

MONROE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MONROE WOMEN'S SOFTBALL OVER 25 LEAGUE
2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY:

The Monroe Women's over 25 Softball League is open to all female residents 25 years of age and older **[must turn 25 by June 1, 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 currently full time in Monroe, owns real estate in Monroe or works at least 35 hours per week in Monroe on a year-round basis and was on a roster with the Shelton/Monroe Softball Program from any season between 2020-2024. We will allow 5 out of town players on your roster who are do not meet any of the criteria stated above. Documented proof of residency may be required when managers hand in their rosters.

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 must be received by the Parks & Recreation Department by: **June 5, 2026 at 1:30 pm**. 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 **June 15, 2026 at 4:30pm**. 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: \$725.00 per team due when submitting roster and \$25.00 per player to be paid at time of registration on website. This includes umpires for all games, field lining, trophies, staffing at park, two cases of balls and Glenn's stipend. One check made out to the "Town of Monroe" is due with your rosters. Games will start on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026** and be planned accordingly.

Any roster changes prior to **June 17, 2026** must be in writing or emailed 48 hours prior to that week's game in order to be eligible for play [e.g. Monday at 6:00 for a Wednesday 6:00 game and Saturday by 6:00 for a Monday 6:00 game]. This would go to the League Director-Glenn Laudenslager.

EQUIPMENT:

SOFTBALL:

The Monroe Women's Over 25 Softball League official ball is an 11 inch 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.

BATS:

Metal single wall non-composite bats are the only ones allowed. Also, at the umpire's discretion, they can look over all bats and not allow the use of any if they are in question or not marked correctly.

(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 preceding day. At the pre-season meeting, managers were reminded to 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 that 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. Teams that have two forfeits could be dropped from the league during the 2026 season and may face the possibility to not return for the 2027 season. Games will be mostly on Wednesdays and select Mondays. Make-ups will be scheduled based on field and umpire availability, which could be on different days than the normal season.

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 game. 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. You can't use another player from a different team to fill in for an official game.

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 Women's Over 25 Softball League except in the following instances:

Courtesy Runners – Courtesy runner for an injured player during game will be replaced by the last batted out that inning and one designated runner can be decided on at ground rules with umpire and opposing team manager prior to game start.

Run Rule - If any team is leading by 12 or more runs at the end of 5 complete innings, the game is over and the team with the lead is the winner. In additional if a team has scored 7 runs in their batting inning regardless of outs the inning will stop once the 7th run crosses the plate and the other team will bat.

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.

Official Games - Any regular season game called prior to being official shall be completely replayed. (three innings or less)

Batting and play time - Batter starts with a 1-1 count in all games and one extra foul. Once thru the batting order no additional batters may be added to the lineup unless they are subs. An out is called when that batter is due at bat if they leave the game for any reason. Each player that is at the game must play a minimum of two innings in field and get one at bat.

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)

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 Women's Over 25 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 office and to Glenn
 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 Women's Over 25 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. The second ejection in a season will carry in a suspension for the remainder of season. All suspensions will carry over to next season if applicable. 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 and drinking before or during games if not allowed. All music must be shut off during the game.

Only one person on bench to do the score book. Absolutely no unregistered adults or children should be on the bench or in the dugout 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. **During playoffs games we may have to play on a different night due to sunset limitations.**

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. Record versus the highest ranked team[s] in the division.
3. Record versus the highest ranked team[s] in the other division
4. A coin toss if for seeding purposes

TEAM AWARDS:

League winner regular season – team trophy and runner-up team trophy

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.
6. Sportsmanlike conduct is expected by all players and their fans.

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 Laudenslager 203-876-8037[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