



Adult Softball League Rules & Regulations

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I. League Structure/Organization

- A. All games will be played by USSSA and City of Douglasville Parks and Recreation Department rules.**
- B. All players will have to present an ID before playoff games to be considered eligible to play.
- C. Players may participate on one (1) team per league.
- D. There are 7 regular season games minimum and playoffs following. Game times and locations will be posted on the City of Douglasville QuickScores website. This website will also be where teams will submit their rosters, check the leagues schedule, and rankings.
- E. Block out dates will not be accepted. However, game time requests will be accepted and honored to the best of our ability.
- F. Practices – Field reservations will be handled on a first come first serve weekly basis beginning at 8:00am every Monday morning. If field lights are needed, a fee of \$20.00 per hour will be charged. This must be paid for before the lights will be turned on. At a maximum each team can only schedule one practice during the week and one practice during the weekend. At a maximum, practices will be limited to 1 ½ hours during the week and during the weekend.
- G. Please contact Athletic Manager - Algenon Wilson (wilsona@douglasvillega.gov) 48 hours prior to for practice reservations.**
- H. Forfeits: **If a team knows in advance that it will not have enough players, the athletic coordinator must be notified by 4:00 pm on game day.** Two forfeits in a row or three total forfeits will result in dismissal from further league play. **NO REFUNDS!** If a team that meets their limit of forfeits can still field a team for the remainder of the season, they will remain on the schedule but will not be eligible for post season play.
- I. Captains, please remember that you are required to meet at home plate with the umpire before each game. During this time, both teams should review and agree



on the rules and style of play before the game begins. This helps avoid any confusion or disputes during the game and ensures everything runs smoothly.

II. Roster/Lineups

- A. A minimum of 8 players can start a game. A 9th or 10th player may be added to the 10th position any time before the end of a game.
- B. A team can only pick up two (2) max players that are registered in our league if they are at the minimum 8 players. If they have enough players from their own team, then they cannot pick up players. This must be agreed upon at the home plate meeting between the two team's captains only and let the umpire know immediately before the game starts. You have to play with the minimum of 8 players, if a team does not have the minimum, that team shall forfeit. In the playoffs you will not be allowed to pick up players.**
- C. 20 max player roster limit (Men's and Coed league).
- D. Players must be legal age prior to the first game of the season. Any team caught using a player not on their roster will be suspended from further league play immediately.
- E. Roster changes can be made through the recreation department: No players can be added after the date 03/17 (men's league) and 04/02 (coed league).**
- F. Can only have max 10 defensive players in the outfield
- G. Any player that leaves the game for any reason may not return to the game and when it comes to their spot in the lineup, it will be recorded as an out for the first at bat. (This does not apply to normal re-entry and substitutions).
Exception: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return.

III. Game/Playing Rules

- A. Playing Dimension: 70-foot bases & 50-foot pitch screen will be used in both COED & Men's Leagues.



- B. Courtesy Runner** – One courtesy runner per inning (one time per team) may be used. The courtesy runner can be any player on the roster. Once the courtesy runner occupies the base, the selected courtesy runner may not be exchanged for any other desired courtesy runner. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time her/his turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out. **In the COED, any male player in the lineup may run for any male, and any female player in the lineup may run for any female.**
- C. Safety-wise, a runner can step off the bag to avoid being hit by the ball while on the bag but must step on the bag before advancing. If the runner doesn't step on the bag before advancing, then the runner is out. Umpires will use their judgment to determine whether or not the runner steps on base before advancing.
- D. There will be a (55) minute time limit on all games, unless tied. The official scorekeeper will keep time. **There will be no time limit on the League Championship Game, those games will be played to 7 innings.**
- E. **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. Extra-inning games that go beyond the time limit will go to one pitch.
- F. **There will be a ten (10) minute grace period for all games.** The ten-minute grace period is part of the (55) minute time limit. **The game clock will begin when the umpire instructs the scorekeeper to do so. No grace period if each team has the required number of players to begin.**
- G. 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.
- H. Tie Game: International Tie Breaker (ITB) rule comes into effect when a game is tied after regulation play.

IV. COED TEAM RULES

- A. **At all times you have to have a minimum of four (4) females in your roster lineup**
- B. **Batting order: No more than two (2) males can bat consecutively (can't be three males in a row).**



- **Example if you have 6/4 ratio: (FMMFMMFMMF) or (MMFMMFMMFF)**
- **Example if you have 5/5 ratio: (FMFMFMFMFM) or (MFMFMFMFMF)**

- C. 11" balls pitched to females and 12" balls pitched to males
- D. If a male is walked then the proceeding female in the lineup is allowed to choose to also walk or take the at bat (no matter the females choice, the male is moved to second base)
- E. Coed- "only while a female is at bat"-infielder's feet must remain in the infield dirt until the ball crosses the plate; outfielders must remain behind the 200ft line until the ball crosses the plate.
- F. If a team plays with 8 or 9 players, have to have a minimum of 4 women, you can't bat three (3) men in a row.
- G. If a team knows in advance that it will not have enough female players or players and will forfeit, then the athletic coordinator must be notified by 4:00 pm on game day.**

Defensive Rules

- H. Two women MUST play in the infield positions (not including pitcher /catcher position), and two women MUST play in the outfield positions.**
- I. If a team plays with eight players, it must have at least one woman at an infield position and one woman in the outfield.

V. PITCHING SCREEN

- A. A protective net will be placed in front of the pitcher.
- B. 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. Teams cannot move the pitching net unless there is a change in pitcher.



- C. One foot must remain within the width of the rubber at the time of the release of the pitch.
- D. A ball thrown into the net on a defensive play will be considered a live ball. A ball thrown from third base that hits the net will be considered a live ball. The only time a ball hitting the net is dead is when a batter hits the net.
- E. If the batted ball hits the net, it is a foul, and no runners should advance.
- F. There is a 5ft buffer zone behind the pitching screen.
- G. If the batter hits the net twice the batter is out.
- H. No warm-up pitches or infield balls after the first inning.

VI. BATTING/HITTING

- A. If the batted ball hits the net, it is a foul, and no runners should advance
- B. 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.
- A. If a team chooses to bat all its players and a player is injured, and **no substitute** is available an out will be awarded.
- B. If the injured player can't bat again the rest of the game, no out will be awarded.
- C. If a player leaves the game for another reason an out will be awarded the rest of the game.
- D. Batter enters the box with 0 count on balls and strikes
- E. The batter is out on 2 strikes and walks on 3 balls
- F. One foul on the 2nd strike is allowed, but on the second foul on the 2nd strike batter is out
- G. Stealing will not be allowed in any division
- H. Sliding is allowed



VII. HOME RUN LIMIT

- A. Men's – 5 Home Runs per game with each after that being called an out
- B. COED – 5 Home Runs per game with each after that being called an out

VIII. Tiebreaker

The following procedures will be used to determine the first-place finisher or to break ties for other places.

A) TWO-WAY TIE:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Most Runs Scored - If the teams still remain tied, the team scoring the most runs during the season will be declared the winner.
- 4) If a tie still remains, the team that allowed the fewest runs when they played each other will be declared the winner.

B) THREE-WAY OR MORE TIE:

- 1) Head-to-Head - If one of the three or more teams defeated each of the other teams during the season
- 2) Fewest Runs Allowed - If three teams or more are tied, the winner will be determined by the team that allowed the fewest runs.
- 3) 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

IX. Equipment



- A. GAME BALLS
 - a) Men's Rec- USSSA approved 12" .44 COR, 375 Compression balls
 - b) COED - USSSA approved 11" .44 COR, 375 Compression balls
 - B. Equipment – The Douglasville Parks and Recreation Department will refer to the 2025 USSSA Rule Book & website Regarding the use of legal and illegal bats/balls in softball games. The DPRD reserves the right to change or alter this, and/or any rule for the benefit of the league at any time during the season.
 - C. Uniform Requirements- Each shirt is required to have a factory number printed on the back. No duplicate numbers are allowed. **Must have a number by 08/26/2025 (men's league) and 08/28/2025 (coed league). Teams must notify the staff and umpire of any player without a number, once confirmed the other team will be awarded one run for each player without a numbered shirt (cannot be the same number as another player on the same team).**
 - D. **Players may not play barefoot in our league.**
 - E. Metal/steel spikes and metal/steel cleats are not allowed.
- X. **Protest**
- A. No protest about the interpretation of the rules can be made by the team's captain and/or team member, and spectator to the Douglasville Parks and Recreation staff.
 - B. City of Douglasville Parks and Recreation staff can protest an umpire's interpretation of the rules, provided the protest is made prior to the next official pitch.
 - C. Only the team's captain can speak to the umpire about the pitch counts and the umpire calls
 - D. Under no circumstances will audio or visual recordings be accepted for the review of any protested matter or incident.
- XI. **Weather and Cancellations**



- A. If for any reason a game is cancelled and the game clock is at least 35 minutes, the game will result in an official game and the score at the time of cancellation will be the final score.
 - i. If the game was at less than 35 minutes, then the game will start back on a rescheduled date and the time will be set to how it was when the game was cancelled.
- B. If lightning strikes within 8 miles of the game, gameplay will be stopped for a 30-minute delay. If any other lightning strikes within 8 miles after that, the 30-minute timer will reset. Games may resume after 30 minutes have passed without a lightning strike. If the lightning delay resets more than once, the Athletic Coordinator has the discretion to call the game.
- C. In the case of inclement weather game play may be delayed. Games delayed by inclement weather for at least 30 minutes will be rescheduled if necessary.
- D. In case of rain, please be sure to check the GroupMe app for the announcement of rainouts. Remember, games can be postponed because of wet grounds. It may stop raining at noon, but the fields may not be in playable condition. Damage to both fields and players could occur. Teams will not be allowed on fields on nights that games are postponed.
 - 1. Make up games will be updated on the schedule and emailed to teams.
 - 2. The umpires will decide whether or not to play if rain should occur after 6pm or during a game.
 - 3. Games that are rained out after 35mins of play will not be made up.
- E. Only team captains can speak to the athletic coordinator about weather and cancellations

****The Douglasville Parks and Recreation Department will make all decisions deemed necessary for the benefit of the league. This league is designed for fun, recreation, safety, and skill. We reserve the right to deny participation to anyone or any team who detracts from this program. ****

XII. Player and Coach Conduct

- A. Any player or spectator who indulges in heckling or unfair rooting, uses profanity or abusive language, makes obscene gestures, or exhibits any other form of unsportsmanlike conduct towards other players, officials, department



staff, or others who are in the area, shall be subject to expulsion from the league.

B. Players that do not adhere to the conduct policy may receive the following:

1. Forfeiture of the game being played.
2. Disqualification from the league/tournament.
3. Removal from the park, facility, and playing area.

4. Any player or coach ejected from a game will serve a two (2) game suspension in all City of Douglasville leagues he/she participates in. If a player plays in multiple leagues (does not have to be the same sport), the suspension covers all games he/she participates in until the suspension league night has been served. A player ejected for the second time from any game during a season will be suspended for the remainder of that season.

5. Any player, spectator 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.

C. 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 City of Douglasville leagues). Violators may also be subject to legal penalties as enforced by the Douglasville Police Department.

D. If a player, spectator or coach touches an umpire or department staff member in anger, or threatens to do bodily harm, before, during, or after a game, they will be barred from all City of Douglasville leagues indefinitely. Violators may also be subject to legal penalties as enforced by the Douglasville Police Department.

XIII. Douglasville Parks and Recreation Rules

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to take part in or abet the playing of any games involving thrown or otherwise propelled objects such as balls, stones, arrows, javelins, drones or model airplanes except in areas set apart for such forms of recreation. The playing of rough or potentially dangerous games such as football, baseball and soccer is prohibited except on the fields, courts or areas provided therefore.



- B. No dogs, except for service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), shall be allowed: (i) indoors, (ii) inside any fence other than a fence surrounding the entire park, (iii) within 30 feet of any athletic field, playground equipment, or swimming pool.
- C. It shall be unlawful for any person to vend, sell, peddle or offer for sale any commodity or article within any park unless permitted by the director of parks and recreation.
- D. It shall be unlawful for any person within any park to have in his possession, custody or control any alcoholic beverage of any kind whatsoever, except at the West Pines Golf Course.
- E. It shall be unlawful for anyone to paste, glue, tack or otherwise post any sign, placard, advertisement or inscription whatever upon and within public parks or playgrounds and recreational facilities unless same is permitted by the director of parks and recreation.