



Gorham Recreation Adult Softball Rules

Thanks for playing in the Gorham Recreation Adult Softball league. All games will be played at Robie Field (at the high school) On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday nights at either 6:15 pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm. Game schedules will be available online at (www.gorhamrec.com). Every team is guaranteed 7 games plus playoffs. All teams make the playoffs.

The Co-ed Rec adult softball league is meant for teams to recreate and socialize in a fun and safe environment. Everyone is expected to play hard and compete, but unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. Absolute respect for the umpires, players, and spectators is required of all players. Swearing will not be tolerated!

All team fees are due by the start the second game. If they are not paid, your team will not be eligible.

The following rules are local Gorham Recreation rules. Anything not listed will be governed by ASA rules.

1. Team Requirements

a. Each team must have at least 8 players in the field at all times and can field up to

10. Possible male/female combinations

i. 4 females/4 males

ii. 4 females/5 males

iii. 5 females/5 males

iv. 5 females/4 males

v. 6 females/4 males

c. Players must sign the waiver in order to play. The scorekeeper will have a binder with all the teams for new players to sign in.

d. 5 Minute Grace Period:

i. If your game starts at 6:15pm, you must have your full lineup by 6:30pm. If not your team will forfeit the game

ii. Exception: If you have just 3 females or 3 males to start, you may start the game, however, each inning your team comes up to bat you will automatically start with 1 out. Until your 4th female or male arrives. In this case you can only play 8 in the field.

2. Length of the Game

a. A regulation game consists of 7 innings. No inning will be started after 60 minutes of

playing time has elapsed, regardless of score. 7 inning games which end in a tie before the hour will play extra innings until the hour is up. Ties during the regular season will stand.

b. Mercy Rule: If a 15 run difference occurs during a contest after four innings, or 3 ¹/₂ innings with the home team winning, the game will be stopped and considered a complete game.

c. A game is considered official after three innings (Example: rain in the middle of the 4th inning, score reverts to end of the 3rd inning)

d. No time limit will be in effect for playoffs

3. Sportsmanship

a. It is the team captain's responsibility to maintain control over all players, coaches, and spectators. If at any point 2 players, and/or coaches, and/or spectators are ejected from the game, that team will forfeit the game and will be ejected from the league.

b. The offensive team is responsible for retrieving all foul balls and home runs.

4. Running

a. No stealing is allowed. Runners may leave the base when the pitch is hit.

b. When the ball is thrown over the fence or into the dugout, all runners will be awarded two bases, and the award will be governed by the positions of the runners when the ball leaves the fielder's hand.

c. Any runner who deliberately runs into a fielder will be called out immediately and each runner will return to the last base occupied at the time of the collision. The runner will be ejected. In the case of a possible double play, the base runner must slide directly into the base or get out of the way of the thrown ball or both he/she and the batter/base runner may be called out.

d. No courtesy runners will be allowed this year. If you hit, you run.

e. If you come out of the game with an injury, you are done playing for the night.

f. No metal spikes are allowed!

5. Batting

a. Batters start with a one and one count.

b. Line up cards must be handed to umpire or staff prior to the game. All players on line up cards must both bat and field throughout the game. (please keep a book or use score book pages provided by staff)

c. If a home run is hit all players must advance one base, but can then return to the dugout.

d. Chop hitting and bunting are not allowed.

e. Teams are allowed 6 home runs per game. 3 male home runs and 3 female home runs. Any home run after that will be ruled out.

f. Any ball that is touched by a fielder and goes over the fence will not count towards the home run rule.

g. Any foul balls or “tips” on a third strike will be considered outs

h. Teams may establish their batting order in one of two ways:

i. (1) Bat all players present up to 15. With this type of batting order, there may be free substitution on the field. (All players if batting must play a Minimum of one inning in the field. No one can bat in the final inning if they have not previously played the field. Teams must be able to show this on a scorebook if an inquiry arises.

j. (2) Bat only 10 players, with a minimum of 4 women. With this type of batting order, a player may only bat in their designated position in the batting order, which means that there must be specific player-for-player substitution. For instance, if Player B substitutes for Player A, Player A can only reenter the game in place of Player B.

k. In both cases, at no point can 3 males or females bat in a row. This includes going from the bottom to the top of the order.

L. The league will adhere to the ASA rule regarding walking a male batter when a female batter is on deck. If there are less than two (2) outs, the female batter must bat. If there are two (2) outs, the female batter has the option of accepting an automatic walk or batting. The male batter who received the walk, shall be awarded second base. *Gorham Rec differs from ASA in that the male batter who received the walk will only be awarded second base if there are two outs. Runners advance if forced.

6. Defensive Positions

a. Males and females do not have to alternate defensively in the infield, outfield, or at pitcher/catcher. However, there must be at least one(1) female in the outfield and at least one (1) female in the infield (pitcher and catcher count as infield in regards to this rule).

b. All infielders must remain in the infield and all outfielders must remain in the outfield until the ball is hit.

7. Pitching

a. The ball must be pitched underhanded at Slow Speed.

b. The Pitched Ball shall not rise higher than 12 feet above the ground.

c. The speed of the Pitch and height of the pitched ball are left entirely to the judgment of the Umpire (NOTE: For sake of uniformity in decisions, any doubtful Pitch should be ruled as an illegal pitch). The Umpire shall warn a Pitcher who delivers a Pitch with EXCESSIVE SPEED that repeating such EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH will cause the Pitcher's removal from the Pitcher's position for the remainder of the Game. A Pitch that does not arc may not be an EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH, but merely an Illegal Pitch.

8. Appeal Play

a. An appeal play is a play in which an umpire cannot make a decision until requested by a coach or player. The appeal must be made before the next legal or illegal pitch, or before the defensive team has left the field. The defensive team has left the field when the pitcher and all the infielders have left fair territory.

b. There are 3 types of appeal plays:

i. Missing a base

ii. Leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched

iii. Batting out of order

c. Once a dead ball has been called, any infielder with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving a base too soon. The plate umpire should acknowledge the appeal and make a ruling on the play. Base runners cannot leave their bases during an appeal.

9. Weather Policy

a. Updates will be made by 4:30pm of game days.

b. Umpires may call the games on site

c. Rescheduled games will be made up

10. Forfeit Policy

a. If a team cannot play their normally scheduled game, they must notify Gorham Recreation the week before. Not notifying Gorham Rec in advance will result in a forfeit.

11. Bats

a. **Men:** Birch, Maple, Ash and Bamboo bats are fine. **No composite bats will be allowed.** b. **Women:** Any ASA single wall softball bat is fine.