

Paducah Parks & Recreation Adult Softball League Rules

Revised August 12, 2020

1. Rules

- a. National Softball Association Rules of Softball will be used as a reference with the following Paducah Parks & Recreation rules
- 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. Paducah Parks & Recreation reserves the right to specify which league a team may play in order to maintain competitiveness in each league.
- e. Paducah Parks & Recreation reserves the right to overrule, edit, add, or remove any rule found in these rules for the betterment of the league.
- f. 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 & Recreation staff until they can be inspected for illegal modifications and a ruling is made. The bat will be returned to the team after inspection.

2. Game Times

- a. Tentative game times are 5:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Monday through Wednesday at Stuart Nelson Park. Make-up games will be announced by Paducah Parks & Recreation, 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 can be notified.
- c. GAME TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ONLY WITH THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT APPROVAL.

3. Inclement Weather

- a. If in doubt of a game being played due to weather, call: **270-444-8621 AFTER 3:00 PM.**
- b. On-field weather determinations will be made by the Recreation Specialist or Field Supervisor 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). **Team rosters, completed player waivers for each person on the roster, and team fees are due by Wednesday April 17 at 5:00 PM at the Paducah Parks & Recreation office.** A late fee of \$50 will be added to any late registrations after the deadline and before Friday April 19 at 5:00pm.
 - ii. The team manager may add/remove players to the roster after registration, but a player will not be officially added until the individual player's waiver is turned in. All waivers must be submitted by 3:00pm in order for the player to be eligible that evening.
 - iii. After registration, all adds/edits are subject to review by Recreation Specialist. All requests must be made at the Parks & Recreation Office and cannot be made at the softball field.
 - iv. Only players who are on the roster and have signed the Individual Player Waiver form 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 waivers plus be turned in on time. Only the original roster and waiver signed by each individual player will be accepted.

- v. Paducah Parks & Recreation 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 & Recreation staff calls for it. Roster checks are handled on the field without a protest fee.
 - vi. Players must play in at least two (2) regular season games in order to be eligible for post-season tournament play. Rosters are frozen at the conclusion of the regular season. No changes can be made for the tournament.
- b. Illegal Players
- i. A player may only be on one (1) team in EITHER the Upper or 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 for the entire team, or as an individual 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. Individual Player Registration Form and Waiver

- a. **All players must complete and sign the Individual Player Registration Form and Waiver before being allowed to play**
- b. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring all players on the team have filled out and signed this form.
- c. The Individual Player Waivers for every player on the roster will need to be submitted at registration. Payment and a spot in the league will not be allowed unless all player waivers and team roster are submitted.
- d. If you want to add a player to your roster after registration, the player will not be officially added until a completed waiver is submitted to the Recreation Specialist, and those need to be turned in by 3:00pm in order to be eligible that evening.
- e. The Individual Player Registration Form and Waiver and a fillable PDF version are available on the Paducah Parks & Recreation website's Adult Softball page.

7. 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 and website.

8. 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 and it is the obligation of the visiting team to verify the score at the end of each half inning. The final score must be recorded in the Paducah Parks & Recreation scorebook.
- c. All lineups in the scorebook shall consist of a player's first and last name. No nicknames!
- 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 (1 for each gender per inning in Coed). 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.
- 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.
- n. A team consists of ten players; two of these players must play the positions of pitcher and catcher.
- o. A team can add additional players when they arrive to the game at the bottom of the batting order.
- p. Teams may bat more than 10 players, with those extra players batting at the bottom of the order after the 10th place in the lineup. They must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
- q. Games will be bound by a 60-minute (no new inning start) time limit from the start time.
- r. 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.
- s. **No new inning will be started after 60 minutes.** A new inning is defined as beginning when the next scheduled batter is in the batter's box ready to hit.
- t. 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.
- u. 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.
- v. Home run limit is as follows: Mens League-5, and Coed League-2. Any home run hit after league's limit will be an automatic out.
- w. **TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RETRIEVING HOMERUN AND FOUL BALLS THAT THEY HIT OUTSIDE OF THE PLAYING FIELD!!**
- x. The following rules will be used when a team is ahead by the following margin:
 - 20 runs after 3 innings
 - 15 runs after 4 innings
 - 10 runs after 5 innings
- y. 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 between teams involved in tie
 - 3. Run differential against all teams in league
 - 4. Coin toss
- z. 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 Leagues 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. Each player will come to bat with a 1-1 pitch-count
- c. 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. Must have eight (8) players to start a game (Four males and four females)
- d. 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 five (5) females must have at least one (1) male in the infield, outfield, and pitcher/catcher positions.

- e. 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.
- f. If a team plays with 9 players, the number of males can outnumber the females, or females outnumber males, (5 vs. 4), and the line-up must be adjusted to show this and the last position in the batting order is an out.
- g. Teams may bat more than 10 players, with those extra players batting at the bottom of the order after the 10th 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.
- h. If a male is walked intentionally or unintentionally, they receive two bases. If a male is walked with two outs, they receive two bases and the female batter who bats after can choose to hit or receive a walk to first base.

COVID-19 RULES

- a. Teams will utilize both the dugout and bleachers, in order to encourage social distancing.
- b. Spectators will be limited and need to either spread out along the outside of the fence (outfield or foul lines) and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet (unless a family group) or remain in their cars. Spectators are also encouraged to wear masks while at the park.
- c. Roster sizes will remain the same, however, each game will have a limit of 10 players that can play. If a team wants to substitute a player, they can substitute a spectator **that is on the roster** for the player. The player that was substituted off will become a spectator and will need to stay along the outside of the fence (**NOT IN THE DUGOUT OR BLEACHER**). Notify the umpire of the substitution.
- d. If you have a temperature of **100.4 or above**, please **do not** show up to the park.
- e. If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, please do not show up the park.
- f. No communal water coolers or shared food.
- g. No sunflower seeds or gum. Please refrain from spitting.
- h. No touching, high fives, handshakes, etc. with teammates or other teams.
- i. There will be **ZERO** tolerance for arguing with other teams and umpires.
- j. Before a game, teams will need to wait in the dugout or bleachers until the umpire is ready to start the game.
- k. Please do not gather in the parking lot or other areas of the park before or after games.

9. 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. No smoking or vaping is allowed anywhere within Stuart Nelson Park. If a person wants to smoke or vape, they must do this inside their vehicle.
 - iv. 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 & Recreation staff.
- b. Ejections
 - i. If any player, coach, or spectator is involved in a fight or situation involving verbal abuse, that person will be suspended per the Paducah Parks & Recreation Behavior Policy.
 - ii. **Paducah Parks & Recreation Behavior Policy** - Paducah Parks & Recreation under no circumstance will tolerate verbal and/or physical abuse of any staff member, umpire/referee, or program participant. The penalties for any of the above behaviors are strict and strongly enforced. First time offenders may be suspended for a minimum of 1-year from all Parks & Recreation Programming. It is our mission that all participants as well as employees feel safe and are protected from any type of abuse.
 - iii. 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. Paducah Parks & Recreation staff will decide upon any further disciplinary action.
 - iv. 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.
- v. 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.
 - vi. 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 or team.

10. 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

11. Bat Information

- a. Players may only use bats that have a visible NSA 2012 and ASA logo as shown below, plus they cannot be on the banned bats list. The banned bats list can be found on the ASA and NSA websites. ASA bats that have the 2000 or 2004 logo are no longer allowed.
- b. Team managers are responsible for ensuring all of their team's bats are legal and not on the banned bats list.
- c. A bat check can be requested at any time before or during the game. The umpire will conduct the bat check, and may consult with the Field Supervisor or Recreation Specialist. They will look for the following conditions to determine if it is legal.
 - i. In safe playing condition (does not have a flat side, dents, cracks, loose knob, or cracked or loose cap).
 - ii. Determined to have not been altered.
 - iii. Must not be on the NSA or ASA illegal bat list.
 - iv. Must have one of the certification marks below:
- d. If a bat is determined to be illegal it will be removed from the game and the player using the bat will be ejected for the remainder of the present game and next played game as stated in the rules above.



12. Role of the Team Manager

- a. Team Managers play an integral role in our league. In the event that Paducah Parks & Recreation 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. They represent their team, their players, and their fans.
- b. Duties of the manager are (but not limited to):

- i. Submitting team roster, completed individual player waivers, and league fee in order to register the team for the league.
- ii. Responsible for distributing all rules and information to all players on their team.
- iii. Responsible for looking on the Paducah Parks & Recreation website for any changes or updates to the schedule.
- iv. Responsible for adding or removing players from the roster to ensure roster compliance.
- v. Managing their players' conduct during games.
- vi. Can be responsible for their team's fans' conduct during games.
- vii. Is the only person allowed to discuss a dispute with the umpire.
- viii. Make sure their players are helping to retrieve foul balls during games.
- ix. Helping to ensure their team leaves a clean dugout after the game.
- x. Ensure equipment being used meets league requirements.

NOTE:

**NO INSURANCE IS CARRIED BY THE PARKS
& RECREATION 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 REGISTRATION
DEADLINE.**

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

**Schedules and Current Standings will be
available at:
www.paducahky.gov/adult-softball**