

Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department
ADULT FALL SOFTBALL PROGRAM
2019 Program Statement

All leagues play at the Water Works Adult Softball Complex. Game times are 6:15, 7:15, 8:15 and 9:15 p.m. All leagues begin the week of August 19th.

There will be three Men's Leagues this season- Tuesday, Thursday and Friday night.

There will be four Coed Leagues offered this season: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Night 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, assign umpires, prepare and release publicity, maintain the fields and lights, and in general, conduct the business of the league.

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 August, after all teams from the previous year who want to return have been placed in their leagues, if there are any openings remaining in the leagues, there will be a blind draw to fill the vacancies.
- C. Teams eligible for the draw must have returned their entry fee, registration form and completed roster (no player signatures required) 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 entry form and tentative roster MUST accompany all checks.
- E. Individuals who desire to participate in this program, but lack team affiliation, should call 330-971-8427 to be placed on the list of players looking to be placed on a team.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP – ELIGIBILITY

- A. A team roster may consist of **20 players or less**.
- B. Players cannot participate on more than one team on the same night i.e. cannot play on both Tuesday Coed and Tuesday Men's Leagues but CAN play on a Monday Coed and Tuesday Men's leagues. Please note that 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: 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 Recreation Director at the time of registration (no signatures needed). Rosters must contain each player's first and last name. Incomplete or illegible rosters will not be accepted.
- 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. It should be noted 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 those teams who have yet to submit a final roster shall be deemed as 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 official or from the Recreation Office.

ENTRANCE FEES

- 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 some unforeseen set of circumstances, the entrance fees will be returned to the involved teams. If fewer than 7 teams register for a league the structure of the league and the start times may change.
- C. All Leagues: The entry fee for all leagues is \$250. Made payable to "City of Cuyahoga Falls"
- D. All teams are required to pay the umpire at the field prior to each game. The price for each team is \$25 per double header game given to the umpire at the game site. All registration fees have been adjusted to accommodate this change.

USSSA SANCTION

USSSA will sanction all Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Softball Leagues, and therefore all teams. This affiliation provides eligibility to all USSSSA tournaments, the ability to purchase team insurance at low rates, protection for the teams' representative and sponsor, plus other advantages. Through the USSSA each team will receive a 2016 rulebook, a scorebook, and the sanction card, which covers the USSSA sanction fee in all USSSA sponsored tournaments.

INSURANCE

The Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department **does not** carry insurance on participants or spectators involved in the program. If insurance is desired by the participant, 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 umpire provides the new ball, visitor provides one good used ball.
- B. Participating teams must supply their own bats, catcher's gear, gloves. etc.
- C. All teams should wear some type of uniform, at least like colored shirts with numbers.
- D. Metal spiked shoes are not permitted.

RAINOUTS

- A. Games in progress when a heavy rainfall starts 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 by the Softball Coordinator. If games are cancelled, the Softball Coordinator will notify teams through QuickScores website. **If you are not emailed, you are expected to show up.**
- C. If a game is stopped because of rain, or any other reasons that render the fields unplayable, the 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 will be rescheduled and the game will start over.
- E. **The Info Line to get 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 CALL YOU OR CHECK THE HOTLINE TO SEE IF GAMES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.**

DETERMINATION OF STANDINGS FOR ALL LEAGUES WITH DIVISIONS

1. For leagues with divisions (even number of teams):
 - 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 games will be the league winner.
2. For the leagues with one division (odd number of teams):
 - a. The top two overall teams will be the first and second place winners for the league.

AWARDS

There will be a team award for league champ and individual shirts for all league champs. The team with the best won-loss record will be the league champ. The runner up will receive a team award.

FORFEITURE

- A. A team will forfeit a game if at least **eight** members are not ready to play at the scheduled starting time. **No grace periods.** In Coed, no more than four of the eight players may be men. If you do not have eight players by 15 minutes after the scheduled start of your first game, you will forfeit the second game. You may add the 9th and 10th player as they get to the field, and then put them into the batting order at the end. You may finish a game with eight players due to ejection or injury, you will receive an out in the position in the line-up.
1. **Teams forfeiting a game are obligated to pay the full umpire fee of \$25 per game. The opposing team is not obligated to pay their half of the umpire fee for that game(s).**
- B. A team will forfeit a game if one or more 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 331.05.
- 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.

SUSPENSIONS

- A. Team Suspensions: Multiple forfeitures may result in a team's expulsion from the league, and may result in team not holding their spot for the next season. The only exception to this will be make-up games. Game officials are required to report all forfeitures to the Recreation Program Supervisor during the regular office hours of the following day.
- B. Participant Suspensions:
1. If a player or manager is ejected from a game, a penalty of at least a 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.
 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.
 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, or additional seasons.

SUSPENSIONS CONT.

6. Any player under suspension for an ejection is not permitted at the playing site for any reason for the duration of the suspension.
7. Game officials shall report all player suspensions to the Recreation Program Supervisor during regular office hours the following day.

PROTESTS

- A. Official protests are to be filed with the Parks and Recreation Department and addressed to the Recreation Program Supervisor 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 five-dollar (\$25.00) protest fee, in cash only, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- B. The Recreation Program Supervisor, 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 fans.

GROUND 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 child 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; and 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 or Rule E, whichever comes first. Any inning in progress will be completed. The home team will get to bat last if they are behind. Tied games are played until the game is won. The time rule is revoked until the game is won.
- G. Game 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 the 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.
- I. The home team will be designated as the official scorer. It will be the responsibility of the visiting team to check in with the home team scorer throughout the game on substitutions and other game occurrences. Substitutions should also be reported to the umpire to be written on the scorecard. If the home team does not have an official scorebook, the visiting team will be designated as the official scorer.
- J. Both the home and visiting team manager 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. Pitchers will be permitted five warm-up pitches before the game and one before each inning.
- L. 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.

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 USSSA ruling. These policies and procedures supersede USSSA rules.

ALL LEAGUES

A. EXTRA PLAYERS

1. The extra players provide an opportunity to include all players 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 any extra players are used, he/she must be used the entire game. There is no limit on the number of extra players you can have. If any injury or ejection occurs and no substitutes are available, the team is permitted to finish the game with as few as eight players and an out will be taken for that position in the batting order. An injured or 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 batting order in which they were substituted for.
4. Eligible roster members may be added to the available substitute list at any time during the game. A player may not be in the line up until he/she is present at the game and on the bench.

C. 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).

D. A pitched ball must be pitched underhand at a slow speed. The pitched ball must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the pitchers hand and before it passes any part of home plate. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground. IF A PITCHER PITCHES ONE FAST PITCH, HE/SHE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME.

E. There is no bunting or stealing in any leagues.

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. The batter and the base runners do NOT have to circle the bases on an over the fence home run.

PLAYING RULES CONT.

H. Each team will be permitted to hit a total of four over the fence home runs in each game. Additional home runs hit over the fence will result in an out and runners may not advance.

I. **BAT RULE:** Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department follows the USSSA legal bat list. If you have a question about a bat, please check with the umpire. An up-to-date list of legal bats can be

found in the field box and on the USSSA web site.

All batters must have the following USSSA stamp



If a player is caught using an illegal bat, he/she will be called out, their name noted, and any future violations will result in suspension.

If a player is caught using an altered bat he/she will be suspended for the rest of the season and the following season.

- J. In an attempt to minimize collisions, the following rules have been established:
1. A defensive player cannot block the base if he/she does not have the ball - this is obstruction.
 2. A runner cannot make an attempt to dislodge the ball when the defensive player has it - the runner will be automatically out even if the ball is jarred loose. If action is flagrant, runner will be ejected from the game.

MEN'S REGULATION

- A. Sliding is allowed at all bases.
- B. 70 minute time limit.

COED

- A. Coed players: Ten players, five male and five female – with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and the outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher and/or catcher. You can always have more female players than male, but never more male players than female.
- B. Coed with extra player(s). Optional: If one extra player is used, player must be a female. If two extra players are used it must be one male and one female or two females
- C. If a male is walked, they automatically go to second base. If there are two outs and a male is walked the woman has the option to walk or to bat.
- D. Sliding will be allowed at all bases.
- E. There is a 70-minute time limit. No new innings can be started after this time.
- F. If a female player is injured or ejected and no female replacement is available, then the following male must be removed from the game, but not penalty will be incurred for the male.