

CACD Softball

Disclaimers, Safety Issues, General Concerns

Most legal rules are not necessary for most people. They are meant (a) to cover exceptional circumstances that may arise from time to time, or (b) to cover persons who take exception to common standards of behavior in public. We have never had a problem with our group. However, the event is open to the public and in our litigious-happy society this fact suggests the prudence of voicing some basic “rules.” Your participation in this event is an acknowledgement of, and an agreement to abide by, the following.

Note: All these statements are important but the most important appear in **bold**.

- Responsible Adults: As a free “drop-in” event or “pickup” game, neither the CACD, nor the organizers, the team captains, etc., assume any liability for players and / or spectators, nor their injuries by any cause or occasion, deliberate or accidental. The event is for responsible adults and assumes those who show up are such, able to conduct themselves properly, evaluate situations, handle their own risks and liabilities.
- Local Codes: The Southfield Parks and Rec Department has posted codes on three signs that we need to observe. Two are near the parking lot and restrooms, the third is on the ball field fence. (They include standard things like no alcoholic beverages, pets must be on a leash, no loud music, no fireworks, etc.)
- Improper Conduct: In order to conduct an activity welcoming to all and at which all can feel comfortable, the organizers reserve the right to exclude any person based on improper conduct. We have never had a problem with profanity, fits of anger, hostility, or off-color jokes, which already says a lot about this group. This is just a reminder that such things don’t contribute to the enjoyment of the game.
- Healthy Enough to Play: **Your participation in the activity should be at a level appropriate to your own judgment of your current physical condition. No one else can take responsibility for this very personal and often private concern. Please take into consideration all reasonably predictable conditions of play / attendance; for example, heat, dehydration, repeated sprinting, pre-existing medical conditions, injuries suffered in the course of the game, bee stings, insect bites, etc.** Don’t let loyalty to your teammates keep you in a game when you should bow out. Don’t take the organizers’ instructions or a team captain’s directions in regard to your position on a team as attempting to influence the decisions you alone have the knowledge and power to make.
- Medication: **If there is medication you have to take, or a medical condition which might surface during this event, please inform someone close to you, an event organizer, or team captain in case something happens and you aren’t able to speak what’s wrong.**
- Self-Medicating: **A first aid kit and / or ice might be available for injuries. Be aware that using it you are self-medicating.** The assumptions you make about labeling and expiration dates, the applicability of treatments or medications, are your own. You are treating yourself, even if assisted by others, even if using supplies taken from the kit.
- Weather Concerns: **The organizers plan to cancel the game should, in their judgment, the danger of lightning, hail, or strong winds, etc., exist.** However, it is a public park and a free country. Many might choose to stay and play anyway. Conversely, even if the game is not called, if you feel your safety is threatened you should exit the game, rejoining when you judge it safe again. Whether the game is called or not, individuals are expected at all times to exercise their own responsible judgment for their own safety.
- Playing Conditions: The ball diamonds are groomed for play. However, **players are individually responsible for avoiding such things as collisions, trips, pits or obstructions in the outfield or infield, etc.**

- Spectator Injuries: **Spectators must watch for foul balls!** They should not read books or text with their phones while someone is batting! The dugouts have no protective covers, neither do the bleachers, and the backstop is always imperfect. Those paying the least attention to the game are the most likely to be injured by foul balls!
- Sharing Food and Drink: The Parks & Rec policy is no picnics but you can still bring small quantities of food for yourself or to share with others. **The group won't be responsible for the health or safety of shared food & drink. Nor can the group be expected to provide water.** Players / spectators are encouraged to bring sufficient water for themselves; the dog days of summer can be terribly hot! There is a drinking fountain at the restrooms but it is far away. When innings are short people put off concerns about fluid intake, allowing themselves to become dehydrated without knowing it. It would also be good to have a backup plan if the park's fountain is not working.
- Photography: People are welcome to take photos. And the organizers themselves may take photos, some of which might be generically used in appropriate ways for publicity. However, some people are camera shy. If you object to someone taking your photo please let them know. If you are the camera operator, please try to respect an individual's preferences. It is too much to expect this to operate as "opt in." Even "opt out," as just described, may not be possible because of the nature of a public event. It will be up to the photographers and their subjects to work out any conflicts of opinion or preference.
- **Teen players must have a parent nearby in case of an emergency.**