

Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department

**2024 ADULT SOFTBALL**

**CONDENSED RULES**

For further explanation of any rule, please see the Adult Softball Policies and Procedures. Any softball rule not covered in the Policies and Procedures will be governed by the current One Nation ruling.

**I. FORFEITURE:**

**All leagues:** A team will forfeit its game if minimum of **eight** players are not ready to play at the scheduled starting time. **No grace period.** You may add the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> players to the end of the batting order as they arrive.

**Doubleheader Leagues:** After forfeiting the first game, a team will forfeit the second game if it does not have eight players by 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the first game.

**II. GAME REGULATIONS:**

A. There is no smoking, or vaping on the fields by players or umpires.

B. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at the playing site or parking lots. If players or fans are caught with alcoholic beverages, the police will be called. Team managers are responsible for their players, and fans.

C. **Run Rule:** Twenty (20) runs at the end of three (3) innings; fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings; and ten (10) runs at the end of five (5) innings.

D. Both team representatives must fill out the blue card and sign it at the end of the game.

E. Tied games are played until the game is won. The time limit is revoked to complete the game.

**III. PLAYING RULES**

A. Extra players are optional, but if they are used it must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the scorecard in the regular batting order.

B. One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. The person who made the last out will be the courtesy runner (same sex in coed).

C. There is no bunting or stealing in any league.

D. Eligible roster members may be added to the substitute list at any time during the game. A player cannot be put in the lineup until he/she present at the game on the bench.

E. The softball field coordinator will have copies of all final rosters and can answer questions about player eligibility as they arise. Team roster checks must be requested after the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch in the first inning and before the end of second inning. All players must bring a photo ID to all games in order to perform roster checks. Challenged players will have 5 minutes to produce a photo ID. If the photo ID is not presented by the end of 5 minutes, the player will be declared illegal. If an illegal player is found playing, (this would be any player that is not listed on the final roster) then that team will automatically receive a forfeit loss, and the game will end immediately. Teams found using an illegal player will be responsible for the full umpire fees for the forfeited game(s).

- F. All batters start with a one ball and one strike count. **There is no longer one extra foul ball to waste. Once the batter has 2 strikes the ball must be fair.**
- G. Substitutes, as well as re-entries must be placed in the spot in the batting order in which they were substituted. Once removed, a player must remain out of the game for one full inning (six outs).
- H. Each team is allowed three over the fence home runs per game, any additional balls hit over the fence are automatic outs and runners may not advance.
- I. On an over-the-fence homerun, the batter and the base runners do NOT have to circle the bases.
- J. **Legal Bats:** We will follow the One Nation legal bat list. Please check with your umpire or scorekeeper. An updated bat list can be found on the One Nation website and in the field box. If a batter is caught using an illegal bat, he/she will be called out, his/her name noted, and any future violation will result in suspension. **Any player caught using an altered bat will be suspended for the duration of the season and the following season.**

All bats must now have the following stamps.



#### IV. MEN'S REGULATION

- A. Sliding is allowed at all bases.
- B. 65 minute time limit.

#### V. COED

- A. Sliding is allowed at all bases.
- B. 65 minute time limit.
- C. If a male is walked, he goes to second base. If there are two outs, the following female has the option to bat or walk.
- D. Ten players: five male and five female – with the following position requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher/catcher.  
**Extra players:** If only one is used it must be female; if two are used it can be one male and one female or two females.

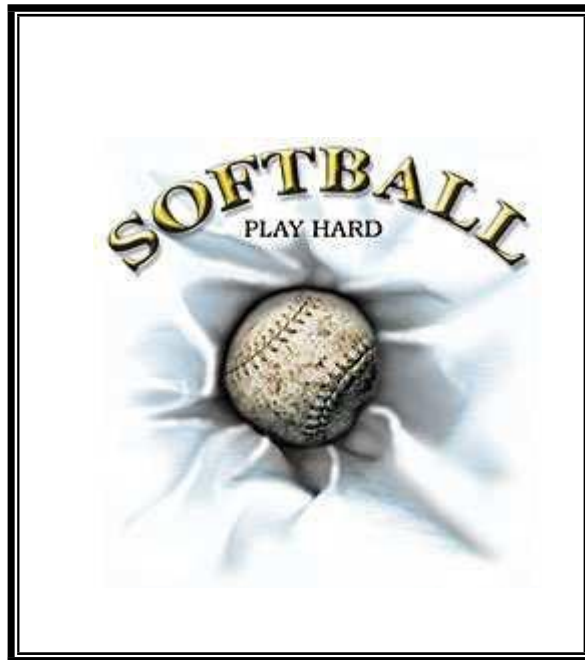
## 2024 NEW Rule Changes

1. Teams that hit home runs, or an out of play foul ball must retrieve the softballs and return them to the umpire. In the event that the softballs cannot be retrieved the team that hit the ball must furnish a backup ball. **Teams must bring back up balls. If a team does not bring back up balls they forfeit the game(s).**
2. **OneNation umpires Fees: The umpire fee is required to be paid at the start of each game on the field by each team manager/representative. The umpire fee per adult game has changed for 2024: \$35 per umpire/game and is broken down as follows:**
  - ~ Home Team Fee per game = \$20
  - ~ Visiting Team Fee per game = \$15
  - ~ Double Header Team Fee = \$35 per game
3. *All leagues will be using OneNation Pro Comp Super Gold Dot XT softballs. This includes the Thursday night men's league. Model ON12CY, SKU, W00653517, .44 COR/400 pounds of compression.*
4. There will be a \$70 forfeit/team roster deposit fee charged at the time of team registration for all teams. This deposit will be refunded at the end of the season if teams follow the rules below. It is recommended that this deposit fee be paid with a credit card in order to reduce the amount of time for the deposit refund for the city's finance department.
  - A. Teams give at least 24 hours' advanced notice when forfeiting a game(s).
  - B. Team managers, or a team representative must attend the preseason league meeting held via zoom.
  - C. Teams must turn in their final team rosters (fully completed) electronically by the second week of games. This includes player first, and last name, zip code, age, and email address.
  - D. Teams are in good standing at the end of the season and no suspensions, no player or fan ejections, or written warnings have been issued to the team, player(s), or fans of the team.
5. Final team rosters must be submitted electronically by the second week of the season to the league director via email. ([pullinja@cityofcf.com](mailto:pullinja@cityofcf.com))
6. Emergency Roster Update – after 2 weeks if there are extenuating circumstances such as an illness, injury, job change, etc. a minor roster update can be made. This must be approved in writing with the softball coordinator and league director.
7. Monday Men's league is prohibited from using players that are OneNation sanctioned players. Teams found with OneNation sanctioned players will forfeit those games.
8. Monday Men's league players must regularly attend, and be actively involved in the church their team is sponsored by. Players that do not regularly attend, and aren't actively involved in the church their team is sponsored by are prohibited from playing on that team.

Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department

# **2024 Adult Slo-Pitch Softball Program**

## ***“Policies and Procedures”***



Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department  
2310 Second Street  
Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221  
330-971-8225  
[www.cityofcf.com/adultsports](http://www.cityofcf.com/adultsports)



# 2024 ADULT SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL PROGRAM

## Calendar of Events

DAY/DATE/TIME	EVENT
Wednesday, Feb 21      9:00 a.m.	Registration opens for returning teams from 2023.
Thursday, Feb 29      9:00 a.m.	Registration for new teams opens.
Wednesday, Mar 20    4:00 p.m.	Registration closes.

**Team Managers Meetings Held via Zoom**

Monday, April 15 8:00p.m. Mandatory Coaches Meeting – Monday Men’s League

Tuesday, April 16 8:00p.m. Mandatory Coaches Meeting – Coed League's

Thursday, April 18 8:00p.m. Mandatory Coaches Meeting – Thursday Night Men's League

**Week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**All leagues start games!**

**NOTE: Final Rosters**

All final rosters are *due at your second week of games*. **Teams that do not turn in a final team roster electronically by the second week of games will lose the team roster deposit for the season!!**

**Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department**  
**ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM**  
**2024 Program Statement**

All leagues play at the Water Works Adult Softball Complex and other area fields if needed.

**All leagues will be using OneNation Pro Comp Super Gold Dot XT softballs. This includes the Thursday night men's league.**

There will be one Men's Church league playing on Monday evenings.

There will be one Men's leagues this season. A **double-header** league on Thursday evenings.

There will be two Coed Leagues: Tuesday, and Friday Leagues. The Tuesday and Friday Leagues are both **single-header** leagues.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Management of the Adult Softball Program**

- A. Those individuals who desire to participate in this program do so with the knowledge that the Parks and Recreation Department establishes all policies and regulates the program as a small phase of its overall parks and recreation service.
- B. The Parks and Recreation Department shall organize the leagues, use an assigner to assign umpires, prepare and release publicity, and maintain the fields and lights.

**Team and Player Registration**

- A. Teams who played in 2023 season's programs, and are in good standing (teams that did not receive any written warnings for rule infractions) will be given first opportunity to register.
- B. At the announced deadline in March, after all teams from the previous year who want to return have been placed in their leagues, there will be a blind draw of the new teams to fill any openings in the leagues.
- C. Teams eligible for the draw must turn in their entry fee, registration form, and tentative roster sheet by the announced deadline.
- D. All registration is final, no refunds will be issued once a team has registered.
- E. Individuals who desire to participate in this program, but lack team affiliation should email [pullinja@cityofcf.com](mailto:pullinja@cityofcf.com).

## **TEAM MEMBERSHIP - ELIGIBILITY**

- A. A team roster may consist of **20 players**.
- B. Players cannot participate on more than one team on the same night. I.E. Players can play in Tuesday, or Friday Coed Leagues.
- C. Men's Regulation: Men who are 18 years of age or older before the first game are eligible to participate in this league.
- D. Coed Regulation Slo-Pitch: Men and women who are 18 years of age or older before the first game are eligible to participate in this league.

## **ROSTERS**

- A. Team captains shall present a tentative roster to the Parks and Recreation Office at the time of registration. Rosters must contain each player's first and last name, zip code, and email address. Incomplete or illegible rosters will not be accepted. Signatures are no longer required on the final roster.
- B. Changes in your team roster may be made prior to your team's second week of games. At that time the final roster must be submitted electronically to the Softball League Director via email. ([pullinja@cityofcf.com](mailto:pullinja@cityofcf.com)) Please note that players who are listed on the tentative roster and have played one game cannot switch to another team. After this deadline, the tentative rosters of teams who have yet to submit a final roster shall be deemed the final roster.
- C. **After the final roster deadline, no new member can be added to team rosters.**
- D. After this deadline, league officials will be furnished with copies of the final roster. Managers who wish to validate players from another team may request this information from the softball coordinator.
- E. **Roster Checks** The softball field coordinator will have copies of all final rosters and can answer questions about player eligibility as they arise. Team roster checks must be requested after the 1st pitch in the first inning and before the end of fourth inning. *All players must bring a photo ID to all games in order to perform roster checks.* Challenged players will have 5 minutes to produce a photo ID. If the photo ID is not presented by the end of 5 minutes, the player will be declared illegal. If an illegal player is found playing, (this would be any player that is not listed on the final roster) then that team will automatically receive a forfeit loss, and the game will end immediately. Teams found using an illegal player will be responsible for the full umpire fees for the forfeited game(s).

## **ENTRANCE FEES/UMPIRE PAYMENT**

- A. Teams will be officially registered with the submission of their entry fee, registration form, and tentative roster. Teams that are unable to pay can be placed on waitlist, and if any remaining team slots are available
- B. If a league is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, entry fees will be returned to the involved teams. If fewer than eight teams register for a league, the structure of the league and start times may change.

NOTE: Entry fee checks must be made out to "City of Cuyahoga Falls".

- C. Monday Men’s Church League, Tuesday, and Friday Coed Leagues: The entry fee is \$350 teams. Plus a \$70 team forfeit deposit fee.
- D. Thursday Men’s Double-Header: The entry fee is \$540.00 for teams. Plus a \$70 team forfeit deposit fee.
- E. All teams are required to pay the OneNation umpires at the field prior to each game. The price **(NEW FOR 2024)** is as follows:
  - Visitor Team- \$15**
  - Home Team- \$20**
  - Double Header Team Fee- \$35**

1. If a team does not pay the umpire, the game will still be played. The team will be billed and it is due within one week to the softball coordinator. The payment will then be sent to the assigned umpire. The team will not be allowed to play the next week’s game unless payment is received for the unpaid game.

**One Nation SANCTION**

All Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Softball Leagues (therefore all teams) are sanctioned by One Nation. One Nation rule books can be found online at rule books can be found on-line at: **playonenation.com**.

**INSURANCE**

The Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department does not carry insurance on participants or spectators involved in the program. If the participant desires insurance, it is the responsibility of the individual to secure the same.

**EQUIPMENT - UNIFORMS**

- A. The Falls Parks and Recreation Department shall furnish the softballs and the equipment and supplies necessary for the fields. The visiting team provides one good used ball.
- B. Participating teams must supply their own bats, catcher's gear, gloves, etc.
- C. All teams must wear some type of uniform, at least like-colored shirts with numbers.
- D. Metal spiked shoes are not permitted.

**PRACTICE FIELDS**

Prior to the season, the Parks and Recreation Department shall schedule fields for those teams who have paid their registration fees.



## **ORGANIZATION OF LEAGUE SCHEDULES**

- A. For all leagues, a blind draw will be used to place teams into divisions. League schedules and formats are subject to change depending on the number of teams in each league.
- B. All single game leagues will play a ten game schedule. If the teams are divided into divisions the winners of each division and the two overall best record holders shall meet in a play-off to determine the league championship.
- C. All double-header leagues will play a twenty game schedule. If the teams are divided into divisions the winners of each division and the two overall best record holders shall meet in a play-off to determine the league championship.
- D. If there are no divisions then the team with the best won/loss record is the league champion.

## **CURFEW/RAINOUTS**

- A. Games that are in progress when a heavy rainfall starts or a heavy fog rolls in shall be called at the discretion of the game officials.
- B. If it is raining, teams still must attend to see if the game will be played, unless emailed and/or texted by Field Coordinator through the quickscores system. **If you are not emailed/texted, you are expected to show up.**
- C. If a game is stopped because of inclement weather or other reasons rendering the field not playable, a game shall be deemed official after four or more innings have been played. This will depend on whether the home team needs to bat.
- D. Any game that has not played four complete innings and is stopped because of rain or darkness will start over on the makeup date.
- E. **The Info Line for up-to-date rainout information is 330-971-8369. This hotline will be updated daily by 5:00 p.m. and it will continue to be updated throughout the evening if playing conditions change. DO NOT CALL US WE WILL EMAIL/TEXT YOU OR CHECK THE HOTLINE TO SEE IF GAMES ARE CANCELED.**

## **DETERMINATION OF STANDINGS FOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 1. For leagues with divisions:
  - a. We will take the top two overall teams and the top two teams from each division to see who plays in the league championship playoff. Whoever wins of these four teams will be the league winner.
- 2. For league with one division:
  - a. The top two overall teams will be the first and second place winners for the league.

## **AWARDS**

In all the leagues, the championship team will receive a team award and individual awards.

## **FORFEITURE**

- A. **Single Coed and Men's Games:** A team will forfeit its game if it does not have at least **eight** members ready to play at the scheduled starting time. **No grace periods.** No more than four of the eight players in coed may be men. Teams starting with eight players may add their 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> players when they get to the field. You may finish a game with eight players due to ejection or injury, but an out will be called in the missing player's spot in the lineup.
- Coed and Men's Doubleheader Leagues:** If a team does not have eight players ready to play at the scheduled starting time of the first game, it will forfeit that game. If the team still does not have eight players 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the first game, it will forfeit the second game as well. **No grace periods.**
- B. A team will forfeit a game if any of its players are found to be in an intoxicated condition as judged by the game officials. The law provides that you must not be intoxicated in a public place and provides severe penalties for persons possessing alcoholic beverages or dangerous drugs or narcotics at such recreation programs and equally severe penalties for those persons appearing at such activities in an intoxicated state. Game officials are hereby ordered to bar any such person from the area. In the event of noncompliance, the officials shall notify the police in accordance with Section 509.03.
- C. If, in the opinion of the game officials, a team is excessively abusive, either in a physical or verbal sense, they can stop the game and award the victory to the other team. Players, fans, and or teams that have been give verbal warnings for misconduct will be issued a written warning if deemed necessary, and are at risk for suspension from future games. (both as an individual, and possibly the entire team) Please note that team managers are held responsible for the behavior of their players, and fans.
- D. **Teams forfeiting a game are obligated to pay the full umpire fee of \$35. The opposing team is not obligated to pay their half.**

## **SUSPENSIONS**

- A. Multiple forfeitures may result in a team's expulsion from the league, and its spot in the league will not be held for the next season. The only exceptions are weekend make-up games.
- B. Participant Suspensions:
1. If a player or manager is ejected from a game, a penalty of at least one game suspension and possibly more depending on the severity of the offense, will be handed down by the administration of the Parks and Recreation Department. The ejected player is suspended for the next scheduled game.
  2. If a player or a manager is ejected from a game for fighting or intoxication, he/she shall be suspended from further participation in the league for the duration of the season.
  3. The second time an individual is ejected from a game, he/she will be suspended for the duration of the season. It is each official's decision as to whether or not he will warn a player or manager who is out of line before the ejection occurs.
  4. Any player who intentionally throws a bat will be ejected immediately and suspended for the next game played including play-off and tournament games.

## **SUSPENSIONS (Contin.)**

5. Any player or manager ejected for any reason must leave the field and the park property immediately, with no further comment, or he/she will be subject to increased suspension for the remainder of the season and/or additional seasons.
6. Any player under suspension for an ejection is not permitted at the playing site for the duration of the suspension.

## **PROTESTS**

- A. Official protests are to be filed with the Parks and Recreation Department and addressed to the Recreation Program Manager by the close of the business day following the protested game. An official protest must be in writing, stating the infraction of the rule or league regulations, and be accompanied by a thirty-dollar (\$30.00) protest fee, in cash only, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- B. The League Director, Softball Coordinator and the Umpire-In-Chief shall rule on all protests and levy penalties as they deem fit.
- C. No protest of an official's judgment decision will be accepted.
- D. Protests must be announced to the opposing team captain through the game officials at the time of the infraction before the next pitch or within five minutes after the game has been played when the protest is made on the last play of the game. This procedure (within 5 minutes after game) shall also be followed for all eligibility protest.

## **GAME REGULATIONS**

- A. The following procedure is to be followed by team managers and game officials:
  1. During the game any questions a player might have must be channeled through the manager. Umpires will not debate calls with players. A team manager may discuss calls between innings or when the umpire calls "time out" during a game for such a purpose.
  2. All team managers are responsible for the full control of their team members and their fans.

## **GAME RULES**

- A. Smoking, smokeless tobacco, and vaping will not be permitted by team members, umpires, and fans on the playing field. This includes base coaches.
- B. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at the playing site or parking lots. If players or fans are caught with alcoholic beverages, the police will be called.

- C. If players bring young children to the games, they must be accompanied by another adult. Bringing children to games without proper supervision is hazardous to the children and adversely affects the quality of the leagues.
- D. Spectators are to remain in the bleacher area or well out of the playing area.
- E. Run Rule: Twenty (20) runs at the end of three (3) innings; Fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings or ten (10) runs at the end of five (5) innings. The home team will get to bat last if they are behind.
- F. Length: 7 innings, Rule F, or darkness, whichever comes first. Any inning in progress will be completed. The home team will get to bat last if they are behind.
- G. Tied Games: A tie ball game will begin the extra inning(s) using the International Tie Breaker (ITB) Rule until a winner is determined. At the start of each inning, a runner is placed on second base with the intent of accelerating opportunities to score and bringing the game to a speedier conclusion. The runner is the last batter to complete a turn at bat in the previous inning. At least one full inning is played, allowing each team the same chance to score. If the score remains tied, the same process is used in each inning until a victor emerges (one team scores more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning). When using the ITB a courtesy running cannot be used for the runner placed on 2nd base until the runner has advanced to 3rd base.
- H. Game starting times may vary for different leagues depending on number of teams.
- I. If teams desire to warm-up, they must do so on the sidelines before their game is scheduled to start. Ten minutes prior to the start of the first game, the officials may clear the field to prepare for the start of the game.
- J. Both the home and visiting team managers are required to sign umpire's card and provide the umpires with their line-up. This is to be done before the game is underway.
- K. There is to be no parking on the grass at Water Works Fields. This applies to officials, spectators, and players.
- L. Pitchers will be permitted five warm-up pitches before start of game and one before each inning.
- M. If, in the opinion of a game official, a team or player has any equipment that is detrimental in terms of safety, he may require said team or player to discontinue its use.
- N. The out of play lines at all fields include a line extending from the home run fence straight out to each out of play pole.

## **PLAYING RULES**

**In addition to the preceding rules, please note the following rules as they pertain to your respective leagues. Any softball rule not covered in these policies will be governed by the current One Nation ruling. These policies and procedures supersede One Nation rules.**

### **ALL LEAGUES**

#### **A. EXTRA PLAYERS**

1. The extra players provide an opportunity for all players to bat in your line-up. The rule is optional, but if it is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game, and be listed on the scorecard in the regular batting order. If the extra players are used, they must be used the entire game. There is no limit to the number of extra players a team can use; however, if an injury or ejection occurs and no substitutes are available the team must take an out in the missing player's position in the lineup. A team is permitted to finish the game with as few as eight players. An ejected player may not enter the line-up again during the game.

#### **B. SUBSTITUTION**

1. Players may enter the game no more than twice.
2. Once removed, players must remain out of the game for one full inning (six outs).
3. Substitutes, as well as re-entries, must be placed in the same position in the batting order in which they were substituted.
4. Eligible roster members may be added to the substitute list at any time during the game. A player may not be in the lineup until he/she is present at the game.
5. A courtesy runner will be allowed once per inning. The person who made the last out will be the courtesy runner (same sex in coed).

**Rules are subject to change without prior notice. In the interest of fairness, the supervisor has the authority to amend any of the rules during the season as needed. Updated rules, & policies will be posted in a timely manner.**