

**2009 RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING
TALLAHASSEE PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MEN'S, WOMEN'S, CHURCH, SENIORS (48 & OVER), &
COED SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUES**



1. **ENTRY FEE**

A. **See attached fact sheet for entry fee.**

(NOTE: A \$10 late fee will be added to the registration fee after July 24th.)

B. **Forfeits**: Any team that has excessive (more than 2) forfeits, due to a lack of players to start a game, shall be suspended from the league until the manager or team representative comes by the Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department and shows just cause as to why they should be allowed to continue in the league. There will be a \$75.00 reinstatement fee and team status will be determined prior to their next scheduled game.

C. **Registration** will be held at the Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department Administrative Offices, 912 Myers Park Drive, Friday, **July 24th** - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **ONLY! (NO PHONE ENTRIES ALLOWED.)**

D. **Season** is tentatively scheduled to start Tuesday, **September 1, 2009**.

2. **TEAM ROSTER**

A. A team roster may include twenty (20) players.

B. **Team roster must be turned in with entry fee and Team Information Sheet.** On the Team Information Sheet indicate information needed for league preference. The Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department will place teams in leagues. Your request will help in placement. **THE PLAYERS FULL NAME AND ADDRESS IS REQUIRED ON ALL ROSTERS. Players MUST also indicate if they are located in the city, county or other.**

3. **PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY** (LEAGUE PLAY)

A. **Open City League** (League 1,2,3, etc.) All players must be at least eighteen (18) years old before **December 31, 2009**. ASA Rules will govern all tournament play.

B. **Church Division** - (Church League 1,2,3, etc.) All players must be at least sixteen (16) years old on or before **December 31, 2009**. Church players should be church members or who regularly attend the religious services of the sponsoring church congregation. ASA Rules will govern all tournament play.

CHURCH PLAYERS MAY ALSO PLAY ON A MEN, WOMEN'S, COED OR SENIORS TEAM. Remember, this means both teams could be scheduled at the same time. There is no way the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs can

schedule around any of these conflicts. Church games will not be scheduled on Wednesday night.

- C. **Coed Division** - Age requirement same as Open City Division. Batting line-up must alternate sexes and there will be no exceptions. Defensive Position: 2 males and 2 females in the outfield and 2 males and 2 females in the infield. The pitcher-catcher combination must also be male-female. **If a male batter is walked intentionally or unintentionally it is a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat.**
EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. All other ASA and league rules will be followed. If the "Extra Player" (EP) is used in Coed, it must be made known prior to the game, and be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order. All twelve must bat and any ten (five male and five female) can play defense. Additional extra players may be added in an increment of two (male and female pair). In Coed if a player (male or female) is unavailable to participate in the game due to injury, play may continue even if no substitutes are available. Each time the injured player is not available to bat, an out will be declared. However, if a player is ejected with no available substitutes, the game is a forfeit. A game that starts with 12 players can end with 10 players if injuries occur. A game that starts with 10 or 9 players can finish with 8 players due to injury. Once a team drops below 8 players the game is a forfeit.
- D. **If a player is on multiple rosters within a Division and physically playing on more than one team, he/she can be suspended for the remainder of the season, including tournaments.** The prior games in which a player participated will be considered legal. **Remember that you can only be on one ASA roster at a time within a Division. Managers are responsible for knowing team and player eligibility rules. Discrepancies may result in ineligibility.**
- E. **Identification requests must be met within fifteen (15) minutes after written protest or as requested by the Park Supervisor. A Florida Driver's License or Florida ID Card will be accepted. Coaches contact the park supervisor immediately on matters of identification. The game will continue and will not be stopped for a player to get their ID**

4. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

- A. All new or added players must be placed on a team roster two (2) scheduled games or seven (7) calendar days before he or she is eligible to play. New players not on a previous roster are eligible without a waiting period. **Roster changes may be submitted by fax (891-3850), email (Rita.Shivers@ talgov.com) or brought by the Administrative Office at 912 Myers Park Drive.** The date received by the department will be used to determine the seven (7) days. Remember addresses are required of added players. In order for a player to change from one team to another, he or she must obtain a release from their present manager. As soon as the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department has the release, the player may then be added to another roster. The player may play after waiting out two (2) scheduled games or seven (7) calendar days.

- B. In case the manager refuses to release a player, that player should notify the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department in writing. The player must wait out two weeks or fourteen (14) days at which time he or she may not play with any team. On the fourteenth (14) day, this player may be eligible for league play at once.

5. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Uniforms for each team shall consist of shirts of same color. Permanently affixed numbers are required on uniform shirts. It is required that 6 inch numbers (minimum) be worn on the back of shirts. There will be no more than a one-week grace period from your first scheduled game for uniform shirts to be worn by all players. ASA Rules prohibit the use of Roman numerals. **Remember, in ASA post season, Qualifying Tournaments, District and advancement tournaments, complete uniforms are required.**
- 1) **ASA Rule 3, Sect. 6, a.2:** Ball caps, visors and headbands are optional for players. If worn they **must be worn properly**. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn around the head or neck. NOTE: Plastic visors are not allowed.
 - 2) No cut-off shorts or bathing suits allowed. Softball shorts (coaching type) or long baseball-type pants are recommended.
 - 3) **No steel cleats** or shoes with screw-on detachable cleats may be worn. However, shoes with detachable cleats that screw into the shoe are allowed. Hard plastic or polyurethane cleats that have been altered are illegal. Shoes must be worn at all times.
- B. **CASTS/PROSTHESES:** All casts, splints, and braces must be padded. Prostheses may be worn. Any of this equipment judged by the umpire to be dangerous is illegal.
- C. **JEWELRY:** Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, may not be worn during the game. NOTE: Players must be asked to remove jewelry if judged to be dangerous. If they fail to do so, the player is ejected from the game. If an umpire does not request certain jewelry be removed the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department and ASA are not held responsible, the individual is. This rule is to only assist players in recognizing hazards.
- D. **BATS:** See Rule 3 Section 1 of the **2009 ASA GUIDE & PLAYING RULES** for specific guidelines. Also check the ASA website http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp for a list of approved and banned bats. The bat barrel shall be free of any audible rattles when shaken. The bat barrel shall not have signs of excessive wear. All approved bats must have the certification mark and be on the list of approved bats. Item 3 of the rule about the bats manufactured before 2000 still applies. Rule 3, Section 1F – The surface of the bat is to be free of burrs, dents and visible cracks or the bat shall be removed from competition.

- E. **SOFTBALLS:** Each team must provide balls to be used while their team is batting. While you may continue to use the white ball, it is recommended that the optic yellow ball be utilized for games. This ball will be mandatory in National Championships beginning in 2010. We may consider a similar switch for 2010 based on feedback from the end of season survey. All balls must be clean. All softballs **MUST** comply with **Rule 3, Section 3** of the 2008 ASA Rules of Softball. Softballs must be ASA stamped COR .440 Compression 375.0 lbs. Max. If an illegal ball is used, **ALL PLAY STANDS (NO PENALTY)** and the illegal ball shall be removed from the game.

6. **GAME TIME & PLAYING TIME**

- A. James Messer Sports Complex: 6:30, 7:45, 9:00
Tom Brown Sports Complex: 6:31, 7:46, 9:01
Springsax Park: 6:29, 7:44, 8:59
- B. After one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes of playing time, no new inning will begin. If one team is ahead after a complete inning of play, regardless of the number of innings played, the game is official. NOTE: Delays resulting from rain, injury to player and protest will not be included as playing time. If the home team is at bat and the time expires, the game will be called if the home team is ahead in the score.
- C. **There will be a ten (10) minute grace period from the scheduled start time for ALL games and it will be counted as playing time.** If the minimum numbers of players are present, the game shall begin. Player(s) arriving late can be added **AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BATTING ORDER** when he/she is physically present. If previous game is late, your game time starts one minute after previous game's conclusion. Note: Coed batting rules apply to adding additional players. A game may start early by consent of both managers.
- D. **All teams are required to clear their dugout promptly at the conclusion of game to ensure the next game starts in a timely fashion. Team meetings shall be held outside of the playing field.**

7. **CALLING OFF GAMES**

- A. **Games will not be postponed or rescheduled. EXCEPTIONS: Death of immediate family member or player(s).**
- B. In case of rain report to your designated field at the scheduled time. Games will be canceled at the field. There is a recorded message at the ballparks with the latest information available. Call our hotline at 891-3800 for the latest information on rainy days. **DO NOT call Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department,** if we cancel the games early we will put it on the ball field hotline recordings.
- C. If the games are called off for inclement weather, the fields **will not** be available for practice to avoid costly damage to the fields.

D. <u>Park Phone Numbers:</u>	Tom Brown Park	891-3965
	James Messer Park North	891-5336
	James Messer Park South	891-5337
	Springsax Park	891-3955
	Information Hotline	891-3800

8. **RULES FOR LOCAL LEAGUE**

A. All games will be played under Official ASA Slow Pitch Rules with the exceptions noted in Rules for Local League play.

- 1) A team must have eight (8) players to start and finish a game, but not less than seven (7) if a player is injured while playing. If a player is ejected, you may play with one less than you started with. **If more than one person (Coach and/or Player) are ejected, the game is a forfeit, even if substitutes are available.** If after the game starts player(s) leave voluntarily, play will continue without penalty as long as eight (8) legal players are available to play. NOTE: Teams can finish a game with as few as 7 players if due to injury.
- 2) Optional Extra Player(s) (EP) Rule is in effect. If the EP(s) Rule is used, you list all players batting on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order. There is no limit to the number of players that may be listed in the batting order. Any 10 may play the field at anytime. However, the batting order never changes.
- 3) After five (5) or more complete innings, it is a regulation game if an umpire calls a game because of rain, power failure, fire, panic, or other causes, which puts the patron or players in peril. If the home team is ahead at 4 1/2 innings, the game is over. Games that have not attained "official game status" will be re-scheduled and replayed as a totally new game. Only tournament games will suspend and restart where left off at time of suspension.
- 4) A game that is tied at the end of an inning shall be continued by playing additional innings until one side has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning, or until the team second at bat has scored more runs in his half of the inning.
- 5) **After one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes of playing time, no new inning will begin. If one team is ahead after a complete inning of play, regardless of the number of innings played, the game is official.** NOTE: Delays resulting from rain, injury to player and protest will not be included as playing time. If the home team is at bat and the time expires, the game will be called if the home team is winning.
- 6) Players that hit a Home Run over the fence are not required to run the bases and any base runners may go directly to the dugout without liability to be put out.

7) **Courtesy Runner(s)** - See HAND OUT.

8) **Tie Breakers** - Games that are tied at the end of regulation (70 minutes or 7 innings) will utilize the tiebreaker rule (ASA Rule 5 Section 11), sometimes known as the "Texas" Tiebreaker Rule. (When a game is tied after the time limit, the last official batter out from the previous inning will start the inning at 2nd base, and each batter will start with a one (1) and one (1) count. The game will continue until a winner is determined.) The courtesy runner rule will still apply.

9) **Men's League 1 ONLY**

The pitching screen rule is being implemented on a trial basis for the purpose of protecting the pitcher and trying to develop enough interest in preserving a competitive league for men levels one through three.

Rule 1. Any batted ball that hits a portion of the pitching screen will be declared a dead ball foul and there will be no advance of the runners. If it is a third strike the batter will be declared out and there will be no advance of the runners.

Rule 2. Any thrown ball that hits the pitching screen will remain a live ball.

Rule 3. Any pop fly in the vicinity of the pitching screen, in the umpire's judgment, regardless of how many players are on base, will be treated as a dead ball out. There will be no advance of the runners.

Rule 4. Games that are tied at the end of regulation (70 minutes or 7 innings) will utilize the tiebreaker rule (ASA Rule 5 Section 11), sometimes known as the "Texas" tiebreaker rule. The courtesy runner rule will still apply.

10) **Home Run Rules**

MEN'S TEAMS

Leagues 1, 2, 3 – w/Pitching Screen

All Other Leagues

Lowest League

3 HOME RUN'S – SINGLE

1 HOME RUN - SINGLE

0 HOME RUN - SINGLE

ALL SENIOR TEAMS

1 HOME RUN – SINGLE

ALL MEN'S CHURCH TEAMS

1 HOME RUN – SINGLE

ALL COED NO FRIDAY TEAMS

1 HOME RUN – SINGLE (Unlimited for Women)

ALL COED FRIDAY ONLY TEAMS

1 HOME RUN – SINGLE (Unlimited for Women)

ALL COED SUNDAY TEAMS

1 HOME RUN – SINGLE (Unlimited for Women)

WOMEN'S TEAMS

UNLIMITED HOME RUNS

NOTE: ANY BALL **TOUCHED BY A DEFENSIVE PLAYER** WHICH THEN GOES OVER THE FENCE IN **FAIR TERRITORY** SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A FOUR BASE AWARD AND IS **NOT INCLUDED** IN THE TOTAL OF OVER-THE-FENCE HOME RUNS.

9. UMPIRES

A. **Umpires are instructed to discuss matters with the manager only.**

B. **AUTHORITY AND DUTIES.** The umpires are the representatives of the league or organization by which they have been assigned to a particular game, and as such, are authorized and required to enforce each section of these rules. They have the power to order a player, coach, captain or manager to do or to omit any act which, in their judgment is necessary to give force and effect to one or all of these rules and to inflict penalties as herein prescribed. The plate umpire shall have the authority to make decisions on any situations not specifically covered in the rules.

C. **UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT.** There will be no appeal on any decision of any umpire on the grounds that he was not correct in his conclusion as to whether a batted ball was fair or foul, a base runner safe or out, a pitched ball or strike, or on any play involving accuracy or judgment; and no decision rendered by any umpire will be reversed except when he is convinced it is in violation of one of these rules. In case the manager, acting manager or captain or either team does seek reversal of a decision based solely on a point of rules, the umpire whose decision is in question will, if in doubt, confer with his associates before taking any action, but under no circumstances will any player or person other than the manager, acting manager, or captain of either team, have any legal right to protest any decision and seek its reversal on a claim that it is in conflict with these rules.

D. The Umpire shall have complete authority over the game and the players thereof, and may expel any player, coach or fan from the field for unsportsmanlike conduct of a gross and willful nature or cursing at the officials or opponents. The following ejections/suspension penalties will apply:

If you are ejected from a game – prior to the start of a game, during the game, or after the game has ended – the following suspension penalties will apply and will be based on the more flagrant violation as indicated:

- 1) Throwing a bat against the fence is an automatic ejection for the remainder of the current game.
- 2) Unsportsmanlike conduct or throwing a bat against the fence that results in an injury to any other player or spectator – 1 game suspension.
- 3) Unsportsmanlike conduct with profanity or vulgar language – 2 game suspension.
- 4) Unsportsmanlike conduct with profanity or vulgar language, or verbal abuse of an umpire – 3 game suspension.
- 5) Unsportsmanlike conduct with profanity, vulgar language, verbal abuse of an umpire and/or threatening an umpire – 4 game suspension.

- 6) Unsportsmanlike conduct with profanity, vulgar language, verbal abuse of an umpire, threatening an umpire and/or physically touching an umpire with any portion of the body or throwing “any” object at an umpire in any manner, and/or having a 2nd ejection during the same season and/or fighting within your own team or with an opposing team member – permanent suspension for the remainder of the current season and the upcoming season.

10. **SCORE KEEPERS**

The home team is required to provide an official scorekeeper. Each half inning the official scorekeeper is to report the score to the umpire who in turn will announce the score to **BOTH** teams and record the score on the official score card. Appeals must be made before the next pitch, legal or illegal of the next half inning. After this, the score becomes official and **CANNOT** be appealed, protested or changed. Note: At the conclusion of the game, an appeal can be made up until the umpires leave the field of play.

11. **LINE UPS**

Your line-ups must be written and made available upon request 10 minutes before scheduled game time. **Line-ups must list last name followed by first name (Smith, John) and a number.** Changes may be made until game time without penalty. If the previous game is late, your game time starts one minute after previous game's conclusion. **Delays in getting line-ups count as game time.**

12. **PROTESTS**

- A. All protests will be settled by the Protest Committee and must be written and in the hands of the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department within twenty-four (24) hours after the game (weekends and holidays excluded).
- B. **PROTESTS THAT SHALL BE RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED CONCERN MATTERS OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES:**
 - a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
 - b. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
 - c. Failure of an umpire to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
 - d. Player eligibility.
- C. **THE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO PROTEST MUST BE MADE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE NEXT LEGAL OR ILLEGAL PITCH. (EXCEPTION PLAYER ELIGIBILITY)**

- a. The manager or acting manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is played under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper.
- b. All interested parties shall take notice of the conditions surrounding the making of the decision, which will aid in the correct determination of the issue.

NOTE: On appeal plays, the appeal must be made before the next pitch, legal or illegal, or before the defensive team has left the field. For the purpose of this rule, the defensive team has "left the field" when the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area. At the conclusion of the game, an appeal can be made up until the umpires leave the field of play.

- c. Once the game is completed and both teams have left the field, no protest can be filed. EXCEPTION: Player eligibility.

D. THE FORMAL WRITTEN PROTEST SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. The date, time and place of the game.
2. The name of the umpire(s).
3. The rule and section of the official rules under which the protest is made.
4. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
5. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
6. A \$50.00 protest fee (fee will be returned if protest is upheld).

E. THE DECISION RENDERED ON A PROTESTED GAME MUST RESULT IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. The protest is found invalid, and the game score stands as played.
2. When a protest is allowed for misinterpretation of a playing rule, the game is replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected.
3. When a protest for ineligibility is allowed, the offending team shall forfeit the game being played, or the game last played, to the offending team.

13. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Warming up inside the complex (swinging bats or throwing balls) in any of the runways is illegal. One warning will be given for a player found warming up inside this area.

(This will be considered a team warning.) The second offense by any team player(s) will result in his suspension of that evening's game.

- (1) Teams may warm-up on their half of the outfield before games on all fields if time permits.
- (2) Teams must not use the infields or hit balls against the fence for warm-up purposes.
NOTE: (2) will carry the same penalty as warming up inside the lanes.

- B. The Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department expects all players to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Each manager shall be responsible for the conduct of his/her players. Players must, at all times, act in a manner becoming a good sportsman under liability of expulsion from the game and/or the league. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, PROFANE OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE WILL BE TOLERATED! ONLY PERSONNEL DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE TEAMS SHALL BE ALLOWED ON THE PLAYERS' BENCH.
- C. All players are responsible for their children's safety and conduct while participating in Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department Athletic-sponsored programs.
- D. It is the Manager's responsibility to inform her/his players of all Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department Rules and Regulations governing the Men's, Women's, Church, Seniors and Coed Slow Pitch Softball Leagues. PLEASE TREAT THE UMPIRES AND OTHER PLAYERS, AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED!!
- E. Please deposit your trash in the cans provided. Time spent cleaning up can be used to put the fields in better condition for your enjoyment.
- F. No animals are allowed in the complexes.

14. **Ground Rules:** The following ground rules apply for the Adult Softball program at Messer Park, Tom Brown Park and Springsax Park.

- A. Any batted or thrown ball inside the fence is in play provided it hits no obstruction.
- B. Any ball that hits a wire or tree is dead (Umpire's Judgment)
- C. No warming-up or swinging bats in the lanes between fields. The backstops are not to be used for batting practice.
- D. Line-up forms must be turned in to the scorekeeper/umpire on your scheduled field ten (10) minutes before game time.
- E. Teams are permitted only one (1) minute between each inning to be ready for play. The batter must take his position within 10 seconds. PENALTY: Umpire will direct pitcher to pitch and each legal pitch will be called a strike.

- F. Any player who throws a bat against the fence is automatically out of the game (Umpire's judgment).
- G. All protests and appeals must be made immediately and properly to be considered.
- H. One (1) minute is allowed for the removal of a player from the field.
- I. Alcoholic Beverages/Controlled Substances – In reference to City Code, Section 13-35 states: Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances prohibited in parks and recreational facilities owned or controlled by the city; penalty.
 - (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, possess, consume, purchase, sell or offer for sale any alcoholic beverage as defined in F.S. ch. 561 or any controlled substance as defined in F.S. ch. 893 in any park which is controlled by the city except where authorized by the city manager.
 - (b) **Violation of this section shall constitute a noncriminal offense and shall be cause for immediate ejection from the park.**

These ground rules have been adopted to make the Adult Softball program more enjoyable for everyone. It is the manager's responsibility to inform all players of these rules and ASA rule changes for the upcoming season.

15. **INSURANCE**

The Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department assume no responsibility or liability for injury while participating in the adult softball program. Team managers are encouraged to secure some type of insurance coverage for their respective teams. Players and spectators participate at their own risk. **Managers should, on a regular basis, inform their players of the risks involved in playing softball.**

Rec-1 Insurance is available for individual players through the Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department for a cost of \$13.55. This insurance is effective from August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010. This insurance would cover you while participating in adult softball during the coverage period.