

2017 SPRING SOFTBALL PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. RULES

- **USA Softball** and local exception Rules will govern all play.
- **THE PLAYING REGULATIONS:** These softball regulations governing softball play in the **City of Jacksonville Softball Program** is a supplement to the official playing rules of the (USA Softball) covering points of importance to those teams and individuals playing under the JaxParks and Florida's First Coast Softball (FFC Softball).
- **ACCEPTANCE:** Play in any City league carries with it the full acceptance of all rules and regulations governing softball play and acceptance of all decisions made by FFC Softball as final.

2. LEAGUE POLICIES

- **FIELD PLACEMENT POLICIES:** No guarantee will be granted to any team(s) regarding placement at any softball complex, field or playing times for league play.
- **LEAGUE PLACEMENT POLICY:** FFC-Softball reserves the right with or without the concurrence of the managers in a given league, to do one of the following in the interest of balanced competition and sports promotion generally: (1) refuse an entry; (2) place a team in a league of higher or lower classification. Between the Spring and Summer Softball Seasons FFC Softball will review the league standings and will move up any team that has dominated their league. We will also move a team at the bottom of the league sign up list to balance out leagues. FFC Softball is the final authority on league placement. (No Exceptions)
- **GAMES PLAYED POLICIES:** Each team that plays two times a week will play approximately 9 to 14 games during the season, depending on the number of the teams in the league and weather conditions permitting. Sunday Co-Ed and teams that play one-night a week leagues will play 6 to 8 games weather permitting. There are no refunds or credits due to weather conditions.
- **RAIN/CANCELLATION POLICIES:** Rescheduling of rain cancellations or any other cancellations could be during or at the end of the season and occasionally double headers may be scheduled (if needed). A high number of rain cancellations may require rescheduling on days and at fields the team does not normally play. Failure to play these games will result in a forfeit. **NOTE: Only a one-day notice of revised schedules, rescheduling of rainouts and playoffs will be given. If there is a high number of rainout during the season we may be forced to reschedule only the games which will determine the league winner.**
- **PROTEST POLICIES: The Notification of Intent of Protest Must Be Made Before The Next Pitch.** Only the manager or acting manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the **Plate Umpire** (before the next pitched ball) that the game is being protested, identifying the protest and that the game will be continued under protest. The Plate Umpire shall notify the opposing manager and Base Umpire and Scorekeeper. The Manager then must make the protest in writing to the FFC Softball Office by 4p.m. the next business day after the occasion of protest accompanied by a \$50.00 protest fee. The fee will be returned if the protest is won. **NOTE:** Weekend game protests are due in the FFC Softball Office by 4:00 p.m. on Monday following the game. **Player Protest:** may be made at any time during the season. The protesting team responsibility: must identify the protested player by name, position, shirt number, date, time, field and the team he played on and any supporting documentation. The \$50.00 protest fee applies to all protests. **Burden of proof for all protest is the responsibility of the protesting team manager.**
- **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT POLICIES:** Any unsportsmanlike conduct of players, coaches, managers, sponsors, fans or officials, may result in being ejected from the game, removed from the playing site and may be submitted to the FFC Softball Office for disciplinary action. Any players, coaches, managers, sponsors, fans or officials, who commits or exhibits an unsportsmanlike behavior, uses overtly profane language, threatens an official, City employee or FFC Softball staff and/or volunteer is subject to ejection from the game and further disciplinary action according to the Ejection-Suspensions Appeals Operation Manual. Managers and teams are responsible for the behavior of their fans and conduct of an ejected/suspended player on the teams' roster.

3. ELIGIBILITY POLICIES:

- **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY** USA Softball rules will apply. All players should be **residents or work in the Florida's First Coast area** and must be at least 18 years of age. Players may play on one men's/women's team and in addition play in one 5 & 5 Co-ed and one Sunday Co-ed teams. **Men's 50 & Over** team players can play in these leagues and one other men's league. FFC Softball will not adjust league schedule for any player playing in more than one league.
- **PLAYER PLAYING ON TWO TEAMS:** To determine the eligibility if a player is on two teams, the FFC Softball office will review the schedules and determine which team had the first game and the player will be eligible for this team only. Any player protested or causing a fight while playing on two teams will be suspended and the team playing the ineligible player will have their games forfeited that he/she played.
- **PENALTIES FOR UNSIGNED PLAYERS or PLAYING UNDER A FALSE NAME:** A team that plays anyone who is not on their team roster will be declared an illegal player. The team which the player(s) is an illegal player(s) will forfeit all games in which the illegal player(s) participated. All illegal players will be subject to suspension from further participation. Managers will be suspended for multiple acts of playing illegal players.
- **PLAY VIOLATION:** It is against the eligibility rules to play on more than one Men's, Women's or Co Ed (Sunday or 5 on 5) team. Anyone violating this rule will be suspended from playing in the Jacksonville (JaxParks and FFC Softball) softball program for the remainder of the current season and up to one additional year.
- **TRANSFERS: All player transfers and pick-up players must be completed by the established and printed deadline on the softball league playing schedules.** If a player desires to transfer, he must follow this procedure. 1) Have the manager of his team submit to the FFC Softball Office a written release (Player Waiver, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement Roster also known as **PWR of L and IAR**) from the original team. 2) After being released from his or her original team, the player may be added to another team by the manager of the new team. 3) Only one transfer per player may be made each season. 4) Transfers within a league will follow the same procedure. Team managers may add players of teams that have disbanded prior to the deadline of the player transfers/pick-ups, to their team roster by submitting a **PWR of L and IAR**. **Refusal to release a player:** If a manager refuses to release a player, the player may appeal to the FFC Softball staff. If deemed for the good of the program the staff may grant the release with a *Sitting* out period of one week, from league play. All transfer players must have at least played in (3) games with new team before being eligible to play in the metro tournament.
- **ROSTERS:** Roster limit - 20 players. Roster must be submitted at time of registration. New players may be added by submitting their name on a **PWR of L and IAR** 24 hours before the player engages in any league play, (**No telephone changes will be accepted**). All ADD/DROP roster additions and deletions must be **in writing on a PWR of L and IAR, signed by the player, manager and submitted** prior to the deadline listed on the playing schedule. All Church and Industrial Leagues may have unlimited players on roster. Faxed and emailed ADD/DROP **PWR of L and IAR** will be accepted as long as they are complete and signed (signature) by the player and manager.
- **FORFEIT PLAY BALL POLICY:** A team will be allowed to accept a forfeit and play the game. The forfeit team will accept the forfeit but be allowed to pick up the required players, both team will pay the officials and play a sanctioned game. This forfeit will not count toward one of the two forfeits that drop's a team from the league. **Forfeit Play Ball Rule** will be used for all seasons.
- **ONE & ONE COUNT:** Each batter will come to bat with a one strike and one ball count.

4. **PLAYING RULES**

- **UNIFORMS:** Uniform shirts must be of matching color and style with numbers affixed to the back at least 6 inches. Sleeves or straps of the shirt may be adjusted, with or without tie-ups, to the comfort of the player, **provided uniform number remains visible.** Sleeve length is optional, providing the sleeves are not frayed. All occupants of player's bench must be in team uniform. Team manager must wear matching color team jacket or shirt to occupy a coaching box. No steel cleats, spikes or street shoes allowed; rubber cleats and tennis shoes are allowed. ****NOTE:** All players must wear a jersey with affixed number on the shirt back (**no tape or magic marker used for numbers allowed**) or players will not be allowed to play. No duplicate numbers are allowed except in Co-Ed a male and female player may wear the same number. NOTE: sporting goods stores' schedules may cause delays in delivery of uniforms. There will be a one week grace period on matching shirts. Please plan ahead.
- **OFFICIALS FEES:** Each manager (team) will be responsible for paying one Game Official (**Umpires and Scorekeeper**) before each game is played. Each game will be assigned two Umpires and each team will pay one umpire \$17 and \$6 each to the scorekeeper. If only one Umpire shows, the two teams will pay \$12.00 each to the one Umpire. The game will be forfeited if a team fails to pay an Official (Umpire or Scorekeeper) **BEFORE** the game. The team(s) will pay each Umpire and/or Scorekeeper **IN CASH**
NOTE: Rates are subject to change. Personal checks **WILL NOT** be accepted by the Umpires and Scorekeeper
- **BALLS:** teams shall furnish Balls equal to certified 40 core /325 compression Classic M for men and Classic W for women, both must be optic yellow with blue stitching. In each game, home team will furnish the first new ball, visiting team second new ball. *All Women's Leagues will play with a new Classic W softball.* Both Co Ed teams will furnish one new Classic M & Classic W ball. Team hitting ball that is irretrievable will replace ball, with a good used ball (Umpire acceptable).
- **BATS:** All bats must conform to approved bat specifications with Thumb Print Logo(s). Umpires will check bats before each game. A bat may be removed from play due to cracks, flat spots or other reasons to be determined by the umpire. **Bats may become invalid at any time (before, during or after a game) due to compression testing.**
- **STARTING TIMES: Slow Pitch** - 6:45 p.m., first game; 7:50 p.m., second game; 8:55 p.m., third game. If four games are scheduled at a site, the fourth game will start at 10:00 p.m. All slow pitch league games will be allowed one hour and five minutes playing time. All Fast Pitch league games refer to the fast-pitch rules. **ALL GAMES MUST START PROMPTLY UNLESS PREVIOUS GAME HAS NOT COMPLETED FOUR (4) INNINGS OR GOES INTO EXTRA INNINGS.** There will be no Grace Period for any games. Game time is forfeit time. Some changes to the above will be noted on certain league schedules. (NOTE: Sunday Co-ed games will start at 4:00 p.m. except on tournament weekends they may begin at 5pm or 6pm) **WARM-UP** allowed in designated areas only.
- **PLAYERS:** All games should start with 10, 11 or 12 players (extra player); however you may start or finish with 9 players. If you start a game with 9 players and a tenth player arrives late, he must be inserted immediately upon arrival in the tenth batting slot. The (USA Softball) short-handed rule will be in effect in all leagues when playing with 10, 11 or 12 players (Co-ed 12). The short-handed rule may be used when a player(s) becomes injured or sick. It may not be used when a player(s) is ejected from the game. At no time will a game continue with less than nine (9) players. Local Co Ed rules allow male and female players to play any positions on the field. There are no restrictions on how many female or male players play infield or outfield positions.
- **STEALING:** Stealing is not allowed at any time.
- **RUN RULES:** All slow pitch games will have a 20-run rule after three (3) innings, 15-runs rule after four (4) innings and 10-run rule after five (5) innings.
- **FLIP/FLOP RULE:** The Flip/Flop Rule will be used in all league play. FFC Softball can provide you a handout that explains this rule in detail.
- **HOME RUN LIMITS** for all leagues are as follows: This rule refers to over the fence home runs, all ball's hit over the fence by a team in excess of these limits will be an out.
 - All 2A and above leagues including Church are six (6) Home Runs.
 - All 1A and below leagues except Sunday Co Ed 1A are three (3) Home Runs.
 - Sunday Co-ed 1A Home Run Limit is one (1) Home Run. Note: Sunday Co Ed E League is zero Home Runs.

5. **ADDITIONAL RULES:**

- **JEWELRY RULE:** These items constitute illegal equipment: Earrings, Watches, Chains, Bracelets, Necklaces and any Other Jewelry. **Only flat wedding bands and medical alert bracelets or necklaces are allowed. If medical alert bracelets or necklaces are worn they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.**
- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** **Law prohibits alcohol on all City property.** A player violating this rule will be suspended.
- **NO SMOKING:** In the dugout, on the playing field or in the coach's boxes at any time, either before or during the game. JaxParks Employees, Umpires and/or FFC officials can and will enforce this rule.
- **MUSIC RULE:** Music may be played prior to the game starting and between innings when teams are changing from offense to defense. Once a batter takes his place in the batter's box all music must cease. Music cannot contain any profanity and must be played at a reasonable sound level. Final judgment on all music in regards to profanity and sound level will be made by the umpire(s). This is considered a judgment call and the umpire's decision is final.
- **INJURIES:** Games time will not stop for injuries occurring on the field.
- **DUGOUT POSITION:** Home Team will be located in the first base side dugout. Visiting Team will located in the third base side dugout. Only players, coaches, sponsors, scorekeeper, and bat person is allowed in dugouts.
- **CHILDREN:** Children will not be allowed in the dug out at any time.
- **DOGS:** Dogs will not be allowed in the fenced playing complex at any time (EXCEPTION: Service/Guide animals). All dogs in the park outside the complex playing area must be on a leash.

6. **ADDITIONAL LEAGUE SUPPLIMENTS:**

- Sunday Co-Ed Leagues have a supplement to these regulations.

7. **TEAM & INDIVIDUAL SUPPLIMENTAL INSURANCE:**

- Every year there are injuries that will send player(s) to the hospital and they may be out of work for a time. It is highly recommended that teams consider the supplemental insurance for the consideration of team players. The team manager can look for supplemental insurance in the USA Softball (ASA) rulebook or at www.usasoftball.com

8. **COMPLAINTS:** Must be submitted in writing within 2 working days of the incident in order for the complaint to be handled efficiently and effectively.

- Only Team Managers will contact the FFC Softball Office regarding bats, balls, rulings or protests (must follow protest procedures) through written complaints.
- Umpires will contact the local UIC regarding rule interpretations.
- Scorekeepers will contact the Scorekeeper's Coordinator.