

# Adult Softball Rules

1. All games will be played by USSSA and Douglasville Parks and Recreation rules.
  2. There will be a ten (10) minute grace period for the first game only. The ten-minute grace period is part of the one (1) hour limit. The game clock will begin when the umpire instructs the scorekeeper to do so after the coaches meeting and flip to determine home and visitor. There is no grace period if each team has the required number of players to begin.
  3. There will be a one (1) hour time limit on all games, unless tied. The official scorekeeper will keep time. A 10-run lead at the end of 5 innings, a 15 run lead at the end of 4 innings, or a 20 run lead at the end of 3 innings will constitute a win. Extra-inning games that go beyond the time limit will go to one pitch. There will be no time limit on the League Championship Games. "Games will be played to 7 innings". (Coed) Males and females can play any position. Pitcher and catcher MUST be opposite sex.
- **Coed TEAM RULES** Sec. 1. Five male and five female players must be in the lineup at all times (six and six if A.H. is used). Any five male and any five female players must play defense. Exception: A minimum of 9 players can start a game. However, there must always be five females players in the lineup. An out shall be declared for the 10th position in the lineup when that position is scheduled to bat. A 10th player may be added in the 10th position of the lineup at any time before the end of the game. That added player must be male. Sec. 2. An 11-inch softball will be used when a female is batting and a 12-inch softball will be used when a male is batting. It is an appeal play when the wrong ball is pitched to a batter. If the appeal is allowed, then the batter returnsto bat with the same ball and strike count he/she had at the time of the pitch. Also, any base runners must return to the base occupied at the time of pitch. Sec. 3. In the Mixed Program, teams starting with 12 players may drop down to 11 or 10 players but cannot have more males than females in the line-up. For example, if a female player is removed from the line-up, the male player following her in the line-up must be removed. All vacant spots in the line-up will be declared an out every time that position in the line-up is due to bat. If a team starts with 9 or 10 players, they are not allowed to add the 11th or 12th player at a later time. Any player that leaves the game for any reason may not return to the game. (This does not apply to normal re-entry and substitution) Exception: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return. Note: The defensive team may walk the preceding batter or multiple batters to get to the position or positions in the lineup that is an out due to having started with 9 players or having dropped to 11 or 10 players. No base appeals are allowed when this results in the third out of the inning. Male and female players must alternate in the batting order. Note: If a team starts with 9 players, a female player must occupy the first position in the batting order. Sec. 4. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat. NOTE: If the next female chooses to walk, it is not considered an intentional walk for the purpose of making an appeal.
  - In the **Men's Rec Programs**, a minimum of 9 players can start a game. However, an out shall be declared when the 10th position in the lineup is scheduled to bat. A 10th player may be added to the 10th position any time before the end of a game. Any team that starts a game with 10, 11 or 12 players may drop to the minimum of 9 players to finish the game. All vacant spot(s) in the lineup will be declared an out every time that lineup position is due to bat. If a team starts with 9 or 10 players, they are not allowed to add the 11th or 12th player at a later time. Any player that leaves the game for any reason may not return to the game. (This does not apply to normal

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**Any team desiring to protest an alleged infraction must notify the home plate umpire at the time of the alleged infraction. The umpire will then notify the official scorekeeper of the team's desire to protest. The official scorekeeper will make notation in the scorebook regarding the protest. If a team does not notify the umpire of an alleged infraction before the next pitch and in the case of alleged illegal players notify the umpire before the game is complete, the right to protest the game is forfeited. In addition, all protest must be submitted in writing no later than the following business day by 5pm of the game in question and accompanied by \$50.00 cash. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If the protest is denied, the fee will be forfeited. Judgment calls by the umpires cannot be protested, only interpretations of the rules can be protested.**

## Protest of alleged illegal players

**The team protesting must submit to the home plate umpire \$50.00 cash at the time of the protest. The alleged illegal player(s) must immediately produce to the umpire acceptable government issued picture identification. If an ID is not produced immediately, the player(s) is declared illegal. If the name on the ID does not match the name in the official scorebook and the picture ID match the players in question, the player is declared illegal. If the game is in progress, it will be stopped and declared a forfeit in favor of the protesting team. If the game has not begun, the player will not be allowed to play and the team may insert a substitute if one is available. If the protest is in regards to a particular person being listed on the official roster, the recreation department the following business day will decide the matter and the game will proceed.**

4. A team that cannot conduct itself properly will be dropped from further league competition. No refunds, for any reason, will be made to a team once registration deadline has passed.
5. Any player or coach ejected from a game will be suspended for one (1) game. The suspension will take place for the player's or coach's next game following the ejection. If a player or coach is ejected for a second time during the season, the player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season and be placed on probation for one year when allowed to return. Any player, coach or team involved in a fight, they will be ejected from the game and dismissed from the league immediately. **Any player using profanity will be ejected from the game. The Parks and Recreation Department will suspend anyone or any team dismissed from the league for no less than one year upon review.** If ejected, the player or coach must immediately leave the area of the playing field.
6. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON PARK GROUNDS!** Anyone caught will leave the park and will not play the rest of the day. If anyone is caught one time, they will be suspended for the remainder of the season and be placed on probation for one year when allowed to return. The Parks and Recreation Department will suspend anyone or any team dismissed from the league for no less than one year upon review.

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7. In case if rain, check with the recreation department between the hours of 4pm and 5pm. Check the park's Facebook page at Douglasville Parks and Recreation or by calling 678-449-3150 for field condition info. Games will be postponed due to wet fields. It may stop raining at noon, but the fields may not be in a playable condition. Damage to both fields and players could occur if games were to be played in wet conditions. Teams will not be allowed on fields' nights that games are postponed. Makeup games will be posted on our social media outlets.
8. The umpires or a present member of Park staff will decide whether to play if rain should occur after 5pm or during a game.
9. Tobacco use of any kind on the field or in the dugouts by players, coaches or umpires is prohibited.
10. A player may resign and transfer to another team one time per season before the 5<sup>th</sup> game provided:
  - The player obtains a written statement from the manager of the first team. If demanded, the manager must sign a release.
  - The releasing manager and player must sign the release. This release must be brought to the recreation department before the player is eligible to play with another team.
11. Twenty (20)-player roster limit. Players must be legal age prior to the start of the season. Church-16, Co-ed-16, open-16. Any team caught using a player not on their roster will be suspended from further league play immediately. Roster changes can be made through the recreation department not beyond the third game. To be eligible to play in the church league, the player must be a minister-approved member and/or a minister-approved regular attendee of the sponsoring church.
12. Each team must call or email in the result of their games to the Athletic Dept. the morning following the game between 8am-9am if an official scorekeeper is not present at the game.
13. If two or more teams end the season with identical records, three tie breakers will be used:
  - Head to head records (ex. 2 games to 1)
  - In case of a split, the team with the greatest margin of victory
  - One playoff game is necessary. (playoff place)
14. Any player or coach caught throwing a bat will be removed from the game by the umpires and suspended for a minimum of one (1) game. All umpires and the recreation department will strictly enforce this rule.
15. Two forfeits in a row or three total forfeits will result in dismissal from further league play. No Refunds!
16. Short Handed Rule-Refer to the 2017 USSSA Rules book
17. No warm-up pitches or infield balls after the first inning
18. **Block out dates will not be accepted. However, game time request will be accepted. Request must be turned in with the entry fee and roster by the registration deadline.**
19. **Home Run Limit**  
Men's Comp, Men's Rec, Men's Church, Coed will have a limit of three (3) over the fence home runs per team per game. Any home run in excess of this number, the batter will be awarded a single. No Ejections. ***Rec vs Competitive "Rec is allowed 3 HRs and receives a 10 run spot to begin the game; the competitive team is allowed 7 HRs.***

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20. Entry fee is \$350 per team for 10 games. The game days have yet to be determined. Make-up games are subject to be scheduled on any day, including Saturday and Sunday. Games will begin as early as 6:00pm and as late as 9:00 pm. Each team must provide one new ball per game. Coed teams must provide two new balls per game:
- Men's 12 in Classic M's (USSSA)
  - Women's 11 in Classic W's (USSSA)

Teams that have not turned in their roster by the first game will forfeit each of their games until one is turned in to the recreation department. **\*Days of the week that each league plays on will change depending on participation totals, and available game dates & times\***

21. Equipment-The Douglasville Parks and Recreation Department will refer to the 2017 USSSA rule book 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. Metal/steel spikes and metal/steel cleats are not allowed. **All bats must be USSSA approved slow pitch softball bats**

## Pitching Screen

- One leg of the net must be touching the rubber at all-times. The net must not be moved during the course of an inning.
- There is a 5 ft buzzer zone behind the rubber
- One foot must remain within the width of the rubber at the time of the release of the pitch
- First ball into the net with a ball or strike is a foul. Second ball into the net is an out.

## FAQ

- Each player will start with a 1 and 1 count
  - 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.
22. Uniform Requirements-Team uniforms for softball will consist of shirts with a factory number. The logos, numbers, trim, ect. does not have to match if the basic color is the same. Hand written or taped numbers are not allowed. Players that play with some kind of jacket or similar apparel over their jersey must show to the umpire that they have on a legal jersey under their outerwear.
23. Courtesy Runner- **Refer to the USSSA 2017 rules book**
24. Practices-Field reservations will be handled on a first come first serve weekly basis. At a maximum, each team can only schedule one practice during the week and one practice during the weekend. At maximum practices will be limited to 1 ½ hours during the week and during the weekend.
25. Stealing will not be allowed in any division.
26. 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 does not abide by our rules and regulations.

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27. Registration fee is payable to the City of Douglasville

