



## Official Adult Softball Rules

1309 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Bryan, TX 77803  
979-209-5528 (OFFICE) 979-209-5524 (FAX)

### I. DEFINITION and RULES

**City of Bryan Parks & Recreation Department (PARD)** – is the organization responsible for organizing all aspects of the adult softball program. This includes, but is not limited to, registration, conducting meetings, league schedules/standings/awards, and providing quality service to the league.

**PARD Staff** – is responsible for the organizing of league registrations and the maintenance of league schedules and updating league rosters when applicable, and providing quality service to the league.

**Umpires** – are contracted out through the PARD. Umpires are responsible for conducting PARD softball games from the time of “pre-game” through the last out. Umpires are also responsible for providing quality service to the league.

**Game Rules** – USA Softball rules will be followed as closely as possible unless otherwise stated in the Bryan PARD rules.

**Game Time** – the official time listed on the PARD League schedule (located at [www.teamsideline.com/bryantx](http://www.teamsideline.com/bryantx)) is forfeit time. PARD reserves the right to schedule games as deemed necessary. Teams must be ready to play Monday – Friday for make-ups and for the double elimination playoff bracket.

**Adult Softball Team** – a team consists of no less than eight (8) players and no more than twenty (20) players. Players are listed on the team roster. Teams are registered through the PARD office and pay the league registration fee.

**Team Managers** – are completely responsible for registering their team. This includes but not limited to: attending managers meetings, receiving schedules, updating their team’s rosters as needed, turning in game line-ups, personal/player/fan behavior at all times including from “pre-game” through the last out, handling protests, and awards pick-up. Team managers are the liaison between their players and PARD staff as well as between their players and umpires. They are to play the game according to the rules set by the PARD league.

**Roster** – on the official roster there will be a spot to include the team’s manager, assistant manager, and all players first and last names along with their signatures, phone numbers, e-mails, and shirt sizes. It is

required to have all information filled out and turned in to the PARD Office where these will be kept on file and updated as needed throughout the season.

**Players** – these are the members of the registered teams. Players are responsible for their own behavior at all times. They are to play the game according to the rules set forth by the Bryan PARD.

**Stealing** – there will be no stealing allowed in the Bryan PARD softball league.

**Rainout Games** – field closures will be determined by 4pm. The weather hotline (979-209-5204) will be updated by 4:15pm and e-mails will be sent out to managers as well. If games are rescheduled those will be sent out by e-mail to team managers as well.

**Jewelry** – The City of Bryan strongly recommends the removal of all jewelry before playing any athletic activity. A player may be asked to remove any jewelry deemed to be a safety issue. Failure to remove any jewelry once requested by the umpire will result in a game forfeiture.

**Bats** – The use of illegal bats is prohibited. All bats must be a USA/ASA approved softball bat for play.

## **II. SUPERVISOR AND ADMINISTRATION**

- A. In all matters not covered in these rules and regulations, the PARD Athletics Supervisor will handle all matters concerning rules, eligibility, conduct, behavior, etc.
- B. Umpires will be appointed by the Bryan PARD.
- C. All umpires appointed shall have complete charge of the game as outlined in the rules and regulations.
- D. For this league we will have two (2) umpire per field.

## **III. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS/TEAM ROSTERS**

- A. All team registration is done by the team manager and rosters are turned in during the process. A roster can have adjustments made before and during the regular season. All teams must follow the proper registration procedure to be eligible for league play.
- B. All league teams will have a roster on record with the Bryan PARD. If a roster is illegal, protests may result in a forfeit.
- C. League rosters may carry a maximum of twenty (20) players.
- D. All players must be eighteen (18) years or older.
- E. A player may participate on only one (1) Co-ed division team and (1) Men's division team. Any player on more than one (1) team in Co-ed or Men's is an illegal player. Players can play on both a Co-ed and Men's team.
- F. A player, who has been suspended from league play for any reason and who has not been reinstated, shall be considered an ineligible player.
- G. Teams can add players to their roster before a game as long as they do not play for another team. This will need to be done through the Athletics Supervisor via e-mail or in person at the PARD Office.
- H. Once a player participates in a game they are locked into that team roster for the remainder of the season.

#### **IV. GAME ATTIRE/EQUIPMENT**

- A. Game balls used must be a 12" diameter ball with red stitching, .520 core max or under, and compression of 300 lbs. or less with a USA/ASA stamp. The city will have game balls available for purchase that has a USA/TAAF stamp at \$5 per individual ball or \$60 per a dozen.
- B. Each team when hitting will provide their game balls for use and are responsible for retrieving their own game balls on foul/home run balls.
- C. No boots, metal cleats, or hard football cleats can be worn in league play.
- D. The USA Softball Non-Approved bat list with certification marks will be sent out to all team manager's before the season starts. These bats along with any other bats without an ASA/USA certified stamp on them are considered illegal.
- E. List of approved bats can be found here: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment> .

#### **V. FORFEITS**

- A. Game time is forfeit time. Game time is listed for your team on the current schedule.
- B. Games will begin at either 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, or 9:30pm. Times may vary depending on the number of teams registered.
- C. A team must have no-less than eight (8) players. Co-ed division combinations are listed under the Team Lineup rule. "Ghost outs" will be utilized for lineups of fewer than ten (10) batters.
- D. No forfeit shall be declared earlier than the scheduled game time aside from the following two (2) exceptions:
  - 1.) Team suspension from the league.
  - 2.) Advance notification to the Bryan PARD office by a team manager that his/her team is unable to play as scheduled. This must be completed by 4:00pm.

#### **VI. TEAM LINEUP'S**

- A. Men's Division Lineup
  - (1) Ten (10) player lineup with a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of eleven (11) hitters.
  - (2) "Ghost outs" will be utilized for lineups of fewer than ten (10) batters. These outs will be placed in **the lowest possible position in the lineup.**
- B. Co-ed Division Lineup
  - (1) Ten (10) player lineup with a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of twelve (12) hitters.
  - (2) Co-ed lineup will consists of six (6) males and four (4) females to constitute as a legal lineup. Other legal co-ed lineups can consist of five (5) males and five (5) females or four (4) males and six (6) females. All substitutions should be gender specific.
  - (3) If a team has the minimum of eight (8) players to start the game the **short-handed rule** can apply. The following combinations are allowed: five (5) males and three (3) females, four (4) males and four (4) females, or three (3) males and (5) females.
  - (4) The lineup must alternate males and females throughout the first eight (8) batters but every batter after that can be any gender. You can bat up to 12 players but at least six (6) must be

- female. The batting order will never have more than six (6) males, but you can have as many females needed to complete the lineup up to 12 players.
- (5) "Ghost outs" will be utilized for lineups of fewer than ten (10) batters. "Ghost outs" will be placed in **the lowest possible position in the lineup.**
  - (6) Walks: If a male batter is walked he automatically gets two bases if followed by a female batter in the line-up. The next batter, if female, has the option to hit or walk. Two bases will NOT be awarded if males are batting back-to-back.
  - (7) A courtesy runner is now allowed for both a male and female player once per each half inning.

## **VII. GAME LENGTH**

- A. Games will be seven (7) innings and have a fifty (50) minute time limit.
- B. When an inning has started, the inning must be completed unless the home team is leading in the number of runs scored.
- C. In the event of rain, fog, darkness, etc. four and one-half (4 ½) or five (5) innings of play in regular season play will be deemed a finished game. In tournament play, games called will resume at the exact point where they left off.
- D. In the event of excessive inclement weather, all options will be used to complete the season. This includes games being played on different nights of the week from your regular night of play and weekends.
- E. When a game is tied after time has expired the "Progressive International Tiebreaker" rule will go into effect and another inning will be played. The last batter to complete his/her turn at bat the previous inning will start as the runner on second base. Should another inning need to be played the last two (2) batters from the previous inning will start on second and third base and if a third inning is needed then the last three (3) batters from the previous inning will start on first, second, and third base. This format will continue until we have a winner.

## **VIII. RUN RULE**

- A. In all leagues the "run rule" is as follows: twenty (20) runs ahead after three (3) innings, fifteen (15) runs ahead after four (4) innings, and ten (10) runs ahead after five (5) innings.
- B. Games will be declared over in any of the above scenarios.
- C. The home team will get to bat in the bottom of the inning if they are the trailing team.

## **IX. HOME RUN RULE**

- A. Home Run Limits for each division are as follows:
  - (1) Men's C Division – 4
  - (2) Men's D Division – 2
  - (3) Co-ed Division – 2

- B. All home runs in excess of the team limit will be declared an out. The ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance. Both male and female home runs count toward the Co-ed limit.
- C. Any fair fly ball touched by a defensive player that clears the fence in fair territory should be declared a four base award and will NOT be included in the home run limit total.
- D. The “Hit and Sit Rule” will apply after a home run is hit. This means the player who hit the home run does not have to touch first base or any other base they can just return to the dugout. Any players that were on base can also just return to the dugout.

## **X. BATTING/RUNNING**

- A. Each player will step up to the plate with a count of one (1) ball and one (1) strike in all divisions.
- B. A foul ball with two strikes will result in the player being declared out.
- C. No stealing will be allowed.

## **XI. PITCHING**

- A. Pitchers will be protected from line drives up the middle. A line drive will be defined as any ball that goes through the protected pitching area and ranges from the pitcher’s head to the pitcher’s feet. Any ball that strikes the ground first will not be included in this rule interpretation. Umpire discretion will be used to determine the protected pitching area and intent.
- B. Team penalties occurrence per game:
  - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> team occurrence – Dead ball. Batter is out. (inning continues)
  - (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> team occurrence – Dead ball. Inning ending out. If same player commits 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence, highlighted rules below are applied.
  - (3) 3<sup>rd</sup> team occurrence – Dead ball. Game forfeit.
- C. Individual penalties per game:
  - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence – Dead ball. Batter is out.
  - (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence – Dead ball. Player is disqualified from game and normal ejection rules apply.

## **XII. PLAYER CONDUCT**

- A. Managers are held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and spectators.
- B. Profanity, vulgarity, unsportsmanlike behavior, or misconduct of any kind that is detrimental to the game of kickball and its purpose will not be tolerated. Bryan PARD staff, umpires, or any other league staff will remove the offending parties from the park and police could be called.
- C. If the disruptive person(s) is a spectator, the umpire will give ONE (1) WARNING to the disruptive person(s) and the team manager. Should the situation continue, the umpire has the right to forfeit the game and take other appropriate action deemed necessary, such as, remove the person(s) from the park and call the police.
- D. Should the disruptive person(s) be a player(s), no warning is required before taking appropriate action. Abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

- E. If a player(s) is ejected the team can provide a legal substitution or a "Ghost out" will be placed in the ejected player(s) position in the lineup.
- F. **The ejected player(s) must leave the facility and if these player(s) do not cooperate then the team(s) will forfeit the game.**
- G. **Any ejected player(s) must serve an automatic two (2) game suspension before eligible to return.**
- H. The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances by players/coaches or spectators may be cause for immediate removal of the park.
- I. If a player/coach is caught consuming and/or possessing alcohol during a game (inside or outside the dugout area) the player/coach will be ejected from the game.

### **XIII. PROTESTS**

- A. Judgement calls can NOT be protested.
- B. Any protests related to the misinterpretation of a playing rule must be done before the next pitch.
- C. Any protests related to player eligibility must be done during the inning the player starts or enters the game. Players must carry proper identification at all times.
- D. The manager must notify the umpire immediately of his or her intent to protest the game.
- E. Each protest does have \$20.00 administrative fee with it. The fee will be returned if that protest is approved by the league administrator.

### **XIV. SCOREKEEPING AND SCHEDULING**

- A. The official scorekeeper is the responsibility of the home team. If the score is in doubt the umpire will compare scorebooks and resolve any discrepancies.
- B. After the schedule has been created by the Bryan PARD no refunds will be given.
- C. All games will be played at the Bryan Regional Athletic Complex (BRAC) located at 5440 N. Texas Avenue, Bryan, Texas 77803.
- D. Schedules and standings can be viewed at [www.teamsideline.com/bryantx](http://www.teamsideline.com/bryantx).
- E. Team managers will receive regular communication from the PARD via this site as well as by e-mail. Managers are encouraged to sign up for text message alerts on the homepage.

**\*\*USA Softball rules will apply except for the following rules in this document. A rulebook can be requested by a manager if needed and the Athletics Supervisor will supply a copy.**