



CITY OF PLANO SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS

A. GOVERNMENT

1. This association shall be governed by the Plano Parks & Recreation Department and assisted by an Executive Advisory Committee consisting of appointed representatives from each league (example: Men's Open, Men's Church, Co-Ed). The Umpire-in-Chief shall also be on the Executive Advisory Committee.
2. The Executive Advisory Committee shall rule on protests, appeals, and extended disciplinary action.
3. Any rule not covered in the league By-Laws or Points of Emphasis will be covered under the ASA (Amateur Softball Association) Official Rules of Softball.

B. FEES

1. Each team shall pay a fee for participation in each league.
2. All fees shall be paid by the designated due date set by the Parks and Recreation Department. No exceptions!
3. There will be no refunds.

C. QUESTIONS

1. The Adult Sports office telephone number is 972-941-7278, and the fax number is 972-941-7469. Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The website is www.planoparks.org. The telephone number at Heritage Yards is 972-712-3930 after 5 p.m. The fax number is 972-712-3931.

D. ELIGIBILITY

1. Participants must either live or work within the City limits of Plano. Part-time jobs do not fulfill the "work" requirements. To play church sports participants must have written certification by the pastor of the church (located in Plano city limits) of which they are members sixty (60) days prior to the start of the season and meet all other church sports requirements. Non-resident teams will be permitted on a space available basis.
2. Rosters will be limited to **20 players**. An **original** Plano Parks and Recreation Department Roster, properly filled out and signed by all players and the Team Manager, **must** be turned in at the Heritage Yards main office at Field #1 by the team's **first** game. The minister of the participating church must sign all Church team rosters. If the team Roster is not on file and a player's eligibility is challenged, the game in question will be automatically forfeited.
3. Before anyone is added to the team Roster after the season begins, a Player Addition Form must be filled out and turned in to the Heritage Yards office or the Parks and Recreation Department office. Players may **not** be added to Rosters after the **sixth** game played in the season.
4. Additions or subtractions from the official roster must be submitted to Heritage Yards or the Parks and Recreation Department on the day that the addition or subtraction is to be actuated prior to the player's participation in the game.
5. Players may not play on different teams within the same league. No player will be released to play on another team in the same league. Players may play on more than one team; however, they will do so at their own risk.



6. No player may participate who has been suspended from any other affiliated Parks and Recreation activity until approved to play by the Executive Advisory Committee upon recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Department.
7. All questions regarding player eligibility should be directed to the Recreation Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department for a ruling. Teams may question eligibility of only two players per game. (Whole rosters may not be questioned.) Teams playing ineligible players will forfeit all games in which the ineligible persons appeared in the lineup and may forfeit all remaining games in the current season's schedule. The ineligible person will be suspended and no entry fees will be refunded. Managers playing ineligible players may be suspended for two (2) full calendar years from Plano Parks and Recreation Department activities.
8. All participants must be at least fifteen (15) years of age.
9. At all times, the responsibility regarding the eligibility and conduct of players rests with the Manager of each team.

D. RULES OF COMPETITION

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at any time for any reason. Players, coaches or spectators may be suspended from the league for use of profanity or objectionable language, consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages before, during, or after the game on City property. Any abusive language or threats directed toward the officials or Parks and Recreation staff may be grounds for **suspension from the league**. The Parks & Recreation Department Executive Committee will decide on the length of all suspensions, but there shall be a minimum of:

- a) Two games, or more, for using profane language and/or for unsportsmanlike conduct. The suspension shall be effective for the two games **played** following the game in which the violation occurred. Bye weeks and rained-out games do not count in the two-game suspension. If the player participates on more than one night, suspension will be effective for the same number of games for which he/she has been suspended in that league also. The player may not come to the park until the suspension(s) has been served.

NOTE: Using profane language and/or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be an automatic suspension. It shall not be necessary for the Executive Committee to meet except to increase the length of the suspension.

Any player **ejected** from a game **must immediately leave the park**. If the player refuses to leave the park or threatens the umpires at the time of the ejection, the game will be forfeited even if there are still nine (9) players available to play.

- b) An indefinite period of time for fighting (fights will be defined as intent to do harm). Any or all persons involved in a fight will be suspended. Whole teams may be suspended if the infraction is severe enough (i.e. striking official, mass fights, striking City officials, etc.)
- c) A one-year suspension if a second two-week suspension is drawn. **THE MAXIMUM PENALTY APPLIED AFTER THE SECOND EJECTION MAY RESULT IN A ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN ALL SPORTS IN ALL LEAGUES.**
- d) A **one-year** or more suspension for striking an official.
- e) Rushing the umpire in a threatening manner may result in an automatic ejection.

These rules apply to all pre-season and post-season play-offs or tournaments, as well as regular season play.

2. Umpires have the option of **removing** a player for minor infractions (such as a fake tag, throwing a bat, bringing an illegal bat to the batter box). **A removal means that the player may not play for the**



remainder of that game only. The player does **not** have to leave the park. The game may continue if there are only 9 players now eligible for play.

3. Each team must have a manager or team captain who is the official spokesman for his team and spectators. The team Captain participating in the game is the representative of his team and may address an official on matters of rule interpretation or to obtain essential information, if it is done in a courteous manner.
4. **Uniforms:** All players of a team must wear shirts of the same color, and the shirts must be numbered. A legal number of contrasting color, at least 6" high, must be worn on the back of all uniform shirts. Numbers may not be fractions or triple numbers. These numbers must be of a permanent nature. No tape will be allowed. No metal cleats are allowed on shoes. **PENALTY:** Any player violating these rules will not be allowed to play in this game. If two players wear the same number, both players may not participate in a game at the same time. Players may not switch jerseys after the line-up has been submitted.
5. If at the end of seven innings and/or the end of the time limit the score is tied, each batter will get one pitch. Time limit on games is 55 minutes.
6. Teams are required to play game schedules as posted. Game schedules will **not** be changed to accommodate individual teams. The **only** changes to game schedules will be made by **Parks and Recreation staff** due to rainouts or other unforeseen administrative or facility-related circumstances.
7. In all regularly-scheduled games, game time shall be forfeit time. The same rule applies in make-up games. **There is no grace period.**
8. Games may begin if a team has nine (9) players. There will be an automatic out when the absent player's time comes to bat. However, if a tenth player arrives, the player may be substituted for the absent player. The EP (extra player) will be allowed in the league. Ten (10) players may play defense and bat eleven (11). If any player drops from the line-up without a substitute, his place in the line-up will become an automatic out. To play eleven (11) people, the team must start with eleven (11) people. **Teams may play shorthanded for any reason. Teams may not play with fewer than nine (9) players.**
9. Coed teams may start with nine (9) players. 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 be two (2) men and two (2) women on the infield and two (2) men and two (2) women in the outfield. Ten (10) players may play defense and bat twelve (12). If any player drops from the line-up without a substitute, the team may drop to ten (10) players with no penalty. To play twelve (12) people, the team must start with twelve (12) people. **Coed teams may play shorthanded for any reason. Coed teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players (5 men/4 women or 4 men/5 women) to start the game.** Normal teams field 5/5, with equal distribution in the infield and outfield.
10. A second home plate will be used in all Coed leagues and in the Men's 40 and Over league. The runner will run to the second home plate. The catcher will remain on the regular home plate. If the runner runs to the regular home plate instead of the second home plate, it will be an out!
11. Third strike foul will result in batter being declared out.
12. All games will be played with a 12 Run Rule after 4-1/2 or 5 innings and a 15 Run Rule after 2-1/2 or 3 innings.
13. The stealing of bases will be allowed in **all** men's leagues, **with the exception of the Men's 40 and Over league.**
14. In all leagues allowing home runs, if a home run is hit over the fence, the hitter must advance at least to first base and all base runners must advance at least one base. They do not have to run around all bases for the runs to count.

15. If neither team can produce the required number of eligible players at the stated game time, a double forfeit shall occur and the official standings shall show a loss for both teams. There shall be no opportunity to replay the game. If the forfeit is the last game of the evening, the bases will be taken up and lights may be turned off.
16. For all single or double forfeit games, the officials in charge shall record the names of all players at the starting time. They shall also require the players on each team to take a position within the playing area to verify the number of eligible players present.
17. If a team manager knows prior to game time that his team will be required to forfeit the game due to lack of eligible players, he should verbally forfeit the game **ONLY** by contacting the Adult Sports staff at Plano Parks and Recreation, 1409 Avenue K, 972-941-7278, **prior to 5:00 p.m.** **After 5 p.m.** call staff at the Heritage Yards softball complex office at 972-712-3930. Leave a message if necessary so that the opposing team can be contacted. This forfeit will count as a forfeit toward suspension from the league.
18. Forfeiture of three (3) league games will automatically suspend a team for the remainder of the season. All remaining games to be played will be forfeited and **NO ENTRY FEE REFUND WILL BE MADE**. The scores for all completed games will be recorded as played.
19. All games will be played as scheduled except in the event of unavoidable conflicts in facilities or inclement weather. Any postponed game will be rescheduled by the Adult Sports office of the Parks and Recreation Department. Decisions on cancellations of games due to inclement weather will be made by the Parks and Recreation Department by 4:00 p.m. of the scheduled game day. Managers can call the rain-out number (972-941-7278) **after 4:00 p.m.** to get the decision as to field conditions or check our website at www.planoparks.org. Any change in this decision after 4:00 p.m. due to later weather conditions will be updated at the time on the rain-out phone number and on the website message board. **Managers should check back on game day if weather is questionable.**
20. All make-up games will be played as time allows during and after the regular season. Make-up schedules will be posted at Heritage Yards and the Adult Sports office, as well as on our web site at www.planoparks.org. An effort will be made to schedule all make-up games on each league's respective night of play, but scheduling on weekends may become necessary due to limited availability of week-night make-up days. **Make-up information will not be given out over the phone. Make-up dates will not be changed to accommodate individual teams.**
21. Games that are called due to rain or other unforeseen circumstances will be considered final if the game has progressed through the fifth (5th) inning, or has fulfilled the 15 Run Rule or progressed through forty (40) minutes of play. All uncompleted games will be started from the beginning.
22. **The Officials' decision shall be final on judgment calls and on the conduct of the game.** These decisions do not involve interpretation of the rules, the by-laws of the league, or the eligibility of the players.
23. Amateur Softball Association rules will govern league play. TAAF rules will govern player eligibility.
24. On fields with double first bases, the runner must use **ONLY** the orange portion of the base and the fielder may use only the white portion of the base unless the runner is advancing to second base. After a runner passes first base, only the white section of the base is live and the orange is dead. Exception: On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the colored or white portion.
25. **THE ASA BLOOD RULE WILL BE IN EFFECT IN ALL GAMES!**
26. **Both teams must furnish a playable game ball to the home plate umpire before the start of each game. Each team will hit the softball it provided. Balls must be COR .44, 375 compression, of any color stitching, and ASA approved. Men's teams must furnish 12-inch balls. Co-ed teams must furnish 12-inch (men's) and 11-inch (women's) balls. The umpires must be able to read the specs on the ball! All bats used must be ASA approved. Please check the ASA website at www.ASAsoftball.com for the current approved and banned bat lists.**



27. Teams will be expected not to make a mockery of the game (i.e., challenging whole rosters, wearing of inappropriate attire, etc.).
28. Apparel including uniforms worn by spectators, players, managers and coaches must be appropriate and may not be of an obscene, lewd, vulgar, profane or disruptive manner in either written or graphic format. Anyone wearing apparel as described will be considered a public nuisance and will be subject to penalties provided in Ordinance 15-3 of the City of Plano.

E. PROTESTS

1. JUDGMENT CALLS WILL NOT BE GROUNDS FOR A VALID PROTEST.

2. All protests must be made at the time of the infraction or before the next pitch, stating reason for protest. The protesting manager shall notify the umpire immediately that the game is being played under protest, and the umpire in turn shall immediately notify the opposing team manager or captain of the protest.
3. Eligibility protests must be recorded during games only. The player being protested must show officials picture identification issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety within 5 minutes of the completion of the ballgame to establish the true identity of the player being protested. The Recreation Superintendent will make the actual determination of eligibility within 72 hours. Failure to produce picture identification is forfeiture by the team using the player in question. If identification is validated, the protesting team must follow-up with procedure setout in paragraph E.4. **The identity of only two players per game may be challenged.**
4. All protests (this includes player eligibility) must be followed up in writing, signed by the Team Manager and filed by 5 p.m. the next workday in the Adult Sports office. **A deposit of \$50.00 must accompany each protest.** If the protest is upheld, money will be refunded. All protests shall be ruled on by the Parks and Recreation Department Executive Committee and the penalties, in the event the protest is sustained, shall be fixed by the same whose decision shall be final.
5. Games played under protest will have the final score turned in for official entry.
6. Only protests that actually affect the outcome of the game will be considered.
7. It is recommended by the Parks & Recreation Department Adult Sports office that both teams keep a scorebook. The Home team's book will serve as the official scorebook, from which standings and records will be recorded.

F. DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE WINNER

1. If a tie exists for any award position, league winners will be determined by using the following tiebreaker criteria:
 - a. win-loss in **head-to-head** games
 - b. **fewest** points **allowed** in head-to-head games
 - c. **most** points **scored** in head-to-head games
 - d. **fewest** points **allowed** in league play
 - e. **most** points **scored** in league play
 - f. play a tiebreaker game

G. AWARDS

1.
 - a. Eighteen (18) custom championship shirts for 1st place winners
 - b. A plaque or trophy for the 1st place team

