



CITY OF GREENVILLE PARKS & RECREATION
ADULT SOFTBALL 2010
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The City of Greenville Parks & Recreation adult softball leagues are organized for the express purposes of providing a friendly, healthy competition between participants in the sport of softball and providing a place for adult physical activity. Arguments, verbal or physical abuse of others, and other such disruptive behaviors, have no place in our leagues and will not be tolerated. The expulsion of a team, or its players, may take place during any part of the season, with no fees returned. Final decisions are made by the City of Greenville Sports Director and Committee. We ask that every participant accept the following policies and procedures to assure an enjoyable program.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- A. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or TOBACCO PRODUCTS** are allowed on City of Greenville parks and ball fields. If this rule is violated, the offender will be asked to leave immediately. A forfeit can be granted if a player, coach, or spectator refuses to leave.
- B. No jewelry will be allowed during games (wedding rings need to be removed, or taped).
- C. **All players will participate at their own risk** (Each team member must fill out a player contract & release form). It is highly recommended that each player has their own health insurance policy.

FEES:

- A. The entry fee for each team will be \$ 275 if paid before, or on March 16 (early registration).
*If paid after March 16, the entry fee will be \$ 300 (any sanction fees are not included).
- B. Umpire fees are \$20 per game/ per team and will be paid at the field prior the start of each game.
- C. Practice fees are \$10 per/hour, after the entry fee has been paid (normal rental fees are \$ 25 per/hr).

EQUIPMENT:

- A. Each team is responsible for providing game balls, gloves and bats, as well as a scorebook.
- B. Each team will **"hit your own Ball"**(the writing on the balls must be legible), but the balls must meet the following guidelines:
 1. Men's teams will hit a 12-inch, .44 POLYCOR/.375 lbs. max compression, red stitch softball. Must be approved and stamped ASA on the ball.
 2. **Coed teams** will hit a 12-inch, .44 **CORK CENTER** /.375 lbs. max compression, red stitch softball. Must be approved and stamped ASA on the ball.
 3. All **women's teams** will hit an 11-inch, .44**CORK CENTER**/.375 lbs. max compression, softball. Must be approved and stamped ASA on the ball.
- C. No metal cleats are allowed. When it is discovered that a player is wearing metal cleats, he(she) will not be allowed to continue playing in that game until they change into legal playing shoes.
- D. **BATS: Men's open teams and all female players** will be allowed to hit any **approved ASA, ISA, or USSSA slow pitch softball bats (all titanium bats and ultra 1& 2 will not be legal)**.
***All other teams** (including men's REC.) must hit bats that are **stamped and approved ASA**.
**All ASA bats are legal unless they are on the official ASA non-approved list.

ROSTERS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Teams will be formed independently. A coach will be designated for each team by the team and will serve as a representative and team contact.
- B. There will be no maximum limit of players on each roster, but a min. number of 15 is suggested.
- C. Each roster must have contact information (especially email addresses) for at least 2 people.
- D. All members of a team must be 17 years of age prior to the team's first game (**16 for church teams**).
- E. Once a team plays its 5th game of the season, the roster is frozen.
- F. All players on each roster must sign a player contract and release form.
- G. **Church teams** roster must consist of church members. However, each church roster is allowed to have **4(four)** players that are not church members. The roster must be signed by church staff.
- H. **Coed closed teams** roster must consist of **current employees** from that company. Spouses and immediate family members may be included on the roster, as long as the director of Human Resources, or the office manager signs the roster.
- I. Coed and Men's Open and REC. teams will not have any restrictions concerning players (min. age 17).
- J. A player may not play with more than one team within the same division (a female player could play on any one of the following: women's church & open, coed closed, coed church, coed law, coed open and coed REC.).



PLAYER CONDUCT:

- A. **All players are expected to conduct themselves in a mature manner.** Foul language and abusive behavior will not be tolerated. A warning will be issued to each team at the beginning of the game. Any language, or behavior deemed too offensive by the umpires, or field supervisor shall lead to an immediate ejection from the game in progress. Any player that is ejected for any reason, must leave the City of Greenville field. There will be no exceptions.
- B. The following list, concerns behavior that will not be tolerated during, before, or after the games on City of Greenville property and the minimum penalty.
 - 1. Ejection from a game- must leave the field and possible another game suspension.
 - 2. Profanity-minimum- ejection from that game.
 - 3. Unsportsmanlike conduct- minimum- one game suspension
 - 4. Second (2nd) offense for #1, #2, & #3 – minimum- suspension for remainder of the season.
 - 5. Threatening anyone- minimum-suspension for remainder of the season.
 - 6. Drinking or fighting- minimum-suspension for reminder of the season.
 - 7. Playing an ineligible player- minimum- loss of game(s) in which player participated and possible disciplinary actions against the player and/or coach and team.
 - 8. Hitting an official- minimum- 2 year (full) suspension.
- C. Anyone who is suspended for at least, the remainder of a season must meet with the Sports Committee before being allowed to play or coach in the City of Greenville adult softball program again.
- D. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**
 - 1. Making degrading remarks about officials or anyone who might be at the City of Greenville fields during, or after a game, or in the parking lot. This includes fans, players and coaches.
 - 2. Arguing with umpires, field supervisors, players or fans.
 - 3. Detaining or confronting umpires, field supervisor, City of Greenville employees etc. on the field or in the parking lot following a game, to request a rule explanation of some phase of the game.
 - 4. Coaches are responsible for their fans behavior.

PROTESTS:

- A. Protests may be filed over player eligibility or rules violations. Judgment calls cannot be protested (a team cannot protest player eligibility if that team agreed to let the other team “pick up” a player, or players in order to play that game).
- B. The protest must be made in writing and accompanied with a \$ 100 protest fee(check, or MO).
- C. The protest must be submitted to the Cleveland Park Center (in person) according to the following schedule:
 - Games played on Monday- By 12:30 pm on the following Wednesday.
 - Games played on Tuesday-By 12:30 pm on the following Thursday.
 - Games played on Wednesday-By 12:30 pm on the following Friday.
 - Games played on Thursday, or Friday- By 12:30 pm on the following Monday.
 - (Post season tournament game protests must be submitted as outlined above by 11:30 am on the next business day).
- D. The City of Greenville Sports Committee will rule on all protests. The fee will only be returned if the protest is valid.
- E. Both coaches, as well as umpires and the field supervisor will be interviewed.
- F. Decisions on protests are final, and there will be no appeals.

FORFEITS:

- A. If a team forfeits a game, someone from the team must do one of the following:
 - 1. Bring \$ 40 to the Softball Director (SD) @ Cleveland Park Center by 3 pm, on the day of the game.
 - 2. Bring \$ 40 to the SD @ Cleveland Park Center by 3 pm, on the following business day.
(Failure to comply with none of the above stipulations, will cause that team to forfeit its next game and it could be dropped from the schedule, without a refund).
- B. Any team that forfeits two (2) games could be dropped from the schedule without a refund.



SPECIFIC GAME MODIFICATIONS:

The official Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Rulebook will govern all games, with the exception of the following modifications:

- A. Each game will be 7 innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first.
A new inning will not begin once the time limit has expired.
(games may end in a tie, however if time allows, extra full innings will be played).
- B. Each team must submit a completed line up card to the umpires and the coach should ask any questions, prior to the beginning of each game.
- C. Minimum uniform required (all leagues) are a shirt, or jersey with a different number on the back (same color is preferred, but not required).
- D. Each batter will begin his (her) at bat with a 1(one) ball and 1(one) strike count. If the batter hits a foul ball on the 3rd strike, the batter is out.
- E. A game becomes official after 4 innings of play (3 & ½ if home team is ahead).
- F. For the Men's Open Divisions there will have a limit of 5 (five) over the fence home runs. All other divisions will have a limit of 4 over-the-fence homeruns per team, per game. All other over-the-fence homeruns will be ruled as outs. If a ball is touched by a defensive player and then goes over the fence, it will not count as one of the over-the-fence homeruns (any female home runs do not count toward the limit in coed games).
- G. The pitcher's foot must remain in contact with the pitching rubber (or behind the rubber) until the pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- H. One courtesy runner will be allowed per inning. The runner must be the individual who made the last out. If the runner is needed in the first inning, before an out has been made, the runner shall be the last person listed on the line up card, or the last person that scored.
- I. There will be no base stealing and no "scat cats will be allowed".
- J. The mercy rule will be in effect if a team is ahead by 15 runs after 5 innings (4 & ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs).
- K. All teams must field a minimum of eight (8) players to start, play and finish a game. If a team can't put 8 legal players on the field, it will forfeit the game.

COED RULES:

- A. Each team should start the game with an even number of males (m) and females (f).
Example: 8 players (4-m& 4-f), 10 players (5-m& 5-f), 12 players (6-m & 6-f).
However, a team may start, play, or finish a game with 9, or 11 players.
- B. No more than 10 (5m &5f) players can play defense, at the same time.
(2-m/2-f in the infield; 2-m/ 2-f in the outfield; 1-m / 1-f as pitcher/catcher).
If a team, at any time, plays with 8 or 9 players on defense, there must be 2 females on the infield (not including the pitcher and catcher positions).
- C. The batting order should alternate sexes. However, if at any time 2-male batters bat in a row, an automatic out will be declared (no penalty for females batting in a row).
- D. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award and the female(who bats next), has the option to take a walk (BB) or bat (if a male is walked and the next batter is a male, then an automatic out is declared).
- E. All outfielders must stay behind the coed line until the ball is hit (no short fielder in coed).

COED REC. RULES (All regular coed rules apply, except the following):

- A. Each batter will get a chance to hit one (1) of three (3) pitches that will be pitched by their own pitcher each inning. If any of the batted balls hit the pitcher, the ball will be dead and no runners will advance (If the ball hits the pitcher on the last pitch, the batter is out).If none of the three (3) pitches are fair balls, the batter is out (no walks).
- B. Each team is allowed to hit up to 12 batters in their batting order each inning. When 3 outs have been made the bases will be cleared and the remaining batters will bat. When the last batter in the line-up comes to bat, the team's at bat will be over when either of the following occurs: The last batter makes an out, or the last batter scores.
- C. Each team will be allowed to have no more than ten (10) defensive players on the field at any time (a catcher, five (5) infielders and four (4) outfielders).
- D. Each game will last fifty-five (55) minutes, or five (5) complete innings.



OFFICIALS:

- A. Only the coach or designated representative will be allowed to enter a discussion on the field with an umpire or field supervisor.
- B. The field supervisor has complete control of the ball-field(s) and any part of the City of Greenville property that surrounds the ball-field(s). At any time he/she can ask any one (players, coaches, spectators, etc...) to leave the park and can stop the game(s) at any time. He/she will report any incidents, such as unsportsmanlike conduct to the Softball Director.
- C. Two (2) umpires are always scheduled for each game. If only one umpire shows up, each team will only need to pay \$ 15.

GAME SCHEDULES:

- A. Regular season game schedules will be available at the coaches meetings on April 19.
- B. Rain out games will not be rescheduled unless they are necessary to determine a place in the tournament. Cancelled games could be rescheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday nights.
- C. Teams, umpires and the field supervisor(s) should be present for a scheduled game unless they have been notified by City of Greenville Parks & Recreation personnel that the field(s) is too wet to play. Notification will include a message on the inclement weather phone line.
- D. In case of inclement weather, please call 467-8011, or 467-8010 after 3:00pm.
- E. Regular season games will begin the week of April 26-30. All post-season tournament games should be completed by July 16, 2010.

AWARDS:

- A. A trophy will be given to the first place & second place teams in each division. Tie-breakers will be broken using the following method:
 - 1. Head to head results (If the teams did not play each other during the regular season and both teams have no losses or ties, then a " tie-breaker" game will be played).
 - 2. Head to head run differential (Only if the teams played each other more than once).
 - 3. Won/loss record against common opponents (only if they have played each other).
- B. A trophy will be given to the champion and runner-up for each tournament.

POST SEASON TOURNAMENT:

- A. Teams will be eligible for the post season tournament if they have won at least one (1) regular season game and have not been dropped from the schedule.
- B. All eligible teams will be invited to play in a single elimination tournament.
- C. The tournament games could be played on any day (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

If you have any questions, concerning the City of Greenville Adult Softball League, Please call the Sports Director, Jim Thornton, at 467-8010, or 467-8011.

Email address: jthornton@greenvillesc.gov.

