

CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Adult Co-Ed Softball Rules

The league rules will be governed by the official rules of USSSA and the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Supplemental Rules. Chatham County Parks and Recreation reserves the right to change the Rules and Procedures of their programs when deemed necessary.

It is the captain /coach's responsibility to inform his/her team of these procedures, thereby minimizing misunderstandings and issues throughout the season.

- 1) All games will consist of 7 innings or 60-minute time limit whichever occurs first. If a game is suspended it will be considered official if less than 10 minutes remain or 3 ½ - 4 innings have been played. **(c) if still tied at the end of game, they will play until a winner is decided.**
- 2) Official Game Clock operation will be performed by the Official Scorer. However, the umpire can and will stop the clock when necessary for emergency situations i.e., serious injuries, weather, field safety conditions, etc. The clock should stop immediately if an injury is suspected to be serious.
- 3) Game time is starting time. Any exceptions will be decided by field staff and the umpire. If a game is delayed due to a previous game, the game clock will begin 5 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game. The umpire will announce start of the game clock ("Play Ball"). **NO new inning will begin after the game clock expires, unless the score is tied.** If the home team is batting and is ahead when time expires, the game will end at the conclusion of the current batter's at-bat. *Officials will allow a ten (10) minute grace period for the first scheduled game for each date of play; however, game clock will begin at scheduled game time.*
- 4) There will be a Twenty (20) Run Rule after 3 ½ or 4 innings (4th inning) and a Ten (10) Run Rule after 4 ½ or 5 innings (5th inning or later).
- 5) All batters will hit a 12' softball. The ball will be .52 COR / 300 Compression.
- 6) All Games MUST start with 9 Players. If a player must leave the game, the team must have a substitute available or forfeit the game if they drop below 8 eligible players. 8 players must consist of 5 Male and 3 Female or 4 Male and 4 Female. The player who leaves the game will result in an out in their batting lineup if a substitution is not available.
- 7) If, in the umpire's judgment, a baserunner interferes with the play or causes an unsafe situation, the runner will be called out. Please be advised: sliding poses an inherent risk and may cause injury. Defensive players also have a duty to maintain a safe environment. Bases may be awarded to a runner if a defensive player intentionally or recklessly blocks the base. Both parties have a responsibility to avoid collisions, even when attempting to tag a runner. **THERE IS A SAFETY BAG ON FIRST BASE THAT ALL RUNNERS MUST USE. YOU CANNOT INTERFERE WITH THE FIRST BASEMAN. FAILURE TO USE THE RED SAFETY BAG WILL RESULT IN AN OUT.**
- 8) Teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players to begin a game (*See gender rules below*)
- 9) The pitching height is a minimum of a three-foot (3') arc as measured from release, not to exceed ten feet (10') from the ground.
- 10) Each batter will get three balls and two strikes (*1-1 count to start*). **The 1st foul ball after strike 2 is a foul ball. A 2nd foul ball hit after the second strike will be counted as strike three, and the batter will be out.**
- 11) **Home Run Limit: Each team will be allowed three (3) over-the-fence hits (home runs) per game.**
 - *NOTE: A ball that goes over the fence as the result of an error (e.g. bounces out of the glove or off the outfielder) will be ruled as a 4-base error, and will not count against the Home Run Limit.*
- 12) No metallic jewelry is allowed during the game, apart from Medic Alert Tags. Failure of a player to immediately remove upon request of the umpire will result in the player being called "OUT".
- 13) Only bats approved by USSSA or ASA may be used.

CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Adult Co-Ed Softball Rules

14) Uniforms: Each team must have uniforms no later than the 3RD game date. The definition of a uniform is a shirt, which is identifiable by team, unvarying in color. Players out of uniform must provide verification of being a rostered player and will receive a warning; a repeated offense will result in the player(s) being declared ineligible. No metal cleats.

15) Any team forfeiting two (2) games may be dropped from the league.

16) Gender Rules

➤ Offense:

- Teams may begin with 10-16 players in the batting order; the number of players in the batting order may not be changed after the first pitch of the game. **EXCEPTION:** *If a team begins with only 9 players, the 10th place in the batting order will be an "out". 10th player may be added at any time. If both Teams start with 9 players, both captains may agree prior to the start of the game to waive the out penalty for the 10th player. If waived, neither team will be subject to the out penalty, even if a 10th player becomes available for either team*
- Batters must alternate genders in the batting order with no more than 2 players of the same gender batting in a row; starting gender is each team's choice. This rule is in effect, even in the case of substitution. The top of the batting order and bottom of the batting order must also clear this rule. (Ex: male first at bat and two males last at bat is still 3 in a row).
- **AUTO-OUT:** Taking an auto-out does not replace your female batter. (EX. You cannot bat M, M, OUT, M).
- **NOTE:** There will be no 6/3 lineup. All teams must have a minimum of 9 players. All teams must have 5 Men and 4 Women or vice versa. 10 Man lineups must have a MINIMUM of 4 per gender to play.
- **IF YOU ONLY HAVE 3 OF ONE GENDER, WHILE PLAYING 9 OR 10 PLAYERS. IT WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT.**
- **A game may finish with 8 players, if the 9th player has to be removed due to injury or illness. The player who drops will be considered an out during their at bat.**
- **If a team is using a 6/4 gender lineup and a player of the lesser gender leaves the game due to injury or illness, the team must replace that player with another player of the same gender. If a replacement of the same gender is not available, the team must remove a player of the higher-gender and replace both spots in the lineup with outs.**

If a male batter receives a "base-on-balls", he will be awarded two (2) bases if a female is behind him batting. The subsequent female batter must take her turn at bat if there are less than 2 outs. **If there are 2 outs, the female batter may elect to walk.** If a male batter receives a base on balls and is followed by another male batter then first male only receives 1 base, and the second male batter must bat, even if there are 2 outs.

 - *Note: If the 9th batter 1) receives a base-on-balls 2) is male, and 3) the team is playing with 9 (10th batter automatic out), the 10th batter is considered female, and the 2-base award is not in effect.*
- 2 courtesy runners per team will be allowed. Only the player of the same gender who was last out may serve as the courtesy runner if the player of the same gender was "out" in the current inning's at-bat. If there has not been an out, you have to use the furthest gender in the batting order. If no player of the same gender has made an out in the current inning, the courtesy runner should be the player of the same gender who is furthest away in the batting order.
- No leading or stealing will be allowed. If attempting to steal or lead, the runner will be automatically out.

➤ Defense:

- 10 players (6 & 4) will play in the field. (EX. As long as there are 9 players, the game can start. 4 must be female (5/4 split).
- A 185-foot restraining line will be painted on the outfield and utilized when there is a female at bat. Outfielders must be behind the line until the ball is hit. Infielders must stand with both feet on the clay. PENALTY: Dead ball, batter-base runner and all preceding base runners will be awarded 2 bases.

CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Adult Co-Ed Softball Rules

- **Do not throw a glove to stop a ball while in the field. The first offense will result in a warning, second time will be an ejection.**

- 17) Each team must provide a copy of their line-up to the Official Scorer 10 minutes prior to the scheduled starttime. Once submitted it cannot be changed, (*Exception: a tenth player may be added*).
- 18) Substitution: All players will be allowed one (1) re-entry. *To make it easy, remember (a) where they play on defense doesn't matter, only where they bat (b) a starter & their sub can never be in the game at the same time (c) once a player enters the game (as a starter or sub), they are locked into that batting position in the line-up for the whole game (d) Re-entry is allowed only once, if they have re-entered and are then removed, they are done for that game, unless the eligible number of players drops below 10.*
- 19) Appeals and Protests: Appeals must be made on the field to the home plate umpire at the time of the incident and prior to the next pitch. If a team captain is not satisfied with the resolution on the field, he/she may submit a protest in writing to the Recreation Department by the end of the next business day; written protests must cite the situation and the rule infraction. Game outcomes will not be changed, nor will games or portions of games be re-played due to a protest.
- 20) Rosters: Minimum number of players is 14; maximum number of players is 24. All players are required to have valid photo ID at each game to verify eligibility. Players may not participate on more than one team in the same Chatham County Parks & Recreation league division. **Preliminary team rosters must be submitted prior to the 1st game date. A final (frozen) roster must be submitted prior to the start of the 3rd game date.** After a roster is frozen, teams may only make changes to their roster if the number of eligible players falls below 12 players. After the roster drops below 12 players, teams may add enough players to their roster to reach 12 but may not exceed 12 players for the remainder of the season. Rostered players must play in a minimum of 3 regular season games to be eligible for the tournament.
- 21) All Players must be prepared to show a photo ID at all games. Acceptable IDs include Government ID card, Passports, School IDs, Work Badges, Credit Cards with cardholder photos. If a player does not have an acceptable ID, an established Social Media profile, website article, or new clipping may be used as temporary proof. In the event temporary proof is used, Participants will be allowed to play that day, but will have 3 business days (until 5pm on Wednesday for a Sunday game) to submit a copy of an acceptable ID to the league coordinator. If either team requests an ID check or claims a player is ineligible, then all players for that game must show ID.
- 22) Roster Checks with ID will be mandatory for playoff games.**
- 23) Roster Challenge rules: Team Captains may request an ID Check for an individual game at the time Rosters are submitted to official scorekeeper. Request may be made up until both teams have submitted rosters. If a team is found to have ineligible players, that game will be marked as a forfeit and the team will receive a warning. In the event of a second offense, the team may be removed from the league.
- 24) Player / Team Conduct:
- All players are expected to conduct themselves appropriately with sportsmanship and integrity.
 - Foul / abusive language or unsportsmanlike behavior may result in sanctions up to removal from the league.
 - Fighting before, during or after games will not be tolerated. If a fight happens, the offending player(s) must be identified to the Parks & Recreation Department by the team captain(s), and those players will be removed from the roster. If the offending player cannot be determined the team will be removed from the league.

CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Adult Co-Ed Softball Rules

- d. Any player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for a minimum of the remainder of the current game and the team's next scheduled game. Chatham County Parks & Recreation reserves the right to increase suspension periods based on severity. A second ejection will result in suspension from the league.
- 25) Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products may not be consumed in Chatham County Park facilities. Any alcoholic beverages found in the dug-out will result in a forfeit for the team in its possession. A second offense will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.