

2022 Lawton Girl's Softball Rules



The Lawton Girls Softball League is a USA Softball sanctioned league. Playing rules can be found in the USA Softball 2022 Official Fast pitch Rules. All rules listed in this manual supersede rules listed in the 2022 Official Fast Pitch Playing Rules & By-Laws.



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TO OUR COACHES

We want to take the opportunity to thank all of you fine coaches for the many hours you work with our youth. Without the time and energy you spend, the City's Sports programs could not possibly function so successfully.

We value the fact that you are helping to build good character traits in the children you coach. Thank you for being patient and considerate with the players, while at the same time maintaining control of your team.

The mark of a successful season is not the league records or trophies, but the lasting monument of good character traits instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth on your team.

Thank you,
Parks and Recreation Administration

PURPOSE

This program is designed to give girls and boys in Lawton an opportunity to play ball under good adult supervision. The primary goal of this program is to build the foundation of good character in the players. The attainment of exceptional athletic skills and the winning of games are secondary.

Everyone accepting responsibility in this program must see that the rules and regulations are carried out. They must strive to teach good sportsmanship, good health habits, good citizenship and good exercise habits. They must practice the type of behavior that sets a good example for players. Abuse or embarrassment of any players or team is not tolerated. All coaches should strive to practice and play all players on their team. The participants should be exposed to game conditions, regardless of whether the team wins or loses.

LAWTON GIRL'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Lawton Girl's Softball League is sanctioned under the USA Softball. All playing rules are per the 2017 USA Softball Official Fast Pitch Playing Rules & By-Laws. **All rules listed in this manual supersede rules listed in the 2018 Official Fast Pitch Playing Rules & By-Laws.**

INDEPENDENT DIVISION

Teams will be made of players living in Lawton and the surrounding areas, and will not represent one particular school. All out-of-town teams will be placed in the open division. No Transfer/Release documentation is necessary. Schools having problems fielding a team may combine teams with the Recreation Services Administrator's approval, and these combine teams will play in the Open Division. If an Open Division League is not formed, the Open Team will not play in the Recreational league.

SCHOOL DIVISION

Teams will be formed of students attending the same school. Players must play for the school they attend and must meet the age requirement for 10U baseball.



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PLACEMENTS

Any player wishing to play for a school for which they do not attend, must complete a **player placement request form** to be reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The requestor will be officially notified of the committee's decision by phone and/or by e-mail.

GAME SITES

EASTSIDE PARK4200 E. Gore Blvd.

TIMES OF GAMES

NO INNING WILL START AFTER TIME LIMIT EXPIRES

10U	Monday through Friday	6:00 & 7:30 PM	1 ½ hr. time limit
12U	Monday through Friday	6:00 & 7:30 PM	1 ½ hr. time limit
14U	Monday through Friday	6:00 & 7:30 PM	1 ½ hr. time limit

Games scheduled on Saturday at various times if needed.

Stealing: Runners may steal once the ball leaves the pitchers hand.

Mercy Rule for both leagues

10U Mercy Rule - 15 after 3 innings and 12 after 4 innings

12U Mercy Rule - 15 after 3 innings and 12 after 4 innings

14U Mercy Rule - 15 after 3 innings, 12 after 4 innings and 8 after 5 innings

SCHOOL LEAGUE

School – Innings will be five runs or three outs. No team shall score more than five runs in one inning. If there are less than three outs when five runs are scored, the teams will change sides. Five (5) run limit does not apply in the 5th inning. Game length shall be 5 innings or 1 ½ hr time limit.

No Third Strike Drop Rule: If batter swings at third strike or a called third strike the batter is call **out**. It does not matter if the catcher catches the ball or not. Batter/Runner may not advance

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE

10U & 12U Open – Innings will be five runs or three outs. No team shall score more than five runs in one inning. If there are less than three outs when five runs are scored, the teams will change sides. Five (5) run limit does not apply in the 5th inning. Game length shall be 5 innings or 1 ½ hr time limit.

Third Strike Drop Rule: If the batter swings on a third strike or a called third strike the batter may advance; the catcher must tag or throw the runner out. 12U Division only.

FIRST GAME OF DAY (NIGHT): Teams must be ready to play at scheduled game time; early arrival is recommended.

SECOND GAME OF DAY (NIGHT): Teams should arrive 30 minutes ahead of scheduled game time.



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NUMBER OF GAMES: Each team will be scheduled ten games by the Sports/Aquatics Office. Only conference games determine league championship. All conference games will be played before a league championship is determined.

ASSAULT ON AN OFFICIAL

Oklahoma Statutes

Title 21. Crimes and Punishments

§21-650.1. Athletic contests - Assault and battery upon referee, umpire, etc.

Universal Citation: [21 OK Stat § 21-650.1 \(2016\)](#)

Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

GIRLS SOFTBALL – LEAGUE RULES USA SOFTBALL RULES WILL BE USED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN

Tie Games: If game is tied at the end of regular play, then one additional inning will be played. If still tied, the game will be recorded as a tie game. **NOTE: Additional inning WILL NOT** be played if the time limit has expired: the game will be recorded as a tie game. This rule does not apply to play-offs and championship games.

CITY CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

- All teams will advance to the playoffs at the end of regular season play.
- Teams will be seeded into a post tournament bracket based on their regular season record.
- **TIE BREAKER ANALYSIS** If there is a tie at the end of regular season play, the following tie breaker configurations will be used to break the tie or ties.
 - Winning Percentage
 - Head-To-Head
 - Head-To-Head Differential
 - Total Points For
 - Total Points Against
 - Total Points Differential
 - Lowest Number of Forfeits
 - Coin Toss

Team Coordinator: Every local school in the program should designate a volunteer coordinator who serves as organizer and contact person for that school. Their responsibility is to obtain competent coaches. The athletic coordinator's name will be given to the Recreation Services Administrator at the beginning of the school year.



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Authority: The Recreation Services Administrator, facility coordinator, assistants and officials have the right to remove any coach, player or fan from the field and/or complex. Refusal of any individual may result in the game being called off.

League Schedules: Schedules will be made out by the Parks and Recreation Sports/Aquatics Office.

Size of Leagues: because league size is dependent on the number of teams entering, the Sports/Aquatics Office will prepare league makeup after deadline for late entry.

Game Reschedule Request: Games may be rescheduled because of school functions. A Game Reschedule Request Form, a letter of request signed by the principal or the booster club chairperson along with the \$50 reschedule fee must be submitted to the Recreation Services Administrator and approved two weeks in advance of the scheduled game. Final decisions regarding approval, game time, game date and game location will be made by the Parks and Recreation Staff. A game may be rescheduled due to inclement weather at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Administration.

RAINOUTS

Visit www.teamsideline.com/lawton to get information on rainouts. Information on rainouts will be posted by 3:00 p.m. if Parks & Recreation staff has determined that games should be cancelled. The Recreation Administrator, Facility Supervisor or game officials may terminate any game due to inclement weather. **RAIN OUT GAMES WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED.**

COMBINATION OF SCHOOLS

School teams will not be allowed to combine without approval from the Recreation Services Administrator. The Recreation Services Administrator must first approve any combination of teams/schools. A letter detailing why combination is desirable should be submitted to the Recreation Supervisor.

GAME SITUATION PROTEST

A Game situation protest can only be heard during the game in reference to playing rules. **Judgment calls are not protest able.** In order to protest a game rule interpretation, the coach must first call time out and ask for a coach/officials conference. At this time, the coach may *respectfully* ask the official for clarification on a rule interpretation. The officials shall confer with each other and the site supervisor on duty to ensure proper rule enforcement is obtained. If the protest is upheld, the game will be replayed from that point. Make a note of the score and time left to play at the time of protest and then resume play. A completed protest form along with a \$50 protest fee must be filed with the Sports Office. The decision made by the officials is **final** and not open for appeal.

PLAYER CARDS

It is the **booster club, team organizer and/or coach's** responsibility to check birth dates of players, submit player cards, input team roster online, etc. Players that do not have all the required paperwork submitted are **ILLEGAL PLAYERS!**



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TEAM ROSTER

Any student wishing to play ball will be placed on a team and allowed to play. To ensure everyone is allowed to play, team sizes should be considered carefully. Each player should be able to play approximately half the game, so plan your team size accordingly. Each team must submit their team roster online with **all** the players listed. The roster must be submitted online **by April 29th. The Last day to add a player is May 27th.**

It is the COACH'S responsibility to see that all information on the roster is complete and correct. It is very important that coaches record players' telephone numbers on their copy of the team roster – coaches may not be able to communicate with players via the school (for instance, in the case of a rained-out game.) Please do **not** call the Sports/Aquatics Office to inquire about players' telephone numbers; you will not be given this information over the phone.

PROTESTING AN ILLEGAL PLAYER

The **head coach** of a team may protest the eligibility of any player on an opposing team any time during the season. A completed protest form along with a \$50 protest fee must be filed with the Sports Office. If the protest is deemed valid, the protest fee will be returned. All games in which an illegal player participates will be counted as forfeit by loss to the offending team. The Recreation Services Administrator may protest any player's eligibility at anytime during the season.

Birth certificates may be required for players who are larger or have exceptional ability. If a player's eligibility is under protest, a valid birth certificate is required. Birth certificates made from affidavits are not acceptable unless approved by the Recreation Commission.

After a protest has been filed with the Sports Office, the Recreation Supervisor will review the case, interview anyone necessary and make a decision. All parties involved will be notified of the decision in writing. If either team is not satisfied with the decision of the Parks and Recreation Administration Staff ruling, either team may file a request for protest review by the Commission Rules Committee.

ILLEGAL PLAYER PENALTY

Any team found using an illegal player forfeits all games in which the illegal player participated. The coach of the team with the illegal player may be put on probation and is subject to suspension from coaching, and the illegal player may be suspended from play. An opposing head coach or the Recreation Services Administrator may protest Player eligibility. It is the coaches' responsibility to verify birth date and enrollment status of each player. A player may only play on one age group per division. Call the Sports office if you have a question. A player may only play of one team in an age group/division.

MISCONDUCT REPORT

In addition to USA Softball rules, misconduct reports will be filed with the Recreation Services Administrator. Game officials, facility supervisors, Recreation Services Administrator and/or his representative may eject a player, coach or fan from the game or game site, as he or she deems necessary. Penalty for misconduct by players, coaches and/or fans:



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- Fighting – One game to lifetime, based on severity of the act
- Profanity – Two games
- Obscene gesture – Two games
- Disrespectfully addressing an official – One game
- Objecting to an official's decision – One game
- Improper contact with an official – One game to lifetime, based on the severity of the act

All other player ejection penalties will be imposed at the discretion of the Recreation Services Administrator. The Recreation Services Administrator is responsible for deciding the level of penalty imposed in cases of misconduct. All players, coaches or fans ejected from a game for misconduct must visit with the Recreation Services Administrator in person before being reinstated for participation. His or her parent or guardian must accompany players. In considering cases of reports of misconduct by players or coaches, the party or parties shall have the right of a hearing before the Parks and Recreation Commission Rules Committee. The misconduct rules listed here are additional rules. All USA/ASA misconduct rules and/or similar USA/ASA rules apply for league and tournament play.

RULE AND PENALTY FOR GAME EJECTION

The Recreation Services Administrator, Facility Supervisors, Assistants and officials have the right to remove any coach, player or fan from sideline of any sport. When a coach, assistant coach or player is ejected from a game, that person will report to the Recreation Services Administrator before being permitted to participate further in the program. Any player or coach dismissed or ejected may be penalized by sitting out game(s). Coaches and Assistants may be put on probation by the Parks and Recreation Commission until the end of the season, at which time a decision will be made as to whether the coach may continue in the next season. Anyone dismissed from a game must be reinstated by the Recreation Services Administrator and approved by the Parks and Recreation Director. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for tournament play, lay-offs or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists.

REINSTANTMENT TO PLAY OR COACH

The Recreation Services Administrator must reinstate anyone dismissed from a game. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for play-offs, next sport or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Coaches may appeal suspension decision to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

After a protest or report of misconduct has been filed with the Sports Office, the Recreation Services Administrator will review the case, interview anyone necessary and make a decision. All parties involved will be notified in writing as to the results.

If either party disagrees with the decision, that person can make an official written appeal to Parks & Recreation Commission to request a verbal hearing.

At the time of the appeal hearing, each party involved may have two representatives present. The Parks and Recreation Sports Division may also have two representatives to provide information pertinent to the judgment. Each party will have fifteen minutes to address the youth sports committee as to their concerns.



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The Parks & Recreation Director will place the appeal on the next quarterly Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda or the next special called meeting by the Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. These meetings are open to the public and may be attended by all parties. The designated representative of both parties involved in the appeal process will be given opportunity to speak if the Chairman so determines. The Sports Division representative involved in the appeal will be required to attend for requested comment on issues by the Chairman.

The Parks & Recreation Commission, whose members are appointed by the City Council, will agenda the appeal item and make a ruling by vote on the appeal. The commission's decision will be final and will not be subject to further appeal or change.

COACHING GUIDELINES

All Coaches and Assistant Coaches are required to adhere to the rules listed below:

Coaches should understand that the penalty for violation of any of the rules is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated.

Coaches are expected to read the Manual distributed by the City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Department pertaining to the sport they are coaching.

- Coaches are never to make abusive, insulting remarks to or about officials of the game, officials of the programs, other coaches or players.
- Coaches are to hold regular scheduled practices and be there on time
- Coaches are not to use profanity, consume alcoholic beverages or use tobacco when coaching or meeting with players.
- Coaches will set a good example of sportsmanship for the players. Coaches will keep in mind that the primary goal in this program is building good character, not winning. Losing teams, with their Coaches, will congratulate the opponents.
- Coaches will make maximum effort to keep spectators from razzing officials.
- Coaches will play all players who practice regularly and with maximum effort, as the situation permits.
- Coaches will never take the team off the playing field until the game is finished.
- Coaches should recognize the situations that will result in ejection:
 - Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures
 - Attempting to influence a decision by an official
 - Indicating objections to an Official's decision
 - Using a mechanical device to coach or to attract attention
 - Holding an unauthorized conference
 - Use of mechanical visual-aid equipment including computers, television and videotape for monitoring, replay or coaching purposes during the game including intermissions
 - Failure of a team to be ready to play
 - Failure of the head coach to have players wear required equipment
 - Be on the field except as a substitute or replaced player
 - Be outside the designated area (i.e., team/coaches box, bench or dugout)

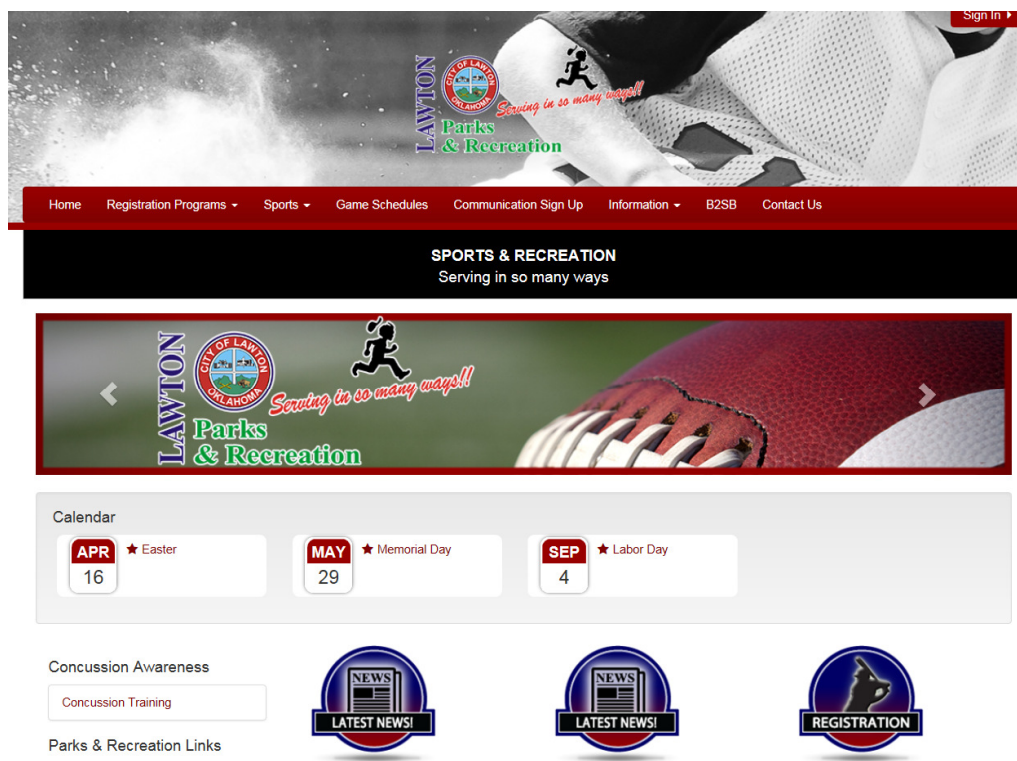
Coaches should understand that the penalty for violation of any of the above is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated. When a coach or assistant coach is ejected from a game, he or she will report to the Recreation Services Administrator before being permitted to participate further in the program. Coaches and



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assistant coaches that are dismissed from a game may be penalized by sitting out the next game or by being put on probation until the end of the season. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for tournament play, play-offs, or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists.

COACHES: All Coaches must complete the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) training and a background check. Visit www.teamsideline.com/lawton to begin your NAYS training.



COACHES: Each team is allowed four coaches in the dugout, only coaches, players and one scorekeeper in the dugout. No additional children are allowed in the dugout for baseball and softball City of Lawton Games.

Dugout Rules: Only Coaches (four coaches), Players and 1 Scorekeeper are allowed in the dugout. All Coaches in the dugout must have background check and NAYS card.

PARTICIPATION RULE

The Parks and Recreation department recommends that each player participate in half of the game.

SWITCHING TEAMS

After a scheduled **league game** is played, no player may move up, move down or change teams during that season. Players may only play in ONE league, in one division.

EXCEPTION: If a player is playing in the school league and he changes schools mid-season, that player may change teams to the new school if he chooses. The receiving coach must be prepared to present verification of the student's enrollment in the new school.



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PARENTS AND FANS

The Parks and Recreation Department highly recommends that coaches have a meeting with the parents before the season starts to get player contract cards signed and to explain the conduct expected of them. Officials and coaches are responsible for the conduct of the fans.

Officials, assisted by the Coach and Athletic Coordinator, will keep spectators under control. The razzing of officials, opponents and coaches is prohibited. Insulting remarks made by spectators, coaches or players to any official in the program will be reported to the Recreation Services Administrator.

The Official or the Field Supervisor has the right to call a game if the coach cannot control his fans. That game will be counted as loss by forfeit to the offending team. The coach should address this issue during the Parent/Coaches meeting at the beginning of the season.



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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES (National Federation Rule)

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
- Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
- Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
- Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
- Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
- Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
- Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
- Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

Additional information is available from your state high school association and from the National Federation.



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PLAYERS DISCHARGE FORM

RELEASING SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB OR TEAM ORGANIZER WHO REPRESENT'S A SCHOOL THAT IS NOT ACCEPTING ANY MORE PLAYERS FOR FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL

Player's Name _____ Grade: _____
 Play's Address _____ Age: _____
 School Player Attends: _____ DOB: _____
 Team Playing For: _____ Division: _____
 Parents Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Sport: _____

School Booster President
 Or Sports Coordinator: _____
 Print Name

School Booster President
 Or Sports Coordinator: _____ Date: _____
 Signature

Parent/ Legal Guardian: _____
 Print Name

Parent/ Legal Guardian: _____ Date: _____
 Signature

Releasing
 Team Head Coach: _____
 Print Name

Releasing
 Team Head Coach: _____ Date: _____
 Signature

Park & Recreation
 Sports Staff: _____
 Print Name

Parks & Recreation
 Sports Staff: _____ Date: _____
 Signature