

**CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Adult Softball Program By-laws**

THESE BY-LAWS ARE A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CURRENT USSSA RULEBOOK

A. Playing Rules:

1. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME, in the event a team(s) is/are not ready to play at scheduled time, a forfeit shall be declared. Please note there will not be scorekeepers, the umpires will be the official scorekeepers.
2. Men's: A minimum of 8 players can start a game. No out(s) shall be assessed for vacant spots. An out will only be assessed in the lineup when a player ejection takes place and a legal substitution is not available.
3. Co-Ed: A minimum of 8 players can start a game. However, there must always be four female or four male players in the lineup. Men will hit the 12" ball and women will hit the 11"ball. All rules concerning co-ed play will be adhered to as outlined in the USSSA rule book. No out(s) shall be assessed for vacant spots. An out will only be assessed in the lineup when a player ejection takes place and a legal substitution is not available.
4. Co-Ed: Offensive teams must alternate the batting line-up according to gender. If a player leaves the game for any reason their substitute must be of the same gender.
5. Players cannot play on two teams in the same league on the same night.
6. Time Limit: No new inning will start after 50 minutes of play. Time will stop if a serious injury occurs; judgment of the umpire is final. The official start time is noted in the scorecard and established by the umpire.
7. All Games are scheduled as seven (7) innings or 50 minutes time limit. Any game still tied after the end of the 7 innings or when time expires will play extra innings with a 3-2 count no courtesy foul.
8. The umpire shall be the sole judge in allowing a reasonable time delay for an injured player to be assisted in order to remain in the game.
9. Run rules are as follows: 20 after 2, 15 after 3, 12 after 4 and 10 after 5.
10. All batters begin with one ball and one strike count (1-1 count).
11. Courtesy Foul (Per NTX USSSA): There is no courtesy foul. If the batter has 2 strikes, the next ball must be in play or the batter is out.
12. A runner from home plate to 1st base must use the safety bag (colored portion of the double bag) when touching 1st base.
13. Bat Flip Rule (New per NTX USSSA): In the event that a player excessively throws a bat, the player will be ejected. This is dependent upon the discretion of the umpire to determine excessive intent.
14. Softball teams will provide game balls for each game of the season. Game balls must be purchased at the park for \$6 and have a U.A.T. or Softball World stamp which designates the ball is legal.
15. Smoking on the playing field or in the dugout is NOT permitted.
16. Warm-up before or during the game is only permitted in designated areas.
17. Dugouts are to be used by players and team members on that team's roster. Children or spectators are not allowed in the dugouts.
18. Players, Coaches, Manager, or Team Attendants shall NOT be allowed to participate while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.
19. A game is considered official if it is called after 4 innings or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.

20. Home and visitor will be decided by a coin flip during the pre-game meeting. During playoffs, higher seed will be the home team.

B. Eligibility:

1. All participants in adult leagues must have attained the age of sixteen (16) years prior to the registration date.
2. Team rosters are due the first game a team is scheduled to begin a season. There are no add/drop deadlines during the season. The rosters will be final after the last game of the season. No add/drops will be allowed for playoffs.
3. Everyone who plays must sign their team's roster form.
4. Teams are limited to 20 players per team for all divisions. Players can only be listed on **one** team roster per division, per night. Teams should list all players on a roster regardless of player's availability throughout the season.
5. Team rosters must be filled out completely. Completed rosters must be submitted to the umpires prior to the start of the team's first game. Failure to do so may result in forfeit or suspension.
6. Any protest of a player on an opposing team must be made by the team manager at the conclusion of the protested player's first at-bat. A roster protest must be brought to the attention of the umpire. Team rosters will be available on site and provided by the Field Coordinator. In the event, the protested player is not listed on the roster this player is deemed illegal. Team with illegal player must declare a forfeit game.
7. It is not the umpire or field coordinator's responsibility to identify ineligible or illegal players. This must be brought to the said official's attention by a team manager.

C. Batting:

1. Batting order of each team must be listed and delivered to the umpire prior of starting time of the game.
2. There is no maximum number of players in a lineup. Teams may bat their entire lineup.
3. All composite bats must have the 2013 USSSA stamp on the bat.
 - a. Old Aluminum bats will be allowed, Old composite will not be allowed.
4. Titanium bats are banned from all leagues.
5. League officials reserve the right to disallow any bat.

D. Uniforms:

1. Playing jerseys are requested but not required for all team members.
2. Shoes are required, metal cleats are not permitted.
3. Medical braces with exposed metal may be considered legal if covered by soft material and taped.
4. Exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, or ear studs may not be worn. Medical alert bracelets or neck chains are not considered jewelry, but if worn must be taped to the body. Also, any other item judged dangerous by the umpire must be removed. Players who are asked to remove jewelry and fail to do so may be ejected from the game.

E. Scheduling:

1. The Athletic Coordinator shall schedule all regular season games and if make-up games are scheduled, make-up games may fall on a Saturday or Sunday and game times may be shortened to accommodate the completion of the leagues.

2. The Athletic Coordinator reserves the right to combine leagues in order to ensure a league will not be canceled.
3. The Athletic Coordinator reserves the right to re-classify teams.
4. In case of inclement weather, players may contact the rainout line at (817) 427-6606 after 3:30 pm on the day of the game to see if games have been cancelled. Rainouts will also be posted on www.teamsideline.com/nrh.

F. Home Runs:

1. Home Run Allowance is determined on a “per league” basis. Home Run Allowance will be listed at the top of the online schedule. Contact the Athletic Coordinator for any clarification.

*Any league allowing homeruns has the “one up rule.” Any home run after the allotted amount will result as a ground rule “single”.

G. Conduct and Suspensions:

1. The Athletic Coordinator will rule on all situations concerning participant conduct and suspension of players, coaches, or managers for violation of rules, inciting fights, etc. All games are in the hands of umpires and every man, woman and team is required to respect their authority. Inappropriate conduct such as profane language, consuming alcohol beverages during the game or abusing the umpires or the opponents will be subject to suspension.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as abusive language either directly or indirectly toward officials in charge of game, throwing a bat at or toward an official or participant or in any other matter dangerous to any person: intentional delay of game tactics: unnecessary rough tactics against an opposing player: fighting, playing while intoxicated or deliberately violating the rules of the game. Any player or team found guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct shall be subject to suspension.
3. Any player who strikes another player or umpire shall be subject to indefinite suspension. The Athletic Coordinator shall determine the length of suspension. A player who pushes or otherwise molests the person or and official shall be subject to suspension.
4. Any Player(s) who attempts to interfere with the orderly disposition of a dispute during the course of the game shall be subject to ejection. Managers shall instruct their players to remain in the dugout area during any dispute involving rule interpretation or unnecessary rough tactics between members of opposing teams. Any player harassing an umpire shall be penalized by suspension: THREATS shall be grounds for indefinite suspension.
5. Any player removed or ejected from a game shall have one (1) minute to leave the facility (sitting in dugout, stands or in the immediate area is not permitted). Failure to comply may result in the game being ruled a forfeit. Continued abstinence may result in team disqualification from the league. Umpires may suspend players for the following game if player actions are deemed severe.
6. Any team member who continues to display conduct which detracts from competitive recreational objective of the program, after the game is over, could result in disciplinary action taken against the team or team member.
7. The conduct of the fans, family and friends are the responsibility of the team manager. Unruly conduct or interfering with the play of the game may result in a forfeit.
8. Use of profanity, directed to the other team, umpires, or to one’s self, can result in immediate ejection, No warnings are necessary.
9. A team that forfeits (failure to appear for scheduled games) three (3) or more games, whether or not in a row, during a season is susceptible to expulsion from the league and will be subject to review prior to admittance the following year.

H. Protests:

1. All protests, regardless of nature, will not be considered unless the umpire is notified according to USSSA rules that the game is being played under protest. No protest after final out of game.
2. Only the following protest will be considered:
 - a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule
 - b. Failure of an official to apply a correct rule to a given situation.
 - c. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation
3. Plays involving judgment calls are not subject to protest.
4. Player's eligibility protest must be made NO later than the first at bat of player in question.
5. Only the manager or the assistant manager may file a protest.
6. A formal written protest by the team manager must be filed with the Athletic Coordinator within 48 hours after the game in question, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or Holidays.
 - a. A general statement of the protest must be noted on the back of the game score sheet.
 - b. A formal written protest by the team manager MUST contain:
 1. The time, date and place of game.
 2. The names of the officials.
 3. The rule and section of the officials' rules or policies under which the protest is being made.
 4. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
 5. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
 - e. An incomplete protest shall be ruled invalid.
 - f. Protest decisions will be made by a Protest Board consisting of the Athletic Coordinator and two (2) officials selected by the Athletic Coordinator.

I. Insurance:

1. Teams must provide their own insurance coverage if they so desire.

J. Tiebreakers:

- Ties for first and second place will be broken as follows:
1. Head to head
 2. Head to group (if even number of games between tied teams)
 3. Head to group differential
 4. Total runs allowed
 5. Run differential for all games

K. General Information:

1. Those playing rules established by United States Specialty Sports Association (U.S.S.S.A), and the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (T.A.A.F.) as set forth in the Cavalcade of Sports and those supplementary rules or exceptions established by the Parks and Recreation Department shall govern all league play.

2. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to delete or add any rule that in the opinion of the department will help improve the softball program.
3. The Athletic Coordinator reserves the right to combine leagues in order to ensure a league will not be canceled.
4. No refunds will be assessed after the registration deadline.

L. Awards:

1. Individual shirts will be awarded to 1st place of playoffs.
2. Individual shirts will be awarded to 2nd place of playoffs.