Isle of Wight County
Department of Parks and Recreation
Coed Softball League
2026

BY-LAWS

Article I: Eligibility

A. Each team must pay the registration fee and turn in the Team Captain Registration form on or before the first game.
B. Each team must submit their player's registration forms and have them completely filled out before the team's 3rd game night. If they are not turned in before the 3rd game the team will forfeit every game they are scheduled for until they are submitted.
C. Players must have turned 18 years old on or before the first league game. If a question about a player's age is in question, then that player must produce a legal identification that includes a photo of that person, full legal name, address and date of birth to the Recreation Specialist on site immediately. Failure to do so will result in that player being ineligible until such documentation is produced.
D. Failure to meet any eligibility rules may result in forfeiture of any and all games in which an ineligible player has participated. Teams must use the protest clause to report the use of an ineligible player due to any reason other than age.

Article II: Team Rosters

A. The team roster shall not exceed 20 players.
B. Once team rosters have been submitted the teams will have until the 3rd game to add players. After the 3rd game a player can be replaced only if there is an injury or the player has re-located to another area (which can include county, town, city, state or country.) If this situation occurs a registration form for the new player must be filled out and returned to the Recreation Specialist by the next scheduled game. The player will not be able to play unless the Recreation Specialist has this form. However, replaced players are not allowed to re-enter the league on any team during that season.
C. Players must play a minimum of 4 game nights or 7 regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs and tournament games. (The minimum number of games is subject to change depending on the number of teams in the league).

Article III: Uniforms

A. Each player, manager, and coach participating in a league game or tournament must wear a uniform shirt.
B. All teams must have matching shirts of identical color and style with at least 6 inch numbers to be placed on either the front or the back of the shirt. Tennis shoes or rubber cleats may be used as shoes, NO STEEL SPIKES. No taped numbers will be allowed on the shirts. The umpire and the Recreation Specialist will strictly enforce these rules.
C. All teams must be in uniform by the 3rd game night of the season. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting of each game that a team is not in compliance with the rules.

Article IV: Game balls

A. Teams will be required to provide their own balls. All Softballs must be NSA regulation Softballs. Each ball provided must be an optic maximum .52 core for men and .52 for women. Balls must be 12" for men and 11" for women and yellow in color. Each team is responsible for hitting their balls. Teams may decide to use a lesser core ball, but may not exceed the maximum core of the softball. **All softballs must have a max compression of 275lbs.**
B. All bats must be National Softball Association (NSA) approved with NSA stamp 2012 or higher and have a **BPF (Bat Performance Factor) 1.20 or less.**

Article V: Game time limit and Regulations

A. Once an inning has started, the complete inning must be played.
B. The next inning starts immediately after the third out of the previous inning.
C. The first game of the night will begin at 6:30pm. There is no grace period for games. Exception to this rule is traffic, accidents, umpire are not present or bridge lifts. If this occurs there will be a 10-minute extension. After 10 minutes the game will begin with the players that each team has, or the teams will forfeit the game if they do not have enough players to begin.)
D. Regulation Game – A full regulation game will be seven innings or 55 minutes. No new inning may start after this time limit. 10 run slaughter rule applies after 5 innings (4 ½ innings if home team is winning). 12 run slaughter rule applies after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if home team is winning). 15 run slaughter rule applies after 3 innings (2 ½ if home team is winning).
E. A game stopped before being considered an official game will continue from the point the original game was stopped.
F. All games will be played with a 1-1 count with **a courtesy foul**.
G. If a team is short 10 players (5 men and 5 women), then a team can play with 9 players. The team will take an out for the 10th batter. Teams can have a maximum of 5 men on the field, at all times. Teams must have a minimum of 4 women on the field, at all times, but there is

no maximum number of women that can play the field. Female players can take the slot of a male player but not vise vera. For example: if a team has 4 men and 6 females, then the female can be put into the males' slot on the field and the batting order to allow a team to play with 10 players.

H. Teams may use a male and a female courtesy runner each inning. A male must run for a male and female for a female. Any player in the lineup or on the bench can be a courtesy runner and there can be 2 courtesy runners per inning, 1 female and 1 male. If the courtesy runner is on base when his/her time comes at bat, the player will be skipped, and that team will receive an out. If an accident or injury occurs and the team does not have a same sex substitute, then that player and 1 player of the opposite sex must drop out of the lineup. If this situation occurs and the team does not have enough players to play, then the team forfeits the game.
I. No outfielder will be allowed to come into the field (on the dirt) to catch a fly ball. If so, the runner is safe.
J. During games if a male batter is walked intentionally or unintentionally the male batter is awarded second base. The female batter will have the option to hit or take a walk if there are two outs. If not two outs, the batter must hit.
K. Home run limits – 2 with one-up rule. Once both teams have reached their HOMERUN limit, either team may hit an additional HOMERUN. No team is ever allowed to go up by more than 1 HOMERUN against the opposing team. Any HOMERUN hit beyond the one up rule will be called a single. Players on the bases may only advance to one base.
L. We will provide an official scorekeeper for each game. The scorekeeper and umpire will provide the only official score. Teams are not allowed to protest the scorekeeper or umpire calls. Disputes with either of these officials may cause removal from the game.

Article VI: Game Procedures

A. The Official NSA Rules and Regulations will govern all leagues except when in conflict with Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department Softball By-laws.
B. Games will be played at Carrollton Nike Park at 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. (These times are subject to change depending on how many games are played in one night).
C. A forfeit will be recorded as a loss. If both teams are unable to field enough eligible players to complete the game, the game will be declared a DOUBLE FORFEIT and both teams will receive a loss. A 55 minute time limit will be enforced. (The umpire will have the right to extend the time due to injury). There will be no new innings started after the time has expired unless the score is tied. All teams should report to the field 15 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled game. ***Coaches should turn in their line up 10 minutes prior to their scheduled game time in writing to the scorekeeper.*** Umpires

will have the right to call any game due to the weather or dangerous conditions. Please note the staffed scorekeeper will be the official person in charge of the scorebook.

D. In the event of a tie, the team that leads at the end of any inning after the 7th will be declared the winner. In the event that the score is tied at the end of the 10th inning, the game will be declared a draw, and both teams will be awarded half wins. In the event that these teams are tied at the end of the season or that the game is needed to determine the placement of teams into the tournament, the game will be played to its conclusion with the players who were in the game at the end of the 10th inning returning to their same place in the batting order.
E. No infield practice will be allowed before the game.
F. No batting practice will be allowed before the game on the game field.
G. No spectators should be in the dugouts or behind the umpire.
H. All players MUST remain <u>inside</u> the dugout unless you are playing the field, the batter, the batter up, or coaching a base. Your team will receive an out if you are not in compliance. If a team is playing the field and a player on the bench from that team is standing outside the dugout, the team will receive an automatic out the next at bat.
I. The supervisor and the umpire will synchronize their watches before each game to ensure that a clock is available to keep the game time. The umpire's watch will be the official time unless it has a malfunction then the supervisor's watch will become official.
M. In the event that a game is called after the completion of the 5th inning (4 ½ if the home team is winning), but without the next inning being complete the result of the last complete inning will constitute the final result of the game. If a game is called before the completion of the 5th inning the game will continue from the point the original game was stopped.

Article VII: Sportsmanship

A. All players, managers, coaches, spectators should respect each other and the officials who have the duty to enforce the rules and regulations of Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department. The umpire or the Recreation Specialist will remove any player, manager, coach, or spectator who shows unsportsmanlike conduct from the game. **Once a person is removed from a game that person must leave Carrollton Nike Park. Failure to do so may result in the forfeit of the game and the person or persons being charged with trespassing.**
B. Any player, manager, coach, or spectator who physically or verbally assaults another player, manager, coach, spectator, umpire, or Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department staff person will be removed from the game and will be asked to leave Carrollton Nike Park. That person or persons who attacked the other will be suspended for the next five (5) games and may be suspended for the rest of the season upon review of the incident by the Isle of Wight County Parks

and Recreation Officials. Local law enforcement may be contacted regarding any possible assault.

C. Any player removed from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for no less than three (3) games and may be suspended for up to one year after review by the Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department.
D. Both teams should display positive attitudes when moving quickly on and off the field. If a team or team fails to display a positive attitude in the manner the umpire has the right to forfeit the game. The umpire should issue one (1) verbal warning to the manager or coach of the team before forfeiting a game.
E. Arguing balls and strikes will not be allowed, nor will the judgment call of an official on a call at any base. The umpire will issue a warning, and then may eject the player, manager, coach, or spectator if the dispute continues. At anytime the umpire or supervisor finds the arguing to be abusive (foul language, or gestures) the umpire or supervisor may remove that player, manager, coach, or spectator immediately. This will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct; the person removed will be punished according to those rules.
F. Racial remarks, foul abusive language, or foul gestures will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct; the person removed will be punished according to those rules.
G. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR ILLIGAL DRUGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES. Anyone using such items before, during, or after a game will be removed from Carrollton Nike Park, **suspended for no less than 1 year from the date of the infraction,** and local law enforcement may be contacted.
H. Any team that is found to display an overall lack of sportsmanship and is seen by umpires and Parks and Recreation staff to have displayed a lack of sportsmanship toward other teams, umpires, spectators, and Parks and Recreation staff; Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to either place the team on probation or suspend the team from the league. Suspension will result in forfeiture of all fees by that team. No refund will be issued.
I. Any player, manager, coach, or spectator removed from a game in one league is removed from any league that participates on the Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation grounds until that person has finished his or her suspension.
J. **The umpire or Recreation Specialist must submit all ejection and removals to the Isle of Wight Parks and Recreation Athletic Board in writing within 24 hours of the ejection or removal. The information needs to include the following james.finch548@gmail.com : the players who were ejected or removed, why that person was ejected or removed, and when that person was ejected or removed. This information may be emailed to the Recreation Specialist or Recreation Manager before leaving the premises. The Athletic Board will**

consist of the Isle of Wight Parks and Recreation Director, Recreation Manager and Recreation Specialist.

Article VIII: Field Scorekeeping Contingency Rule (This rule applies only if the Official Scorekeeper is not available to work that night)

A. If the Official Scorekeeper is unavailable, teams must provide their own scorekeeper using the honor system. The designated scorekeeper will be responsible for maintaining both teams' lineups, tracking home runs, and keeping the official score.
   The HOME team will serve as the official scorekeeper for the game. The umpire will be responsible for keeping the official game time, tracking runs, and monitoring home runs. The umpire's decisions on these matters are final. At the end of each inning, the umpire will verify the score with the designated scorekeeper.

Article IX: Protest

A. Protest of eligibility of player is the only acceptable protest. **Any formal protest about an ineligible player will be made before the game is played**. No protests about ineligible players will be excepted after the game has been played. Judgment calls are not grounds for protest.
B. The coach shall notify the umpire at the time in which the incident occurs, the umpire will notify the Recreation Specialist/Official Scorekeeper, who will note the protest in the scorebook at the time and place the protest started. In the case of a questionable player's eligibility the umpire may check with the Recreation Specialists records. If the Recreation Specialist finds the player to be on his roster, the player may stay in the game and the coach can protest the game on additional grounds of age, or identification. If the player is not on the roster, the player will be removed immediately and replaced with an eligible player if possible. If the team does not have an eligible player, then an out will be recorded in the spot in the batting order.
C. The protesting manager will then file a report by 5:00 pm on the next business day of the protest to the Recreation Specialist. This protest must be accompanied with a check for $25.00 for a protest. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If the protest is not ruled in favor of the protesting team, the fee will be forfeited to Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department. The protest may be emailed in but will not be considered until the fee is delivered.
D. The umpire will submit a written report to Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department after any protest is filed by 5:00 pm the next business day. This report may be faxed to the Recreation Specialist.
E. The Recreation Specialist will investigate the protest and submit the findings to the IOW Parks and Recreation Athletic Advisory Board, and they will make the **final** decision.

Article XI: Scheduling

A. Games will be played in accordance with the schedule made by Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department. No postponements will be allowed, with the exception of weather or other unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department.
B. Games postponed by Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department will be made by 4:00 pm on game day. Head coaches should call the Recreation Specialist at 757-357-2291.
C. Cancellation of games may happen in extreme circumstances, if so, Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel any game if conditions warrant.
D. Coaches may call Carrollton Nike Park to reserve the softball fields for practice. You may only reserve the fields if they are available at the time. This is on a first come-first serve basis.
E. The make-up games will be re-scheduled by the Recreation Specialist and will be played as soon as possible. **There may be up to a 24-hour advanced notice on make up games.**

Article XII: Tournament Games

A. All teams in the league will advance to the end of the season tournament. In the event that the team standings are tied, head-to-head results will be the determining factor. If a tie still exists, runs yielded between the tied teams, runs yielded for the entire year and total runs scored for the year will be the determining factors.
B. For the end of the season tournament each team must have 8 players to start and finish a game.
C. The tournament will be a double elimination tournament.
D. The higher seeded teams will be the home team in each game.
E. The tournament games will go as regular season runs (7 innings or 55 minutes, and slaughter rules), EXCEPT for the Championship game. There will be NO TIME LIMIT on this game.

Article XIII: Awards This package includes 1 team plaque for the 1st and 2nd place Season and Tournament Champions.

Article XIV: Refunds There will be NO REFUNDS of any kind after the game schedules have been created.

Article XV: All other rules

A. Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change or amend any of the above rules at any time.
B. Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department will make the final decision in all matters concerning the leagues governed by these laws.