



100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2
Michigan City, IN 46360
Shannon Eason
Superintendent

2026 Spring Softball Entry Packet

The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department strives to create and provide the community with recreational opportunities and competition in a family-oriented atmosphere. The enthusiasm, spirit and attitude of our participants are paramount to the program's success.

I. MICHIGAN CITY PARKS & RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL

2026 Softball League Fees are for a 12 game regular season, and a single elimination post-season tournament. Men's 12-inch and Coed Divisions are offered. Men's 12-inch, Co-Ed and Big Bat Co-Ed teams will be scheduled for seven (7) inning games. **The M.C. Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to alter the format for scheduling considerations, and/or due to severe battles with inclement weather, or for any other reason. Games may be added or deleted depending on needs and circumstances.**

Coed - \$475 @ Gardena Park (Patriot Park when available)

Money and rosters must be turned in together. **NO FEE EXTENSIONS ARE PERMITTED, SO PLEASE DO NOT ASK.** All rosters must include **complete** addresses and signatures of each team member, and all participants must be 18 years of age. The leagues will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

The **DEADLINE** to turn in money and rosters to the **Park Office in City Hall** is **4:00 p.m. on Friday April 24, 2026.**

The first game will be played on **May 17, 2026.**

The Park Department will assess an add-on-fee of \$10.00 for each individual added to a team roster after the first two weeks of the season. NO Player may be added after date determined by the Recreation Coordinator and/or League Director. Rosters may not exceed sixteen (16) players. Rosters will be checked during the season to confirm validity. **ALL PLAYERS MUST SIGN ROSTER!**

- A. *League winners* are entitled to individual awards.

- B. Tie breakers for final standings will be decided as follows:
 - a. Record against each other
 - b. Total runs scored
 - c. Total runs scored against

- C. **TENTATIVE LEAGUE PLAY FORMAT:** Please do not submit an entry if the team cannot play as listed below. For example, do not submit an entry with a note stating “*We cannot play on Thursdays.*” If this is the case for your team, please do not enter it in Michigan City.

COED

SUNDAY

12 TEAMS

II. GENERAL PROGRAM RULES & GUIDELINES

League play will be governed by **N**ational **S**oftball **A**ssociation rules including modifications for local purposes in adherence to policy set forth by the *Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department* as follows:

- A. **ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE A DESIGNATED MANAGER AND CO-MANAGER.** Said manager will have certain responsibilities for his or her team as manager, which will be specifically outlined in the rules issued at the manager meeting. **Be sure to list a manager and a co-manager on the roster.** Please include complete mailing address (**INCLUDE ZIP**), and **home and work phone numbers** if possible. (We may need to contact someone from the team about pertinent league information throughout the course of the season.)
- B. TEAM MANAGERS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE TEAM ROSTER AND INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR TEAM. IT IS THE MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM THE INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR TEAM OF ALL RULES AND LEAGUE INFORMATION.
- TEAM MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING ALL RULES, WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED TO THEM AT A MANDATORY MANAGER MEETING PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON.
- C. **INCLEMENT WEATHER SITUATIONS: ALL TEAM CAPTAINS WILL BE CONTACTED BY SOFTBALL STAFF. THIS WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE LEAGUE FACEBOOK PAGE. IT THEN BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAM CAPTAINS TO CONTACT THEIR PLAYERS.**
- D. The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department will not tolerate acts of vocal harassment or physical violence. Any person or team that does not conduct itself in a civil manner toward program officials, umpires and fellow participants will be suspended from Parks and Recreation activities for at least one (1) calendar year. The team manager, in part, will be held accountable for individual behavior by his or her team members.
- E. Teams that cannot control their individual players, coaches and SPECTATORS, or that are collectively unruly and disorderly, will be excluded from future Parks and Recreation activities. Sponsors may be notified as well.
- F. If a player is thrown out of a game for any reason, it is the sole responsibility of the League Director to enforce any future punishment, up to and including removal from the league.
- G. Any person's behavior and/or conduct, which are, designated contrary to Park Department policy and expectations will be subject to expulsion from all Parks and Recreation Department activities.
- H. A COMPLETE SET OF RULES FOR ADULT SOFTBALL WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH TEAM MANAGER ACCEPTED INTO THE LEAGUE.
- I. THE PARK DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER LEAGUE AND/OR TOURNAMENT FORMATS FOR ANY REASON WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY.



III. RULES FOR SOFTBALL

The *Softball Program* will concentrate on strict enforcement of all rules concerning language, alcohol, glass containers, and dogs in an effort to secure a family oriented and recreational class atmosphere at the parks.

- A. An umpire, director or supervisor may eject player(s), coach(es) or SPECTATOR(S) whenever a situation warrants such action. The umpire, director or supervisor may also forfeit any game when such action is deemed necessary.
- B. **ALCOHOL CAN NOT BE CONSUMED DURING PLAY. ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY AND WILL BE PROHIBITED IN AREAS DEPENDING ON EVENT(S) BEING HELD AT PATRIOT PARK.** When teams are participating in a game scheduled by the *Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department*, coaches, team representatives, or team members **MAY NOT CONSUME**, or have alcoholic beverages of any kind on or near the bench, and/or playing field. Drinking in spectator areas during a game **IS NOT ALLOWED. UMPIRES, DIRECTORS, SUPERVISORS, AND MANAGERS SHOULD ALWAYS ENFORCE THIS RULE!**
- C. **Patriot Park is a smoke free facility!!! NO SMOKING is allowed on the premises!!!**
- D. **Age requirement is 18 years of age to be eligible to participate in said adult program.** Anyone under age 18 is an ineligible participant and will cause all games that said ineligible player participated in to be ruled a forfeit. **When age verification is necessary, the team manager and/or individual participant MUST provide proper and legal documentation pertaining to age.**
- E. **Managers are responsible for the validity of his or her team's roster.** Any team using an *ineligible* player will forfeit all games that said player participated in. Underage persons, persons suspended from Parks activities, and persons not listed on a team's roster are examples of ineligible participants.
- F. All teams may start with nine (9) or eight (8) players. A team may finish with nine, eight, or seven players for any reason other than **AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE** ejection. An automatic out is counted in the order for a vacated spot with no substitute available ***when starting with less than 9 players.*** A team may not finish with nine, eight, or seven players if reduction is the result of an UNSPORTSMANLIKE ejection - game will be ruled a forfeit if no substitute is available after UNSPORTSMANLIKE ejection(s).

A team may start with 9 players without penalty. However; if a team starts with 8 players, an automatic out will be enforced when the eighth spot in the batting order (line-up) comes up.

The automatic out will be enforced as follows:

When a team is left with a vacant spot in the lineup, because of the removal of a player, or if a team starts with 8 (eight) players: The opposing team may not, with 2 outs, intentionally or unintentionally walk the previous batter, in order to get to the "AUTOMATIC OUT" created by the vacant spot or starting with 8 players in the batting order. If the previous batter is walked, the vacant spot in the order is skipped, the "AUTOMATIC OUT" is waived, and the next batter is the player whose name follows the vacant spot in the batting order. This only applies when there are two (2) outs.

NOTE: TEAMS ARE LIMITED TO ONE COURTESY RUNNER PER INNING

- The team member that has made the previous out if no substitute is available must replace any player that has reached base safely but is unable to continue because of injury during the play. The injured player is no longer eligible to play in this game. The umpire will make all decisions on the validity of injuries or illness.
- G. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME. A five (5) minute GRACE PERIOD WILL BE ALLOWED FOR GAMES SCHEDULED ON WEEKDAY EVENINGS **IN THE FIRST TIME SLOT ONLY.** (Either 6:00 or 6:15 p.m. start times will be scheduled for Monday thru Friday divisions.)
- H. Each batter will come to the plate with an automatic one and one count. The two and one-half (2 1/2)-strike rule will be in effect.
- I. Any team in 12" or Coed that is winning by ten (10) runs after the losing team has batted at least five (5) times will be declared the winning team.

- J. There will be a one-hour time limit for all 12" and COED softball games in the Michigan City leagues. No inning shall start after one (1) hour. **Umpires use their discretion in enforcing the time limit.**
- K. If a game is called in the 4th inning due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the game is typically considered complete if at least 4 innings have been played. If the game is called before the completion of the 4th inning, it may be resumed from the point of interruption at a later time.
- L. Teams are not required to have matching uniforms or hats for the Michigan City softball leagues; however, **MATCHING T-SHIRTS ARE A STRONG RECOMMENDED MINIMUM.**
- M. Any hazardous equipment (such as steel splints, plaster casts, etc.) as judged by an umpire, league official, and/or NSA representative will not be permitted. **THIS INCLUDES ALL JEWELRY. TAPE ON EARRINGS AND SUCH IS NOT ALLOWED! UMPIRES, DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS SHOULD ALWAYS ENFORCE THIS RULE!** Players may wear plastic or rubber cleats **ONLY - NO METAL SPIKES.**



POINTS OF EMPHASIS

NO TOLERANCE FOR FIGHTING

- THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION **WILL NOT TOLERATE FIGHTING OR PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS OF ANY KIND.** ANY SITUATION INVOLVING PHYSICAL CONTACT OR FIGHTING WILL BE ADDRESSED IMMEDIATELY AND ACTED UPON APPROPRIATELY BY THE GAME UMPIRES, LEAGUE DIRECTORS AND PARK SUPERVISORS. THE GAME MAY SIMPLY BE CALLED AND THE OFFENDING TEAM(S) WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE FACILITY.
- **UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACTS WILL BE DOCUMENTED BY UMPIRES, SUPERVISORS, AND/OR DIRECTORS. THE PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WILL EVALUATE EACH SITUATION AND SANCTIONS WILL BE RENDERED IN ACCORDANCE TO PARKS STANDARDS AND POLICY. THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION WILL ENFORCE AND CONCENTRATE ON THE FOLLOWING RULE:**

CONDUCT, CHARACTER, DISCIPLINE: Any contestant or coach ejected for an unsportsmanlike act **SHALL BE SUSPENDED FROM THE NEXT CONTEST (scheduled Park's softball game), in addition to any other penalties assessed.**

THE BOTTOM LINE IS TO AVOID PUTTING ONESELF IN SUCH A SITUATION AND CONTROL YOURSELF, AND THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS AND/OR ADDITIONAL SUSPENSIONS! IF YOU GET EJECTED, PLAN ON SITTING AN ADDITIONAL GAME.

N. Harassment, baiting and/or taunting between participants WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AT ALL!

- Contrary to what some participants think, taunting, baiting or "*trash talking*" has no place in the game of recreational softball - **THIS APPROACH DOES NOT PROVIDE A STRATEGICAL ADVANTAGE - IT ONLY STARTS TROUBLE!** This behavior will not be tolerated and is an area we will concentrate on. If there is a problem, said player(s) or team(s) will be removed from the *Adult Softball Program* with NO REFUND OF FEES.
- No umpires, directors, participants, or fans should have to listen to any verbal abuse from anyone. This includes loud outbursts of foul language regardless of any situation or self-perceived justification from ANYONE!
- Some participants enjoy bringing children and family to the Parks to watch the games. Children and family members do not need to see and hear grown adults acting in an uncontrollable manner in our adult recreational league! We want to create a family-oriented atmosphere to be enjoyed by all!

VERY IMPORTANT...

- **The manager or a team captain ONLY must do any questioning of calls made by the umpires. Participants are not at liberty to question and critique umpires and are subject to ejection for doing so. Questions or concerns directed to umpires should be done only by the team manager or captain and should be done only in an adult and sportsmanlike manner.**

THIS IS PARK & RECREATION SOFTBALL - NOT MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

PLEASE BE GOOD SPORTS AND ENJOY THE GAME OF SOFTBALL!

IV. COED SOFTBALL RULES

League play will be governed by **National Softball Association** rules, including modifications for local purposes in adherence to policy set forth by the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department as follows:

- A. In all coed play, women and men shall hit a 12" ball.
- B. A team shall consist of 10 players, or 12 or 14 players if the EP(s) are used.
 - If an **Extra Player (EP)** is used in coed, twelve (12) or fourteen (14) players must be used - or two/four EP's. It is not permissible to use eleven (11 or 13) players because of the alternate players. You must use one (or two) extra males and one (or two) extra females.
- C. All teams may start with nine **or eight** players; however, if starting with 9 you must take an automatic out when the 10th spot in the lineup is due up to bat. When starting with 8 players, you do not need to take an automatic out. When playing with 8 players you **MUST** play with four(4) male and four (4) female players.
- D. A team may finish with nine, eight, or seven players for any reason other than **AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE** ejection. An automatic out is counted in the order for a vacated 8th spot with no substitute available or ***when starting with less than 9 players***. **A team may not finish with nine, eight, or seven players if reduction is the result of an UNSPORTSMANLIKE ejection - game will be ruled a forfeit if no substitute is available after UNSPORTSMANLIKE ejection(s).**

The automatic out will be enforced as follows:

When a team is left with a vacant 8th spot in the lineup, because of the removal of a player, or if a team starts with 8 (eight) players: The opposing team may not, with 2 outs, intentionally or unintentionally walk the previous batter, in order to get to the "AUTOMATIC OUT" created by the vacant spot or starting with 8 players in the batting order. If the previous batter is walked, the vacant 8th spot in the order is skipped, the "AUTOMATIC OUT" is waived, and the next batter is the player whose name follows the vacant spot in the batting order. This only applies when there are two (2) outs.

NOTE: TEAMS ARE PERMITTED ONLY ONE COURTESY RUNNER PER INNING

The team member that has made the previous out if no substitute is available must replace any player that has reached base safely but is unable to continue because of injury during the play. The injured player is no longer eligible to play in this game. The umpire will make all decisions on the validity of injuries or illness.

- E. Five male and 5 female players must play defense at all times, (unless shorthanded, in which case you would have to have 5 females/males and 4 males/females, or 4 and 4.) There must be two of each sex in the outfield positions and infield positions. Positioning is left to the individual manager. Must have a male/female pitcher/catcher combination.
- F. Male and female players must alternate in the batting order.
- G. Male batters are not allowed to hit with a bat larger than 28 inches. (Males will hit with "T-Ball" bats.) If a male hits with a bat larger than 28 inches, an out will be called. (This rule is for safety.)
- H. When a male batter is walked **WITHOUT A STRIKE BEING PITCHED (ON THREE STRAIGHT PITCHES)**, be it intentionally or unintentionally, the male batter is awarded first AND second base, and the following female batter has the option to automatically walk, or she may bat.

MICHIGAN CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

2026 ADULT COED SOFTBALL APPLICATION AND ROSTER

REC#: _____ AMOUNT: _____

TEAM NAME _____ **DATE** _____

TEAM MANAGER _____ **Phone #** _____ / _____
HOME PHONE / CELL PHONE

EMAIL (IF AVAILABLE): _____

MANAGER'S ADDRESS _____
STREET, CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE

As the Manager of the above listed team, I have carefully read and considered the information included with this application and roster. I agree to follow all rules, and I understand that I will be held accountable for this team. I also understand that the validity of this roster and application, and the validity of the players listed, is my responsibility as Manager.

Manager Signature: _____
APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT MANAGER SIGNATURE

CO-MANAGER _____ **Phone #** _____ / _____
HOME PHONE / CELL PHONE

CO-MANAGER'S ADDRESS _____
STREET, CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE

DID THIS TEAM PARTICIPATE IN MICHIGAN CITY LAST YEAR? YES NO

IF YES, WHAT WAS TEAM NAME AND DIVISION: _____ / _____
TEAM NAME / DIVISION

IF REQUESTING A DIFFERENT DIVISION FROM LAST YEAR, EXPLAIN WHY:

DIVISION REQUEST - These are only requests. Teams are not guaranteed said requests.

CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION-SPORTS APPLICATION AND WAIVER

I request that I be permitted to participate in a Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department sports program, league, and/or tournament. I understand my failure to follow all rules imposed by the M.C. Parks & Recreation Department, including all rules imposed by any and all governing bodies and/or sanctions, will be cause for my dismissal from the program, league, and/or tournament. I also understand that there is an element of risk with regard to personal injury involved in my participation in any sporting activity. I understand that the Parks & Recreation (The "Department") may take photographs of me and others while we are participating in the program, league, and/or tournament for which I am registering and I hereby assign to the department the right to any photographic image of me obtained during my participation in the program to be used by the department for any purpose related to it's activities.

Having read the above, and after careful consideration, I hereby voluntarily assume all risks inherent in my participation in a M. C. Parks & Recreation program, league, and/or tournament. I further agree that I will indemnify and hold harmless the City of Michigan City, its Park Board and Parks & Recreation Department, the National Softball Association, and all personnel connected therewith, from all liability from any claim that arises out of my participation in said program, league, and/or tournament.

NAME	ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE	PHONE	SIGNATURE
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
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15)			
16)			

* NO MORE THAN TWENTY (20) MEMBERS PER TEAM * ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST SIGN ROSTER/WAIVER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY.