ISSAQUAH PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
JACK 'n' JILL SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL RULES – 2016

The Issaquah Parks & Recreation Department Jack 'n' Jill Slowpitch League will abide by USSSA rules with the exception of the following:

1. AGE LIMIT – Participants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

2. Team rosters must be completed with player's name, phone number, date of birth and signature. Rosters must be on file with the Issaquah Parks & Recreation Department no later than the second (2nd) game. Players may be added to the roster no later than the fourth (4th) game. Added players must fill out a "Player Addition Form." Player's must be able to provide a driver's license to verify eligibility.

3. Emergency Replacement Clause: In the event a team loses a player by legitimate reasons such as permanent injury or work transfer, a team may petition the League Director for a replacement. This ruling applies only if the team is unable to field a ten (10) person team for play. Added players must not be on a registered team. The decision for replacement will be solely on the judgment of the League Director.

4. NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED.

5. GAME BALL: Men's 12" ball. Teams are responsible for providing one game ball per game. Ball does not have to be new, but must be in good condition. If a team tries to use a non-USSSA sanctioned softball, they may be subject to forfeiture.

6. Home team is designated as the official scorer. Home team will be determined by a coin toss or a team starting with seven (7) players will automatically be the Visiting team. The Visiting team shall be responsible for verifying the score after each half inning.
   WINNING TEAM MUST CALL IN OR E-MAIL SCORES TO CJ STANFORD AT 425-837-3388 OR cjs@issaquahwa.gov THE FOLLOWING DAY OR LOSSES WILL BE RECORDED FOR BOTH TEAMS.

7. A full starting team shall consist of ten (10) players – **five (5) men / five (5) women.** A team may start and finish a game with a minimum of eight (8) players – **four (4) men / four (4) women - no exceptions**. If a team has nine (9) players, the ninth player, male or female, cannot play in the field but can be in the batting order as long as every batter is alternated male / female, unless otherwise agreed upon by the opposing coach.

8. A team may start a game with seven (7) players as the visiting team (batting first), but must be able to field eight (8) players when their team is to take the field.

9. Males and females must alternate when playing in the field. Infield and outfield positions are separate rotations. For example, if a male plays 1st base, rotation must be M – 1st base, F – 2nd base, M – short stop, F – 3rd base. Outfield must be M – left field, F – left center, M – right center, F – right field or vice versa. If the pitcher is a male the catcher must be female and vice versa.

10. Men and women must alternate in the batting order, even if a team is shorthanded. There are no "automatic outs."

11. **MEN MUST USE A 28" USSSA APPROVED SOFTBALL BAT – TEAMS SUPPLY THE BAT.** 28" bats must be an approved USSSA softball bat. No modified bats will be accepted. Use of a modified bat will constitute a forfeit on behalf of the team using it. Forfeits will be recorded for every game the bat was used. Issaquah Parks & Recreation's bat rule is consistent with USSSA WA. Rules. If there is a question about a bat, the bat must be approved by the umpire. All bats must be approved by USSSA.

12. A team may bat all members of their team. This must be stated prior to the start of the game to the opposing coach and umpire. The batting order must remain the same the entire game.

13. If a team chooses to bat through their entire roster, they may substitute freely with no re-entry restrictions.

14. If a team is only batting ten (10) players, any player that starts a game may be re-entered into the game once but must retain their original spot in the batting order.

15. Managers may substitute players without limit throughout the game. A player who is substituted for must stay out of the game at least one full inning.

16. Courtesy Runners are permitted for injured players. Runner must be the last, same-sex player out.

17. All teams will abide by a 3/2 count. Batter walks on 3 balls and is out on 2 strikes.

18. 2nd Strike Ruling: Batter is out if they hit a second foul ball after 1st strike, then the ball is dead.

19. WALKS – If a male takes three (3) balls in a row without any strikes thrown, he is awarded 1st and 2nd base. The female up to bat next has the option to bat or go to 1st base on a walk. If a strike is thrown and the male still walks, it will be treated as a regular walk – the male takes 1st and the female up to bat next must bat. If a female takes three (3) balls in a row, she is awarded 1st base only and the male up next must bat.

20. BASE RUNNING & FIELDING – if a fielder is trying to make a play on the ball whether it's a fly ball, grounder or a throw – the base runner must do his/her best to get out of the way and avoid a collision. If the fielder does not have a play on the ball, he/she must move out of the base path.

21. There is no "down and out" rule in USSSA. If there is an opportunity for a double play and the thrower has to alter his/her throw – it's a judgment call by the umpire on whether or not it is interference and a possible double play.

22. If teams are separated by fifteen (15) runs or more and have played five (innings) or more, the game will be officially over.

23. Any ball hit over the fence is a home run. Balls that bounce over the fence will be a ground rule double. There are unlimited home runs.

24. TIME LIMIT – NO league game shall last more than one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes. No new inning shall begin after one (1) hour and five (5) minutes from the scheduled start of the game. Any inning started will be played to completion. All league games shall be complete when played under this time limit regardless of the number of innings played.

25. Extra innings will not be permitted for games ending in a tie if the time limit has passed. If the one (1) hour and five (5) minute time limit to start a new inning has not been exceeded, and the game is tied after 7 innings, the USSSA "International Tie Breaker Rule" will be used to determine the winner. The game will end in a tie if the score is even after the first inning of the tie breaker if the time limit has exceeded. *Tie Breaker Rule:* The player that makes the last out of the previous inning will be placed on second base for the start of the inning. The game will then proceed under the normal rules governing the league. If the last out of the previous inning is unable to take a position on second base, he/she will be done for the remainder of the game and the next to last out will be placed on second base. If a team has a member on its roster that has not played in the game in progress, a substitution may be made. Each team will be allowed three outs each time at bat.

26. Issaquah Parks & Recreation Slowpitch Softball Leagues will use USSSA Umpires. All games umpired by a USSSA umpire will be considered an official contest. If no umpire is present and teams elect to play, the results are not official.

27. Forfeits:
    a. All games will have a ten (10) minute grace period. If a team cannot provide enough players to begin a game after the ten (10) minute grace period the game will be officially forfeited.
    b. In the event that both teams have only seven (7) players, the game will be considered a double forfeit.
    c. Forfeits will be recorded as 15-0 with the league.
    d. A fee of $35 will be charged for forfeited games.

28. Protests:
    a. Protests of a game must be declared by the team manager to the umpire and opposing manager immediately after the protest incident. The umpire must have stopped play and circled the incident in question in the scorebook and signed it. In the event that an umpire refuses to sign the book, the other coach should sign to verify the protest. A protest cannot be made on a judgment situation.

b. Protests must be made in writing and delivered to the League Director by 5:00 PM the day following the game. Protests must be accompanied by a $25 protest fee, which will be refunded if the protest is allowed, otherwise it will be deposited into the league treasury.
c. The League Protest Chairperson will be in charge of conducting protest meetings.
d. If the protest is over a league rule, no protest fee is needed.

29. Unsportsmanlike Conduct shall include, but is not solely limited to:
    a. Use of Profanity
    b. Intentional misuses of equipment
    c. Anything observed by any coach in which they see as being poor conduct.

    If such an occurrence happens, it shall fall under protest, which shall be submitted to the Protest Committee. If the Protest Committee determines that a problem exists, the following guidelines shall apply:
    a. **First Occurrence –** written warning to coach and player.
    b. **Second Occurrence** – person involved will be suspended for two (2) games.
    c. **Third Occurrence –** person involved will be suspended for remainder of season.

30. Ejection from Game – if a player is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, he/she will receive a one (1) game suspension. This will occur when the League Director receives a written Player Ejection Report from the Umpire's Association. Upon receiving this notification, the League Director will immediately notify the team manager of the suspension. Second ejection in a season will be a three (3) game suspension. The League Director will set penalty for any continual problem.

31. Any player, coach, sponsor or team manager provoking a fight or physically assaults an umpire will be banned from playing or participating in Issaquah Parks & Recreation Slowpitch Softball Leagues or tournaments for a period of two (2) years, effective from the Parks & Recreation's date of ruling.

32. Criteria regarding ties in league play and playoffs determination is based off of:

    1. Winning Percentage
    2. Head-To-Head
    3. Head-To-Head Differential
    4. Total Runs Against
    5. Coin Toss

33. Issaquah School District and Issaquah Parks & Recreation Department rules shall be enforced:
    DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED ON OR AROUND THE PLAYING FIELD OR PARKING LOTS. ANY PLAYER OR TEAM CAUGHT DRINKING ON OR AROUND THE FIELD SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION FOR ONE (1) GAME.

    SMOKING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED ON THE PLAYING FIELD OR IN THE DUGOUTS.

    The League Director may impose suspensions as deemed necessary to solve the problem.

34. Division Mobility – Division winners and bottom teams of each division have the possibility of moving to a higher caliber division, staying in the existing division, or moving to a lower caliber division, depending on the team's circumstances. Judgment of a team's classification will be made solely by the League Director.

    BASIC CRITERIA:
    a. A team must have 51% of their last year's roster to be considered as an established team.
    b. New teams may petition the League Director to get into the Issaquah League. This will be accomplished by the team calling the League Director and explaining their intent. The League Director will prioritize new teams on a first come, first served basis.
    c. Final decision in all league entries will be made within five (5) days after the official fee due date.

NOTE: The team manager is responsible for educating each umpire at the start of each game of the Issaquah Parks & Recreation Slowpitch Softball Rules. Issaquah Parks & Recreation League Rules supersede USSSA rules, but umpires need notification of our rules. Rules agreed to before each game with both coaches and umpire will be upheld during the game. Please keep a copy of the league rules with your team during all games.

QUICK CHECK for COACHES & UMPIRES

- Issaquah Parks & Recreation Jack 'n' Jill League specific rules
- Player placement in the field (alternate male / female)
- 15 Run Rule
- Courtesy Runner Ruling
- Batting Order (alternate male / female)
- Home Run Ruling
- Walks
- Forfeit Criteria
- Unsportsmanlike Conduct
- Number of Foul Balls Allowed

LEAGUE DIRECTOR – CJ STANFORD – 425-837-3388 or cjs@issaquahwa.gov
RAIN-OUT LINE – 425-837-3326 - Rain-out line will be updated at 3:30PM.
FIELD SCHEDULING OFFICE – 425-837-3303.