

Ringwood Women's Softball

Rules and Regulations 2023

Pre-Season:

1. REGISTRATION: Teams and players must sign up at www.ringwoodnj.net. Registration opens on May 1st. The fee is \$50 per player, there is an additional out-of-town fee. **There will be a \$30 late fee starting June 26th. Registration will close July 20th.** At least five registered players from each team must be Ringwood residents. Teams must have a minimum of 14 players. Players must be at least 18 years old by the first game of the season.
2. UNIFORMS: All teams are required to pay for their own uniforms if they choose to have them.
3. EQUIPMENT: Each team will receive game balls and score books.

Rosters:

4. ROSTERS: The league will email the most up-to-date rosters for each team to league emails. Any roster additions must be submitted to the Board by the team captain at least 24 hours before game time so the Board can verify registration with Ringwood Recreation.
5. ILLEGAL PLAYERS: Only a registered and rostered player can compete in this league. Any other player is considered illegal. Any team that uses an illegal player is in violation of the rules and subject to forfeit any game in which an illegal player was used.
6. SUB PLAYERS:
 - a. Regular season and Playoffs
 - i. Any registered player can be used as a sub but can not pitch and must bat last
 - ii. A team using subs can have no more than 9 players
 - iii. A team using subs must have at least 6 of their own players
 - b. Playoffs
 - i. Subs can only be used from those teams eliminated from the playoffs
7. PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY: Players must play in a minimum of half of the regular season games to participate in the playoffs. Teams must complete the game report google form to record their roster within 24 hours of each game. The **RWS Playoff Coordinator** will begin updating each team of their player eligibility midway through the season.

Player Guidelines:

8. MISCONDUCT: Players should refrain from using foul language, tobacco products, vapes, alcohol, or other drugs on the playing field or in the dugout. Smoking is prohibited on Ringwood Recreation fields and property. Anyone who is obviously under the influence and is considered a danger to herself or others may be ejected from a game. First Offense: Ejection from game. Second Offense: Reviewed by Board for ejection from league with no refund.
9. If players must be removed from the game for any personal reason (injury, emergency, etc.), the first player per team causes no penalty. Any subsequent player leaving the game for any reason will be charged as an out in the lineup. Any player ejected from the game for misconduct will be charged as an out in the lineup.
10. PARKING: All players are responsible to park in appropriate, lined spaces which will not inhibit emergency vehicle access.

Safety:

11. Players may not wear metal cleats.

12. APPROVED BATS:

- a. The use of any multi-wall, composite bat is prohibited
- b. Only single walled aluminum or aluminum alloy bats are allowed
- c. Captains will inspect opposing team's bats prior to game and shall bring any illegal bats to the umpire's attention at that time
- d. After bats are checked, no new bats may be added
- e. To challenge the use of a bat during a game, bats must be inspected prior to the start of the game
- f. Any team caught using an illegal bat should be reported to the RWS board and is subject to penalty as follows
 - i. First Offense - Batter and Captain ejected from game
 - ii. Second Offense - Forfeit of Game
- g. Repeat offenders may be subject to ejection from the league

13. All batters and base runners are required to wear helmets during live plays. All catcher's equipment must be worn (this includes catcher's helmet, catcher's face mask, chest protector, and shin guards).

Schedule Changes:

14. INCLEMENT WEATHER: Each team is responsible to check field conditions before **4:30 pm** on scheduled game days. If the field is unplayable, text or call **RWS Board Field Condition Coordinator** immediately. An alternate site will be looked for before games are canceled.

15. LIGHTNING:

- a. The lightning detection system will sound an alarm if dangerous conditions occur
- b. The field must be cleared until the system sounds the "all clear"
- c. If lightning is seen with no alarm sounding, the umpire should suspend the game for 30 minutes
- d. Every time lightning is seen, the clock restarts for another 30 minutes
- e. The maximum game suspension is one hour
- f. If the game is suspended after 4.5 or 5 innings it is a complete game
- g. If the game is suspended before it is a complete game, the teams will go back to the last full inning of play when it is made up

16. Once a game has started, it will be the umpire's decision to call a game due to unplayable conditions (i.e. rain, darkness, field conditions).

17. CONTINUATION: When continuing a suspended game, go back to the last full inning of play.

18. MAKE-UP GAMES: games canceled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled as soon as possible as double-headers.

19. FORFEIT RULE: If a team captain knows that she will not have enough players to field a team for a particular game, a forfeit can be accepted by phone *the day before the game*. The forfeiting team must first attempt to get substitute players through the **RWS Subs Coordinator**. The forfeiting captain must call the opposing captain before the scheduled game date, then must inform the **RWS Board Umpire Coordinator** before 2:00 the day before game day to cancel the umpires. Winning teams in a forfeit will be awarded a victory with a score of 10-0.

Game Play:

20. The HOME TEAM gets the THIRD BASE DUGOUT and will supply two game balls and be responsible for the field lights. Only registered players and umpires may be in the dugouts or on the field during games. No minors may enter the field of play from fifteen minutes before game time to fifteen minutes after game completion.
21. GROUND RULES: Prior to the game, the team captain or another registered player who is acting as the captain for the game are required to review with the umpire the ground rules as well as the league rules and regulations.
22. Bases are 60' apart, the pitcher's mound is 40' from home plate. Games are 7 innings. Games may total 5 complete innings, or 4.5 innings if the home team is ahead, and the umpire determines the conditions to be unplayable. If a game is tied at the end of 7 innings, play will continue until a team wins or until it is too dark to continue.
23. START TIMES:
 - a. Games begin at the scheduled times as long as both teams have eight players
 - b. Teams playing with less than nine batters will take an out in the ninth spot in the line up
 - c. Teams cannot play with less than eight players
 - d. Forfeit time is fifteen minutes after scheduled start times
 - e. If there is no umpire, please text/call **RWS Board Umpire Coordinator**
24. MERCY RULE: If, after 5 innings, a team is leading by 15 runs or more, that team is awarded a win. The score at that time is the official score of the game. At the end of the game, the maximum score differential is 20 runs (for example, if the score is 25 to 2 it will be recorded officially as 22 to 2).
25. All players will bat in the same order, even if they are not playing in the field. Every player will play a minimum of three innings in the field. When a late player enters the game, her team must inform the other team and add the player to the bottom of the batting lineup. After the start of the 5th inning no new players can be added.
26. FREE SUBSTITUTION: There is free substitution at any position (unless the pitcher was removed by Rule 29).
27. SPEED UP RULE is in effect with two outs; **last out** can run for the catcher.
28. SUB RUNNERS: Last out in the current inning. If no outs, then the last out in the last inning. You must notify the other captain and the umpire before the game if you are planning to use a sub runner. If an individual has used a sub runner in a game for any reason other than the Speed Up Rule, she cannot run the bases later in the game.
29. PITCHING RULES:
 - a. Modified fast pitch - No Arc pitching
 - b. The pitcher must present the ball to the batter
 - c. The pitcher must start with one or two feet on the pitching line/rubber, 40' from home plate
 - d. Both teams must agree to the spot of the "pitching line"
 - e. The pitching hand may not go above the shoulder at any time during the wind up, otherwise, a "ball" is called
 - f. The pitching hand must stay parallel with the side of the body during delivery
 - g. The pitcher's hand may not be outside of the plane of the elbow.

30. HIT BY PITCH: First base is awarded (errant pitch must be out of strike zone, and batter must attempt to avoid the ball). If a pitcher hits three batters, that pitcher must be removed from that position for the rest of the game.
31. There is NO STEALING allowed. A person who is caught attempting to steal a base will be called automatically out, no throw down is necessary. NO dropped third strike rule.
32. BASE RUNNERS can take a lead after the ball is released from the pitcher's hand.
33. PICK OFF: A runner can be forced out if caught leading off the bag. The runner cannot advance to the next base unless an overthrow to a base occurs and the ball is in play. Other base runners can advance if the ball is in play due to an overthrow (not automatic).
34. OVERTHROWS: One base on an overthrow into foul territory. NO AUTOMATIC BASE IS AWARDED (the runner must make an attempt to advance). The runner can be thrown out while trying to advance. An overthrow into the dead ball area: the next base is automatically awarded.
35. SLIDING is optional, but a slide or avoid rule is in play at the umpire's discretion.
36. BUNTING is allowed under the following conditions: On a particular pitch, once a batter shows a bunting position she must bunt or take the pitch. She may not show a bunt then take a full swing or the umpire will call the batter out.
37. The INFIELD FLY RULE is in effect (a fair fly ball which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied before two are out) at the umpire's discretion.
38. PLAYOFFS: Playoff schedule is based on number of teams per season and is always tbd.
39. Any game play rules not covered here shall be covered by USSSA Softball Rules.

40. SCORES: Report your scores via text to **RWS Scores and Standings Coordinator** including the date of the game (Ex: 7/8/21, SDSU - 12, OSU - 0) within 24 hours of the game conclusion.

Once a game has begun, game play is subject to the umpire's discretion. If a question regarding the rules of our specific league arise (i.e. pitching rules):

- request a time out
- present a hardcopy of the rules to the umpire
- explain the question

The umpire's decision at that time will stand for the game. Captains may choose to tell both the umpire and opposing captain at that time that there is a disagreement and the Board will be contacted after the game. If a team refuses to continue to play, that team will forfeit.

If a question regarding the rules of the game arise (i.e. infield fly), the umpire's decision will stand. Any game play rules not covered in this document will follow the USA (formerly ASA) softball rule book.

Captains are responsible for the decorum of their team.

New in 2023:

All players who are interested in subbing for another team when available should text:

@rws-subs to 81010 to join the Ringwood Women's Softball Remind App group. When a team is in need of a sub, the captain can reach out to one of the **RWS Sub Coordinators** who will then contact all the players on the Remind App group. Subs will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

RWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors is made up of five Ringwood residents. Each Board member must be a registered player in the league. Board members are not acting as representatives of their team in their capacity on the Board and are there to represent the league as a whole. The Board will have at least two alternate Board members in the event that a current Board member cannot attend a meeting or feels the need to recuse herself from a decision. If a Board member resigns, one of the alternates will be appointed by the RWS Board and a new alternate will be asked to volunteer. Communication about the league between any team and the Board will go through the team captains and the appropriate Board member via league email: RingwoodWomensSoftball@gmail.com

2023 Board of Directors -

Field Conditions, Umpire Coordinator: Cara Centurione, 201.463.4384

Equipment, Subs: Dara Denyse, 973.417.7420

Conflict Resolution, Subs: Bethany Kazimir, 201.410.6571

Rosters, Playoffs: Lori Susen, 973.747.2504

Schedule, Scores and Standings: Katie Telschow, 973.557.1652

Alternate: Carrie Lindner, 973.897.5798

Alternate: Kathryn Mehr, 201.783.5170

Alternate: Ilma Monto, 973.985.1407

2023 League Contacts:

Crazy Pitches: Elissa Murphy, Alyssia Arnau

Kodiak: Paige Zelitsky, Dara DeNyse

Pitch Slap: Lori Susen, Shanna Uργο

Skyline Lakers: Ilma Monto, Kathryn Mehr

Slammers: Katie Telschow, Cara Centurione

Triple Threat: Bethany Kazimir, Vienna Nix

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