

**RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION
ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

RCRC leagues are organized for the express purpose of providing fun, friendly, healthy competition between participants interested in the sport of softball. ARGUMENTS, VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE OF OTHERS, AND ANY OTHER SUCH DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIORS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. A player or team suspension or expulsion may take place at any time during the season with no fees being returned. If you have been expelled from other leagues, this is not the place for you!

I. RULES

Rules shall be the same as those of the International Joint Rules Committee on Softball and adopted by the **Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA)** and the following:

- a. Ground rules will be reviewed at the start of each game.
- b. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR PROFANITY ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON THE PARK OR SURROUNDING AREAS TO INCLUDE PARKING AREAS.** No smoking within 100 feet of playing fields or other activity.
- c. No new inning will start 60 minutes from the start of the game with the following exceptions:
 - 2 Run Differential Rule: If 60-minute time expires and the score of the game is within 2 runs or less, one additional inning will be played.
- d. If after five or more innings the visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs, or if after four and a half innings of play the home team is ahead by 15 or more runs, the game shall be terminated.
- e. Any team forfeiting more than three games or two in a row during the course of the season will be removed from the schedule. Fees shall not be refunded. The team and officials will be notified in writing of the removal.
- f. A team may start and play a regulation game with nine players only if they have only nine present. However, an out will be taken in the 10th spot for all leagues. If ten players are present, the team must play ten players. If a game is started with nine players and a tenth player arrives later, he must be inserted into the line-up in the tenth position in the batting order immediately.
- g. All leagues: 70' base lines.
- h. COURTESY RUNNERS ARE ALLOWED. ONE PER INNING MAXIMUM WITH THE RUNNER BEING THE LAST OUT.
- i. A game may not be rescheduled or postponed for any reason other than weather or power failure. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- j. Pitching distance will be 53'.
- k. **NO STEEL CLEATS**

II. ELIGIBILITY

Once a line-up has been put in both score books it is official!

- a. Anyone 16 years and older prior to the first official game played and before the addition/deletion deadline is eligible to participate. In order to be eligible, his or her name must appear on the roster. **16 and 17 year olds must submit a RCRC parental consent form PRIOR to participation.**
- b. An official RCRC Roster form **must be submitted TO THE OFFICIALS on the team's first scheduled game.** Teams who do not submit a roster will be subject to forfeiture of their games until an official roster is provided. Players may be added or deleted to a specified period of time but rosters can not exceed 25 players at any time. You MUST have the first and last name of the player or the player is not eligible.
- c. A player may knowingly appear on a maximum of three rosters. In order to change from one roster to another *within the same league*, **players must wait seven days prior to the time of participation.** Players must decide on only one roster if teams he is playing for enter tournament play. A player cannot play in both "OPEN" and "B" tournaments. A player CAN play a combination that includes the Co-ed division for tournaments.
- d. **If a player's name is added to the roster after the first game, the player's name must be mailed to the Recreation Commission five days prior to the time of participation.**

NOTE: Postcards or letters with postmark will be used as the official time. Faxes and emails will also be acceptable. Telephone calls are NOT acceptable!

- e. No players will be added to the team roster after **A SET DATE ON THE OFFICIAL ROSTER FORM at 11:59 p.m. At this time all rosters are frozen!!!! Contact me for individual players if you are having problems. I may be able to help. Keith Coats 754-6720.**
- f. No women players will be allowed to compete on any men's teams and no men players will be allowed to compete on women's teams.
- g. **IMPORTANT* Industrial League/Media League Eligibility:** All roster members of an "Industrial" or "Media" league team must be current full-time employees with a company or agency or part-time working 20+ hours per week. Rosters must be filled out by a team manager and are subject to verification from your employer. Any team found violating the Industrial League eligibility will be subject to suspension or removal from the league with NO REFUNDS.

III. CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS

- a. Teams are expected to show good sportsmanship. Antagonizing or baiting another team with negative comments will not be tolerated
- b. **Any deliberate attempts to hit a pitcher will result in an out and an automatic ejection. Repeat offenders will be subject to suspension or expulsion from league play.**
- c. Any player or coach who is ejected from the game by an umpire may receive a suspension. Length of suspension will be determined by the Richland County Recreation Commission. Players receiving multiple ejections will be subject to removal from the league.
- d. Any player that threatens an umpire with bodily harm will receive a suspension.
- e. A second occurrence of Section A, B, or C may result in a suspension of the guilty player(s) for the rest of the season, including the tournament.
- f. Any individual striking an umpire, player, or spectator will be expelled from the park grounds and all other Recreation Commission facilities permanently.
- g. **Any player following an umpire off the field WILL receive an automatic suspension and/or expulsion.**

THE OFFICIALS DECISIONS ARE FINAL. VERBAL ABUSE OF OFFICIALS OR PLAYERS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. TEAMS ARE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A MATURE, PROFESSIONAL MANNER.

TEAM SPECTATOR'S CONDUCT

It is each team's responsibility to control the conduct of its friends and family members. League officials will issue a warning *to the team* regarding UNRULY spectator(s). At that point, teams must take appropriate actions to bring spectator(s) under control. If this is not accomplished, your team will be subject to forfeiture of the game. Spectators involved in disruption of the game will be subject to suspensions and expulsions from attending league games. Continual problems from a team's spectators will result in suspension or expulsion *of your team* from play in all Richland County leagues. If you know of persons that can not control themselves, tell them not to come.

IV. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

- a. It is suggested that all teams wear identical jerseys.
- b. **Game balls must be one of the following: Men's and Co-Ed: 12" RED or GOLD STITCHED restricted flight balls with ASA stamp on the ball. Women's: 11" RED or GOLD stitched restricted flight balls with ASA stamp on the ball. All balls must have a COR of .44 WITH 375 lb. COMPRESSION and the ASA STAMP! NOTE: THE .47 AND .50 COR BALLS MAY HAVE RED STITCHING TOO BUT ARE NOT ALLOWED.** Each team is responsible for providing one new ball and one used ball for each game. In the event a team fails to supply a new ball, they must use a used ball when batting.
- c. **Only ASA approved bats will be allowed BUT The Recreation Commission reserves the right to ban any bats it finds to be inappropriate for recreational play.**

d. **NO STEEL CLEATS**

V. **RAINED OUT GAMES**

The Recreation Commission will schedule make up of rained out games. Each team will be notified as to the time and place. It is the TEAM MANAGER'S responsibility to call the Recreation Commission if he/she has not received notification. Non-compliance to this rule will result in a forfeit with no make-ups. Only rained out games or games deemed unsafe because of playing conditions will be made up. All others shall be forfeited.

VI. **PROTESTS**

- a. Umpires **MUST** be notified **PRIOR** to leaving the field, **AND** an official protest must be submitted- **in writing-** within 24 hours of completion of the protested game to the Richland County Recreation Commission. Along with the protest, a check in the amount of \$25 must be submitted or the protest will not be accepted.
- b. League officials and RCRC will rule on protests.
- c. If the protest is won, the fee will be returned. If the protest is lost, then the fee will not be returned.

VII. **TOURNAMENT**

Tournaments will be played on back-to-back nights until completion or **ALL DAY SATURDAY.**

- a. Each league champion, runner-up, and record based invitations will play in a single elimination tournament at the end of the season. Additional teams **may** receive an invitation based on regular season records. **Industrial Leagues will play in a single elimination tournament of their own. Qualifications for the tournament will be based on the final regular season standings.** Separate tournaments will be played for "B" Divisions and "OPEN" Divisions.
- b. In the event of a tie for first or second place, the records between the two teams will serve as the determining factor. If games between the two have been split, a playoff game will be necessary.
- c. All league champions will receive a first place team trophy and 15 individual trophies OR T-shirts. All league runners-up will receive a second place team trophy. County tournament champions will receive one first place team trophy. County tournament runners-up will receive a second place team trophy.
- d. **No player may play in "OPEN" and "B" tournaments.**
- e. All players will be required to **have photo identification on hand during tournament play.** Any player called to question that DOES NOT have proper identification will be considered to be ineligible for play. Any team protesting another player's eligibility must notify an official and provide the \$25 protest fee **-PER PLAYER -** to the official **PRIOR TO VERIFICATION.** If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If the protest is not upheld the fee IS NON REFUNDABLE.
- f. It is the responsibility of each team to verify their official rosters at least **PRIOR** to tournament play. The Commission can provide copies of your official roster that will be on hand at the tournament. However, no changes will be made to final official rosters at any time after the roster deadline.

ADDITIONAL CO-ED RULES

1. Ten players, five male and five female. Co-ed teams can play with 9 players but no more than 5 of them can be male. 9 player teams will take an out in the 10th spot in the batting order.
2. 2 males and 2 females must be in both the infield and outfield
3. 1 male or female pitcher with an alternate male or female catcher i.e. Male pitcher, then female catcher. Female pitcher, then male catcher
4. An alternate male/female batting order
5. If using an extra player (EP), teams must use a male and a female EP