



Sheboygan County 4-H  
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Hello all fellow 4-H leaders and coaches;

It is that time of year again to think about 4-H softball. It seems so far away but yet it really isn't. Before we know it, the mud will be gone, the flowers will be coming up and our spring farm work will begin.

As with so many things, 4-H has experienced a shift in membership numbers in both youth and adult availability. We don't want 4-H softball to fall by the wayside. Like many of you, I remember 4-H softball being a great way to meet other kids from around the county and enjoy a fun evening. Parents often enjoyed the evening just as much as the youth. That said, we are going to try something from way out in left field! (Yes, my jokes are terrible. My kids remind me often!)

We will be playing 4 softball games during the summer. They will be much more of a mesh of youth and less of a "club team" concept. Across the board, both large and small clubs alike had issues organizing enough kids to create a team. We will rotate fields to try to not have all games in one area of the county. All 4-H members are welcome to join. Our suggestion will be to perhaps have a list of "participating youth" from your club in case of cancelations due to rain/severe weather. Yes, this is a very new concept we have never tried before with the 4-H softball program. However, I think this will be an amazing way for all kids to learn to work as a team with new faces and meet new friends. Isn't this why we joined 4-H in the first place? To make our best kids even better?

Please make this information available to all club members. Also, please forward the information on to whomever may be your club "Softball Coordinator."

All Games will begin at 6pm at the field listed below. Teams will be created as described the night of the game (teams may be adjusted based on number of players in attendance or ages of players). Rules for games are attached.

**Game #1**-Date: June 6th, Waldo Park. Team #1-Members living north of State Hwy 23 vs. Team #2- Members living south of State Hwy 23

**Game #2**-Date: June 20th, Glenbeulah Athletic Field. Team #1-Members with the last name beginning A-M vs. Team #2-Members with the last name N-Z.

**Game #3**-Date: June 27<sup>th</sup>, River Park, Sheboygan Falls. Team #1-Members who live east of State Hwy 57 vs Team #2-Members who live west of State Hwy 57

**Game #4**-Date: July 11<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell Athletic Field, Parnell. Team #1-Members whose birthday is January thru June vs Team #2-Members whose birthday is July thru December.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 920-207-4595 or email at [simplevalleycreations@yahoo.com](mailto:simplevalleycreations@yahoo.com).  
I am looking forward to the beginning of softball season and a lot of laughter!

Becky Klahn-Schwartz  
Spring Valley 4-H and Softball Coordinator

# **Sheboygan County 4-H Softball Fun League Rules-2022**

## **Team and Player Rules**

1. Teams shall have a minimum of 10 players who are actively enrolled in Sheboygan County 4-H. If a team is short players, members from the opposing team may be borrowed.
2. Adult leaders or parents will not be allowed to play. They may be asked to coach/umpire but not actively play.
3. Substitute runners should not be used unless absolutely needed.
4. Each player should bring their own glove and a hydrating beverage. If they are unable to bring a glove, there may be a few extras available.
5. Members should arrive and be prepared to play by 6pm. Warming up and stretching can be done prior to. This allows time to get teams sorted and have plenty of time for fun.

## **Game and Equipment Rules**

1. Games should be 7 innings. A complete game can be considered complete after 4 innings (due to weather or long innings) or 1 hour of play.
2. Slow pitch only
3. 4 balls and 3 strikes per batter. Only a coach may question an umpire's call but sportsmanlike conduct should always be shown.
4. No leaning, stealing, sliding or bat throwing.
5. 1 foot on the base of the person fielding
6. If a team is leading by 10 runs, that team can only bat thru their order once in that inning. After that inning, they may only bat their order in the following innings.
7. No spikes of any kind! No flip flops or sandals.
8. Catcher must wear a catcher's mask.
9. A strike mat must be used to aid both the pitcher and the umpire.
10. Only taped softball bats should be used. Any questionable bats can be removed by the umpire. No wooden bats.

## **Field Rules**

1. An impartial umpire is required for each game.
2. Always make sure the last person to leave the park is an adult. Never leave youth behind while waiting for rides.

## **Sportsmanship Rules**

1. At the end of each game, ALL players and coaches will shake hands with each member of the opposing team.
2. Any unsportsmanlike conduct shown by any player, coach or spectator will result an ejection from the game by the umpire. The player will receive a verbal warning first. After the warning, the individual can be benched or removed. 4-H softball is meant to be for teambuilding, networking and fun.

## **Cancelations Due to Weather**

1. Cancelation of games are up to the coaches/adults. We will try to give as much notice as possible. We will also try to post to the Sheboygan County 4-H Facebook page.
2. Coaches, please contact your club's regular players if a game is called off.

REV 4/4/2022