



# **MALTA PARKS & REC. CO-ED** **SOFTBALL RULES**



## **LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

- **The idea of Malta Parks & Rec. Softball League is to have fun! We hope that all participants keep that in mind when becoming involved. Although the games may become intense, you still can be competitive while maintaining good sportsmanship. With this said, any behavior deemed unacceptable by Malta Parks & Rec. Directors or softball league umpires may result in suspension and/or ejection from a game or the league.**
- Co-ed softball league age is 16 years and older.
- All players must fill out a participant waiver, and be on a team roster before playing unless they are placed on the sub list. A sub list will be available if a team does not have enough players to fill their team roster for one of their games.
- Each team roster must consist of a minimum of 10 and no more than 16 players. All teams play in the end-of-league single elimination tournament, (teams that have not abused any policies are eligible). Tournament rosters must be complete by the fourth week of regular play. (Players will only be added after the fourth week for the purposes of a substitution due to an injury or other extreme circumstances as deemed acceptable by Malta Parks & Rec. Directors.) If a player is not on the roster, they will NOT PLAY.
- All teams must pay the league fee before playing their first game.
- A player may play for only one team within this league unless they are placed on the sub list. A sub list will be available if a team does not have enough players to fill their team roster for one of their games.
- Home Team is listed first on the schedule and gets first pick on dugouts.
- Uniforms and helmets are NOT required for league play.
- No metal spikes or metal cleats will be permitted.
- Softball bats must be used-not to exceed 1.20 BPF. No baseball bats are to be used at any time.
- Zero Tolerance for profanity, taunting, and “trash talking”. Any player may be ejected after the use of such.
- The umpire’s decisions are FINAL!
- Rainout games will be determined by Malta Parks & Rec. and rescheduled if possible.

## **PLAYING RULES**

- 10 people in the field, minimum 5 women.
- If only 4 women are playing, the 5th woman will be an out when it is her turn in the batting order. 8 players of the correct gender minimum to start a game (at least 4 women).
- Teams can play with an odd number of players as long as there is one more female. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 16 players. Teams may bat all players on their team for each game (16 max may play per game).

- Automatic out(s): Teams must take one automatic out in their batting order when having 9 players and two automatic outs in their batting order when having 8 players.
- Malta Park & Rec. will keep the official scorebook. Teams have an obligation to check the scorebook after each half inning to verify the score.
- Turn in your Line-up Card to the scorekeeper at least 15 minutes prior to game time. Line-up Card is to include players' first & last name, shirt number (if available), annotation of first time players, and all substitutes who may play that game. Only players listed on the original line-up card can start the game, or be used as a substitute in the game (no exceptions).
- Each team shall have one captain, and the captain will be responsible for the team, and filling out the team's batting order in the official scorebook.
- Game balls and umpires will be furnished by Malta Parks & Rec. The umpires will have the game balls. Approved softballs must be factory stamped ASA, USSSA, or NSA licensed trademark for slow pitch league play. 12" softball will be used.
- Game length is 55 minutes. Should a team not have enough players to start a game, the clock will start and that team has until 45 minutes left on the game clock to field the minimum number of players. The final score after 7 innings will constitute the winner. Please substitute as often as possible so that everyone gets to play.
- Mercy Rule—A game is complete when a team is leading by 20 runs after 3 innings  
A game is complete when a team is leading by 15 runs after 4 innings  
A game is complete when a team is leading by 10 runs after 5 innings
- Slow-pitch heights are 6' minimum and 10' maximum from ground level.
- Players must avoid collisions whenever possible. Deliberately causing a collision will be grounds for immediate ejection.
- No protests. All will be settled on the field.
- In the event of a tie score at the end of the 7th inning, extra full innings shall commence until a winner is determined.

### **ALCOHOL RULE**

- There will be no alcohol allowed on the playing field at any time.
- The Malta Parks & Rec. Directors and softball umpires have the authority to remove any player(s) from the field whose overindulgence of alcohol may cause injury to themselves, other players or spectators.
- Absolutely no underage drinking will be allowed!  
PENALTY: Individual is ejected from the league; automatic team suspension from the current game being played or upcoming game, and an incident report will be filed with the police.

### **DEFENSIVE/FIELDING RULES**

- A minimum of 5 women must be on the field. You may have more women than men but never more men than women in the field. Pitcher/Catcher must be of opposite gender, one man and one woman.
- Minimum of 2 men and 2 women in infield (between 1B, 2B, SS, 3B positions) and outfield at all times unless more women than men are being used.
- 4 outfielders must start from the outfield grass for all batters until the pitch is hit.
- Teams may substitute freely on defense each inning.

- Hog Rule: Players must play within the boundaries of their position. If a fielder intentionally intercedes for another player, ready to accept a thrown or batted ball, then the umpire will announce “hog rule” and the offensive player will be called safe and all base runners will advance one base from their position at the pitch. This rule does not affect normal position backups or field strategies.

For Example: “The pitcher runs in front of the catcher and fields the throw coming home.” This is the Hog Rule and is not allowed.

### **OFFENSIVE/AT-BAT RULES**

- Offensive team must alternate batting line-up according to gender.
- All team players must bat in the same order unless a proper substitution is communicated with the official book. A female may only substitute for a female in the batting order, a male for a male. Players may only re-enter in the same spot in the order.
- No bunting allowed.
- No base stealing is allowed.
- No lead-offs. Base runner cannot leave base until ball is hit.
- Automatic walk rule applies to league play. If the male walks, (intentional or unintentional), it is an automatic one-base walk. The next female has the option to hit or walk. Once a female enters the batter’s box, she must hit.
- Each batter will start with a 0-0 count.
- A foul ball after 2 strikes is an out.
- All players present in the dugout for the team can bat. Everyone gets the opportunity to bat regardless if you have played the field yet or not.
- Each team is permitted a maximum of 5 “over the fence” home runs per game. Any homerun exceeding 5 will count as an OUT against the batter.
- Sliding at home plate and 1st base will not be permitted. Sliding IS permitted at the other two bases. Please keep it safe!
- Courtesy runners (for injured players only,) are permitted but only once per inning (unless multiple injuries). The courtesy runner must be of the same gender and the most recent batter who made an out. You are not permitted to choose your courtesy runners.

