

# NOVI PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES



## ADULT SOFTBALL 2023

## **ARTICLE I – PURPOSE and JURISDICTION**

### **Section 1.**

City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department (PRCS) Adult Softball Leagues are formed and organized for the purpose of promoting and conducting amateur softball contests for the benefit and enjoyment of the players.

**ALL NOVI PRCS ADULT SOFTBALL GAMES SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE RULES OF USA SOFTBALL EXCEPT WHERE MODIFIED BY NOVI PRCS AND SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT. FOR RULE DESIGNATIONS PLEASE REFER TO THE 2022 USA SOFTBALL OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL. NOVI PRCS STAFF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO STUDY AND INCUR DECISIONS ON ANY SITUATION NOT EXPRESSLY COVERED BY THE RULES AND BY-LAWS. SUCH DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

### **Section 2.**

Novi PRCS sponsors leagues and activities that are formed and operated on the principles of good sportsmanship, fair play, safety and physical fitness. Policies are implemented in the interest of the players, community welfare and development.

## **ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Team Placement**

Team entry shall be on a first-come, first-serve basis, with returning teams allowed to register one month earlier than new teams. Teams are asked which division they prefer, but can be placed in a different division based on past standings and if they have won their regular season division title in the last three seasons.

All players for the league must be 18 years of age prior to participating. All players participating in a league with specifically designated age divisions must be the specified age prior to participating (example: Players must be 40 years old prior to participating in the 40 years+ division).

### **Section 2. Roster and Player Eligibility**

A player will be considered illegal if the player appears in the line-up of any team in the league without their name being legally affixed to the appropriate team roster. The initial team roster/waiver form with **at least 10 players** must be submitted to a representative of the Novi PRCS **prior to the start of the team's first game of the season**. Eligibility of players may be protested by the opposing team prior to the last out of the game or reviewed by Novi PRCS staff at any time. Please see Article X, Section 1 for proper procedure. **The protest must be duly noted by the Novi PRCS Field Supervisor at the time of protest. If the protest concerns whether or not a player is on a team's roster, the Novi Parks Field Supervisor will immediately present the team roster. A confirmation of a player's eligibility will be determined and the game will be resumed.** **EFFECT:** If the Novi Parks Field Supervisor verifies the ineligibility of a player, the umpire will be informed and the illegal player shall be ejected. **This will constitute an out in the line-up in both the regular season and the playoffs.**

### **Section 3. Player Play-off Eligibility-**

Only those players who are legally affixed to the proper roster and appear in the line-up of at least one regular season game are eligible for play-offs. Teams using a non-roster or ineligible player in the play-offs will **WILL FORFEIT IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO FILL THAT SPOT WITH A ROSTERED PLAYER OR IT PUTS THEM BELOW EIGHT PLAYERS** and will be eliminated from the play-offs. Players who are on multiple teams rosters on a given night must choose one roster when the playoffs begin.

Continual violation of this rule will result in further disciplinary action against the player, manager/coach and/or team.

### **Section 3. Roster Player Limit**

No team shall have more than 20 players under contract at any one time during the season. Each team may also carry a non-playing manager. **The Novi PRCS staff strongly recommends a minimum of 15 players on the roster. This initiative on the part of the coach/manager helps ensure that their team will not forfeit, thus strengthening the league and each team's experience.**

### **Section 4. Adding Players to the Team Roster**

Players may be added throughout the regular season by completing and signing the official team roster with the Novi PRCS Field Supervisor or Parks Office prior to the game. Players can play for multiple teams, but cannot play for two teams in the same division.

### **Section 5. Player Release**

Any team wishing to release a player must notify the Novi PRCS Field Supervisor or Parks Office, and the manager/coach must sign the back side of the roster form in the column indicated "Manager's Signature/Date" across from the player's name and signature. Players under contract to a team, remain the property of that team until they have been properly released. Proper release does include a written notification from the player and the manager/coach to the Novi PRCS that indicated player is withdrawing from the team.

### **Section 6. Player Replacement**

In the event a player is released from a team during the season, said team shall be allowed to replace the player as long as the amount of players on the roster does not exceed twenty at any given time. If a team goes over twenty, they will need to notify the field supervisor of the player coming off the roster. **The official team roster is fixed at the end of the regular season.** Player replacement does not pertain to the play-offs. The replacement player must be added to and sign the team roster with the Novi Field Supervisor or Parks Office.

### **Section 7. USA SOFTBALL Tournament Eligibility**

Teams and/or players appearing on a roster designated eligible for an USA SOFTBALL Tournament cannot appear on any other designated MPARKS /USA SOFTBALL Tournament roster.

## **ARTICLE III - ENTRY FEE**

### **Section 1. Team Entry Fee**

The Novi PRCS will establish the team entry fee.

### **Section 2. Entry Fee – Non-Refundable**

After the registration deadline, a \$10 late fee will be assessed and all entry fees become non-refundable.

### **Section 3. Umpire Payment**

\$20 per game, cash at the field. If you feel uncomfortable giving the money directly, the site supervisor will provide you with an envelope to put the money into.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Meetings**

Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Novi PRCS.

### **Section 2. Representation**

Each team shall be represented at all meetings called, as provided by Article IV, Section 1.

## **ARTICLE V – SCHEDULES AND CHANGES**

### **Game Scheduling**

All league games shall be played on the date, time and place designated by Novi PRCS. First priority when rescheduling rain-out/make-up games will be the same night of play, but Saturdays and Sundays may be used.

Novi PRCS will make every reasonable effort to complete the schedule before the start of the fall season or advent of winter weather, but does reserve the right to adjust the length of the season as determined necessary. Novi PRCS reserves the right to make changes to the game schedule if team registration or other circumstances cause the need for such changes. **Novi Parks will attempt to rotate fields as much as possible.**

## **ARTICLE VI – GAMES**

### **Section 1. Game Length/Time Limit**

A regulation game shall consist of seven innings (see USA SOFTBALL Rule 5, Section 3).

Novi PRCS game time limit policy: The home plate umpire will announce the official start time of each game and ensure that **the game starting time is indicated on the official scoresheet**. The official will also start the game clock attached to the fence as an easy reference for the countdown of the **60 minutes**. Umpires will announce when **60 minutes** have passed and the current inning will be completed. The bottom of the inning will be played only if necessary and tied scores will stand (except in playoffs). The game time limit applies to all games except championship play-off games.

### **Section 2. Official Game**

The umpire, Novi Field Supervisor or Novi PRCS staff are empowered to call a game at anytime because of darkness, rain, fire, panic or any other cause that places the patrons or players in peril.

### **Section 3. Minimum Players**

A team must have a minimum of EIGHT PLAYERS to start a game. Thereafter, players coming to the game late must be inserted at the bottom of the line-up. If, for any reason, a team is reduced to fewer than eight players, the game shall be forfeited. If a preceding game on a team's scheduled field is running late, forfeit time shall be when the game ends.

### **Section 4. Forfeit Time**

Game time is forfeit time for all games.

### **Section 5. Insufficient Players**

No games will be rescheduled because of insufficient number of players.

### **Section 6. Double Forfeit**

If neither team has the required number of players to start a game, each team shall receive a loss by forfeit (double forfeit).

### **Section 7. Game Forfeiture Resulting in Removal from League**

A team forfeiting two or more games risks being removed from the league, unless sufficient proof is shown that the team can complete the remainder of the season. A team removed from the league for loss by forfeits will not be refunded. Novi PRCS reserves the right to award wins and losses as a result of a team being removed from the league, and may ban the team from the league indefinitely.

### **Section 8. Forfeit Fee**

**A forty-dollar (\$40) forfeit fee must be submitted to the Novi PRCS Field Supervisor or the Novi Parks Office before the start of their next scheduled game in order to play in that game. If the forfeit happens at the end of the season, \$40 could be added to your account and will need to be paid for the following season. Forfeit fees will not be covered by the City.**

## **ARTICLE VII – RESCHEDULING OF GAMES, ETC.**

### **Section 1. Notification**

In cases of inclement/threatening weather and/or poor field conditions; Novi PRCS will have the right to postpone or cancel scheduled games. Status reports on pending games can be obtained by calling the **Novi PRCS HOTLINE** at **248-347-0473**. When games can be called before 4:30 pm, this is your best contact for game cancellation confirmation. After 4:30 pm, all postponing or cancellation of games will be determined at

the field.

### **Section 2. Rain-out/Make-ups**

All postponing, cancellation and rescheduling of games will be determined at the discretion of the Parks Office. Once the games have begun, the presiding umpires and Novi Field Supervisor will determine whether games will be played or not. **If the games are cancelled during the early games, Novi Parks will update the weather line as well as send out messages through other avenues in an effort to contact the late game managers for that given night.**

### **Section 3. Rescheduled Games**

Cancelled games will be rescheduled by PRCS and are typically moved to the week before the playoffs for rain-outs. The Department will reschedule cancelled games on league nights when possible. Weekends may be used if necessary. **Games are complete after 4 innings. Any game not reaching 4 innings will be replayed in full weather permitting.**

### **Section 4. Championship Game**

League Championship games cannot be called a complete game if interrupted by rain. Furthermore, Novi PRCS will reschedule such games, to be completed at a later date. **Mercy rule is in effect**, but time limit rules do not apply.

## **ARTICLE VIII – MANAGERS**

### **Section 1. Roster**

Managers shall be responsible for the eligibility of their players and submitting to the Novi PRCS an official team roster with all information legibly completed and signatures. Proper procedure must be followed for releases. Team rosters must be turned into the Novi Parks Field Supervisor or Parks Office prior to the start of the team's first game of the season. Managers are required to indicate work, home and cell phone numbers as well as an e-mail address. **Numbers listed on the schedule will be used for text updates regarding rain outs unless otherwise noted. Opening season games will not begin until the official team roster has 10 legally affixed names.**

### **Section 2. Conduct**

Managers shall be responsible at all times for the appearance and conduct of their players and spectators on the field and in the bench area. Any disciplinary action against a manager may result in a forfeit loss of a game for his/her team. Managers are also responsible for the good housekeeping of the bench area.

### **Section 3. Game Conflicts**

Managers need to confirm the eligibility and availability of their players. Novi PRCS does not recommend players playing on more than one team per night. **Players may not play on more than one team in the same division on the same night. This would constitute an ineligible player. Games will not be held up for players coming from another field. Games not starting at the proper time will result in a forfeit loss for the team.**

### **Section 4. Change in Managers**

Any change of managers shall be filed with the Novi PRCS. If such a change is to be made, basic information of the new manager must be provided to Novi PRCS prior to the next game (basic information must include: name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address).

### **Section 5. Manager Team Restrictions**

Managers shall not be allowed to manage more than one team on the same night.

### **Section 6. Manager's Removal**

Any manager involved in unsportsmanlike conduct, including, but not limited to: harassing umpires, conflicts with opposing players, delaying ball games, being uncooperative or less than forthcoming during protest

procedures and any other inappropriate conduct may be subject to removal from the league.

### **Section 7. Player Eligibility: Manager and Player Responsibilities**

The manager shall be cooperative and forthcoming in case of a departmental inquiry or proper player eligibility protest by the opposing team representative. Managers are responsible for ensuring player eligibility. Players have the responsibility of producing proper identification.

### **Section 8. Rules and Policies**

**Every player is responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by the USA SOFTBALL rules and City of Novi rules and policies. Each manager/coach is responsible for informing their players of any City of Novi manager meeting or communication updates.** The Novi PRCS staff is available for any rule clarification, explanation or discussion with any player/manager/coach within the Novi program.

### **Section 9. No Alcoholic Beverages**

It is a Novi Parks Ordinance that **no alcoholic beverages** can be consumed on City of Novi Park or city premises. Failure to comply with this law or acting under the influence in an unsportsmanlike manner by managers, coaches, players, umpires or spectators will lead to removal from the park and/or suspension for the remainder of the season. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND ILLEGAL DRUGS ARE PROHIBITED ON OR ADJACENT TO ANY ATHLETIC FIELD UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF NOVI PRCS.** The Field Supervisor or Novi Sports staff will not hesitate to call the Novi Police Department in cases of unruly, unsafe or threatening behavior.

### **Section 10. Ground Rules**

One manager/coach/team representative from each team shall go over the ground rules with the plate umpire prior to the start of each game. This representative shall be responsible for informing his/her players of all ground rules, special situations and ensuring that the game time is written on the official score sheet. **The manager/coach is held responsible for any member of the team using illegal, altered or non-approved bats and/or other equipment.**

### **Section 11. Falsification of Roster**

Both the player and manager falsifying a roster will be suspended from play or managing for the balance of the season and the game(s) in which he/she participated shall result in a forfeit loss for his/her team.

### **Section 12. One Representative**

Only the team manager or a designated representative shall engage in a discussion with the umpire when a dispute or protest arises.

### **Section 13. Parking**

Team managers shall be responsible for their players being parked in City of Novi authorized parking areas only. Parking in unauthorized areas will result in a loss for that team if the situation is not corrected immediately upon request, or is chronically being disregarded.

## **ARTICLE IX - PLAYER AND GAME RULES**

### **Section 1. USA SOFTBALL**

Current USA SOFTBALL Rules are in effect except as specified herein. Please see the USA SOFTBALL's 2017 Participant Manual Official Rules of Softball that will be available at the Parks Office and fields.

### **Section 2. Suspension**

Any player or manager striking an umpire, staff, spectator, member of the opposing team or any other shall be suspended for one (1) year or more. Suspensions may be implemented for the player's lifetime if the severity of the behavior warrants. Similar action shall be taken for disorderly conduct, possession of intoxicating beverages or illegal drugs or playing under the influence of intoxicating beverages or illegal drugs.

### Section 3. Suspensions and USA SOFTBALL

Players receiving a one-year or more suspension from a City of Novi Adult Softball League may also be suspended from playing in any other USA SOFTBALL or USA SOFTBALL of METRO DETROIT sanctioned league. Likewise, the Novi PRCS shall abide by all USA SOFTBALL suspensions.

### Section 4. Foul Language

Players may be ejected from the game and ball field upon the first occasion of foul language directed towards an umpire, field supervisor or staff person. Any intense face-to-face confrontation with an umpire, field supervisor or staff person may result in further suspension from the league. Intentionally throwing bats or any other objects, or misuse of the equipment or grounds will result in immediate ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct.

**Section 5. Use of Illegal, Altered or Non-Approved Equipment** The manager is responsible to ensure that his/her team does not use illegal, altered or non-approved bats or other equipment. Bats will be tested at the supervisor's discretion. Use of illegal, altered or non-approved equipment shall result in the player being ejected (if during play-offs the player shall be ejected for the remainder of the current season play-offs). An out will be recorded in the line-up and the manager will be subject to discipline. Note: The play will stand for any previous batter using the bat in question.

### Section 6. Balls Hit up the Middle

A batter will be called out and the runners must return to their base if the batter hits a ball within the length of the pitching rubber so hard that the pitcher does not have time to react to make a defensive play on the batted ball regardless whether the batted ball hits the pitcher or not. **If a pitcher is hit directly from a hit ball in play and injured the bat will be confiscated for the rest of the night and it will be tested. If the bat is illegal then the batter and the coach/manager will be ejected from the game and suspension from the league will be considered, ineligible for playoffs, or forfeits for the remainder of the season without a refund. Once a pitcher leaves the pitching rubber area, this rule no longer applies.**

### Section 7. Smoking

Players are not allowed to smoke within the areas commonly known as the playing field and bench area. Players that do wish to smoke should do so away from the areas mentioned above and dispose of their cigarette butts in the proper place. Please extinguish all butts before disposing of them.

### Section 8. Ejected Players/Manager/Coach Must Exit the Field

Any person ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct may **not** remain at the park or adjacent areas. **Ejected individuals have two (2) minutes to be "out of sight - out of sound"**. Failure to exit the area will result in suspension for the remainder of the season, and will lead to a forfeit loss.

### Section 9. Player's Bench

All players and managers/coaches not participating in the game shall remain in the bench area (available for entry into the game, official discussions, etc.) Persons permitted on the player's bench area shall be limited to eligible players, coaches, team managers, scorer and bat boy/girl.

### Section 10. Retrieval of Game Balls

If a game ball is rendered out of play by any means, the pitcher shall continue with an alternate ball. **The team at bat will retrieve balls hit out of play and return them to the umpire during a dead ball.**

### Section 11. Number of Umpires

One umpire will be assigned to each game during the regular season at \$20 per team. Two umpires may be used in playoff finals **ONLY** and will cost teams \$30 per team.

## Section 12. Home Team

The home team is designated on the schedule represented by the **second number given**. For example: 5 V 2, 2 being the home team. The home team will occupy the bench on the third base line.

## Section 13. Sliding

Sliding is permitted in the league and is done so at the players' own risk. On force plays, runners are required to slide or "give themselves up." **In order to avoid a collision with a runner at home plate, the catcher should leave home plate open while he/she waits for the ball to come in from the field.**

**In an effort to prevent injury and protect a defensive player attempting to make a play on a runner, a runner must be called out when they remain on their feet and crash into a defensive player who is holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. EFFECT: The ball is dead. The runner is out. All runners must return to the last base touched. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. To prevent the out ruling, the runner may slide, go around the defender (three-foot runlane) or return to the previous base touched. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender is ejected. A runner may slide into the fielder. When the ball, runner and the defensive player arrive at the same time and place, and contact is made, the umpire should not invoke the crash rule, interference, or obstruction. There is merely incidental contact.**

## Section 14. EJECTIONS

Any manager, coach or player ejected before or during a game will automatically be suspended for the remainder of that game plus 1 game. If ejected following a game, the ejection would be fulfilled at the next two games scheduled game for that team. A second offense warrants that game and the next three games. A third offense warrants suspension for the remainder of the season and one year probation. If the severity of the offense warrants; indefinite or lifetime suspensions may be enforced at the first offense or any thereafter. **Ejections result in an out in the line-up if there is not a sub to take their place.**

## Section 15. Mercy Rule

A 12-run mercy rule shall be in effect after 5 innings. The game will be considered a regulation game if a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 5 or more innings; 5 ½ or 6 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.

## Section 16. Flip Flop Rule

This rule will apply when the visiting team is ahead by twelve or more runs after four innings of play. When the visiting team has enough runs to satisfy the mercy rule, after four innings of play, they become the home team (Flip Flop) and the losing team becomes the visiting team. The team that is losing, is now the visiting team, and bats in the **top** of the fifth in an attempt to score enough runs to eliminate the twelve run differential. The game is over if the "new home team" still has the required runs for a "mercy" after the other team has batted in the top of the fifth inning.

The game will continue if the run differential is below twelve. The mercy rule could be reinstated in the bottom of the fifth inning. The new visiting team will bat in the **top** of the sixth inning if there is not a "mercy" in the fifth inning. The mercy rule could be reinstated in the bottom of the sixth inning. The new visiting team will bat in the **top** of the seventh inning if there is not a "mercy" in the sixth inning.

## Section 17. Warm-Ups

There will be no warm-ups permitted within 10 feet of the walkways and within 50 feet of the bleachers. **NO SOFT TOSS IS ALLOWED.**

## Section 18. Extra Players

Teams can bat all the players on the roster, but may only play 10 at a time in the field. Extra players can be



substituted during the game at any time.

### **Section 19. Player Reduction**

Reduction in players due to injury or player's election without an available substitution will result in an out in the line up. Teams can be reduced down to 8 players, but for each player missing, an out will occur. Reduction below 8 players will result in a forfeit loss. Reduction in players in the line-up due to ejection from the game will always result in an out in the line-up.

### **Section 20. Home Run Rule**

**Each division carries a home run limit. D Division: 5+1, E Division: 2+1, and D vs. E crossover will be 3+1.** Any home runs over your division limit will result in a dead ball out with no runners advancing. This applies to untouched (by a player) over the fence home runs ONLY. **Please note: The +1 is not in effect in the top half of the first for the visiting team because there is no guarantee the home team will be able to match. This also happens in the bottom half of the seventh where the home team cannot go up +1 because there is no opportunity for the visiting team to match.**

### **Section 21. Courtesy Runner: Specific to Men's and Coed**

Each team is allowed to have one "courtesy runner" per inning, per gender. Requests for a courtesy runner should be directed to the umpire. The courtesy runner must be the last player in the line-up who has recorded an out. The courtesy runner must be of the same gender as the player whom they are replacing.

### **Section 22. Pitch Count and Pitchers Box**

All counts are 3 balls, 2 strikes, one to waste. A six-foot pitcher box will be used in all leagues. The pitcher can stand anywhere behind the rubber up to six feet behind it.

### **Section 23. Batting Order**

Teams may bat 8 players up to the total number of players on their roster. After the first pitch, only the 9 and/or 10 batter may be added to the lineup. All players appearing defensively must occupy a place in the line-up. When a team elects to use more than ten batters and a player leaves the game for any reason, **other than ejection**, the game will continue with any skipped batter recorded as an out. Teams cannot play with fewer than eight players. No substitutes are available when all players present are listed in the lineup. Any of the players in the batting order are allowed to play defense.

**CO-ED:** The batting order for coed shall alternate the genders. A team must have 8 players to start (4 males and 4 females). A team may bat an unlimited number of players. A team may bat 9 players (5 male and 4 female players), with an out recorded between the back to back male players. If the fifth female shows she is to be inserted into the lineup between the back to back male players. There is no penalty when batting extra females.

**CO-ED BASE ON BALLS: USA SOFTBALL Rule 8, Section 1, C, 4: A walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) has the option to walk or bat.**

### **Start of Game and Lineup**

A team must have the required number of players (8) present in the dugout or team area to start the game. A starting player shall be official when the lineup is inspected and approved by the plate umpire and team manager at the pre-game meeting. After the first pitch of the game, any player(s) not in the lineup may only be used as substitute players, unless your team started the game with 8 or 9 players.

### **Section 24. CO-ED: Defensive Play**

**Co-ed games will have 5 females and 5 males in the field defensively. There are no restrictions on the placement of these players except all infielders must remain in the infield dirt until the ball is hit. In the**

event the team has 5 males and 4 females, they can play defense this way due to the out penalty.

**200 Ft Line – Only in place for E League level play. In the event of a cross-over, the E League team will notify the umpire if they want it used for both teams.**

### **Section 25. Substitutes**

A starting player may be substituted for at any point during the game. The substitute can be anyone **not** already in the game and must be on the current roster. Once a starting player resumes his/her place in the line-up the substitute can no longer be used for that player or any other player(s).

### **Section 26, First Base Orange Bag**

Any runner stepping on the white bag on a play to first will automatically be called out unless a fielder has to go in foul territory or their momentum takes them to where they have to step on the orange part of the bag. At that point the runner can step on the white part of the bag to avoid the collision.

### **Section 27, Leading Off**

At no time is a player allowed to lead off the base or stand away from the base to "avoid line drives."

## **ARTICLE X - PROTESTS**

### **Section 1. Protest Procedure**

A protest is a formal request to review the decision of an umpire's rule interpretation or the eligibility of a player. NO PROTEST WILL BE ACCEPTED CONCERNING AN UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT (examples of judgment calls include: balls and strikes, out and safe, fair and foul, missing or touching the bases, etc.) **Rule interpretation protest intentions must be duly recorded prior to the next pitch. Player eligibility protests must be duly recorded prior to the final out of the game. Failure to do so at the proper time, cancels all right to protest. All protests must be made known to the plate umpire, Parks Field Supervisor and the manager of the other team before the next pitch or before the last out of the ballgame, as appropriate. The protest must be duly recorded by the Parks Field Supervisor. The Parks Field Supervisor will either make a decision on the field in regards to the protest, or, they will work with the Recreation Supervisor over the next 2-3 business days to determine the final outcome.**

### **Section 2.**

Home video tape, film, photographs or recording devices are not admissible in protests as evidence.

### **Section 3.**

Protests will be acted upon by the Novi Recreation Supervisor and appropriate Novi Parks staff and USA SOFTBALL representative(s) within 2-3 days.

## **ARTICLE XI - LIABILITY**

The City of Novi expressly denies any responsibility or liability for property damage and/or personal injury to participants, spectators, or others resulting from league play or related events.

## **ARTICLE XII – UNIFORMS**

### **Section 1.**

Uniforms are not mandatory. NOTE: Identical uniforms are required in USA SOFTBALL Tournaments. (No two players can have the same number).

### **Section 2.**

For safety and injury prevention, shoes are required. A player must wear pants and shirt. (Shorts are permitted at the player's own risk.)

### **Section 3.**

No metal cleats will be allowed. Players found with metal cleats or cleats with screw-in or football spikes shall be ejected from the game. This does result in an out in the line-up.

#### **Section 4.**

For safety purposes, all jewelry must be removed prior to the start of the ball game. One warning will be issued, thereafter the next occurrence may result in a player ejection. (The only exceptions to this rule are medical alert tags and wedding bands.)

#### **Section 5.**

Headwear: Ball caps and sweatbands/Do-rags may be worn in any fashion, but may be asked to be removed or adjusted if they possess a threat or distraction to the game or its players. Pins, jewelry and reflectors may not be worn on/in headwear.

#### **Section 6.**

Knee and Arm Braces: All braces with exposed metal or plastic **MUST** be covered with padding or fabric.

### **ARTICLE XIII - GENERAL**

Rules and regulations governing the organization and playing of the Novi PRCS Adult Softball League are covered in these local rules and the USA SOFTBALL Rule Book. All local rules supersede USA SOFTBALL Rules, where applicable.

Any rule, regulation, entry date, player requirement, or the like, written on information sheets which are distributed to managers shall become part of these local rules. Failure to comply with any rule or regulations could result in game forfeiture or player dismissal, or as specified herein.

### **ARTICLE XIV - STANDINGS**

#### **Section 1.**

Novi PRCS will keep records of standings based on a team win, loss and tie.

#### **Section 2.**

In case of a tie in the standings the following tie breaking rules shall be in effect:

- (A) Win-Loss record in head-to-head games between tied teams, if the tie still remains then;
- (B) Run differential in the regular season game between the tied teams in head-to-head competition, if the tie remains then;
- (C) Plus/minus runs for the entire season;
- (D) Coin toss.

#### **Section 3.**

Nicer apparel and/or gear go to the division winners. T-Shirts and trophies goes to the playoff winners.

#### **Section 4.**

Teams who select their division during registration could be placed in a different division based on past standings and division championships.

### **ARTICLE XV – BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL POLICY**

Any player or coach who is bleeding or has an open wound shall be prohibited from further participation until appropriate treatment can be administered. If proper medical care and treatment can be administered in a period of five (5) minutes, the individual would not have to leave the game. Individual teams are responsible for the administration of first aid for any of their players. Wounds need to be cleaned and covered. If appropriate treatment can not be administered within the five (5) minute time period, the individual must leave the game under USA SOFTBALL and Novi PRCS substitution or re-entry rules. (NOTE: The five (5) minute time period will not

come out of game time.)

- A. As soon as the umpire(s) is aware that a player is bleeding or has an open wound, the game will be stopped. The Field Supervisor will be notified and 911 will be called if the situation warrants.
- B. Bloodied or exposed portions of the uniform must be properly disinfected, covered or replaced before the player may resume or re-enter the game. (NOTE: Extra clothes should be carried by teams/players.)
- C. All contaminated surfaces and equipment must be cleaned before resuming the game.
- D. NOVI PRCS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISALLOW PLAYERS TO PARTICIPATE IF SITUATIONS IN WHICH BODILY FLUIDS OR OPEN WOUNDS OCCUR.

## ARTICLE XVI - EQUIPMENT

### Section 1. Balls

All game balls will be issued Novi PRCS. 2 new and 2 slightly used will be used per field per night. All balls will be 12" .52/300 core.

### Section 2. Bats

Approved/Non-Approved Bats: Bats may be used if they are approved/certified by USA SOFTBALL. Bats on the most current USA SOFTBALL Non-Approved Bats list are not allowed to be used in league play. USA SOFTBALL provides this list on their website. This list is current as of March 4, 2022.  
<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment>

**Prior to each game during the pre-game conference at the plate, the plate umpire should require from each manager the assurance that no illegal, altered or non-approved bat will be utilized.** The plate umpire will make an effort to advise any batter before they enter the batting box if a bat is illegal and may ask to inspect any bat. THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR USING ONLY LEGAL/UNALTERED/APPROVED BATS LIES WITH THE TEAM. **If an illegal, altered or non-approved bat is used; the batter and the coach/manager will be ejected from the game and suspension from the league will be considered, ineligible for playoffs, or forfeits for the remainder of the season without a refund.**

### Section 3, Pitcher Gear

We strongly encourage pitcher to wear protective face gear to prevent injuries.

**THE NOVI PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST/CLARIFY THE FOREMENTIONED RULES FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEAGUES AND ITS PLAYERS.**