



# Cobb County PARKS Department Adult Men’s & Coed Softball League Rules and Regulations

(Revised 4/14/25)

\*Highlighted rules denote revisions made since the previous season.\*

## Table of Contents

**I. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**..... 2

    Governing Body, League, Start Time, Schedule Website ..... 2

**II. GAME RULES** ..... 2

    Player Requirements, Time, Lineups, Flip Flop Rule, Pitching, Batting, Substitutes, Courtesy Runner, Base Distance, Inclement Weather, Homeruns, Extras Inning, Pitching Screen ..... 2-6

**III. BALLS, EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS** ..... 6

    Balls, Bats, Shoes, Uniforms ..... 6-7

**IV. COED RULES (5/5) Monday Leagues only** ..... 7

    Men to Female Ratio, Captain Clause, Defensive Positions, Walks, Female Balls, Outfield Depth ..... 7-8

**V. COED RULES (6/4) Wednesday Leagues only** ..... 8

    Men to Female Ratio, Defensive Positions, Walks, Re-Entry (Social League only) ..... 8

**VI. NICKAJACK SOFTBALL LEAGUES** ..... 8

    Trinity League, A&E Softball League ..... 8-9

**VII. PLAYING ROSTER** ..... 9

    Roster Website, Picking Up Players, Roster locks, Player Changing Teams, Roster Cap, Females ..... 9-10

**VIII. ELIGIBILITY** ..... 10

    Age Requirement, Eligibility Doubt, 1 Team Per League, League Level Balance Rule ..... 10-11

**IX. PROTESTS** ..... 11

    Protest Procedures ..... 11

**X. PLAYER CONDUCT** ..... 11

    Language, Behavior, Suspensions, Legal Penalties ..... 11-12

**XI. THE SEASON** ..... 12

    Forfeits, Refunds, Rainouts, Championships, Tournament of Champions, Team Placement ..... 12

**XII. PARKS RULES** ..... 12

    Alcohol, Smoking, Dogs, Pepper Drill ..... 12-13

**XIII. RAIN-OUT PROCEDURE** ..... 13

    Rainout Notification ..... 13

**XIV. TIE-BREAKER** ..... 13

    Two-way Tie, Three Way or More Tie ..... 13-14



## I. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- A. Cobb County PARKS Department is the governing body of this league.
- B. USA slow-pitch rules shall be strictly adhered to unless superseded by the following rules and regulations. Cobb PARKS reserves the right to rule on anything not covered by the USA Softball rulebook.
- C. The league shall consist of the following divisions: Men's and Coed leagues. There can be up to four games per night at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30 p.m. on each field. All leagues are subject to doubleheaders.
- D. Each team is responsible for checking the website for schedules, standings, and make-up game information. League information can be found at [www.quickscores.com/cobbcounty](http://www.quickscores.com/cobbcounty).

## II. GAME RULES

- A. **All teams must have at least seven (7) players to start a game.** If a team fails to field at least seven (7) at game time, that team shall forfeit. If neither team can field seven (7) at game time, it shall be ruled as a double forfeit.
  - 1. A team can start the game with seven (7) roster players, **but** they have until the top of the **4<sup>th</sup> inning or 30 minutes** to field **eight (8)** roster players. If a team fails to do so the game will be ruled a forfeit. (No matter the score)
  - 2. Pitcher and catcher positions must be occupied.
  - 3. If a team starts a game with 9 or more players and falls below that number at any time, it will be credited with an "out" each time a vacant slot comes to bat.
  - 4. A team that falls below 8 players, after the grace period, will forfeit the game.
  - 5. Any player listed on the line-up that is not available to bat for their turn in the line-up will be credited with an out. See rule D-3 for exception.
  - 6. If a team starts with less than 10 players, late-arriving players must be added at the end of the lineup.
- B. Games will start at the scheduled time.
  - 1. A ten (10) minute grace period is allowed only on the first game on the night. The grace period is considered a part of the game time. However, if a team has seven (7) players the game will start immediately or as soon as the seventh (7th) player arrives. Grace period time counts as game time.
  - 2. **TIME LIMIT** - No new inning will begin after **1-hour** unless the game is tied. The sixty (60) minute game time will be displayed on the scoreboard. If the scoreboard is not working the field supervisor will keep the time on a digital clock. The clock will start when the home team and umpires take the field. **EXCEPTION:** The game can end before the 5th inning if a team is ahead by 20 runs or more and 60 minutes have been played, the game will be called



regardless of which team is at-bat.

3. Line-ups should be turned into the scorekeeper ten (10) minutes before the start of each game. Proper line-ups consist of first and last names and jersey numbers. The game clock will begin at the appropriate time whether a lineup has been submitted or not.
  - a. If no scorekeepers are available, umpires will keep score on the field. In this case, teams must exchange line-ups with the other captain before the start of the game. Each team will monitor that the line-up order is correct. If a team bats out of order the opposing team must notify the umpire no later than the first pitch to the subsequent batter. If the referee confirms the player batted out of order, that player will be counted as an out.
  - b. Staff will provide umpires with a scorecard for each game. The umpire will keep score and home runs limits on the card. Following the game, the home and away managers will confirm that the score is correct.
4. No altered lineup cards are allowed once games have started.
5. **RUN RULE** - There will be a 20-run rule after 3 innings, a 15-run rule after 4 innings, and a 10-run rule after 5 innings.
6. **FLIP FLOP RULE** – If the home team is losing by 7, 8, or 9 runs after the 6<sup>th</sup> inning or with 2 minutes remaining in the game in any inning, the bases will be cleared, and the home team will remain at bat to start the next inning.

C. **PITCHING** - The pitching arc is **6 feet to 12 feet from the ground**.

1. **PITCHING DISTANCE** is 50 feet. A pitcher's box consisting of an area from the front of the pitcher's plate and extending back six feet perpendicular to the pitcher's plate shall be used. The pitcher must release the ball after coming to a complete stop with one foot or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate or within the pitcher's box. Pitching with one or both feet on the line is considered legal. This box allows the pitcher to release the ball from 50 feet to 56 feet from home plate.

D. **BATTING**

1. **3 balls** will result in a walk and **2 strikes** will result in a strikeout. One foul on the 2<sup>nd</sup> strike is allowed.
2. Teams can bat as many players as are in attendance at game time, with any 10 playing on defense at any one time. If additional players show up after the game has started, they can be added to the bottom of the lineup.
3. If a team chooses to bat all its players and a player is injured and no substitute is available an out will be awarded at their first at bat. If the injured player can't bat again the rest of the game, no out will be awarded after the first at bat. If a player leaves the game for another reason an out will be awarded the rest of the game.
4. Team members are not required to take the field to bat. All fielders playing in the game must



bat.

5. When making substitutes, the batting order must always remain the same.
  6. RE-ENTRY RULE: Any starter or substitute may be re-entered once. Players must occupy the same batting position whenever they are in the line-up.
- E. **COURTESY RUNNER** – Teams are allowed to utilize a courtesy runner **once per half inning**. *You can use anyone in the line-up or use a legal substitute. If the runner you use is on base when their at bat comes up, they will be called out and removed from the base and will take their turn at bat.* NOTE: In coed play, both a male and a female courtesy runner may be used once per half inning. The courtesy runner must be of the same gender.
- F. **BASE DISTANCE** – the distance between bases is 70 feet
- G. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** Games delayed by rain for at least 30 minutes will be rescheduled if necessary, based on the criteria below.
1. In the case of rain/lightning, 5 innings will constitute an official game or 4 1/2 innings if the home team has the lead.
  2. In the case of rain with a game tied after 5 innings, the game will be resumed from the point when it was suspended. If the required number of innings has not been played, the game will be replayed from the start.
  3. In the case of light failure, equipment failure or serious injury causing a delay, the game will be rescheduled based on the criteria above. This will prevent succeeding games from running unreasonably late.
  4. Championship Game – In the case of rain/lighting, light failure, equipment failure, or serious injury that suspends the championship game, the game will be resumed at a later date from the point when it was interrupted. Lineups must remain as close to the original lineup as possible. Returning players must bat in the same position unless a player that was in the original lineup is not present for the rescheduled game and in that case everyone in the lineup moves up. New players must be added to the end of the lineup.
- H. **HOME RUN LIMITS:** A home run is an untouched fair ball hit over the fence.
1. Social = 1 homerun (All home runs in excess of the limit will result in an **inning-ending out**.)
  2. 1-up rule will be implemented for all Recreational & Competitive Leagues – Once each team hits their home run limit, a team may then go 1 homerun up. The home team, in the bottom of the 7th or later innings, may hit one home run to pull even in the number of home runs as the opposing team but may not hit a home run to go one up. The home team cannot go one up once the time limit has expired. Any additional home runs will result in an out.
    - a. Recreational = 1 homerun and 1 Up
    - b. Intermediate = 2 homeruns and 1 Up.



- c. Competitive = 3 homeruns and 1 Up.
- I. Teams will not run out home runs.
- J. An appeal play can be made during any dead ball by any player on the field. All appeals can be made by addressing the umpire and explaining the appeal. All appeals **must** be made before the next live ball. Only the manager is authorized to address an umpire concerning a rule interpretation.
- K. To prevent injury and protect the defensive player who attempts to make a play on a base runner, the base runner will be called "out" if he remains on his feet and, in the umpire's judgment, crashes with great force into the defensive player who is holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. If the act is judged to be flagrant, the offender will be ejected. A runner may slide into a defensive player. Contact between a base runner and a defensive player does not necessarily result in the base runner being called "out."
- L. League rules prohibit players or coaches who are bleeding from further participation until the bleeding has been stopped. All teams are encouraged to maintain a first-aid kit that contains supplies to stop, contain or cover bleeding. The umpires' judgment will be final as to whether further participation will be allowed.
- M. EXTRA INNINGS - In the event of a tied game after 7 innings or after game time has expired; extra innings will be played as a 1-pitch format. In coed play, if a man is walked the next female must bat regardless of the number of outs. If a batted ball hits the pitchers screen, it will be a dead ball, no pitch. The second ball that hits the screen in the same at bat, will be an OUT!
- N. **PITCHING SCREEN**
1. Pitching screens will be used in all adult leagues on all fields for the safety of the pitchers. The screens are not optional and shall not be removed by anyone. (No Exceptions).
  2. There will be a three-foot buffer zone in front of the pitching rubber that the screen must be placed. The pitching screen may only be adjusted left or right during a game when there is a pitching change (The screen must cover at least some portion of the pitching rubber). Pitchers are allowed warm-up throws to determine their screen placement.
  3. When batting, if a batter hits the net, it is a dead ball foul. If the batter hits the net again during the at bat, they are out. If they have no more fouls to give, and they hit the net, they are out. In each at bat, 3 balls result in a walk and 2 strikes result in a strikeout. One foul on the 2nd strike is allowed.
  4. No runners may advance any time a batted ball hits the screen. If a thrown ball hits the screen at any time, it will be considered live unless an umpire has already signaled dead ball prior to the ball hitting the screen.
  5. Contact is considered to be the ball touching any part of the pitching screen no matter if in direct flight or from the ground.
  6. Once the ball is in play the pitching screen cannot be moved in any way. If it is moved, then



all runners will be awarded the next base.

### **III. BALLS, EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS**

- A. **GAME BALLS** - The Dudley Hycon (COR .52 or 300 compression for men, COR .52 for women) is the official league ball. The 12” Dudley will be used for the men’s leagues and the 11” for the women’s league and female batters in the coed leagues. Each team will be given new game balls at the start of the season based on the number of games offered. It is BOTH teams’ responsibility to retrieve homeruns and foul balls. COED – The PARKS Dept will provide the 11” women’s balls for each game.
- B. **HOME TEAM** is responsible for supplying 1 new ball and 2 used balls each game. If home team does not supply the balls and the visitor team supplies them, then the home/visitor for the game will swap. During all playoff games, both teams will supply 1 new ball and 1 used ball.
- C. **BATS** – USA/ASA approved bats are the ONLY bats allowed for Cobb PARKS league play. All bats MUST have a legible, ASA/USA certified stamp – NO EXCEPTIONS. If the bat has an ASA /USA stamp but is on the Non-Approved Bat List, you CANNOT use it. A current list of all ASA/USA approved and non-approved bats can be found at [https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball\(EQUIPMENT\)](https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball(EQUIPMENT)) Note: this includes altered bats as well as non-approved ASA/USA bats.
- D. **USA BAT COMPRESSION TESTING & NON- APPROVED BATS** - All players will assume full responsibility to get their bat(s) checked/tested, prior to game time, by the Cobb PARKS league coordinator or on-site field supervisor. While it is not necessary to have your bat(s) checked/tested weekly if you knowingly have a legal bat, but it still remains the responsibility of the player(s) to have the bat(s) tested if there is any doubt, concerns or questions regarding the legality of the bat.
  - 1. Each team is allowed (2) two opportunities (per game) to check an opponent’s bat. Must be done after the batter completes their turn at bat and before the next pitch.
    - a. If the bat fails the compression test, does not have an appropriate certification mark, or is a non-approved bat, the batter will be called out and is ejected. An out will be charged at that at bat each turn. The batter will be suspended (1) one game.
    - b. If the bat PASSES (1<sup>st</sup> challenge), the protesting team will lose (1) one run.
    - c. If the bat PASSES (2<sup>nd</sup> challenge), the protesting team will lose (2) two runs.
  - 2. If the bat being tested fails the compression test, does not have an appropriate certification mark, or is a non-approved bat then that player will be suspended accordingly to their number of offenses:
    - a. 1st Offense – 1-game suspension
    - b. 2nd Offense – season suspension (from all teams/games for spring or fall)
    - c. 3rd Offense – 1 calendar year suspension from all softball leagues
    - d. 4th Offense – player is banned from participating in any adult softball program offered by



### Cobb PARKS.

3. Cobb County PARKS staff and the field umpire reserves the right to check and test a bat at any time. Any player caught with an illegal bat will be suspended based on the above criteria. (D1, D2)
- E. Regulation rubber spikes, rubber-soled soccer shoes or tennis shoes are permissible footwear. No track shoes, golf shoes, or football shoes may be worn. Players may not play barefoot.
- F. All players must have a clearly visible number on the back. (If a player is wearing a piece of clothing that covers their shirt, they must show staff if requested to confirm they have a number). No duplicate or taped numbers are allowed. A 2-week grace period will be in effect from the opening day of the season. After that time, if a team has a player without a number the other team will be awarded 3 runs. Teams must notify the staff and umpire of any player without a number before the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. If it is confirmed that a player does not have a number, the other team will be awarded 3 runs. At the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning and beyond no runs will be awarded to late arriving players without a number. This rule may not be used to protest the outcome of a game.

#### **IV. COED RULES (5/5) Monday Leagues only**

- A. To start a game, a team must have a minimum of 7 players.
- B. At no time can a team play more men than women. EXCEPTION: If a female is forced to leave the game and cannot be replaced, a male must sit out on defense, but may continue to bat with an automatic out being given for her position in the batting order.
- C. Captain's Clause: The captain's clause can only be used to alter the male to female ratio from 5/5 to 5/4 or 6/4 if one or both teams only have 4 females. Before a game starts, the captains can meet to discuss using the captain's clause. Both teams must agree and notify the scorekeeper/supervisor. If one team does not agree and the other team is short a female, they must follow the rules per the by-laws (IV-B). The captain's clause may not be used if both teams have 5 or more females before the start of the game. If a 5th female arrives after the captain's clause has been agreed upon, she must be listed as a sub regardless of the player ratio. The captain's clause is not available during tournament play.
- D. DEFENSIVE POSITIONS
  1. There must be a man/woman combination in the pitching and catching positions at all times, regardless of the number of players (men or women) participating.
  2. Two women must play infield positions, and two women must play in the outfield.
  3. If a team plays with eight players, it must have at least one woman at an infield position and one woman in the outfield.
- E. Men and women must alternate in the batting order, unless more women than men are playing. In that case, women may bat back-to-back. In no case can men bat back-to-back. Men are not considered to have batted back-to-back when an automatic out is taken between their at-bats.



- F. If a male batter is walked, he is automatically awarded second base. The next female batter will bat. Exception: with 2 outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. In extra innings, all batters must bat.
- G. Before the game begins either or both teams may elect not to hit the 11” ball. If neither team hits the 11” ball, the 12” ball will be used the entire game.
- H. When a woman is at bat the outfielders must play at normal depth. In most parks a 200’ line is established and all outfielders must remain behind that line until the batter swings at the ball. If an outfielder is caught in front of the line prior to the swing, the umpire will call a “delayed dead ball” and the batter will have the choice of accepting the results of the at bat or batting again.

#### **V. COED RULES (6/4) Wednesday Leagues only**

- A. 10 players on the field maximum including 6 males/4 females. Can also play 5/5 in the field.
- B. To start a game, a team must have a minimum of 7 players (at least 3 must be female.) 8 players (minimum 3 females), 9 players (minimum 3 females), 10 players (minimum 4 females)
- C. Batting Order: No more than 2 men may bat in a row in the batting order (i.e. 2 males, 1 female, 2 males, 1 female, etc. or vice versa). Teams may bat as many players as they want, but must keep the 2:1 lineup rotation.
- D. If a team’s line-up is reduced due to injury, there is no penalty as long as the batting order rule is still followed. However, if the injury breaks the 2 in a row rule, an out will be awarded at their first at bat. If the injured player isn’t able to bat again the rest of the game, no out will be awarded after the first at bat. If a team’s line-up is reduced for any reason other than injury, the team must take an out each time that position comes up in the batting order (if no legal subs are available).
- E. Defensive Positions: There must be a man/woman combination in the pitching and catching positions at all times, regardless of the number of players (men or women) participating. There must be at least one (1) female in the outfield and at least one (1) female in the infield (pitcher and catcher do not count towards the infield). Maximum number of players in the field is 10, including at least 4 women. Minimum number of players in the field/your starting line-up is 7 (at least 3 of whom must be women), or if a team has 8-9 players (3 must be women). There is no maximum number of women allowed on the field/in your line-up. No more than 6 men are allowed on the field at one time.
- F. If a male batter is walked and is followed by a female batter, he is automatically awarded second base. The female batter will then bat. Exception: with 2 outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. In extra innings, all batters must bat.
- G. Re-entry: Any starter or substitute may be re-entered as many times as needed in the **Al Bishop Social League only**. Players must occupy the same batting position whenever they are in the line-up.

#### **VI. NICKAJACK SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

##### **A. TRINITY LEAGUE**

1. Home Run Limit - 2 over the fence HR per team per game; after that it is a Single.



2. Injuries - No outs are recorded for players that had to leave the game due to injury.
3. Run Rule: If the losing team wishes to continue to play, the mercy rule can be waived, and the game can continue as normal.
  - a. This is not a “continue playing just for fun” stipulation - the game continues as normal. If the team that would have been mercy ruled comes back and wins, they get the win for that game.

#### B. A&E TUESDAY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

1. Flip-flop Rule – Will not be used in this league.
2. Injuries – No outs are recorded for players that had to leave the game due to injury.
3. Women – This is not a coed league, but women may play in the league. If they choose to play, they will have to play by men’s rule, but the outfielders will respect the 180ft arc when a woman is batting.
4. Jersey Rule – The jersey rule will not be enforced in this league.
5. Ball and Strike Count – 4 balls will result in a walk and 3 strikes will result in an out.
6. Home Run Limit – There is no homerun limit for this league.

### **VII. PLAYING ROSTER**

- A. Rosters will be managed and updated online at [www.quickscores.com/cobbcounty](http://www.quickscores.com/cobbcounty). It is the manager’s responsibility to input all team members on the roster online.
- B. A player cannot be a member of 2 team within the same league. Teams may pick up players on another team in the same league, ONLY if they are short the 8th player to avoid a forfeit. Teams may not pick up a 9th or 10th player or subs from another team. If the team’s regular players arrive, the pickup players must leave the game and the regular players must be placed in the lineup where the pickup player was listed in the lineup. If a player stays in the game, after late arriving regular players are added, the game will be forfeited. Once the playoffs start, teams may only use players that are on their team/roster. In the playoffs, if a team does not have enough players to start the game, they will forfeit their game.
- C. No new players may be added to the team’s roster after the 5th week of the regular season. All new players must be added to the roster on QuickScores. A team’s coach may delete players on his/her roster at any time. Players that are not on the roster after the 5th week of the regular season will not be eligible for the playoffs regardless of if they played during the regular season. I.D. will be checked during playoffs, player's name on the I.D. must match the name listed on the roster to play.
- D. For a player to change teams either (1) the manager of the player's original team must report to the league coordinator and verbally release the player or (2) the player may report to the league coordinator and request his/her release. If a player requests a release to play for another team, he/she must be added to the roster of his/her new team. Teams will not be allowed to add an illegal/ineligible player to their rosters.



- E. A team can carry up to 25 players on its roster at one time.
- F. A men's team is allowed to play no more than 3 female players at any time. When at bat, the female must hit the 12-inch ball

### **VIII. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. **MEN'S AND COED:** A player must be **16 years old** to be eligible.
- B. When eligibility is in doubt, the burden of proof rests with the team whose player is in question.
  - 1. A case of a player participating under an assumed name **MUST** be handled on the spot. The opposing manager must bring this to the attention of the supervisor on duty before the last out of the game. The player under question must produce a picture I.D. or his/her team will forfeit the game, and the player could be suspended for the remainder of the season. **EXCEPTION:** The supervisor on duty may accept a non-photo I.D. if, in his/her judgment, extenuating circumstances exist.
  - 2. In other cases where eligibility is in doubt (**EXAMPLE:** A player playing on two teams in the same league or a player playing in the playoffs that is not on the roster), the protest must be submitted in writing to the league coordinator by 5 p.m. the next working day. A \$50.00 protest fee (Check only) must accompany the report. If not reported by the deadline, the game will be considered official and cannot be contested.
  - 3. Recreation department staff will decide all cases of player eligibility. Teams found to have played an ineligible player(s) will forfeit the game, and the ineligible player can be suspended for the remainder of the season (from ALL Cobb PARKS leagues).
  - 4. Players may participate on **1 team per league**. If a player's eligibility is brought to the attention of staff and he/she is found to be on another team's roster in the same league, the game will be forfeited. If the player is on two rosters, they must then declare which roster he/she will officially remain on for the remainder of the season.
  - 5. The parks staff has the authority to stop an ineligible player from participating.
  - 6. **League Level Balance Rule – Teams are restricted from playing more than 4 players from a higher level league offered on a team in a lower-level league during any game.**

**Leagues (From lowest to highest):**

- Social**
- Recreation**
- Intermediate**
- Competitive**

**A player listed on a higher-level league roster is considered a player at that higher level. If a team suspects their opponent of using more than 4 players from a higher-level league, they must inform the umpire and staff before the game ends. Staff will then verify the roster and IDs of the player(s) in question. If confirmed, the lower-level team must reduce the number of higher-level**



players to 4 or fewer. These removed players will not count as outs in the batting order unless it conflicts with the coed rule. If this reduction causes the team to drop below 8 players, they will forfeit the game. Teams are allowed to have more than 4 higher-level players on their roster but cannot play more than 4 of them simultaneously in a game. This rule cannot be used to protest the outcome of a game.

## **IX. PROTEST**

- A. A manager can protest an umpire's interpretation of the rules, provided the protest is made prior to the next official pitch. The manager must call time-out and notify the umpire and scorekeeper. The protesting manager must file a written report with the league coordinator by 5 p.m. the next working day, along with the \$50.00 protest fee (Check only) The report must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules, sections and sub-sections to bear out protest.
- B. Upon receiving the written protest and protest fee, the rules committee will meet to determine the validity of the protest. If the protest is valid due to a misinterpretation of the rules the protest will be upheld and the protest fee will be refunded. If it is not upheld the fee will be kept.
- C. Under no circumstances will audio or visual recordings be accepted for the review of any protested matter or incident.

## **X. PLAYER CONDUCT**

- A. **Abusive language, behavior, or profanity will not be tolerated by players or spectators who are on the bench, on the field or in the park. Offenders may be ejected before or after a game has been concluded and are subject to removal from the park, playing area and league.**
- B. If a player or coach touches an umpire or county representative in anger or threatens to do bodily harm before, during or after a game, he will be barred from the league indefinitely. Cobb PARKS Department will determine the length of the suspension. Minimum suspension – 1 calendar year in all Cobb PARKS adult athletic programs. Violators may also be subject to legal penalties as enforced by the Cobb County Police Department.
- C. Any player or coach ejected from a game will serve a two (2) game suspension in **all Cobb County PARKS leagues he/she participates in**. If a player plays in multiple leagues, the suspension covers all games he/she participates in until the suspension league night has been served. (E.G. Player A is ejected from the Monday night Men's Competitive league. Player A also plays in the Tuesday night Men's Competitive league. The suspension for Monday night would result in Player A missing the next two games on Monday and Tuesday night.) A player ejected for the second time from any game during a season will be suspended for the remainder of that season. **NOTE: Scorekeepers are not required to notify said player prior to the start of the game concerning ejections. Failure to do so shall not affect a player's ejection for the season.**
- D. Any player or coach attempting to play or coach when suspended shall be automatically ejected for the remainder of the season and the game shall be forfeited. If a player is ejected from a game and refuses to exit the park, the team will forfeit the game, and the player will incur a substantial suspension.
- E. Fighting among players, coaches and spectators, or any other conduct judged inappropriate by



recreation department staff will result in ejection of the individuals or teams involved for an indefinite period set by the department. **(Minimum suspension is (1) one calendar year in all Cobb County PARKS leagues).** Violators may also be subject to legal penalties as enforced by the Cobb County Police Department.

- F. The league commissioner reserves the right to suspend players based on their behavior, even if they have not been ejected from a game.

## **XI. THE SEASON**

- A. If a team forfeits two or more games during the season, Cobb PARKS reserves the right to drop that team from the league with no entry fee refund. If a team is scheduled to play a double header and forfeits the first game of the double header without notifying the league commissioners, the second game will be automatically forfeited as well.
- B. After the schedule is complete, there will be no changes or refunds. Scheduling requests must be submitted before the season and the League Coordinator will accommodate if possible.
- C. Rainout games and playoff games may be scheduled based on available days, not according to the specific days of the week on which participating teams may have played.
- D. Championship Tournament Games: In leagues where a single elimination tournament decides the winners, the higher seeded team will be the home team. In double elimination tournaments the higher seeded team will be the home team unless the higher seeded team is coming out of the loser's bracket. In this case the team in the winner's bracket will be the home team. If an "IF" game is played to determine a champion, a coin toss prior to that game shall determine Home/Visitor assignments. The time limit shall remain in all games until the championship game when the time limit will be waived. All other league rules apply.
- E. COBB TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS – The champion and runner up teams from each men's & coed competitive leagues at Al Bishop, Kennworth, and Terrell Mill may participate in a single elimination county wide championship tournament during the spring season. The county wide tournament will begin immediately following the last completed men's & coed park tournament. This tournament will be played at Al Bishop and will be completed in one week. If games are rained out, games will be played the following day or week. Games may be played Sunday-Thursday. The number of teams will determine the length of the tournament. If a player plays in multiple leagues and both teams make the Tournament of Champions, the player will have to declare which team he or she will play on for the tournament.
- F. Cobb PARKS Department reserves the right to place any team in a higher or lower league. League standings and point differential will be used to help determine league placement. Teams that perform exceptionally well or poorly, whether in the regular season or playoffs, may be moved to a different division for the subsequent season,

## **XII. PARK RULES**

- A. Drinking of alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated. A player determined to be under the influence of intoxicants will be immediately removed from the playing area and suspended from the Cobb Recreation Department softball program for 1 year. Cobb County law prohibits possession of alcohol



in the county parks system, including parking lots.

- B. Smoking or vaping shall be prohibited within the boundaries of any park, sports complex, recreation area or facility owned, leased, or operated by Cobb County, including any open area within such park, sports complex, recreation area or facility.
- C. Unattended or unleashed dogs are not allowed in the parks. Dogs are not allowed on athletic fields. Dogs cannot be tied to the fence.
- D. “Pepper drills” (hitting balls against the fence) are strictly prohibited on all playing fields.

### **XIII. RAIN-OUT PROCEDURE**

- A. WE ENCOURAGE ALL PLAYERS TO REGISTER FOR FIELD CLOSURE ALERTS. To receive an automated text about field closures, please visit <https://rainoutline.com/search/dnis/7622028142> and click the email or text alerts link. You would then click the email or text heading and check which locations you would like to subscribe to for rainout alerts. You can also download the mobile app to receive notifications.

### **XIV. TIE-BREAKER**

- A. The following procedures will be used to determine the first-place finisher or to break ties for other places.
  - 1. **TWO-WAY TIE:**
    - a. **Head-to-Head** - If two teams are tied with identical records, the winner is the team that won the game when the two teams played.
    - b. **Fewest Runs Allowed** - If the teams split their games, the team that allowed the fewest runs during the entire season will be declared the winner.
    - c. **Most Runs Scored** - If the teams still remain tied, the team scoring the most runs during the season will be declared the winner.
    - d. If a tie still remains, the team that allowed the fewest runs when they played each other will be declared the winner.
  - 2. **THREE-WAY OR MORE TIE:**
    - a. **Head-to-Head** - If one of the three or more teams defeated each of the other teams during the season
    - b. **Fewest Runs Allowed** - If three teams or more are tied, the winner will be determined by the team that allowed the fewest runs.
    - c. If two of the teams still have the same total of runs allowed, the winner will be the team that won the game played between the two teams during the season. If the teams split their



games, the team that scored the most runs during the season will win.

- B. **NOTE\*** Forfeit games will be recorded as a 7-0 score. This score can be used except when a disadvantage would occur to a winning team, or an advantage would occur to a losing team.