

Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department

2021 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 9th and 10th 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 on the field.

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.

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. (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. Scorekeepers will have copies of all final rosters and can answer questions about player eligibility as they arise.

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 permitted to hit a total of 3 over-the-fence home runs each game. Any additional hits over the fence are 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. 70 minute time limit.

V. COED

- A. Sliding is allowed at all bases.
- B. 70 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.

Fall 2021 Rule Changes. Please note the following updates for the Fall 2021 Softball Changes

1. Teams that hit home runs must retrieve the softballs and return them to the umpire. In the event that the softballs cannot be retrieved the team that hit the home run must furnish a back up ball.
2. Make up games will be held on Sundays between 12p-9p.
3. Please note the updated rules regarding the type of pitching permitted.
TYPE OF PITCH PERMITTED.
 - a. The ball must be pitched underhanded at slow speed.
 - b. The pitched ball must arc at least 5 feet (as measured/determined from the ground) after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of home plate ("clearly identifiable hump").
 - c. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground.
 - d. Special Note 5. A-C. The speed of the pitch and height of the pitched ball are left entirely to the judgment of the umpire (NOTE: For sake of uniformity in decisions, any doubtful pitch should be ruled as an unfairly delivered pitch). The umpire shall warn a pitcher who delivers a pitch with EXCESSIVE SPEED that repeating such EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH will cause the pitcher's removal from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game. A pitch that does not arc the full 5 feet from the ground as required (flat level pitch) may not be an EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH, but merely an unfairly delivered pitch.
4. In addition to the courtesy runner, a pitcher-courtesy runner will be permitted this season.
 - a. Pitcher-Courtesy Runner: A courtesy runner may be entered for a pitcher on base (in addition to the standard Courtesy Runner).
 - b. A courtesy runner does not have to enter immediately after the pitcher gets on base.
 - c. At no point is the courtesy runner mandatory for a pitcher.
 - d. The pitcher may be a courtesy runner for another base runner
 - e. If a courtesy runner is used for the pitcher, it MAY be the same runner that was used as the standard courtesy runner.
 - f. For purposes of the Pitcher-Courtesy Runner rule, the Pitcher will be considered the last defensive player who threw a pitch the previous inning with the following noted exceptions:
 - i. If the game is in the top of the 1st inning and the offensive team wishes to use the Pitcher-Courtesy Runner, that player MUST pitch to at least one (1) batter in the bottom of the first. This will be an appeal play by the offense with a penalty of a free Base on Balls.
 - ii. If the last defensive player to throw a pitch is substituted for offensively, that team will NOT be able to use the Pitcher-Courtesy Runner in that inning, EVEN if the pitcher is re-entered.

5. Courtesy runners

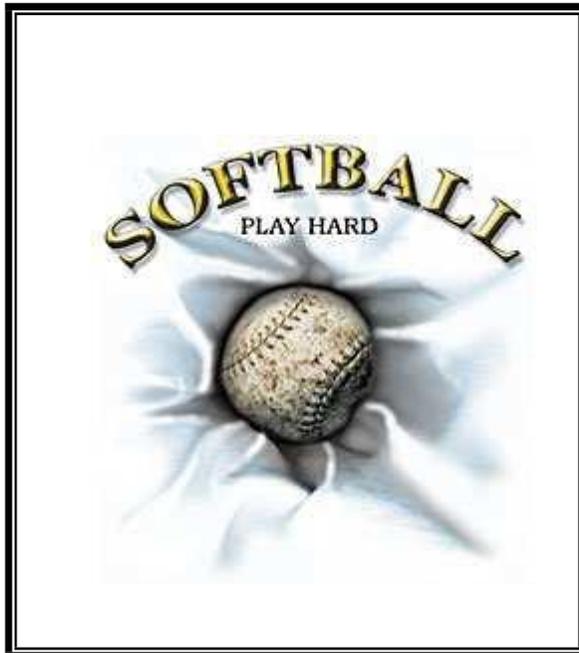
- a. COURTESY RUNNERS: One courtesy runner per inning may be used.
- b. Courtesy runners must be reported to the home plate or base umpire.
- c. The courtesy runner can be any player on the roster. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an out.
- d. A courtesy runner is considered in the game, when, during a dead ball period, he steps onto the base while the current base runner has vacated the base. If the courtesy runner is not announced to the home plate umpire, he would be declared out, if appealed.
- e. If a team bats through their order and the base runner who received a courtesy runner reaches base multiple times, the SAME courtesy runner may enter for that runner each time through the order in that one inning.
- f. In the Co-Ed Program, any male player on the roster can run for any male, and any female player on the roster can run for any female. Both a male and female player may opt for a courtesy runner in each inning.
 - a. Special Note 13. If a second courtesy runner of the inning, or one not from the roster, enters the game, and the defensive team completes a proper appeal before the next pitch, illegal pitcher action, intentional walk, or before all fielders have left fair territory, the runner will be declared out. Further, all courtesy runner infractions are considered an appeal play by the offended team.

6. Home run limits – players are limited to 3 home runs per game, per team. A batter will be ruled out because of an over-the-fence home run in excess of the limit, the ball is dead and no runners may advance.

7. Flip Flop Rule will be in effect if the visiting team is ahead and the HOME TEAM is losing by:

- 20 or more runs at the Top of the 3rd inning
 - 15 or more runs at the Top of the 4th inning
 - 10 or more runs at the Top of the 5th inning
- i. The home team will bat at the Top of the 3rd, 4th or 5th inning when this rule is in effect.
 - ii. If the home team scores enough runs and are not losing by the mercy rule, the game will continue without flipping back.

2021
Adult Slo-Pitch Softball Program
“Policies and Procedures”



Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department
2310 Second Street
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2021 ADULT SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL PROGRAM

Calendar of Events

DAY/DATE/TIME	EVENT
Thursday, July 29 5:00 p.m.	Registration deadline for teams from the 2021 program.
Friday, July 30 5:00 p.m.	Registration deadline for new teams. Blind draw held to fill leagues.
Tuesday, August 3 5:00 p.m.	All new teams will be contact with placement information.
Sunday, August 8 7:00p.m.	Mandatory Coaches Meeting – Held via Zoom
Week of August 12	All leagues start games!

NOTE: Final Rosters

All final rosters are *due at your second week of games.*

NOTE: Rainouts

All rainout make up games are played on Saturdays and Sundays for all leagues, beginning at 12 p.m. – 9 p.m. Do not register for the leagues if you are unable to commit to weekend make up games!

Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department
ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM
2021 Program Statement

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

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

There will be three Men's leagues this season. A **single-game** league will play on Tuesday evenings. A **double-header** league on Thursday evenings and a **double-header** league offered on Friday evenings.

There will be four Coed Leagues: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Leagues. Friday's League will be a **double-header** league.

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 last season's program 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. Entry fee checks must be negotiable and should be made out to the CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS. A team's registration form and tentative roster MUST accompany entry fee.
- E. All registration is final, no refunds will be issued once a team has registered.
- F. Individuals who desire to participate in this program, but lack team affiliation should email 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. Cannot play on both Tuesday Men's and Tuesday Coed, **CAN** play in Monday, Wednesday, or Friday Coed Leagues. Please note substitutes can play in different leagues on the same night but schedules will not be altered to accommodate them.
- 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. Incomplete or illegible rosters will not be accepted. No signatures are required for the tentative roster just 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 to the Softball Coordinator. 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 scorekeeper.

ENTRANCE FEES/UMPIRE PAYMENT

- A. Teams will be officially registered with the submission of their entry fee, registration form, and tentative roster.
- 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 Men's, and Tuesday and Wednesday Coed Leagues: The entry fee is \$300.00 per team.
Men's and Friday Coed Double-Header Leagues: The entry fee is \$450.00.

D. All teams are required to pay the umpire at the field prior to each game. The price is as follows:

Visitor Team- \$15

Home Team- \$15

Double Header Team Fee- \$30

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. Through the One Nation each team will receive a 2021 rulebook, and a scorebook.

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. *All rainouts will be made up on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning at 12 p.m. – 9 p.m., depending on how many rainouts need to be made up that day.*
- D. 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.
- E. Any game that has not played four complete innings and is stopped because of rain or darkness will start over on the make up date.
- F. **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 9th and 10th 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.
- D. **Teams forfeiting a game are obligated to pay the full umpire fee of \$30. 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 twenty-dollar (\$20.00) protest fee, in cash only, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- B. The Recreation Program Manager, 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 protests

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 will not be permitted by team members 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.

Tied Games: Play until the game is won; the time limit is revoked until the game is won.

- G. Game starting times may vary for different leagues depending on number of teams.
- H. 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.

GAME RULES (continued)

- 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.

- C. A courtesy runner will be allowed once per inning. (same sex in coed)