

## Wet Field Policy for Adult Softball

In the best interest of protecting the players, controlling maintenance demands, and preserving our playing fields, the Parks and Recreation Department has created this policy to clearly define the guidelines of softball field closures. The Parks and Recreation Department understands the enthusiasm that is involved with this sport and in no way wants to diminish this experience for anyone.

From a player safety standpoint, it is the Town's responsibility to provide a field that is in safe and working condition. Conducting play on fields that are wet and muddy greatly increases the chance of player injury.

From an operational standpoint, reworking the damage that is caused by playing on wet fields is difficult and time consuming. With only three fields that are used by a number of programs, scheduling this maintenance is even more difficult. It is much easier to reschedule a rain delayed game, than to schedule the abundant number of man-hours required to fix a damaged field.

From a preservation standpoint, it is the goal of the Parks and Recreation department to offer the best playing fields within our capabilities. The grounds crew works hard to provide this for the community and Town sanctioned sporting events.

We ask that all players that are registered in the town softball league to please abide by the following rules and respect the decisions made by the Parks and Recreation Department to delay games based on wet fields.

1. Teams will not play games if the Town decides to close the fields due to rain.
  - a. If a field is closed, a cone will be placed on home plate with closure sign.
2. If weather comes in after 4:00 pm umpires and captains on both teams will agree on a decision whether or not to play, keeping the before mentioned recommendations in mind.
  - a. If you leave a significant footprint while walking/running in the infield material, don't play.
3. Fridays and weekends are always available for make-ups, Fridays are the best
4. If the ball field is too wet to play on, and a make-up is needed, make arrangements before leaving the site, and be sure to notify the Parks & Recreation Office that night by calling, or on the scoresheet
5. If a game is already in progress and must be stopped, record the amount of time played, the inning and score and begin again another day exactly as left off. Be sure to schedule with the Parks & Recreation Office
6. Remember to make arrangements for umpires at your make-up games
7. Please make sure that the score sheet is filled out and inform the Parks & Recreation office of the rainout as well
8. Teams will make no attempt to fill in standing water with any type of material. This is the job for the grounds crew. Contaminating the infield material jeopardizes the integrity of the fields and the maintenance.
9. Teams will not rake wet mud into the grass.
10. If teams disregard the decision by the Town to close a field, games that are played will not be counted, and participating teams will forfeit a win per incident.