

**Huntersville Parks and Recreation
Spring 2010 Rules
Men's and Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball Open Leagues**

1. ENTERING YOUR TEAM

- A. All interested teams must submit a team registration form along with league fees and roster by 5pm on Monday, February 22, 2010. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED! INCOMPLETE INFORMATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** *For a roster to be accepted it must be on the official roster form, have a minimum of 10 players with addresses.*
- B. Returning teams from Spring 2009 or Fall 2009 ONLY can register from Feb. 2-8. Then ANY other teams from Feb. 9-22 can register along with returning teams.
- C. The definition of a returning team is a minimum of 7 returning players on the roster within one (1) calendar year. For example if 7 players came back from Spring 2009 or Fall 2009 they are considered a returning team.

Limited spots are available, the league can fill up before the February 22 deadline.

D. Entry Fee for Spring 2010 Season –

Co-Ed League: \$470.00; two checks are required; one for \$270.00 payable to ASO; one for \$200.00 payable to the Town of Huntersville. (All figures based on a 10-team league, fees may be higher depending on number of teams)

Men's Leagues: \$575.00; two checks are required; one for \$375.00 payable to ASO; one for \$200.00 payable to the Town of Huntersville. (All figures based on a 10-team league, fees may be higher depending on number of teams)

*A returned check fee of \$25.00 will be used on both Town and ASO checks.

(Acceptable payment: cash, check, money order)

- E. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: All teams must complete a roster with names and addresses of all players. Any player who does not reside within the Town of Huntersville, meaning a Huntersville tax-payer, will be required to pay a non-resident fee equal to 5% of the team fee. **This is equal to \$10.00 per non-resident, non-taxpaying player. This fee is due at registration. **** Falsification of residency status will result in forfeiture of game(s) or even forfeiture out of league, and will result in forfeiture of league fees. HPRD reserves the right to randomly check rosters for residency status and request individuals to prove residency.**

- F. Once the schedule has been distributed, no refunds will be made.

- G. Co-ed league will start regular play March 8 and Men's league will start March 12.

- H. This Spring 2010 season will be a 10 game season. If a team is ejected or drops out of the league, the remaining games with that team will be counted as wins for the previously scheduled opponents, therefore, still counting as games in the 10 game schedule.

2. ROSTERS

- A. Rosters must be printed or typed on the attached Roster Form and all information must be complete or they will not be accepted. **All rosters must be signed by each player before the**

end of the third game. Failure to comply with this will result in player being considered illegal and will result in forfeit.

- B. The coach or assistant coach only, may make additions or changes to the roster. Changes should be made directly with the Athletic Coordinator and All Sports Official's representative by a **written notice/email on Player Addition Form**. If the added player is a non resident then the \$10 non resident fee should be turned in at that time. A player will be eligible for play 24 hours **after** their name has been added and fee has been paid. The rosters will be frozen after the team's third (3rd) game of the season. *HPRD has the right to accept or deny any player addition that will affect the teams' status as a recreational or competitive team.
- C. There will be a maximum of 25 and a minimum of 10 players per roster. If a coach is going to play he/she must also be listed as a player on the roster.
- D. All players must have reached their 18th birthday by their team's first game to be eligible to participate.
- E. All team rosters will be available to each team upon request to the Athletic Coordinator or All Sports Officials representative.
- F. If a team should forfeit out of the league before the halfway point, the players from the team will be eligible to be picked by teams within the same division.
- G. Players are eligible to participate in both the Men's league and the Coed league. However, players may only be on one Men's League team and one Coed league team.
- H. If a team is suspected of playing an illegal player (i.e. one that is not on the roster, playing under an assumed name or address), by the league supervisor or the opposing team and is proven guilty, the game will be ruled a forfeit. The second such offense will result in the team being ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and the tournament, with no refund. ***Picture I.D. may be requested and must be produced within one (1) hour.***

3. FORFEITS

- A. **Game time is forfeit time! There is no grace period.**
- B. The umpires will have and keep the official clock.
- C. A team must have seven (7) players to start and finish a game. Co-ed teams must have three (3) women (with 7 players) to start and finish a game. The ability to pick up players at the field will be used this season. The other teams coach must agree to the picking up of players and must agree to the players that are to be picked up. With playing with seven (7) players you may only pick up a maximum of two players to get to nine (9) or playing with eight (8) you may only pick up one (1) to get to nine (9). If your own players come in they must be subbed in for the picked up players immediately.
- D. Should a team forfeit two games and still desire to play in the regular season or tournament, they will need to pay a \$50.00 re-entry fee (non refundable). This re-entry fee must be paid at the HPRD offices between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, before the next week's

game to be reinstated into the league. The same procedure will be required each forfeit thereafter. Each forfeit will count as a loss. If the re-entry fee is not paid the team will be ejected for the remainder of the season and the tournament. *The only exception to paying this fee is if the forfeit occurred during a rainout make-up game.

- E. If a team knows for sure they will have to forfeit a game, a call should be made to the All Sports Official's representative and to the coach of the opposing team. The opposing team will have the choice of using the field space for practice or not showing up at the field. If the opposing team chooses not to show up at the field, a call should also be placed to the All Sports Official's representative.
- If the forfeit occurs ahead of time, the winning team will receive eligibility credit for all players on their roster.
 - If the forfeit occurs at the field, only the players present on the field for the winning team will receive eligibility credit for the game.
 - Players of the forfeiting team will receive no eligibility credit.

4. CONDUCT

- A. No player or coach shall be guilty of objectionable dissent at the umpire's decision by throwing the bat (or any other equipment) or protesting an umpire's call by refusing to play or directing verbal abuse. Furthermore, coaches, managers, and players are not allowed to heckle or engage in "trash talking", or other forms of un-sportsmanlike conduct, against any game official, opposing players, opposing spectators, or scorekeepers. **Profanity will not be tolerated.** Umpires and field supervisors have complete discretion and tolerance on these matters. Warning given by the umpires is to be heeded!! Failure to comply can result in ejection, forfeit, and suspension.
- B. No player other than the coach can discuss with an umpire, or staff, in any manner, the decision reached by an umpire.
- C. Fighting, threatening, others, and provoking physical attacks against officials, players, or spectators are not prohibited nor tolerated and you will be ejected.
- D. If a player or coach is ejected he/she must vacate the park immediately or his/her team will forfeit the game.
- E. Any physical contact or verbal threat toward the umpires, other players, ASO staff or HPRD staff will result in ejection from the league for **ONE CALENDAR YEAR.**
- F. If a player is ejected from a game he/she must sit out the remainder of the ejected game and the following game.
- G. It is the coach's responsibility to control the spectators of his/her team. Spectators are held to the same standards as players, as well as the same rules outlined above.
- H. If a player or coach is ejected from two (2) games during the season or tournament he/she will be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and tournament.

- I. There will be no smoking allowed in the dugouts or on the playing field. If you must smoke you must go outside the fence in the designated area.
- J. There will be no profanity or alcoholic beverages allowed at the fields or in the parking lot.
- K. No fighting will be allowed on the field or on park premises. Huntersville Police will be called and involved parties will be not only be ejected from the current game, but also the park. Fighting will result in a one-year suspension.
- L. Derogatory remarks toward the umpires or other team members by players, coaches, or fans will not be tolerated. This will be grounds for ejection or forfeiture of game if players, coaches or fans cannot be controlled.
- M. If there is a valid question about a call, other than a judgment call, time should be called and either the coach or assistant coach from the questioning team and opposing team will be allowed to discuss the call with the umpires. This will be done in a sportsmanlike manner. Any profanity or loss of temper will be grounds for ejection.
- N. Anyone suspended from league play will not be allowed to return to the fields for adult softball during their suspension.

-All violations of Conduct Rules are subject to a case-by-case examination and subsequent judgment from the Parks and Recreation Dept. The following penalties will be the guide for how the Parks and Recreation Department deals with these violations accordingly.

Minimum Penalties

- Ejection from game by umpires
- Game or games may be forfeited
- Ejected players will sit out a following game as well and must leave the field immediately after being ejected or umpires may rule game a forfeit.
- All ejected players will have to pay a \$25.00 reinstatement fee. Player will be considered an illegal player until fee is paid.

Additional Penalties

- Higher reinstatement fees of \$50 per incident / repeat offense.
- An additional game suspension, with the possibility of a long-term suspension, no less than one additional game; no more than one year from any and all Recreation Department sanctioned adult athletics.

Maximum Penalty

- Physically, assaulting, attacking, and verbally threatening an umpire, ASO staff or HPRD staff (at any point: before, during, or after) will result in at least a **One Year Suspension** from all adult athletic programs. If circumstances so warrant, the player can face additional suspension from participation in other athletic programs as well as criminal charges and also suspension from park property.

5. EQUIPMENT

- A. Teams must supply their own bats and equipment. No Titanium bats are allowed. In addition, the sanctioning body of this league has produced a list of approved bats. HPRD will maintain this list and have it available on their website for all coaches to review.
- B. Each team will be responsible for supplying one (1) new softball and one (1) playable softball for each game. **This league will use a USSSA “M” stamped ball. All balls should have a legible, manufactures stamp to be considered legal.** Women will hit an 11” or 12” ball and men will hit a 12” ball. Umpires will have final decision on whether a softball is legal.
- C. Prior to each game, umpires will inspect all bats that will be used during the games. If they see any signs of tampering, they are instructed to disqualify the bat immediately. If they miss a bat during their initial inspection, or a bat is introduced to the game that was not inspected first and is believed to be altered, the bat will be disqualified and its **owner will be banned from HPRD adult athletics for 2 years and the head coach will be ejected from that current game and the following game.** If the bat’s owner can not be identified, the bat will be confiscated. After a reasonable holding, if the bat’s owner is still not identified, the bat will be destroyed. **Please advise all of your team members that the HPRD will not accept any illegal bats, illegal balls, illegal players or excuses.**

6. GAME TIMES/DATES

- A. Co-ed league will play regular season games on Monday nights. Co-ed will be offered in Competitive and Recreation as long as at least 4 teams sign up for a division. If only 3 teams sign up for a division we will not offer that division.
- B. Men’s League will play regular season games on Friday nights. Men’s will be offered in Competitive and Recreation as long as at least 4 teams sign up for a division. If only 3 teams sign up for a division we will not offer that division.
- C. Returning teams that win the recreation league’s end of season tournament will be required to move up and play in the competitive division. This will remain in effect for one calendar year. However, if the competitive league is not offered then the recreation league’s tournament champion can still play in the recreational division.

7. PLAYING RULES: 2010 USSSA Rules with the following exceptions

- A. Designated Runners: Women for Women / Men for Men. The designated runner will be the last out.
- B. Time limits: No regular season co-ed game will start an inning after one hour with the exception of a tie game. No regular season men’s game will start an inning after one hour with the exception of a tie game. **If Extra innings are required as result of a tie they will be played with a 3-2 count.** At the bottom of an inning and after the third out if time has not expired another inning must be played. Tournament games will have a time limit of one hour. If a team is suspected of intentionally delaying a game the umpire will give one warning. The next delay will be a forfeit. The championship tournament game has a time limit of an hour and fifteen minutes.

- C. All teams' players must have a shirt with a visible number. **NO NUMBER NO PLAY!!!**
During inclement weather outer garments may be worn but player must have a number on underneath the outer garment.
- D. There will be a 20 run rule after 3 innings, 15 run rule after 4 innings, a 12 run rule after 5 innings, and a 10 run rule after 6 innings
- E. Games will start at the scheduled time or upon completion of the previous game.
- F. Line up sheets will be required to be completed and turned into the official scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled start of the game. Once the line up sheet has been turned in to the score keeper it becomes the official line up. **If a team is trying to purposely stall the game the game will be ruled a forfeit. Line-up sheets must include a player's first and last names.**
- G. **No decision on rainouts will be made before 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. you may call the Rainout Hotline at (704) 766-2250 or check HPRD's website www.huntersville.org for official status of games.**
- H. In the event of rain during or just prior to a game start, it is the team's responsibility to make sure the umpire or league supervisor has officially called the game before they leave the Park.
- I. An incomplete or suspended game, due to rain or power failure, will be restarted from the point of interruption with the exact situation as when the game was halted. A game will be called a complete game after the completion of the 5th inning.
- J. Make up games will be played on Sunday afternoons following the rainout. **Rain out games will be played at North Mecklenburg Park and/or Waymer Park.** If the next weekend is not available on the field schedule, the make-up game will be moved to the next weekend. Calls and/or emails will be placed to all coaches to confirm date of make-up games. It is the responsibility of coaches to inform players of new game times.
- K. Each team may practice infield ball only before the first inning.
- L. Co-Ed League can bid on home runs. Min is 1 Max is 3. Men's league you can bid on Home runs. Men's Rec. League- Min is 3 Max is 6. Men's Comp. League- Min is 5 Max is Unlimited Excess in both leagues will be considered an out.
- M. Each Coed team must have at least three (3) women to play if playing 7-9 players. If a team is playing 10 players, the team must have 4 women. Also see rule 3C.
- N. Co-ed league, all outfielders must stay behind the "outfield line" when women are batting. They may not cross the line into the infield until there is contact between the ball and bat.
- O. Co-ed league, if a man is walked in front of a woman the man goes to second base via first base and the woman batter has the choice to walk or bat.
- P. Co-ed league, you can bat 12 players; with one (1) man AH and one (1) woman AH. OR a team may bat 11 with either a man AH or woman AH. Men's league may bat 12 players

- Q. Co-ed league, you must have opposite sex catcher and pitcher. So if you have a female pitcher you must have a male catcher and vice versa.
- R. Co-Ed league, you will be playing with one umpire and one official scorekeeper. Men's leagues will be playing with two umpires and one official scorekeeper.
- S. The count starts at 1 and 1 with one good foul.
- T. The pitcher may pitch from the Pitching Plate or from the Pitching Area, an area the width of the Plate and up to six (6) feet behind the Pitcher's Plate.
- U. If a ball is hit and there is an infield play the runner must use the orange base in foul territory or the runner will be called out. The only time a runner is allowed to use the inside base, when running the bases is if there isn't a play at first or there is a wild throw and you try to avoid a collision with the fielder (subject to umpires discretion).

8. STANDINGS

- A. Standings will be based on win/loss records and are posted weekly on the department's website. In the case of a tie it will be determined by head to head play, then runs allowed, then runs scored in regular season games. If still tied with the teams splitting, the game scores added together will determine final standings. If still tied a coin flip will decide the standings. The winner will be the higher seeded team for the tournament.

9. PROTEST

- A. **To protest an illegal or ineligible player you will need to make that protest official with the ASO representative before the start of the 3rd inning. The first legally pitched ball is considered the start of an inning. All decisions made by umpires on the field are final and cannot be argued regardless of the call.**

10. AWARDS

- A. Plaques will be awarded to each league season champion team. Tournament champion teams will also receive a plaque.
- B. T- Shirts, a maximum of 25 per team, will be awarded to season champions.

11. TOURNAMENT

- A. All teams are eligible to participate in a double elimination, post-season tournament.
- B. Coaches are responsible for informing their team of their next game time scheduled on the tournament bracket. **All teams must be ready to play thirty (30) minutes prior to their scheduled tournament game time. If your team is not ready to play 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time then your team will forfeit that game.**

- C. Tournament Eligibility- To be eligible for the tournament a player must play in three (3) regular season games for all divisions except for Men's Competitive. Men's Competitive is a two (2) game requirement. Pick up players are **not** allowed in any division during the tournament. A player not on the roster is considered an illegal player. A player that is on the roster but has not met their required number of games is considered an ineligible player.
- D. Your team must be prepared to play any night of the week for tournament games. HPRD will make every attempt possible to schedule games on the regular league night or on a weekend.
- E. If in the men's league the tournament gets rain we will push back game times depending on how many games have to be postponed but will finish the tournament on the designated weekend. For example, if we get rained out Friday night, Friday night games will be the first games played on Saturday morning.

12. RULES FOR ALL HPRD FACILITIES

- A. All Sports Officials will have an appointed representative at all games. The officials or any ASO staff member will have the authority to enforce any situation that may arise.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. This league is an HPRD function and operates only as a "Recreational Activity".
- C. Profanity will not be permitted
- D. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the premises or people that have been drinking may not participate.
- E. Animals must be on a leash.

13. INSURANCE

- A. The Town of Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department does not have insurance to cover adult sports and cannot assume responsibility for any injury.
- B. Players should provide their own insurances.

14. OTHER

- A. **This league is sponsored by the Huntersville Parks and Recreation and is a recreational activity.** The department reserves the rights to eject, suspend, or ban any team, player, coach, or spectator for actions that may be harmful to individuals, the Recreation Department, or the Town in general.
- B. These rules will remain unchanged throughout the season. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to HPRD and ASO staff. The decision of HPRD and ASO staff shall be final in all matters.