

**LAWRENCE PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ADULT SOFTBALL
GENERAL LEAGUE RULES**

RULES OF PLAY:

- A. Official guide of play for City League is the current A.S.A. Softball Rule book, unless superseded by the City League Softball Rules.

UNIFORMS AND TEAM REGULATIONS:

- A. All players who play in a game **MUST** have a shirt or jersey, recommended same color, but not mandatory.
- B. If a cap is worn, it must be baseball style cap or visor. Bandanas are legal headgear, but must be worn around head. No other style is permitted during a game including plastic baseball caps.
- C. All exposed jewelry must be removed. If a player fails to do so, the player is ejected from game.
- D. Each team will be required to keep the official score book while at bat. The score book will change dugouts every ½ inning. Any team or player of the team that knowingly manipulates the score, batting orders, etc., will be the cause of that team being banned from the league for the remainder of the playing season.
- E. Any player drinking beer or alcoholic beverages while participating in a City sponsored league game or tournament will result in the game being forfeited immediately by the umpires. Players cannot have alcoholic beverages at the diamond and cannot go to the parking area to drink between innings or anytime during a game. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- F. According to City codes, alcoholic beverages are not allowed in City Parks. Cereal malt beverages (3.2 beer) can be consumed in park areas such as shelter houses, but not on or around ball diamond areas, or in public parking lots. Cereal malt beverages are not allowed within any LPRD owned or operated facilities.

STARTING TIME AND FORFEITURES:

- A. Game Times: - 6:15 PM, 7:15 PM, 8:15 PM and 9:15 PM, Monday through Friday. Sunday games begin at 1:00 PM through 10:00 PM. Game time is starting time. *However, if one team does not have (8) players, a 10-minute grace period can be given at the discretion of the other team's manager; with the understanding that the 60 minute game clock has started. If both teams are short of 8 players, both teams will have up to 10 minutes to field their eight players or will forfeit. The game will begin as soon as the teams have eight players. Teams not ready to play at game time, or after a 10-minute grace period if granted, will forfeit.
- B. Officials will use their watch or time piece as the games official timing device.
- C. A team must have at least (8) players in the score book or on the field to start and continue the game. This rule is not negotiable. There are no automatic outs recorded in the batting order when a team begins or finishes with less than 10 players. (Exception: See Special Coed Rule #C)
- D. Teams starting with less than 10 players may add additional players to the bottom of the line up if players show up late.
- E. Teams who use the (EH) or Extra Hitter will be allowed to continue a game with as few as (8) players. Example: Teams begin with (EH) 11 players on batting order, (2) players collided in outfield and must leave due to injuries; team can continue play with (9) players, the game is not canceled because the team does not have (11) players using EH or (12) players, (Coed only). Example: If team begins with (9) players, as additional players arrive teams can add to batting order up to (11) or coed (12). Coed start with (10) ten can add up to (12) twelve. No penalty assessed to teams with adding players. Remember that Lawrence Parks and Recreation softball leagues allow games to begin with (8) eight players. Coed must have equal number men and women (example: 4 & 4, 5 & 5, 6 & 6), when using eight, ten and twelve players.
- . Forfeits – If a team forfeits more than (2) games during an 8 game season and 3 games for a 10 game season), the team will be subject to suspension from any further league competition with

NO REFUND. If teams are not able to play, we encourage them to contact the Adult Sports Office by no later than noon on the day of the game or noon on Friday for weekend games so that the opposing team's manager can be contacted. If a team forfeits any games without contacting the Adult Sports office within the time mentioned above, that team will not be eligible for league championship awards. The Adult Sports office will not reschedule any games other than those cancelled by the league office.

LENGTH OF GAME:

- A. Official starting time will be designated by the plate umpire. Starting time is to be placed on the score book by the umpire. Please do not waste time getting organized, your time is game time.
- B. League Games – A game shall consist of seven (7) innings or a (60) minute time limit and no new inning shall start after time limit. Five (5) innings, or 4 ½ if home team is ahead shall constitute an official game. If game is postponed before it becomes official, game will be rescheduled and will start over.
- C. Maximum Run Rule – A game shall be called if a team is ahead by 20 or more runs at any time after the end of three (3) innings or 2 ½ if home team is ahead, 15 or more runs at any time after the end of four (4) innings or 3 ½ if home team is ahead and 10 or more runs at any time after the end of five (5) innings or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead. Rule also in effect for Coed leagues.

ADDITIONAL GAME RULES AND SPECIAL RULES FOR SLOW PITCH:

- A. Tennis shoes or rubber cleated softball shoes must be worn; no metal spikes by any player will be allowed.
- B. Only regulation ASA softball bats will be allowed.
- C. Pitching distance will be 50 feet for men, women and coed. Base paths are 65 feet for men, women and coed.
- D. A pitchers ball can have a 6-foot minimum arc and no more than a **10-foot** arc from the ground.
- E. Each batter will begin with a 1 ball and 1 strike count (New ASA Rule). There is not a courtesy foul ball given to the batter after two strikes.
- F. No bunting or “chopping” of the ball is allowed during a Slow-pitch game. The ruling is an automatic out.
- G. No defensive player may play in front of the pitcher until the ball is struck by the batter.
- H. The official LPRD league ball must be a **core 44 or below** with an A.S.A. or USSSA certified stamp on the ball. Men must use a 12 inch ball and women must use an 11 inch ball. Coed men will hit 12 inch ball, women will hit at 11 inch ball when batting.
- I. Each team will hit their own ball. Home team is designated by the first team listed for each game on your schedule.
- J. EXTRA HITTER (EH): The EH can be used for the entire game. The EH may rotate into and out of a defensive fielding position during the game. The original EH may also re-enter the game under the standard re-entry rule.
- K. PLAY: During the ball game, the ball must be returned to the pitcher, it may not be thrown around the field after each out.
- L. Some leagues are structured with over-the-fence Home Run limits per team which are as follows: (All home runs hit excess of these limits, batter is ruled out.)
 - Class A – Five homeruns are allowed
 - Class B – Three homeruns are allowed
 - Class C – One homeruns is allowed
 - Class D – No homeruns are allowed

***2012 M.** All player substitution rules are in accordance to the ASA rules. The use of a courtesy runner is not allowed in the LPRD adult slow pitch leagues.

SPECIAL RULES FOR COED PLAY ONLY:

- A. Players: Team on the field must consist of 5 men and 5 women with no designated positions on the field. If EH is used or added, team must consist of 6 males and 6 females.
- B. Game can be started with 8 players (4 of each sex).
- *2012 C. If a team has 9 players (4 women – 5 men or 5 women – 4 men), it will be at the discretion of the other team. Otherwise, the team must play as outlined in B. above. The vacant spot in the alternating batting order will be an automatic out. If a team starts a game with 9 players but finishes with 8 players, the automatic out will be removed and team will be able to finish with 8 (four men & four women) and the lineup will not maintain the male/female alternating batting order. If a Coed team begins with 12 players (male & female EH) but finishes with 11, the vacant spot will become an automatic out or the corresponding player in the batting order can be removed to maintain the male/female alternating batting order and finish with 10 players and no automatic out.
- D. Men and women must alternate in the batting order.
- E. Any walk to a male batter (intentional or not) will result in a two base award. The next batter, a female will bat. **EXCEPTION: With two outs the female batter has the option to walk or bat.**
- F. In Coed, teams which have (10) players, four (4) must play in the outfield (on the grass) for all batters prior to the ball being hit. Teams that have (10) players must have a maximum of (4) infielders, and infielders must play on the infield area for all batters until the ball is hit, either in foul or fair territory.
 - Penalty for violating this rule is as follows:
 - 1. Batter may elect to allow play to stand
 - 2. Batter may elect to replay the pitch
- G. An inning will be ended by three (3) outs or when batting order has been run through once. If the last person in the batting line-up is walked (intentional or not) the next hitter (in the line-up) will be allowed to bat until an out or hit is recorded. No inning can end with a walk if the batting order has completed one turn at bat. *If the last batter gets on base safely, the defensive team only needs to get the ball to any base preceding the runner to end the inning. All runs crossing the plate before this will count.

PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. The City Softball leagues are designed solely for the recreational values derived by the players, managers, coaches and spectators from the sport of softball. Players will conduct themselves at all times according to the rules of the game.
- B. Any person(s) ejected from the game shall leave the facility and / or Park immediately. Failure to do so will warrant a forfeiture of the game by the umpire. The coach or manager shall be responsible for actions by his / her players and spectators and for informing them of all rules. Badgering or taunting the opponents, officials or spectators is prohibited.
- C. Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties: A player's eligibility to participate after an unsportsmanlike ejection will be determined by the policies outlined in the LPRD Softball Constitution and By-Laws.

PROTESTS

- A. Legal Protest
 - 1. The only legal protest is one which involves an interpretation of playing rules or a team's use of an ineligible player to participate in a game who is not on the team roster.
 - 2. A protest based on an official's judgment is not valid and officials shall not accept protests of this nature, nor shall our office.
- B. Process of Protesting

1. The protesting manager shall immediately notify the officials that he or she is protesting. This must be done before the next pitch is made to the batter. (EXCEPTION: player eligibility, must notify official before completion of game.)
2. A protest form is available at the Sports Office (115 West 11th Street). This shall be filled out and returned to the Sports Supervisor within forty-eight (48) hours of the protested incident. Accompanied with the protest must be a \$25.00 security fee. If the protest is upheld, the security fee will be returned and the game replayed from the point of protest. If the protest is not upheld, the fee will be forfeited to league funds.