

**HALTOM CITY
PARKS AND RECREATION
SOFTBALL BY-LAWS
2012**

I. Government

- A. 2012 A.S.A. Rule Book in conjunction with these by-laws shall be the official rules by which the league shall be run. The Recreation Department reserves the right to delete, add, or override any rules or decisions that in their opinion will make the league better.

II. General Information

- A. All games will be scheduled, and rescheduled if necessary, by the Recreation Department.
- B. Ball field locations - North Park at Loop 820 and Denton Hwy. (377)
- C. **Inclement weather: Please use our Rainout Line! Call 817-259-0007 for all recorded rainout information. Updates on field conditions will be recorded by 4pm. If rain occurs after game time, it will be at the discretion of the umpires as to whether games will continue.**
- D. **Suspended games:** For whatever reason, if a game is stopped before it is an official game; it will be resumed from the point of suspension. **Exception:** If less than one (1) full inning is completed, the game will start over.
- E. **Make-up games:** It is the responsibility of the team manager or coach to call and check with the Recreation Department for times of all make-up games. Games will be played at specified times and occasionally **in different locations**. Make-up games will be re-scheduled to the end of the season. Check www.teamsideline.com/haltom for schedule updates.
- F. Schedules will be made up and distributed to coaches/managers. Schedules will also be posted at www.teamsideline.com/haltom.
- G. League fees must be paid at the time of registration in order to hold the team's spot in the league. Schedules will not be released until all teams have paid in full.

III. Player Eligibility

- A. **Team rosters and release forms must be submitted to the game officials prior to each team's first game. Completed rosters will be collected at the 2nd game for all leagues. Changes to rosters must be done in person at the Recreation Center no later than the 4th game.**
- B. **Roster Changes: A player must be on the roster in order to be eligible.**
An illegal player will constitute a team forfeiting a game in which he/she participated. **NOTE:** Any official or opposing team player may note the illegal participant and protest. If rosters are present, a forfeit may be called at that time. If not, a protest can be called and protest procedures followed. No Exception.
- C. **Age Limit:** Any youth under 18 years of age will be required to submit a waiver to the Recreation Department. Waivers are subject to the approval of the Recreation Department. You may obtain these forms at the Recreation Center at 4839 Broadway.
- D. Players may play on multiple teams on different nights but can only be registered on one TAAF post-season roster.

IV. Equipment and Jerseys

- A. Shoes must be molded rubber cleats. There will be no Steel cleats allowed. Street shoes (leather-soled) are not considered playing equipment. Tennis shoes are permitted. All players must wear footwear.
- B. Jerseys must be like in color with non-duplicated numbers by the 2nd game of the season. Any players not matching by this time will not be allowed to play. If this causes a team not to have enough players, a forfeit will take effect.
- C. Each team will be required to provide its own game balls, preferably new balls. Balls will be subject to umpire approval. All balls must be stamped and approved by ASA or TAAF and will be stamped **.44 cor or .52 cor/300 lb. compression**. White or yellow balls are acceptable.
- D. Bats cannot be longer than 34 inches and cannot weigh more than 38 ounces. There are several bats that have been banned from league play. A copy of the banned list is attached at the end of this document. **It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that players have LEGAL equipment.** Use of illegal bats will result in team "outs" and player ejection. This is for the safety of all players.

V. Game regulations

- A. Line-ups must be turned in to the umpire at game time. Last name and numbers are required. If a line-up is not turned in by game time, the opposing team has the option of being home or visitor. The team turning in the line-up late will start its inning with first batter out. Game will start at completion of coin toss. Teams who do not turn in their line-ups within a reasonable amount of time will forfeit their ball game.
- B. Game time is forfeit time. There is a seven (7) inning or fifty-five (55) minute time limit on all games. (Note: Games may be scheduled 50 minutes apart). If a game ends early due to run rules, the next game will be started according to the schedule.

To alleviate time restraints for 6:45 games only, the Department allows teams playing at that time to start with eight (8) players for Men's Friday league only. If additional players are added, the team may not drop back to 8 players.

- C. Run rules will apply after 3 innings (20), 4 innings (15) and 5 innings (10). These rules only apply after the home team has batted.
- D. Games will start with a one-strike/ball count for all batters, with a courtesy foul.
- E. **Player shortage:** Men's teams may begin with a minimum of nine (9) players and must end a game with nine players. If a game begins with nine players it may go to ten (10) but **never** eleven (11). If a team starts with nine players, the tenth position in the line-up is an automatic out. Men's teams may go from 11 to 10 or 10 to nine and take automatic outs. Teams may not go from 11 to 9 players without a game forfeit. If a team has only nine players and one is ejected, a forfeit will be called.

Co-ed teams must have a minimum of nine players. The combination must be five and four. The same rule applies to co-ed as regular leagues. The tenth player in the line-up is an out.

****If a team is short players at game time, it is a forfeit. Players CANNOT play on more than one team per night.**

- F. **Player Substitution: Any player may be taken out of a game and re-entered one time.** Any player may be substituted or replaced, and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting position whenever in the line-up. If the player re-enters and it is brought to the attention of the umpire, said player will be ejected. Coaches are responsible for notifying the umpire of a substitution.

G. **Extra Player:** An option. If used, he must be in the line-up. Co-ed teams may have two extra players, twelve (12). They may drop back to 10 players and receive outs for two consecutive batters. The players that leave must be of the opposite gender.

H. **Home Run Restrictions:**

1. North Park- three (3) home runs allowed per game. Every home run hit after (3) will be a single.

VI. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS & AWARDS

A. We now have a playoff system. Leagues will be divided into two divisions, if more than 8 teams registered in the league. Teams will only play the teams in their own divisions.

B. Regular season will include (6) games per team. Playoffs are scheduled immediately following the final regular season game. Playoffs will be single elimination with a consolation bracket, so all teams will have a two-game guarantee in the playoffs.

C. League champions will receive t-shirts (win the final game of playoffs).

D. **If equal records occur, the following method will be used to determine a champion:**

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Runs scored in head-to-head
3. Runs scored in all league games
4. Runs allowed in head-to-head games
5. Runs allowed in league games

Teams wishing to advance to TAAF tournament play must have won their division.

VII. Field Ground Rules

A. There are no designated warm-up areas. The Parks and Recreation department suggests that you warm up **away from the bleachers. Keep it safe for everyone.** If you are asked to move, please do.

B. Keep children away from the playing area. This includes dugouts. These are adult leagues and the intensity of play can create a hazardous situation.

- C. If you are a player scheduled to play and are caught outside of the dugout for reasons other than going to the snack bar or restroom, a warning shall be issued. On the second offense you shall be ejected. **No Exception.**
- D. City Ordinance prohibits glass containers and alcoholic beverages at all parks. Please remember to throw away all trash.
- E. Alcohol is PROHIBITED in all City parks. This has caused problems during game play. If a player is caught drinking alcohol during their scheduled game time, the umpires will immediately eject that player. If another player from the team is caught drinking during their scheduled game time, the team must forfeit that game. Continued issues with drinking will result in Police presence at games. This is being enforced for the safety of all players as well as spectators and park patrons.

VIII. Sportsmanship

- A. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated under any circumstance. If ejected, a player will receive a one game suspension, plus the remainder of the game being played. Second offense is a two-game suspension and third offense is league suspension.
- B. Use of illegal bats is prohibited. A list is attached to these bylaws. If a batter is caught with an illegal bat in the batter's box, it will be an automatic out for the team. The bat will be thrown out. If another illegal bat enters the batter's box, the player will be ejected.
- C. Intentional bat throwing is an automatic two game suspension. This will not be protestable. The judgment of the umpire is final. It is also the judgment of the umpire as to whether a player is intentionally throwing a bat coming out of the batter's box.
- D. There is no digging allowed in the batter's box. Any player who digs in the batter's box before they hit, will receive an automatic out. This causes major maintenance and safety issues at home plate.
- E. If a player who is ejected from a game is asked to leave the ballpark and does not comply within a reasonable amount of time, the team he is playing on will be subject to forfeiting the game.
- F. If you are ejected for fighting, you will be suspended from league play for one full season, unless otherwise determined. Any person attacking a league official will be barred from all TAAF and ASA sanctioned programs throughout the state.

- G. If a team forfeits two consecutive games by not showing up and failed to notify the Recreation Department, the remainder of that teams league play may be forfeited. If a team forfeits three or more times before the 7th game, they will be removed from the remaining schedule. All league fees paid are non-refundable.
- H. Jewelry must be securely attached. A warning will be issued to both benches. Players will be called out if told again. Loop earrings must be removed.

IX. Protest

- A. Misinterpretation of a playing rule must be made before the next pitch or before all infielders have left the playing field or before the umpires leave the playing field.
- B. Illegal player - someone not on the roster
- C. Ineligible player - can be made at any time

The following method will be used to submit a protest:

1. Inform the plate umpire of the protest before the next pitch. The umpire will note on the scorecard that the game is being played under protest.
2. Submit a \$25.00 protest fee at the point the protest is being made. The fee may be paid with check or cash.
3. Submit a written account of your protest to the Recreation Department no later than 5:00pm of the following business day. Note the type of protest and the **Rule** that it pertains to. You may request to have your protest dropped at this time and receive a refund.
4. The protest will be ruled upon within seven days. The protest fee will only be refunded if the decision is in favor of the protesting party. Fees are submitted at your risk.

For questions regarding these Bylaws you may contact the Recreation Center at any time during the season by calling 817-831-6464. Your help as a coach or manager is appreciated. Have a safe and fun season.

Revised on 03/2012