

Thomas Township Slowpitch Softball Rules & Regulations

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Registration is on a first come – first serve basis.
2. **Roster must be completed before the second week.** It will include all signatures, complete addresses and phone numbers. A daytime phone number for the coach to be contacted is necessary.
3. Players must be 17 or over as of May 1st of the current year or a high school graduate.
4. Team fees \$ 400
Player fees \$ 25 for Thomas Twp Residents (pay taxes to Thomas Twp)
\$ 30 for non-residents
ALL PLAYERS FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE TEAMS TAKE THE FIELD FOR THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON. UMPIRES AT THE FIELD WILL ACCEPT NO MONEY.
5. **All bats must be ASA approved. Any bats not approved by bat tester or on approved bat list will not be allowed. Umpires will make final determination on site before play begins.**
6. Softballs will be provided by the Recreation Department.
7. Team Rosters:
 - *Teams cannot have more than 20 players on their roster at any time during the season.
 - *Final date to add players is July 1st.
 - *Signed, completed roster with paid player fees must be on file at the Recreation Office before a player is eligible to participate.
8. Season: consists of a 20 game schedule. There will be two half-season standings. The winner of each half will play a one game championship playoff.
9. On days of inclement weather the Recreation Department will decide at 4:00 p.m. if games are playable. Team managers will try to be contacted. **ONLY TEAM MANAGERS MAY CALL THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT.** The Rain/Snow Out Hotline # is 781-5391 extension 302 and will have cancellations on it once they are made.
10. Alcohol: Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the field during the game. Any players consuming alcohol on the field during a game can be ejected from play.
11. Home team is the official scorekeeper, with the umpire checking between innings to assure teams have the same score. Home team is listed last on the schedule.

12. Playoff games will be played at the end of the season according to win/loss records (not head to head). A sponsor trophy will be awarded to both the first and second place teams and t-shirts will be given to the champs.
13. Excessive digging in the batters box is an automatic strike.

RULES

1. ASA rules will be followed with the following modifications:
2. Teams must start each game with at least 8 players and no more than 12. ASA rules allow you to continue playing with one less player than game started with for any reason. The vacancy in the batting order is not an automatic out.
3. Forfeit time is 5 minutes after scheduled game time!
4. For our double-header leagues the second game will begin immediately following the completion of the first game.
5. No new inning will start after 1 hour and 15 minutes—regardless of the number of innings played. Games will be considered legal and complete after this time limit has been played. **The only exception is during the second game when darkness becomes a factor to completing the game. The umpire has the discretion of determining when it is too dark to continue playing.**
6. Mercy rule is when one team is 15 or more runs ahead after 4 innings of play or 10 runs ahead after 5 innings or any inning thereafter.
7. Pitching:
 - *The pitching mat will be used
 - *A strike will be when the ball hits home plate or the pitching mat
 - *Legal arc is between 6' and 10'
 - *When illegal pitch is called by ump the ball is still live and in play if the batter swings
 - *Distance is 50'
8. Bases are 70'.
9. A 5 home run limit will be in effect for each game. All home runs will be an out after the 5 run limit has been reached. (This will be different in District play)
10. No stealing.
11. If metal spikes are worn the player **MUST** slide headfirst only. If the player does not slide headfirst he/she will be out. A second offence will result in ejection from the game.

12. Any team who forfeits will be fined \$20 unless the Recreation Office is notified 24 hours in advance. The \$20 is to be paid before the next game at the Recreation Office or in the drop box. Any game played after a forfeit will be a loss until the \$20 fee is collected. Teams can be dropped from the league after three forfeits.
13. Ineligible players are NOT allowed to play—even to keep a team from forfeiting. Any team using an ineligible player will receive a one game suspension for their coach and further incidents will be subject to being dismissed from league play.
14. Make-up games will be rescheduled at the earliest possible time, which may include Fridays and non-scheduled nights.
15. A designated and courtesy runner rule will be in effect:
 - *One designated runner will be assigned to this position
 - *Once the person assigned as designated runner enters the game, the designated runner option is over for the rest of that game
 - *The designated runner may run for any 1 player each inning once the player has achieved a base
 - *Only once per inning may the designated runner be used
 - *Original player replaced by designated runner may remain in the game without the substitution rule applying
 - *Teams can also use a courtesy last out from the current inning to serve as a runner once every inning.
16. Two extra hitters may be used in the batting order.
17. International Tie Breaker Rule.
18. Every batter starts with a 1 and 1 count.

PROTEST OF GAMES

ANY PROTEST BASED SOLELY ON A DECISION INVOLVING ACCURACY OF JUDGEMENT ON THE PART OF THE UMPIRE WILL NOT BE RECEIVED OR CONSIDERED !!!

1. Notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before another pitch is thrown.
2. The team manager must notify the umpire at this point that the game is under protest. The exact point of protest must be marked on the score sheet and the score sheet must be given to the umpire after the game.

3. A protest based on the misinterpretation or violation of rules must be submitted in writing to the Recreation Department with a \$20 fee by 5:00 p.m. of the next business day after the alleged violation. The fee will be refunded only if the protest is upheld.
4. The protest letter must include the date, all details pertaining to the alleged infraction, cite the exact rule violation, and name the officials involved.
5. If all the provisions for filing a protest are NOT followed, the protest will be denied on that basis.
6. Properly filed protest will be acted upon in a manner determined by the Parks Director.

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Any player ejected from a game for any reason is automatically ineligible to play in the next game.
2. The ejected player must leave the bench area before play resumes. Refusal to do so will result in that player's team forfeiting the game.
3. The umpire can ask that the ejected player leave the park if he/she feels the situation warrants.
4. Non-contact abuse can result in a longer suspension if behavior is excessive. The Parks and Recreation Director can impose a season long suspension or a year suspension from all recreational programs in these cases.
5. Physical contact can result in at least a two-year suspension from all recreational programs by the Parks & Recreation Director.
6. Striking an official or other township employee is a lifetime suspension from all recreational activities.
7. Any suspended player, fan, or coach, may not participate in any aspect of the game until the suspension expires.
8. Anything not specifically covered by these guidelines will be subject to the Parks & Recreation Director's authority.

PLEASE REMIND ALL YOUR PLAYERS THAT BACON ROAD IS A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE SPEED LIMIT IS 25-MILES PER HOUR!! CONTINUED COMPLAINTS ON ANY PERSON IN THIS PROGRAM WILL BE DEALT WITH IN A SERIOUS MANNER THAT CAN INCLUDE GAME AND PROGRAM SUSPENSIONS.