

City of Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department

Adult Softball Rulebook

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All athletic league participants are responsible for following any posted site-specific rules and regulations as well as the policies and procedures set forth in this document and in our guide to behavior, *Good Sportsmanship*. The Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department promises to administer these policies and procedures in an equitable and fair manner. Please treat staff courteously.

General Information

League Operations: Athletic leagues are operated by the City of Georgetown Parks & Recreation Department.

All teams must register.

The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to alter any athletic league schedules, rules or policies as needed for the benefit of our leagues or their participants.

Location: All games will be played at the McMaster Athletic Complex, located at 101 W.L. Walden Drive in Georgetown.

Alcohol: All alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the dugouts and on the field of play. Glass containers are not allowed at McMaster Athletic Complex. Umpires have the full authority and discretion to remove players under the influence of alcohol for safety of the players.

Tobacco Use: Smoking / vaping / electronic cigarettes are not permitted at the McMaster Athletic Complex.

Pets: Pets are not allowed at the McMaster Athletic Complex.

Parking: Vehicles are not allowed on Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department athletic fields or adjacent pathways and greenspaces. Vehicles improperly or illegally parked may be ticketed or towed by the Georgetown Police Department.

All clients and visitors park at their own risk. The Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for theft or damage to vehicles.

***Amplified Music:** Amplified music is prohibited at McMaster Athletic Complex.

Uniform: Players must always wear shirts, shorts/pants, and appropriate athletic shoes. No football cleats or metal cleats are allowed in league play.

Schedules: Each league will play an 8-week season. All games will be 7 innings or 50 minutes. The clock will start with the first pitch of the game or at the discretion of the umpire. *Length of season is dependent on amount of teams registered (average 8 week season)

Team Sideline: The Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department Athletics staff use the TeamSideline website for league scheduling, scores /standings, and communication with teams and players. League information will be updated regularly at <http://www.teamsideline.com/sites/georgetown/schedules>. For up-to-date information regarding weather-related delays, cancellations and closures, please complete the [Athletics Text Message Sign Up](#).

Cancellations: The Parks & Recreation Department will make up the first two rained out games of each season. Further cancellations due to weather will not be rescheduled. No refunds will be offered for cancellations due to weather.

No Call/No Show: If a team will be forfeiting their game, they must give GPARD a written email notice by 12:00pm the day of the game. If the team does not give this notice, there will be a \$50.00 fee that is charged to the team. This fee must be paid by the following game or the team must forfeit the remainder of the games until the fee is paid. This is to eliminate opposing teams and/or staff showing up unnecessarily to play or work. If both teams do not show up and GPARD has not been notified, both teams will take a loss. You will need to e-mail Brock at brock.harris@georgetown.org for all forfeited notifications.

Field Closures: When necessary, the Parks and Recreation Department may close certain facilities due to weather conditions or safety issues. Fields may also be closed for repairs or to protect them from overuse; keeping athletic fields in optimum condition involves managing the amount of play a field receives and allowing time for proper maintenance to occur. Continued cooperation between the Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department and athletic field users is a critical component of this management.

If a facility has been CLOSED, no activities may be held on that field. Any renter, team or organization that plays on a field that has been officially closed may forfeit current reserved field time as well as future consideration for field use.

Game/League Play

Minimum Age: All players should be at least 18 years of age in order to play in the adult softball leagues. Those who are 17 years old may play if their birthday falls during the current calendar year.

Rosters/Restrictions: New team rosters must be turned in each season at the time of a team's registration. Rosters are limited to 20 players. No player may be on two teams' rosters in the same league.

Players are welcome to join teams after the season begins but must be added to the roster prior to the start of the first game in which the individual will be playing.

Rosters are due by the fourth week of scheduled games. No changes can be made unless approved by GPARD staff. For playoffs, the participants on the roster are the only eligible players. You cannot pick up players to join your team for playoffs.

Lineup Cards: Official lineup cards may be obtained from the umpire at the field and must be turned in ten minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Players on a lineup card must be present at the ballfield. If lineup cards are not turned in as specified, the opposing team has the option of choosing to play as *home* or *visitor*.

ID: All players must bring a government-issued photo ID to each game in order to be eligible to play.

Ineligible Player: A player who is not listed on a team's line-up (except designated pickup players) or the official roster prior to a game is ineligible. Players found to be on the rosters of two teams in the same league are ineligible. A team using an ineligible player will result in a forfeit of that game.

Roster Protests: Only the opposing team captain or manager may protest illegal or ineligible players. Protest of illegal player(s) must be done during the game while the player in question is in the game. If protested, players must be able to produce proper ID when requested by an umpire.

Rule protests must be submitted in writing within 48 hours (Monday after Friday night games) after the game to the City of Georgetown Recreation Department with a \$75.00 deposit (check only). Checks should be made payable to the City of Georgetown. Failure to submit a written protest and check within the designated 48 hours will void the protest. If the protest is upheld, the \$75.00 will be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the \$75.00 deposit will be kept by the City of Georgetown. Protests must be handled as outlined in the U.S.A. Rule Book. Umpires and scorekeepers must also document protests with an explanation of the call. Signature/date/time are also required.

Time: The first game could potentially be held at 6:30pm, with the last game starting at 9:30pm. Teams must take the field when instructed to do so by the umpire. Teams who are late or otherwise unprepared (according to the posted rules) will forfeit the game. If one team does not have the minimum of 8 players at game time, the opposing manager will have the option of taking a win by forfeit or allowing a five-minute grace period to wait on the missing players. If the grace period is chosen, the game clock will start. If the missing player(s) arrive before five minutes has passed, the game will begin with the game clock at its current time. If five minutes pass before the player(s) arrive, the game will be declared a forfeit.

Games will be 7 innings or 50 a minute time limit. The game clock will start at the scheduled game time. The home plate umpire will determine the official time for starting and ending the game. When an inning has started, the inning must be completed unless the home team is at bat and leading in runs scored. You may start the game with 8 players.

If additional players from your roster arrive, they must be put at the 9th, then 10th places. If left empty, those spots will be automatic outs.

Run Rules: Will be in effect as follows: 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after four innings, 10 runs after five innings, or 10 runs after forty-five minutes of play. (Losing team must bat in the last inning). If a team is losing a game due to our designated run rule, the manager may express their desire to continue play. If both managers agree to continue play, they will do so under their own control. The umpires are not required to continue in their capacity once a run rule has taken place.

Rules: Georgetown Parks and Recreation Adult Softball Leagues will use USA Softball (formerly ASA) rules, which can be downloaded at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/umpires/umpire-manual>. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to omit or adapt any of these rules at any time as needed for the benefit of our Adult Softball leagues or its participants.

Courtesy Runners: Teams will be allowed one courtesy runner per inning.

Balls: Teams are required to furnish the umpire with playable softballs. The umpire has the right to reject any ball that is deemed unplayable. Balls may be purchased at the Georgetown Recreation Center for \$6.00, or at any retailer of your choice.

Men's: 12" ball, .52 core, not to exceed 300 pounds of compression, and stamped with USA/ASA licensed trademark

Women's: 11" ball, .47 core, not to exceed 400 pounds of compression, and stamped with USA/ASA licensed trademark

Pitch Count: Each batter will start with a 1-1 count (1 ball, 1 strike). Teams will be allowed one extra foul in regulation play (i.e. after a foul ball with 2 strikes, a batter will receive an additional pitch. Any additional fouls will be recorded as a third strike).

Home Runs: A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all league games. Men's Medium League, 6 Home Runs, Men's Low League 3 Home Runs (also includes Men's Church League). Co-ed Medium/Low, 3 Home Runs. The batter will be ruled out for any home runs over the limit. Anytime the batter is ruled out because of the excess home run rule, the ball is dead, and no runners can advance.

One Up Rule: If both teams reach their home run limit, either team may hit an additional home run. No team may go more than one home run up on the other team after their team has hit their limit. Any additional home runs above the "one up" rule will be scored as an out and no runners can advance.

Overtime/Extra Innings: Tie games will go to One-Pitch play (no extra foul during one pitch for all leagues/divisions. A foul will result in an out) after the time limit has expired, or 7 innings have been played. If the game is still tied at the conclusion of one extra inning, the game will end in a tie.

Ejections/Injuries: If a player is ejected, injured, or otherwise unable to continue to play and there is no substitute available from the team roster, the game continues with the missing player being an automatic out.

Umpires will have full authority to make all game-time decisions regarding any situation arising at the field (see *Good Sportsmanship*.) Warnings are not necessary for players to be ejected. If player is ejected, the GPARD staff member can determine the consequence for the player. If staff member sees fit, the player must umpire a number(s) of games until he/she can return to play.

League Standings: In case of a tie for first place, the following tie-breaking procedure will be used to determine the order of finish:

Dependent on number of teams in each division, there could be a potential tournament play during the last two weeks of league play. If the tournament does not take place, the league standings will be decided as followed:

- a. Head-to-head results between teams that are tied will determine the winner
- b. If the teams split head-to-head games, the run differential in those game will be used

- c. If the teams are still tied, Parks & Recreation will schedule a game between the two teams to determine the league champion

Co-Ed Rules: Co-ed teams consist of equal number of men and women and can start with as few as eight players. Teams may play with nine players but there can never be a difference of more than one male to female players on the field at one time. Playing 5 women and 4 men or 4 women and 5 men will be legal (tenth spot in the lineup will be an automatic out). Batting order must be staggered male/female. The pitcher and catcher must be a male/female combination. The outfield must have two males and two females. The infield must also have two males and two females. If the Male walks (intentional or unintentional), it is an automatic two (2) base walk. The female will bat. EXCEPTION: With two (2) outs, the female batter has the option to walk or hit.

Church League Rules: All Church teams should consist of church members only.

Halo Rule (Effective for ALL leagues): Any batted ball (line drive or ground ball) that is hit within 1 ½ Ft – Either side of the pitcher’s rubber – batter will be called out – ball will be declared dead, and all runners will be returned to their prior base. This call is a judgement call made by the umpire(s). This rule is for the protection of the pitchers in the game. **This rule cannot and will not be protested when called.**

Weather

When necessary, the Parks and Recreation Department may close certain facilities due to weather conditions or safety issues. Fields may also be closed for repairs or to protect them from overuse; keeping athletic fields in optimum condition involves managing the amount of play a field receives and allowing time for proper maintenance to occur. Continued cooperation between the Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department and athletic field users is a critical component of this management.

During periods of inclement weather, the Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department may close athletic fields to prevent hazardous conditions for the participants and spectators. Bad weather also causes poor playing conditions, causing excessive repair work to bring the field back to playable condition. Because the weather can change at any time, an umpire, referee, or staff member may decide to close a field near or during a scheduled game/practice time. This information will be given to the Coach, who will then communicate with the team.

For the purposes of league play, a game impacted by inclement weather or other conditions that necessitate closure of the facility will be considered complete after 4.5 innings or 25 minutes of play. If a game has not reached this point, it will be replayed from the start. The score of a called regulation game shall be the score at the end of the last completed inning.

For up-to-date information regarding weather-related delays, cancellations and closures, please complete the [Athletics Text Message Sign Up](#) at TeamSideline.

Practice Policy

Each team is allotted one free 1-hour practice each season, which can be used any time after registration through the end of the season. The field rental fee is waived, but lighting fees will apply (\$20/hour) if the practice occurs at a time when lights are needed. Georgetown Parks & Recreation can not guarantee any specific practice days or times as various days and times are unavailable due to department programs or existing facility rentals. For more information on field reservations, to check availability, make a reservation request, and more, visit <https://parks.georgetown.org/outdoor-fields-and-athletic-facilities/>.

In the 2023 Summer Season, if you attended the Captains meeting before the season started, you would receive an additional 1-hour practice, with lights included. All fees would be waived for only this practice.

City of Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department

Good Sportsmanship

The City of Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide a positive environment for people to both observe and participate in various events and programs. Enjoyment, skills development, physical and mental wellness, and good sportsmanship are encouraged in everything we do.

To that end, we will uphold ourselves and our clients to the following standards of behavior:

- ★ To demonstrate and always encourage good sportsmanship and fair play.
- ★ To maintain a positive attitude regardless of the outcome of the match, game or event.
- ★ To demonstrate self-control, self-discipline and to resolve any conflicts in a positive manner.
- ★ To treat everyone with respect and courtesy.
- ★ To keep tone, volume, language and gestures appropriate and positive.
- ★ To accept responsibility for one's own behavior, actions and words, with the understanding that unacceptable behavior will have consequences that limit or eliminate the ability to participate or attend in the future.

There are many different types of unacceptable or inappropriate behavior. The following list is meant to be an example and does not represent all prohibited behavior.

- Touching, pushing or striking another person
- Mocking, taunting, name-calling, booing or heckling, disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures
- Deliberately distracting participants, coaches, officials, instructors or staff
- Deliberately delaying the program / event / game / match
- Blaming outcome of program / event / game / match on others
- Profanity or inappropriate language
- Tobacco, alcohol or drug use
- Public inebriation
- Property damage
- Threats of future violence
- Any unlawful behavior / actions

Consequences for unacceptable behavior will vary based on the severity of the action(s) and any previous history of poor behavior. Responses by the City of Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department staff may include but are not limited to:

- Verbal warnings
- Written warnings
- Immediate ejection from program / event / game / match and facility
- Suspension (short-term)
- Suspension (long-term)
- Criminal charges

Records of all disciplinary actions will be kept on file at the Georgetown Recreation Center for a period in accordance with City of Georgetown document-keeping practices. All parties must abide by the staff's decision at the time of the incident; however, a person may submit a typed protest to the appropriate Recreation Supervisor within 24 hours after the disciplinary action is administered. Decisions made to this appeal are final.