

City of Gatesville Parks & Recreation

Adult Men's Softball Rules

Revised 07/01/2024

New rules and changes:

- ❖ All players will start with a 1-1 count. There will be no courtesy foul. If there is a foul on the third strike, batter is out.
- ❖ Courtesy runners will be allowed in the event of an injury. If an injury occurs the player in the lineup that had the last out will be allowed to run for the injured player. The injured player will not be allowed to re-enter the game.
- ❖ Courtesy runners for non-injured players will be allowed on a "last-out" basis. The last player to be out will be the permitted courtesy runner for that inning. Only one last-out courtesy runner per inning will be allowed.
- ❖ Home run limit- Each team can hit 2 home runs then the 1Up rule will be applied. A Designated Homerun Hitter (DHH) can also be used as long as he/she is declared before the game with the umpire and score keeper. A DHH will be allowed an unlimited amount of homeruns. If the DHH is walked (intentionally or BB), the DHH tag moves to the next hitter until the DHH-tagged player has batted without being walked. This tag can be passed down through multiple batters by intentional walks or base on balls, but shall return to the original DHH player when the inning concludes.
- The ball must be pitched underhanded at slow speed. The pitch must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the pitchers hand and before it passes any part of home plate. The pitch cannot reach more than 10 feet from the ground at any time during the pitch.
- The pitcher may pitch from the pitching plate or from the pitching area, an area the width of the plate and up to six (6) feet behind the pitcher's plate.
- Preliminary to pitching, the pitcher shall take a position with his/her pivot foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitching plate or pitching area. The pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate or pitching area when the pitched ball is released. The other foot (free foot) has no restrictions on position and may be placed on, in front of, to the rear of, or to the side of the pitcher's plate or pitching area.
- After the release of the pitch, there are no restrictions on pitcher's subsequent movements or the fielding positions he may assume as a defensive player.
- After the pitcher presents the ball, he may make any windup or arm motions desired, either in front of his body, above his head or behind his back, including stops and pauses in these motions.
- The pitched ball must be released within 5 seconds from the time the pitcher has the ball and the batter has taken his position in the batter's box.
- Pitcher must face home plate on delivery of pitch.

- A pitcher's box will be used that extends 8 feet behind the rubber, 2 feet on each side of the rubber and 3 feet (imaginary) above the pitcher's head. Any ball hit inside the box will result in an automatic out and will be declared a dead ball. All runners go back to the base at which they started. In the men's division any ball that hits the pitching screen will result in an out.
- The strike zone is 19" from the plate making a 21" x 36" rectangle with the plate extension mat. A legally pitched ball not struck that lands on any part of the plate or mat will be a strike.
- All Teams will use the balls purchased from the concession stand.
- All bats must have an ASA/USSSA certification mark and must be on the list of approved certification marks. ASA bats can bear either the new 2013 stamp or the previous 2000 or 2004 certification marks. USSSA bats are only legal if they bear the official 2013 fingerprint stamp; no other USSSA bats will be allowed. If the bat has both an ASA and USSSA certification stamp, it must bear the legal stamp for both ASA and USSSA. Senior league bats are limited to seniors that are 65+. No other exceptions will be allowed.
- Bats that have been altered are strictly prohibited. If a bat is found to be altered the player using the bat will be given one warning. If that player is found to be using an altered bat again during that season he will be banned from the league.
- Pinch Runners will be allowed. A pinch runner can only be a legal substitute.
- Re-Entry Rule- Every starter can re-enter the game one time. Once a substitute comes out of the game they cannot re-enter.
- Metal cleats are prohibited in the men's and women's division.
- **Time Limit- 7 innings or 55 minutes.**
- **Run Rule- 15 after 4 innings of play or 10 after 5 innings of play.**
- If a team only has seven players at game time the game will be considered a forfeit. If a team only has eight players at game time the team will be required to take two ghost outs. If a team only has nine players they will be required to take 1 ghost out. The short-handed rule will be in affect if a team starts with 10 and loses one or two players. For each player lost a ghost out will be enforced.
- Any team that forfeits a game during the season will not be eligible for playoffs if (1) They do not give 24 hour notice of the forfeit or (2) The forfeit is decided because of a player ejection.
- Sand Bagging- if at the umpires' discretion a team is purposely losing a game to be in a lower playoff bracket, that team may be placed in a higher playoff bracket depending upon the circumstances.
- ADDITIONAL HITTER (A.H.) rule can be used in the entire program. A team may insert an additional hitter (1) or hitters (2) into its lineup. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 of the 11 or 12 players can take a defensive position throughout the game. If an A.H. is used, the team must finish with 11 or 12 players depending on if a team uses 1 or 2 additional hitters or the short-

handed rule will be in effect. An out for each player that left the line-up will be enforced if there are not any substitutes available.

- **Officials and Protests**

1. All games are in the hands of the umpires. Every player, team, and spectator is required to respect his or her authority. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Any unsportsmanlike behavior by a player could result in the removal of the player from the league.
2. Protests must be made to the umpire at that time, and before the next legal pitch, and then filed with the department within 24 hours. This formal notification will be done by the Head Coach that is protesting the game. The opponent's Head Coach will be notified by the umpire at the time of the protest. During the playoffs protests must be handed to the Recreation Director at the time of the protest. The game will be stopped and the protest will be ruled on immediately before the game can be re-started.
3. There will be a one hundred (\$100) dollar charge for protests. Fees must be paid when they are filed. A refund will be granted for protests that are awarded.
4. Judgment calls cannot be protested.
5. Only the teams Head Coach will address the umpire during game play.

- **Team Rosters**

1. Official rosters must be turned in before the start of team's first game. All players must sign the team roster.
2. Anyone participating in a game must be on a team's official roster. Identification may be required to verify identity.
3. Players must be at least 18 years of age at time of participation. Identification may be required to verify age. 15–17-year-olds will be allowed to play with a parent signed waiver form on file. There will be no other exceptions.
4. The roster limit is 20; however, under extenuating circumstances the department may allow additional roster spots.
5. Players may not be on more than one roster at a time in any league. Once a player is assigned to a roster, they cannot be "dropped" and added to another roster.

- **Ejections**

1. Profanity, vulgarity, unsportsmanlike behavior or misconduct of any kind that is detrimental to the game of softball and its purposes will not be tolerated. Athletic staff, City employees, league officials or umpires shall remove the offending parties from the park and Police will be called if deemed necessary.
2. Any person ejected for profanity, vulgarity, or unsportsmanlike behavior will receive a minimum (2) game suspension to be served beginning immediately and could be longer if the infraction warrants it. If a player is ejected from a game, then they must leave the park for the remainder of the night. A

- criminal trespass charge will be issued if the player ejected refuses to leave the park. Any player on suspension is not allowed in the team dugout during games. Suspensions may carry over following season or sport.
3. The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages and / or illegal substances by participants or spectators will be cause for immediate removal from the park. If a player is caught consuming and / or possessing alcohol during a game (either inside or outside of the dugout) the player will be disqualified from the game. If a player is disqualified the team can provide a legal substitution or a "Ghost Out" will be placed in the disqualified player's position in the line-up.
- **Facility Rules and Conduct**
 1. There will be no smoking in the complex. One warning will be given before being asked to leave the complex.
 2. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed at any time inside Sports Complex. Each team will receive one warning and subsequent violations will result in forfeiture of game and ejection from the complex. **Softball umpires or staff will have the right to forfeit any game or eject a player or players found to have alcoholic beverages inside the complex or are found to be drinking during the game.**
 3. Profanity or vulgarity will not be allowed in the complex.
 4. Sportsmanship is encouraged and expected. Behavior that is not exhibiting sportsmanship is not welcome in a City of Gatesville league.
 5. No dogs, scooters or bikes are allowed in complex.

For any questions, observations or comments about our league contact

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