

**ARLINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SOFTBALL PROGRAM  
LEAGUE LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS SPRING 2009**

Revised 01/01/09 TB

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. **PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE SOFTBALL COMPLEXES!**
- B. The Arlington Parks & Recreation Softball Program reserves the right to combine or open up leagues to allow more teams to register and to avoid canceling leagues.
- C. The Parks and Recreation Department routinely takes photos and/or video of participants and visitors in our programs and facilities for promotional purposes. Please be aware that by participating or utilizing our facility, you are granting the City of Arlington and its agents the right to use and publish your image or your minor children's image, and that no monetary remuneration will be given.
- D. **No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park and/or parking lots (ordinance 78-47). Softball umpires will forfeit any game if a player or players are found to have alcoholic beverages inside the softball complex and/or dugouts.**
- E. Smoking is prohibited in the dugouts and on the ball fields.
- F. Jewelry: The City of Arlington strongly recommends the removal of all jewelry before playing any athletic activity however, no penalty will be assessed to players choosing to play in jewelry. A player may be asked to remove any jewelry deemed to be a safety issue. Failure to remove any jewelry once requested by the umpire will result in a game forfeiture. The City WILL NOT be liable for injuries incurred due to jewelry.
- G. Game Scores are posted on the website within 24-48 hours following each night of play. Any score discrepancies must be reported within 72 hours of your game time.
- H. Lineup cards will be available at the field office.
- I. Warm up Area: Participants are to warm up in designated warm up areas only.
- J. Playoff games are only placed on schedules with less than a full league (9 teams). If your league has less than 9 teams, you will be given 1 playoff game for every team less than 9. For example, if your league has 7 teams in it, you will play 6 round robin games and will be given 2 playoff games. Playoffs are NOT a winner take all....they are merely games added to your schedule to equal the 8 games you paid for.
- K. Seeding: If your league has playoff games and there are 2 teams tied at the end of round robin play, seeding is done according to head-to-head competition. If there are more than 2 teams tied, the 1<sup>st</sup> seed will go to the team that beat the other 2 involved in the tie. If there is a split between the teams, then the least runs allowed between those teams will be used to determine that position. Each position will be determined in the same manner. You will remain at your seeded position throughout the playoffs although your wins and losses will change.
- L. Winner of each league will be determined by the most games won after the final game of the season. If two or more teams are tied, the winner will be the team that defeated the others (head to head) involved in the tie (if applicable) after all games have been played. If there is a split between two or more teams the winner will be the team that allowed the least amount of runs against the other teams involved in the tie. If still tied, the winner will be the team that allowed the least amount of runs against all opponents. Once the league winner has been determined and there is now a tie between 2 or more teams for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, the winner will be determined using the same process.
- M. Awards will be available for pickup on the final night of league play at the complex in which your league was played or they may be picked up afterward at Meadowbrook Recreation Center. Individual awards are given to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place team in each league. No trophies will be given. Failure to pick up awards within 30 days will result in forfeiture of the award.
- N. Repeat Winners: If a team wins the same league 2 seasons in a row, that team must move up to the next competitive league if one is available.
- O. Information: A Field Attendant is on duty at both complexes every night of league play. If you have a question regarding awards, rainout dates, etc., please find the Field Attendant. If they cannot answer your question please contact the Athletics Office at 817-459-6930.
- P. Rainout information may be obtained by calling (817)462-3471 after 3:30 p.m. weekdays, and after 1:00 p.m. Sundays. Rainout dates are also posted on the schedules at each park for your convenience. Please check this board weekly. **Be prepared to play canceled/postponed games whenever and wherever assigned.**

- Q. The Athletics office **will not reschedule games** at the request of any team or manager after schedules are printed.
- R. **Special Request:** Special request for teams that play in more than one league will be honored at no additional charge. No Special request will be honored for individuals participating in different leagues. **Special Request for specific game times will not be honored.**
- S. **The Parks Athletics office will not give out game times over the phone, nor will they be able to fax schedules. Players should check [www.sportsstandings.com/arlington](http://www.sportsstandings.com/arlington) website for game information.**

### **SOFTBALL PROGRAM PLAYING RULES**

- A. All games will be played in accordance with either ASA or USSSA Softball Association Rules.
- B. The **home team** will be the first team listed on the schedule and will occupy the first base dugout.
- C. All players must complete the required information on the team roster prior to playing any game. The team roster must be turned in to the plate umpire at the pre-game meeting on the first night of league play. Failure to turn in a completed roster form **WILL** result in forfeiture of the game. If a roster is turned in unreadable, you will be asked to complete a new roster while the game clock continues and play is stopped. New players wishing to be added to the team roster by the 5<sup>th</sup> week of league play will be required to sign the roster prior to the start of the game. No player may be added once the game clock has started.
- D. Team rosters will be **closed** after the 5<sup>th</sup> week of league play. After that time, no new players may be added. **Exception:** Any team losing players due to injury or job transfer after rosters are closed may add a player only by having the new player complete a Late Player Addition form. The form must be submitted by the new player to the Adult Sports Manager at the Meadowbrook Recreation Center during regular office hours. The new player will be required to show identification upon submission of the form.
- E. All lineup cards must be filled out completely listing each player in the order in which they will bat. Lineup information must be legible and must include player's last name, first name, and uniform number. If a team does not have enough players to begin the game, that team shall submit a lineup card listing the players that are present and the game clock will be started. They will then have 5 minutes to field a team or the game will be forfeited.
- F. In all Leagues players will come to the plate with a 1-1 count. An extra foul will be given. In cases of tie games at the end of regulation play, Men's and Women's Leagues will play 1 pitch with no foul. In Co-Rec and Mixed Leagues batter will come to the plate with a 2-2 count with no foul.
- G. Unless otherwise noted in the league information flyer, all leagues will have a twenty run rule in effect after three innings, a fifteen run rule after four innings, and a ten run rule after five innings.
- H. **Home runs allowed:** The batter will be out on any homerun hit over the allotted number.

- \*Men's C Church - 5
- \*Men's D Competitive - 5 (Minimum, may agree to more)
- \*Men's D Recreational - 3
- \*Men's E Recreational - 0 + Inning Ending and Offensive Ejection
- \*CoEd and Mixed D Competitive - 5
- \*CoEd and Mixed D Recreational - 3
- \*CoEd and Mixed E Recreational - 0 + Inning Ending and Offensive Ejection

Any player in E Recreational hitting a fair untouched ball over the fence will be the third out of the inning and that player will be offensively ejected from the game and an out will be recorded each time his position comes to the plate.

- I. **Base Stealing ASA Only** - All Men's C Church, Men's D Competitive and Men's D Modified leagues will utilize base stealing. Runners will only be allowed to steal when the pitched ball reaches home plate, or if the pitcher does not have control of the ball (umpire's judgment) or is involved in a play.
  1. If a runner stops or is clearly not advancing when the catcher releases the ball to the pitcher and the pitcher catches the ball and is not involved in a play, the play is ruled dead and all runners are returned to the last base legally touched.
  2. If the pitcher does not catch the ball or have possession of the ball, or if the pitcher is involved in a play, the ball remains live and the runners may advance at their own risk.

3. Runners may not advance if the pitched ball hits the batter, the ground before reaching the front edge of home plate, or home plate. The ball is dead and a ball is awarded to the batter.
4. The pitcher may cover any base on an attempted put out and if a play is being made on a runner off the base, the ball remains live.
5. The above will apply for both legal and illegal pitches.
6. A pitched ball that hits behind home plate and strikes the umpire, or a thrown ball by the catcher that hits the umpire, remains live and runners may advance.
7. Any runner (in either umpire's judgment) leaving a base before the pitched ball crosses home plate will be called out.
8. Ball 4 will be considered "dead" and runners may only advance if forced to do so.

### **TEAM PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Men's and Women's teams will consist of ten players. An eleventh player may be used in the lineup as an Extra Hitter.
- B. CoEd and Mixed teams will consist of ten players (five male and five female) stationed anywhere they choose in fair territory as each pitch is made. Two Extra Hitters may be used in the lineup, but must consist of one male and one female.
- C. All players must have a picture I.D. with them on site.
- D. Teams are allowed to start with nine players (Men's, Women's & CoRec). However, an out must be taken in the ninth or tenth batting position in CoRec and Mixed leagues and the tenth batting position in Men's and Women's leagues until the missing player arrives. It is the team manager's responsibility to inform the home plate umpire at the pregame meeting if their team is playing short-handed. Once the game starts, if it is determined by the umpire or by the opponent that the short-handed team failed to inform the home plate umpire about the missing player, the game will be forfeited.
- E. Participants must have attained the age of 18 prior to the registration date to be eligible to play in Arlington Softball leagues. Participants 15 through 17 years of age may play only after a parent completes a Minor Release Form. These forms may be obtained at each complex, at Meadowbrook Recreation Center, or at our website at [www.sportsstandings.com/arlington](http://www.sportsstandings.com/arlington).
- F. A player MAY NOT be on multiple rosters in the same league. It is up to the opposing team to declare a player eligibility infraction. A player may play on as many **other** City of Arlington leagues as he/she wishes as long as he/she has signed the team roster for each.
- G. The Flip-Flop rule will be in effect in all 5<sup>th</sup> inning run rule situations. The flip-flop rule is designed to prevent very large victory/loss margins and prevent long, extended games. If the home team is losing by 10 or more runs at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the home team will remain in the dugout (the visiting team will remain on the field).
- H. Any player that has been ejected from any Arlington league or tournament game will not be allowed in any team area while under suspension. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in a second suspension.
- I. Women in the Men's Leagues: Women will be allowed to participate in the Men's E Leagues only. No Men's Team will be allowed to carry more than 2 women per team. No Men may play in the Women's Leagues.**
- J. American Disability Act Rule: This rule may be used for a physically challenged player as determined by the American Disabilities Act of July 25, 1990. As a result of the player's disability, the player can play either offense or defense. A courtesy runner will be used for this player once the player has reached first base. The courtesy runner shall be last out of the prior inning or the previous out.**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- A. An umpire may eject any player, manager, or spectator for unsportsmanlike conduct immediately before, during, or after a game.
  1. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct may be suspended for the next 14 days from all City of Arlington softball leagues/tournament play. The ejecting umpire has the right to determine if

a lesser suspension is warranted.

2. **If a player or coach is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct relating to violent acts or attempts to injure another, the player will be suspended for the remainder of the softball season, but not less than 4 weeks.** If the suspension is near the end of the season, the suspension will be extended to the following softball season.
  3. No ejected player may remain in any team area during their suspension dates. If the ejected player impedes the progress, or makes a travesty of the game, said game may be forfeited to the opposing team.
  4. **Fighting Policy: Players involved in fighting will receive 180 day suspension for the first punch. All other players will receive a 90 day suspension.**
- B. Umpires will determine an ejected player's name by reviewing the lineup sheet submitted at the pre-game meeting. The jersey number and players name must match before the player is ejected from the game. The person whose name is listed on the lineup sheet will be suspended for the next 14 days from all City of Arlington Softball leagues and tournament play unless the offending team can prove within 5 business days that the listed player was not the guilty party.
  - C. A second suspension within the same calendar year will result in twice the suspension time of the first ejection. This suspension shall be enforced for ALL City of Arlington leagues/tournament play. If a player or coach is suspended near the end of the season, this suspension will be extended to the following softball season.
  - D. If the player or coach is ejected on a third occasion, that player or coach (and the remainder of his or her team) may be suspended from all athletic division activities for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of the second offense.
  - E. Team captains are responsible for the behavior of their spectators. Failure to control the actions of the spectators will result in forfeiture of the game.
  - F. **Anyone (player, coach, or spectator) threatening or handling an official or umpire may be liable to charges and banishment from all future City of Arlington athletic activities for a minimum of one (1) year or an indefinite suspension at the discretion of the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department.**
  - G. Anyone or team who commits fraud or is involved in any act of fraudulent activity while a player, coach, or manager (including playing under an assumed name or falsifying rosters or I.D.) may be liable to charges and removal from all future City of Arlington activities for a minimum of one (1) year or an indefinite suspension at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department.
  - H. **Disqualified Player:** A disqualified player is one who has used an illegal bat, foul language, or has committed actions which would be deemed by the Umpire as unsportsmanlike. Disqualified players or coaches may remain in the dugout and/or coach, but he/she has lost their game eligibility. Team may continue to play under the shorthanded rule without a substitute.

## **FORFEITS**

- A. **Game time is forfeit time. At Game time coach must deliver line-up and game balls to the Umpire. If the team is still short players, the team will then have 5 minutes to be game ready.**
- B. A forfeit score will be posted as 7-0 in favor of the offended team. If a team leaves the field of play in order to intentionally forfeit a game, the offended team will be awarded the score at the time the offending team left the field.
- C. A \$25.00 forfeit fee will be accessed to teams who fail to show for their scheduled game time or who fail to notify the Adult Sports Manager by 4pm the day prior to their game. Sunday and Monday leagues must notify the Adult Sports Manager by 4pm the Friday prior to their game. This fee must be paid to the Adult Sports Manager at Meadowbrook Recreation Center no later than 48 hours prior to your next scheduled game time. The fee must be in the form of cash, a cashier's check, or money order. Any team forfeiting any game during position rounds or either of the last 2 games of the season will also forfeit their eligibility for any league awards.
- D. Umpires reserve the right to forfeit any game if a player or players are found to have alcoholic beverages inside the softball complex and/or dugouts.

## **PROTESTS**

- A. Only protests based on interpretation of the rules and player eligibility will be accepted for review. Protests based on judgment calls will not be accepted.

- B. All protests must be executed in the following manner:
1. The notification of intent to protest rule interpretations must be lodged verbally to the plate umpire immediately prior to the next pitch.
    - a. Notify the plate umpire that the game is under protest on a rule interpretation.
    - b. A \$75.00 protest fee must be turned in to the Field Attendant or plate umpire at the time of protest. Failure to turn in the protest fee within 2 minutes of verbally protesting the game will nullify the protest and the game will continue as normal.
    - c. If the protest is upheld, the \$75.00 will be refunded and the game will be replayed from the point at which time the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected.
  2. The notification of intent to protest player eligibility of a starting player must be made by the opposing team captain within 5 minutes of the start of the game clock. If a team wishes to protest a substitute player, the team captain must lodge said protest before time expires on the game clock.
    - a. Notify the plate umpire that the game is “Under Protest” on player eligibility and state which player on the opposing team you are protesting.
    - b. A \$75.00 protest fee must be turned in to the Field Attendant or plate umpire at the time of protest. Failure to turn in the protest fee within 2 minutes of verbally protesting the game will nullify the protest and the game will continue as normal. A second protest will not be accepted.
    - c. If the protest is upheld, the \$75.00 will be refunded and the game in which the illegal player was playing will be forfeited to the offended team. The ineligible player or players may also be suspended from all Arlington Softball play for a 14 day period.
    - d. Eligibility of the protesting team’s players will also be checked.

### **TIME ALLOTMENT OF GAMES**

- A. The scoreboard shall be considered the official clock. In the event the scoreboard is inoperable, the watch of either umpire will be considered the official clock. Managers are urged to synchronize watches with the scoreboard or umpire’s watch before the beginning of the game.
- B. Time limit is 55 minutes. Any inning that has started when time expires shall be completed. No inning shall begin after 55 minutes have expired except in the case of a tie. Note: A new inning begins after the final out of the previous inning.
- C. The game clock will begin at the completion of the pre-game meeting.

### **EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

- 1) **All ASA** leagues will use any ASA approved softball with a COR of .40, .44, or .47 and with a compression of 375 lbs. or less. These balls may be purchased anywhere you choose. In Co-Ed Play a 12” ASA approved ball will be used for the Male batter and a 11” ASA approved ball will be used for the Female Batter. A sample of the ball certification mark and stamp color is listed below:



Red Colored Marking & Stamp  
 Max 375 lbs  
 Max .47 COR

Black Colored Marking & Stamp  
 Max 375 lbs  
 Max .44 COR

Blue Colored Marking & Stamp  
 Max 375 lbs  
 Max .40 COR

- 2) **All USSSA** leagues will use any USSSA approved softball. In Men’s leagues the ball must be marked Classic M. In Mixed leagues the 11” Women’s Classic W ball and the Men’s Classic M Ball will be used.
- B. All bats must be stamped official softball. At the discretion of the umpire bats may be removed from the game for failing to meet the certification of the league being used. Bats that are damaged, worn or suspected of being altered may be removed by the umpire. Bats shall not exceed 34 inches in length, 38 ounces in weight, and 2 ¼ inches in diameter. The Bat Performance Factor (BPF) shall be 1.20 or less for ASA leagues.

1. The bat must bear **either** the **ASA approved certification mark** or the **ASA certification mark** as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA Banned Bat List unless it also bears an **engraved ASA approved re-certification mark** as shown below:



2. The bat must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; **or**
3. The bat must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.
4. All players are required to wear shirts with an **affixed number**. Duplicate numbers will be allowed only if the shirts and/or numbers are of different color. Shirts with abusive language or vulgar signs or symbols printed on them will not be allowed. A participant caught playing without a numbered shirt or with a shirt containing abusive language will be asked to put on a legal shirt. Failure to do so will result in Player Disqualification.

#### **CANCELLATION AND POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES:**

- A. The softball weather line can be reached by calling (817) 462-3471 after 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and after 1:00 p.m. on Sundays. It is the team manager's responsibility to contact this number for playing conditions.
- B. Should weather conditions change after 3:30 p.m., please call the above weather line. If the recorded information has not been updated, then the decision to "Play or Cancel" games will be announced at the game site. The softball staff will remain at each facility until 6:30 p.m. to announce cancellations and the rainout line will be updated when the decision has been made.
- C. If a game is suspended or canceled due to inclement weather, 3 ½ innings will constitute a complete game if the home team is winning or 4 complete innings if the home team is not winning. All games postponed before this time will be continued at the point where the game was stopped.

#### **RULE ADDITION FOR SPRING 2009:**

- **ASA pitching regulations will now allow a pitcher to pitch from 50' to 56' from home plate. The pitcher must take a set position before making any motion toward home.**
- **Home Run classification: Men's D Comp 5 and can be increased, Men's D Rec 3, Co-Ed/Mixed Comp 5, Co-Ed/ Mixed Rec 3.**
- **"Up the Middle" Rule, at the discretion of the Umpire a player may be called out, ejected or suspended for any act deemed flagrant from hitting the ball up the middle at the Pitcher. Players are warned now that any verbal threat towards another player will result in immediate disqualification.**
- **ADA rule: Any player having a disability may have a courtesy runner at any given time.**

#### **HELPFUL WEBSITES:**

1. [www.USSSAsoftball.com](http://www.USSSAsoftball.com)

This site will help track team points and give updates on local tournaments.

2. [www.ASAsoftball.com](http://www.ASAsoftball.com)

This site has information regarding bats that have been deemed illegal.

3. [www.sportsstandings.com/arlington](http://www.sportsstandings.com/arlington)

This site contains all your schedules and league information. Upcoming events and league rules are posted here under the files download tab. You can create your own team website through Sports Standings as well.