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator.

Article 3. Unless notified by the CY&RS Softball Coordinator, all manager/captains with respective teams will show up at the designated field for a scheduled game. In the case of inclement weather or wet grounds, only team managers/captains are requested to call the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator's office at 656-2294 after 4:00pm to determine if the games will be played. Games will be postponed when diamonds are unplayable. Managers/captains should appoint an assistant so that the Coordinator can contact that person if the manager/captain cannot be reached.

Article 4a. The Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Department reserves that right to cancel regular season and playoff games at its discretion at any time.

Article 5. Postponed games must be made up as a full game.

Article 6. In the event there is a rain/lightening delay in a game then any other games for that night will be finished as 5 inning legal games for time's sake.

SECTION 5 – GAMES

Article 1. 6 games are scheduled for the Fall League with no guarantee of any number of games.

Article 1a.

Co-Ed Leagues - Each game will be 7 innings or 55 minutes. No new inning will start after 50 minutes from the start of the game. If tied after 7 innings, extra innings will occur if time permits. If no time remains, the game ends in a tie no matter what league you are in or what diamond you are playing on (exception – Section 5, article 6e).

Men's Leagues - Each game will be 7 innings or 55 minutes. No new inning will start 50 minutes from the start of the game. If tied after 7 innings, extra innings will occur if time permits. If no time remains the game ends in a tie no matter what league you are in or what diamond you are playing on (exception – Section 5, article 6e).

1b. All regular season games will begin promptly as scheduled. A team failing to be ready to play at the scheduled time forfeits the game to the scheduled opponent at the discretion of the umpire. There is, however, a *ten-minute grace period for the MENS Leagues* and a *ten-minute grace period for the Co-Ed Leagues* before the game is forfeited. If a grace period is used, the game will be shortened the amount of time used to start the game.

Article 2a. If a reschedule request is called in the day of, or day before the scheduled game, it will be considered an automatic forfeit.

2b. If a request is made with a 3-6-day notice, we will try to reschedule the game within the remainder of the season. If there are games that have been rained out, they will take priority over requested makeups when rescheduling. If for some reason the requested game does not get rescheduled, it will become a forfeit.

2c. If a request is made at least a week in advance, we will ensure that the game is made up-in the order in which it was rained out/requested off.

2d. In the case of a no-show, or a team forfeits due to lack of players at the diamond, the WINNING team is to pay their umpire fee of \$21 for that game.

2e. A team awarded a win by forfeit must call in a winning score of 7-0 and say by “forfeit”.

2f. Two forfeits will suspend the team immediately for the remainder of the season and still owe all league fees if not already paid.

2g. Opponents of suspended teams will be awarded a forfeit, 7-0 win.

Article 3. A Men's team may play with nine players with no out occurring for a missing 10th player.

Article 4. Players are prohibited from wearing metal spikes. Any participant wearing metal spikes will be ejected from the game.

Article 5. The team at bat is responsible for retrieving balls.

Article 6a. There are three courtesy runners. Only one courtesy runner may run at a time. The same player may not run twice in an inning. The courtesy runner must be the last person out, and the last of that gender out in coed. If the courtesy runner's spot in the lineup comes while he/she is on base, they are out as a base runner and must bat.

6b. If a runner leaves the base and the batter swings and misses the runner is out (**no warnings**). There are no lead-offs at all- the runner can only leave after contact with the ball. If a player is called out on a leadoff, the pitch still counts.

6c. Any player subbed out, whether in field or batting, is officially out of that game. There is no re-entry into the game.

Exception: a player gets injured later in the game. If players subbed out are the only players left on the bench, 1 of them may re-enter the game for the injured player.

Article 7a. **The winning team must report the winning score to the softball office after the game by texting (716)583-0683, calling (716)656-2294, or emailing to score@tocny.org.**

7b. **If the winning team fails to call in scores by week 5, both teams will be credited a loss. Week 6 games must be called in within 48 hours or they will be counted as losses for both teams. It is only a courtesy if the office calls the teams for scores, it is not our requirement.**

7c. **The 12 run rule applies after five innings. 20 run rule applies after the team behind has been up to bat 3 times.**

7d. If a game is tied at the end of the regulation, there are no extra innings (**unless time permits**). If no time permits the tiebreaker will be as follows: Team scoring more runs in the previous inning wins the game, if still tied it goes to the inning before that and so on until a winner is determined.

7e. There is a three home run limit on over the fence hits. After three, these hits will be counted as an out. Except if a woman hits a home run in co-ed it does not count to the three homerun limit, so the team will still be at the same number of homeruns after a woman hits a homerun, as they were before she hits the homerun.

7f. **Game balls - Any team using a non-issued 2019 season game ball will forfeit the game.**

7g. **The Town Of Cheektowaga SCHEDULES 6 GAMES and does NOT GUARANTEE GAMES TO BE PLAYED IN THE FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

7h. **The Town Of Cheektowaga reserves the right to not play a rained out game at the end of the season if it will have no bearing on the outcome of the final standings before playoffs. Therefore, this will be the exception to the rule (6k) in that if this would be the eighth, ninth or tenth game or all three the game(s) will not be played and the league will not re-schedule if it runs into the scheduled playoff time. Weather in Cheektowaga, NY is very unpredictable and this will be the exception to rule**

Article 8a. The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules will apply in those situations where there is no conflict with rules of the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball League and the judgment of the Coordinator.

8b. The Coordinator reserves the right to amend the rules of the Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball League at any time.

8c. Teams and/or players seeking exclusion from these rules and regulation may do so in writing to the Coordinator. In the request for exclusion, a detailed explanation of the extemporary situation and/or condition should be accompanied with all pertinent information and evidence.

Article 9a. It is the responsibility of the team representative to inform the team's players and manager/captain of the outcome of the pre-game umpire's meeting (ground rules).

9b. Batters will start each at bat with a 1 and 1 count for all leagues.

9c. Arch will be 6 to 12 feet for all Co-Ed games and 6 to 12 feet for all Men's games.

9d. **A green strike zone mat will be utilized for league play. A pitched ball landing on the plate or mat will be a strike as long as pitched with a legal 6 to 12 foot arch in men's leagues and a 6 to 12 foot arch in co-ed leagues.**

9e. Co-Ed and Men's leagues

Double innings will be played hitting and in the field after the Home team has recorded their first 3 outs in the top half of the first inning. Thereafter, once fielding team has recorded the first 3 outs, the bases will be cleared and the next half inning will begin. After 6 recorded outs in the field, then teams will switch. The Home team will be allowed their last at bat if needed.

SECTION 6 - PLAYER CONDUCT

Article 1a. No alcohol on the field, No player is allowed to drink alcohol while playing. Any player caught consuming Alcohol while playing will be ejected.

1b. No unsportsmanlike conduct by players, managers/captains, coaches, or duly authorized representatives will be tolerated. Any person judged guilty of violating this rule should be subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Coordinator.

1c. Any player, manager/captain, coach, or duly authorized representative physically contact an umpire in an unsportsmanlike manner will be immediately suspended. He is no longer allowed to participate until a hearing is held with head of umpires, umpire involved, player involved, softball committee, town board member, and head of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services.

1d. Any player being ejected from a game by an umpire will be suspended for the next game. A second ejection during the season will result in a 3 game suspension. A third results in a season long suspension.

1e. Any team that uses a player that has been suspended will result in that team captain being suspended. If the team does not have enough players to finish the game when the captain and suspended player are ejected the team will forfeit.

Article 2. By being on a roster for any Cheektowaga League you are agreeing to abide by The Town of Cheektowaga's Zero Tolerance Policy/Code of Conduct and can be suspended as a captain/individual for the actions of yourself or your team as the manager.

SECTION 7 – PLAYOFFS

Article 1a. If there is a tie for first place in a division, the tiebreaker will be a head-to-head season record. If that is a tie, it will be based upon record against the other playoff teams.

1b. Ties for second and/or third place will be broken using regular season record between the teams involved. If this is also a tie, record against the other playoff teams will be the criteria.

1c. Two or three way ties for fourth place will be broken using the following criteria:

- a. Record between the teams during the regular season
- b. Record against the other playoff teams.
- c. Run difference between teams
- d. Difference between total runs scored and total runs allowed during the regular season
- e. Coin toss

Article 2. Playoffs will start on the first available scheduled date following the completion of the regular season and is not limited to "league night."

Article 3. For all inter-divisional playoffs, the team with the best record in games played between the teams involved or wins a coin toss, is the home team.

Article 4. Each team will pay the umpire \$21, one half the normal fee, before the game is played.

Article 5. For the inter-divisional playoffs, Article 2 and Article 4 will apply with the home team being decided by a coin toss.

Article 6. Pairings for the inter-divisional playoffs will be decided by a drawing.

Article 7. Article 7. There will be no time limit for **championship** games ONLY. 55 Minute time limit still applies for all other playoff games. All games will be at least 5 innings. 12 run rule in effect after 5 innings. Number of teams allowed in playoffs is subject to change due to weather

See index

SECTION 8 – SPECIAL RULES

Co-Ed:

Article 1. The batter becomes a runner when four balls have been called by the umpire. The ball is dead. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) has to bat with 0 or 1 out.

EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. Note: Should female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during this dead ball period. A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.

Article 2a. There is no position rule. Any player (Male or Female) may play any position. However, there must be equal number of Males and Females in the outfield and the infield as well as pitcher and catcher being opposite sex. If playing short then the outfield may be an odd number.

2b. Teams may play with 9 players but the ratio has to be 5 females to 4 males with no out taken. A team may also play with a ratio of 6 females and 4 males. A team may also play with 5 males and 4 females; however, an out must be taken for the missing female in the lineup.

2c. A team may bat 11 batters in co-ed, however the team must take an out for the missing 12th batters spot in the lineup.

2d. Batting order must be male, female, male, female, etc. A team may also bat 12 batters and they must be male female based on the batting order.

2e. A coed team may bat 12 batters, with 5 females and 6 males, however they must take an out for the missing female batter.

2f. A male outfielder cannot throw a female batter out at first.

Men –

**The Town of Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Youth Services Softball league will not allow stealing in any leagues.
2e. No female is to play on any men's team at any point.**

Article 3. Championship teams will have only until November 1st of the year they win to place the order for their prizes, after November 1st no orders will be taken.

SECTION 9 - BATS

1. Must bear **either** the **ASA approved 2000, 2004, ASA 2008, or 2012 ASA certification mark** as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA Banned Bat List unless it also bears an ASA approved re-certification mark shown below, **or**



2. must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; or
3. must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.
4. **THE TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA SOFTBALL PROGRAM HAS PURCHASED A BAT COMPRESSION TESTER AND WILL IMPLEMENTING A STICKER SYSTEM SO THAT ALL BATS USED IN THE TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA LEAGUES WILL HAVE TO HAVE BE TESTED AND STICKERED BY WEEK 3) TO BE USED THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON AND IN THE PLAYOFFS. ANY BATS WITHOUT A PROPER STICKER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE USED IN LEAGUE PLAY. BATS WILL NEED TO BE STICKERED BY SEPTEMBER 13th 2019- OR THEY CANNOT BE USED IN GAMES.**

Check out the list of certified equipment at www.asasoftball.com

All wooden bats will continue to be approved for ASA Play regardless of whether they bear an ASA approved certification mark or are included on a list of approved bats published by the ASA National Office.

Article 4. Any player caught using an illegal bat will result in an automatic ejection from the game.

Article 5. Scores. It is the responsibility of the Winning Team to report the scores to the Softball Office.. Upon completion of the game, it is the Winning Team's responsibility call in the score to the office.

Article 6. All other ASA rules apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheektowaga Youth & Recreational Services Softball Coordinator at 656-2294.

2019 Season Notes

*Office Hours – we will try to have someone in the office Tuesday – Friday from 3:00pm-9:00pm.

*Scores may be texted in to (716) 583-0683, emailed to scores@tocny.org or called in at (716) 656-2294

***Rainouts – We will not know the status of the diamonds until 4pm on rain days. We may also leave a message to call back after 5pm. Please designate 1 person to call for the status of games. You may also check status of games online at www.tocny.org by clicking the youth and recreation, and then clicking the softball button. Also please inquire how to sign up for our text alerts!**

Additional information may be found at: www.tocny.org