

**Asheville  
Parks & Recreation**



**2016  
Adult Softball  
[www.ashevillenc.gov](http://www.ashevillenc.gov)**

# Introduction

Welcome to the Asheville Parks and Recreation’s Adult Softball Program. In this brochure you will find the Rules and Regulations, which are adopted at the league organizational meetings. You will also find a brief description of each league as well as the purpose of this program. We hope this pamphlet proves helpful to you and your team.

It is a fact that any sport played in today’s society has the element of competition within it’s’ function. In our leagues we strive to keep that competitive spirit in its’ proper perspective and ask that you assist in achieving this goal. This benefits everyone – players, spectators, umpires and administrators. **Persons who do not feel comfortable with this framework or do not feel they can play within these rules and guidelines should look elsewhere for a program to be associated with.**

The City League spends a great deal of time, effort and money to provide you with a well-organized program, good facilities, trained officials and a network of communication. If at any time you have suggestions and recommendations for improving these aspects of the program, do not hesitate to offer them.

Good luck! Most of all have fun and enjoyable season.

## **SOFTBALL STAFF**

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# **Asheville Parks & Recreation**

## **Adult Softball By-Laws**

### **2016**

#### **Purpose:**

The Adult Softball Program is established to provide a wholesome recreational opportunity for the residents of the community. Healthy bodies and minds provide an atmosphere for a stronger community. Emphasis is placed on fair play and sportsmanship.

In addition to the above, the Church League places an emphasis of maintaining an atmosphere of fellowship and relationship building.

#### **LEAGUES/TEAMS/DIVISIONS**

1. Membership in the leagues is limited to the following:
  - **Men's League:** Plays weeknights, limited to 35 teams, 5-6 divisions of play. 12 game regular season.
  - **Women's League:** Plays weeknights, limited to 7 teams, 1 division of play. 12 game regular season.
  - **Church League:** Plays weeknights (no Wed.), limited to 7 teams, 1 division of play. 12 game regular season. Must be 75% Church Membership. Women are permitted to play, but there are no gender requirements.
  - **Co-Hospitality League:** Spring/Summer Only. Plays Sunday afternoons, limited teams, 4 divisions. 6 game regular season. Both genders play (not Co-Ed rules), minimum of 3 females playing at all times.
  - **Co-Ed League:** Fall League only. Must have equal number of male/female players.

2. Each team will play a total of 12 regular season games, plus a double elimination tournament at the end of the regular season. **Exceptions:** *Hospitality League plays a 6 game regular season and a double elimination tournament* Teams will be seeded in the post-season tournament based on regular season standings. **Regular season champions will play in the next highest division (where possible) for the post season.**
3. Individuals 16 years of age or older are permitted to play in the Adult City League. Any player 17 years or younger wishing to participate must provide written notification from their parent or guardian stating that the parent or guardian understands that the youth will be competing against adults.
4. Eligible teams must provide the league with the following:
  - A. Entry fee payable to the City of Asheville
  - B. Non-Resident Fees for players living outside the City of Asheville (\$25).
  - C. A filled out and signed Team Roster (minimum of 10 players to be eligible)
  - D. Attendance at league meetings
5. The following Priority System has been established for entering the Adult Softball Program:
  - A. Teams returning from the previous year **that attend the organizational meeting** and return at least 50% + 1 player from last year's team will have first priority in entering the league.
  - B. Second Priority will go to those "new teams" that attend the organizational meeting and will be accepted on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis.
  - C. Those teams not covered in A or B will be accepted, as space is available.

6. This program is amateur softball. Players or teams in this league may not receive salaries, gifts, merchandise or favors of any kind, other than equipment in the softball game. No professional or semi-professional softball players are permitted to play in the City Leagues. The penalty for violation of this rule is expulsion from the league.
7. In all divisions, any home run hit in excess of the limit will be an out.

## **ROSTERS**

1. The roster for each team will be limited to a maximum of 20 persons and the roster will be due with the entry fee upon acceptance into the league. Managers and coaches that do not play will not be considered on the roster, but if they do play, will be counted as part of the 20 maximum.
2. The roster forms must be filled out with complete information. **The player must put his/her actual resident address, not a P.O. Box.** Also each player must sign the roster before they can play.
3. Roster Drop/Add Procedure- pre-season drop/add cut off date is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, after this rosters are frozen. Players may not drop from one team and be added to another after they have played in a game.
4. Players are not considered added or eligible until the roster addition form is turned in properly.
5. Players added must complete and sign the “Roster Addition Form.” The team representative must also sign this form. No additions will be accepted over the phone.

6. A copy of the roster for each team in each division is public knowledge and will be made available upon request.
7. Each team should designate a team representative to be registered with Asheville Parks & Recreation. That person will be the first line of communication between the team and the Parks & Recreation Dept.
8. A player must play in 5 regular season games to be eligible for the post- season tournaments. (3 games for Co-Hosp.)
9. During all games, players must have on their person a picture I.D. Failure to produce an I.D. upon request will result in his/her team's forfeit.
10. Player on a Church League team must be a church member except 25% of the team roster may be composed of non-church members or "outsiders".
11. **Players may play on one Men's league team, and one Co-hospitality/Co-ed team. However, Men's division players will have limits to what Co-ed division they may play (to be discussed at Organizational Meeting). Players found to violate this rule will be suspended for the remainder of the season from both teams and teams may be subject to forfeiting all games that the player participated in.**
12. The regular season champion moves up one division the following year.
13. No player may drop more than one division of play for the next season of play.
14. No more than three (3) players from the same team may drop a division and still play on the same team.

## PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Team representatives will be held responsible for the conduct of players and fans on and off the field. This person should know poor sportsmanship or continued misconduct could cause the team to be removed from the league. The team representative can be suspended for a player's behavior. ***If you have troublemakers, get rid of them now!***
2. Use of alcohol and tobacco in any form will not be tolerated. It violates City Ordinance to have alcohol or tobacco in a City Park. Any player found to be drinking or under the influence of alcohol will be removed from the game and the park. Same goes for smoking. Even if the alcohol is consumed prior to arrival at the park, if a player is under the influence, they will not be permitted to participate in the game.
3. Use of Profane or Vulgar language will not be tolerated from players, coaches or fans. Players and coaches who use profane or vulgar language are subject to ejection from the game and removal from the park. Spectators who use profane or vulgar language are subject to removal from the park. **THIS IS THE WARNING.**
4. If a player is ejected from a game, he/she must leave the park upon ejection and is suspended for their team's next scheduled game. Failure to leave the park or excessive misbehavior will result in further disciplinary action of the player and team. If you have a legal substitute, you may replace the ejected player with the substitute. If not, the spot in the lineup will be an out each time he/she is due to bat.

5. If a player is ejected from a game two times during a season, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of that season. And the coach will be subject to a suspension.
6. Anyone starting a fight in the league will be suspended from all Parks & Recreation Adult Athletic Leagues for at least one (1) calendar year.
7. Anyone charging an umpire to question a call (regardless if contact is made) will be removed from the game.
8. **Arguing the calls / decisions of an umpire is not permitted and may result in an ejection and removal from the game.**

## **THE GAME**

1. Other than those changes outlined in these rules, the regular slow-pitch softball rules adopted by the Amateur Softball Association will govern play and all disputes will be settled according to these rules.
2. Any team not ready to play when scheduled to do so forfeits the game. To be considered “ready to play” the team must have a minimum of 9 players present and the team rep or coach must turn in a completed line-up card. There will be a 5-minute “grace” period only for 6:30 pm games. No “grace” period for any other game.
3. The Team Representative or Coach must turn in a filled out line-up card at the pre-game meeting. The line-up card **MUST** have the player’s last name and

first initial. The line-up card is your team's batting order. **Line-up cards will be available at the field.**

4. There will be an established time limit of 1 hour and 10 minutes per game. Therefore a game will consist of 7 innings or of 1 hour and 10 minutes, whichever is less. The time limit begins upon completion of the pre-game conference. When the time limit is up, the inning will always be completed if necessary. There is not a "close game rule". When time is up and the inning is complete (unless there is a tie), the game is finished. **(This remains the same even in the tournament)**
5. Any team that forfeits 4 games will be subject to dismissal from the league (2 games for Co-Hospitality).
6. Softball is a 10-player game. However to encourage play, we will allow you to start and end a game with 9 players.
7. When starting a game with 9 players, the 10<sup>th</sup> player may be added at any time but must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. When starting a game with 10 or more players, no more players can be added to the line-up. They may only enter the game as substitutes.
8. Teams may only play 10 players in the field, however at the start of the game teams may bat 11 (1 EP) or 12 (2 EP) players.
9. Teams may drop to 9 players without penalty (note: if there are legal subs, they must enter the game) for any reason except an ejection. When playing "Short-Handed" (less than you began with or fewer than 10), due to an ejection, an out would be declared when that player's turn to bat came up. At no time may a team play with fewer than 9 players.

10. Game times are 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 on weeknights and 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 and 5:00 on Sunday.
11. There is a Run Ahead rule of 20 runs after 3 innings 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings of completed play.
12. In all divisions of Hospitality League play there is a required minimum of 3 females playing in the field. If one of the required 3 females playing gets hurt, you may only substitute a female or play short-handed (you can play with 2 females if one gets hurt, but you must start the game with 3 female players). A male may not replace her in the field. In coed, if one of your 5 females/males is hurt you may only sub another female. If you don't have a sub, that spot in the lineup will be an out. In coed we play 5 men and 5 women, alternating them in the batting order. If you have to play with either 4 men or 4 women, that spot in the lineup will be an out.
13. At the end of the regular season, each division will have a post- season tournament. The regular season champion will play in the next highest division tournament whenever possible. Seeding for the tournament will be given based on regular season standings. Any ties in the regular season for first place will be decided by a playoff game. A coin flip will determine seeding from all other ties.
14. **Stealing will NOT be allowed.**

## **AWARDS**

Awards will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> Place for the Regular Season, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Division Tournaments.

## EQUIPMENT

1. Regulation softball bats, both wooden and aluminum that meet A.S.A. standards are approved for use in this league. League play will strictly adhere to the 2004 National A.S.A. rules in regards to bats allowed for play. Players caught using illegal, altered or banned bats will be suspended from league play for the remainder of the season. And the team will forfeit that game. For a list of illegal bats, refer to the ASA website: [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com).
2. This season we will only test bats that are protested or that injure someone during play. **Also, for this season, all legal bats will be permitted for use in all divisions (NO SENIOR, TITANIUM, ETC...).** Bats can be protested at any time during the season using the proper protest procedure.
3. Shoes that fully cover the feet and meet A.S.A. requirements must be worn during all games. No golf or track shoes will be permitted for play. Any spike/cleat must be made of rubber and there cannot be any exposed metal. Cleats/Spikes that screw onto an extended piece of metal are not permitted.
4. Only A.S.A. approved and stamped balls are legal for play in City League. The Men's League and Co-Hospitality League will use the 12' MSP .cor 52, 300 compression softball. The Women's League will use the 11' GWSP .cor 52, 300 compression softball. Coed will use both the 11' .cor 52, 300 compression and 12' (men batting) cor 52, 300 compression ASA approved softball. After 2010,

ASA is requiring all softballs to be optic yellow. Only optic yellow balls will be allowed.

5. Teams will hit their own (legal) ball. New or replacement balls may enter play only when a ball is put out of play or at the beginning of an inning. When a new or replacement ball enters the game, it is the responsibility of the defensive team to have the ball verified as being legal by the Umpire.
6. For the protection of the players, we will use a pitching screen this season. It will be mandatory that the screen is used at all times, and is to not be moved. Any ball that hits any part of the screen will be counted as a foul ball. (So if you have two strikes and hit it, you are out).
7. Also, this season we will use a strike mat. Any pitched ball, that is within legal ASA heights (6'-10'), that hits the mat will be called a strike.
8. Gloves and/or Mitts must meet A.S.A. standards and must be worn by all defensive players.
9. There is not a uniform rule. Teams are not required to wear matching shirts.
10. **This year we will allow 1 courtesy runner an inning (it is gender specific meaning a male can only run for a male, and female may only run for a female). However, if that courtesy runner's turn to bat comes up while on base, he/she will be called out as a runner.**

## **PROTESTS**

1. Players/Teams may choose to protest any aspect of the softball game. However only those protests that involve rule violations or interpretations will be deemed valid.
2. The league coordinator will decide all protests based on the rules, their applications and interpretations.
3. Protesting a call at the field must be followed up with a written protest within one working day of the game.
4. **Proper Procedure for Protest:**
  - A. Protests must be made immediately before the next pitch and must be made to the Home Plate Umpire.
  - B. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Athletics Office within 1 business day of the game in question.
  - C. There is a \$75 protest fee. If protests are deemed correct the \$75 will be returned. If a protest is lost, the fee will go to a Parks & Recreation General Fund.
  - D. Protest information must include the following:
    - 1) Date, Time, Place
    - 2) Name of Umpires
    - 3) Rule and section of ASA rules or local rules under protest.
    - 4) The decision and conditions involved in the decision.

5. When the manager/coach notifies the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest, the umpire should notify the opposing team and the scorekeeper. The game should then continue to completion.
6. If a protest is ruled valid and correct, the game will resume from the point of the protest.
7. Player eligibility protests are the only protest that can be made after the “next pitch” or before the end of the game. When in tournament play, player eligibility protests must be made by completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning or when the player in question enters the game. Use of an ineligible or illegal player will result in forfeiture of the game.

## **RAIN-OUT POLICY**

It is the intention of administration to play all games when it is safe to do so. Staff is instructed to make all decisions based upon the safety of the players, **not on the willingness or unwillingness to play of the participants. No player or team will be forced to play a game if they do not feel comfortable doing so.** If you have questions as to whether games will be played or not, you may call the weather hotline at **251-4082**. When games are canceled from the office, there will be a message to that effect on the hotline. If there is not a message, then your team should report to the field. Also, when games are canceled from the office an email will be sent out to those teams that provide an email address.

It is the responsibility of the Team Representative to call and find out when games are rescheduled.

## **Asheville Parks & Recreation Department**

**Web Page:** [www.ashevillenc.gov](http://www.ashevillenc.gov)

### **Athletics Division**

Fax Machine 251-4030

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