



## O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Adult Softball Program Rules

**Players are expected to follow rules of league. Umpires are strongly encouraged by our leagues to enforce rules governing foul language and unsportsmanlike conduct. If you are ejected from a game for any reason, you will automatically receive a one game suspension. In Doubleheader leagues this is either the second game of the doubleheader or the first game of the following week. A rainout is not a game and does not serve the suspension.**

The O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Adult Softball League for Men's and COED will operate under the official NSA Slow Pitch rules and the In-House Rules.

Legal Bats, NSA Rules and Tournament information are posted on the following website:

<https://www.playnsa.com>

### **PLAYER AND TEAM CONDUCT**

#### **A. LEVELS OF DISCIPLINE FOR ADULT SPORTS**

Listed below are the levels of discipline to which the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department subscribes. Adult sport activities are an integral part of the leisure-time pursuits. However, they must maintain a sportsmanlike discipline, which accepts authority as well as competition. Each individual is responsible for the actions of their entire team.

**LEVEL 1:** Any swearing, abusive language directed to any official, supervisor, participant or spectator may cause ejection from game. After being ejected from the game, the person continues harassment of the same or different individuals may cause ejection from the facility. Ejection from any game will result in that player or coach being automatically suspended for the next game.

**LEVEL 2:** If the individual, either continues action stemming from Level 1, or his/her actions are serious enough (in the eyes of the program supervisor) or the individual, threatens (verbally) anyone and especially the officials in charge, they may face a three (3) game suspension.

**LEVEL 3:** If the individual either continues action stemming from Level 1 or 2 or if the individual attempts a physical confrontation with anyone at the event, and especially an official or program supervisor, it may lead to a one (1) year suspension. Examples may be, swinging a fist and missing or trying to hit, in any way, anyone or causing something else to have contact with either the individual and/or possessions.

**LEVEL 4:** If the individual continues action stemming from Level 3 or if the individual actually causes physical contact by him/herself with anyone connected with the program in any way, the person may be expelled from the league or activity permanently. This also included property/personal damage.

B. Persistent poor behavior by any team will result in the dismissal of that team from the league.

C. Captains are responsible for their team members and their spectators, so therefore can/will be penalized for team members' behaviors.

## Players/Rosters/Eligibility/Lineups

- 1) All roster players must be adults at least 18 years of age, maximum 25 players on roster.
- 2) No bat girls/bat boys or anyone under the age of 18 allowed on the fields.
- 3) The extra player rule will be allowed with free substitutions. If a pitcher is taken out of the game, he/she must not return to the pitcher position for 1 full inning.

**Men:** Teams are allowed to bat 12 players.

**Church and Men's Recreational:** Teams are allowed to bat 25 players (Roster Maximum)

**COED:** Teams are allowed to bat 25 players (Roster Maximum) but still must alternate male/female

### COED:

- a) Teams must field 5 men and 5 women at all times. If a team starts with 9 players, a team must have 4 men and 5 women or 5 men and 4 women.
- b) Teams are allowed to bat 25 players (still must alternate male/female).
- c) If a team starts with 5 men and 4 women, an out will be given each time the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is up.
- d) If a team starts with 5 women and 4 men, an out will **not** be given when the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is up.
- e) A team cannot have back-to-back males in the batting line up. You may not rotate your female batters continuously to prevent this, as that would be implementing an illegal lineup. If you have more men than women, you may have the option of choosing (PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME IN DISCUSSION WITH THE OFFICIALS) whether you would
  - i.) *Take an out between back to back male batters*
  - ii.) *Opt to have a male left out of the line up (they may play the field but not bat for the entirety of the game).*Once you have settled on one or the other prior to the game with the officials you may not go back and change your mind or use the other option.
- f) Batting order must alternate man – woman, or vice versa.
- g) Must have at least 3 women in infield and at least 2 women in the outfield.
- h) If a pitcher is a woman, the catcher must be a man. If the pitcher is a man, the catcher must be a woman.
- i) When a male batter is walked intentionally or unintentionally, the male batter is awarded second base and **with 2 outs** the following female batter has the option to bat or walk. (Females must hit with less than 2 outs)
- j) NSA ruling for courtesy runners: A courtesy runner may be used for one player per inning. The courtesy runner can be any player on the team roster. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base, it is an out. A Courtesy Runner of the same sex may be used for one player per inning for a total of two (2) courtesy runners per inning one (1) male and (1) female. The player in need of a courtesy runner may be run for any number of times per inning. The courtesy runner DOES NOT have to be the same player each time.

4) **All players must sign the roster before beginning the season**; this is also a liability waiver. Failure to turn in the roster will be declared a forfeit. If a team turns in a roster late *and* a roster check is called by the opposing team, a forfeit will be awarded.

5) Challenges involving eligibility of players must be made during the game. Possible offenders must present a driver's license immediately; failure to do so will result in offending team forfeiting the game.

6) Players can play on multiple teams but not multiple teams in the same league. A player may be only on 1 team per league. If a team is short of players to begin the game, you can use players from any other league but your own.

## **Complete Games/Time Limits/Run Rules**

7) **An official game is that of 4 complete innings, if stopped due to rain or other cause. Any game cancelled prior to the completion of 3 innings will be replayed from the start.**

8) **A 20-run slaughter rule will be in effect any time after 3 full innings or 2 ½ innings if home team is ahead. Fifteen runs after 4 innings or 3 ½ if home team is ahead and 10 runs after 5 innings or 4 ½ if home team is ahead.**

9) Time Limit: A new inning shall not begin 59 minutes after the game starts unless the score is tied. **In the case of a tie, one extra inning will be played. The inning will begin with one out and a runner on second base. Batters in extra-inning games will begin with a 2 – 2 count.** This runner will be the last batted out from the previous inning. You can use your one courtesy runner of the inning as the runner on 2nd, but still must substitute (*COED must be opposite gender of batter*) and alert the official of doing so. The game will finish as a tie if the score remains tied.

## **Forfeits**

10) A team must field 8 players to avoid a forfeit, maximum 10 players. If a team is playing with an extra player and a player gets ejected, and there is no one to replace him/her, an out will be given every time the ejected player comes up in the batting order.

11) If the team line up falls below 10 players due to injury or any other reason other than ejection, the batting order will be discontinued, and no penalizations will be given (i.e. having to take an out).

12) **At game time the CLOCK WILL BE STARTED**, no exceptions. 8 players **must be on the field** (COED 4 men and 4 women). If unable to do so by the time **15 minutes has elapsed, then game declared a forfeit.** Example: game time of 6:30pm, clock starts at 6:30pm, if 8 players are not on the field by 6:45pm, game is called a forfeit.

## Playing Field/Approved Bats/Equipment

13) Bases will be 70 feet; pitching rubber will be 53 feet.

14) Our league utilizes the safety white and orange double base at first. Once the batter- baserunner becomes a baserunner, the double base becomes one bag. (Rule 8, Section 7, p. 38-39)

### **Church League:**

a.) The 3-foot commitment line shall be marked 20 feet from home plate. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, the runner is committed to advance to the scoring plate. If a runner retreats across the commitment line, he will be declared out and the ball remains alive. A runner may retreat across the commitment line to retag base on a caught fly ball. (Rule 8, Section 1)

b.) The safety or scoring line shall be situated on an imaginary extension of the first base foul line. If the runner touches home plate or runs through the batter's box, the runner is out and no run shall be scored. If the runner touches home plate that runner is automatically out. The defensive team must have possession of the ball and always touch home plate to record the out. If the defensive team attempts to tag the runner, the runner is automatically safe (Rule 8, Section 2).

15) Bat: All bats must bear the NSA Approved 2012 logo on the bat.



16) If a player is using an unapproved bat they will be ejected from the game.

17) If a player throws a bat (i.e. at someone, in the direction of a player/official, or against the fence) they will be ejected from the game. They will also be suspended for at least one game.

18) At the start of the game both teams will ask the umpire to check their bats. The NSA has adopted a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20 or less. The bat shall not be more than 34 inches in length and no more than 38 ounces in weight and shall meet the NSA bat standards and be listed on the NSA Approved Bat List. Any bat which cannot be identified by markings on the bat as an approved bat shall be considered illegal. NSA

19) If a player refuses to surrender their bat than it is an automatic 5 year NSA softball suspension.

20) If anyone wants to contest another team's bat, it will be \$200 up front that will need to be paid to the officials.

21) If a bat is suspected of being tampered with- he/she can allow the NSA representative to inspect the bat or ball and the NSA representative can reach a conclusion as to whether the bat or ball may be altered or he/she can refuse to allow the representative to inspect the bat or ball and take an immediate five (5) year suspension from any and all NSA play with no right of appeal.

22) Rulings on pulling a bat from a game: If a player is injured by a hit ball severely enough that they have to leave the game, the ball and bat will be confiscated.

23) The official league ball is with .52 COR. 275lb compression. These will be provided to each team at the beginning of the season (one ball per game). Extras will be on sale in the concession stands for purchase.

24) **No metal spikes allowed.** Offenders will be ejected.

25) When a batter-runner passes 1<sup>st</sup> base, the batter-runner is considered to have touched 1<sup>st</sup> base. This also applies to an awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base. Note: the batter-runner is on jeopardy to be put out when returning to the base through the field of play

## Game Play

26) All umpire decisions are final; **NO PROTESTS ALLOWED.**

27) Only the coach will be allowed to question the decision of the umpire. The questioning must be done in an orderly manner. Any acts of unsportsmanlike conduct including the use of profane language, abusive or insulting language, shall forfeit the game by the offending team.

28) If no umpire shows for a given game, all attempts should be made to get the game in. Teams should try to designate an umpire or umpires by using one person from each team to be fair.

29) All players must remain in the dugout at all times with the exception of the batter, on deck batter, and one base coach for 1st and 3rd base. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

30) There will be an automatic one and one count, and a mat will be used to determine balls and strikes

31) Rule 7, Section 10, part d) a strike is called on the batter for each foul ball, including the third strike. Baserunners must return to their bases without liability to put out. **Baserunners may not advance on a third strike foul ball, including a legally caught foul ball;** however, all runners may advance on any other legally caught foul ball.

32) No hesitation, 20 seconds to deliver a pitch. One or both feet must be on rubber and pitcher must hold position 1-5 seconds before delivery to avoid an illegal "quick pitch". Ball must remain within 6 inches of the pitcher's hip during delivery.

33) 6-10-foot arch used for pitched strikes

34) If a batter steps on or over the home plate, the batter shall be declared out.

35) Slide Rule: This rule is up to the umpire's discretion. If the runner should have slid to avoid collision with the fielder and did not, that runner may be called out. If the runner intentionally tries to jar the ball loose or injure the fielder, that runner may be ejected from the game.

36) NSA ruling for courtesy runners: A courtesy runner may be used for 1 player per inning. The courtesy runner can be any player on the team roster. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base, it is an out. The player in need of a courtesy runner **DOES NOT** have to be the same player each time.

37) If a player gets ejected, he/she will then have to also sit out the next game and will not be allowed on Parks Department property. **The ejected player's team will also have 2 runs deducted from their score.**

38) 5 home runs allowed per team per game. Any home runs after 5 shall be declared an out.

39) Hit and Sit. No need to touch first base after hitting a home run.

40) All teams will receive game balls. Home team provides game ball. If a ball is hit out of play, the ball needs to be returned, and the team that hit the ball out must provide a new game ball to use until it is returned.

41) All teams are responsible for keeping their own book. Home team is considered the “official book”. If the home team does not keep a book, then it falls to the visiting team’s book.

## **Playoffs**

42) Playoffs are evaluated on a season by season basis. Not all teams are guaranteed to make end of season playoffs. \*Church League will do a Single Elimination tournament for all teams\*

43) During the playoffs, home team/higher seed is decided on by team with the most winning record. If teams have identical records, the team with the higher number of runs scored for, will be the higher seed.

44) Tie breakers will be head to head competition, then runs scored against the team you are tied with, then runs scored for your team for the season.

45) A cancellation due to poor weather or other conditions will be rescheduled. Completed games will follow the completed games rules as stated in League Rules.

46) Placement games will play 59 minutes or full 7 innings, whichever comes first. If the game is a tied, the tiebreaker rule will go into effect as previously stated in league rules until a winner is determined.

47) Roster checks are not mandatory for playoff games. If a team thinks their opposing team has illegal players, that team may request a roster check that can be performed by the umpire, manager, or league supervisor.

## **Rainouts**

*Rainout Hotline: 618-622-1439*

48) The O’Fallon rainout hotline will be updated **by 4pm at the earliest** for any game cancellations

49) Any cancellations will be put on the Hotline; do not contact Parks and Recreation for cancellation information

50) If severe weather ensues during games, the decision will be made by the Umpires and/or Park Manager on site

51) If a game is cancelled while in progress, the game will follow official NSA Game Rules previously stated as a complete game or incomplete game. ***Everyone must leave the playing field immediately and proceed to a safe area.***