

**FAIRVIEW PARK RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

GENERAL

- A. The Manager, Coach and/or Captain of a team are responsible for the conduct of their players before, during and after the game until they leave the premises. Failure to comply with the rules will subject the offender, his manager, coach and/or captain to disciplinary action.
- B. All games will be played on the property of Fairview Park and Tri-City. All rules and regulations of the City will be observed and enforced.
- C. All managers, coaches, captains, players and other team personnel are presumed to know all of the rules and regulations of the league, school district and/or City. Failure to familiarize themselves with these rules and regulations will not be an excuse for failure to comply with them.
- D. Absolutely **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are permitted at the ball park and it is against school rules to use alcoholic beverages on school premises.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. All players must be out of high school to be eligible for these leagues. Those graduating from high school in May or June of this year are eligible.
- B. An individual can play on only one team in the Fairview Park Recreation Departments Men's Monday/Wednesday Softball League.

TEAM ROSTERS

- A. A team roster shall consist of a **maximum of eighteen (18) players**.
- B. A team roster form shall serve as the contract for individual players.
- C. An accurate team roster must be turned into the Parks and Recreation Department on or before the start of the summer league. Each player must sign the roster 24 hours before their first league game to be eligible to play.
- D. A player is the property of the team with which he/she first sign for this season or until the team disbands or the player is released.
- E. No player may be added to the roster after the **fifth week of play**. Additions before the fifth week must be made at the Parks and Recreation Department office and must be cleared by the Program Coordinator and the replacement player must sign the official roster 24 hours before his first game to be eligible.
- F. In case of discrepancy in eligibility, positive proof must be presented before individual is eligible. A team using an ineligible player, upon proof, shall automatically forfeit the games played with this individual on the roster. This precludes any replay rules.

PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. Players will conduct themselves at all times according to the rules of the game.
- B. A player who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized as follows:
 - 1. The first ejection: Discretion of Program Coordinator
 - 2. The second ejection: Discretion of Program Coordinator

3. The third ejection: Automatically disqualifies the player from further competition for one (1) full playing season. This includes playoffs and local tournaments, if any. A player receiving this suspension may not be replaced on the roster during the season he has been suspended.
4. Should any player threaten violence to or strike a softball official, which includes umpires, scorer, supervisor, custodian or department member, he shall be immediately suspended and subject to a possible suspension for life from any and all activities of the City of Fairview Park, Department of Parks and Recreation.
5. The City of Fairview Park, Department of Parks and Recreation, will recognize and enforce any suspensions of individuals as imposed by other organizations, such as USSSA or ASA.

STARTING TIMES AND FORFEITURES

- A. It is the responsibility of each team to be on time and be ready to play at the scheduled game time.
- B. All lineups should be turned into the scorekeeper five (5) minutes prior to scheduled game time. Teams batting with less than ten (10) players will not be penalized and will skip over the 10th spot in the batting order.
- C. Game time is **FORFEIT TIME**. The umpire or umpires will designate the official watch.
- D. A team must have at least **nine (9) players** to start the game.
- E. If a team forfeits any regular season or playoff game without prior notification of at least 48 hours to the league director, the forfeiting team manager will be responsible for submitting, in CASH, game fees for their team and their opponents as well (Double Game Fee)
- F. If a forfeit fee has been collected pre-season, that will be used to pay the game fees and that fee must be replenished by the Friday preceding the following week's game
- G. If any team manager does not submit forfeit fees or make arrangements to do so prior to the above deadline, they will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled game and may be subject to legal action by the city and / or being prohibited from registering a team in future leagues.
- H. In case of cancellation of game play due to inclement weather or poor driving conditions please contact the weather hotline at 216.670.0660. The hotline will be updated an hour prior to the first game.

PROTESTS

A. Legal Protest

1. The only legal protest is one which involves an interpretation of playing rules.
2. A protest based on a play which involves an umpire's judgment is not legal and umpires are instructed not to accept protests of this nature.
3. A protest, to be legal, must be written and turned in to the Program Coordinator no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the verbal protest and accompanied by the protest fee which is **\$50.00 (fifty dollars)**. The protest fee is returned if the protest is upheld.

PROCESS OF PROTESTING

1. The protesting manager shall immediately notify the official of the fact that he is protesting. This shall be done before any succeeding play begins. The official shall announce that the game is being played under protest, but failure of the official to make his announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest.
2. A protest shall be placed in writing and submitted to the Program Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours. Fifty dollars (\$50.00) must accompany the protest.
3. Both scorebooks must be turned over to the softball supervisor immediately following the game.

GAME RULES

- A. All games shall be played under the rules governing Amateur Softball Association (A.S.A). With exception of or in addition to these rules.
- B. The Parks and Recreation Department shall make the decision on wet diamonds prior to the start of each game at all sites. The decision to continue each game shall be by judgment of the umpires.
- C. **Scenario I:** If after four (4) innings or subsequent innings a team is fifteen (15) runs ahead, the game shall be called and be a complete game. So stated to mean three and a half innings or subsequent half innings with the home team ahead fifteen (15) runs. **Scenario II:** If after five (5) innings or subsequent innings a team is twelve (12) runs ahead, the game shall be called and be a complete game. So stated to mean four and a half innings or subsequent half innings with the home team ahead twelve (12) runs.
- D. If **official** umpires are not available for the start of a game, opposing team managers may mutually agree to use **unofficial** umpires. If managers cannot agree then the onsite supervisor shall acquire **unofficial** umpires. Results of said game shall be regarded as being official and decisions made by said **unofficial** umpires may not be protested.
- E. Each pitcher is permitted a maximum of three warm-up pitches to start the game. Any subsequent inning after, each pitcher is awarded one (1) warm-up pitch. Pitchers must have one foot on the pitching rubber when the ball is released.
- F. After each out, the ball is to be returned directly to the pitcher from the player fielding the ball.
- G. All leagues will start with a 1 and 1 count.
- H. **Deadball Situations:**
 1. Any batted ball striking leaves or branches of a tree hanging over the field of play in fair territory is dead and shall be ruled a ground-rule double. **(Tri-City Park Field Only)**
 2. Any batted ball striking any part of a tree in foul territory cannot be caught and shall be ruled a dead ball. If it is a foul ball of the third strike, the batter shall be ruled out. **(Tri-City Park Field Only)**
 3. Any batted ball that goes into the playground area will be ruled an automatic ground-rule double. **(Bohiken Park Field No.3)**
 4. Any batted ball that goes into another field of play of a different sport will be ruled an automatic ground-rule double. **(Tri-City Park Field and Bohiken Park Fields)**
- I. The home team is determined by the first team listed on the league schedule.
***NOTE:** Both teams are strongly encouraged to keep score.
- J. Any player who arrives before the batting order cycles completely through once can be added at the bottom of the lineup. If a player arrives after his or her team has cycled through the batting order once, said player can only be used as a substitute for that remainder of that game.

- K. No metal spikes of any kind are allowed in the Men's, Women's or Co-Ed League(S). The men's and coed league will play with a 12" (44cor/.375 comp) softball. The women's league will utilize an 11" (44cor/.375 comp) softball. Fairview Park Recreation Department will supply all softballs for the leagues. Each team will start with one (1) new and one (1) used softball.
- L. Managers will have the option to determine the status of playing a game with nine (9) players. The following are the two options, which the manager must decide upon prior to the start of the game, and notify the umpire of this decision. Once the manager notifies the umpire, the decision will be **FINAL**.
1. Teams can decide to play the **entire** game with nine (9) players. Once this decision has been made, the team **must** play the **entire** game with nine (9) players, no matter how many players show up after the game has started.
 2. Teams can start the game with 10 players in the batting order reserving the 10th players spot for late arrivals. However, each time the 10th player's spot comes around in the batting order an out will be recorded until the 10th player arrives.
- M. **Extra Hitter Rule (EH):**
1. When playing with the EH, managers have the option of using 11 or 12 batters in the line up as pertaining to the EH rule. The manager must decide prior to the start of the game on EH status. Once a line up has been submitted to the umpire, this line up is official.
 2. An EH may enter the game defensively and become a typical regular player, but must remain in the same batting position. The player that EH substituted for will remain in his/her position in the batting order and become an EH.
 3. In case of injury to an EH and he/she is unable to continue and does not allow the batting order to go below 10 players, his/her position will be terminated in the batting order, creating one less batting position with no penalty. An out is NOT recorded when the injured EH is scheduled to bat.
 4. A player who is not designated as a starting player or EH may be substituted into the game for an EH or a starting player and must take over that player's batting position (simple substitution). They may also be placed in any defensive position. The other team and the umpire must be informed of this substitution when it is done.
- N. **Re-Entry Rule:** Any of the starting players, including the EH may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided the player occupy the same batting position they held previously. The other team and umpire must be notified of this re-entry.
- O. **Player Ejection:** If a team begins with X number of players and a player is ejected from the game, the manager must insert a player into that position to finish the game. If the manager does not have a player to fill the ejected position, then every at bat player X is suppose to come to the plate it is an **AUTOMATIC OUT**.
- If a team begins with X number of players and a player is ejected from the game and the manager has reserves on the bench the manager may at the time of the ejection fill the ejected player with that reserve.
- If the player filling the ejected players spot is the EH, the manager must refill the EH spot with a reserve player. If the manager does not have a player to fill the ejected position, then every at bat player X is suppose to come to the plate it is an **AUTOMATIC OUT**.
- P. At the team manager's request, the field supervisor will check the opposing team's roster for player eligibility before the game begins or before the player in question has completed his first at bat. After the player has had his first turn at bat a request to check the roster for eligibility will be denied. If the field supervisor is not present at the beginning of the game, the team manager will notify the umpire and the field supervisor will check the roster as soon as he returns to the field.

- Q. Each **COED** batting order must field a ratio of five (5) males and five (5) females at all times. If said ratio is not met, said team must play short.
- R. **Coed Only:** Fielding positions **DO NOT** need to be boy-girl-boy-girl. Managers may implement field positions in the manner that they see fit for said team.
- S. **Coed Only:** The batting order must be set with an alternating male and female format. In cases, were there are an odd number of players playing, no matter which sex is short, an automatic out is declared in that spot of the batting order.
- T. **Coed Only:** If a male batter is walked (intentionally or unintentionally), the female in the batting order behind the male has the option of taking an automatic walk or batting for herself. The female batter must notify the umpire of their intention by the time the male gets to 1st base.
- U. Time limit **WILL NOT** be in affect for the championship game for each FPRD softball league. Run rule will still be implemented for championship game.
- V. **Pinch Runners:**
1. A team may use a pinch runner once per inning. A player may be entered as the pinch runner only after the batter has reached base safely. The opposing team and umpire must be notified of the pinch runner.
 2. The player who committed the last out is the designated pinch runner.
 3. If a player's turn at bat occurs when he/she is participating as a pinch runner, a new pinch runner shall be entered on the bases, (last out of the same sex for coed play) and the original pinch runner will take his/her regular turn at bat (no penalty). He/She must play their entire turn and may not return as the pinch runner.
Coed Only: the person of the same sex, with the last out is the pinch runner).
- W. There will be a **1 hour and 5 minute** time limit for all Friday Night Women's Softball Games. No inning will be started after the **1 hour and 5 minute** time limit has been reached. If visiting team is at bat when the said time limit expires, home team will receive last at bats. The umpires watch is the official time. Time limit is **STRICTLY** enforced. If their is a tie and time limit is still left then teams will enter into the ASA tiebreaker rule.
- X. There will be a **1 hour and 5 minute time limit** for the Men's Monday/Wednesday League and the Sunday Morning Coed League. No inning will be started after the 1 hour and time limit(s) have been reached. If visiting team is at bat when the said time limit expires, home team will receive last at bats. The umpires watch is the official time. Time limit is **STRICTLY** enforced. If their is a tie and time limit is still left then teams will enter into the ASA tiebreaker rule.