

2023 Adult Softball Leagues

INTRODUCTION

All Orion Township Parks & Recreation Adult Softball Leagues are governed by USA Softball. The Orion Township Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to rule and make recommendations on all matters relating to the softball league, which is deemed beneficial to the league and its participants. Our leagues are available to all residents and non-residents alike. The purpose of this book is to simplify and provide easy access to the basic rules. Space is also provided for important team information. For better softball, please read and use this booklet.

RAIN CANCELATIONS available on Facebook (Orion Township Parks & Recreation) and Cancellations.com.

Orion Township
Parks & Recreation
(Rules revised 4/8/19)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

1. DEFINITION OF RETURNING TEAM

- a. Any team that participates in either the summer or fall season of the previous year.
- b. The team roster must include at least **one third** of the players listed on your previous season roster.
- c. A returning team may have a different manager only if the previous manager passes the title and responsibility onto another player.
 - i. A team no longer qualifies for returning team status if the previous manager transfers to another team within the same league without designating a replacement manager.
- d. League openings will not be reserved for returning teams after open registration begins.

2. RETURN OF FORFEIT DEPOSIT

- a. Forfeit deposit will be refunded on a prorated basis as follows:
 - i. 0 Forfeits - \$100 refund
 - ii. 1 Forfeit - \$50 refund
 - iii. 2 or more Forfeits - \$0 refund
- b. Upon completion of the last regular season game, the Charter Township of Orion will mail a refund check to the payer of the deposit.
 - i. If your sponsor pays your forfeit deposit, then the refund check will be made payable and mailed to your sponsor.

3. PAYMENT must be paid in full before first game, unless other arrangements have been made with the Parks & Recreation Department.

- a. Failure to do so will result in the team suspended from further play until all fees are paid.

ROSTER REQUIREMENTS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. All players must have complete information and original signature on both the team roster and waiver form on file in the Parks & Recreation Department.

2. All players must be 18 years of age or older in order to participate in any league.

3. ROSTER LIMITS: Minimum of 12 players. Maximum of 20 (includes substitutes).

4. Player add/delete deadline: No further roster changes allowed after the 3rd completed regular season game. (Deadline for 2022 summer season is May 27; Fall season is August 12.)

5. ADDING PLAYERS

- a. All players must sign the official team roster and the waiver of liability form prior to participating in any game. Information must be filled out completely and legibly in order for a player to be legal.

- b. Actual signatures on the roster/waiver forms are required to be on file at the Parks & Recreation Office no later than the add/delete deadline. Office is located in the Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn Rd. Lake Orion MI 48360
- c. Parks & Recreation office hours are Mon – Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended Hours on Mon & Thu, 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- d. E-mail jhayes@oriontownship.org

6. A player may be on the roster of only one team per league, but may play in as many leagues as desired within the guidelines of player classification restrictions.

7. Players must participate in a minimum of 4 games to be eligible for the playoffs.

8. Manager's complete information including email address is mandatory. Most league communication will be done via email whenever possible to streamline communication.

9. RESIDENT VS NON-RESIDENT PLAYER

a. A Resident player must either reside in Orion Township or Lake Orion or maintain full-time employment with an Orion business for at least 6 months. The burden of proof lies with each player.

b. Residency can be proven with any of the following documentation:

1. Copy of a driver's license.
2. Copy of a tax or utility bill listing the player as the homeowner or primary account holder.
3. A letter of employment from the Human Resources Department stating that the player has maintained full-time employment for at least 6 months.

INJURED PLAYERS

a. May be permanently replaced on a roster anytime during regular season IF the injury prevents any further play during the season.

b. Injured player must present a doctor's note to the Parks & Recreation Office or the injury must be one that can be visibly seen by the League Director.

c. Once a player has been replaced due to injury, he/she cannot be returned to the roster for any reason during the season.

d. NO REPLACEMENT FOR AN INJURED PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE PLAYOFFS.

UMPIRE FEES

1. \$20 per team per game paid in cash at the field. (Please keep in mind that doubleheaders are played once a week. Therefore, \$40 per team is required to cover umpire fees for both games each night of play).

2. If the umpire is not present at scheduled game time, game will begin when the umpire arrives. All umpire fees will be paid at that time. If an umpire does not show, we will reschedule the game on another game night with no umpire fees to be paid.

LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY

1. All leagues are recreational leagues.
2. Eligibility for returning teams is based on a team's run margin (RUNS FOR divided by RUNS AGAINST) from the previous season. Run margin is calculated using only regular season stats. Playoff stats are not included. Returning teams will be categorized as follows:
 - a. Run margin of 163% or lower – Team eligible for the season
 - b. Run margin of 164% - 200% - No more than ½ of the previous season roster
3. A Team may be disqualified from participation in all leagues for at least two calendar years IF they:
 - a. Finish the regular season with a run margin of 201% or higher, OR
 - b. Finish the regular season winning more than 30% of games played by mercy
 - c. EXCEPTION: The team may return if space is available in the league and the team roster includes less than 1/3 of the players listed on their previous roster.

SCHEDULING

1. ALL SCHEDULED GAMES ARE FINAL.
2. Orion Township Parks & Recreation reserves the right to reschedule a game if the field is needed for a benefit game, tournament, or other unforeseeable reason.
3. No games to be scheduled or played on Memorial Day, 4th of July, or Labor Day.
4. Updated schedules and standings will be made available to all team members by visiting **Quickscores.com/orion**
5. All teams are guaranteed 14 games, but Orion Township cannot control the weather. Orion Township reserves the right to schedule make up games on a night your team is already playing.

GAME TIMES

Tuesday (Men's Rec) and Wednesday (Coed Rec)

6:20 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:40 p.m., 9:50 p.m.

Doubleheaders are played each night of regular season play. A 6:20 game will always be followed by a 7:30 game and an 8:40 game will always be followed by a 9:50 game.

1. Games are one hour and five minutes (65 minutes) in length. No new inning after 65 minutes has expired.
2. The umpire will announce the official starting time when the game begins. The Visiting Team is responsible for writing the official start time on the scoresheet. IT IS THE MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ASK THE UMPIRE HOW MUCH TIME REMAINS IN A BALL GAME.
3. GAME TIME WILL BE FORFEIT TIME.
 - a. EXCEPTION: A 10-minute grace period will be allowed for the 6:20 PM

game ONLY. If a team is unable to field the minimum number of players by 6:30 PM that team will be issued a forfeit. PLAYERS MUST BE IN THE DUGOUT AND READY TO PLAY.

b. The umpire's watch is the official game time and the 65-minute game time will run during the grace period.

c. If a team forfeits the 6:20 PM game, they have one half hour from the end of the grace period (7:00 PM) to reach the minimum player requirement, or a second forfeit will be issued.

WEATHER

1. Umpire Rainout Policy

a. If a game begins (1 pitch equals beginning a game) the umpire will be paid the number of games played or started.

b. Any game that is not complete and cannot be continued on the same night, umpire fees will again be paid for the make-up game.

c. If an umpire arrives at the site of competition and the game cannot be played due to a last minute change to the field conditions the umpire will be paid a show up fee. The Township will pay the show up fee.

RAIN CANCELATIONS available on Facebook (Orion Township Parks & Recreation) and Cancellations.com.

2. When a game is called due to rain, at least 4 ½ innings (with the home team ahead) must be played for a game to be considered official.

3. Orion Township Parks & Recreation will determine field/game status by 4:30 pm for starting games (6:20 PM). After 4:30 pm the umpire and site supervisor will cooperatively decide field/game status on each individual field.

4. In the event of a rain delay DO NOT ASSUME GAMES WILL BE CANCELED. Online communications will be updated when fields have been closed.

5. If the Oakland County tornado siren goes on signifying a "tornado warning", all games will automatically cease.

6. If lightning is spotted or thunder heard there will be an automatic 30 minute cease of play. If the lightning or thunder has not cleared the area after 30 minutes, the games will be cancelled. If enough innings were played for an "official" game, the score will be final.

MAKE-UP GAMES

1. RAIN MAKE-UPS – Are not guaranteed. The date, time and location of rain make-up games depend entirely on field availability. Playoffs may be postponed for no more than one (1) week to accommodate rain make-ups.

2. If a team is unable to field a team on a certain date, this information must be communicated, in writing, to the Parks & Recreation office within one (1) full business day of their RAINED-OUT DATE. A MAKE-UP SCHEDULE IS FINAL ONCE WRITTEN.

FORFEITS

1. A team that has been forfeited against due to lack of players will receive a game ball and have use of the field for practice. NO PERSONS OTHER THAN TEAM MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO BE ON THE FIELD DURING THIS TIME.

2. PAYMENT HANDLING

- a. Umpire fees for forfeited games will be paid by Orion Township to ensure proper documentation of fees paid.
- b. If a forfeit occurs after a game begins, both teams are responsible for paying their half of the umpire fee. The team forfeited against will not be reimbursed their \$20 umpire fee after a game begins.

3. Teams who forfeit less than 48 hours before scheduled game time, and have used up their \$100 forfeit deposit, must pay the entire \$40 umpire fee plus a \$10 administrative fee, per game, to the Parks & Recreation office. The team will also be suspended from further play until all fees are paid.

4. Teams who forfeit less than 48 hours before scheduled game time have the option to have a player representative meet the umpire at the field and pay the regular umpire fee for both teams. Teams who pay the forfeit umpire fees in person will not be subject to the administrative fee.

4. Any team with two (2) or more forfeits during a season may lose early registration privileges in the following season if decided by the League Coordinator.

5. Forfeit score is 7-0 to be applied to the team's total run tally. Exception: if a team forfeits during a live game, the score up to the cease in play will be recorded, and a win will be awarded to the team forfeited against regardless of the score.

MERCY RULE

1. 15 runs in the 4th; or 12 runs in the 5th. If home team is behind, they must be allowed to bat in the bottom of an inning.

TIE GAMES

1. If the game is tied after the 1 hour and 5 minute time limit, it will be registered as a tie ball game. Extra innings are allowed within the time limit.

SCORE SHEET

1. LAST NAMES, FIRST INITIALS SHOULD BE PRINTED LEGIBLY ON THE OFFICIAL SCORE SHEET. Inaccurate information may weigh heavily against the offending team in the event of a protest. LAST NAMES A MUST!!!

2. Both team managers and the umpire are required to sign the score sheet at the completion of each game. The official score sheet should be turned in to the Site Supervisor immediately following the game.

3. In the event there is a discrepancy in the score, the team manager should request a time-out from the umpire. During the time-out, the umpire shall meet with both team managers to correct any existing errors.

4. Scores will be posted to QuickScores.com/orion within 48 hours of game completion.
5. Once scores have been posted, teams have 24 hours to report any discrepancies to League Coordinator.

SUBSTITUTIONS – ALL LEAGUES

1. Substitutions may be made for any player at any time. The substitute player is not required to be the same gender, but must follow line-up guidelines.
2. RE-ENTRY RULE – Any player in the starting line-up may be withdrawn and reentered ONLY ONCE occupying his/her ORIGINAL BATTING POSITION.

PITCHING RULES

1. The ball must be delivered at a moderate speed underhand – below the hip – with perceptible arch (from the time it leaves the pitcher’s hand) of at least six feet from the ground, before the ball reaches home plate. The pitched ball should not exceed more than *ten* feet at its highest point above the ground.
2. The pitcher shall take a position with at least one foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitching rubber. This position must be maintained at least one second and not more than 10 seconds before starting delivery.
3. Speed, pitch and height are left entirely to the judgment of the umpire. If an umpire determines a pitch to be illegal, he will signal and verbalize it. This may occur while the pitched ball is in the air.

BATTING RULES

1. The batter must take his/her position within 20 seconds after the umpire has declared “Play ball”.
2. The batter will start with a one ball and one strike count.
3. A batter is out when he/she has hit a second foul ball (whether caught or not) after 2 strikes. If the second foul ball (after two strikes) is caught, base runners may advance.
4. A limit of unassisted home runs will be used in all leagues. All balls hit over the fence by a team in excess of the following limits per game will be an automatic out.
 - a. Coed Rec..... 2
 - b. Men’s Rec 3
5. A 1-up rule will be in effect for unassisted homeruns. After the limit has been met, neither team may be ahead by more than 1 unassisted homerun. When both teams have met the limit:
 - a. The team at bat can hit an unassisted homerun without penalty only if they are behind in the score. If the team at bat is ahead in the score (more runs), then the unassisted homerun will be an automatic out.

b. The team that is behind in homeruns can hit an unassisted homerun without penalty whether they are ahead or behind in the score.

6. Refer to your USA Softball Rule Book for more information.

OVERTHROWS AND DEADBALL RULES

1. When a ball is thrown out of play, each runner is awarded the following:
 - a. Thrown from infielder: TWO BASES from the last base touched at the time the ball is released (the base he/she is going to plus one).
 - b. Thrown from outfielder: TWO BASES from the last base touched at the time the ball is released (the base he/she is going to plus two).
2. When a batted ball bounces or rolls under or through a fence unassisted, the ball is ruled dead. All runners including the batter-runner are awarded 2 bases from the base occupied touched at the start of the pitch.

BASE RUNNING

1. Runners may leave the base after the ball crosses the front of home plate. The runner is out if he/she leaves the base before a pitched ball crosses the front of home plate.
2. The base runner may choose to turn in either direction when overrunning first base. If an attempt is made toward second base, the runner may be tagged out before the umpire calls time.
3. SLIDE OR SURRENDER – Slide at your own risk. Orion Township Parks and Recreation suggests that you refrain from sliding if you do not know how to properly and safely slide. Managers, notify your players of this rule!
4. Courtesy runner
 - a. A courtesy runner may be used only once per inning. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - b. The courtesy runner will be the last out and must be of the same sex as the player requiring the courtesy runner.
 - c. If the courtesy runner is still on base when his/her turn at bat occurs, they must stay on base and their batting spot will be recorded as an out.
 - d. A courtesy runner may never be replaced by another courtesy runner.

BATTING LINE-UP GUIDELINES

1. Teams may bat an unlimited number of players in the line-up. Any player who is not present when he/she is up to bat will be counted as an automatic out.
2. A team must start and finish with at least 8 players. Players may not be added to the line-up after the line-up has completed a full rotation beyond 10 players.
 - a. FIELDING EXCEPTION: The additional player may assume an open defensive position even if they are not added to the batting line-up.
 - i. Player must be listed on the score sheet as a defense only player.
 - ii. Must comply with coed player distribution rules.
 - iii. Players within the 10 limit may take the field when they are ready to play and must be added to the bottom of the lineup.

3. A team that fields 8 players and loses one, due to injury or ejection, etc. and cannot fill the slot with a substitute will forfeit the game.

4. A team beginning with 10, 11, or 12 players can lose players to injury or illness until they reach 9 with an out in the lineup for each issue. Once the 9th player gets injured-game is forfeited. If a team has 2 ejections in the same game- the game is immediately forfeited.

5. The team manager must communicate to the umpire in each of the following situations with the respective player name and number (if applicable):

- a. A defensive player re-enters or enters for the first time during a game.
- b. A player is added to the batting line-up after the game starts.
- c. When a courtesy runner is used.
- d. When a player is removed from the game for injury, ejection, etc.

6. Coed Leagues

- a. The batting order for coed shall alternate gender.
- b. Must have 8 players however team may play with more of one sex only if player count is 9. Team must take one automatic out until 10th player arrives.

i. M F M F M F M F M X

ii. F M F M F M F M F X

c. Players may only be added to the line-up after a full rotation IF the player that enters a batting position between two male/female batters canceling an automatic out.

c. WALKS – Two bases will be awarded to a male batter. Any runners on base will advance only if forced. The following female batter must bat if there are less than 2 outs. If there are 2 outs, the next female hitter will have the option to walk or bat. All awarded bases on a walk may be achieved by directly going to that base without touching previous bases. No appeals for missing bases will be honored on a walk.

7. All participants in any softball league should be prepared for player identification checks throughout the season. All players should have their driver's license in their possession at all times.

FACILITIES

1. PARKING IS AT YOUR OWN RISK. Please park ONLY in designated parking spots. The Township is not liable for any damages.

2. SMOKING IS FORBIDDEN ON THE PLAYING FIELD. Smoking is prohibited on or within fifty (50) feet of any athletic field, play structure, or Orion Township recreation activity.

3. No infield practice before or in between games. Morgan field at Civic Center Park is strictly a youth field. Batting practice should not take place on this field under any circumstances.

4. Due to the large field size at Friendship Park, outfielders are allowed to step onto the infield when playing defense only after the ball is batted or touches the

ground. ONLY ONE WARNING WILL BE GIVEN TO THE DEFENSE.

5. No children or persons other than team players are allowed on the diamonds or in the dugouts.

GROUND RULES – ON ALL DIAMONDS

1. NO FAKE TAGS

2. NO BAT THROWING

3. NO AGGRESSIVE PLAY BY A BASE RUNNER OR A DEFENSIVE PLAYER

4. No drinking of alcoholic beverages.

5. No smoking within 50 ft. of any athletic field or program activity.

6. No abusive language.

7. Any questions directed towards the umpire will be by the manager only.

8. Managers should make sure all equipment is off the playing area. That includes jackets or gloves hanging on the fence.

9. ALL PLAYERS WILL PLAY AT THEIR OWN RISK.

10. Managers are responsible for team and spectator control. Unruly behavior by ANY team member will NOT be tolerated.

CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT

1. GAME BALLS will be provided by the Site Supervisor at the field on game night and are in compliance with USA Softball rules and regulations.

2. METAL SPIKES ARE ILLEGAL. Penalty is ejection if the player refuses to change.

3. A 2 x 3 foot black rubber mat will be used as a strike mat for all leagues. Any pitch that makes contact with any part of this mat within the arc requirements will be called a strike.

4. LEGAL SOFTBALL BATS MUST BE USED. Please refer to the Non-approved bat list on the MDASA website: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment>.

5. Bat donuts, fins, wings or sledge hammers ARE NOT ALLOWED in any leagues. Only USA Softball approved warm up bats and accessories.

6. Uniforms are not required but are encouraged.

7. DOUBLE BASE at 1st base. In the case of a force out at first, the white base in fair territory is to be used by the fielder and the orange base in foul territory is for the runner.

INJURY

1. USA Softball offers players insurance programs.
2. In the event of a serious injury, contact the Site Supervisor immediately. The umpire has the authority to disallow an injured player from continuing play.
3. The Site Supervisor is required to complete an injury/incident report for even minor injuries. Please cooperate with all Orion Township staff in ensuring the safety and well being of players, umpires, staff and park visitors.
4. BLOOD RULE – See USA Softball Rule Book
 - a. A maximum of 5 minutes will be allowed for a player to eliminate all evidence of blood, whether on the body, clothing or equipment.

PROTEST

(AT THE TIME OF A PROTEST, UMPIRE WILL CHECK SCORESHEET AND HAVE BOTH MANAGERS SIGN.)

1. A rule interpretation protest must be made known to the umpire prior to the next pitch.
2. The protest of a player's eligibility may be done at any time during a live game. Only the team manager can protest player eligibility by notifying the umpire and Site Supervisor.
3. Any team proven to be using an ineligible player during a game will forfeit that game. Winning score will be 7-0 unless offended team has scored more than 7 runs.
4. A \$25.00 fee must be submitted for EACH protested player if the protest is disproven. This fee must be paid by the protesting team within 24 hours.
5. No protests will be accepted concerning calling a game due to time limit restrictions or judgment calls made by the umpire.
6. Position round games and playoffs – All players must have picture identification with them in the event they are protested for eligibility.
 - a. If the player in question is unable or unwilling to provide proof of ID, the game will be forfeited.
 - c. Rosters will be at site for position and playoff games only.
7. Any person who is suspended indefinitely from this league who wishes to be reinstated must appeal, in writing, to the Orion Township Parks & Recreation Department.

MISCONDUCT

1. A manager, coach, player, or fan can be suspended for any period of time determined by Orion Township Parks & Recreation.

2. Suspensions can result from misconduct on and off the field. This applies to all areas of Orion Township facilities and those areas surrounding it used for parking.

3. VIOLATION OF PARK ORDINANCES:

b. ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY - Anyone in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages may be suspended for not less than two weeks.

c. ON THE BENCH & IN PLAYING AREA – Anyone in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages will receive an immediate ejection and suspension for not less than 2 weeks.

d. FANS in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages on park property may result in that team's game to be forfeited.

-Due to multiple issues arising from leniency on these ordinances, these policies will now be strictly enforced. If an individual is witnessed consuming alcohol within the confines of the park, they will be ejected and suspended for not less than 2 weeks. Managers are responsible for their players. If a player is impaired in any way, the umpire or Orion staff member may eject the person. In the event of a second violation by the same player, the player will be suspended for the remainder of the season and the Manager will be suspended for not less than 1 week. Additional suspensions or expulsion from the league for repeat offenders may occur. Multiple offenses by the same team could warrant the team being expelled from the league. The Orion Township reserved the right to amend this policy at any time. Players in violation of this policy are not eligible for an appeals process.

4. A manager may contest a suspension, never an ejection, by contacting the Parks & Recreation office.

5. Anyone ejected from a game must leave the field within one minute (spectator area included): OUT OF SIGHT – OUT OF SOUND. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the ball game.

6. Any team expelled from a league for any reason will not be reimbursed for any team fees paid.

7. Players should be aware that their misconduct could be held liable for legal action by an injured party.

8. Depending on the severity of the incident, a suspension can be any length up to and including permanent suspension. All cases are subject to review by the Director of Parks & Recreation to determine length of the suspension.

9. Suspended players MAY NOT participate in ANY GAMES during the term of suspension. Spectator privileges for suspended players will be granted on a circumstantial basis determined by the Parks & Recreation Department.

10. Orion Township Parks & Recreation will acknowledge and uphold all suspensions decreed by USA Softball of Detroit.

11. The penalty for any team discovered using an ineligible player will be as follows:

The offending team receives a loss for the protested game, while the opposing team receives a win.

12. Any player suspended from play from Orion Township Parks & Recreation leagues for a second time during a season, including playoffs, will be placed on disciplinary probation for one (1) calendar year. Any player who is ejected from a game while on probation will be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing with the League Director, Director of Community Programming and a representative of the umpire association.

FINAL STANDINGS

1. The team with the best win-loss record (highest point score) is the league Champion. 2 points are awarded per win, 1 point awarded for a tie, 0 points awarded for a loss.

2. If ties exist and involve award positions, the following tie breaking formula will be used:

- a) Head to Head Record
- b) Overall Runs Against
- c) Overall Runs For.
- d) Coin Flip

PLAYOFF BRACKETS (SEEDING)

1. Format will be single elimination, with the team in the highest position being the home team. Playoff seeding will be based on final standings.

PLAYOFFS

1. 65-minute time limit will be in effect for all games, except Championship game.
2. Mercy rule will be in effect for all games.
3. International tie breaker in effect at the end of the time limit or top of the 8th.
4. All eligible protests must be made before the last out of the game.
 - a. Penalty- immediate forfeit of game by offending team.

AWARDS

1. Team awards are given to the regular season league and playoff champions and runners-up.

2. Individual awards are given to the regular season champions and playoff champions for each league.

GAME STAFF

1. Threats to any Orion Township employee will NOT be tolerated. An automatic suspension and a hearing with the department will be issued.

2. Site Supervisors – One (1) Site Supervisor will be assigned to each game location.

- a. Purpose
 - i. Represents the Department and enforces all park policies.
 - ii. Completes incident reports.

- iii. Provides limited First Aid supplies.
- iv. Has the authority to suspend any person from the area for violation of any rules and regulations of the league and/or the park.
- v. Assisting the umpire in the removal of suspended players or spectators by contacting local authorities.
- vi. Assist in league rule interpretation in the event of a dispute.
- vii. Updated schedules and standings, and league rules.
- viii. Assist umpire in determining field conditions and game cancellations.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR MANAGERS

We understand that the role of team manager is by no means a glamorous job. Here are a few suggestions we hope will help make the job a little bit easier.

1. In the event of an injury, have a first aid kit available and make sure your players have a change of clothing.
2. Roster a full 20 player team. Have 6 or 7 players strictly for emergency.
3. Copy your roster and give copies to all your players. (Keep copies as they'll probably lose them.)
4. Instruct players on how to check for field closures. Designate a team calling tree for cancellations and game reschedules.
5. Designate an assistant manager.
6. Designate a team statistician. (averages, H.R.'s, R.B.I.'s help keep your players interested)
7. Collect all players' fees prior to the season. This insures a player's commitment. Make this mandatory.
8. Institute a player fine system.
Example: \$2.00 for missing a game without prior notification. \$1.00 for being late
9. Review the rules, both USA Softball and Orion Township's, with your players prior to the season. (Don't let a players' lack of softball knowledge cost you and your team.)
10. Don't let back biting and negative criticism disturb you. Win or lose, it goes with the game. Make sure your players know what is said is done. Your word is final.
11. In the case of inclement weather, have your team meet at a designated location for team meeting or alternate activity. This will insure a full team in the case it does not rain at Orion Township fields.