

OKC Parks and Recreation Adult Slowpitch Softball Basic Guidelines and Rules

Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide parks, recreational, and cultural services to the Oklahoma City residents and visitors so they can have improved health, wellness, and quality of life.

Goals and Objectives

The Adult Softball program is designed to allow all participants to respect the game, play on equal terms, and improve socialization, and allow opportunities amongst players. This league is a recreational adult league and is designed to have fun.

General Information

- Players must be 18 years or older to participate in the league.
- Each game will have one umpire
- **No dogs will be allowed inside the Softball complex area of the Park.**
- **Music is welcome during gameplay however:**
 - **The volume must be a reasonable level as determined by the umpire, OKC Parks Staff and/or the opposing team.**
 - **Music must be appropriate for all to listen to, including young children.**
 - **If music is deemed inappropriate you will be asked to turn your music off for the remainder of the night/day and your team may be restricted from playing music in the future.**
- Contact persons Steve Brooks or Eric Watson
 - Email:
 - Steve Brooks: stephen.brooks@okc.gov
 - Eric Watson: eric.watson@okc.gov
 - Phone:
 - Steve Brooks: 405-635-7874
 - Eric Watson: 405-206-3682

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Umpire Fees

- Umpire fees are paid at the plate \$15.00 per team.
- A deposit of \$30 is required for forfeit fees, for single-header leagues this covers the fee for both your team and your opponents in the event of a no call, no show forfeit.
- A deposit of \$60 is required for forfeit fees, for single-header leagues this covers the fee for both your team and your opponents in the event of a no call, no show forfeit.
- **FORFIT DEADLINE**
 - **If your team cannot make it for any reason and Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation is notified before 3:00 PM. We will waive the forfeit fee for the evening. This will give us enough time to inform all parties involved including Umpires, teams, and staff.**
- If forfeit fees are not used:
 - The deposit will go towards your last two games of the season
- If forfeit fees are used:
 - Your team is responsible providing new forfeit fees before your next game.
- A TEAM THAT FORFEITS WITH NO CALL NO SHOWTWICE DURING THE REGULAR SEASON WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THE PLAYOFFS, UNLESS THE COACH HAD CALLED BEFORE THE FORFIET DEADLINE FOR THE DAY (see below)
- Playoffs: All playoffs' games will be paid at the plate (\$15.00 per team) If a team forfeits the opposing team is still responsible for their win and must pay to advance in the bracket. Unless the forfeiting team calls before the deadline of 3:00 pm.

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Positions

Ten defensive players are allowed on the field:

- Pitcher
- Catcher
- First baseman
- Second baseman
- Third baseman Shortstop
- Right fielder
- Center fielder
- Left fielder
- The extra player (commonly known as the rover and often used as a fourth outfielder).
 - Must have 8 players to start the game or results is a forfeit.
 - CO-ED MUST HAVE THREE FEMALES IN THE FIELD TO START THE GAME

Pitching

NEW 2024 ALL PITCHERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK OR HELMET FOR PROTECTION, includes tournaments.

The pitcher's mound is set 50 feet away from home plate. An 18", by six foot, imaginary box behind the pitching rubber is established to help protect the pitcher. One foot must be anywhere from the pitching rubber to the back of the six foot box for the pitch to be legal, this of course is the umpires discretion. One foot must be touching the rubber upon release of the ball. (you can not start from the rubber take two steps and release the ball this is for the pitcher's protection.) Pitchers must show the ball in front of their bodies for at least one half a second, before starting the delivery, and the pitcher must always face home plate during the pitch.

Quick Pitches are Illegal.

There will be no quick pitches. The batter must be ready and facing the pitcher before pitcher before the release of the ball, ONCE THE BATTER looks directly at the pitcher. THE PITCH CAN BE DELIVERED (Umpires discretion).

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Pitcher is allowed one fake pump pitch, more than one then it is considered an illegal pitch and a ball will be called by the umpire, unless the batter swings and misses or makes contact.

Any other pitch other than a straight under handed pitch **FROM THE SIDE HIP**, will be deemed as illegal. (Example under the legs, behind the back, will be called illegal and considered a ball by the umpire unless the batter swings and misses or makes contact. At that point it will be a strike or a hit.

Slow pitch softball is most recognized for its lob pitch. Meaning, it has an arch. The arch of the pitch must reach at least three feet upon its release with an arch crossing the plate, but it should not rise any higher than 7 to 10 feet at any point during the pitch. However, the exact speed (which is restricted) and height limits are regulated by the umpire.

The strike zone is most often called anywhere **over home plate** and or where **the ball may cross home plate** between the batter's front shoulder and batters back knee. (**Umpires discretion**)

It shall be the Umpires discretion to call out verbally an illegal pitch.

BATTING

New 2024: No senior bats will be allowed. You will be asked to remove the bat, if the bat is brought back into play the owner of the bat will be ejected from the game. If a senior bat is used it is the responsibility of the opposing team to let the umpire know. The umpire at that point will simply ask the other team not to use. This will be the only warning a 2nd time a senior bat is used the owner of the bat will be ejected from the game. We expect all coaches to keep their players in line

BATS: we are not sanctioned, so we please ask you to use the **HONOR SYSTEM** as our leagues are considered **RECREATIONAL**.

- Up to four additional players will be allowed to hit, making the maximum number of batters 14.
- **Coed league** must have even ratios of additional female batter and male batters to get to 12 or 14 players.

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- **New 2024** All players must be even with 6 guys/6 girls or 7 guys/7 girls you cannot have an odd number of batters. This must be determined at the beginning of the game if a player shows up late, both the extra hitters cannot play and then both players become a substitute.
- Batter will come to the plate with a 1 and 1 count.
- 3 balls batter will be issued a walk and awarded first base.
- Coed league if guy walks the girl gets the option to walk or hit, either way the guy is awarded second base in coed league only.
- The batter must touch first base and proceed to second; this will result in an out, by the umpire once the batter has touched second base if first is not touched. (cannot cut through the infield without touching first)
- A strike out will occur if the batter has two strikes. There is no courtesy foul.
- Pitch Runner rule: A team will be allowed to have one pinch runner an inning per gender. A female must run for a female, a male must run for a male.
- Make-Up Games
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Game times

- Schedules could change to accommodate the league due to weather, forfeits, or other.
- It shall be the responsibility of each coach to see that the team appears for each of its scheduled league games. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the game.
- There is a 10 -minute grace period for all 630 game only. (We understand how traffic can be at this time)
- At this point the clock will start at the official game time however If a team does not have enough players by the end of the grace period, then the result is a forfeit.
- Teams must have eight players to start a game. Two automatic outs will occur and can be placed anywhere in the batting lineup to separate the autos. Coed must have five male and three females to start the game.

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- Every effort will be made to make up all games cancelled during the regular season due to weather conditions or other unforeseen conditions.
- Games may be played at other park sites or on other days if needed
- In the league must finish by original season end date, therefore if we are unable to finish all regular season games OKC Parks reserves the right to go straight to playoffs.
 - No refunds will be given for single header leagues that play at least 5 games or double header leagues that play at least 10 games including playoffs.
 - If less than less than the amount of games listed above are played then teams will be entitled to a 50% credit for the next season, this credit will follow the team coach/manager.

Weather Policy

The Site Coordinator or Recreation Program Coordinator has the final say on whether a game will be temporarily suspended or postponed due to weather conditions or poor field conditions. For the full weather policy please visit <http://www.teamsideline.com/okc> under downloads tab.

Roster Requirements

The City of Oklahoma City Parks and Recreations does not do team rosters, However each team will be required to submit a lineup card at each game. The Coach/Manager is solely responsible for making sure you have a team to place on the field. As this is an adult recreational program and we trust the honor system as far as fill-ins are concerned

New 2024 Playoff System: All teams will participate in the playoff. All playoffs will

General Rules

- All games will be 7- innings or 55-minute time limit and inning must be completed.
- Five inning Friday 5 innings no time limit (After 5 innings and game is tied one extra inning will be allowed, if it still a tie after 6 innings the game is tied and will be over)

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- After 3 ½ innings, it is an official game.
- Each team will only be allowed 12 runs per inning, after 12 runs the team must switch to defense.
- If the game is not official, then it will be rescheduled at the end of the season and game will start over.
- Run rule is 15 runs after 4 innings. 20 runs after 3 innings

New 2024 FLIP FLOP

- If a team has is more than 20 runs ahead, they must play defense. AND NOW BECOMES HOME TEAM AUTOMATICALLY,
- If the game has only made it to the second inning a team gets down by 20 runs they will bat twice causing the inning to flip to the third inning, if the team does not score the one run to stay in the game the game will be over 15 after four innings still applies for all games
- If time has expired and home team is losing by more than the runs allowed per inning the game is over and home team is not allowed to bat because they cannot win or tie
- If a homerun is hit you do not have to touch the corresponding base just go directly to the dugout. HIT AND SIT RULE).
- Gentleman's Rules: We ask that you do not throw the ball to first base from right center, left center, or left field in order to try and get someone out at first base. This is for the safety of the base runner, the first baseman, the on deck hitter, and for the base coach. NO PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED THIS IS JUST A GENTLEMEN RULE.

Balls

All balls are 12 inch and must be SLOWPITCH NOT FASTPITCH

Worth gold Dot classic

Worth Hot Dot classic plus,

Worth Super gold dot Pro-Am (USA or USSSA) red or blue stitch

Dudley Thunder Hy-con (USA or USSSA) red or blue stitch

Dudley Thunder ZN Pro-Am (USA or USSSA) red or blue stitch.

Women's Ball any 11" inch yellow slow-pitch CLASSIC W ball can be used

Code of Conduct

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The City of Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Department's Zero Tolerance Conduct Policy:

- No player shall at any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, or threaten to strike another person.
- If you are ejected you will be asked to leave for the day. The team must finish with an automatic out for the remainder of the game you cannot sub for a player that is kicked out.
- Player will be suspended from all sports indefinitely until a final decision is made on the length of suspension.
- All players will abide by the officials' decision. A player ejected from the game will at the least get a one game suspension and run the risk of being suspended for multiple games or the remainder of the season.
- If a player or manager is ejected from the game, that player or manager must leave immediately. The league supervisor may allow the player to remain in the area only if the ejected player maintains a suitable adult manner.
- No player, coach, spectator, or manager shall physically attack or act as an aggressor towards any person, player, spectator, referee, or City employee. Throwing a punch is grounds for immediate suspension from all activities for one year and possible police charges. This also affects retaliation.
- Hitting an official will be grounds for the City of Oklahoma City Parks and Recreations to seek out a police report and possible charges may be filed.
- Officials are required to immediately eject player(s) from further play and report such player(s) to the League Officials
- All players, coaches, and managers will abstain from the use of vulgarity, racial slurs, verbal abuse, threats, or unsportsmanlike conduct while participating in a City of Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation activity.
- No player, coach, or manager will be allowed to participate if acting in an intoxicated manner.
- Suspension from the game and possibly the next game played, as to be ruled upon by the referees /umpires and/or league officials.
- Captains, managers, and/or coaches are held responsible for their team's conduct.
- Teams are responsible for their spectators' conduct.

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- Anytime a game gets out of hand, the referees or league officials have the authority to call the game.
- Any and all situations not specifically covered in the rulebook shall be acted upon by the Adult Sports Programmer, and all decisions shall be final.

Protect Your Valuables

As most of us know, parking lots can be a popular target for thefts. Avoid being a victim by taking care of your valuables by following the tips for preventing break-ins or theft listed below:

- If there is a suspicious person or activity near a vehicle, notify the facility supervisor or contact the police immediately.
- Remove all bags and items from view in your car. If possible, take your valuables with you.
- Do not leave wallet, keys, or valuables unattended.
- Keep spare keys in your wallet, not in your car.