

2021

## ADULT SOFTBALL

### RICHMOND PARKS AND RECREATION SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

\*Richmond Parks and Recreation reserves the right to amend any or all rules and regulations as seen fit throughout the season.  
If any rules are changed, coaches will be notified.

***REGISTRATION IS BASED ON A FIRST COME FIRST PAY BASIS - FEE MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR INITIAL ROSTER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PLAY!!!***

#### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the program shall be to promote slow pitch softball under the condition favorable to the enjoyment of the game, to the development of good citizenship, worthy use of leisure and a spirit of cooperation among the players, game officials, community and teams.

Each manager will be given a copy of these rules and must acquaint themselves and players with their contents. Ignorance of the rules shall not constitute an excuse for violation.

#### MEMBERSHIP

All Men's and Women's Softball Teams must supply their own softballs. Men's Softball is 12", Stamped 52 core and 44/400 Icon. Women's is 11" 47/400. (Co-Rec League softballs will be provided by the Parks Dept.)

### **1:00 PLAYER/TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

- 1:01 Each team shall be allowed a maximum of 18 players on their roster.
- 1:02 Players are eligible to participate in the league if they:
- A. Have been entered on the team roster. Initial rosters must be submitted WITH ENTRY FEE.
  - B. Have reached the age of sixteen (16) by end of the first week of play, but cannot play prior to turning 16 years of age.
- 1:03 No player(s) may be added after the teams second game of the season. Before a new player becomes eligible for play, they must be properly entered on a team roster. (See 1:02) Prior to the teams second game of the season additions/deletions may be made in person at the field pressbox or see the Athletic Coordinator. ***(Properly submitted rosters must contain the address, phone number, date of birth and signature of each player. IF THIS INFORMATION IS NOT FILLED OUT PROPERLY THEN THE INDIVIDUAL WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR PLAY.)*** Any game played after this date by a team who has not submitted a roster will be considered as forfeited games and treated in the same manner.
- 1:04 An ineligible player is one which is not listed and signed on the roster prior to playing, is not of age to participate in the league, or is not in proper attire. **A player cannot be listed on the roster of more than one team in the same league.** The first team an individual plays for is the team which he/she is legally a member.

In order to be eligible to play in the tournament, a player must be on the team's roster and have played in 2 regular season games. \*No pick-up players during tournament play.

1:05 Any player using an assumed name and/or coach playing a player under the assumed name shall be indefinitely suspended until a decision is made by the Advisory Board, Athletic Coordinator, Parks Director and/or Park Board.

**1:06 A team or player may not participate in both an Upper and Lower League on the same night.**

1:07 A player can only be affiliated with **ONE** church in each league; therefore, they can only play on that church's men's, women's and/or co-rec team.

\*\*\* The Athletic Coordinator will have the authority to intervene if they observe an individual in violation of this rule. ***(The player violating this rule will be suspended for the entire season!!!)***

1:08 Players of questionable eligibility due to age must furnish a birth certificate to the Parks and Recreation Office.

1:09 A person who questions the eligibility of a player may check the player's signature on the roster which will be available at the Parks and Recreation Office and at the game site, after the final roster deadline.

1:10 Players are not allowed to change their team affiliation during the season. Any unusual circumstances concerning the player eligibility will be referred to the Athletic Coordinator and/or Advisory Board.

1:11 Church League players must attend the church based on the team that they are registered. All Church League rosters must be verified by the pastor of the said church.

1:12 If a team is removed from the League, no portion of the entry fee will be returned.

1:13A **ALL MEN'S LEAGUES:** In order to avoid a forfeit, a team may add up to 1 pick-up player to reach 9 players. The pick-up player can only be from the same night league division. For Example: A Monday Men's Lower Division 1 team may not pick up a Monday Men's Division 2 or Monday Men's Upper League player. If after a game starts and a player/players show up for the team that picked up player/players, then the pick-up player will be removed from that game. All pick-up players must be approved by the opposing team prior to the start of the game. If this rule is violated, the Umpire, Scorekeeper or Athletic Coordinator has the right to inform the team of what is going on and the game will be called a forfeit.

1:13B **ALL CO-REC LEAGUES:** In order to avoid a forfeit, a team may add up 1 player to get 9 players. **The 10<sup>th</sup> vacant batting position will result in an automatic out.**

Format- 5/5, 6/6, 6/4, 7/5

**If an EH is used, it has to be one per gender**

The pick-up player can only be from the same night league division. For Example: a Thursday Co-Rec Lower Division team may not use a player from the Thursday Co-Rec Upper Division. If after the game starts and a player/players show up for the team that picked up player/players, then the pick-up player/players will be removed from that game. If this rule is violated, the

Umpire, Scorekeeper or Athletic Coordinator has the right to inform the team what is going on and the game will be called a forfeit.

- 1:14 A player must have played in a minimum of 2 regular season games in order to play in the Tournament, regardless of their name being listed on the roster.
- 1:15 The same courtesy runner can be used for the same batter in the same inning as many times as needed.
- 1:16 Each Men's Team can bat two EH's, for a total of 12 batters.
- 1:17 You have until the first pitch is thrown to the illegal player to protest.

## **2:00 COACH/MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2:01 The coach or manager shall be the team representative
- 2:02 The coach or manager shall be responsible for the following:
  - Attending all league meetings
  - Informing team members of the outcome of league meetings and/or advisory board decisions
  - Knowing the league modifications and game rules as well as being able to advise team members to their interpretation
  - Distributing league schedules and all other league materials to team member
  - Controlling language and conduct of players and all other spectators
  - Being the liaison between the team and the Parks and Recreation Department
  - Rosters, protests and any other league paperwork required by the Parks and Recreation Department
- 2:03 Coaches are responsible for assuring that only players, managers, sponsor, pastor, and bat boys/girls participating in the game are permitted in the dugout. Other persons, regardless of relationship, must stay in the bleacher area. Park Staff only is permitted in the scoreboard.
- 2:04 Each coach is required to furnish a player or other designated person to retrieve foul balls and keep bats out of the playing area when not in use. Teams batting are responsible for chasing foul balls and home run balls.
- 2:05 A copy of the league rules and regulations and an official ASA rule book will be handed out at the beginning of the season Coaches Meeting, and will be located in the scoreboxes at each field. Each coach must acquaint him/herself and their team with their contents. Lack of rule knowledge shall not constitute an excuse for violation of league and/or game rules and regulations.

2:06 Each coach is responsible for adhering to all rules and regulations here within and must accept the decision of the Advisory Board, Athletic Coordinator, Parks Director and/or Park Board when in violation of said rules and regulations.

### **3:00 GAME RULES**

3:01 All games during league play will have a one hour time limit. Players are expected to hustle at all times.

3:02 A game will be terminated if a team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 3 innings, 12 or more runs after 4 innings, and 10 or more runs after 5 innings.

3:03 Any player intentionally sliding with feet high or colliding with another player will be ejected from the game.

3:04 Line-ups must be given to the official scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes prior to the **SCHEDULED GAME TIME.** If a team has failed to submit a line-up by game time, the game will be considered a default. However, the opposing team has the option of continuing the contest but the time limit will begin once the game time is scheduled. A ten (10) minute 'grace' period will be allowed for the 6:00 pm game only. All other games will start as scheduled or default will be declared. Official clock will be held by the scorekeeper on each field.

3:05 CO-REC: Games may start and finish with nine (9) players. If game starts with 9 players, no outs will be assessed when 10<sup>th</sup> batter should be in the line-up. If game begins with 9 players-a 10<sup>th</sup> player may only be added as a sub. If the game starts with a 9/10 line-up, the team with 9 players will be assessed an out for the missing 10<sup>th</sup> player.

3:06 If a team stalls or intentionally delays the game to force a time limit, the umpire has the authority to call balls or strikes at 10-second intervals against the team in violation.

3:07 There will be no time limit for the final tournament game.

3:08A ***Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday Men's Leagues*** will have a 5 home run limit. **Any homerun hit after the 5<sup>th</sup> will be an automatic out.**

3:08B *Co-REC – Men will have a 5 homerun limit...any homerun after the 5<sup>th</sup> will be an automatic out. Women will have unlimited homerun limit.*

3:08C **CHURCH** – Games will be in play at least 5 innings (or an hour- due to time rule). After 5 innings, if a team is up by 10 runs, game will be called.

3:09 When a player hits an "out of the park" home run, he/she will have the option of running the bases, or going straight to the dugout to expedite the game. Base runners have the same option.

3:10 **NO STEALING** of bases will be allowed

3:11 If an official scorekeeper is not in attendance, the official score will be kept by one home team representative. Score sheets must be turned in to the Athletic Coordinator.

- 3:12 Any team who defaults/forfeits more than two (2) games may be dropped from the league without reimbursement of entry fee.
- 3:13 If a tie exists in league standings between or among the teams finishing first and second (Award Winners), the order of finish will be determined by the team that defeated the team that tied during league play. If the teams involved defeated each other an equal number of times, then run differential between the tying teams (most runs scored) will determine the order of finish. A standard tie-breaker will be utilized to seed the league tournament for all other teams.
- 3:14 All league batters start with a 1 and 1 count.

#### **4:00 UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**

- 4:01 Shoes must be worn by all players. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather uppers or similar materials. The soles may be either smooth or have soft or hard rubber cleats. **STEEL CLEATS ARE PROHIBITED.**
- 4:02 Players observed by umpires wearing steel cleats during a game will be penalized by immediately being removed from the said game and be further penalized by being suspended for the next regularly scheduled game. The team itself will not be penalized for the act committed by the transgressor.
- 4:03 It is recommended that the players wear differently numbered shirts (6" numbers on the back) of the same color as other team members.

-Teams are not required to wear a full uniform.

-Shorts are permitted, but must be acceptable attire.

The Athletic Coordinator and umpires have the authority to declare a player ineligible for game competition due to improper uniform and said player will be declared ineligible for that game.

- 4:04 All game equipment must meet the standards and requirements established by the ASA/NSA. All game equipment, (i.e. bats, balls gloves, etc...) must be in the dugout (out of the playing area) when not in use.
- 4:05 The following bats will be allowed to play: ASA 2013 or NSA 2012 stamps
- 4:06 Pitchers: It is recommended that all pitchers wear facial masks or protective head gear while pitching.

#### **5:00 PROTESTS**

- 5:01 Decision involving an umpire's or a scorekeeper's judgment may not be protested.
- 5:02 Each protest declared must include the following information as recorded in the official scorebook at the time of the protest:
- A. Date, time, place of game.

- B. Names of all game officials.
  - C. Two teams involved.
  - D. Position of all players at time of the batted ball and at time of the protested rule application.
  - E. The conditions surrounding the protest (verbal account) as observed by the coach and as carried out by the umpire.
  - F. Signature of the coach filing the protest.
- 5:03 If the application of a rule, league is believed to have been in error, a team manager or coach may officially protest the game by adhering to following procedure.
- A. Inform the home plate umpire of the protest immediately after the play in question and **PRIOR** to the next **LEGAL OR ILLEGAL** pitch.
  - B. Inform the official scorekeeper of the protest and write in the official scorebook the information in 5:02.
  - C. Follow-up the protest in writing, signed by the team manager and submit to the Parks and Recreation Office by 4:00pm the following day (weekends and holidays excluded).
  - D. Eligibility protests may be settled on site by the Athletic Coordinator, or home plate umpire.
  - E. The eligibility protest must be made immediately upon the person entering the game. The protest must be made immediately after a complete batting rotation.
  - F. **There is a \$50.00 fee that must accompany the protest.** If the protest is upheld the money will be returned.
- 5:04 All protests will be reviewed by the Athletic Coordinator and/or Advisory Board and a recommendation will be made as to whether the protest will be upheld, denied, or the game to be replayed from the point of protest or forfeiture. This recommendation will be accepted or rejected by appropriate Parks and Recreation staff and will be then considered final.
- 5:05 The Softball Advisory Board will be comprised of the following:
- Two (2) Independent League Representatives
  - Two (2) Church League Representatives
  - One (1) Umpire (to be designated by Athletic Coordinator)
  - One (1) Parks and Recreation Board Member
  - Athletic Coordinator
- 5:06 In the event that a protest involves a member of the Advisory Board or that such a member may benefit from a decision, the Athletic Coordinator will appoint another member to the Board on a temporary basis until a final decision is made.

- 5:07 The Advisory Board is elected annually by coaches during the organizational meetings and serves for the current season to recommend solutions to league problems in the best interest of the leagues.
- 5:08 The Softball Advisory Board will be the recommending body, when possible, as to what course of action should be taken. Their recommendation will be accepted, modified or rejected by appropriate Parks and Recreation Staff and/or Park Board. All decisions will be final.

## **6:00 CONDUCT**

6:01 Local Ordinance Number 81-29; Rule #6 states that excessive verbal abuse or heckling upon city park property between participants and staff, coaches, managers, officials, players or spectators will be considered harassment and be subject to penalty by law as prescribed in KRS 525.070. Such behavior on the part of a player or coach may also constitute an automatic ejection from the game and /or suspension from further participation (6.08).

6:02 **SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE FIELD.** A Warning will be issued and continued violation will result in ejection from the game.

6:03 **NO PERSON OR PERSONS SHALL BRING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF ANY KIND ON PARK PREMISES.** Any team observed with alcoholic beverages on the playing field by an umpire or Parks and Recreation Staff will forfeit their game **IMMEDIATELY** to the opposing team.

NOTE: The dugout is considered part of the playing field. All persons violating this regulation are subject to penalty by law and will be required to leave the Park premises immediately.

6:04 Continued violation of these rules and regulations (6:00) will result in one or more of the following:

Forfeiture of game

Removal of player from the league

Indefinite suspension

Removal of team from the League

6:05 An official/player/coach/spectator reprimand for misconduct violations will serve their reprimand immediately. Any revoked privileges are in effect for the duration of the reprimand or until lifted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Violators may appeal a disciplinary decision by the Advisory Board but they **WILL NOT** be eligible to play, coach, or sit on the bench during the appeal process.

6:06 ANY PLAYER OR COACH EJECTED FROM A GAME WILL IMMEDIATELY BE SUSPENDED UNTIL THE PARK STAFF DETERMINES REINSTATEMENT.

6:07 ANY PLAYER, COACH OR MANAGER EJECTED FROM A GAME FOR FIGHTING ON THE PREMISES WILL IMMEDIATELY BE SUSPENDED UNTIL THE PARK STAFF DETERMINES REINSTATEMENT.

- 6:08 IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS SUSPENDED FROM ONE LEAGUE, THEN HE/SHE WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM **ALL** LEAGUES.
- 6:09 Any spectator observed by park personnel with alcohol in their possession will be asked to leave the park premises.
- 6:10 Any form of flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a player, coach or manager will automatically suspend the offending person(s) from the league for the remainder of the game, and/or for any period thereafter comparable with the violation. "Flagrant Conduct" shall be construed to include personal or physical contact with an umpire, other player(s), coaches or managers. ANYONE who has been suspended from a game, or any part of a game, will be suspended until the Softball Coordinator determines reinstatement. Any profanity by any player, manager or coach will mean an automatic ejection for the remainder of the current game.
- 6:11 If a player is ejected from two games, that individual is not eligible to play for the remainder of the regular season and post-season tournament in any league. They may apply for reinstatement at the end of the season for upcoming seasons but must be approved by the Softball Board in order to play. (Each player will be evaluated on an individual basis)

## **7:00 CANCELLATIONS**

- 7:01 In case of inclement weather, game cancellations for that day will be declared at 4:00 pm. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE PRIOR TO 4:00 PM.** There is a Parks and Recreation Sports Program Hotline which can be reached for game status by calling 626-7784. We will post cancellations on Facebook. THANK YOU.
- 7:02 However, if inclement weather warrants additional days, the games may be rescheduled at any available day or time during the season.
- 7:03 Teams will be given three (3) days notice for the scheduling of any cancelled regular season game. This excludes any play-off games and tournament play
- 7:04 Teams will be notified by the Athletic Coordinator/Softball Coordinator of rescheduled games.
- 7:05 Games that are rained out before the required five (5) innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) will be replayed at a later date from the exact game situation as when the game was called off.
- 7:06 If, at 4:00pm fields are determined to be playable and inclement weather is still questionable, the decision to play will be made by the Athletic Coordinator.

## **8:00 ADDENDUM**

- 8:01 Co-Rec Leagues:
- A. A co-recreational player can play for only one team in the Tuesday or Thursday, or Church Co-Rec League.
  - B. A 14 inch softball will be used for men and an 11 inch softball will be used for women in all Co-Rec leagues.

- C. There should be five participating females and five males at all times, both offensively and defensively. A team may start and finish with nine players (either 5 males and 4 females or 4 males and 5 females) but the team will be penalized an out at the end of the batting rotation where the missing batter would have been. A team may use twelve (12) players offensively, 6 male and 6 female. The outfield must be comprised of two (2) females and two (2) males; the infield must be comprised of two (2) females and two (2) males. Will follow Format- 5/5, 6/6, 6/4, 7/5 – ending with same gender in consecutive order.
- D. The batting order must alternate sexes.
- E. With less than two outs, and a male is walked, he automatically goes to the second base and the female batter following him **MUST** bat. She does **NOT** have the option of walking. With two outs, and a male is walked, he automatically goes to the second base and the female batter following him has the option of batting or taking a walk. \*If a male walks with a male behind him in line up, he only gets one base.
- F. All other general softball rules apply.

8:02 No player shall practice on any field if it has been dragged and lined or if it is wet. The individual in violation shall be ejected from the league.

8:03 The Athletic Coordinator reserves the right during tournament play to schedule double-headers in order to complete all tournament games in a timely manner.

## 9:00 **LIGHTNING PROCEDURE**

9:01 An assigned staff member will check the weather report before the activity and report any weather watches or warnings to the Athletic Coordinator.

9:02 If a weather situation is pending, an assigned staff member will check the weather reports frequently

9:03 When lightning has been spotted in the area, the Athletic Coordinator and officials will utilize the “flash and bang” method to assess risk:

- This method estimates how far away lightning is by having a person count the seconds between a flash of lightning and a clap of thunder
- Each five-second count represents one mile (for instance, a count of 15 before a thunder clap indicates the lightning is approximately 3 miles away)
- When there is less than 30 seconds between a lightning flash and a thunder clap, all games shall stop and everyone in or near the activity will be instructed to take cover.

9:04 Games shall not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash.

9:05 The Athletic Coordinator/Softball Coordinator **only** shall be responsible for determining when it is safe to resume play.

9:06 The Athletic Coordinator/Softball Coordinator shall meet with all coaches, participants, and officials before the event to instruct them on what to do in case of a lightning warning.