

# Springdale Parks and Recreation

## 2016 Adult Softball Rules and Regulations



### General Disclaimers

- All players must read the league rules and sign the roster before they are permitted to play in the Springdale Parks and Recreation Softball League.
- Anyone willfully causing damage to the facilities or its fixtures will be held liable for the cost of repair or replacement of said fixtures or facilities and will be removed from the league.
- Anyone with heart conditions, pregnancy, or having any health condition that restricts them from physical activity should avoid participating in this activity.
- No one under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be permitted to participate in this league.
- All teams must submit their roster before the given date. Failure to do so will result in forfeits for all games until it has been submitted.
- Any sign of unsportsmanlike conduct could result in your immediate removal from the game or league. Unsportsmanlike conduct will include, but is not limited to; endangering an opponent, using profanity, throwing the ball or bat down, unnecessary delay of game, shouting at the official, etc. This rule also applies to spectators of the program.
- Each player is expected to be polite and respectful to each official at the games. There will be NO arguing of judgment calls whatsoever. If you wish to challenge a non-judgment call, you must do so before the end of the game, and you must submit it to the Program Coordinator before the next scheduled game.

### League Levels

- Novice & D Leagues – One (1) homerun hitter per team. The first player on a team to hit a homerun in that game may hit as many as he or she can. Any others will be an out.
  - COED Leagues will default as a D League unless specified otherwise.
- C Leagues – Three (3) homerun hitters per team. The first three (3) players on a team to hit a homerun in that game may hit as many as he or she can. Any others will be an out.

\*For more information on league rules or makeup dates, please contact Program Coordinator, Mark May, at [mmay@springdalear.gov](mailto:mmay@springdalear.gov) or call Parks and Recreation at (479) 750-8185.

## **Game Rules**

### **I. Length of Game**

- a. Each game will consist of a sixty (60) minute time limit or seven (7) innings, whichever comes first.
  - i. Clock will start as soon as the coaches meeting at home plate concludes.
  - ii. If time runs out before the last out of an inning, NO new inning will be started.
  - iii. If there is still time on the clock when the final out of an inning is made, then a new inning will start.
- b. Run Rule – Fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings, twelve (12) runs after four (4) innings, and ten (10) runs after five (5) innings.
  - i. Games will be called if these run rule limits are met.
- c. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit or seven (7) innings, the game will switch to the one-pitch rule until a winner is decided.
  - i. One-Pitch Rule: Each batter will get on pitch. If it is a ball, the batter will take a base. If it is a strike, the batter will be out. If the ball is hit foul, the batter will be out.

### **II. Rosters**

- a. Each team is allowed twenty (20) players on their roster.
- b. Teams must submit their batting line-up to the scorekeeper at least ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game.
  - i. For COED: Each team's batting line-up must follow the order of male-female-male or female-male-female. There must never be two (2) males batting back-to-back, but females will be allowed to bat back-to-back.
- c. Each team may have twelve (12) players on their batting line-up, but may only have ten (10) players on the field for defense. Any of the twelve (12) players may play any of the (10) defensive positions. It is not mandatory to bat twelve (12) players.

\*For more information on league rules or makeup dates, please contact Program Coordinator, Mark May, at [mmay@springdalear.gov](mailto:mmay@springdalear.gov) or call Parks and Recreation at (479) 750-8185.

- i. For COED: Each team must have an even number of males and females during each game. It is acceptable to have more females than males during a game, but it is NOT acceptable to have more males than females during any game.
- d. A minimum of eight (8) players is required to start a game. If your team fails to have (8) players at game time, your team will forfeit that game. Teams that start with eight (8) players may add to the ten (10) hole, but when the team adds the ninth (9th) player, an out will be given for the ten (10) hole until a tenth (10) player has been added.
  - i. In the event of a forfeit, teams may use the field to scrimmage the other team, but umpires and scorekeepers are not required to officiate the game.
- e. Teams that begin with ten (10) or nine (9) players may drop to nine (9) or eight (8) players in case of injury or player ejection if no other legal sub is available. If a player is ejected or leaves the game voluntarily (not injured), his or her next time at bat will be an automatic out. After that his or her space will be skipped for the remainder of the game with no further penalty. No penalty will be enforced due to player injury. If a team drops below eight (8) players during a game, the game will be forfeited.
- f. All player must be sixteen (16) years or older to participate in this league. If under the age of eighteen (18), participants must have their parent/guardian sign a waiver form.

### **III. Equipment**

- a. Twelve (12) inch .52 C.O.R./275 Compression NSA Stamped softballs will be provided by the league for each game. The same size ball will be used for females in COED leagues.
- b. Any bat with a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.20 or less are approved for use in this league. A list of approved equipment may be viewed on the NSA website at [www.playnsa.com](http://www.playnsa.com).
- c. Only rubber or plastic cleats are permitted – NO METAL CLEATS

\*For more information on league rules or makeup dates, please contact Program Coordinator, Mark May, at [mmay@springdalear.gov](mailto:mmay@springdalear.gov) or call Parks and Recreation at (479) 750-8185.

#### IV. Base Running

- a. On a caught fly ball, players must be touching the base they started on before advancing to the next base. Failure to do so will result in an out upon the defense tagging the base with the ball.
- b. Baserunners are entitled to advance with liability to be put out:
  - i. When the ball is thrown into fair territory or foul territory and is not blocked.
  - ii. When the ball is batted into fair territory and is not blocked.
  - iii. When a legally caught fly ball is first touched. **EXCEPTION:**  
*Baserunners may not advance on a caught third strike foul ball.*
  - iv. If a fair ball strikes an umpire or a runner after passing an infielder other than the pitcher, or having been touched by an infielder, including the pitcher, the ball shall be in play.
  - v. Runner(s) may not attempt to steal on a third strike out, nor can a runner(s) steal a base if the pitched ball hits any part of the batter's person, other than the bat, while the pitched ball is in the air, or if the pitched ball hits the ground and bounces into the batter's person before being touched by the catcher. Any interference of the live-pitched ball by a batter, or offensive player will negate any attempted steal, and runner(s) must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- a. For COED: When a male player is walked, he will advance to second (2<sup>nd</sup>) base, and the female following in the line-up will have the option to take first (1<sup>st</sup>) base or step up to bat.
- b. Courtesy Runner – one courtesy runner will be allowed per team per inning. If the courtesy runner is up to bat while on base, he or she will be ruled Out.
  - vi. For COED: courtesy runners may only sub in for someone of their respective gender. Example – male for male & female for female.

#### V. Pitch Count

- a. All batters will begin their time at bat with one (1) ball and one (1) strike.

\*For more information on league rules or makeup dates, please contact Program Coordinator, Mark May, at [mmay@springdalear.gov](mailto:mmay@springdalear.gov) or call Parks and Recreation at (479) 750-8185.

- b. Each ball hit into foul territory will be ruled as a strike. This applies to the third strike as well.

## **VI. Protests**

- a. Protests will be accepted on rule clarification only. No judgment calls. When protesting a game, the manager must tell the umpire before the next pitch is thrown after disputed call. The other team will then be notified and the game will continue under protest. A \$20.00 cash protest fee and written statement must be turned into the Program Coordinator at Springdale Parks and Recreation before noon of the following workday.
- b. Any protest involving ineligible players must be made by the opposing team's manager to the umpire. The umpire will check the photo identification of the protested player and record the name on the scorecard. The game will continue under protest. A \$20.00 cash protest fee and written statement must be turned into the Program Coordinator at Springdale Parks and Recreation before noon of the following workday. If the protested player is found to not be a player on the roster, then the offending team will receive a forfeit. All roster players must have picture identification available upon request at each game. If a game is challenged on the basis of a player not on the roster and the player cannot or will not provide picture identification, then all games that player played in will be declared a forfeit.

## **VII. Weather Policy**

- a. In the case of inclement weather before or during the start time of the game, the game may be canceled.
- b. If games do get canceled, we will let you know the earliest make-up date possible.
- c. Games will not be rescheduled if teams are able to make it through the top half of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) inning and the home team is ahead, or through the bottom half of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) inning and either team is ahead. If these specifications are met, the game will be ruled as an official game.

## **VIII. Miscellaneous Items**

- a. If a player is bleeding or has an open wound, he or she will be prohibited from playing until the bleeding has stopped or the wound has been treated.

\*For more information on league rules or make-up dates, please contact Program Coordinator, Mark May, at [mmay@springdalear.gov](mailto:mmay@springdalear.gov) or call Parks and Recreation at (479) 750-8185.

- b. The referee, as well as any staff member, has the right to remove anyone from the playing field or end a game if he or she deems it necessary. Meaning be on your best behavior and stay safe.

**IX. Reference**

- a. This rule book is an adaptation of the NSA Official Softball Rule Book.
  - i. For further interpretation you may view this rule book at [www.playnsa.com](http://www.playnsa.com).

\*For more information on league rules or makeup dates, please contact Program Coordinator, Mark May, at [mmay@springdalear.gov](mailto:mmay@springdalear.gov) or call Parks and Recreation at (479) 750-8185.