

Southlake Parks and Recreation Division  
~ Softball Rules and Regulations ~  
Revised 9-16-13

All league games will be played in accordance with the current Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Official Guide and the current Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) Calvacade of Sports, and the following City of Southlake guidelines.

**A. ROSTER AND ELIGIBILITY**

1. All participants in the “35 & Over League” must have attained the age of 35 before December 31 of the current year. An exception of no more than four (4) players between 30-34 years of age will be allowed.
2. Each team will be allowed a maximum of twenty (20) players on the roster, including playing coaches. Rosters are due at first scheduled game.
3. Participants are not permitted to play on more than one team in the same league.
4. Participants may be dropped and added to the official roster until the beginning of the End of Season Tournament. At this point roster will be locked.

**B. LINE-UP AND ROSTER**

1. Each team manager will be required to submit an official line-up prior to the start of each game. All team members present will bat in the line-up. Any player that shows up late will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
2. If the player is an extra hitter and is not playing in the field and becomes injured and cannot bat, he will be scratched from the lineup and not count as an out. However, if the player is an extra hitter and is ejected from the game, every time that batting position comes up will be declared an out. Free substitution will be allowed for defensive positions, but only ten players will be allowed on the field. **\*\*Note: You cannot walk a batter to get to an out.**
3. Courtesy runners are permitted if needed. However, the courtesy runner substituted in will be the last player to have received an out.

**C. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

1. All players on each team must wear jerseys that are matching in color and which have a permanently affixed, non-duplicated number on the back. There will be a one-game grace period for all teams to obtain their jerseys.

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2. The City of Southlake will provide two (2) game balls per game: Balls will have a core of .50 and a compression of .300.
3. Metal cleats are not permitted.
4. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, may not be worn during the game.
5. All bats being used in a game will be inspected by umpires prior to the game. Once a bat has been approved it will be placed near the fence in that team's particular batting area. Once the game has begun no other bats may be introduced. If an umpire suspects a bat may have been tampered with that bat will be immediately confiscated for testing and returned within 48hrs. If a bat is determined illegal it will be stamped and any game in which that bat was used will be forfeited.

**D. PLAYING RULES**

1. A team must normally start and finish with ten (10) players. A team may play with nine (9) players with no penalty assessed. However, if a player is ejected causing the team to be short handed, than that position in the batting order is an automatic out. A team may not start a game with eight (8) players.
2. Game time is on the official schedule. If a team does not have the required number of nine (9) players needed to start a game on time, the Umpires will start the clock and provide a grace period of five (5) minutes from the games original start time for that team to get all needed players on the field and ready to play. If, at the end of the five (5) minute grace period the team still does not have nine (9) players to start the game, the game will be called a forfeit in favor of the other team. The score will be recorded 7-0. There will not be a reschedule, and the team with enough players can not add time to the grace period for the other team.
3. If a team receives a forfeit, they will have use of the field for practice (except for the last game of the night) until ten (10) minutes before the next scheduled game time. Umpires and scorekeepers will not umpire or keep score for forfeits.
4. The scorekeeper time clock shall be the official game time. Home team will be designated on the schedule and sit in the first base dugout.

Southlake Parks and Recreation Division  
~ Softball Rules and Regulations ~  
Revised 9-16-13

5. An official game will consist of fifty-five (55) minutes, seven (7) innings, or the Run Rule, whichever comes first.
  - a. Run Rule: Twelve (12) runs after four (4) innings, or twenty (20) runs after two (2) innings.
6. No new inning will begin after fifty-five (55) minutes. If time limit expires or game goes into extra innings due to a tied score, each batter will begin their bat with a three (3) ball and two (2) strike count, until a winner is decided. **\*\*Note: No Free Foul.**
7. Home Run Limit: Two (2) per team, per game. (This rule applies only to those home runs hit out of the fenced field area). Any participant hitting a home run in excess of the limit will be ruled out.
8. Each batter will begin their at bat with a one (1) ball and one (1) strike count.

Only one (1) free foul will be allowed with a two strike count. The second foul with a two (2) strike count will be an out.
9. Halo/Pitching Lane Rule: if a line drive ball is hit in between the marked pitching lane the batter is automatically out and the ball is ruled dead. The ball does not have to hit the pitcher for the batter to be ruled out. A ground hit ball will not be called out.
  - a. If the same batter hits between the pitching lanes twice, that batter will be removed from the game.
    - i. Line Drive: is a ball hit directly back to the pitcher in the air within the two (2) feet the width of the pitcher's plate and two (2) feet above the pitchers head to the ground.
10. Play at Home Rule: eliminates tagging a committed runner in scoring position. A runner is considered committed if he has advanced within thirty (30) feet of home plate. Defense must touch the plate to get the committed runner out, a tag on a committed runner will not be ruled an out.
  - a. Score-line - will be chalked 8ft from home plate, the runner must cross the score-line in order to score and not home plate.
11. No infield practice is allowed after the 1<sup>st</sup> inning.

**E. TIE BREAKER PROCEDURE**

Southlake Parks and Recreation Division  
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1. In case of a tie for tournament seeding the following tie breaker procedure will be used:
  - a. Head to head results between teams tied.
  - b. If teams split in head to head games, point differential in those games will be used.
  - c. If teams are still tied, point differential in all league games for the teams tied will be used.
  - d. After first place team has been determined, revert back to a (above) to determine second place for remaining tied team.

**F. CONDUCT/SPORTSMANSHIP ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

The City of Southlake has zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct by any coach, player or spectator before, during or after a game. This includes but is not limited to: booing, shouting at the officials, or arguing any call. Expressing any negative behavior or comments, threats or obscene gestures to players, coaches or officials is also unacceptable.

1. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from any league game is subject to additional suspensions.
2. Players, coaches, and spectators who have been suspended must leave the complex and may not return until the completion of their suspension.
3. Each team coach is responsible for the conduct of their spectators and team participants.
4. No player, coach or spectator shall interfere with the scorekeepers/officials. Any concerns regarding the scorekeepers/officials must be brought to the Recreation Specialist or Recreation Coordinator.
5. Verbal or physical violence, especially attacks on a game or tournament official immediately before, during, or after a game or fights between players/teams will result in a minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility in all league play or indefinite suspension in all league play, subject to annual review if requested.
6. Suspensions carry over from season to season.
7. An official or Parks and Recreation staff member will have the authority to remove a player, coach, or spectator from a game and/or forfeit the game due to unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be

Southlake Parks and Recreation Division  
~ Softball Rules and Regulations ~  
Revised 9-16-13

limited to, illegal equipment, profanity, threats of any kind toward the officials, Parks and Recreation staff, and/or scorekeeper, fighting (before, during, or after the game), or any flagrant foul as determined by the official.

8. City of Southlake City Ordinance #515 states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume any alcoholic beverage on city property."

**G. PROTEST**

1. Must be filed before the game is over.
2. Notify home plate umpire and give details of protest.
3. See that the umpire notifies the scorekeeper and that the protest is recorded in the official score book.
4. On the first regular business day following the protested game, the team manager must submit the protest in writing to the Parks and Recreation Division along with a \$50 protest fee. If protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded.
5. Judgement calls are not a basis for protests.

**H. FIELD CONDITIONS**

1. In case of inclement weather, please contact the field information line (817-748-8028) or visit [www.quickscores.com/southlake](http://www.quickscores.com/southlake) after 3:00pm. It is the Team Manager's responsibility to notify their players of field playability.