



Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium
114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown, PA 19335 Phone 610-269-9260
email: darc@kennett.net

DARC Women's Softball League Rules

1. Games may be played at Downingtown Middle School, Shamona Creek Park, Kerr Park, Martins Field, & Hickory Park. Makeup games may be rescheduled on an as needed basis and could be anywhere within the Downingtown Area School District.
2. All necessary equipment (bats, gloves, catcher's masks, etc.) must be provided by the teams playing. DARC will supply game balls, helmets, and scorebooks. Game balls will be supplied by DARC as follows: Regular season-1 new, 1 from the previous game. Playoffs 2 new game balls will be supplied.
 - a.) ***Helmets are required to be worn by all base runners. They must leave their helmets on while in the playing area. One warning will be issued followed by player ejections.***
 - b.) ***Catchers must wear protective face masks & chest protectors both during warm ups and play.***
3. **Friday, June 4, 2010 - all fees are due. Friday, June 18, 2010 - all rosters are due.** Failure to have fees and rosters in at this time will result in forfeitures of games until all fees and rosters are collected. ***Players must appear in at least 5 regular season games to be eligible to play in playoff games.***
 - a.) Players may not play on more than one team.
-Lineup cards must be turned in to the umpire at each regular season game-
-WRITE SCORE ON TOP OF LINE UP CARD after every game and give to an umpire or a DARC representative-
4. All teams will be limited to a maximum of 24 players.
5. Each team must pay the umpire half of his/her fee (**\$36; \$18 per team**) prior to the start of each game. Umpires must be paid in cash. Playoff umpires are paid by DARC.
6. We will use Modified-10 A.S.A. rules-exceptions to follow. Umpires are required to carry a copy of the league rule sheets and a copy of the current year's A.S.A. rulebook.
7. Metal cleats will not be permitted. All bats must be A.S.A. approved or meet current ASA guidelines. Approved bat list is available at the ASA website www.softball.org.
8. Pitch shall be modified pitch according to league softball rules. (*umpire's judgment*)
 - a.) The pitcher shall take a position with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate/rubber. The shoulders shall be in line with first and third bases.
 - b.) No "breaking of the wrist." The ball cannot be outside the wrist during the back swing, at the top of the back swing, on the downward motion or during the complete delivery.
 - c.) The top of the back swing may not be above the shoulder. The release of the ball must be on the first forward swing of the pitching arm past the hip. The pitching motion should resemble a "bowling motion."
 - d.) On the forward swing of the pitching arm, the elbow must be locked at the point of release and the shoulders and driving hip must be squared to home plate when the ball is released.

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9. Games will be played 10 v. 10 format. There must be at least ***eight*** players to start the game. The empty positions in the batting lineup ***will not*** result in outs once they are reached. Teams will be given three outs unless the 6 run per inning rule or 10 run mercy rule come into play.
 - a.) If a shorthanded team's player arrives before they have batted thru the lineup the player can be immediately added to the lineup.
 - b.) Players arriving after the team has batted thru the lineup may be substituted into the lineup at any time during the game. They cannot be entered into the batting order, however, they may sub into another players position.
10. Game times will be 6:15PM (unless noted otherwise). Forfeits will be called if a team does not have at least ***eight*** players ready to play within ***ten*** minutes of the scheduled game time. Teams forfeiting will be required to pay the **ENTIRE UMPIRE FEE (\$36)** unless DARC is notified at least 48 hours prior to their scheduled game time. **Three forfeits during the season will terminate your team from the league and all fees paid will be surrendered to DARC. IF YOU FORFEIT A PLAYOFF GAME, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY ALL NECESSARY UMPIRE FEES FOR THAT GAME.**
11. In the event of a forfeiture, teams not having enough money to pay umpires at time of forfeit have until closing of business the day of their next game to drop off forfeit fee to the DARC office or the next game will be forfeited and so on until the fee is paid. **PLEASE NOTE: UMPIRES WILL NOT UMPIRE FORFEITED SCRIMMAGE GAMES.**
12. Only players are permitted to be in the playing field area. Coaches are allowed to coach bases. Physical interference will not be permitted. Children must remain off of the playing field during the game as well as the tennis courts and fences.
13. Substitutions will be unlimited with the exception of the pitcher. Once the pitcher has been removed from the pitching position, she may not return to that position. She can play any other position on the field.
14. Once the defense has taken the field, all players must maintain the same position throughout the inning. They cannot switch positions (i.e.: shortstop & 2nd baseman) in the middle of an inning. **THE SHORT FIELDER MAY ROAM!**
 - a.) A pitching change can be made at any time.
15. No bunting. Batters hit by a pitched ball will be awarded first base.
16.
 - a.) Base stealing is not permitted. Runners may leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball. Base runners ***are not*** permitted to advance on passed balls by the catcher or pitcher.
 - b.) You may attempt to pick off the runner. If an attempt to pick off the runner is made the ball becomes a live ball and all runners may advance at their own risk without tagging up. An attempt may consist of a throw down to the base or the catcher leaving the catcher's box area in an attempt to catch the runner off the base. If the catcher fakes a throw the runner(s) may not advance.
 - c.) If no pick off attempt is made, the base runner must immediately return to the base.
 - d.) Runners who leave the base before the pitch is released will be "out."
17. Courtesy runners will be permitted to run the bases for injured players. ***Prior to the start of the game both team captains must notify each other of which players will need a courtesy runner. If an injury occurs during the game both teams will be aware of it and courtesy runners will be permitted to run for those players injured during the course of the game.*** The courtesy runner must be the player who made the last out.
18. A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings. Games that are suspended (rain, lightning, darkness, etc.) before 5 innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning) have been completed will be rescheduled and played from the beginning. A suspended game shall be considered regulation if 5 (4 ½ if the home team is winning) or more complete innings have been played. Games that are regulation tie games shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.

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19. **6-Run-Rule.** SIX RUNS IS THE MAXIMUM RUNS PER INNING. The fielding team is automatically up to bat after the sixth run has scored. ***(The 6 run rule does not apply in the last inning; in the last inning both teams can score as many runs as they can). Does not apply in Semi-Finals and Finals.***
20. **10-Run-Rule:** if after 5 innings (or 4 1/2 if the home team is winning) one team is ahead by 10 or more runs the game is over. Also applies for playoff games.
21. Once an inning has started it must be completed. The home team will always have their opportunity to bat. Exception: when the home team is up to bat and is leading in runs after 6 ½ innings.
22. **Rain Cancellations: Please call the DARC/Weather Line @ 610-269-6540 if you question whether or not games are still on. Decisions on rainy days will be made by 3:30PM on weekdays and 10:30AM on weekends by the recreation office. (Please no phone calls before then.)** Please call for possible cancellations regardless of the present weather conditions. It is your responsibility to call, we will not always be able call you!
23. All rain outs will be rescheduled by the DARC office (when possible). Team captains will be contacted regarding any rescheduled games.
24. **Playoffs**-Single elimination until the finals. Finals will be a best of 3. There will be 1 umpire for the first and second rounds and 2 umpires supplied for both semi-finals and finals. The highest advancing seeds will be the home teams throughout the playoff tournament. Playoff umpires are paid by DARC. **IF YOU FORFEIT A PLAYOFF GAME, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY ALL NECESSARY UMPIRE FEES FOR THAT GAME.**
25. All playoff games must complete a full 7 innings (6 ½ if the home team is winning) unless the 10 run rule applies.
26. Teams making protests must notify the other team captain and umpire at the time of protest. Captain's wishing to protest must notify D.A.R.C. by the close of business on the next business day. There is also a \$25 fee for all protests. If the protest is won, your fee will be refunded; if a protest is lost, your fee will be forfeited. ***Umpire's judgment calls cannot be protested; only rules can be protested.*** All protests will be decided by the A.S.A.
27. **Please write final scores on line up cards and return to umpires at end of the game.** A representative from both the home and away teams must call in the final scores by noon of the following business day. Leave your name, team name, telephone number and scores on the DARC Office answering machine @ **610-269-9260 or e-mail darc@kennett.net.** Please get into the habit of reporting your scores ASAP.
28. It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that the fields are left in clean condition.
29. No drugs or alcoholic beverages are permitted on the fields at any time. If you are caught you will be turned in to the proper authorities and be suspended from the league with no refund.
30. Please read and abide by the player conduct code. By registering your team in the league both you and your team are ensuring that you have read this and will abide by this guideline.

Please sign and date to verify that you and your team have read/understand/and will abide by the above rules. Return one to DARC & keep a copy for yourself & team.

X _____

Date: _____



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D.A.R.C. PLAYER CONDUCT CODE

Players, coaches, managers, or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, officials, or spectators or commit other acts (e.g. profane or abusive language, taunting, etc.) that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. Hostile behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Any player, manager or coach who is ejected from a game for any of the above offenses must leave the playing area immediately. The DARC Ejection Policy for all league participants will be as follows:

1st Offense: If any player, manager, or coach is ejected from a game he/she will be suspended for one game. He/she must leave the playing area immediately and will not be permitted to participate in the next game.

2nd Offense: The second infraction will result in a suspension of two (2) games and he/she will not be permitted to participate in any playoff or championship games.

3rd Offense: The third infraction will result in the player, manager, or coach being permanently dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season without refund. He/she will not be permitted to participate in any DARC leagues for one year from the date of the third infraction.

Threats of any kind, either to a player or officials will result in a minimum two (2) year league suspension. This is a serious violation and the local authorities will be notified. Further action will be taken for any physical contact or incidents which may warrant additional suspension or discipline.

By registering your team for this season, you and your teammates understand and will abide by the guidelines listed above. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this information.