

Fall Softball League



Princeton Park District

Bureau County Metro Center

837 Park Avenue West

Princeton, IL 61356

(815) 872 – 0840

www.princetonparkdistrict.org

Welcome

On behalf of the Princeton Park District, I would like to welcome you to the 2026 Fall Softball League. We want to provide a league where participants can compete and have fun in a safe and respectful environment. We have set rules in place to ensure that the league is safe, players show respect, show sportsmanship, and fun is the top priority. These rules are in place for the overall good of the league. Please read the rules and pass them onto your teammates.

At the conclusion of games, please show respect to the umpires and opposing team by shaking hands. Good Luck on your upcoming season.

Brett Renner-Recreation Supervisor

General Information

Location: West Side Ball Park, Princeton Illinois

Ages: High School & Up

Days: Mondays

Dates: Begins Monday, August 24th

Time: Games Begin at 6p.m.

Fee: \$395 per team

Rules & By-Laws

- I. Rosters:
 - A. League play is open to all players, high school aged and over.
 - B. Roster moves may be made at any point throughout the regular season. You must play in 5 regular season games, for one team, in order to play in the tournament with that team. **(Refer to Tournament Rule v.)**
- II. Fees:
 - A. Each team must pay \$395 to the Princeton Park District. Fee must be paid IN FULL at the time of registration.
- III. League Play/Rules:
 - A. Games will start with a coin toss between the captains to determine who will be the home team.
 - B. Each player will sign a liability waiver, before every game. **If you don't sign, you don't play.**
 - C. A team may start with 8 players; any less than 8 players will constitute a forfeit. **A forfeit will be in effect 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time if a team has less than 8 players.** - If a 9th or 10th player shows up, that player may take their position in the field immediately, but they must bat in the lowest batting position possible.
 - D. If a team bats with less than 9 players, each player they are short, will be scored as an out as they come to that batter's spot in the batting order.
 - E. There will be no contact on the base paths. Slide on a close play, to avoid injuries!
- IV. The Game:
 - A. A game will consist of 7 innings.
 - B. No new inning will begin after one hour from the scheduled start of the game, unless the game is tied.
 - C. A 10-run rule is in effect after 5 innings. 15-run rule, after 4 innings.
 - D. In the case of bad weather - 5 **complete** innings will be considered an official game.
 - E. Balls hitting trees, branches, or poles above the fence are HR's. Balls hitting poles below the fence are LIVE balls. Balls hitting the scoreboard are LIVE in play.
- V. Batting:
 - A. Batters will start with a 1 – 1 count.
 - B. When there is a 2-strike count, a foul ball results in an out.
 - C. Bunting is **prohibited** – GROW UP!

- VI. Pitching:
- A. The pitch is unlimited arch. A plate and mat will be used to determine balls and strikes.
 - B. Flat pitches will be called by the umpire if the pitch is lower than the batter's head. If the batter does not swing, it is called an illegal pitch. The result of an illegal pitch is a ball, unless the batter swings, in which case the play is live.
- VII. Forfeits:
- A. Teams will be given **10 minutes** after the scheduled game time to produce **8 players**.
 - B. Eight players must be present to field a team at all times.
 - C. A forfeit will be scored 7 – 0.
 - D. **All scheduled games are final. NO special accommodations will be made, if a team doesn't show for their scheduled game they will forfeit.**
- VIII. Protest:
- A. All umpire's calls and judgments will be final. **Rule interpretations should only be discussed by the team captain.**
- IX. Captains:
- A. Team captains will be responsible for turning in roster/waiver sheets.
 - B. Only team captains will be allowed to talk to the umpire on disputes.
 - C. Team captains will be responsible for passing along any information given by the Park District to team members.
 - D. Team captains will be responsible for the conduct of their team; before, during, and after each game.
- X. Umpires
- A. There will be one umpire provided for each game.
 - B. The umpire will have the authority to eject from the premises any player, alternate player, or spectator who interferes with the orderly progress of the game. Verbal abuse before, during, or after the game, as perceived by the umpire as being in excess, threatening, or unsportsmanlike will result in expulsion from the current game. If the game is over, the player will be expelled from the next game. If the player has been expelled from a game and continues the verbal abuse, he/she will be expelled for the entire season.
 - C. If a player goes further than unsportsmanlike conduct and abuses the Park District Property, The Umpire, Or any other Persons or Property, the authorities will be contacted and that person will be removed and charged accordingly.

XI: Equipment

A. **ASA** bats are the only bats that will be used in the Princeton Park District Softball League. All bats must have an ASA certified sticker or marking on them. If a bat is listed on the ASA's non-approved bat list, the bat may not be used. **Furthermore, if it is found that a non-approved bat is being used, that game will be forfeited by the team using the illegal bat.**

B. 12" .52 COR/300lbs. Compression Softballs will be provided by the Princeton Park District.

C. All players must have a shirt, shorts/pants and shoes on at all times.

XII. Other

A. Players who bring small children to the games must see that the children are supervised.

B. **No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on Park District property.** This is a City ordinance.

C. All official schedules and schedule corrections will be located on line at: princetonparkdistrict.org

D. The PPD has the right to revise the league rules at any time.

Tournament

- i. Double Elimination Tournament Format.
- ii. Standings are kept by games won and lost.
- iii. Standings will be used to determine seeding for the post-season tournament.
- iv. Tie breakers will be determined, **first**, by head to head competition. If head to head results do not determine the higher seed, the winner of the second game played in head-to-head competition will determine the higher seed.
- v. **Players must play in 4 regular season league games, with one team, to participate in the tournament. You must play all 4 games with the team you are playing with in the tournament.**
- vi. Seeding from regular season will dictate first round tournament matchups. If a top seed ends up in the loser bracket, a coin flip will determine home team.