



2022 ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES HANDBOOK

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WELCOME to the SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD Softball program! You have chosen to become involved in a softball program in which the most important goal is to provide the highest quality recreational experience possible, and we are committed to serving the player's needs. Again, welcome to the SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD Softball Program, and we hope you have a fun and successful 2022 season!

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board encourages participation by everyone in all activities. If you have a disability and need individual accommodations to participate in an activity, please contact Cyrus Taylor at 417-837-5808 at least one week prior to the date of participation.

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Rain-Outs:

For the latest up-to-the-minute details on weather-related cancellations be sure to check Team Sideline by signing up for text alerts or call the *Softball Hotline Telephone Number* at 864-1379.

STANDINGS & SCHEDULES

GET YOUR SCHEDULE AND STANDINGS AT PARKBOARD.ORG

1 – On the Internet go to <http://www.parkboard.org>

Visit our Tournament Web Page at www.springfieldsoftball.com

Visit the Springfield-Greene County Park Board Web Site at www.parkboard.org

League standings will be posted at <https://teamsideline.com/sites/springfieldmo/home>

I. RULE CHANGES FOR 2022 EFFECTING PARK BOARD LEAGUES

- 1) **Flip – Flop Rule:** When the visiting team has an 10-run differential in their favor at the beginning of the final inning of play, the home team will bat first in that inning. If the home team fails to tie or go ahead of the visiting team, the game ends and the visiting team wins. If the home team ties or goes ahead, the visiting team will take their turn at bat.
- 2) **All players in attendance will bat.**
 - a. This is not mandatory, but an option to allow all present to play.
 - b. Coed – additional batters must still follow the male/female rotation or an out must be taken.

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. **AGE:** All players must be at least **14 years of age** in order to play.
2. **PLAYERS:** Players may play on several teams. However, players may play on **one team only** in a league.
3. **TEAM ROSTERS:** Roster forms **MUST** be turned into the softball office or the complex manager prior to your first game in order to avoid a forfeited game.
4. **Additions to the roster** must be placed on the add-on roster form and turned into the complex manager.
5. **CHURCH LEAGUE TEAMS:** Church team members must meet one of the following requirements:
Be a regular member with the sponsoring church or attend at least two (2) Sunday services during the previous month. Church teams may have up to three (3) non-church members on their team.

III. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

1. **GATE FEE:** All participants and spectators will be required to pay admission each night at the gate. Anyone 12 and under is FREE. **Coupon books--containing 14 coupons--are available in the softball office.**
2. **RAIN MAKE-UP DAYS:** Rain make-ups will be scheduled at the **Softball Supervisor's discretion**. Rained out games may be made up as a double header on your regular night, at 10:20 p.m. on your regular night, any weekend, or at the end of the regular season.
If a team calls in to forfeit a rain make up and this make up is cancelled due to rain, this game will not be rescheduled for a later date. It is the team's responsibility to check their email for updates, or the information boards at the complex for rain make-up schedules.
3. **REALIGNMENT (Summer Leagues only):** The softball division will move teams up or down in order to make the 2nd half of the league more competitive.
4. **TIE BREAKERS:** The softball staff will determine league winners of each half. If a two-way tie exists, the winner will be determined by head-to-head competition. If more than two teams are involved in a tie, the winner will be determined using the run-differential system, subtracting runs allowed from runs scored, and dividing by the total number of games played.
5. **RE-ENTRY FEES:** A softball team that forfeits a game must pay a re-entry fee in order to remain in the league. **EXCEPTION: A re-entry fee will not be charged to a team that forfeits and has notified the softball office (837-5817) by 3:00 pm on the day the team intends to forfeit. The re-entry fee is \$25.00 for each forfeit.** This fee must be paid by 5:00 p.m. the second business day following the forfeited game. If the fee is not paid by the deadline, that team's opponent for the following week will be granted a win by forfeit for its next scheduled game. We will not wait past the deadline to notify your next opponent, and once that call is made, the game will not be rescheduled.

IV. PROTEST PROCEDURES

1. **No protest will be accepted**, all decisions by the umpire are final.

V. GENERAL RULES

NOTE: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TURN IN A LINE UP CARD, WITH ALL PLAYER'S NAMES LISTED, TO THE UMPIRE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME EVERY WEEK. PUT YOUR BATTING ORDER FOLLOWED BY SUBS. PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAMES ON THE FORM.

1. **TIME LIMITS & RUN RULES:**

All slow pitch leagues: 1 hour; 10 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, 20 runs after 3 innings.

All fast pitch leagues: 1 hour, 30 min.; 7 runs after 5 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings OR 15 after 3 innings.

NOTE: If, when 55 minutes (1 hour and 25 minutes for fast pitch) have been completed, and the home team is ahead after the top half of an inning, the game shall end. No new inning shall begin.

COMPLETED GAME: In cases of rain, 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team is ahead) or 40 minutes will be considered a complete game and will not be rescheduled. If 40 minutes have been played, but fewer than 3 1/2 or 4 innings have been completed, the score shall be recorded as it stands unless the home team is behind and has not completed its turn at bat. In this case the score of the last completed inning shall be used.

2. **RUNNING THE BASES:** For all adult softball, on a fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run or four base award, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. **The batter and runners are not required to run the bases.**

3. **Courtesy Runners** – Teams may use one courtesy runner per inning. They may use any player on their roster. Co-ed teams are allowed one curtesy runner for

4. **ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT and UNIFORMS:** No "home-made" warm up or illegal USA bats allowed. All equipment must conform to ASA specifications. There is NO uniform requirement on recreation leagues.

*******SENIOR SOFTBALL BATS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN ANY NON-SENIOR LEAGUES WITH THE PARK BOARD!!!!!!**

*******METAL CLEATS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUES.**

*******ONLY USA SOFTBALL APPROVED WARM UP BATS AND ACCESSORIES ARE PERMITTED (NO DONUTS)**

*******CHECK THE USASOFTBALLMISSOURI.NET WEBSITE FOR A LIST OF NON-APPROVED BATS.******

5. **INJURED PLAYER:** An injured player may be removed from the line-up and the game continued, as long as the team has six (6) remaining players. Any player who is removed from the ball game due to an injury CANNOT re-enter that game. This is to protect the player from further injury. NOTE: Coed teams must have at least three (3) men and three (3) women to continue.

6. **SUBSTITUTES:** A player who is used at any time as a substitute is "locked" into the batting order for the person whom they replaced and cannot re-enter for anyone else in the batting order.

7. **HOME OR VISITOR:** Home and visitor will be listed on the schedule. The home team will be the second team listed.

8. **FORFEIT TIME:** Game time is FORFEIT TIME for all games, EXCEPTION: A 10-minute grace period will be allowed for the 6:20 p.m. games ONLY; however, as soon as both teams have at least six (6) players, the game will start without any further delay.

9. **LINE-UPS:** A team must turn a list of players that are present at their game that night to the umpire. **This list must have first and last names on them.**

10. **Warm up pitches:** At the beginning of the game or when the current pitcher is replaced, the pitcher shall receive no more than three (3) pitches. Excess pitches count as balls to the next batter. This rule

does not apply if the umpire delays the start of play due to substitution, conference, injuries, and other umpire responsibilities.

11. **SUSPENSIONS:** A PLAYER, COACH OR TEAM FOLLOWER who is ejected from a game will be suspended for that game and possibly additional games depended on severity. A second ejection during the same season will be automatically suspended from playing the next 3 games. A third game ejection results in a suspension for the remainder of the season and are subject to further sanctions.

12. **“NON-COLLISION RULE”** – It is the responsibility of the runner to avoid collision with the fielder either by sliding or attempting to avoid the tag. If in the umpire’s discretion, the collision was deemed the fault of the runner, the runner will be called out. If in the umpire’s discretion the collision is malicious (hard-slide), the player will be called out and ejected from the game. This rule is not a must slide rule but a non-collision rule. **Refer to rule #14 for “Obstruction of the Base Runner”.**

13. **TIE-BREAKER RULE:** If after the completion of the league time limit or seven innings, the score is tied, the following tie-breaker rule will be played to determine the winner.

- a. Starting with the next inning of play, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled last in that respective half inning being placed on 2nd base.

14. **DOUBLE FIRST BASE.** When using the double base at first, the following rules are enforced:

- a. A batted ball hitting the white portion is declared fair and hitting the colored portion is foul.
- b. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion. On extra base hits and there is no play at 1st base, the runner may touch either the white or colored portion of the base.
- c. If there is a play on the batter-runner at first and the batter-runner touches only the white portion and the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base, the batter-runner is declared out.
- d. On any forced-out attempt from the foul side of first base, the defense and batter-runner may use either the white or colored portions of the base.
- e. The batter-runner **MAY USE ANY** portion of the base after he is legally beyond first base. Whether returning to first after over running first, tagging up, or returning to base after rounding the base.
- f. The double base becomes one 15” x 30” base after the batter-runner passes the base.

15. **THE 1-AND-1 COUNT. (Slow Pitch)**

- a. The batter shall enter the batter’s box with an automatic 1 ball and 1 strike count.
- b. If the batter fouls off a ball on the third strike, the batter is out.
- c. This rule will only apply with adult slow pitch leagues (men’s, women’s and coed).

16. **OBSTRUCTION OF THE BASE RUNNER.** Is the act of a fielder who is in the base path without the ball and is not attempting to field a batted ball and who impedes the progress of a runner.

- a. About to receive a thrown ball has been removed from the definition, so this means that a defensive player cannot block a base without the ball.
- b. A defensive player must have the ball in order to block the base for a tag.
- c. A defensive player cannot alter the base path of a runner without the ball in their possession.
- d. A fielder may not make a fake tag on the runner. (A fake tag can result in an ejection)

16. **ANY RULES NOT LISTED in this handbook may be found in the Official ASA/USA Rule Book.**

VI. PLAYING RULES

A. MEN'S / WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH

1. **MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** Men's and women's slow pitch may start or continue a game with no fewer than six (6) players. When the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth players arrive, they may be added in the empty batting positions and are eligible to play immediately. The empty batting positions will not count as outs.

2. **OFFICIAL BALL:**

Men's Slow Pitch Leagues: 12-inch optic yellow cover RED stitched softball with a COR of .52, with a ball compression of 300.0 lbs or under, and an ASA Emblem on it.

Women's Slow Pitch Leagues: 11-inch optic yellow cover RED stitched softball with a COR of .52, with a ball compression of 300.0 lbs or under, and an ASA Emblem on it.

Teams are required to supply their own balls, and each team will hit the balls it supplies.

3. **HOME RUN RULE:** All slow pitch leagues will be limited to three (3) over-the-fence home runs per game. All excess home runs will count as outs. Note: Four-base awards do not add to the home run total and will never be counted as outs.

NOTE: The Monday open league is limited to five (5) over the fence home runs per game.

4. **BASE STEALING IS PERMITTED IN BOTH THE MENS AND WOMEN'S SLOW-PITCH.** Base stealing is legal in adult men's slow pitch leagues. This does not apply to senior & coed play. Stealing is permitted as long as the runner does not leave the base until the ball reaches home plate. If the ball touches the ground prior to reaching home plate or the ball hits the batter, the ball is dead, and the runner cannot steal. If the runner is stopped between bases or is not clearly advancing when the catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher, inside the circle near the pitcher's plate, the ball is dead, and the runner must return to the last base touched. The ball is live, and runner(s) can advance if:

- A. A play is made on the runner.
- B. The pitcher fails to catch the ball.
- C. The catcher hits the batter on a throw to the pitcher or to a base during a play.

If a play is made on a runner, or if the pitcher receives the ball anywhere other than in the circle near the pitcher's plate, the ball is live, and the runner(s) can advance.

B. CO-ED RULES

Base Stealing is not permitted in Coed Slow Pitch

1. **MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** Six players (3 men/3 women) must be present in order to play. When additional male and female player(s) arrive, they may be placed in alternating batting order immediately at the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth batting positions. In coed, teams must either have an equal number of men and women or take an out in the appropriate position in the batting order.

2. **EXTRA PLAYERS:** Coed teams may never bat only one extra player (EP). If for any reason a team fails to retain enough players to bat six (6) men and six (6) women, no EPs are allowed.

3. **OFFICIAL BALL:**

TWO BALL REQUIRED: Women use an 11-inch optic yellow cover RED stitched with a COR of .52, with a ball compression of 300.0 lbs or under, and an ASA Emblem and men will use the 12-inch optic yellow cover RED stitched with a COR of .52, with a ball compression of 300.0 lbs or under, and an ASA Emblem.

4. **INJURED PLAYER:** If a player is injured and there are no substitutes available, the team must take an out in the open position, **or** another player of the opposite sex, adjacent to the injured player in the batting order, must also be removed from the line-up.

5. **HOME RUN RULE:** All leagues will be limited to three (3) over-the-fence home runs per game. All excess home runs will be declared outs. Note: Four-base awards do not add to the home run total and will never be counted as outs.

CITY ORDINANCES

1. By City Ordinance, possession of alcoholic beverages on public property is prohibited! This includes all parks and parking lots! Teams or individuals will be penalized for failure to comply.
2. By City Ordinance, skateboards, roller-skates/blades, bicycles, roller scooters, refreshment coolers (except water coolers), smoking, and alcohol are NOT permitted inside the complexes.
3. All players, coaches, and team followers assume all risk of accident and injury arising out of participation in the Springfield-Greene County Park Board Softball Leagues.
4. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and American Disabilities Act of 1991, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

General Ordinance #5197

Offenses Related to Sporting Events

- Section #1: The term "Sports Official" means any referee, umpire, scorekeeper, timekeeper, field or arena security personnel, field or arena manager or person serving in a similar management or supervisory capacity.
- Section #2: Assault on sports official.
- Section #3: Harassment of a sports official.
- Section #4: Peace disturbance at a sports event.
- Section #5: Property damage related to a sporting event.
- Section #6: Trespass at a sporting event.
- Section #7: Penalty Clause. Any person found guilty of violating this ordinance shall be penalized in accordance with Section 1 – 7 of the Springfield City Code.