

Lawton
ADULT SOFTBALL
RULE BOOK

2020 EDITION

LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

OBJECTIVE: Provide guidelines for division and league play.

ARTICLE 1 – GOVERNING RULES

Games shall be governed by the current edition of the USA Official rules of Softball.

ARTICLE 2 – Conduct in McMahon Park

Officials and Supervisors have the authority to eject coaches, players and fans, from the playing field and area, for whatever the reason. No belligerent behavior will be tolerated.

PETS - No Pets allowed in or around the softball fields.

LANGUAGE – Foul Language or cussing is not allowed in or around the softball fields, all players, coaches and fans are responsible for their conduct.

DRINKING OF BEER AND ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

City Ordinance – City Code – Section 4-1-1-108 General Prohibitions states that no person shall drink any alcoholic beverage in public or be intoxicated in a public place. No person shall consume or sell any alcoholic or intoxicating beverage on City-owned property.

“**Alcoholic Beverages**” include all of the following: **alcohol, spirits, beer and wine.** Public Places include parks, ball fields, parking lots, ball field parking lots, recreation areas, etc. Be aware that the City of Lawton will enforce any violation of this City Ordinance. Any teams with members failing to comply (including coaches, players, and spectators) are subject to forfeiture of games. Any individual failing to comply will face criminal prosecution.

ARTICLE 3 – ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS

All amateur teams shall be eligible to enter upon payment of the fee set in the fee and charge schedule. The number of teams in each league will be limited to avoid the necessity of scheduling games after 10:30 PM.

ARTICLE 4 – COMPOSITION OF LEAGUES

The LASA Board will review the team rosters prior to league to ensure proper placement in each league.

ARTICLE 5 – NUMBER OF PLAYERS The number of players to be signed and carried by each team shall not exceed twenty at any time. Before another player above the twenty allowed can be signed, one of the other signed players must be released. Teams must comply with player limit by start of league season.

ARTICLE 6 – STRICTLY AMATEUR

No player shall be compensated for playing in any or all league games.

ARTICLE 7 – ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

For eligibility of players see the current edition of the USA Softball Official Slow Pitch Rule Book and National By-laws.

Illegal Player - An Illegal Player is defined as any individual that participates in a LASA sanctioned game who has not been entered onto the team's roster and has not turned in a completed Official Registration Card (player's card) with the City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Office. As it is the responsibility of both the Coach and the Player to ensure that the Player is properly registered for LASA Leagues/Tournaments; any disciplinary action taken due to the participation of an Illegal Player will apply to both the Coach and the Player.

The Officials and Facility Supervisor have the authority to call a game forfeiture to either team or both teams due to Illegal Player(s). In this event, the Officials or Facility Supervisor will complete an ejection card for the Illegal Player(s) and the team's Coach.

The Illegal Player(s) and the team's Coach will be in violation of these LASA By-Laws and shall be suspended from LASA League/Tournament play for a period of one year from the date the violation occurred. The suspension for the player is for playing in that specific Division of LASA sanctioned leagues and tournaments and the individuals will not be allowed on the field or in the dugout during this time. The suspended Coach will not be permitted to coach any team in that specific division.

Illegal players may also be brought to the attention of the Officials through a Protest. All protests must follow the procedure set forth within these By Laws to be deemed valid. In the event that the City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Sports/Aquatics office rules that the use of an Illegal Player has occurred the before mentioned suspension will be enforced and the Facility Supervisor will keep an updated file of suspended coaches and players at the facility.

All coaches and players have the Right to Hearing and may request a Protest Review or Appeal of all protests and suspensions. Once again, the proper procedure must be followed for a Protest Review or Appeal to be acknowledged.

ARTICLE 8 – REGISTRATION Each player must sign an official player's card, supplied by the City of Lawton Parks and Recreation office before competing in any league game. The team manager must submit these cards to the Parks and Recreation office with the team roster before the start of the season. Any new players after the first game of the season must sign and submit official registration card to the Parks and Recreation office before they compete as a player.

ARTICLE 9 – TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

Players may transfer from one team to another for 1 of 2 reasons with the following:

1. The Player and/or coach think it is better for the team to have that player leave the team. If a coach removes a player off of a team roster, the player then becomes a free agent, and can play for any team in any division. The process to remove a player from the roster is, the coach must remove the player from the teams' s online roster, then the coach must notify t h e Parks & Recreation staff to complete this process; it **cannot** be done at the ball field.
2. A team disbands from the league. The coach informs Parks & Recreation that his/her team is disbanding. All remaining games are forfeited.
3. If the player is removed from a team, and then plays for another team, without the coach removing the player from the roster, the player becomes illegal. Only the coach can remove players off of the roster. If a player wishes to be removed from the roster, and the coach is not cooperative, the player submits a request for exception to the board, and the board can make a ruling.
4. Players listed on the roster of teams that have disbanded will be considered free agents and may transfer and play for any team in any division. It is a player's responsibility to make sure that his/her name is only on the correct team's roster.
5. Any free agent from an Upper league that requests to be added to a Lower league team will require a review by the LASA board.

ARTICLE 10 – TIME AND PLACE OF GAMES

League games will not be scheduled to start earlier than 6:30 PM (EXCEPTION: Sunday Coed League) or later than 10:30 PM. There is NO grace period on first game or any other game. Umpires and managers must assist in getting games underway. Lineups must be turned in fifteen minutes before game time.

ARTICLE 11 – START AND FINISH OF GAME

No game shall start or finish with less than seven players for Women's teams, nine players for Men's teams, and eight players for Coed teams. AUTOMATIC OUTS will be placed on each player short. Automatic outs can be placed anywhere in the lineup.

ARTICLE 12 – LENGTH OF LEGAL GAMES

A game shall consist of seven innings, weather and time conditions permitting. (The umpire is the sole judge of weather and time conditions). Five innings shall constitute an official game. A time limit of one hour is in effect for ALL league preseason and postseason tournament games and league schedule and/or rescheduled games. No new inning will start after the time limit has expired, UNLESS game is tied. All remaining games will start at the scheduled time or at the completion of the preceding game. **RUN AHEAD RULE: 12 AFTER 3 INNINGS, 10 AFTER 4 INNINGS & 8 AFTER 5 INNINGS.**

ARTICLE 13 – UMPIRES

Umpires shall be members of the USA Softball (USA). Umpires may not be a member of any team in the division he or she is officiating.

ARTICLE 14 – REPORTS ON GAMES/LEAGUE REPORTS

The Facility Supervisor will report Daily/nightly league and tournament game results, after the completion of the games. Field Sheets will be turned in to the Sports &

Aquatics Office the following day. Results of games and weekly standings of teams shall be kept by the Sports & Aquatics Office.

ARTICLE 15 – SPRING/SUMMER LEAGUE TROPHIES

Team Trophies for 1st and 2nd place will be awarded in each league in each Division. The number of awards may be reduced if team entries are under minimum.

ARTICLE 16 – SANCTION

Teams will be sanctioned under USA SOFTBALL.

ARTICLE 17 – RAIN-OUT GAMES

Teams may visit www.teamsideline.com/lawton for game status after 3:00 PM. The Athletic Maintenance Supervisor, will notify the Sports Office or Sports Recreation Supervisor, will make the decision on field playability. Coaches, inform your players to visit www.teamsideline.com/lawton to check game status during inclement weather.

If a game is called after 3:00 PM, the facility supervisor will make decisions on field playability.

Field playability involves many aspects (player safety and field maintenance.) By playing on the fields when they are wet, the infields and turf areas become abused, thus causing further maintenance problems and poor playing conditions the next several days thereafter. **The Sports & Aquatics Office will reschedule rainout games if field availability permits. Rescheduled rainout games may be played on any night of the week.**

ARTICLE 18 – PLAYER/TEAM EJECTION/SUSPENSION

Any player will be ejected from the game for throwing a bat flagrantly, misconduct, fighting, unsportsmanlike acts and behavior, or running over the catcher while in possession of the ball. Furthermore, he or she will be automatically penalized by sitting out the next league game (league play, preseason or post season play). If the player is ejected for the second time during a season, the LASA Board will suspend that player from league play until reinstatement. The **first** time any player, coach, team manager or fan physically strikes with malicious intent, any other player, coach, umpire or fan, that person will be suspended from league play and the reported to the USA Softball State office. The Officials and Facility Supervisor have authority to call game forfeiture to either or both teams due to misconduct of any player, team and/or fan of either team. The team forfeiting will also automatically forfeit the next league game (league play, preseason or post season play). The official or facility supervisor will complete an ejection card on all ejected players, coaches and/or fans. The completed ejection sheet will be given to the Facility Supervisor after game. The Facility Supervisor will submit all ejection sheets to the Sports and Aquatics Office to be filed. The Facility Supervisor will keep an up-to-date file at the facility of ejected players/coaches/fans to make sure the above rules are followed.

ARTICLE 19 – UMPIRE COMPLAINTS

Any team, player or coach having a complaint against an umpire must register the complaint with the Sports & Aquatics Office. Complaints will be processed with the area UIC.

The following Homerun Rules (over the fence) will be used for designated divisions: Men's Upper Division: 4 home runs with the one-up rule

Men's Lower Division: 2 home runs

Mixed Division: 2 home runs.

Church Division: 2 home runs.

EXPLANATION; Once team "A" has hit their total of home runs in a game, they may not hit their next home run until team "B" has hit their allotted home runs. At that point, both teams may continue hitting homeruns, but neither team can be more that 1 homerun ahead of the other. **PENALTY:** Batter is out.

ARTICLE 21 – FORFEITURE OF LEAGUE GAMES

After three consecutive league games are recorded as forfeited by a team, that team will automatically be dropped from the league schedule.

ARTICLE 22 –ILLEGAL BATS

See the current USA Softball Official Rules of Softball Rule 1 Section 1.

ARTICLE 23 – FENCE CLIMBING RULE

When a player uses the fence to gain advantage to catch a ball, that player will be ejected from the game. A home run or foul ball will be declared depending on the fly ball situation. This rule prevents damage to City property and injury to players. No players, coaches or fans shall climb fences or backstops, hit balls repeatedly into the fences or backstops (pepper), or do anything that could damage ball field property. These offenses will be prosecuted.

ARTICLE 24 - PITCHER PROTECTION RULE: Any ball that when directly hit (i.e. line drives) places the pitcher into a DEFENSELESS mode and either hits the pitcher or glances off the pitcher's glove or clothing will be considered a violation according to the "pitcher protection rule" and will result in the following penalties: 1st occurrence for either team - dead ball, batter is out; BOTH teams receive WARNING; 2nd occurrence, no matter which team - dead ball, batter is out and ejected from the game, both the batter and the bat used must leave the field of play, including dugout; 3rd occurrence, no matter which team - forfeiture of game. Balls that strike the ground first MAY be included in this rule interpretation.

ARTICLE 25 – EQUALIZER

When Men's Upper teams play Men's Lower teams during league, Lower teams will start the game spotted with 3 runs as an equalizer for playing higher classified teams. The homerun rule will not change for Upper Division.

ARTICLE 28 – BALLS

FIBER OPTIC YELLOW BALLS ONLY

Men’s Balls will be the 12” .52 /300

Woman’s Balls will be the 11” .52/300

ARTICLE 29 – JEWELRY

Jewelry wear shall be governed by the current edition of the USA Softball Official Rules of Softball with the following local change. A player can wear jewelry that does not present risks to themselves and other players. In further detail, post and or stud jewelry are allowed as are permanently implanted jewelry as long as they are posts or studs. Any jewelry in the form of hoops, ropes, chains, points, necklaces, bracelets, other hanging earrings and large decorative pieces cannot be worn or must be taped prior to coaches meeting with the official. **Section 6 F Rule 3**