

New England Sports Hub Fall & Winter Women's Slow-pitch League

Official Rules

I. The Playing Field

- a. All games will be played indoors at the NE Sports Hub in Somersworth, NH.
- b. The playing field will be set up as two back to back fields facing opposite directions.
- c. The field will be set up by NE Sports Hub per these guidelines.
- d. The field will have a commitment line at 3rd base(30ft from home plate), a safety bag at first and home, strike mat at home plate, cones or ribbons for clear foul lines and ribbons weaved into netting for homerun lines.
- e. Base paths will be set at 70ft. Pitching mound set at 40ft.

II. Equipment & Attire

- a. Athletic shoes are required. Molded or turf cleats and sneakers are acceptable. Metal cleats are **NOT** allowed under any circumstance.
- b. Each team shall furnish all team equipment such as bats and gloves necessary for each game. Face masks for infielders are up to individual players' discretion. Optional that the pitcher wears a face mask. Other protective gear such as shin guards are at player discretion.
- c. Game balls will be supplied by the NE Sports Hub. Only game balls supplied and designated by the NE Sports Hub will be allowed. Must be USA slow-pitch 12" Diamond with the Zulu stamp.
- d. Composite or aluminum bats that have a USA sticker or ASA sticker are acceptable (USSSA or NSA bats are not allowed to be used)
- e. Bases, pitching mounds, and cones, mats ect. will also be provided by NE Sports Hub.
- f. All types of electronic communication devices used to communicate with players is prohibited. One-way & two-way communication and general communication to players remains restricted to preserve the traditional pace of play, prevent unfair advantages, and maintain competitive fairness.

III. Officials

- a. Officials will be provided by NE Sports Hub and will be USA certified.
- b. Games will be officiated by at least one umpire. Playoffs will have at least 2 per game.

- c. Officials govern all game play and issue final rulings.
- d. Officials have jurisdiction over play and hold the ability to eject players for any unsportsmanlike conduct.
- e. Officials will check bats prior to each game to ensure no illegal bats are being used.

IV. Sportsmanship and Conduct

- a. All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to maintain good sportsmanship and behavior. There is **ZERO** tolerance for violence, abusive language, or any harassment towards officials, players, and other spectators. This is a family friendly environment and even competitive leagues require the respect of teammates, opponents, officials, spectators, and the staff. Hub Staff has the right to remove and ban people from the Hub.

V. Player Eligibility

- a. All players must register and pay league fee to be eligible to play.
- b. All players must be 21 years old or older.
- c. Playoff eligibility: Players must play at least half of the season's games to play in the playoffs.

VI. Team Registration Fees & Season Details

- a. Team Registration is \$1550.00 per team
- b. \$129/player for 12 players (minimum)
- c. \$77/player for 20 players (maximum)
- d. Regular season will be 6 weeks long , plus 2 weeks for playoffs.

Start date : November 1st

End date: December 20th

VII. Team Rosters

- a. Each team shall have a team captain; each captain is responsible for their team.
 - The captain will ensure that all players bat in the same order through the game.
 - Only the captain may request a conference with the umpire to dispute calls.
 - The team captain can raise protest with the umpire for blatant rule infractions but will ultimately accept the umpires final ruling on the matter.

- The team captain will ensure teammates have a clear understanding of all boundaries, homerun lines and rules prior to the start of the game.

b. Each team will provide a copy of their lineup for every game to the league presidents for tracking eligible players for playoffs. (Kaitlyn & Christine)

VIII. Line- Ups & Game Time

- a. Teams must field at least 9 players but can have up to 10 in the field.
- b. Every player that is present must be in the batting line up.
- c. If a teams line up is reduced due to an injury, there is no penalty if the batting order is still followed.
- d. If the line up is reduced for any other reason other than injury, the team must take an out each time that comes up in the batting order.
- e. If a team has less than the minimum players to field a team, they may borrow players from other teams but not from the opposing team roster. If you can't find enough players, you will play with an out and the end of your batting lineup.
- f. You cannot borrow players for the playoff games, each player needs to participate in at least half of the seasons games to play, if you do not have enough qualified players your team will be forfeited from the playoffs.
- g. Final scores after each game will be given to Hub associates for scorekeeping on the hub website for official standings.
- h. All games start at scheduled time slots (6:00pm, 7:30pm) each game is capped at an hour and a half of play time.
- i. Regulation games are 7 innings. If 7 innings aren't completed within the time limit the winner is determined by the score at the time the game is called.
- j. IF a game is tied after 7 innings; teams will play 1 extra inning, if the game is still tied at the end of the extra inning it will be ruled a tie.
- k. Late players have until the start of the 4th inning to be able to play.
- l. Any ball hit below the homerun line on netting is still playable.
- m. Any ball that goes under netting or behind other equipment will be ruled as a ground rule double.

Run Rule

- a. 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings.

IX. Homerun Rule

- a. Each team is limited to 5 home runs per game, if each team has five homeruns they can each get one additional homerun. If a team hits more than the limit it will count only as a double.

- b. Because there is no outfield fence or specific field boundary, any ball that is hit into the netting above designated height will be considered a homerun. The ball may be played off the netting below the line. Hub is responsible for weaving ribbon as markers.

X. Courtesy Runners

- a. Each team will be allowed one courtesy runner per inning. Courtesy runners will trade places with the batter at first base. Courtesy Runners will be selected by last out.

XI. Pitching Rules

- a. Follow USA softball pitching rules.
 - Minimum pitch height: 6 feet.
 - Maximum pitch height: 10 feet.
 - No faking or deceptive motions.
 - Pitching mound set at 40 feet.
 - Starting count is 0-0 .

XII. Infield Fly

- a. Infield fly rule applies when there are fewer than two outs, runners are on first and second or bases loaded, and a fair fly ball is hit that an infielder can catch with ordinary effort. When called by the umpire batter is immediately out, and runners are not forced to advance.