

MONROE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MONROE MEN'S SOFTBALL OVER 35 LEAGUE
2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY:

The Monroe Men's over 35 Softball League is open to all male residents 35 years of age and older **[must turn 35 by May 22, 2026 of current season]**. Residency is defined as anyone who has graduated from Masuk High School [or a private school while living in Monroe], lives, owns real estate, or works at least 35 hours per week in Monroe on a year-round basis. ***You may also have 5 players on your roster who are classified as out of town players.** Documented proof of residency may be required. Any one appearing on the 2013 roster will be grandfathered into the league as long as they are on a roster **each year up through the 2025 season.**

ROSTERS/FEES:

All rosters will contain a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 12 players. All information regarding names, addresses and telephone numbers must be listed for every player on the roster form and match what is on the online registration portal. Failure to do so may result in suspension of that player[s] involved and/or teams cannot start practices or have games until the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department office receive complete information. Players must go into Monroe's Parks and Recreation Registration Website to officially register. Use www.MonroeRec.org to start an account or use your existing one from the previous season.

Preliminary rosters, entry fee and registration of all participants plus fees must be received by the Parks & Recreation Department by: **April 2, 2026** Teams who have not paid and submitted required documents by this date will not receive schedules and can't have a practice slot. Licenses could be requested at the field on night of games if it comes into question about a player not being on official roster. All rosters will be frozen on **May 22, 2026 at 1:30pm**. Copies of team rosters will be given to all teams. In the event of an emergency, the roster may be added to with the permission of the League Director.

The fee for the league for 2026 is: \$1000.00 per team This includes umpires for all games, two cases of softballs, field lining, trophies, staffing, strike zone mat and Glenn's stipend. Check made out to the "Town of Monroe" is due with your rosters. Games will start on **Friday, April 10, 2026** and be planned accordingly.

Any roster changes prior to **May 23, 2026** must be in writing or emailed 48 hours prior to that week's game in order to be eligible for play [e.g. Wednesday by 4:30 pm for a Friday 6:00 pm game and Friday at 1:30 pm for the Monday 6pm games.]. This would go to the League Director-Glenn Laudenslager.

EQUIPMENT:

SOFTBALL:

The Monroe Men's Over 35 Softball League official ball is the restricted flight gold stitch cor. 52 ASA-4495 ball. Before the start of each game, both teams will present the umpire with a new unused game ball.

FOOTWEAR:

Some form of athletic footwear is required for all players. Metal spikes are not allowed.

HEADWARE:

Optional – baseball cap can be worn with brim forward or backward.

BATS:

Wood softball bats only. Which can include bamboo bats providing they are on the USA softball approved bat list. There are no composite handles, no corndog and no metal allowed. Also at the umpires discretion, there could be the measuring ring that will be used before each game to check bats too.

(This is our rule regardless of what USA Softball says)

FORFEITS AND POSTPONEMENTS OF SCHEDULE GAMES:

Any deviation from the written schedule is forbidden! The League Director will schedule all games. Cancellations may occur **only** if we are notified by 5:00pm the Thursday preceding the league game or at the pre-season meeting, managers supply dates of conflicts for a team prior to the schedule being completed. Acceptable reasons for a postponement are: School sponsored events in the Monroe community such as graduations, dances, coaching of other youth sport teams, funeral, wakes and concerts that take more than 30 % of the team away. In addition, if an entire team is involved in a fundraiser or other special event that prevents from having a full team (minimum of 9 players available) **Vacations do not count as a reason to cancel game.**

We strongly discourage forfeits. When a team forfeits their first game for any reason, they will still be required to pay the umpires if we are not notified in sufficient time and after the second forfeit of any kind, the team is dropped from the league except when the forfeits occur in a double header in which case only one forfeit is counted toward the expulsion. Teams that are dropped from the league during the 2026 season may face the possibility to not return for the 2027 season.

There will be no games on April 17th, May 22nd, June 19th, July 3rd

All forfeits must be reported by the team gaining the victory.

A forfeit will result if a team cannot field nine rostered players within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the first game of a double header - no grace period for second game [forfeit is called at second game time]. If nine players are present at game time, the game must begin. All games must begin and end with at least 9 players. Should a 10th or 11th player arrive, after the start of play, and before a team has gone thru their batting order once they can enter the game immediately and bat at the end of the batting order.

In the event of inclement weather or unplayable/unsafe fields, any team member can call the cancellation line after 3:00pm at 203-339-6106 and will be sent electronically through the registration portal. Rescheduled dates will be set shortly afterwards. Umpires are in charge of the fields once the games begin. Any regular season game called due to darkness or inclement weather prior to being an official game, will be completely replayed. Any play-off game, if suspended for any reason, will be picked up at the point of suspension, using the same line ups, ball and strike count and score when the game is resumed.

LOCAL RULES:

All USA Softball Rules will apply to the Monroe Men's Over 35 Softball League except in the following instances:

Courtesy Runners - Unlimited courtesy runners are allowed in all games but a player can only be a courtesy runner once per inning. Consent from the opposing team is not needed. The courtesy runner can be any rostered player of the offensive team's choice. If a courtesy runner is on base when his turn to bat comes up he is called out and the next batter becomes the hitter.

Twelve Run Rule - If any team is leading by 12 or more runs at the end of 5 complete innings, the game is over. This is for all regular season games and play offs. (Voted on at pre-season meeting on 2/18/26)

Moveable Base - If a base is moved at any time as a result of sliding, the offensive player should maintain the approximate position of the base and not try to move to its new position. During the game, should a base become obviously dislodged from its normal position, all succeeding runners will be obligated only to step in its approximate normal position.

Double Headers - After the first inning of both games no infield ball and maximum of 3 warm ups for the pitcher.

Official Games - Any regular season game called prior to being official shall be completely replayed.

Batting - Batter starts with a 1-1 count in all games. **We will be using the strike zone mat for home plate this season.** By mutual agreement teams may bat 20 players in their order if declared prior to the start of the game. Once thru the batting order no additional batters may be added to the lineup. An out is called when that batter is due at bat if they leave the game for any reason.

League Standings – Teams are expected to check the department's website – MonroeRec.org to verify the won-loss record. Should no one challenge the standings within one week of the posting date the record will remain as is. (Glenn will notify office and we will update accordingly) Each team manager, win or lose needs to email, call or text Glenn the nightly results.

PROTEST PROCEDURE:

Rule 9, Sec. 1 of the official USA Softball Rule states: "Protests will not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire."

Rule 9, Sec. 2 states are three types of protests:

- a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule
- b. Illegal player
- c. Ineligible player

All team managers should familiarize themselves with these and the remainder of Rule 9 concerning protests in the official USA Rule Book.

In accordance with the above rules, the proper Monroe Men's Over 35 Softball League procedure for protesting a game is as follows:

1. The manager of the protesting team must notify the plate umpire of their team's intention to play the game under protest due to a "misinterpretation of a playing rule" before the next pitch, play or prior to all infielders leaving fair territory or on the last play of the game before the umpire(s) leave the field.
2. For an illegal player (league rules) the protest must be made while the player is in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field.

3. An email needs to be submitted with the results of the game within 24hrs to Parks and Recreation + Glen
 1. Date of game, Team names and score. If game is called for darkness, please indicated inning, number of outs and score.

Within one week of the game in question, a meeting will be called to decide on the protest. The following people should attend this meeting:

1. League Director and/or Director of Parks and Recreation or their designees
2. One representative from each team in question.
3. The umpire[s] of the game and/or a representative of the Umpires Association.

The League Director, will make the final decision, which is not subject to appeal.

PLAYER CONDUCT:

The Monroe Men's Over 35 Softball League and the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department does not condone or tolerate any conduct that will detract from the stature of its program. Consequently, any disorderly or abusive actions will be dealt with quickly.

Any player[s], coach, or managers, ejected from a game for the first time in a season will not be allowed to participate in the team's next two consecutive games and will begin serving the penalty immediately if in a double header. The second ejection in a season will carry a similar three full game suspension while the third ejection in a season will carry a full four game suspension. All suspensions carry over to subsequent seasons. A hearing may be requested with the League Director to appeal for games played on future dates. The Umpire's Association will notify the Parks and Recreation Department of any infractions.

Penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct and inappropriate language if a player is not ejected:

1. If by a batter – he's out.
2. If by another offensive player – current or next batter is out and will not bat.
3. If by a defensive player – leadoff batter next inning is out and will not bat.

Penalties/suspensions for either A) multiple ejections in the same season or B) fighting will also be served concurrently.

Players, coaches, or managers engaging in fighting will be suspended for 5 [five] consecutive team games. A second offense will result in a one-year [365-day] suspension, and the third offense will result in a permanent ban from all department softball programs. Team fighting will result in an immediate removal from the league. (All rostered players)

Anyone striking an official will be barred from further participation in all Monroe Parks and Recreation leagues and programs.

The use of intoxicating substances is prohibited on all town properties. Smoking/vaping, No drinking before or during games.

INSURANCE:

This is included in your team entrance fee, but your personal insurance covers you first initially like with all programs that individuals participate in with the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS:

The league championship playoffs will begin following the conclusion of the regular season. All teams from each division will play for their respective championships. The highest seed will have their choice of home or away during the first and third game with the other team having the choice of home or away in the second game of a best of 3 game play-off. A double elimination tournament may be scheduled with the higher seed having the choice of home or away in the bracket. For all loser bracket games home and away will be determined by a coin flip. Each team plays in their assigned division in the regular season. There is no cross over again this year. We are playing on Fridays as well as designated Mondays to accommodate the number of teams we have. **During playoffs games we may have to play on a different night due to sunset limitations or rain make-ups.**

Overall records are based on won-loss percentages. In the event of a tie by any teams, the criteria for breaking the tie is:

1. Head to Head record between the teams in question
2. Division record only
3. Record versus the highest ranked team[s] in the division.
4. Record versus the highest ranked team[s] in the other division
5. A coin toss, if for seeding purposes

TEAM AWARDS:

League winner regular season – team trophy [1 per division]

Bracket playoff winner (upper and lower) and runners –up team trophies [1 per division]

Should a team win both only one trophy may be awarded

REMINDERS:

1. Field ground rules – will be discussed with each team and umpire’s association with league schedule.
2. League rules are within this document.
3. All players/their fans must follow all posted Wolfe Park Rules while at the park. Signs are at entrances to both parking areas. Enforcement will be in effect by Park Staff and Monroe Police Department.
4. All must have their players register on line using the registration portal www.MonroeRec.org.
5. Music should not be playing during games and no open alcohol containers/drinking of any kind when the games are going on.

Important Phone Numbers

Cancellation Line.....203-339-6106 Begin to call after 3pm in the event of wet fields or Inclement weather

Parks and Recreation Office.....203-452-2806 Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:00pm, Friday 8:30-1:00

Umpire in Chief Glenn Laudenslager203-876-8037[H] Call immediately if no umpires are at a field.
and League Director 203-606-9058[C]
gllaudens@gmail.com

2/18/2026
By GL & MO