

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ADULT SPORTS

1. **Can teams register for your leagues on-line?**

Yes. However, only returning teams can register for leagues online and only during the priority period. Teams registering online will need to call **972-941-7278** to get a team PIN and team ID number. For non-internet registration, forms are available on our website at www.planoparks.org under Athletics/Adult Sports. Scroll down to find league documents.

2. **Will teams who are returning for the next season be automatically registered by City of Plano Sports staff?**

No. **All** teams must register again **each** season in **every** sport. We send out postcard and e-mail reminders to managers of record of returning teams. Teams are considered as returning if they have played with us some time during the past three seasons. Another avenue of communication is Twitter. The link is <http://www.twitter.com/PlanoAdultSport>.

3. **Do returning teams get registration priority over new teams?**

Yes, registration is opened up to new teams **only** after any priority period set aside for returning teams has been completed. All registrations are done on a first-come, first-served basis.

4. **Do I have to pay the full registration cost at the time I register my team?**

Yes. You can pay by cash, check, or credit card (MC, VISA, Discover)

5. **What are the registration fees per team for each sport?**

Softball: **\$350** or **\$375** depending on division
Football: **\$395** in the spring, summer, and fall (8 x 8)
 \$300 in the summer (4 x 4)
Baseball **\$2,300** for the spring season
 \$1,700 for the fall season

6. **What is included in my team's registration fee?**

Fees cover the costs of officials, user fees, and awards. Balls are **not** furnished for **softball** or **football**. Eight (**8**) games of **softball** are included in the team fee. Seven (**7**) games of **8 x 8 football** (40 minutes each) in spring, summer, and fall, and **14** games of **football** (20 minutes each) in summer are included. Football teams finishing in the top half of the final standings will advance to a single-elimination playoff. The **baseball** team fee covers twenty-four (**24**) games in the spring season and sixteen (**16**) games in the fall season. The baseball team fee also covers the cost of game balls and a minimum of two (**2**) new wood bats per team. All baseball teams will advance to the playoffs with a minimum of two games to be played.

7. **Will I receive a confirmation of my team registration?**

Yes. A receipt will be mailed or faxed to you or be given to you if you register in person.

8. **What is the next step after registration?**

Pertinent information will be printed on the receipt. Additional required paperwork for team managers who have registered with us will be available for download from our website after the registration period is completed.

9. **How do I obtain a team schedule?**

Access our website at www.planoparks.org, click on Athletics, Adult Sports, Adult Sports Standings/ Schedules and Message Board. Using the scroll button on the far right, scroll down to League Schedules, Scores, and Standings and follow the directions to access a particular league schedule.

10. **How many playing seasons do you have for each sport?**

Softball: **3** seasons (Spring, Summer, and Fall)
An optional End-of-**Season** Tournament is available for an additional \$125 during the spring and summer seasons.
An optional End-of-**Year** Tournament of Champions is available for an additional \$175

Flag Football: **3** seasons (Spring, Summer, and Fall)

Baseball: **2** seasons (Spring and Fall)

11. **What softball leagues do you offer?**

Men's AA+, AA, A, and Recreational
Church Men's A
Coed A+, A, and Recreational
Level AA+ is our highest league and Recreational level is our lowest league

12. **What football and baseball leagues do you offer?**

Men's recreational flag football and men's wood bat baseball

13. **When do you generally play your games?**

All **Spring, Summer, and Fall** season **softball** games are scheduled on Monday-Friday evenings, and sometimes on late Sunday afternoons. **Football** games are played on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. **Baseball** games are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturdays during March-July and September-December. It **may** become necessary to use weekends to make up rained-out games.

14. **Why do you play your games during holiday weeks?**

Games are scheduled whenever City of Plano employees are required to work. Games are not scheduled for Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Memorial Day. We **do** schedule games on Halloween, however, since this is not an official national holiday. We **do** schedule games during the spring and/or fall breaks of all local school districts.

15. **Do you register individuals wishing to play on a team?**

No. We register teams only.

16. **I have just moved to the area. How do I get on a team?**

For each sport we maintain a free-agent list of individuals wishing to get on a team. You can call the Adult Sports office at **972-941-7278** to leave your name, phone number, sport and position you are interested in, and level of play. You can also e-mail us at nataliem@plano.gov. Occasionally, this free-agent list of individuals wishing to play is consulted by managers who find that they have insufficient numbers to make up a team. We do **not** put individuals in direct contact with managers.

17. **Is there any other way to try to get on a team?**

For **softball**, another possibility is to go out to Heritage Yards (4525 Hedgcoxe in northwest Plano) during the league season to try to get on a team. Go to the small office located near Field 1 in the center of the complex to determine which leagues are playing on which field, and then consult the manager of your desired league.

For **football** and **baseball** go to the physical location where games are being played to see if there is a chance to be added to a team. **Football** games are played at various City of Plano athletic sites. Fields to be used are determined each season. **Baseball** games are played at Carpenter Park, 6701 Coit Road, on fields 7 and 8.

18. **How many over-the-fence home runs are allowed in each softball division?**

The home run limit in **AA+** leagues is three (**3**) plus the 1-up Home Run Rule. **Three (3)** home runs are allowed in the **AA** leagues. **One** home run is allowed in the **A** leagues. **No** home runs are allowed in the Recreational leagues. A disallowed home run will be counted as an "out."

19. **What is the 1-up Home Run Rule in softball?**

Once any team (other than Recreational) has reached its respective home run limits, either team may hit an additional home run. However, no team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team. Any additional home runs above the one-up will be scored as an out. With fewer than ten (10) minutes left in the game, the home team can hit one home run to pull even, but cannot go one-up.

20. **What are the Run Rules?**

There is **no** Run Rule in Recreational softball leagues. All other divisions of softball will be played with a **20-Run** Rule after 2-1/2 or 3 innings, a **15-Run** Rule after 3-1/2 or 4 innings, and a **10-Run** Rule after 4-1/2 or 5 innings.

21. **Can I play on more than one softball team?**

Yes, as long as the teams are in **different** leagues.

22. **What is the minimum age requirement for each sport?**

Softball: 15
Football: 18
Baseball: 18

23. **What is the maximum number allowed on the roster for each sport?**

Softball: 20 (females may play on a coed team only)
Football: 20 (8 x 8)
Football: 8 (4 x 4)
Baseball 20

24. **What is the required male/female ratio for coed softball teams?**

Coed teams normally field 5/5, with equal distribution in the infield and outfield. However, coed teams may start and play shorthanded for any reason, but there must be a minimum of nine (9) players (5 men/4women or 4 men/5 women). There will be an automatic out when the absent player's time comes to bat. The pitcher and catcher must be of opposite sex, and there must normally be two (2) men and two (2) women in the infield and two (2) men and two (2) women in the outfield.

25. **What is the refund policy if a team signs up and then must withdraw?**

A refund will be granted if schedules have not been posted on our website. On the rare occasion that a team on a waiting list can move into the vacated spot, a refund will be granted. A team that withdraws also has the option of leaving money on account for the following season.

26. **How many forfeits are allowed in a season?**

Any team that forfeits three (3) league games in a season will be suspended for the remainder of the season. **No refunds will be given.**

27. **How are forfeits scored?**

A softball forfeit due to lack of required number of players at game time will be recorded as **15-0**. A softball game forfeited due to injury will be scored as **7-0**, and a softball double forfeit will be recorded as **0-0**. A baseball forfeit will be recorded as **15-0**. There will be a **forfeit fee of \$100** for a **non-reported baseball forfeit**. A football forfeit will be recorded as **7-0**.

28. **Can I get in touch with the manager of a team to see if he/she is planning to forfeit a game with me?**

NO. That manager may tell you that he/she is not planning to play. That team could then show up and win by forfeit. Managers should call in a forfeit to the Adult Sports office (**972-941-7278**) Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm or Heritage Yards (**972-712-3930**) after hours. We will do everything we can to let the other team know that there has been an official forfeit.

29. **How do I find out the status of each day's scheduled games?**

Game status for each day's scheduled Adult Sports will be available on week days **Monday-Friday** at **4 p.m.** and on **Sunday** at **1 p.m.** **There will be no advance information given out before those times.** Call **972-941-7278** (Option 1 softball, Option 2 football, Option 3 baseball). For baseball on Saturday, games will be played unless otherwise posted on the website Adult Sports message board link.

Continue to check back on a regular basis if the weather is at all questionable. Do not assume that games are cancelled if it is raining at your location since it may not be raining at the softball fields, the baseball fields, or the football fields.

30. **Who determines if games are canceled?**

Prior to game time, the decision to cancel games is made by the City of Plano Adult Sports **staff**. The decision whether or not to cancel games is based on the **playability** of the fields at **4 p.m.** **Once games have started**, the decision whether or not to continue play is made by the **officials**. At Heritage Yards, generally the senior umpires are in charge of canceling games for the entire complex.

31. **What happens if it starts to rain after 4 p.m.?**

If inclement weather moves into the softball Heritage Yards area **after 4 p.m.**, Staff will update the rain-out phone line and message board as soon as games have been cancelled. Football players and baseball players should continue to monitor the rain-out number and message board for game-playing decisions.

32. **Why do you wait until 4 p.m. to make your decision?**

It is our goal to play all games each day as scheduled. In order to achieve this goal, there will be times that the fields will need to be given as much time as possible to dry out. The softball fields and football fields are checked daily beginning at 3 p.m. A cancellation any earlier in the day might create a situation where games were not playable at cancellation time but would have been playable at game time.

We do understand that it can occasionally take participants quite some time to drive to the fields. The 4 pm decision time, however, makes it possible for Staff to make an appropriate judgment call while trying to keep inconvenience for our participants to a minimum.

33. **If the decision is not made until 4 pm, I will not have time to contact all of my players. What should I do?**

We strongly encourage team managers to pass along both the rain-out phone number and the message board website to all team members. If the individual team members learn to verify daily game status on their own, there should not be a need for you to have to contact them.

34. **If my game is rained out, where can I find make-up information?**

We post make-up information for **all** our sports on our website and in the Adult Sports office (1409 Avenue K). In order to minimize verbal errors, we do **not** give out schedule information or make-up information over the phone.

35. **How do I find make-up information on your web site?**

Make-up dates for rained-out games can be obtained by accessing your schedule on our website. The make-up date will be added to the end of your schedule. **The original rained-out date will no longer appear.** You should always be able to see the number of games that you signed up for on your schedule.

36. **At the end of the season, how is the winner determined if my team is tied with another team for first place?**

Win-loss records in **head to head** games or matches are compared. If there is a tie, the team that **gave up** the **least** number of runs or points in head to head games/matches will be the winner. If the score is still tied, the team that **won** the **most** runs or points in head to head games/matches will be the winner. The next determiner is **fewest** runs allowed in **league** play and then the **most** runs scored in **league** play. If there is still a tie, a tiebreaker game/match will be played.

37. **If my team wins my league, when and where will awards be available?**

Winning teams will be notified by phone call and/or e-mail as soon as possible after the completion of the league. Awards and/or shirts will need to be picked up by a designated representative at a location to be determined at the end of the season.

38. **How can I become a sports official?**

The City of Plano offers Amateur Softball Association certification where participants can learn to officiate adult slow-pitch softball. Instruction is offered for one night/week for four weeks in February of each year. You can register for this course through the Plano Parks & Recreation Department beginning in January. For registration procedures, consult 1) a leisure catalog available at any library or recreation center or 2) Leisure Online at www.planoparks.org. For information regarding the officiating of other sports, please contact the Adult Sports office at **972-941-7278**.