



ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

SPRING 2019

OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Tyler
Hartzog

GOVERNING BODY

The governing body consists of the Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department.

REGISTRATION

Team registration (online only): \$540.00 per team and must be paid at the time of registration. Deadline is Thursday, March 7, 2019

Individual Player Contract (online only): Deadline Game 3 of season.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Team Manager organizational meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7 at 6:15 p.m. at Oconee Veterans Park.

Official team rosters are due at this meeting.

LEAGUES, PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND HOMERUN GUIDELINES

- A. **Men's Open League** all players must be 18 years or older to participate unlimited
- B. **Men's Church League** all players must be 18 years or older to participate unlimited
- C. **Women's League** all players must be 18 years or older to participate 3
- D. **Co-Ed League** all players must be 18 years or older to participate 3* (Exception is HCM field 3)
- E. Any person under a Collegiate or Professional softball contract will not be allowed to play.
- F. Church League – Any player participating in the church league or church sponsored team must be a letter holding member of the church or an active participant of that church to be eligible to play.

TEAM ROSTERS & PLAYER CONTRACTS

- A. Each team must complete a team roster to participate in the league and each player must complete, sign and submit a player contract before he/she is eligible to play.
- B. Team rosters must be turned in by the Organizational Meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2019.
- C. Team rosters are limited to 25 players. (GRPA competition limits roster to 20 players).
- D. Player contracts for added players must be completed online.
- E. Last day for Team Managers to add players to their team roster will be **Game 3 of the regular season**. (April 9, 2019)
- F. Any player removed from a team roster may not be added to another team's roster.
- G. Any illegal player will be removed from the program, the manager suspended for one game or more, and the game will be recorded as a loss. In addition, any prior game(s) in which the illegal player participated will result in a forfeit.
- H. Falsifying a player contract will result in suspension from the league.
- I. Players must provide identification to verify identity if eligibility is questioned. Failure to provide identification will result in suspension of play from the game and possibly future games.
- J. Church League/Teams – Church minister must verify and sign team rosters.

PLAYER CONDUCT

All participants are governed by the Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department Code of Conduct.

Profane language or display of unsporting conduct will not be tolerated in the program. The following additional provisions shall apply:

- A. Players, coaches, managers, and spectators are expected to demonstrate a good sporting attitude and courteous behavior.
- B. Persons failing to demonstrate appropriate conduct or behavior will result in an immediate warning or prompt ejection from the game, depending on the severity of the incident.
- C. If a person is warned regarding their misconduct (including arguing the judgment of balls and strikes), the next offense will result in prompt ejection from the game.
- D. Any person ejected from the game must leave the park premises.
- E. Any person ejected from a game will also be suspended from their next scheduled game.
- F. If the offending act is flagrant, involves a fight or if the unsporting conduct continues after ejection, the person will be suspended from the league, including tournament play.
- G. Failure of an ejected player to leave park premises will warrant a forfeiture of the game.
- H. If a player or manager receives a suspension for the next game on the last game of the season, the suspension will be in effect in the first game scheduled the following season.
- I. Any player, manager and/or spectator who does or attempts to do bodily harm to an official will be immediately ejected from the game, suspended from the program, banned from Parks and Recreation parks and facilities, and may have criminal charges filed against him/her. The Governing Body will determine the length of time for banned suspension.
- J. **First Ejection** – The individual will be suspended for the remainder of the game, the next scheduled game and must leave the park premises immediately.
- K. **Second Ejection** – The individual will be suspended for the season, including any postseason tournament play and must leave the park premises immediately following the ejection.
- L. Smoking, vaping, and other tobacco products are not be permitted on OCPRD property.
- M. Unattended children may become a safety issue. Players are discouraged from bringing younger children to the field unless they are well supervised.

Note: Any person ejected or suspended from a game must leave the premises, if possible. If person is unable to leave premises, the person must be “out of sight, out of sound.”

UNIFORMS

- A. Players must wear like colored jerseys with the same shade of color.
- B. All jerseys must have a manufactured, permanently affixed number on the back at least six (6) inches in height. NO tape, drawn or duplicating numbers are allowed.
- C. Players may not change jerseys after the line-up is turned into the scorekeeper.
- D. Shoes are mandatory. Metal or detachable cleats are not allowed.

EQUIPMENT

- A. Softball bats must be ASA approved with the ASA certification stamp on the bat.
- B. The ASA bat certification stamp must be ASA 2000 or ASA 2004 or ASA 2013.
- C. All bats must be listed on the ASA approved bat list with pictures.
- D. ALL bats will be tested with a bat testing machine by OCPRD. Bats failing to meet ASA/USA standards will not be allowed for play. Bats meeting ASA/USA standards will have an approved OCPRD sticker affixed to the bat for each season.**
- E. Titanium bats are not allowed.
- F. Bats used may not be altered in any way.
- G. Softballs used for play in **Men's Church, Men's Open, and Co-Ed League** will be a **12" COR .52, 300 lbs. max** ASA official softball.
- H. Softballs used for play in **Women's League** will be an **11" COR .52, 300 lbs. max** ASA official softball.
- I. Softballs will be provided by OCPRD.
- J. Umpires must inspect bats before each game for bat approval.
- K. Umpires and/or park staff may remove equipment from play that has been altered, fails to meet ASA/USA certification requirements or it otherwise deemed illegal.
- L. Usage of any illegal equipment, regardless if umpire approved, will result in ejection of the offending player for the season, including tournament play. The Team Manager may also be suspended.

LOCAL RULES/GAME PLAY

All games will be played according to **USA Softball Rules** (formerly known as ASA) except where local rules supersede:

- A. The home plate umpire will have authority over players and coaches during the game.
- B. Dugouts: HOME (1st base line) and VISITOR (3rd base line). Teams must occupy dugout indicated on schedule, when possible.
- C. OCPRD line-up sheets must be completed and turned in **10 minutes prior to the game**. Line-ups should include players' first initial, last name and jersey number.
- D. Game time is forfeit time. No grace period will be allowed. The park supervisor, in consultation with the umpires, will have final authority to declare a forfeit.
- E. A team must be able to **field at least eight (8) players** when the umpire calls to start the game. Less than 8 players from the team roster present at game time will result in a team forfeit.
- F. Games will last 7 innings or fifty-five (55) minutes. Game clock will be set to 55 minutes. The clock starts on the first pitch of each game. The scorekeeper will keep the official time. The umpire may instruct the scorekeeper to start the clock after warning both teams. The clock will be stopped for an injury on the authority of the home plate umpire.
- G. If time expires before seven (7) innings are completed, the current inning will be allowed to finish. No new innings can begin after time expires, unless the game is tied at the end of regulation play. In case of a tie, game will continue until a winner is determined. If a game runs past the time limit, the next scheduled game will begin as soon as the game is completed.

- H. All players will enter the batter's box with a 1 ball/1 strike count. A second foul ball will be awarded on the third strike before an out is called.
- I. If additional players arrive after the line-up sheet has been turned in and/or game begun, they may be added **to the end** of the batting order. Players arriving late must notify scorekeeper.
- J. If a team starts the game with 8 or 9 players and no other players arrive to play, there is no penalty for the open slot(s) in the line-up. If a team starts the game with 10 or more players in the line-up, loses a player during the game and is unable to substitute, that slot in the batting order results in an automatic out.
- K. Players may only substitute at the beginning of a defensive inning. Substitutes must be reported to the scorekeeper prior to entering the game.
- L. **Home Run Rule (Co-Ed League Only): a team will be allowed three (3) over the fence home runs per game. For any in excess, the ball will be dead and the batter will be scored as a double and base runners will advance one base, whether forced or not, without liability of being put out.**
- M. **Run Rule – If a team is leading by 20 runs after three (3) full innings, 15 runs after four (4) full innings, or 10 runs after five (5) full innings the game ends.**
- N. Only 1 courtesy runner per inning or in the event of an injury.
- O. Protested or suspended games due to uncontrollable circumstances fall under the suspended game rule.
- P. The score of a forfeited game will be 7-0. In the event of a double forfeit, each team will be credited with a loss, with the score being recorded as 0-0.
- Q. Any team **forfeiting two (2) games in a row or three games in the season will be removed** from the league for the remainder of the season without refund.
- R. Schedule requests made at the time of team entry and prior to the completion of the game schedule will be considered but not guaranteed.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND RESCHEDULING GAMES

Inclement Weather Hotline 706-769-3965 (option 2)

- A. In case of rain or wet grounds, after a game has begun, it is the field supervisor and umpire who will decide if the grounds are playable.
- B. In the event of **inclement weather**, four (4) complete innings constitute an official game. Games that fail to go 4 innings will be treated as a suspended game and will resume later at the exact point stopped.
- C. Games that do not complete one (1) inning shall be treated as no game and will be restarted later. OCPRD has the final say in completing games.
- D. The team manager will be notified of any rescheduled games and will be responsible for notifying all players on his/her team.
- E. Rainout games will be scheduled according to the day and field availability and not according to specific days of the week the league played on during the season.

FIELD SUPERVISOR

A park supervisor will be present at the park during scheduled games. After consulting with umpires, the park supervisor has the authority to cancel any game if hazardous or unsafe conditions exist. The park supervisor also has the authority to warn or eject any person(s) for demonstrating inappropriate conduct or behavior as outlined in the Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department Code of Conduct.

TIE-BREAKERS AND TOURNAMENTS

- A. A post season seeded single elimination tournament is to follow the regular season.
- B. If any teams in the league(s) are tied, the following tie-breaker procedures will take place:
 - a. Any team forfeiting during the season automatically drops from the tie.
 - b. Head-to-head matchup between tied teams.
 - c. If the teams play twice during the regular season with each team winning once, run differential in the head to head games (*the team allowing the fewest total runs in games against each other will be the determining factor*).
 - d. Run differential in the league.
 - e. If the teams are still tied, a coin toss will be used to break the tie.

PROTESTS

The Team Manager must lodge a legal protest with the plate umpire during the regulation game informing the umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper. The scorekeeper shall mark the time and game information when the protest was made.

The Team Manager has 24 hours to submit a written protest to the Adult Softball League Coordinator of Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department during office hours for official review. If a game is on Friday night, the protest must be turned into the office by noon on Monday.

No protest will be accepted based on an umpire's judgment. Each protest must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules and sections to justify the protest. The OCPRD Governing body will rule on each protest properly submitted and send the protesting manager a written ruling within 5 – 7 business days. When a protested game is upheld, the game is to be rescheduled from the point at which it was protested.

TYPES OF PROTESTS:

- A. Misinterpretation of a playing rule – protest must be made:
 - a. Before the next pitch,
 - b. Before the next play,
 - c. Before all infielders have left fair territory,
 - d. On the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the playing field.
- B. Illegal player – protest must be made while they are in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field.
- C. Ineligible player – protest can be made any time.

LEAGUE PROVISIONS

- A. Men's Church League
 - a. 12" COR .52, 300 lbs. max ASA official softball
 - b. No homerun limit.
 - c. Any player participating on a church team must be a letter holding member or an active participant in the church to be an eligible player.
 - d. The church minister must verify and sign all player contracts and team roster.
 - e. A player that is a member of a church which has a team may not play for another church.
 - f. Any church that does not have enough players to form a team may join with another Oconee County church to form a team under the supervision and approval of OCPRD.
- B. Men's Open League: Ages 18 and older.
 - a. 12" COR .52, 300 lbs. max ASA official softball
 - b. No homerun limit.
- C. Women's League: Ages 18 and older.
 - a. 11" COR .52, 300 lbs. max ASA official softball
 - b. 3 homerun limit.
- D. Co-Ed League: Ages 18 and older
 - a. 12" COR .52, 300 lbs. max ASA official softball
 - b. Each team is limited to 3 homeruns per game. (Exception is HCM Field 3: Males 1, Females 3)
 - c. With even number of players, men and women may be positioned anywhere on the Field.
 - d. Batting order shall alternate genders. At no time may a male bat after another male in the line-up. The two male players would have to alternate hitting in the batting order. For example, the male player in the first position of the batting order and a male player in the last position of the order will alternate hitting so that they do not bat back to back. If a female arrives before the end of the game, she may enter the game in the tenth (10) position in the batting order.
 - e. A game may be played with more females than males, but never more males than females.
 - f. A game may begin and end with twelve (12) players or less, extra players must be one (1) female and one (1) male. If this situation presents itself, no male players will be able to hit back to back.
 - g. If only nine (9) players are present, four (4) or more must be females, two (2) males and two (2) females must be positioned in the infield, with a female as either the catcher or pitcher; one female must be positioned in the outfield.
 - h. A minimum of three (3) outfielders must be behind an outfield restriction line (200 foot arc from home plate) when a female batter hits the pitch. While the female is batting, the rover can only be a female. Penalty: The batter and all base runners will be awarded one base unless each has advanced one base safely, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the violation.
 - i. If there are two outs and male player is "walked", he automatically goes to second base and the female batter following him will have the option to "walk" or hit. If there are less than two outs, the male player will go to second and the female player must hit.

GRPA TOURNAMENTS

- A. Teams committing to participate in the GRPA District and State tournaments are responsible for paying GRPA District and State tournament entry fees.
- B. Tournament fees: \$275.00 for GRPA District play; \$275.00 for GRPA State Tourney play (Fee guarantees three tournament games)
- C. **Co-Ed League** – will use the 12" ball
- D. Any team forfeiting in GRPA District and/or State tournament play will be responsible for all forfeit fees. Players on a team failing to pay forfeit fees will be suspended from participation in OCPRD programs.
- E. Any team entered in a GRPA District tournament must commit to both District and State tournaments. (Champion and Runner-up must advance to State)
- F. Tournament teams must have a copy of their official GRPA roster throughout the tournament. In addition, each player must have proper picture identification with them in the bench area at all times and levels of tournament play. Failure to produce either immediately can result in forfeiture of game.