

# Paducah Parks Services Adult Softball League Rules

Revised March 22, 2016

## 1. Rules

- a. National Softball Association Rules of Softball will govern Paducah Parks Services Adult Softball league play except where modified below.
- b. Sportsmanship will be a major component of all leagues. Teams, players, or team managers with poor sportsmanship are subject to ejection and suspension based on the decision of parks personnel and management.
- c. The Recreation Specialist, with approval of Recreation Superintendent, has final say in any rulings, or matters of question.
- d. If a player is injured by a line drive, the bat and ball will be removed from play by the umpire and kept by Paducah Parks Services staff until they can be inspected for illegal modifications and a ruling is made. The bat will be returned to the team after inspection.
- e. The Lower League Tournament Champion will automatically move to Upper League for the next season.

## 2. Game Times

- a. Tentative game times are 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday at Stuart Nelson Park. Make-up games will be announced by Paducah Parks Services, and posted on the website, distributed to team managers via email, and posted at the message board at Stuart Nelson Park. **These days and times may not coincide with the original day and time your games were scheduled.**
- b. If a team needs to forfeit a game, please call the Recreation Specialist as soon as possible so the other team and umpires can be notified.
- c. GAME TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ONLY WITH THE PARKS SERVICES DEPARTMENT APPROVAL.

## 3. Inclement Weather

- a. If in doubt of a game being played due to weather, **call 444-8621 AFTER 3:00 PM.**
- b. On-field weather determinations will be made by the Recreation Specialist or Field Coordinator in between games. The umpires will make weather determinations during games.

## 4. Individual Player Eligibility

- a. On all teams, men and women must be 18 years old or older before the date of the first game of the season in order to be eligible to play.
- b. Individuals who are playing professional baseball/softball are not eligible to participate.

## 5. Players

- a. Participation
  - i. Each Team's roster will consist of a maximum of twenty (20) Players and a minimum of ten (10). **Rosters and team fees are due by Tuesday April 5 at 4:00 PM at the Paducah Parks Services office.** The team manager may add players to the roster up until the season schedule is released. Only the team manager can request changes to rosters.
  - ii. After the schedule is out, roster adds/edits are subject to review by Recreation Specialist. All requests must be made at the Parks Services Office and cannot be made at the softball field.
  - iii. Only players who are on the roster and have signed the waiver form by 4:00 PM the day of the game will be allowed to play. All others will be ineligible to play. It is the team manager's responsibility to get all player information on the roster and turned in on time. Only the original roster and waiver signed by each individual player will be accepted. No faxes, copies, or e-mail rosters accepted. **ORIGINAL ONLY!**
  - iv. Paducah Parks Services staff will have a copy of all team rosters in the league. Picture identification must be available at all times if a member of the Paducah Parks Services staff calls for it. Roster checks are handled on the field without a protest fee.

- v. Players must play in at least two (2) regular season games in order to be eligible for post-season tournament play.
  - vi. Any player added for the last night of regular season games will not be eligible for the post-season tournament even if they play in two (2) regular season games.
- b. Illegal Players
- i. A player may only be on one (1) team in EITHER the Upper and Lower leagues, and one (1) team in the Coed League. If a name appears on two rosters, the first team that the player plays with is their legal team.
  - ii. It is the responsibility of each team manager to check the eligibility of a player during the game. This roster check has to be verbally made to the plate umpire, before the game begins, or as the player enters the game, and at that time it will be documented.
  - iii. Playing an illegal player will result in an automatic ejection of that player from the game

## 6. Schedules

- a. Only the Recreation Superintendent or Recreation Specialist has the authority to change or alter season schedules. The schedule will not be changed due to conflict with any other league play.
- b. Schedules will be available at Stuart Nelson Park, the Paducah Parks Services office, and website.

## 7. Local Game Rules

### ALL LEAGUES:

- a. There will be at least one (1) umpire assigned to each scheduled game.
- b. The home team on the schedule will be responsible for keeping the scorebook. The final score must be recorded in the Paducah Parks Services scorebook.
- c. Players listed on a roster must have a government issue picture identification card at all games
- d. Only cloth headbands, catcher's helmets for pitcher/catcher, hats, and visors will be allowable head gear.
- e. No alcoholic beverages
- f. No tobacco products allowed on fields or in dugouts
- g. No Stealing bases
- h. No Steel Or Metal Cleats
- i. Only team members are allowed on fields or in dugouts. No minors or other persons are allowed on fields or in dugouts during games
- j. Players not batting, except for the on-deck batter, must be in the dugout during the game
- k. There will be no infield practice for any team and no warm-up or throwing the ball around on the infield before or during games. Warm-ups should take place in the outfield before the game.
- l. A Courtesy Runner may be used for 1 player per inning. The Courtesy Runner can be any player on the team roster who is present, eligible and not been ejected and may be used for 1 player per inning per team. (This rule is in the NSA Rulebook: Rule 4 Sec. 10)
- m. **Game time is forfeit.** A team must have eight (8) players to start a game (Four males and four females for Coed). Places 9 and 10 in the batting order will be counted as outs. If a team has 9 players, place 10 in the batting order will be counted as an out. A team can add additional players when they arrive to the game at the bottom of the batting order.
- n. A team consists of ten players; two of these players must play the positions of pitcher and catcher.
- o. Teams may bat more than 10 players, with those extra players batting at the bottom of the order after the 10<sup>th</sup> place in the lineup. They must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
- p. Games will be bound by a 60-minute (no new inning start) time limit from the start time.
- q. A regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings or time limit; whichever comes first. The time limit will begin at scheduled game time if possible, or 60 minutes from the first pitch. If an inning has started prior to the time limit's expiration, the inning may be completed. **No new inning will be started after 60 minutes.**
- r. If a game is tied after 7 innings or time limit, one (1) extra inning will be played. If the game is still tied after that one (1) inning, the game will end in a tie.
- s. Four (4) innings constitute a legal game. Four (4) innings of play must be completed or 3 ½ innings completed in which the away team has already batted in the top of the fourth and the

home team is winning. This will be used to determine a winner in case of time constraints, inclement weather, or other safety issues.

- t. Home run limit is as follows: Upper League- 6, Lower League-4, and Coed – 4. Any home run hit after league's limit will be an automatic out.
- u. The following rules will be used when a team is ahead by the following margin:
  - 20 runs after 2 innings
  - 15 runs after 4 innings
  - 10 runs after 5 innings
- v. **TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RETRIEVING HOMERUN AND FOUL BALLS THAT THEY HIT OUTSIDE OF THE PLAYING FIELD!!**
- w. If there is a tie in the standings at the end of the regular season, the following criteria will be used to determine tournament seeding.
  - 1. Head to head record
  - 2. Run differential
- x. There will be no time limit for the "If Necessary" Championship game during the tournaments – Run rules will still apply

#### **MENS LEAGUE ONLY**

- a. Men's Upper and Lower League will use 12 inch softballs.
- b. Each player will come to bat with a 1-1 pitch-count

#### **COED LEAGUE ONLY**

- a. Coed League will use 12 inch softballs for men and 11 inch softballs for women.
- b. A team shall consist of 10 players, five (5) female and five (5) male, six (6) female and four (4) male, or seven (7) female and three (3) male.
- c. Defensive positioning shall include two (2) males and two (2) females in the infield, one (1) male and one (1) female occupying the pitcher/catcher positions, and two (2) males and two (2) females in the outfield. Teams with more than 5 females must have at least one (1) male in the infield, outfield, and pitcher/catcher positions.
- d. Teams must alternate sexes in the batting order. If the leadoff hitter is a male, the next hitter in the batting order has to be a female and vice versa. If a team has more than five females, the extra females must bat at the end of the lineup. If the number of males outnumbers the females or females outnumber males, (5 vs. 4), the line-up must be adjusted to show this and the last position in the batting order is an out.
- e. Teams may bat more than 10 players, with those extra players batting at the bottom of the order after the 10<sup>th</sup> place in the lineup. There must be the same number of males and females batting, and they must alternate male/female, or the team may have 1 more female than males in the lineup (example: 6 females, 5 males or 7 females, 6 males). They must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
- f. All male batters must bat with their weak hand. If a batter is right-handed they must bat left-handed and vice versa.

### **8. Player Conduct Rules**

- a. Banned Substances
  - i. There are to be no alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs on City of Paducah premises and parks.
  - ii. No tobacco products will be allowed on fields or in dugouts.
  - iii. Use of such will warrant an automatic ejection from the current game and may lead to further punishment after review of incident by Paducah Parks Services staff.
- b. Ejections
  - i. If any player, coach or spectator is involved in a fight, that person will be suspended per the Paducah Parks Services Behavior Policy. **(See the Paducah Parks Services Behavior Policy for more details.)**

- ii. Any ejected player is suspended from the remainder of the present game and the next played game, plus could face additional suspension(s) based on their current and past behavior. The Paducah Parks Services staff will decide upon any further disciplinary action.
  - iii. Suspensions based on number of ejections during a season.
    - 1. Remainder of present game and next played game.
    - 2. Remainder of present game and the next three played games.
    - 3. Remainder of present game and the remainder of the current season and postseason tournament. Player must also be approved for reinstatement to softball leagues by Recreation Specialist in order to play the next season.
  - iv. Any ejected person must leave the park immediately. Any delay in doing so or disruptive behavior upon ejection will result in further disciplinary action that could include team forfeit.
  - v. Any obscene language or gestures of any kind displayed by a player, team manager, or spectator will result in an immediate ejection.
  - c. There will be no discussion on any judgment calls. The team manager will be the only individual to discuss the case of a dispute with an umpire. If any other member of the team gets involved, that individual may be ejected from the game. If the team manager is absent from the game, an acting team manager must notify the umpire of their interim position prior to game start.
  - d. **Showing respect towards the umpire(s) and Paducah Parks staff is an integral part of the success of the Adult Softball Leagues.** Failure to show the proper respect before, during, and after games could lead to disciplinary action for the player/team.
- 9. Protest**
- a. NO protests will be allowed for rule application or judgment calls made by umpires.
  - b. There is no protest fee to check bats or rosters. Roster and bat checks must be requested before the game begins or at the point that a player enters the game
- 10. Waiver and Registration Form**
- a. **All players must complete and sign the Individual Player Waiver and Registration Form before being allowed to play**
  - b. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring all players on the team have signed this form.
- 11. Responsibility**
- a. Team managers are responsible for distributing all rules and information to all players on their team.
  - b. Team managers are responsible for looking on the Paducah Parks Services website for any changes or updates to the schedule.
  - c. In the event that Paducah Parks Services staff must call or email a team manager with updates or changes, the team manager is responsible for getting this information to the rest of the team.
- 12. League Rights**
- a. Paducah Parks Services reserves the right to specify which league a team may play in order to maintain competitiveness in each league.
  - b. Paducah Parks Services reserves the right to overrule, edit, add, or remove any rule found in these rules for the betterment of the league.

## **NOTE:**

**NO INSURANCE IS CARRIED BY THE PARKS DEPARTMENT ON INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS IN THE LEAGUE. EACH PLAYER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS/HER OWN MEDICAL INSURANCE.**

**NO TEAM WILL BE PLACED ON THE SCHEDULE UNLESS THE FEE IS PAID IN FULL AT THE TIME OF THE SEASONAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE.**

**\*\*NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER REGISTRATION\*\***

**Schedules and Current Standings will be available at:**

**<http://paducahky.gov/adult-softball>**