



CITY OF PLANO

SPRING 2009 SOFTBALL LEAGUES BYLAW CHANGES, ADDITIONS, OR DELETIONS

The following are specific **changes, additions, or deletions** to the Fall 2008 Softball Bylaws that will be in place for the Spring 2009 season. Please read the updated **Bylaws** in their entirety. Parentheses refer to the section in the Spring 2009 Bylaws where the items can be found.

1. **First Base Award.** (H.2) A batter will be awarded first base **after three (3) balls** have been called by the umpire.
2. **Called Out.** (H.2.a-b) A batter will be called out on a **second called strike** by the umpire **OR** after hitting a **second foul ball** with a **one-strike** count.
3. **Run Rules.** (H.19) All games 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 with the **exception of Men's Recreational and Coed Recreational.**
4. **Home Run Limits.** (H.3.a-f) Home run limits are in effect as listed below. For any over-the-fence home runs in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.
 - a. Men's Recreational and Coed Recreational – No (0) home runs per game
 - b. Men's A and Coed A – One (1) home run per game
 - c. Women's – One (1) home run per game
 - d. Wood Bat – One (1) home run per game
 - e. Men's AA and Coed AA – Three (3) home runs per game`
 - f. Men's AA+ - Three (3) home runs per game plus the One-Up Rule.

Once both teams in the Men's AA+ division have reached their 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.

5. **Penalties.** (G.1.a) Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at **any** time for **any** reason. Managers, players, coaches, or spectators may be suspended from league play for any violation of the Sportsmanship Guidelines **before, during, or after** the game on City property. The Parks and Recreation Department Softball Advisory 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.

Two game suspension: 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. Players may not participate in End-of-Season or End-of-Year Tournament until the suspension has been served. Tournament games will count as games served to fulfill the suspension. The suspension will be carried over to the next season if a player does not have a sufficient number of games remaining on his/her team schedule to complete the suspension. If a player participates on more than one night, he/she is suspended only from the night the violation occurred.

Suspension greater than two games: The suspension shall be effective for the number of games designated following the game in which the violation occurred. Bye weeks and rained-out games do not count as games served in the suspension. The suspended player may not return to the park and will not be allowed to participate with any team playing in a City of Plano softball league or tournament until the suspension has been fulfilled. The suspension will be carried over to the next season if a player does not have a sufficient number of games remaining on his/her team schedule to complete the suspension.

6. **Uniforms.** (H.4) At all games (including the first), all players on a team are required to wear shirts of a **similar** 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 uniforms. Numbers may not be fractions or triple numbers. These numbers must be of a permanent nature. No tape will be allowed. **PENALTY:** A player must change his/her shirt, or fail to participate, if the umpire deems the shirt or number unsuitable. 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.

Note: The City will have a limited number of t-shirts with numbers available for sale at the Heritage Yards office for teams to purchase in the case of a player not having a legal uniform. A list of shirt colors that will be available for purchase will be posted at Heritage Yards. (H.2.)

7. **Shoes.** (H.5) All players must wear shoes (sandals unacceptable). Metal spikes, boots, and open-toed shoes are illegal. Screw-on spikes that have exposed metal are illegal. **PENALTY:** A player must change his/her shoes, or fail to participate, if the umpire deems his/her shoes to be unsafe for themselves or other players. If a player refuses to change his/her shoes, the player will be removed from participation for the remainder of the game.
8. **Altered Bats.** (H.24) League officials have the authority to inspect any bat suspected of being altered. If the league official determines that the bat should be kept for further testing, the player and/or owner using the bat has **TWO CHOICES. The player and/or owner may (1) choose to allow league officials to keep the bat for further testing or (2) accept a permanent suspension from future participation in any City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament games. If the player and/or owner allows league officials to test the bat and it is found to be altered, the player and/or owner will forfeit ownership of the bat and will be suspended from participation in any City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament games for a period of three (3) years.** League officials may forward the information of the owner of the altered bat to Dallas Metro ASA who may impose additional suspensions.

The responsibility for knowing whether a bat is altered is that of both the user and the owner of the bat. If an individual uses a bat in City of Plano league or tournament play or is the owner of a bat that is brought into Heritage Yards, the suspensions will be imposed without regard to what the individual knew about the bat being altered. **An individual must know that his bat is not an altered bat, if he/she brings it into Heritage Yards or uses it in a City of Plano league or tournament game. If not, the individual can be suspended from further participation in City of Plano league or tournament games. The fact that the individual did not know that the bat was altered is not a factor in imposing the suspension. The question is only whether or not the bat is altered.**

9. **Rules of Competition** (Recreational Leagues – Section I)
 - a. **Strike Zone:** A strike mat measuring 25-1/2 inches long and 17 inches wide with a V shape cut out to fit tight with the point of home plate will be used. Any legally-pitched ball not struck at and landing on any part of home plate or the strike mat will be ruled a strike. The shoulder-to-knee strike zone will be eliminated.

- b. **Time Limit / Run Rule:** Games will have a 60-minute drop dead time limit with no new inning beginning after 50 minutes. Any time an inning is not completed by the 60-minute time limit, the game will revert to the previous inning to determine the winner. Ties will be allowed, and games will not be played with a run rule (mercy rule).
- c. **Maximum Runs Per Inning:** Teams may score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning including the last inning.
- d. **Coed Male Base on Balls:** A walk to a male batter will result in a two (2) base award, and the next batter (female) must bat regardless of the number of outs.
- e. **Scores and Standings:** The City will maintain league standings for all Recreational leagues. At the end of the season the first-place team and any teams tied for first place will be **required** to register in the Coed A division the following season.
- f. **End-of-Season and End-of-Year Tournaments:** Teams participating in a Recreational league are **not** eligible to participate in the End-of-Season Tournaments, and the champions will **not** qualify for the End-of-Year Tournament of Champions.
- g. **Second Home Plate:** This will be used in **all** Coed leagues including Recreational. 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!
- h. **Stealing of Bases:** This will **not** be allowed in Recreational leagues.