

2021 Seven Hills' Adult Co-Ed Softball Rules and Guidelines

Registration:

Cost: \$325 per team. This includes facility rental and cost of 12 team shirts. Additionally, teams will have a \$20 cash fee/game for an umpire and score keeper/scoreboard operator.

Managers (or team representative) will be required to attend a preseason meeting prior to the start of the season. The meeting will be held Tuesday, August 31st at 7:pm, in the Seven Hills Recreation Center, 7777 Summitview Drive.

Managers will submit their teams' roster and/or their \$40 forfeiture fee at this time if not done previously at initial registration and go over the league's rules. At this meeting, if a team knows of a date where they will not be able to field the minimum number of players, a request can be made to avoid this date in the schedule. No guarantee this will be granted.

Season Information:

Begins Friday September 3rd and will last ten weeks

Official Start times are 6:30pm, 7:30pm, and 8:30pm. No grace period will be given for any team that does not have at least eight (8) players at the official start time.

Rosters:

Players must be 18+ years old to participate.

Limit of 20 players per team. Minimum of five female players. No player may play on more than one team in the League. All Seven Hills Parks and Recreation players assume and play at their own risk. Team rosters will be considered tentative from registration to the roster deadline. Final rosters must be submitted by 7pm on August 31st.

All rosters must have the first and last name, phone number and birthdate of each player, including the team manager. Email address can be volunteered for league email blasts. Team managers who wish to validate players from another team may request this information from the League.

The team manager is designated on the registration form and is responsible for knowing the league rules and regulations of the City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation and informing their players of the rules.

The team managers must list their players first and last names on the scorecard provided to them by the League. The name on the lineup must be written legibly and as it appears on the official player roster.

Players must have photo identification available. Failure to present photo ID upon request will result in a player removal from the game. Acceptable forms of Identification: Driver's License, CCW, Passports, ID Card/Badge w/ name. Playing under a false or assumed name, not listed on the current team roster, or found to have provided false registration information, will result in the game's forfeiture and all previous games in which the player played will be forfeited, and potential future consequences if deemed necessary by the League Director, such as the team's manager being suspended. Illegal players during the postseason will result in the team's immediate removal for the rest of the season.

A team must field a minimum of 8 players (4 female) for a game to be played. In the missing player's spot on the lineup, list "VACANT" so the umpire and the opposing team will know where the automatic out is in the lineup. Teams may bat up to their entire roster. The alternating M-F batting order must be kept when even numbered. With an odd number of batters, the additional male or female player must be last in the batting order. If a player is injured or ejected and there is no bench substitute, an automatic out will then occur at that spot(s) in the batter order.

The "vacant" 9th player may arrive and play without penalty any time during game play but must bat in the "vacant" position in the batting order.

Any additional players above the initially submitted game roster may join the lineup once the game is started. These late arriving players are inserted at the end of the batting order unless they are the "vacant" player as stated above. The additional players must also conform to the alternating male-female batting lineup when there is an even number of batters.

Extra Player (EP): Teams can elect to play with one extra defensive player. When using an EP, teams must list all eleven names on the scorecard. The EP can only be played if a team has a minimum of five (5) female players in the lineup and on the field defensively. The EP can be a male or female player and must start every play in the grass until the ball has been hit in play.

Substitutes: A starter and their substitute may re-enter an unlimited number of times for each other. The starter and substitute must occupy the same batting position whenever in the lineup. The Starter and their Substitute may not be in the lineup at the same time. If a player re-enters the game in a position in the batting order other than their original starting or substitute position, this is considered illegal re-entry.

Courtesy runner is allowed once per team per inning (exception for a player injured and removed from the game). If already substituted, the runner will be the player's substitute as designated previously during the game. If not, the last out of the same gender. If no outs of the gender have been recorded that inning, the player of the same gender farthest in the batting order.

Game Play:

Forfeiture: If a team cannot start a game with the minimum of 8 players by the official start time or during the game drops below 8 players, the game will result in a forfeit. If the game fees were not paid, the umpire and score keeper will be paid from the offending team's forfeiture fee. If the forfeiture fee was used, the team must replenish the \$40 forfeiture fee by 8pm the day prior to their next scheduled game. This can be dropped off in an envelope at the Seven Hills Recreation Center c/o Michael Klubnik, Park Supervisor.

Time Limits:

Sixty (60) minutes. No new inning will start after this time limit has been reached.

Batting:

Teams may elect to bat their entire roster. Lineups must always alternate between male/female batters. If a batter cannot bat in their order for any reason, an automatic out will be recorded. Batters start with 1-1 count. One free foul after the batter has two (2) strikes. After that, if the batter hits another foul ball, the batter is declared out.

Mercy Rule: Twenty (20) runs after three (3), Fifteen (15) after four (4) innings or ten (10) runs after five (5) innings.

Weather & Lightning Delays: The allotted 30-minute delay will be honored. This can be restarted in the case of subsequent lightning to a maximum of 3 times or a total of 45 minutes. Whichever comes first. If the umpire decides the game can't continue, if the number of innings has been reached (4.5/5 innings), the game is complete. If not, the game is postponed.

Home Run Limits:

Each team is allowed up to four (4) homeruns per game & run up rule

After a team hits four homeruns, any additional homeruns hit will be considered a dead ball, an out and no runners may advance.

One-Up Rule: Once both teams have hit their maximum home run, each team may then hit an additional homerun, however, no team may ever go over more than one HR up on the other team. Any additional homeruns will be called an out. The home team may not go "one up" in the bottom of the seventh inning or any subsequent innings. If the umpire has declared an inning to be the last due to the time limit, the home team cannot go "one up".

Player Collisions:

The runner has the greater responsibility to avoid a collision at a play at home plate. Any close play at home requires the runner to "slide or give up". Along the base paths, a runner is

responsible to avoid a collision EVEN if the fielder is illegally blocking the runner's path. In this case, the umpire will have the responsibility of noting obstruction and penalizing the defense appropriately.

The penalty for illegally colliding with another player is: the runner is out, the runner is ejected, the ball is dead, and all other runners return to the base last touched at the time of the collision.

Rainouts:

Team Managers will be notified via a message on the rainout hotline @ (216) 525-6245. MANAGERS ONLY please so the line is not tied up by multiple callers.

Postponement: Game will only be postponed for weather or emergency related events. Games will not be postponed for any other reason. The League Director and Recreation Department will make every attempt possible to reschedule all cancelled or postponed games. It is possible for postponed games to be played on a different night(s) or field than your typical league night.

The Team Manager will be responsible to know their team's game times, including rescheduled games

Profanity Use:

Realizing this is an adult league, there are fans, spectators, and passer-by who may find offense at foul language. The umpire at his or her discretion depending on the seriousness of the offense, may penalize one out to any team using profanity or eject the player. The profanity out will be assessed on the batter who is to receive the next pitch from the offending team (both offense and defense). If the profanity out occurs after the third out of an inning, the out will be assessed on the offending teams next at bat

Two violations of the Profanity rule by the same player, during the same game, will result in an ejection of that player. If that player is found to be a repeat offender throughout the season, that player may be dismissed from the league.

Tie Game:

Tie games will count towards league standings. Tie games may occur when the time limit rule is enforced or an umpire for safety reasons calls the game after five (4.5) innings. Extra innings can occur if within the 1-hour time limit.

Defaults/Forfeits:

A default is when a team manager calls the Parks Supervisor/League Director by 4:30pm on the day of their game to inform them that their team will not be able to play in their game that day. The game will count as a loss but will not be counted as a forfeit and can preserve the team's playoff eligibility.

A forfeit is either when a team fails to call the Parks Supervisor/League Director or fails to show up for their game. Teams that forfeit three or more games throughout the regular season will not be eligible for playoffs. Teams that forfeit four (4) games will be dismissed from the league.

Scorebook:

The official score keeper will keep the official stats. Teams are still encouraged to keep their own scorebook. In the case of an official score keeper not being present the home team will be responsible for keeping the official score book. The visiting team must check the official scorebook at the end of each inning to bring attention the umpires or field reps any discrepancies between the official scorebook and the visiting team's scorebook. This must be done during the inning that the discrepancy arises and should be settled immediately. Failure to do so during the inning that the discrepancy arose, shall be deemed as an acceptance of the official scorebook

Music:

Music is permitted at a permissible level, however, if it is deemed disruptive, offensive, or profane in any way, it will be addressed and asked to be turned off.

Tobacco, Drugs & Alcohol-Free Policy:

Be aware the City of Seven Hills currently prohibits use of alcohol in city parks. There is to be no tobacco or alcohol on the field of play or in any undesignated social area, before, during or after any games. Use of any illegal drugs is strictly forbidden.

Any individual found to be in violation of this rule will be ejected from the game and must leave the premises. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game and may result in an individual or team suspension from future league registration and participation.

Blood Rule:

When a participant who is bleeding or has an open wound, the bleeding must be stopped, attended to, and covered to continue participation in the game. Blood stained clothing that cant be covered/bandaged must be removed before re-entering the game. If medical treatment is required and administered in a reasonable amount of time, the player will not be required to leave the game. Should the treatment exceed a reasonable amount of time, the injured player must be substituted for. The length of time that is considered reasonable will be left to the umpire's judgement. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall stop the game and allow treatment if the injured player would affect continuation of the game

Jewelry Rule:

Jewelry is prohibited to ensure the safety of all players. This includes diamonds and other rings, earrings, studs, posts, visible piercings, watches, chains, and medallions. Medical or religious medallions may be taped to the inside of clothing. Flat, smooth wedding bands are exempted from this rule. Umpires are instructed that they cannot force you to remove your jewelry but they can enforce the No Jewelry Rule and not permit you to play in the game.

Umpires: In the event that the scheduled umpire does not show for a game, please call the Park Supervisor. In this case, an individual(s) who is/are acceptable to both teams may be chosen to umpire the game. If both teams agree to play, the game will count towards the regular season. The substitute umpire can be paid for umpiring the game.

Protests and Appeals:

No protest or appeals. The decision of the umpire chief on the field is final. Any concern can be addressed by emailing/calling the Parks Supervisor with a detailed description of the concern regarding a rule interpretation.

Postseason Eligibility:

Players must be on the official team roster at the time of the final roster deadline and have played in at least three games to be eligible for postseason play.

Any ineligible player discovered during the post season will result in immediate forfeiture of the game and the team's removal from the remainder of the post season. Prior games will not be replayed.

Teams that forfeited four (4) or more games during the regular season are not eligible for postseason play

Postseason Play:

Seeding will take place according to regular season standings with the following tiebreakers:

1. Number of forfeits
2. Head to head record
3. Run differential
4. Total runs scored during the regular season
5. Total runs allowed during the regular season
6. Coin Flip

All League Rules will apply during postseason play except no games can end in a tie.

The Parks Supervisor will develop the single elimination bracket. The Championship matchup will be best of 3 games.

The Playoff schedule and format is subject to the number of teams and amount of regular season play. The Team Manager will be responsible to check, confirm and inform players of their scheduled games and locations.

Equipment:

Balls will be supplied by the League. One new and one gently used per game. Any additional balls needed during the game may be in lesser condition.

Bats: The official bat must bear either the 2000 Certification Mark, 2004 Certification Mark, or 2013 Certification Mark (Slow Pitch), as shown below and must not be listed on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with 2000 or 2004 Certification Mark. For a complete list of accepted bats, please visit the USA Softball (ASA) website- [Approved & Non Approved Bat List at https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/~link.aspx?id=015F4358A30B44368FC142350D112FFF&z=z](https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/~link.aspx?id=015F4358A30B44368FC142350D112FFF&z=z)

Cleats: NO metal cleats are allowed during practice or gameplay. If it is found out during gameplay that a player is wearing metal cleats, the offending player will be assessed an out and ejected from the game

Uniforms:

Players must play in matching jerseys. Having the same-colored T-shirt does not constitute being in uniform. Players out of uniform are ineligible players. A grace period at the beginning of the season may be instituted by the Park Supervisor for completion of shirt orders.

All teams will be provided with twelve (12) uniforms with their registration. Additional uniforms are available for purchase through the Recreation Department for \$10 each. Jersey's sized 2XL or larger will cost an additional \$5 per jersey. If a team already is fully uniformed with **IDENTICAL** jerseys (excluding names/numbers), a registration decrease of \$50 will be granted.

Misconduct:

Zero Tolerance Policy: Unsportsmanlike or abusive behavior by spectators, players or teams will not be tolerated. Individual and team penalties will be given by administrators of the program and will be based on the severity of the actions (see below). The team manager is responsible for the actions of all team players and spectators. Their actions will directly affect the eligibility status of the team. Penalties for individuals and teams are not progressive. They include probation, suspension, or total elimination from participation.

Any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy will warrant a minimum one (1) week suspension from all City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation leagues or tournaments, including participation as a spectator, for any sporting events held at Seven Hills Parks and Recreation facilities. The player will then be placed on probation for one (1) calendar year. The Recreation Department will decide if a longer penalty is warranted as to the severity of the situation or the status of participation in multiple sports or leagues.

An individual that has accumulated multiple suspensions may have their suspension increased in severity/length of duration.

An individual does not have the right to abuse a game official because the official contest has concluded. Ejections or other game penalties may still be given at or beyond the conclusion of the contest and shall be considered in all aspects of a participant's conduct.

The suspension period does not include postponed games.

Anyone ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior must leave the facility immediately. Failure to do so could result in the game being forfeited.

After an incident is reported, the Park Supervisor and Recreation Director will collect, review, and make a decision on any disciplinary action. It is the right of any suspended person to appeal the decision.

Ejection & Disciplinary Policy:

A Participant or spectator in a City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation program that violates the Zero Tolerance Policy and is ejected or suspended from any facility, program, contest, or activity for the following acts of unsportsmanlike conduct, shall be subjected to the following disciplinary actions:

1. Hitting, striking, pushing, or any contact with a City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation employee, official, umpire, participant, or spectator:

Disciplinary Action: Suspension from City of Seven Hills activities, programs, leagues, parks/facilities for minimum one year. If the actions are serious enough, they may warrant a battery investigation by Seven Hills Police.

2. Threatening physical harm or the use of intimidation towards a City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation employee, official, umpire, participant, or spectator.

Disciplinary Action: Suspension from the City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation activities, programs, leagues, parks/facilities for a minimum of one month.

3. Verbally abusing a City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation Employee, official, umpire, participant, or spectator

Disciplinary Action: Suspension from the City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation activities, programs, leagues, parks/facilities for a minimum of one week

4. Causing facility or equipment damage.

Disciplinary Action: Suspension from the City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation programs, activities, leagues, parks/facilities for a minimum of one month

5. Failing to cooperate and respond honestly to inquiries or requests for assistance in identifying individuals who may be involved in an incident.

Disciplinary Action: Suspension from the City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation programs, activities, leagues, parks/facilities for a minimum of one month

6. Participating under an assumed name, providing false information, or illegally participating in division of play

Disciplinary Action: Suspension from the City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation activities, programs, leagues, parks/facilities for a minimum of one month

7. Personal conduct situations that are not clearly stated and defined in the above list will be dealt with in an appropriate manner by the Parks Supervisor and Recreation Director at their discretion

Request For Reinstatement

The City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation supervisory staff shall review the incident and such actions will determine if the participant suspended must apply for reinstatement before returning to City of Seven Hills Parks and Recreation sporting events. The suspended individual is required to wait until the suspension period has elapsed before a request for reinstatement will be accepted. In the event a penalty is applied at the end of a current season, regardless of sport, the penalty may be carried over to any year, season, sport, or tournament.

Any portion of a game(s) missed due to an ejection shall not count toward a player suspension. If a player is ejected during any game, the player is no longer eligible to participate in any game that day/night (such as, but not limited to double headers, league playoffs).

Rules not covered in this rulebook shall be governed by the USA Softball Association.