

# Adult Softball League Manual

This program is designed to meet the softball needs of the residents of Arlington Heights. We offer leagues for diverse skill levels to accommodate as many people as possible. We feel confident that we have a league to accommodate any team no matter what their softball background. Although we offer leagues from recreational to competitive, remember this is for FUN. Have a great softball season!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about our program please feel free to contact Brien Halterman at 847.506.7132 or at bhalterman@ahpd.org.

The Arlington Heights Park District reserves the right to make changes to this document as necessary during the course of the season.

## Official Rules and General Rules:

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## Melas Park

This 35 acre park is fully equipped for you, your friends and your families to enjoy. At this facility there are four lighted softball fields, a sand volleyball court, a playground, a picnic area and a concession stand.

This park is located just east of Busse on Central Road in Mt. Prospect.

The concession stand is open from 5:30-9:30 pm on evenings when games are played. Popcorn, hotdogs, pizza, nachos, candy, and pop are sold at the stand.

## League Description

**Spring** – Teams will play an eight (8) game season. All games will be double-headers. If games get rained out, we will attempt to make the games up. If they can't be made up, teams will receive a refund for the games that were not played.

**Summer** – Teams will play a ten (10) game regular season. There will be two (2) separate play-offs. One play-off will occur during your regular night and one play-off will occur on a weekend. The play-offs during the week will combine both the competitive and recreational divisions. The tournament will be single-elimination. The play-off for the weekend will be double-elimination and will go as follows:

7/27 & 7/28 \*Competitive Leagues & Recreation Leagues  
8/3 & 8/4 \* Recreation Leagues & Competitive Leagues  
8/10 & 8/11 \* Co-rec Leagues  
8/17 & 8/18 \* Recreation Leagues & Competitive Leagues

\*Recreation and Competitive 12" Leagues can play in either weekend tournament but not both tournaments unless they have a team that plays multiple nights.

Men's 16", Women's 12" and 16" will play a 10 game season with a single elimination play-off.

**Fall** – Teams will play a ten (10) game regular season. Most of the games will be double-headers. Play-offs will be single-elimination.

### Competitive League

This league is for the serious softball team whose main goal for the season is a winning record. Teams that finished with a 4-6 record or better in the 2012 league **must** play in the Competitive League. Also, teams that finished or tied for 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in a 2012 "Rec" leagues **must** play in the competitive league.

### Rec League

This league is for any 2012 "Comp" teams that finished 3-7 or below. Also, any 2012 "Rec" teams that finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place or lower would be a fit for this league. In addition, the Rec league is a good starting point for teams that are looking to have a good time and the major emphasis is on having fun. Work teams or neighborhood teams are an example of teams that would be a fit for this league. All co-rec leagues would fit under the rec league category as well.

## Registration Information

### Registration Timeline

	Spring	Summer
Resident teams (70% or more residents)	Jan. 7-Jan. 21	Jan. 7-Jan. 21
Returning teams (75% or more from 2011 roster)	Jan. 22-Feb. 8	Jan. 22-Feb. 8
Non-resident and new teams	Feb. 9-Mar. 25	Feb. 9-April 26

## Methods of payments:

1. Cash (drop-off only)
2. Credit cards (Visa, Discover, and Mastercard) (payments are not taken over the phone)
3. Cashier's Check/Money orders
4. Personal Check/Sponsor Check\*  
\*\$25 fee for returned checks
5. \$200 deposit required to reserve a spot into the league. This deposit is non-refundable
  - All registrations fees **will be** processed at the time of registration.
  - Refunds will be given to teams **if leagues are unavailable**.
  - Receipts will be available upon request.

## Additional Procedures

Players are allowed to play on multiple nights, but they are not allowed to play on two teams within the same league

Please be ready, at the time of registration, to supply the Park District with the captain's and co-captain's names, addresses, home and work phone numbers and where a receipt of payment should be sent.

- Rosters are due by the first game of the season.
- The Arlington Heights Park District is not responsible for incorrect information on registration or roster forms. Please inform the Park District of any change in address or phone number so you will receive correct information about changes, meetings or make-ups.
- The summer season will begin the week of May 6th.

## Official Rules and General Rules

After in-house rules, ASA rules apply.

Co-rec softball rules are available upon request.

## Pitching:

League	Pitching	Base
12"	53	70
12" Tues. ISA	50	70
14"	38	60
16"	38	60

All leagues will play with a one and one count. Every batter will start with one ball and one strike.

**12 Inch** - The pitcher shall take a position with one foot firmly on the ground and one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the pitched ball leaves the hand. The pitch must have a 6' to 10' arc and must clear the white of the plate. A pitch may hit the black on the back of the plate and may drop in the well for a strike.

**14 and 16 Inch** - The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pitch must have a 6' to 12' arc and be pitched with moderate speed. The ball may hit on the black of the plate and fall in the well for a strike.

### **Appeal Play**

An appeal play is one in which an umpire cannot make a decision until requested to do so. (Examples: missing a base – leaving too soon on a caught fly ball). The appeal may be verbal or non-verbal, may be made when the ball is live or dead, and must be made before the next pitch.

### **Infield Fly**

An infield fly is a fair fly ball which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when 1st and 2nd, or 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who positions him/herself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders. The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught or tag up, and advance after the ball is touched.

### **Interference**

An act of an offensive player (batter, batter-runner, base runner, on-deck batter, coach, or team mate) which impedes, hinders or confuses a defensive player. Defensive players must be given the opportunity to field the ball anywhere on the playing field.

### **Obstruction**

The act of a fielder while not in possession of the ball or not in the act of fielding a batted or thrown ball, which impedes the progress of a base runner that is legally running bases. The obstructed runner and any other runners affected by the obstruction will be awarded the base(s) he/she would have reached had the obstruction not occurred.

### **Overthrow**

If a ball is thrown out of play, time will be called. The umpire shall award the base runners two bases from the base last touched when the throw was made.

### **Rule Protests**

Teams may protest rule interpretations only. Judgment calls cannot be protested. The team captain must inform the umpire of their intent to protest prior to the next pitch. At that time the protesting team must notify the opposing team and the Park District representative. If possible, the protest will be settled immediately. If not, the protesting team must submit a written statement within 24 hours to the Park District. The protest must explain in detail the events and the rule that was violated. A protest fee of \$25.00 is to be submitted with the written protest and

there will be no refund. If a team does not follow the above procedure, the protest will not be considered.

### **Eligibility Protests**

Eligibility protests may be made at any time prior to the end of the game and are encouraged. Eligibility protests should be made as soon as the ineligible player is discovered. It is very difficult to prove ineligibility if the player has left the field. Therefore, we encourage teams to contact the Park District representative immediately. No fee is required for eligibility protests.

### **Rosters**

A complete roster must be turned in prior to the first game of the season.

### **Substitution/Re-entry**

Any starting player may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the line-up. Substitutions may not re-enter once withdrawn. The starting player and substitute may never be in the game simultaneously.

### **Courtesy Runner (For 12" Men Only!)**

- Must be designated prior to the game
- Those designated to have a runner can only:
  - Walk
  - Hit a Home Run
  - Hit a Single
  - Make an Out
- Players (last out) who run for the designated players are allowed to move up as many bases as they can get prior to the stoppage of play.
- If a player is injured during the game, they can be added to the list at the time of the injury.
- For men's 16", women's, and co-ed the courtesy runner will be the last out.

### **Batting**

Teams may bat a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 12 players. A team must have 8 players present to start a game. At the captain's meeting prior to the start of the game, captains must inform the umpire the number of players that they are batting (8-12). A forfeit will occur if a team doesn't have 8 players present.

The batter must take his position with both feet inside the batter's box. This is the umpire's discretion. Only official bats may be used. (maximum barrel diameter should be 2¼", 34" in length, and 38 ounces in weight).

## **Starting Time/Player Eligibility**

Game time, as indicated on the schedule, is forfeit time.

Teams need 8 players present to start the game. At the captain's meeting prior to the start of the game, the captain must inform the umpire of how many players they are batting. The players don't have to be present at the time of the meeting. An out will be recorded for players who are in the batting order but are not present at the time of their at bat. A team that starts with 8 players will have a dead spot in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> spot until the 9<sup>th</sup> player is present. There will be additional outs for the 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> player if the captain says he is batting that specific number of players. The opposing team will provide a catcher until the 9<sup>th</sup> player has shown up for the game. Once the 9<sup>th</sup> player is present, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> spots are eliminated as automatic outs if they are only playing with 9 players. **PICKING UP PLAYERS FROM OTHER TEAMS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!** Teams that do so will forfeit and the captain will be suspended for 1 game.

## **Base Running**

12 Inch - there are no lead-offs allowed.

14 Inch - there are no lead-offs allowed.

16 Inch - lead-offs are allowed.

## **Game Length and Rescheduling**

All scheduled games will be seven innings in length. In the event the game takes longer than 1 hour 14" and 16" games; no new inning will be started at that time. No new inning will be started after 65 minutes for all 12" games.

If the game is tied after seven innings, extra innings will be played until a winner is decided. A 3-2 count will be used for all extra innings and the last out is placed at second base.

A game called by the umpire due to rain or darkness shall be regulation if five or more complete innings (4½ if the home team is ahead) have been played. A team that is ahead by 20 or more runs at the end of 4 innings, 15 or more runs at the end of 5 innings (4½ if home team is ahead), or 10 runs at six innings shall be declared the winner.

An unofficial game will be picked up from the exact point that the game was cancelled.

## **Official Score Book**

To avoid confusion throughout the game, the home team will have the official score book. Any questions regarding scores, outs, or innings will be the responsibility of the home team. All teams will receive one score book prior to the season's start. The home team will be listed first on the schedule.

## **Game Ball (12" Men Only)**

Game balls must be returned to the umpire.

## **Rainout Information**

All game decisions will be made by Park District staff. On questionable days, call 847.577.3003 ext. 6 (softball information) after 4:00 pm for game decisions and rescheduling information. If the weather changes after 4:00 pm on weekdays or 1 hour before game time on Sundays, please report to your game where the umpire will make the decision. Please do not call the office.

Melas Park rainouts could be made up on Sunday mornings, afternoons and evenings.

## **Forfeits**

If at any time a team does not have at least eight players, the game will be forfeited. The umpire's decision is final on all forfeits.

Teams must pay a \$50.00 forfeit fee before they will be allowed to play another game. This fee may be paid to the field coordinator or at the Park District Administration Center (M-F, 9-5 pm).

Any team that forfeits three games during the season will forfeit their entry fee and will be ejected from the league for the remainder of that season. If a team knows in advance they must forfeit, they should contact the softball coordinator at the Park District Administration Center at least one day before the scheduled game so the umpire and opposing team can be notified. Teams doing so will not be charged the \$50.00 fee.

## **Alcoholic Beverages**

No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the parks at any time. If any member of a team or the team's fans are seen consuming alcohol before, during or after their game, their team risks forfeiting that week's game or their following game. Teams are responsible for their fans. It is up to the team to inform their fans of this policy. Alcohol is only allowed if approved by the Park District Board of Commissioners and sold by the Arlington Heights Park District.

## **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Any team or individual exhibiting unsportsmanlike acts towards members of another team, any umpire, or any Park District representative before, during, or after the game, risks forfeiture of the game. The Park District reserves the right to forfeit any game following complaints by the umpire's association or Park District representatives even if the umpire does not do so. Any team or individual which the Arlington Heights Park District feels does not display the high degree of sportsmanship that the Arlington Heights Park District have built up in our leagues will be suspended or expelled and will possibly lose their rights to participate in the Arlington Heights Park District Adult Softball Program.

## **League Fines and Suspensions**

Listed below are fines and suspensions for players, managers, and coaches in all Arlington Heights Park District programs:

1. Fighting anywhere on facilities or grounds of Park District sponsored events: Season suspension plus \$50 fine for each individual involved.

2. Under the influence or possessing alcoholic beverages: One game suspension plus \$25 fine except if sold by the Arlington Heights Park District.
3. Involvement in rough tactic: Two game suspension plus \$25 fine for each individual involved.
4. Threatening an official or supervisor: Season suspension plus \$25 fine.
5. Ejection from game:
  - A. First offense - \$25 fine and at least 2 game suspension
  - B. Second offense - \$50 fine and at least 4 game suspension
  - C. Third offense - \$50 fine and one full year suspension from all Park District athletic programs (effective date of this offense)
6. Team forfeiting:
  - A. First offense - \$50 forfeit fee (to be paid by your next scheduled game)
  - B. Second offense - \$75 fine
  - C. Third offense - Suspension from league for remainder of season.  
**\$100 fee must be paid in order to sign-up for the next season.**
7. Improperly listed as Park District resident, not listed on roster or playing without signing roster: Two game suspensions for player plus \$25 team fine.
8. Touching, pushing or striking an official or supervisor: Two year suspension from all Park District athletics plus a \$50 fine.
9. **Any player caught participating in a league during a suspension: One year suspension plus \$50 fine.**

\* Ejected players must leave the premises immediately. Team forfeiture will result from non-compliance. (premises means the facility or Park District grounds where programs are being held.

## **Liability Statement**

The Arlington Heights Park District, its employees or appointed agents assume no responsibility for any personal injury or loss that any team member or spectator may incur as a result of this program. Individuals are encouraged to have their own personal health/accident plan for any such injuries which occur.

## **Eligibility**

1. Players must be 18 years of age as of the start of league play to be eligible.
2. If a player is ruled ineligible, all games in which he/she participated will be forfeited and the player will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
3. No player can be on more than one roster within the same league.

## **Game Cancellation/Postponements**

We do not like to postpone or cancel games, but if in our judgment one of the following situations exist; we will be forced to postpone games:

4. Fields are so wet they will receive great damage.
5. The player's safety is in question due to condition of weather and/or fields.

Games will be played on whatever fields the grounds crew can get ready for play. Please listen for the fields that games will be played on and those fields where games have been cancelled/postponed. Please don't call the office to see if games are cancelled/postponed. We will not make a decision until 4:00 pm. When a decision is made, the game status information will be put on our hotline number, 847.577.3003 ext. 6. Please call the hotline number, but do not call our general office number.

Rescheduled games will be updated on the Web site only!

We will not jeopardize the long-term condition of the field on nights when games have been cancelled, we expect all players to stay off the field.

## **Softball Field Locations - View a map**

### **Centennial Park**

Located north of Hintz. Take Windsor to Burr Oak. Centennial Park is located on Burr Oak just east of Riley School.

### **Methodist Park**

Located south of Euclid on the corner of Miner and Prindle.

### **Melas Park**

Located on Central Road east of Busse Road. It is west of Northwest Highway east of Arlington Heights Road.

## **Captain's Meeting**

**Fall Season** - Captains do not meet for the fall softball season. Schedules will be available one week prior to the first game.

**Spring Season** - Captains do not meet for the spring softball season. Schedules will be available one week prior to the first game.

**Summer Season** - There is a mandatory meeting before the season begins.

### **Location:**

Olympic Pool  
660 N. Ridge Ave  
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004

### **Date: April 29**

7:00-7:30 pm Co-rec leagues  
7:30-8:00 pm Women's Leagues  
8:00-8:30 pm Men's 16" Leagues  
8:30-9:30 pm Men's 12" Leagues

**The Arlington Heights Park District reserves the right to move League winners/runner-ups up a class/division.**

## **IMPORTANT RULE!!!**

All Arlington Heights leagues will be using the ASA sanctioned rules. Exception: Tuesday ISA league.

## **Approved Bats**

For the 2013 softball season, the Arlington Heights Park District will adhere to the ISA rule for approved bats. Please note: Any bat type or bat model that cannot be determined will be deemed illegal.

## **Melas Park 2013 Bat Testing**

Bat testing will begin with the summer session of 2013.

All bats must be tested prior to being used during league play.

All bats will be tested on a yearly basis.

Bats that pass the test will have a **silver sticker** placed on the end of the barrel. Bats that pass the test will be legal for the 2013 season.

Bats that do not pass the test will have a **red sticker** placed on the end of the barrel. These bats will not be allowed for league and tournament play.

Testing will take place during the spring, summer, and fall sessions. The following are the guidelines to get your bat tested:

**Spring** – Testing will be available Monday-Friday and Sunday from 5:30pm to 9pm. If a bat fails during the spring session, it will be deemed illegal for the entire 2013 season. Testing will not be available on days that have been rained out.

**Summer and Fall** – Testing will be available Monday-Friday and Sunday for the first two weeks of the season. After the initial two week period, testing will be done by appointment only. Players must be present a **minimum of one hour** prior to the start of their game in order to get a bat tested.

Bat Protest – Teams may protest a bat at any time. The fee is \$50. If the bat fails the test, it will be sent to the National Office for further testing. Teams will lose their \$50 if the bat passes the tests.

Players refusing to have a sticker put on their bat will be suspended for a minimum of 2 games.

Any player that uses a bat without a sticker will be immediately ejected. The player will be declared out and the play is dead. The bat in question will be taken to be tested. If the bat doesn't pass the test, the player will be suspended a minimum of 2 additional games.

Players caught using a non-approved ISA bat will be suspended for a minimum of 2 games.

Any player and/or owner of a bat caught using a shaved, painted or altered bat will be suspended for a minimum of 5 years. **THIS RULE WILL STRICTLY BE ENFORCED!**

For more information regarding approved bats, log onto [isasoftball.com](http://isasoftball.com).

**The Park District reserves the right to re-test any bat at any time.**

**The Arlington Heights Park District reserves the right to ban any bat at any time.**

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT  
14" CO-REC LEAGUES  
RULES – 2013**

1. All games will be played at Centennial and Melas Park.

2. Rules- Official ASA rules will be observed. House rules will override any situation not specifically covered by league rules or the official softball rules will fall under the decision of the umpire, softball supervisor, or Park District staff

3. Ground rules- Ground rules will vary with each diamond. Rules will be established with umpire before each game. League rules may not be suspended. Ground rules may change with different umpires. Captains make sure you are fully aware of any discrepancies and go over them with the umpire before the start of the game. If there is a major problem contact the supervisor on site.

4. Game

A. All games will have (1) hour time limit. No inning will start after one hour has expired. No game can end in a tie. Games will be played until there is a winner. International rule will be used for extra innings. The one hour limit will start when the umpire says "Play Ball". The umpires and/or supervisors watch will be the official time keeping device. The umpire does not have to give the team time remaining accounts.

B. All games are scheduled for seven innings, unless called due to inclement weather or time, at the discretion of the umpire.

C. Game time is forfeit time.

D. Completion of (5) five innings will constitute a legal game. A game being terminated by inclement weather, will be a completed game if five (5) innings have been completed or, if the home team is leading, 4-1/2 innings. The umpire and field supervisor shall have the authority to determine the continuation or calling of games due to inclement weather.

E. Base distance 60 feet

Pitching distance 38 feet

Pitching Arch Limits 6' minimum and 12' maximum.

5. Number of players – Teams must have at least eight (8) players to start a game. All players must be on the official roster. A team consists of 5 men and 5 women; however, a team may play with more women than men (i.e. if you have 8 players to start the game, 4 must be women). If the game starts with the defensive team only having nine (9) players, the tenth player can enter the field at any time. If the 9 players consist of 5 men and 4 women, an out will be recorded for the 5<sup>th</sup> women.

6. Courtesy runners – The player who makes the last out may be designated as a

courtesy runner. However, men must run for men, and women must run for women. Please note only the players that made the last out may return as a courtesy runner (i.e. last male out runs for male runner.) Courtesy runners do not have to be approved before the game and may be used at any time.

7. Make-up games – Rainouts will be rescheduled on regular game day whenever possible; however, if we have several rainouts they will be scheduled for Sunday. Teams will be contacted as well as umpires. A minimum of one-week notice will be given. Dates will be final.

8. Pitching – The pitcher can be a man or a woman. No hesitations for 2011. 14” 6ft. minimum – 12 ft. maximum

9. All field positions including the catcher are at the discretion of each team.  
10. Men will bat natural handed.

11. No batting order limitations. A team can bat as many as 14 players. However, for every male batter, there must be a female batter. The maximum number of males that can bat are seven if there are seven females that bat as well. The maximum number of females that can bat is 14.

12. If a male batter is pitched four balls he has two (2) options:  
a. Take a walk to first  
b. Take another 1 and 1 count. If he walks again he takes second base (this does not automatically walk the next female batter)

13. A third strike dead ball is a dead ball. Runners cannot advance.

14. One-on-one count- will be used for all leagues

15. Rosters

- a. Rosters can have a maximum of twenty (20).
- b. Players must sign roster before participating. Rosters and signatures are subject to a spot check.
- c. Changes may not be made after the start of the season.
- d. All players must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- e. Players may play for one team only.
- f. If eligibility is questioned on a player, the umpire shall have all players sign score book next to name on the page. Signatures will be checked by the League Supervisor after the game. If an ineligible player is determined, the

team will forfeit that game. If a player refuses to sign the book, this also constitutes a forfeit.

16. Game Ball- The home team will receive the game ball.

17. Decisions- The Athletic Supervisor is the league manager and his/her decision is final.

18. Equipment

A. Shoes- Only rubber softball spikes or tennis shoes may be worn. No metal or removable cleats permitted.

B. Gloves- only women are allowed to use gloves.

C. Bats:

1. Any bat may be used if marked "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" by manufacturer and/or fit through bat ring and has not been altered. There must be 10-15" of tape for a safety grip. If there is any doubt concerning bats, it is the responsibility of each team manager to bring these bats to the attention of the umpire and opposing team manager for approval. Final decisions are made by the umpire.

2. Aluminum bats are permissible if they conform to the rule and are in one piece.

3. All bats must fit through the bat ring.

4. No baseball or Chicago thick barreled bats are allowed.

21. Outfield line – No player can move in front of line until the ball is hit. (150ft. from home plate.