



# 2024 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE INFORMATION / RULES

Dickinson Parks & Recreation (updated March 8, 2024)

**NOTICE:** Any team missing the Registration Meeting (Sunday, March 10th) that wishes to register a team **MUST** call DPR office and schedule a meeting with Wilson McLaughlin or Andrew Grafton to pick up a registration packet. Team sponsor fee must be submitted at this meeting.

**DPR – Team / Player Communication:** For all minor information NOT affecting the entire league -- notification will be by email or text to the team managers involved. For major information AFFECTING THE ENTIRE LEAGUE – notification will be via email.

**Web Site: USASoftballND.com**

- **(MEN & WOMEN: Player Fee = \$55 / Sponsor Fee = \$215)**  
**(COED: Player Fee = \$42 / Sponsor Fee = \$165)**

All fees **MUST BE PAID IN FULL** when team registration is submitted to DPRD or it **WILL NOT** be accepted!!! It is the Team Manager's responsibility to collect all fees ahead of time and submit them as one team registration. **DO NOT** tell players to stop at DPR and pay!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 11, 2024 (by 5:00 p.m. @ DPR Office)**

The following forms (all information completed in full) must be turned in by deadline:

- DPRD Softball Team Information Sheet: Must include all "Player Fees"!
- USA Softball of North Dakota – Official Roster Form: Men's & Women's teams **MUST** fill out back side of roster for any player listed on another Men's or Women's team roster in ND (not coed). Coed teams **DO NOT** fill out back side of roster if player is on any Men's or Women's team. (Players: 12 min. / 20 max.) Fill out all player information neatly. Manager must sign and date roster at bottom of page. A team may have a maximum of 3 player's one class higher and still maintain their present classification.
- **NO LATE REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM (Wilson McLaughlin – Recreation Supervisor) or (Andrew Grafton – Recreation/Facilities Manager).**
- Players **MUST BE AGE 15** by 1<sup>st</sup> day of DPR League Play. Players age 15-17 **MUST HAVE** written parental consent (parent must sign on back side of USA Roster and on the signature line of the DPR Roster).

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**GAME SCHEDULES READY:** Schedules will be posted on DPR website: [www.dickinsonparks.org](http://www.dickinsonparks.org)

<b>DAYS OF LEAGUE PLAY:</b>	Women – Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> Night: May 13 (No Games May 27)
	Men – Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> Night: May 14
	Coed – Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> Night: May 22
	Men – Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> Night: May 16

\*No games July 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> for any league

**ROSTER CHANGE DEADLINE:** June 12. All changes on your roster must be completed with DPR by this time.

**"MILLER LITE" TOURNAMENT:** Saturday & Sunday, July 13 - 14, 2024 **DEADLINE:** Tuesday, July 2, 2024

**NOTE:** Entry Fee for this tournament must be paid for with a separate check! **DO NOT INCLUDE OTHER FEES!**

\*Entry Form is available on our Website: [www.dickinsonparks.org](http://www.dickinsonparks.org)

**"LAST CHANCE" TOURNAMENT:** Saturday, August 26, 2023 **DEADLINE:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023

**NOTE:** Entry Fee for this tournament must be paid for with a separate check! **DO NOT INCLUDE OTHER FEES!**

\*Entry Form is available on our Website: [www.dickinsonparks.org](http://www.dickinsonparks.org)

**STATE TOURNAMENTS:** Entry Form listing State Tournaments is available on our Website:

[www.dickinsonparks.org](http://www.dickinsonparks.org) **DEADLINE:** Thursday, July 12, 2024

**NOTE:** MSP & WSP teams (except WSP Masters) must register for their tournament through Register Play. Entry fees Can be submitted through Register Play.

## **PLAYER PARTICIPATION:**

- A player may be on an unlimited number of USA rosters in the state. Any Men's or Women's player on more than one roster in the state MUST BE LISTED on the back side of each roster under additional teams (this may affect classification of any team the dual roster player in on). DO NOT include Coed teams.
- Men may play on 1 Tue., & 1 Thu. DPR team. Women may play on 1 DPR team. Coed players may play on 1 DPR Coed team (in addition to the Men's / Women's teams). Player fee must be paid for each team you participate on.

## **LEAGUE STRUCTURE:**

- **DPR OFFICE HOURS:** Monday thru Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. / Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
PHONE: 456-2074 WEBSITE: [www.dickinsonparks.org](http://www.dickinsonparks.org) E-MAIL: [wmclaughlin@dickinsonparks.org](mailto:wmclaughlin@dickinsonparks.org)  
Location: 2004 Fairway Street (inside West River Community Center)
- Dickinson Parks & Recreation will not be held liable for stolen articles or damage to personal property that has occurred during the activity. Dickinson Parks & Recreation does not carry insurance for participants in any city sponsored programs. Dickinson Parks and Recreation will not be held liable for injuries that occur during the activity.
- Roster addition or changes MUST be taken care of at the Recreation Office during normal business hours. **NO PLAYER IS ELIGIBLE TO PLAY UNTIL SIGNED UP ON THE LEGAL ROSTER & PAID IN FULL. This WILL NOT be accepted at the complex facilities.**
- **REFUNDS** (player fee and/or sponsor fee) will only be given prior to the registration deadline. Individual player fee refund may be processed after that on a case by case situation. Replacement of a player on the roster MUST be reported to and recorded by DPR prior to the replacement player's participation. Reimbursement of player fee for replacement of player on the roster is to be handled within the team.

- **LEAGUE PICK-UP PLAYER RULE:** A team may pick up to (3) players for a total of 10 players for your league game (if you have any pickup players, you cannot exceed 10 total players). Pick-up player MUST sign in at complex office prior to playing that night. Pick-up player MUST wear his/her team's own uniform shirt (this identifies him/her as a pick-up player). YES – you may even pick up a player from the team you are playing.

**Men's Teams:** The classification of player(s) you pick up may be up to the level of your team's classification or your opponent's team classification (refer to team classification behind team's name at top of the league schedule). Ex: R4 team vs. R2 team – both teams may pick up R2, R3 or R4 players. Ex: R4 team vs. R4 team – both teams can pick up only R4 players. The pick-up player must be from a DPR League Men's Team (Tue. or Thu. League).

**Women's Teams:** The player(s) you pick up must be from a DPR League Women's or Coed team. No stipulation on classification.

**Coed Teams:** The player(s) you pick up must be from a DPR League Coed Team, Women's Team or R4-Men's Team.

- **PRACTICE DIAMONDS:** Practice may begin at Gress Complex when frost leaves the ground (TBD by DPR). Practice diamond availability at Gress Complex is on a 1<sup>st</sup> come – 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis. DPR will not be reserving diamonds.
- **UNIFORMS:** Teams are required to have uniform shirts of matching color and style for league play. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color, or outlined in contrasting color, at least 3 inches high, must be clearly visible on all uniform shirts. These must be worn whenever possible. Common sense must prevail based on weather conditions, unforeseen circumstances, etc.
- **NO GLASS CONTAINERS OF ANY TYPE ALLOWED ON THE COMPLEX PROPERTIES!**
- **NO TOBACCO/VAPING ON THE COMPLEX PROPERTIES!**
- **NO PARKING ON THE SIDES OF THE ENTRANCE ROAD! USE PROPER SPACES IN THE PARKING LOT!**
- No music in dugouts during scheduled games.
- All games are played at Gress Softball Complex (455 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW)
- League schedules and standings will be posted on DPR website: [www.dickinsonparks.org](http://www.dickinsonparks.org)

- Men's / Women's teams will play an approx. 18 game schedule when possible (plus end of season tournament games). Coed teams will play an approx. 14 game schedule when possible (plus end of season tournament games).
- **Gress Softball complex accommodates a maximum of 24 teams per night.**  
**Men's Teams:** Returning teams will have 1<sup>st</sup> choice for playing on same night. DPR reserves the right to place any new team on Tuesday or Thursday; dependent upon number of teams registered.
- **LEAGUE PLAY:** Round Robin format. Teams may not play everybody the same number of times (depends on the number of teams in the league).
- **GAME TIMES:** 6:15 / 7:00 / 8:00 / 8:45 **(Teams are to be warmed up and ready to play immediately upon completion of the game before them.)**
- Games will be scheduled as double headers when possible. 2<sup>nd</sup> game of double header WILL START immediately following the conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> game. We do not wait for the 7:00 or 8:45 start time for 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the double header. **You CANNOT drink Alcoholic Beverages during or between your back-to-back double header games.**
- **LEAGUE PLAY** will determine seeding placement for league tournament play. Shuffling of teams from one league to another, as well as additional divisions, may take place to make for more competitive league tournament play.
- **CHAMPION AWARDS:** LEAGUE PLAY CHAMPIONS will receive T-Shirts. LEAGUE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS will receive a trophy / plaque. If League Tournament is cancelled due to weather, etc. and no make-up date is available; champion will be determined by highest seed remaining in the tournament.
- **RAIN-OUT POLICY:** In the event of threatening weather and it becomes questionable whether the games will be cancelled; a decision is not normally made until 4:30 pm at the earliest. When in doubt, assume the games will be played and report to your respective diamond. If at all possible; games will be held, but we do have makeup dates set aside. **If games are cancelled, DPR will notify via the "Group Me" APP.**
- **LIGHTNING POLICY:** This decision will be made by the Complex Coordinator. If lightning is viewed by the complex coordinator and he deems it to be in striking range, play will be suspended for a period of 30 minutes. **All personnel must vacate the playing diamonds to their vehicles.** If another lightning strike is viewed within that 30 minute time frame, the 30 minute wait period starts over. **If the delay extends us more than 45 minutes from the original stoppage of play, games are suspended for the evening.**
- **PARTIALLY PLAYED GAMES:** For recording of league standings; any game in progress and suspended due to weather, etc. will be counted after 3 complete innings of play. If suspended game is tied; it ends in a tie with no win/loss recorded.
- **CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED!** Please keep children under adult supervision at all times for their safety.
- **PLEASE clean up your team area prior to leaving the facility (pick up and place garbage, etc. in proper trash cans). Trash bags will be available at the complex office.**

## **PLAYING RULES:**

Play shall be governed by current USA Softball of North Dakota rules with the exceptions listed below.

1. **NO DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND/OR SMOKING BY PLAYERS OR COACHES DURING THE PLAYING OF THEIR GAME! NO WARNING! This also applies to the time frame between Back-To-Back Double Header games! PENALTY = Player(s) identified are ejected. Refer to "Player Code of Conduct" Player Ejection procedures.**
2. **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME!** (Use cell phone for official time) If 1<sup>st</sup> game is a forfeit; team will have 10 minutes to field a team or 2<sup>nd</sup> game is a forfeit also! 2<sup>nd</sup> game will start as soon as 8<sup>th</sup> player arrives. A team's 4<sup>th</sup> forfeit may eliminate the team and all roster players from further competition in the league, as well as all tournament play.
3. **60 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER GAME:** Time Limit starts with 1<sup>st</sup> warm-up pitch. No inning may start after 60 minutes of play unless score is tied. If home team is at bat and ahead @ 60 minutes, the game is ended at that point. Tied games must continue play to determine a winner.
4. **7 INNING GAME:** Team at bat is responsible for score card. At end of each ½ inning; give score card to umpire, who will then check the card and transfer to other team.

5. **EXTRA INNING RULE / Time Limit w/tied Game:** Starting with the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning (next inning for tied games), and each ½ inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective ½ inning being placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. A substitute or courtesy runner may be inserted for the runner.
6. **RUN AHEAD RULE:** 20 runs after 3 innings / 15 runs after 4 innings / 10 runs after 5 innings.
7. **TEAM HOME RUNS PER GAME: (4)** Excess home runs are outs. When a home run is hit you do not run the bases. Anyone on base goes directly to the dugout. **Team hitting the home run MUST retrieve the ball in a timely fashion or play will be stopped. If team does not retrieve the ball, the umpire may declare a forfeit on that team!**
8. All at-bats start with a "1 Ball & 1 Strike" count. No courtesy foul ball.
9. **COURTESY RUNNER:** A courtesy runner is in the game when announced by the offensive team manager.
  - A. Any eligible player on the official line-up (roster) including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. (Must be gender specific for Coed)
  - B. One courtesy runner only may be used per inning (one for each gender in Coed). Exception: A courtesy runner may be replaced by another courtesy runner due to injury. Injured courtesy runner is done for that game!
  - C. **Pitchers may have a courtesy runner anytime they get on base. No limit per inning.**
  - D. A courtesy runner whose turn at bat comes while on base = team receives an out; courtesy runner is removed from the base and takes their turn at bat.
10. **SUBSTITUTION RULES:** Any player may re-enter the game 1 time. Player must re-enter in the same batting slot they were originally in. You cannot alter the batting order of the players. Defensive position is irrelevant to the substitution. All substitutions must be reported to the umpire immediately when they occur.
11. **NO PROTESTS!** The umpire's decision is final. You cannot question judgment calls! Any questions on a rule interpretation must be handled on the field at that time. The umpire will converse with each team manager only! You may ask the umpire on the nearest field for help or the complex coordinator (or call Caleb Burgard, Recreation/Facilities Manager).

### **GAME WITH NO UMPIRE:**

- A. Any diamond with no USA sanctioned umpire will be posted at the entrance to the complex.
- B. Team managers on that diamond must stop at the complex office to pick up the game equipment.
- C. Team at bat must supply a player(s) to umpire that ½ of the inning. If a team refuses to do this, said team will be issued a forfeit for that game.
- D. Teams may not have friends, spectators, etc. umpire the game (due to liability).
- E. It is the responsibility of both team's managers to return game equipment and score cards to the complex office immediately following the conclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> game.
- F. The strike mat will be used, unless both teams managers agree to not use it.

### **LINE-UP ON SCORE CARD:**

- A. **Team may start with 8 players.** Team must play at least 10 players whenever possible. Team must finish with at least 8 players. Outs are not given for the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> vacant batting slots.
- B. **Team may bat up to 16 players** (available slots in the score book) with any 10 of those 16 playing defense at any time during the game. This does not have to be reported to the umpire as they are already in the line-up.
- C. **Once game has started, a team may add players at the bottom of the batting line-up as they show up** (16 player max.). This must be done as they show up (ex: a player cannot show up, sit for 2 innings, then decide to be added to the line-up – player would have to enter as a substitute). The player may enter the field for defense as soon as he is ready at any dead ball situation (this includes even between pitches). You do not have to wait until next batter or end of ½ inning.
- D. **If a team has at least 10 players batting;** they may keep 1 or more of their extra players out of the line-up to be used as a substitute later in the game.

E. **If a player leaves or is injured and cannot continue play, and no substitute is available:** it IS NOT AN OUT in the batting order. Once a player leaves the game with no substitute available; said player cannot return to play later in the same game.

F. **IT IS AN OUT IF A PLAYER IS EJECTED AND NO SUBSTITUTE IS AVAILABLE!**

## **COED RULE DIFFERENCES:**

1. **Men must use DPR issued bats.** Women may use any USA approved Slow Pitch Softball Bat.
2. **Men's ball will be used for all play.**
3. **Male & female must be alternated in the batting order.** Players may be added as they show up; up to 16 players max. @ 8 female / 8 male).
4. **Team may bat more females than males.** (Ex: 6 female/4 male = leave blank space for each absent male in the batting order) All 6 females and 4 males play the field.
5. **Team CANNOT bat more males than females.** (Ex: 4 females/6 males = leave blank space for each absent female in the batting order). The last 2 males in the batting order DO NOT get to bat. Any 5 of the 6 males may play the field; as 5 would normally be in the field. No advantage is gained defensively. If a 5<sup>th</sup> female shows up, she is inserted into the 1<sup>st</sup> female vacant slot. This would now allow the 5<sup>th</sup> male in the line-up to bat.
6. **A walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award.** The next batter (a female) shall bat. Exception: With 2 outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
7. **Defensive positioning is at each team's discretion.**

## **INVITATIONAL / STATE TOURNAMENT RULES:** Differences from league rules are as follows:

1. Team must declare if they are batting 10 or 11 players. All other available players must be used as substitutes. If batting 11, any 10 of the 11 may play defense at any time during the game. This does not need to be reported to the umpire. All substitutions must be reported to the umpire immediately when they occur.
2. Team may start with 9 players. The vacant 10<sup>th</sup> batting spot is an out in the batting order. If a 10<sup>th</sup> player arrives, they may enter the game on the 1<sup>st</sup> dead ball situation. Any player arriving after this may play as a substitute.
3. If a team has no substitutes and a player is injured and cannot continue; the team may play one short if batting 10 or 11. If this happens and team started the game short-handed @ 9; the game is forfeited, as they are already playing one short. **If batting 10 or 11 and a player is EJECTED with no substitute to replace the ejected player, the game is a FORFEIT!**
4. **Home Runs:** C = 5 / D = 3 / R1, R2 = 2 / R3, R4 = 1
5. **Invitational Tournament Rules:** A multi-roster player may play with only 1 team for the weekend. It is the player's choice which team to play with. Player does not have to play with the highest classified team. A player may only be picked up by his highest classification.
6. **Pick-up Players for Invitational Tournaments:** Pick-up players must be on a ND roster. Coed players are NOT eligible. Teams may pick up players based on the level of tournament they are participating in (Ex: R3 team playing in an R2 tournament may pick up R2 & below players). Pick-up players allowed: (12 original = 0) (11 original = 1) (10 original = 2) (9 or less original = 3). **Pick-up players must wear their original team's uniform; not a uniform from the team picking them up!** The maximum number is 12 players if using any pick-up players.
7. **One-Time Tournament Team Roster:** A one-time tournament team roster can be composed of any person in the U.S. Players do not have to be on a ND roster. Team must fill out the "USA Softball of North Dakota – Official Roster Form" in its entirety and pay the \$25 sanction fee to the tournament director. Roster and sanction fee must be submitted when registering the team for the tournament. It is the tournament director's discretion as to the classification of the team.
8. **State Tournament Rules:** A multi-roster player must play with the highest classified team for state tournaments if they are on the same week-end. If the tournaments are on separate week-ends, the player may play in both state tournaments.
9. **Pick-up Players for State Tournaments:** **(Coed / League Only Players Are NOT Eligible)** (12 original = 0) (11 original = 1) (7, 8, 9 or 10 original = 3). **Pick-up players must wear their original team's uniform; not a uniform**

from the team picking them up! **REQUIRED: Manager must secure a State Tournament Pick-up Player form signed by DPR League Representative.**

## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT:**

**All players are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times!!! This is a recreational program. The “Heat of the Moment” excuse is not acceptable. Listed below are DPR Player Conduct Guidelines. This is not an all-inclusive list. Items and situations not listed will be ruled upon by the proper DPR Program Supervisors.**

1. USASBND enforces a “Casual Profanity Rule”. Casual profanity pertains to expletives “Not Directed” at the umpires or opposing players; but most likely at the players uttering them as a vent to frustration. This type of profanity is penalized by “OUTS” being declared against the offensive or defensive team, whichever is guilty of the violation. The above “OUTS” will be treated on a delayed, dead ball situation.
2. Situations resulting in EJECTION include, but are not limited to:
  - A. Profanity directed at others, especially umpires.
  - B. Disrespectfully addressing or contacting an umpire or any other player.
  - C. Throwing of bat in disgust.
  - D. Arguing of Balls & Strikes.
  - E. Intentional running over of player in the base path.
  - F. Violation of DPR Alcohol & Tobacco/Vaping use rules.
3. **Any team found to be using an ineligible player will be penalized as follows:** (1) All games with ineligible player will be forfeited, (2) Team Manager and violating player will be suspended per PLAYER EJECTION rules, (3) Team will be on probation remainder of season, (4) Any further infractions may subject player and/or team to suspension for remainder of season.
4. **All above mentioned actions are minimum penalties. DPR reserves the right to impose more stringent penalties based on the severity of each individual action.**
5. **An official ejection form must be filled out by a league official, a tournament director, or an umpire for all game ejections. The ejection form states: “As the manager of the above named team, I fully understand that if the ejection occurred in league play that the above named player /manager/coach, or team representative is suspended for the rest of the night. In addition, the player is also suspended for the next four (4) games played by the player, whether it is a tournament game(s) or league game(s).**

**During this suspension, the above named player cannot be a pick-up player for any league or tournament games before the suspension has been fulfilled. If the ejection occurs during tournament play, the player/manager/coach, or team representative is suspended from the game the ejection took place plus the next four (4) games played in the tournament if it applies, or for their next four (4) games whether it is a tournament game(s) or league game(s). If the player is a pick-up player they must sit out the next four (4) games played by this team in the tournament if it applies. If not, they must sit out their next four (4) games whether it is a tournament game(s) or league game(s) for the team being represented as a pickup player.**

**EJECTION IN LAST GAME OF SEASON: If the ejection is in the last game of the season, the suspension will carry over to (next team player is on if dual roster player) the next DPRD adult program the suspended player participates in.**