

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 2-week 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 on our website at www.planoparks.org under Sports/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 post card 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.

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	\$2,200 for the spring season
	\$1,500 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**. The **softball** team fee guarantees at least **8** games of softball. Seven (**7**) games of 8 x 8 **football** (40 minutes each) in spring, summer, and fall, and **14** games of 4 x 4 **football** (20 minutes each) in summer are guaranteed. Football teams finishing in the top half of the final standings will advance to a single-elimination playoff. The **baseball** team fee guarantees 23 games in the spring season and 13 games in the fall season. The baseball team fee covers the cost of game balls and a minimum of two new wood bats per team. All 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 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. Required paperwork for team managers who have registered with us will be available for download from our website after the registration period is completed. Team league schedules will be available on our website.

9. **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
An optional End-of-**Year** Tournament of Champions is available for an additional \$180

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. **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.

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

No. We register teams only.

15. **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.

16. **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.

To obtain specific schedules and locations for all sports during the playing season, please consult our website at www.planoparks.org. Click on Sports, 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.

17. **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."

18. **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.

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

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

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

Softball: 15
Football: 18
Baseball: 18

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

Softball: 20
Football: 20 (8 x 8)
Football: 8 (4 x 4)
Baseball: 20

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

Coed softball teams may start with 9 players. The pitcher and catcher must be of opposite sex. There must be 2 men and 2 women on the infield and 2 men and 2 women in the outfield.

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

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

24. **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 **6-0**.

25. **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) or Heritage Yards (972-712-3930). Depending on timing, we will then do everything we can to let the other team know that there has been an official forfeit.

26. **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. Also click on the 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.

27. **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.

28. **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.

29. **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 p.m. 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.

30. **If the decision is not made until 4 p.m., 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.

31. **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.

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

Make-up dates for rained-out games will be added to the end of a team's league schedule throughout the season as needed. **The original rained-out date will be deleted.**

33. **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 **scored** 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.

34. 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.

35. 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. Consult one of our leisure catalogs or Leisure Online at www.planoparks.org for registration procedures. For information regarding the officiating of other sports, please contact the Adult Sports office at 972-941-7278.