



PARKS & RECREATION

Brainerd Parks and Recreation Department *2016 Petite/Junior/Senior League Rules/Info*

Please refer to the 2016 ASA rulebook for specific rule clarification if it is not listed in our league rules.

Skills Clinic: May 2, 2016, 5-6pm at Memorial Park Fields 1, 2 and 3.

You are to show up 15 minutes early as a coach obtain list of players names and skills clinic number associated with them. You will be given a clipboard with all skills assessment areas. Girls will go through batting, grounders, and fly balls.

Draft: Wednesday, May 4, 2015, Petite 6pm, Junior 6:45pm and Thursday, May 5, Senior 6:30pm.

This will be where your team is "Drafted". You will have a sheet from the skills clinic that ranks players, so coming into the draft you will have an idea of skill level. Some teams are close to full if all the expected returners come back, thus less picks in the draft. If your team is completely full before the skills clinic you will not be asked to attend skills clinic or draft. If a player signs up late they will be assigned to the next team in need of a player. Teams will be maxed at 13 girls this year. If your team is "new" to league you will receive several draft picks above other teams that have seasoned players. No team will be allowed to give up players for a new team. A draft order will be created by League Coordinator.

Required:

Concussion Training: Each coach (including assistant) will be expected to complete their concussion training (every 3 years). After completion each coach will need to submit their certificate to our Lum Park Office. In the occurrence of a concussion we want both coaches knowledgeable on proper care in the case one would be gone that night. [**http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/training/](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/training/)

Background Checks: Each coach (including assistant) will be required to have a background check completed before working with your youth softball players.

NAYS (National Alliance of Youth Sports): Each coach will be required to complete the coach's code of ethics and abide by the promises they make. After signing this they become a member of the National Youth Sports Coaches Association which covers initial members \$1,000,000, of liability insurance and \$2,000,000 for continuing members.

Practices: You will be assigned practices the same days that you play starting May 9 – 27. The coach is in charge of communicated practice times and cancellations with the team. A coach may call and schedule a total of two extra practices. Once one of those practices is used they may call and schedule another; "A total of two practices in the books at any given time". Practices must be scheduled through the Parks and Recreation Department to avoid field double booking.

Innings played: All players must play a minimum of 3 innings per game and must play a full game in the field every third game. Exceptions will be considered if a coach rotates the girls so that all players play the same amount of innings each game. Coaches have the right to notify the player that she will not be playing due to disciplinary reasons or unreasonable absenteeism from practices or games. The coach should notify players that unexcused absenteeism may result in an unequal amount of participation in future games. Note* extra practices beyond what Brainerd Parks and Recreation schedules will not be used against athlete if they are unable to attend. Each league is structure to have practices or games two days a week, anything more than that would be considered outside the program and be considered extra practices.

Forfeits: A team must field at least eight players (**7 players in petite because of smaller teams**) to start a game. There is a 5-minute grace period. If unable to field eight players at that time, the team will then have to forfeit. However, all games will be played. The opposing team must provide the team that is short with a defensive player(s). There is no recorded out in the batting order for players missing from the lineup. In the event neither team is able to field eight players, the game will be canceled and shall be counted as a loss for both teams.

Uniforms: A player who has purposely defaced (i.e. cut off sleeves) her jersey/pants will not be allowed to play until the jersey/pants have been replaced. Shirt must be tucked in. Players must wear same color of pants or ones that were provided for them. This year teams will be given black or white visors.

League Game Start Time	No new inning after
All Leagues 6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m./dark

In order to get the most out of games we encourage athletes to run in and out of the dugout. Umpires will call out the start time and the time in which the game will end. The umpire will also announce when the end time has been met that this is the final inning.

Batting Practice: Teams may take batting practice on their appropriate side of the outfield (Home team dugout is on the third base side and Visitor dugout is on the first base side). Batting practice is not allowed in the infield prior to game. **There is absolutely no soft-toss against fences** unless you are using "Wiffle Balls". Limit infield practices to five minutes and only if time permits. Visiting team takes the field first, a minimum of 11 minutes prior to game time. Home team takes infield second, a minimum of six minutes prior to game time.

Petite League Rules

- A 3-4 count will be used.
 - ✓ No player will be allowed to be walked. They either swing and strike out or hit the ball.
- A coach whose team is playing defense will feed the ball into the pitching machine.
- Coaches will not advance players because of over throws to the coach entering ball to pitching machine. Once the ball comes in from the outfield, the runner should stop at the base they have attained.
- A circle will be drawn around the pitching rubber. If the ball hits the machine, goes through the circle (above or below the machine), or settles in the circle, the batter advances to first base and the ball is dead.
- All infield players must start even or behind their base, but may advance forward once the ball is pitched.
 - ✓ Please coach the girl in pitchers position to stay a minimum of 4-5 feet away from pitching machine at all times for safety reasons. No player may line up in front of the pitching machine. Alongside of the machine is acceptable.
- Bunting is not allowed.
- Once the ball leaves the pitching machine, the players can move forward toward the ball.
- If there is a player on a base and there is an infield hit and the defense making the play overthrows the ball, the runner **cannot advance, the play stops as ordered by umpire. Runners on second and third also required to stay put on an over throw.**
- Infield fly rule will not be enforced at the petite level.

Junior and Senior League Rules

- **No “Safe Circle”:** There is NO “Pitching Circle Time-Out”; **time will be called by ump.** If the ball is overthrown it is still live. If the ball is overthrown and ball lands out of bounds (it becomes out of play, over the fence or in dugout) one base will be given after last base attained.
- **Subbing:** Advanced Petites can sub on a Junior team. Advanced Juniors can sub on a Senior team. If your team is in need of a sub to play 9 fielders that is legal, you do not need a sub if you currently have 9 to make 10. However, if you sit any of your regular team members on the bench an automatic forfeit will be given to your team.
- A **3-2** count with no courtesy foul will be used.
- **Over Thrown Ball:** with an overthrow to the pitcher’s circle or base, the ball is live (unless it goes into dead ball area, like the dugout and runners may advance at their own risk until the ball is controlled to stop play. If ball lands in a dead ball area the runners will advance 1 base.

All Leagues

- **Arch :** The arch of the ball shall not be lower than 6 feet and not higher than 10 feet. **Protest:** There will be no protests on judgment calls; the umpire’s decision is final.
- **Innings:** A maximum of 6 inning games will be played. No new inning will start after the end of the time limit of the first game (i.e. 7:00 p.m.). It is the umpire’s discretion to call a game because of darkness.
- **Batting:** All players on the team will bat. Each team will play 10 players in the field minimum of 8. Coaches who use a rotation of their players can have unlimited substitution, however the batting order may not change.
- **Tie Games:** In tie games, the international tie-breaker rule will be used: The player making the last out from the previous inning will start the inning at second base. Each team will be allowed 3 outs. If it is still tied after one inning, the game remains tied. If tied in playoff games, repeat tie-breaker rule until a winner is determined.
- **Infield Fly:** A fair fly ball, not including a line drive or an attempted bunt, which can be caught by an infielder, pitcher or catcher with ordinary effort when first and second or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two outs.
 - ✓ The ball is live, the batter is out, which removes the force, but runners may advance at their own risk.
 - ✓ The runners may tag up and advance as soon as the batted ball is touched by a fielder.
 - ✓ If a declared infield fly becomes foul, it is treated as a foul ball, not an infield fly.
- **Over Thrown Ball:** with an overthrow to the pitcher’s circle or base, the ball is live (unless it goes into dead ball area, like the dugout and runners may advance at their own risk until the ball is controlled to stop play. If ball lands in a dead ball area the runners will advance 1 base.
- **Run Rule: If your team is ahead by 20 after the 3rd inning, 15 after the 4th, or 10 after 5 the game is OVER.** However, if there is time left teams can keep playing for fun. (pst. Coaches this would be a great time to move players around and get girls experience in different positions)

Cancellations: The Cancellation Line is 218-454-2900, press 1, and then enter extension 3350.

Standings/schedules: Go to www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/parks for cancellations, standings, game schedules and makeup games. ** Note May 19, our website will be converting to a more modern, easy navigating platform. This address might be subject to change.

Official Game: An official game is 3 ½ innings or 4 innings depending on whether the visiting team or home team is ahead. When does this come into play? If a game is interrupted with lightning or severe weather and is unable to finish; if you have reached 4 innings that game will count as a played game and score will be recorded. The official length of games is 6 innings.

Suspended Games/Rain Outs

1. Regular-season games will be rescheduled at the earliest possible date. The entire game will be played over. Please note length of an official game cited earlier.
2. Playoff games will be rescheduled at the earliest possible date. The game will resume where it left off.

Coaches

1. Only coaches and assistants are only allowed in the dugouts.
2. Ejection of coaches/players shall be at the sole discretion of the home plate umpire. Coaches/players ejected from a game must serve a one-game suspension. Coaches serving a game suspension may be at the ballpark but cannot assist in coaching. Players serving a game suspension may be at the ball park but cannot be in the dugout or on the field. A second ejection during the season results in an automatic 10-day suspension in addition to following the Parks and Recreation Departments guidelines set forth in the ejection/suspension policy.
3. No coach will willfully verbally abuse another coach, umpire or recreation aide. If it happens, the coach will be removed from the game. If a fan verbally abuses the opposing coaches, umpires or players, they will be told to leave the park. If they do not leave, the police will be called.
4. Zero Tobacco within 100 feet of a youth activity. You may, (encouraged) confront a parent that is within that range and show them our posted sign on the backstop stating this policy. If they do not abide by that rule please feel free to contact me.
5. Remember you are a role model to your players and there is constantly eyes watching you (parents) think before you speak.
6. Make sure all players, parents, and yourself sign the code of conduct. *Please have code of conduct on you once you start coaching, even at practice to reference if necessary)
7. During a game or practice, if in the case you feel physically threatened or feel as though someone unsafe has entered the park please do not hesitate to call 911.

Mid-Season Slam: July 14, 2016, Buffalo Hills Park, 6pm Petite Field 2, 6pm Junior Field 1, 7:15pm Senior Field 1
The Mid-Season Slam will be held for Petite, Junior and Senior leagues. Only second year or older players in that league will be allowed to be nominated for this honor. Nominees will need to be submitted no later than July 7, 2016.

End of Season Tournament (Playoffs):

Brackets will be posted online as well as on the storage building in between the fields. Playoff games will be six innings for all leagues and single elimination. High seed is the home (#1 would be the highest) team in all playoff games.

Equipment Bags: distributed at the Draft, will need to be returned to Lum Park Office no later than **August 11, 2016**. Please if there is a piece of equipment in your bag that is damaged or unsafe please turn it in to us and we will provide you with something better. If your bag does not have any catcher's equipment please come to our office to pick up some up.

Facebook: We have a Facebook profile now "Brainerd Parks and Recreation", pictures, announcements, news, will be posted on there at your convenience. Also, if you have a question and want to reach me you will be able to privately message Brainerd Parks and Recreation 24/7; we usually have about a 5 minutes response time (not encouraged late hours at night). However, I am constantly out in the parks and this is just another quick way communication tool for you. Please encourage/invite your players and parents to "Like" us as well.

If you need to contact league coordinator Katie Kaufman directly:

Email: kkaufman@ci.brainerd.mn.us

Phone: 218-828-2320