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## ADULT SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

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Regulation baseball playing rules will be observed, with the following exceptions:

### 1. GENERAL RULES

- A) Any team that wins (in playoffs) will move “up” one bracket the following season. The team that places last in said league will move “down” one bracket the following season.
- B) **Team captains/asst. must complete a roster addition form before any participant may be added to his/her team’s roster. This form must be complete and may be turned in to supervisor or scorekeeper. Addition to the Roster Forms can be found in the pressbox at LaSalle. Please see the supervisor or scorekeeper.**
- C) Anything not covered in Parks & Recreation rules, please refer to baseball rules. Any conflict between baseball rules and Parks and Recreation rules will be decided by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- D) **PARKING AT LASALLE** - No one will be permitted to park on the grass at LaSalle Park. If you park on the grass at LaSalle, you may be given a citation.
- E) **ROSTERS:**
- a. Players may play in **more than** one Jefferson Parish Softball League (providing the leagues are different nights! **ONLY ONE TEAM PER NIGHT!!! See rules for ineligible players!**)
- F) **RAINOUTS:** Information with regards to rainouts should be checked at playground or Eastbank Office about **4:00pm** on day of game (**team captain’s responsibility**), 736-6999 extension 104. **LaSalle Park phone #-731-4728 PRESSBOX & 731-4726 OFFICE.**
- a. **Regular Season**
    - i. Any game rained out after four (4) complete innings or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead, shall constitute a complete game.
    - ii. Any rained out game that has not completed above said innings shall be rescheduled and be replayed in its entirety.
    - iii. Should a game rainout in the middle of an inning, the score shall revert back to the last completed inning (for a complete game).
  - b. **Playoffs**– Any playoff game rained out shall resume from point of suspension.
- G) When necessary, league games, rainouts, and playoffs may be scheduled on any night of the week.
- H) Rules should be brought to games by coach or captains.
- I) **UMPIRE/SCOREKEEPER FEES –**
- a. Each team must pay one umpire before each game starts (**\$25.00** for doubleheader /**\$30.00** for single game per team). In addition, each team shall pay the official scorer prior to the start of the game (**\$10 per team**). Should only (1) official show, each team shall pay **\$18.00** to the umpire. For the purpose of this rule, one pitch thrown constitutes the start of

the game. There is a ten minute grace period for the first game only. Teams must pay during this allotted time. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture. For the purpose of this rule, any grace period used counts as playing time

- J) **HOME TEAM - MEN/WOMEN** – Home team listed last on schedule. Home team will bat last and occupy third base dugout. If scorer does not show, it is the responsibility of the home team to keep the score and turn in to the night supervisor on duty after game. If this does occur, please note on scoresheet that scorer was not present.

## 2. RULES OF PLAY

### A) EQUIPMENT:

- i) Steel spikes are not allowed. Players must wear shoes.
- ii) **All catchers must wear a facemask.**
- iii) **OFFICIAL SOFTBALL – Dudley Thunder ZN Softball-.47 COR (optic yellow)-You may only use the new softballs stamped USSSA STADIUM (with USSSA logo). Softballs from past seasons may not be used. Penalty-Same as an illegal bat.**
  - (1) Every team will furnish a new ball each game. Any backup balls used in a game must also be a **Dudley Thunder ZN Softball with USSSA Stadium stamped on it**. The ball should be in “good, used” condition.
- iv) **BATS** - Players may use any official softball bat that bears the **approval** of either ASA or USSSA.
  - (1) Parks & Recreation reserves the right to deem any bat of exotic construction illegal at any time
  - (2) If a bat appears to be altered (painted, sanded, and/or any other fashion and the label on the bat cannot be read), the umpire/supervisor shall determine whether the bat shall be removed from the game. If bat is determined to be illegal, batter will be called “out” and will be ejected from the game. All base runners will return to the previous occupied base. For purpose of this rule, the illegal bat must have been used for at least one pitch and a pitch has not been thrown to the next batter.
  - (3) Second Offense: In addition to the above, player(s) will be dropped from the league. Umpire’s/supervisor’s decision is final. No protest on game in question will be accepted. Program Director/Supervisor/Umpire reserves the right to examine any bat at any time. **Any player(s) refusing to “show” a bat for examination purposes is subject to ejection!**
  - (4) **Please Note - The ASA and/or USSSA logo/stamp must appear on all bats used in all Parks & Recreation Softball Leagues. No Exceptions!!!!**

### B) BASES:

- i) Men – 80 ft.
- ii) Women – 60 ft.

### C) PITCHING DISTANCE:

- i) Men —60 ft.
- ii) **Women - 46 ft.**

#### D) PLAYERS/LINEUPS:

- i) **LINEUPS** must be submitted to the official scorer five minutes prior to game time and should include team name and names of players (last name, first initial).
- ii) A team must have seven (7) offensive and defensive players to start a game; less than seven (7) players, team must forfeit. Do not take the field! Once a pitch is thrown, umpires must be paid. Once the game starts, and a player is injured, ill, or ejected, a team may finish the game with less than seven (7) players and not forfeit.
- iii) **ADDITIONS** may be made to lineup (at bottom) before the first round is completed. Once each player has had one at bat, no additions may be made. Substitutions will then be made for any player arriving after the batting order has completed the first round.  
**(Exception: When a team starts with less than 10 players, late arrivals, up to ten, may be added at any time.)**
- iv) Teams may bat up to (15) fifteen players, but do not have to. Any ten on original lineup (to include any additions made to lineup before the first round is completed) may play defensively at any time. ***Any player that plays the field must bat!***
- v) A **SUBSTITUTE** may enter the game only once. Once a substitute is taken out the game, he/she may not re-enter the game. All starters (original lineup with additions) may re-enter the game one time only. All substitutes must be reported to the scorekeeper and recorded on the score sheet.
- vi) Once a game starts and a player is removed from a game because of illness, injury or ejection and is not replaced, his/her next turn only at bat shall be an out.

#### E) GAMES—

- i) **Game times will be 6:30 pm, 7:45 pm and 9:00 pm.**
- ii) Ten (10) minute grace for first game only. No grace period for second or third games. **If a team has seven (7) players they must start the game!**
- iii) Twelve (12) run rule in effect after five (5) innings (or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead), or **20-run rule after four (4) complete innings (or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead.)**
- iv) Seven (7) innings or one hour and fifteen minutes time limit, with the exception of the championship game. There will be no time limit for any championship (playoff) games.

#### F) PITCHING:

- i) **MEN'S RULE**—The pitcher will throw the ball easy, overhand, with or without an arc, or three-quarters or sidearm. **No submarine pitches allowed (wrist/hand cannot drop below the elbow)! Umpire's judgement! If the umpire deems the pitch illegal, then the batter has the choice of the result of the play!**
- ii) **WOMEN'S RULE** – The pitcher will throw the ball easy, underhand, with an arc.
- iii) Pitcher is allowed to balk to all bases. NO hidden ball trick.
- iv) Pitchers will be warned about hard pitching and/or submarine pitching by the plate umpire.
  - (1) On the first warning, the pitch will be called a ball.
  - (2) Second warning is called a ball in addition to removal of pitcher from mound.
  - (3) If batter swings at a hard pitch, he has a choice of a called ball or result of play. The pitcher will be eligible to stay in the game at another position, but may not return to the mound.

#### G) STRIKES/BALLS - The batter will be out:

- i) In Men's Leagues on three (3) strikes and receive a walk on five (5) balls.

- ii) In Women's' League – Batter will be out on three (3) strikes and receive a walk on four (4) balls.
- iii) **NO DIGGING IN RULE!** No batter may “dig in” the batter’s box by removing dirt thus creating hole(s) in the batter’s box. This will be a judgment call by the umpire. The first violation will be a called strike. On the second violation (by the same batter), an out will be called. And, on the third violation (by the same batter), offending player will be ejected and must leave the park (to include the parking lot). Each batter receives 2 occurrences per game, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence is ejected! Scorekeepers will “keep track” of the occurrences (per player). **PLEASE NOTE: Batters will be allowed to move dirt in and around the box without being penalized.**

H) No bunting or stealing allowed.

I) **BASE RUNNING:** Runners may take a lead at own risk. If played for, runner is forced back to base and must be tagged out. If ball is overthrown on pickoff attempt, runner or runners may advance one base only at own risk. **Runner does not have to tag base before advancing on an overthrow, but must attempt to go back to the previously occupied base before advancing.** When runner reaches the next base safely, the ball shall become dead.

i) **COURTESY RUNNERS** will be last out. Courtesy runners will only be allowed, after the batter reaches first base safely (or whichever base he attains safely on the play). The courtesy runner (the last out) shall take his place on the base before a pitch is thrown to the next batter. **For example, if the last out needed a courtesy runner, the previous out (which is the second to last out) may not run in his/her place.**

(1) If an illegal runner is used, base runner will become legal after a pitch has been thrown. **Before a pitch is made, player may tag illegal baserunner for an out.**

(2) In cases of injury, a courtesy runner will be allowed (the last out). In such cases, the injured shall not re-enter the game. ***If last out is already on base, then the last out from the previous inning will become the courtesy runner.***

(3) When a team has batted around once in an inning (when the first batter of the inning comes to the plate for the second time in that same inning), the courtesy runner rule is nullified! No courtesy runners will be used during this time.

(4) Should a base runner become injured after his/her team bats around once in the same inning, the injured base runner may have a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner, in the case, will be the seventh batter removed in the batting rotation, i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup> batter injured – 9<sup>th</sup> batter will pinch run.. ***This rule will also be used if there are no outs in the game!***

(5) **NOTE: For any other situations not covered above, please revert back to the rule regarding the seventh batter removed. This rule will be in effect.**

(6) The injured baserunner may not re-enter the game.

J) **PROTESTS** - Protests based on **judgment calls by an umpire** will not be permitted. His word is final.

#### K) **PLAYOFFS/MAKEUP SCHEDULE**

- i) Rain out schedule and standings will be mailed out to playgrounds last week of regular season. If you do not receive a schedule, please call 736-6999 ext. 104.

- ii) All softball playoffs (men and women) will have a time limit of one hour and fifteen minutes, with the exception of the championship game. There will be no time limit for any championship games.

**FOR INFORMATION, CALL 736-6999 EXTENSION 104  
LASALLE PARK PRESSBOX PHONE NUMBER 731-4728**

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