

2016 Grand Forks League Rules

Note: Any of these rules of the Grand Forks Softball Association that vary from the ASA rulebook are for use in Grand Forks league play only. They do not apply in any State or Invitational Tournaments.

Local League Rules:

1. Teams must have eight rostered players present to begin a game. A ninth and/or tenth player may enter the game immediately upon arrival but must assume the last spot in the batting order. Any other players arriving later may be used as substitutes but cannot be added to the starting lineup.

If the team is playing with eight players and a ninth and/or tenth player has not arrived, an out will be taken - **every time through the batting order until a ninth player arrives.** If a team playing with nine players reaches the tenth spot in the batting order and a tenth player has not arrived, an out will be taken - **but only the first time through the batting order in any given game.** There is no penalty if a tenth player shows up before the tenth spot in the order is due to bat.

2. Managers will use regular ASA rules when filling out their starting lineup. Subs cannot enter the game without being on the lineup card; however subs will be allowed to be put on the lineup card after the beginning of the game.

3. Due to injury, a team may go down to nine players without penalty. No outs will be declared. However, if a team goes down below the number of players it has in the starting lineup at the beginning of the game for any other reason (ejection, illegal player, etc.) and has no available rostered substitute, a forfeit will be awarded to the opposing team.

4. All games have an hour and fifteen minute time limit. Innings that are started will be completed but no inning will begin after the time limit has expired. The umpire will notify teams at the start of an inning if it will be the last inning of the game. Tie games will be completed.

5. Forfeit time is fifteen minutes after the scheduled starting time for the first game of a doubleheader. The second game would be forfeited fifteen minutes following that. In other words, if a doubleheader is scheduled to begin at 6:30pm,

and a team cannot field the required number of players, the first game would be a forfeit at 6:45 and the second game would be a forfeit at 7:00.

6. The second game of a doubleheader will begin within ten minutes following the completion of the first game.

7. Any game that begins but has to be stopped for any reason before it can be declared an official game (four and a half or five innings) will be continued **from that exact point in the game** on the designated makeup night.

8. Our leagues use the ASA Rules: 20 run rule after 3, 15 run rule after 4, 10 run rule after 5.

9. We will use the 3-2 count. No courtesy foul.

10. If a team forfeits due to a no show, that team will automatically forfeit the next scheduled game, unless notification was made to the Commissioner **24 hours in advance**.

11. Home runs allowed will be a 2+ one up system.

Defined as: After both teams utilized both home runs allotted, they will each be afforded one more home run than the other team until they reach a total of 6 home runs.

Each team will be responsible for collecting their home run balls. **The time limit allotted for the ball game will not be extended due to a pause in play resulting from the retrieval of the home run balls.**

Important Notes:

1. The Casual Profanity rule will be enforced. This is a judgment call by the umpire and should not be contested by players or managers.

2. Smoking is not permitted in the dugout area, on the field of play, or within 20 feet of any building.

3. The use of alcoholic beverages on the field or within the dugout area is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this rule could cause ejection and possible suspension of the player(s) and/or manager.

NOTE: Alcohol may be consumed responsibly at Ulland Park by those of legal drinking age. Underage drinking will not be tolerated!! Managers and players need to be responsible concerning this matter. No glass containers are allowed at Ulland Park.

4. Benches may not be removed from the dugout area.

5. Ulland Park closes at 11:00pm. This includes the parking lot areas. The only exception would be if a late game lasts beyond 11:00pm. In this case, Ulland will close ten minutes after the final game is completed. On nights where the use of lighting equipment is warranted, the lights will be turned off fifteen minutes following the completion of the game(s).

6. Any protests will be handled at the time of occurrence. Play will not continue until the problem has been resolved. Judgment calls by the umpire cannot be protested. Players, managers, and fans are reminded to respect the calls of the officials.

7. Pets must be kept on a short leash at all times. Owners are responsible for their pet's behavior and any necessary cleanup.

8. **Any player found using an illegal bat would be called out and also ejected from the game!!** Players and managers are responsible for knowing which bats are legal or illegal according to both ASA and NDASA standards. The safety of our players is of utmost importance. All bats will require the orange ASA sticker, along with a GF Softball Association, which will be placed on the bat following a passed compression testing by our unit. **IF a player is caught using a bat that does not have both stickers on the bat, he/she will be ejected from the game!!!!**

9. No unauthorized vehicles are allowed beyond the designated parking lots at Ulland Park. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!** This rule applies to **everyone** on a yearlong basis and includes the times before, during, and after games or practices. Anyone who would like authorization to bring a vehicle up beyond the parking lot for any special reason needs to have the request granted beforehand. Please check with the office personnel.

10. Managers are responsible for their teams and their fans. Non compliance with the rules of the Softball Association or the Park Board are means for ejection or removal.

Illegal Players:

1. Any player who takes a position in the lineup who does not have a legal right to that position. See definition pg 53 (Rule 4, Sec 6, Para F) of the Official 2013 ASA Rule Book.
2. Once the umpire has been informed (by Protest / Roster Challenge), the illegal player shall be disqualified, and can be legally replaced either by a substitute or a starter who re-enters the game.
3. Managers must carry a copy of their current roster with them.
4. Players must **always** carry photo identification with them. If roster checked, any unidentified players will be allotted 10 minutes to present valid identification. Otherwise that player will be considered ineligible and the player/team will be subject to discipline.

Ineligible Players

1. A Player that does not meet the requirements of the ASA Code.
2. If a team is found to have an ineligible player, the manager and the player will be suspended for one calendar year from the time of the GFSA Board's decision.
3. The team that the ineligible player played on will forfeit the game(s) in which he or she participated.
3. Any protest concerning an ineligible player must be made before the end of the game, but preferably at the beginning of the game.

Ejections/Suspensions:

Note: The manager is required to report to the office immediately upon completion of the game to fill out the ejection form if one of their players is ejected. If in the event the manager is ejected, then his designee shall report to the office.

1. When a player is ejected from a game, that player is suspended from playing in the next game his or her team plays, and will be considered an ineligible player for that game.
2. A player who is ejected in the last league game before the state tournament must sit out the first game of the state tournament.
3. If a player is ejected for a second time during the season, that player is suspended for the next two games.
4. If a player is ejected for a third time, he/she is suspended for the remainder of the season.
5. Unsportsmanlike conduct will always be cause for ejection and/or suspension. Length of the suspension will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the GFSA.
6. If a player or manager continues to display unsportsmanlike behavior after being ejected or suspended, further sanctions including possible suspension for the remainder of the year could be imposed.

Invitational and State Tournaments:

1. The deadline for entering a team in an Invitational Tournament in Grand Forks is the **Monday** before the tournament. Any entries received after Monday at 5pm will be considered, but not guaranteed.
2. Tournament entry fee for a North Dakota tournament will be a money entry fee only.
3. **Tournament Rainouts:** If a team has completed one official game and the tournament is rained out, they will be refunded 50% of their entry fee. If a team completes two or more official games, there will be no refund.
4. All teams are eligible for entry into State Tournaments by paying the required entry fee. Teams must have their fee into the GFSA Commissioner by the deadline date. See the local softball website (grandforkssoftball.com) for this year's deadline.

5. Teams entering or withdrawing from a State Tournament must notify the GFSA Commissioner before the state classification meeting.

- Teams entering after the deadline will be placed on a waiting list established by the GFSA Commissioner with no guarantee of being accepted by the state.
- Teams withdrawing after that deadline will not have their entry fee refunded by the state.

Check the website for deadline dates!

Managers - please make sure before you enter your team in a State Tournament that you intend to play. Try to get firm commitments from your players. This will help avoid problems down the road.

Awards:

League Champions will be the team with the best record at the completion of the season

If there is a tie upon completion of the season, the following guidelines will be used to determine the league champion:

- A. Head to Head
- B. One game playoff (if split)
- C. Mini Tournament for 3 or more tied teams

Injuries and Insurance:

1. The Grand Forks Park District and the Grand Forks Softball Association and it's employees cannot be held liable for injuries incurred while on the grounds at Ulland Park. All teams are encouraged to carry some sort of medical and liability insurance.

REMEMBER TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE OFTEN FOR ALL IMPORTANT G.F.S.A. INFORMATION:

<http://grandforkssoftballassociation.com/>

Friend us on Facebook: Grand Forks Softball Association

