**NEW CANAAN RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE INFORMATION**

1. TEAM ROSTER-

* Managers will submit to the League Director a team roster with no more than 20 players.
* Managers will have the option to list a maximum of three (3) “Wild Card” players on their 20 player team roster who do not meet the eligibility requirements. Wild card players may not qualify for the grandfather clause in returning seasons.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION-

Teams should register online and submit payment prior to the start of the season.

Note about Insurance- Managers please make it clear to your players that the New Canaan Recreation Department Adult Softball League does not have insurance coverage. Players assume responsibility in case of injury. Everyone is playing “at your own risk”.

3. Schedule

* All games will be played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (Make-Up Day depending on umpire availability)
* Schedule will be found on quickscores.com/newcanaanct
* Teams may play double headers to ensure season finishes prior to 8/1

3. Equipment

* There will be league bats provided but teams are allowed to bring their own ASA certified bat to use.
* Each Team will receive 6 game balls to start the season. Teams are responsible for supplying any additional game balls.

**ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE BY - LAWS**

The New Canaan recreation department has set these by-laws for the safety and enjoyment of the league's participants. Cooperation in following these by-laws is especially needed by players, coaches, and managers so as to ensure a successful season for all.

1. TEAM ROSTERS
2. PLAYER WAIVERS
3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY
4. ILLEGAL PLAYERS
5. SPOT ELIGIBILITY CHECKS
6. FORFEITS
7. SUSPENSIONS
8. PLAYING RULES
9. LIGHTNING DETECTION SYSTEM
10. PROTESTS
11. PLAYOFFS

NOTE TO ALL MANAGERS:

ALL OF YOU SHOULD OBTAIN A COPY OF THE USA SOFTBALL OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL RULEBOOK. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE RULES OF SOFTBALL. IT IS ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM ALL OF YOUR PLAYERS ON THE “SPECIAL LEAGUE RULES” CONTAINED IN THIS INFORMATION AND BY-LAWS.

1. **TEAM ROSTERS**

The team manager has the responsibility of submitting a roster of players to the league director. The team manager has the first responsibility to provide accurate and true information on the team roster and will be held responsible if any information is determined false.

* Team rosters are submitted by managers to the league director with a maximum total of 20 players.
* No team will be allowed to participate in the League unless they have submitted their roster.
* No player will be permitted to participate in the league unless they are listed on a team roster.
* No player will be allowed to participate in the League unless they have registered and paid their player entry fee.
* Players may not be double rostered or play for two teams in the same season. A player’s first appearance in a league game locks him into the team roster. Players may not switch at any time to another team.
* Request for a player addition to a team roster may be made only by the team manager to the league director or his assistant, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Player permission will be granted only after the league director validates the eligibility of the player and notifies the team manager.
* All requests for player additions shall be made prior to the day of the game.
* No roster addition requests will be permitted on the day of the game or at the field.
* Rosters will be frozen at the half way point of the season.

2. **PLAYER WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION**

Players listed on a roster and granted permission to play in the league are expected to register online by paying the player fee and acknowledging the league Player Waiver, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement before participation in the Adult Softball League. Players appearing on a score sheet having played in a game without having completed the online player registration will be sanctioned with a 1-game suspension penalty to be enforced for the next game played by the team. The team will also forfeit the game.

3. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

Players who do not meet the eligibility requirements or who are not rostered as a wild card player are illegal. Teams with illegal players will be penalized by forfeiting the game(s) in which the illegal players were used.

A player must meet one of the following requirements:

1. New Canaan Resident Player
2. Player must be permanently established residing in the Town of New Canaan at the start of his participation and through June
3. Non- New Canaan Resident Guest Player
4. Work in New Canaan on a full-time basis (30 hours per week minimum) at the start of his participation and through June. Contractual work will not constitute employment in for league eligibility. Written work identification is required
5. A grade 12 graduate of New Canaan High School or Saint Luke’s School
* Non-Resident Grandfather Clause- a player can continue to play from year to year regardless of where he lives or works if he plays in at least 5 regular season games each year. The years must be consecutive. A wild card player may not qualify for the grandfather clause
* Wild Card Longevity Player- a wild card player who has played at least the minimum required number of seasonal games (as determined by the league by-laws) for 5+ consecutive seasons shall be grandfathered into the league. This eligibility status will follow the Non-Resident Grandfather Clause rules.

Additional “WILD CARD” players (3) per team- Managers will have the option to list a maximum of three (3) players on their team roster who do not meet the eligibility requirements. Wild card players may not qualify for the grandfather clause in returning seasons.

4. **ILLEGAL PLAYERS**

A team using an illegal player shall forfeit any game that the illegal player has played in. In case a team loses the game that an illegal player has played in, the game will still be counted as a forfeit. The team manager will also be held responsible for the use of an illegal player and will receive a league suspension or expulsion.

The league will not permit a player to participate who:

* Is not listed on the league director’s main copy of a team’s roster.
* Has not received permission to play from the league director.
* Has not completed the online player registration.
* Has been found to have provided false eligibility documents.
* Has played while under suspension issued by the league.

5. **SPOT ELIGIBILITY CHECKS**

The League Director reserves the right to enforce unscheduled spot eligibility checks at the field during the entire regular season and playoffs. Players will be prepared at every game to provide their valid driver license to a League Official for personal identification and eligibility verification. It is the manager’s responsibility to inform all of his team players of this rule.

6. **FORFEITS**

A team will forfeit if they cannot start the game with 9 rostered players at the scheduled starting time. There will be a 10 minute grace period. Teams waiting for a player after the 10 minute grace period can bat first. A team that starts a game with ten may finish with nine. A team starting with 10 or 11 (using an E.P.) may finish with less as long as the vacancy is not created by ejection. Should you finish with less than you started, each time the missing player should come to bat, and an out will be declared. Note: An out will be called only when a team reduces their number. A team starting with nine players is not subject to an out called. Teams may never play with eight players

7. **SUSPENSIONS**

Any player, coach or manager who verbally abuses, strikes, pushes, or physically abuses an umpire or any other player will automatically be ejected from the game. This is including actions of players prior to, during, and after the game covering the boundaries of the park.

Any player, coach, or manager who is ejected from a game will receive a minimum 1 game suspension to be enforced at the next game played by the team. (The Recreation Director and his Assistant reserves the right to add additional suspensions after review of the incident.) Suspensions will range from one game to permanent league expulsion.

The penalty for a player found participating in a game while under suspension will be an automatic forfeit against the team using the suspended player.

8. **PLAYING RULES**

The Recreation Department Adult Softball League is an USA Softball sanctioned League. The umpires are all USA Softball certified. The League will follow USA Softball playing rules, except where these League By-Laws supersede them.

In case of inclement weather, it is the responsibility of team managers to contact the Recreation Department at 594-3600 before 3:00 p.m. to find out if the game has been cancelled. After 4:00 p.m. the game will be called at the field by the umpire. Once a game has been postponed, it is off. Managers do not have the authority to play the game if they wish. If the game is cancelled, please stay off the fields.

It is the umpire's discretion whether or not to begin a game due to weather or field conditions. It is also within his authority to terminate a game due to weather, field conditions, or other external factors relating to the game.

**Special Additional Rules**

Team Shirts/T-Shirts are required on all participants. No cut-off sleeve shirts or tank tops. Printing on the team shirts may not show advertising or wording for tobacco, alcohol or drugs or contain any pictures, gestures or references that are sexually suggestive or discriminatory, or contain inappropriate language or inappropriate conduct or behavior.

No smoking is allowed in the bench areas or on the field.

**Alcoholic Beverages-**

Players, coaches, or managers shall NOT be permitted to consume alcoholic beverages or drugs prior to or during the game. No alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed in the bench areas or on the playing field. This applies to both players and spectators. It is the responsibility of the team manager to keep his bench area clear of alcohol or drugs. The umpire has the right to hold up or forfeit a game due to the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the bench areas. Any player considered under the influence will be ejected.

**Pre-Game Warm Up-**

Only rostered team players are allowed on the fields during warm-up before the start of the game. Children and friends are not allowed on the field at any time. These are safety rules and have no exceptions.

Players will conduct game warm-up activities on the field and limited to the live ball, in-play areas as determined by the field ground rules. On-deck batters are restricted to the immediate area behind the backstop. No throwing, fielding, and batting are allowed in the dead ball, out-of-play areas.

**Pitching Height-**

The ball shall be delivered with an arc and reach the height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a height of 12 feet from the ground.

**Start Short Rule-**

A team will forfeit if they cannot start the game with 9 rostered players at the scheduled starting time. There will be no grace period. A team that starts a game with ten may finish with nine. A team starting with 10 or 11 (using an E.P.) may finish with less as long as the vacancy is not created by ejection. Should you finish with less than you started, each time the missing player should come to bat, an out will be declared. Note: An out will be called only when a team reduces their number. A team starting with nine players is not subject to an out called. Teams may never play with eight players.

Playing with 11 (including an EP)

A team must declare if they are using an extra player (EP) before the game starts. The 11th player does not have to be present to start the game. The team batting order can list the EP anywhere in the batting order if he is present at the start of the game.

The team batting order can only list the EP as the last batter if not present to start the game. The team will take an out throughout the game for the missing player until a substitution is made or the player arrives. After the game begins, if a team loses a player and has no substitutes, you must take an out in the lineup for the missing player regardless of how many you are playing with.

**Base Runner NO Advance Rule-**

No advancement on passed ball and there is no stealing allowed

**Three Strike Rule- using a 1 and 1 count-**

The batter with two strikes is out when a third strike pitch is called by the umpire. A batter with two strikes is allowed to hit one uncaught foul ball.

**Courtesy Runner-**

During the regular season only the courtesy runner rule may be used, through mutual agreement between coaches, when a player is injured while running the bases. The courtesy runner must be the previous out of the inning or last out of the previous inning. If the player remains in the game, it is not an "automatic" privilege every time he comes to bat. The courtesy runner is not allowed in the playoffs.

**Run Rule**

A team playing in a game that has a lead of 20 or more runs after three innings, or 15 runs or more after four innings. As per USA Softball rule the Home Team must be allowed to bat in the bottom half of the inning if they are behind.

* A legal game is determined when 4 ½ innings are played when the Home Team is ahead and 5 innings when the Home Team is behind except for the 20 run rule.

10. **PROTESTS**

The League Director will honor any protest, provided that the following criteria is met:

* The umpire has been notified at the time of the infraction that the game is being protested. The protest shall be noted in the scorebook.
* The protest shall be noted in writing, and submitted to the Recreation Department along with a $25.00 protest fee within 48 hours of a protested game.
* A valid protest shall contain the following information:

1. The date, time, and place of the game.

2. The rule, and section under the rules, that the violation occurred.

3. The umpires decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.

4. All essential facts surrounding the matter being protested.

* Under receipt of a proper protest, the Recreation Department will schedule a hearing as soon as possible to resolve the protest.

11. **PLAYOFFS**

Split-division playoff structure based on regular-season standings.

**Playoff Format:**
All teams will make playoffs (8 team format)

 **"A" Division Playoffs (Top 4 Teams)**

* (1) vs. (4) and (2) vs. (3) → Winners advance to the Championship (Best 2 out of 3)
* The winner is crowned the "A" Division Champion

 **"B" Division Playoffs (Bottom 4 Teams)**

* (5) vs. (8) and (6) vs. (7) → Winners advance to the Championship (Best 2 out of 3)
* The winner is crowned the **"B" Division Champion**

**Additional Playoff Rules:**
No forfeits allowed in the playoffs. A team forfeiting a playoff game is disqualified from the remainder of the playoffs.
The run-rule remains in effect.
The courtesy runner rule is NOT allowed in the playoffs.
Players must have played in at least 6 regular-season games to be eligible for the playoffs.

All playoff games are win and advance.

Quarterfinal and Semi game will be win and advance.

Championship round will be played best 2 out of 3.

**Player Eligibility- Playoffs**

* To be eligible to play in the playoffs, a team member must have played a minimum 6 regular season games. If a team member has not played in the minimum number of regular season games, then he is not eligible for the entire post season playoffs.
* A qualified appearance for a player takes place in a game that begins and lasts for at least one full inning. The player’s name must be entered on the official score sheet for appearing in the game: as playing the field; as batting; or as pinch running.
* A forfeited game, one that is not allowed to begin because one or both of the teams has less than 9 players, is not considered to be a qualified appearance for a player when determining eligibility for the playoffs.

**Seeding- Tiebreaker**

In case a team or teams are tied in the standings the following format will apply:

1. Head to Head- (a forfeit recorded during the regular season loses the tiebreaker)

2. Lowest runs against (head to head)

3. Flip a coin.