



## CITY OF PLANO SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS

### A. GOVERNMENT

1. This association shall be governed by the Plano Parks and Recreation Department and assisted by an Adult Softball Advisory Committee consisting of appointed player representatives from both Men's and Coed leagues. The Umpire-in-Chief shall also be a member of the Softball Advisory Committee.
2. The Softball Advisory Committee shall rule on protests, appeals, and extended disciplinary action.
3. Any rule not covered in the league By-Laws will be covered under the ASA (Amateur Softball Association) Official Rules of Softball and ASA Code.

### 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 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. The website is [www.planoparks.org](http://www.planoparks.org) (Sports link). 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, work, or worship 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. **Roster Rules (numbers 3-10 below) will be strictly enforced.**
3. **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. Per ASA Rule 4, Section 1. Players B, male Rosters shall include **only** male players.
4. In order to add a player to the team after the Roster has been turned in, 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 Roster **after** the **completion** of the **sixth** game played in the season.
5. Additions or subtractions from the official Roster must be submitted to Heritage Yards or the Adult Sports Office of 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.



6. 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.
7. No player may participate who has been suspended from any other affiliated Parks and Recreation activity until approved to play by the Softball Advisory Committee upon recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Department.
8. 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 or suspended players may be suspended for two (2) full calendar years from Plano Parks and Recreation Department activities. **See Section J Number 2 for detailed description of the eligibility protest procedure.**
9. All participants must be at least fifteen (15) years of age.
10. At all times, the responsibility regarding the eligibility and conduct of players rests with the manager of each team.

#### **E. MANAGERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Managers will be responsible to see that all their players know and abide by the rules as stated in the City of Plano Adult Softball League By-Laws. Further, managers are responsible for their players knowing and abiding by the City of Plano Adult Sports Sportsmanship Guidelines. If a manager cannot or will not control his/her players and spectators, he/she faces league sanctions ranging from removal or ejection to forfeiture of games.
2. The manager shall be the official representative of the team unless he/she designates one of the players as a team representative on the line-up card prior to the start of the game. **Only** the manager or his designated team representative may discuss a call or decision made by the officials. The manager or designated team representative is responsible for maintaining the team's cooperation with the umpires and City Staff.

#### **F. SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES**

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct is contrary to the basic principles of athletic sports. The player Sportsmanship Guidelines is established for the protection of the participants, survival of the sport, and continuation of the league. Violation of the Sportsmanship Guidelines will not be condoned.
  - a. **No Person Shall:** At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, harass or threaten an umpire. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
  - b. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an umpire's decision.
  - c. **No Person Shall:** Refuse to abide by an umpire's decision. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
  - d. **No Person Shall:** Discuss with an umpire in any manner the decision reached by such umpire except the team manager or designated captain.
  - e. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game against a person of the opposing team. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
  - f. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of intentionally endangering a player, league umpire, City Staff, or spectator.

- g. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of physical attack upon any player, umpire, City Staff, or spectator. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
- h. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any player, umpire, City Staff, or spectator. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
- i. **No Person Shall:** Appear upon the field of play at any time in an intoxicated condition. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
- j. **The Manager and Team Shall:** Be responsible for the conduct of their fans and supporters. If fans and supporters become abusive toward opposing team members, umpires, or City Staff, they place the team in jeopardy of forfeiting the game.

**G. PENALTIES**

- 1. 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 the End-of-Season 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.

**NOTE:** Using profane language and/or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be an automatic suspension. It shall not be necessary for the Softball Advisory 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 an umpire at the time of the ejection, the game will be forfeited even if there are still nine (9) players available to play.

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 an umpire, mass fights, striking a City staff member, etc).

- b. A **one-year** suspension if a second two-game suspension is drawn. **THE MAXIMUM PENALTY APPLIED AFTER THE SECOND EJECTION MAY RESULT IN A ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN ALL CITY OF PLANO ADULT ATHLETIC LEAGUES.**
    - c. A **one-year or more** suspension for striking an umpire or City staff member.
  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's 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**, and the game may continue if there are at least nine (9) players eligible for play. A removal **can** be escalated by the umpire to an **ejection** if the unsportsmanlike behavior continues.
  3. The City of Plano Adult Softball Advisory Committee **will** accept appeals of **suspension** from teams or players as long as:
    - a. The length of the team or player suspension is four (4) weeks or greater.
    - b. The suspension is not connected to any pending investigation by law enforcement.
  4. To file an appeal, the team or player must:
    - a. Contact the City of Plano Adult Sports Supervisor within three (3) days of being notified of the suspension.
    - b. Provide a written account of the incident that led to the suspension, stating why the suspension should be eliminated or reduced. This written account must be received within 48 hours of contacting the Adult Sports Supervisor and declaring the desire to appeal the suspension.
    - c. Provide contact information of any and all witnesses to the incident.
  5. The City of Plano Adult Softball Advisory Committee will review all written documentation provided by everyone involved including players, umpires, spectators, and City staff. Upon reviewing the written documentation, the Committee will decide the necessity of:
    - a. **A meeting** with all involved parties to gain additional information.

If the Softball Advisory Committee finds it necessary to meet with the individuals involved, Staff will set the date, time, and location of the meeting. All involved parties will be contacted and informed of the date, time, and location of the meeting. Every effort will be made to give at least one (1) week notice of the meeting. Once a date and time for the meeting have been set, they will not be changed or rescheduled except for unforeseen circumstances.
    - b. **A suspension.**

If the Softball Advisory Committee decides that meeting with all the involved parties is not necessary, Committee members will decide if the suspension is warranted. If the suspension is deemed to be warranted, members will decide if it should be shortened, lengthened, or remain as is.
  6. Once the Softball Advisory Committee has ruled on the suspension, the team or player will be notified by the City of Plano Adult Sports Supervisor who will inform them of the Committee's ruling. All appeal rulings by the City of Plano Adult Softball Advisory Committee are **FINAL** and may not be appealed a second time.

## H. RULES OF COMPETITION (ALL LEAGUES)

Please see **Section I** for **additional** rules regarding **Men's Recreational** and **Coed Recreational** league play.

1. **Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on park property, which includes the parking lot.**

2. A batter will be **awarded first base after three (3) balls have been called** by the umpire.

A batter will be **called out**:

- a. **on a second called strike** by the umpire.
- b. **after hitting a second foul ball with a two-strike count.**

3. 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, Coed A, Church, and Wood Bat** – One (1) home run per game **plus One-Up Rule**
- c. **Men's AA** – Three (3) home runs per game **plus One-Up Rule**

### **One-Up Rule**

Once both teams 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.

4. **Uniforms:** At all games (including the first), all players on a team are required to wear shirts of **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.

5. **Shoes:** 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.**

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. **Line-up cards** are available on our website at **www.planoparks.org** (Athletics tab/Adult Sports link). They are also available from the Heritage Yards office staff next to Field #1. Line-ups are due no later than the home plate meeting before each game. Games will not be forfeited due to lack of the line-up unless the team is unable to produce the minimum number of eligible players at game time.

8. "Home" team is named on game schedules. Teams may occupy either dugout on a first-come, first-served basis.
9. 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. **Teams may play shorthanded for any reason. Teams may not play with fewer than nine (9) players.**
10. **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. There must be a minimum of nine (9) players (5 men/4 women 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 on the infield and two (2) men and two (2) women in the outfield.
11. **Continuous batting order** is **optional**. Either team may exercise its option to use or not use the continuous batting order. However, **when used**:
  - a. Teams must inform the umpire prior to the start of the game at the home plate meeting and may not change their option after the start of the game.
  - b. Teams will be restricted to a maximum of sixteen (16) batters in the line-up.
  - c. Teams **may not** add additional batters to the batting order once the game begins.
  - d. When using the continuous batting order in Coed play, teams must have an even number of males and females and maintain the male/female or female/male rotation in the line-up.
  - e. Any ten (10) players listed in the continuous batting order may play defense at any time during the game. Players must remain in the same position in the batting order throughout the game unless substituted.
  - f. If substitutions are made to the continuous batting order, the Re-Entry rule will apply.
  - g. **Men and Women**: When a void in the continuous batting order is created for any reason, an out will be recorded when the player in that spot in the line-up is due at bat.
  - h. **Coed only**: When a void in the continuous batting order is created for any reason, the player in the batting order immediately preceding **or** following the void will also be removed from the batting order. **Only one (1) out will be charged for the two voids created in the batting order.**
12. **Games will begin at the scheduled time, and the clock will be started. In the event a team does not have the required number of players to begin the game, that team will automatically become the visiting team and will bat first. The game will continue to be played until such time as there are no longer any eligible batters or the team does not have the minimum number of required players upon the completion of the third out. At that point the game will be forfeited.**
13. 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.
14. The official score of a **forfeited** game due to **ejection** or due to **lack of players at game time** shall be recorded as **15-0**. In the event that a team has to **forfeit** a game due to **injury**, the official score shall be recorded as **7-0**. In the case of a **double forfeit**, the official score shall be recorded as **0-0**.
15. A **second home plate** will be used in **all Coed and Recreational** leagues. 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!

16. **On a play made on a batter/runner advancing to first base, the batter/runner must use only the orange portion of the base, and the fielder must use only the white portion of the base. After a batter/runner passes first base, both the white and orange portions of the base become live. Exception: On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, the defense and the batter/runner can use either the orange or white portion of the base.**
17. A Pitching Box fifty (50) feet from home plate and extending back five (5) feet perpendicular to the pitcher's plate toward second base will be used in all league play.
18. The pitcher must release the ball after coming to a complete stop with one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate or anywhere within the pitcher's box. One foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate or within the pitcher's box when the ball is released with a underhand motion. A step may be taken in any direction with the non-pivot foot. The pitcher must be facing the batter when delivering the ball. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six (6) feet from the ground while not exceeding ten (10) feet from the ground.
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 **Recreational** leagues (see **Section I** below).
20. The **stealing of bases** will be allowed in **all** men's leagues with the **exception** of the **Recreational** leagues.
21. **THE ASA BLOOD RULE WILL BE IN EFFECT IN ALL GAMES!** Players who are bleeding may not participate in games unless the blood is covered, as with a bandage. A player who is injured in a game and is bleeding will have one minute to take care of the problem and return to the game. If bleeding cannot be stopped and the blood cannot be covered within one minute, a substitution will be necessary or the team must play shorthanded (shorthanded rules will apply). Substitution and re-entry rules will apply. If a player gets blood on any part of clothing (jersey, pants, socks, etc.), that part of the uniform may not be worn unless the blood is dry. It is strongly recommended that the manager has a first aid kit with bandages, gauze, tape, spare jersey, pants, and socks available. Spare shirts do not have to match and do not have to be numbered.
22. **Bats.**  
**All bats must be inspected (or re-inspected) each calendar year. All bats used must bear a NEW City of Plano hologram sticker in order to be used in league or tournament play. A 2011 sticker is no longer viable. Players must bring their bats to the Heritage Yards office to be inspected before the first game played to obtain the required hologram sticker. If a sticker is no longer readable, comes off, or is damaged, the bat must be presented for re-inspection before a new sticker can be provided.**  
**If a player is discovered using a bat that does not have a City of Plano hologram sticker, the bat will be ruled illegal and the following penalty will be assessed:**  
  
**If the batter reached base and the illegal bat is discovered prior to the next pitch, the batter on base will be declared out, and all runners must return to their positions prior to the "at bat." The bat will be removed from play until a sticker is obtained.**  
  
**If the illegal bat is discovered after the next pitch, the bat will be removed from play until a sticker is obtained, but no penalty will be assessed to the player.**  
  
**If discovered while the batter is in the batter's box, the batter will be declared out, and the bat will be removed from play until a sticker is obtained.**
23. **Banned Bats.** All bats used must be ASA approved. Please check the ASA website at **[www.ASAsoftball.com](http://www.ASAsoftball.com)** for the current approved and banned bat lists.

Teams must make all bats available to the umpires for a pre-game bat inspection. If a player is discovered to be using a **banned bat** after the pre-game inspection, the player will be called out. Both the player and the bat will be removed from the game. Any time that players have a question regarding the legality of a bat, they must ask the home plate umpire for a ruling prior to taking a position in the batter's box.

If a **banned bat** is discovered during the pre-game inspection or prior to the batter entering the batter's box, the bat will be removed from the game and no penalty will be assessed to the player or to the team.

24. **Altered Bats.** League officials have the authority to inspect any bat suspected of being altered in **any** way. The inspection may include weighing the bat, performing a compression test on the bat, photographing the bat, or doing any other tests that can be performed at Heritage Yards. During the inspection the **bat will remain on-site** and the **owner of the bat may be present**.

If upon completion of the inspection the league official determines that the bat should be kept for further inspection or testing, the **player and/or owner** of the bat has **TWO CHOICES**:

1) **Choose to allow** league officials to keep the bat for further testing with the understanding that the bat may be sent to either the bat manufacturer or the Amateur Softball Association.

If the player and/or owner of the bat allows league officials to perform further testing on the bat and **it is found that the bat has been altered**, the player and/or owner will **forfeit ownership** of the bat and will be suspended from future participation in any City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament games for a period of **one year from the date permission for further testing was given**.

2) **Refuse to allow** league officials to keep the bat for further testing and **accept a two (2) year suspension** from future participation in any City of Plano league or tournament games from the date of refusal.

Upon completion of the suspension in either case above, the **player and/or owner** of the bat will also be placed on **probation** for a period of **one year**. If while on probation the **player and/or owner** is found with an altered bat or refuses league officials the opportunity to keep a bat for further testing, that **player and/or owner** will be **permanently suspended** from future participation in any City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament games.

**The responsibility of knowing whether a bat has been altered is that of both the user and the owner of the bat.** If an individual uses an altered bat in City of Plano league or tournament play and the owner is not identified, the suspensions will be imposed without regard to actual knowledge of the bat being altered. In addition, if the **owner is not identified**, the **team** will be suspended from future participation in City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament play until someone claims ownership of the bat. Any bat that goes unclaimed will be treated as abandoned property and will be held by City of Plano staff until claimed by the rightful owner.

Once the **owner** of an altered bat **has been identified**, he/she will face any and all suspensions determined above. The **player** who used the bat will be placed on **probation for one (1) year**. If a **player or owner is on probation** and found using an altered bat or refuses league officials the opportunity to keep a bat for further testing, that **player and/or owner** will be **permanently suspended** from future participation in any City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament games.

**The game in which a suspected altered bat is discovered will be forfeited by the team of the user/owner of the bat.**

25. **Game Balls.**

**Game balls used by men must be 12-inch. They must be Optic Yellow in color with red stitching. They must be cor .52 max, 300 compression max, with dynamic stiffness 5500 lbs. max. The umpires must be able to read the specifications on the ball. Due to safety concerns, playability of the ball is up to the discretion of the umpire.**

**Game balls used by women must be 11-inch. They must be Optic Yellow in color with red stitching. They must be cor. 44 max and 375 compression max. The umpires must be able to read the specifications on the ball. Due to safety concerns, playability of the ball is up to the discretion of the umpire.**

**Game balls used by coed teams must furnish 12-inch (men's) and 11-inch (women's) balls.** The umpires must be able to read the specifications on the ball. Due to safety concerns, playability of the ball is up to the discretion of the umpire.

26. 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. **Recreational leagues have exceptions to these rules (Section I).**
27. Games that are called due to rain or other unforeseen circumstances will be considered final if the game has progressed through 4-1/2 or 5 innings, **or** has fulfilled the 15 Run Rule, **or** has progressed through forty (40) minutes of play. All uncompleted games will be started from the beginning.
28. 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 5:00 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. **Forfeited games will not be rescheduled unless all games that day are cancelled (due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances) prior to the scheduled start time of the forfeited game.** This forfeit will count as a forfeit toward suspension from the league.
29. **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.
30. 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 on the scheduled game day. Managers can call the rain-out number (972-941-7278) at **4:00 p.m. Mondays-Fridays** and at **1:00 p.m. on Sundays** to get the decision as to field conditions or check our website at [www.planoparks.org](http://www.planoparks.org) (Sports, Adult Sports, Adult Sports Standings/Schedules and Message Board). Any **change** in this decision **after 1:00 p.m. on Sundays** or **4:00 p.m. on Mondays-Fridays** 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 keep checking back on game day if weather is questionable.**
31. **All make-up games** will be played as time allows during and after the regular season. Make-up schedules will be available at the Adult Sports office, as well as **added** to your schedule on our website at [www.planoparks.org](http://www.planoparks.org) (Sports, Adult Sports, Adult Sports Standings/ Schedules and Message Board). An effort will be made to schedule all make-up games on each league's respective night of play, but scheduling on weekends **or other week-nights** may become necessary due to limited availability of a given week-night. **Make-up information will not be given out over the phone. Make-up dates will not be changed to accommodate individual teams.**
32. **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.
33. Amateur Softball Association rules will govern league play. TAAF rules will govern player eligibility.
34. Teams will be expected not to make a mockery of the game (i.e., challenging whole rosters, wearing inappropriate attire, etc.).

35. 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.

## **I. RULES OF COMPETITION (RECREATIONAL LEAGUES)**

The following are additions/modifications to Section H with regard to Recreational Leagues:

- a. **Strike Zone:** A strike mat measuring 25-½ 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 the 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 either the Men's A division or the Coed A division the following season.
- f. **End-of Season Tournaments:** Teams participating in a Recreational league are **not** eligible to participate in the End-of-Season Tournaments.
- g. **Second Home Plate:** This will be used in **all Coed and Recreational** leagues. 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.

## **J. PROTESTS**

### **1. Rule Interpretation Protests**

- a. Protests will not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of a judgment on the part of an umpire. **This includes the judgment of the umpires on the legality of a bat or ball used in the game.**
- b. Only protests involving the **misinterpretation** of a playing rule will be allowed.
- c. Teams wishing to protest the misinterpretation of a playing rule must:
  1. Notify the home plate umpire stating the reason for the protest prior to:
    - a. the next pitch **OR**
    - b. all infielders having left fair territory, if on the last play of an inning **OR**
    - c. the umpires having left the playing field, if on the last play of the game.
  2. Notify City Staff in writing, signed by the team manager, and filed by 5:00 pm the next business day.

3. Provide a \$50.00 deposit (cash or check only) to City Staff by 5:00 pm the next business day. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded.
- d. All protests will be ruled on by City Staff and the Umpire-in-Chief.
- e. If the protest is upheld, all penalties will be determined by City Staff and the Umpire-in-Chief whose decision shall be final.
- f. Only protests that actually affect the **win-loss** outcome of the **protested** game will be considered.
- g. It is recommended 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.

## 2. **Eligibility Protests**

### a. **Teams wishing to protest the eligibility of a player must:**

1. Inform the home plate umpire that the game is being played under protest and identify the person(s) in question prior to the completion of the ball game.
2. Inform City Staff of the protest within ten (10) minutes of the completion of the ball game.
3. Provide a \$50.00 deposit (cash or check only) to City Staff within ten (10) minutes of the completion of the ball game. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded.
4. The eligibility of only two (2) players per game may be challenged.

### b. **Protested player(s) must:**

1. Produce picture identification to the umpire issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety within ten (10) minutes of the completion of the ball game.

**Failure to produce picture identification will result in automatic forfeiture by the team using the player(s) in question.**

2. City Staff will verify the identity of the player(s) in question with the umpire at the end of league play for the day. Rulings on player eligibility will be made within 24 hours, and City Staff will notify both team managers. **If the team roster is not on file and a player's eligibility is challenged, the game in question will be automatically forfeited.**

## K. **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** runs **allowed** in head-to-head games
  - c. **most** runs **scored** in head-to-head games
  - d. **fewest** runs **allowed** in league play
  - d. **most** runs **scored** in league play
  - e. play a tiebreaker game

## L. **AWARDS**

1. Eighteen (18) custom championship shirts for first-place winners
2. A plaque or trophy for the first-place team