

# Tri-Cities Senior Softball

## Operating Rules & Procedures

The Tri-Cities Senior Softball League (“The League”) offers the opportunity for men 60 years and older to play Senior Slow-pitch Softball in Johnson City, TN. The League operates with the support of the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Foundation (“Parks and Rec”) and other sponsors. It generally complies with rules and regulations of The Softball Players Association (“SPA”), The International Senior Softball Association (“ISSA”) and The American Softball Association (“ASA”). The League’s operations shall be governed by the following rules.

### A. ORGANIZATION and TEAMS STRUCTURE

The League’s season typically runs from March through October and beyond if weather and field conditions permit. Practices and Intra-League games are played two days per week at Winged Deer Park in Johnson City, TN. Schedules are developed in conjunction with Parks and Rec at the beginning of each season and will be published and provided to all League members.

**1. Intra League Teams:** League teams consisting of 12-16 players each will be formed after the season begins. League leaders will draft players for each team and try to balance them in both age and skill levels. Each team will then select a name for itself and decide on how they will choose an acting manager for their games. The manager will make the batting order and decide field positions for that game.

**2. Age Bracket Teams:** These teams are organized according to standard senior softball age brackets, i.e. 60-64; 65-69; 70-74; and 75+. Participation is limited to League members and authorized guests. Each team must have a league-approved manager, who will be coach and manage the team. These teams will play in non-tournament competition with other regional teams in the area.

**3. Tournament Teams:** These teams will play in tournaments and will be organized in accordance with current SPA, ISSA and ASA rules and regulations. Each team must have a league-approved manager, who shall be responsible for selecting 10-15 players, making batting lineups, assigning field positions, collecting and paying all registration fees, and insuring player eligibility (which may include player membership in the SPA), and coordinating travel arrangements. At the Team Manager’s discretion, non-League Players may be invited to participate on Tournament Teams.

### B. FEES AND ELIGIBILITY

**1.** Membership is open to men 60 years old and older. All League players will pay an annual membership fee in order to be registered in the league and to be eligible to participate in any Intra-League play. The amount of the annual fee shall be determined by the League Directors.

2. The membership fee entitles each player to a league cap and shirt, any discounts for equipment that may be provided by sponsors, and includes winter training, if offered by Parks and Rec at The Johnson City Memorial Park Community Center.

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3. Registration fees will be paid to The Johnson City Parks and Recreation Foundation in compliance with requirements outlined on the League Registration Form.

4. Extra fees may be required for participation in SPA/ISSA/ASA sanctioned Tournaments. Required fees will be paid by participating players on these teams.

### **C. ELECTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAGUE DIRECTORS**

1. League members shall elect three volunteers to serve as League Directors for a term of one league season. The election shall be held at an annual league meeting at the close of each season for Directors to serve for the next upcoming season. League Directors may act to fill a League Director vacancy if such a vacancy should occur during the course of the season.

2. The League Directors responsibilities are:

- a. Communicate with the JC P&R Director regarding park issues or other concerns
- b. Approve spending for league needs
- c. Coordinate or assign persons to conduct league practices/games
- d. Approve manager positions for age bracket teams
- e. Lead/record at least 2 organizational meetings—spring sign-up and fall luncheon
- f. Purchase awards and plaques
- g. Announce league play cancellation/changes due to weather or scheduling conflicts
- h. Choose/order new uniform colors and design
- i. Approve expenditures for registration fees for SPA/ISSA/ASA memberships
- j. Maintain membership rosters
- k. Coordinate with JC P&R for publicity efforts; update web site

3. Expenditure of League funds will require approval of League Directors, who will present a written request detailing expenditure requirements and with signatures by at least two League Directors, to designated personnel within Parks and Rec for release of funds.

4. Proposed changes to these Operating Rules & Procedures may be submitted by League members to the League Directors for consideration. Approved changes shall be implemented into these Operating Rules & Procedures with signatures by the League Directors in order to make such changes official.

### **D. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

In order for the League to run efficiently, volunteers will be needed each season to manage teams and perform other needed functions. League Leaders will make these requirements known to the League and league players wishing to volunteer should contact the League Directors to discuss these needs. The following volunteer positions will typically be required.

**1. Intra-League Team Play:** Managers to direct various teams formed during normal weekly intra-league play. Umpires will also be needed for each intra-league game and will typically be supplied by the team at bat or other non-playing members present.

**2. Age-Bracket Teams Managers:** In order to play competitive games with regional teams from other leagues, each age-bracket team must have a League-approved volunteer manager who will be responsible to manage and coach the team and arrange the dates, times, and other details for competitive games with other regional teams.

**3. Equipment Manager:** responsible for all equipment owned by the League and for coordinating the use, storage, and maintenance of such equipment during the season. Equipment typically consists of bats, balls, pitching screens, and running bases and will usually be stored in a designated location at Winged Deer Park.

**4. Special Function Manager:** responsible for League special functions such as the end-of-the-year banquet, etc.

**5. Web Site Manager:** update web site and add new information as needed.

## **E. RECRUITMENT AND GUESTS**

All League players are encouraged to recruit new players that meet the age requirements of the league. A league member may invite a guest to participate in Intra-League practices and games. The invited guest player must meet the League's age requirements. The guest player can play for two weeks as a guest, but must then join the League for continued play thereafter.

## **F. REGULAR SEASON INTRA-LEAGUE PRACTICE AND GAME PLAY**

**1.** During the season, intra-league practice and game-play will be held twice weekly, weather and field conditions permitting. Days and dates for intra-league play will be determined jointly by the League Leaders and representatives of Parks and Rec and will be published and distributed to all League members. League Directors will notify members by email or phone of any changes to the established schedule. Weather and field-related updates for scheduled activities will be published by League Leaders as needed during the season.

**2.** Official start of League practices and play shall be in early March or when weather permits. League practices and play will continue into November, weather and field conditions permitting.

**3.** All League players in attendance during regularly-scheduled practices and intra-League play will have an opportunity to be part of the batting line-up and to play at least three innings in the field.

**4.** During the course of regular League play and practices, should problems arise or should a League player have a concern, then any such problems or concerns should be initially made known to the volunteer team managers for resolution. If the problems or concerns persist or if the issues are of a general nature affecting the entire League, then such problems or concerns should be brought to the attention of the League Directors.

**The primary goals of the Tri-Cities Senior Softball League are to provide fun, fitness, and fellowship among the League members as they come together to play senior softball and to enjoy the benefits arising from their participation. Rules and regulations for senior softball have been implemented to promote safe play and enjoyment of the game for all players, regardless of each player's physical or athletic abilities, and to reduce the possibility of injury during the game.**

**Each player agrees to participate at a level commensurate with that player's physical limitations and capabilities. Each player assumes all risks associated with playing senior softball and each player agrees to hold the League and Parks and Rec harmless in the event of injury during the course of participation in League activities.**

**END**