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ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES 2010



Douglas County Parks & Recreation

Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department

Adult Slow-Pitch Softball

2010 League Rules - (Valley Only)

Updated Summer 2010

League Format

1. The Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department's Softball Program will be sanctioned by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). All leagues will be governed by this year's official ASA rulebook with the exceptions of the following policies and procedures state within.
2. A regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings or until the time limit has expired (1 hour and 10 minutes). No new inning will begin after seventy (70) minutes from the official start time.

League Structure

1. The league will consist of a minimum of:
Men's League (twice per week) - (18) games per team
Men's, Women's & Coed (once per week) - (10) games per team
2. **Home team will be listed first and responsible for keeping the official scorebook.**

Eligibility of Teams

1. Teams or players cannot enter more than one local division (exception: Men's & Coed; Women's & Coed) Teams and players cannot play both C and D league.
2. **Any modifications to the official team roster must be done no later than the last Friday in May.**

Number of Players per Team

1. Teams must start the game with at least nine (9) players and finish with at least nine (9) players. A legal team is ten (10) players. Any team that drops to eight (8) players will automatically forfeit the game.
2. **Any time a teams drops to less than the number of players they started with because of an ejection, a forfeit will be declared, unless the team has a substitute for the ejected player.**
3. When a team is playing with only 9 players, players arriving late must be put in the game and added to the line-up as the 10th batter immediately.

Pre-game Rules

1. Teams will not be allowed to take infield practice prior to their game time, please stay off the infield.
2. **No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are allowed on the playing field, in/around the dugout at any time. Managers, players & team representatives may not consume or have in their possession any alcoholic beverages or illegal substances during their game(s).** A player who breaks this rule during a game may be ejected from the game and possibly more. After being ejected, if the player does not leave the facility and parking lot, within five (5) minutes, the team will forfeit the game.
3. The umpire has the right to eject a player from a game if they show signs of being intoxicated or under the influence.
4. The managers shall give their line-up to the umpire/scorekeeper **at least ten (10) minutes** before game time and must use the line-up cards provided by the Parks & Recreation Department. **Players must be listed on the lineup as follows: Last Name, First Initial.**
5. **The managers must sign the scorecard at the conclusion of the game. Failure to sign the scorecard will result in a forfeiture of any protests or challenges.**
6. There may be a meeting of umpire and managers before each game to cover ground rules.

Home Run Rule – Walkoffs are allowed but players may run the bases if they like.

1. Men's "C" League: Teams in this category will be allowed to hit three (3) unobstructed Home runs per game. All other unobstructed home runs will be called out.
2. Men's "D" League: Teams in this category will be allowed to hit one (1) unobstructed Home run per game. All other unobstructed home runs will be called out.
3. Women's League: Teams in this category will be allowed to hit three (3) unobstructed home runs per game. All other unobstructed home runs will be called out.
4. Co-ed League: Teams in this category will be allowed to hit two (2) unobstructed home runs per gender. All other unobstructed home runs will be called an out.

Equipment

1. All players must wear enclosed shoes.
2. Metal cleats, spikes or football shoes with capped cleats are NOT allowed.
3. **Non-Approved bats**. - *As determined by the ASA Rule Book.*
 - a). If a player is observed/caught using a non-approved bat, the bat will be confiscated by the umpire, they will be ejected from the game and may be suspended for the remainder of the season. The manager of this player may also be suspended a minimum of 2 games, possibly more, which will be determined by the League Director. See website for Non approved bat list. Failure to surrender the bat will result in player and manager being suspended for the season.
NOTE: the assigned umpire can inspect all bats at any time.
4. **If a player is caught unknowingly using illegal equipment, that player may be disqualified but not ejected. If disqualified, that player may stay and watch, but is prohibited from participating.**
5. Women will hit an "11" inch ball and Men will hit a "12" ball.
6. All batters will start with a 0-0 count.
7. The ASA pitching arc is 6 – 10 feet from the ground.

General Game Rules

1. Game time for all leagues will be designated on the schedule.
2. All league games will be scheduled within a time frame of one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes. No new inning will start after one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes from the listed start time.
3. Games shall be played to either the 7th inning or to the full allotment of time.
4. **The mercy rules are as follows: 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings.**
5. For any game that is tied and the time limit has expired, a tiebreaker will be played.
6. For tied games, the "International Tie Breaker" rule will be used. The person who is listed as the last person to bat in that inning will be placed at second at the start of the inning.
7. **No time limit will be used during the championship game of the tournaments.** However, the run rule will apply during all tournament games including the championship.

8. **Only the team manager or designated captain will be allowed to approach the umpire concerning any disputes occurring during the course of a game.** The team manager or captain is the person who attends the pre-game conference.
9. **It is the responsibility of the team at bat to retrieve or replace foul balls and home runs.**
10. Women are allowed to pitch in the “co-ed” league.
11. In Coed, the line up must alternate male/female. There must also be the same number of males as females in the field at all times. **Positioning must be equal throughout play (2 and 2 in the outfield, 2 and 2 in the infield and 1 and 1 pitcher and catcher.** However, in Coed, all outfielders must stay behind the designated line until the batter makes contact with a pitched ball.
12. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (female) will bat. **Exception:** With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
13. No stealing
14. As an ASA rule, a double base rule has been implemented to make the following changes in conjunction with Rule 8, Section 2, Item M, #3, 6-9:
 - a. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner must use the colored portion. **The umpire will call any batter-runner out who uses the white base when there is a play at first base.**
 - b. On balls hit to the outfield with no play on the batter-runner advancing to first base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the batter-runner return, the runner may return to either the white or colored portion.
 - c. When tagging up on a fly ball, the white or colored portion may be used.
 - d. When there is a force play on a batter-runner who touches only the white portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the white, interference is called, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and all runners must return to the last base occupied before the interference. If the umpire believes there was a potential play on another runner, they will be called out.

Courtesy Runners

1. No courtesy runners will be allowed. If a player is injured, the substitution rule comes into affect.

Suspended Players

1. The Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to suspend for disciplinary reasons, any player, coach, manager, or spectator from further participation due to any misconduct and/or unsportsmanlike act. Any player ejected from a game will have a disciplinary meeting with the league administrator, Andy Braun, before they are allowed to play again.

Uniforms

1. Players may wear any type uniform. There is no penalty for players not wearing a uniform or for having identical numbers.

Forfeits

1. **Game time is forfeit time as determined by the umpire’s watch. However, if both managers and the umpire agree to have a determined grace period, no more than 10 minutes, the game can still be played when enough players arrive, but the game clock will start.**
2. Umpires will only officiate legal games (no forfeits).

3. There shall be no postponement of games allowed. Any team that foresees a conflict with their scheduled game time and notifies the Recreation Department within twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the game will be credited with a loss, not a forfeit.
4. Proceeding games may be started earlier than scheduled if both managers agree.
5. **A team that forfeits three (3) or more games during the season may be disqualified from the league without a refund of league fees and not be eligible for tournament play.**

Cancellations

1. All teams must show up to all games regardless of weather. In case of cancellation, the Parks & Recreation Department will email post on the website schedule changes by 4:30 p.m. on game day.
2. Only Umpires or Parks & Recreation Staff can cancel games due to rain/weather at game time based on safety of the players and/or concern for the facilities.
3. Exception- on continually rainy days, the games can be canceled by the League Director at the Parks & Recreation Department by 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of the affected day.
4. Douglas County Parks & Recreation Department's Parks Ranger, Sports Coordinator and ASA Umpires have the right to cancel or postpone a game at any time due to unsafe field conditions and or weather. The Sports Coordinator will reschedule games upon field availability. All make up games will be played at the end of the league schedule.

Insurance

1. Persons or players participating in activities sponsored by the Douglas County Parks and Recreation Department are not covered, in any way, for personal liability or property damage. This means that players are competing in this program at their own risk. Teams desiring information on group insurance for complete teams may obtain this information from ASA.