

ROCK HILL PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT
2007 SOFTBALL BYLAWS
Revised 2/13/07

I. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

All teams participating in the Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism (RHPRT) Adult Softball program will participate in one of the following leagues:

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Women's Open (WO) | D. Men's Open (MO) |
| B. Women's Church (WC) | E. Men's Church (MC) |
| C. Men's Industrial (MI) | F. Co-Ed (CO) -- Open |

PRT will provide an opportunity for league play at Cherry Park based on a minimum of four teams in each league. Each league will be divided into conferences as needed. Teams need to be prepared to play 1-4 games per week at 6:45, 7:55, and 9:05 p.m., Monday through Thursday. (An unusually high number of rain-outs may necessitate Friday play.) **NO GRACE PERIOD APPLIES FOR ANY GAME.**

If a team signs up for a league and the minimum number of teams (4) is not met then the league will not be offered for that season. However, if a team wishes to play in that season they can do so in another conference. The team will be notified that they must return to Cherry Park to receive a refund or sign up for a different league.

II. LEAGUE AFFILIATION

The RHPRT Adult Softball program will be governed by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). Bylaw rules will take precedence over all other written rules. Any rule that is not covered in these bylaws will be referred to the current ASA rule-book. All teams will be sanctioned by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), the National Softball Association (NSA), and the United States Slo-Pitch Softball Association (USSSA). All leagues will be changing to a **.44 core ball with a compression NO MORE than 400.**

***ALL BATS must meet NSA standards and must be approved on the NSA bat list. Use of an illegal bat will result in the following penalties: Forfeit of the game being played, suspension of the player using the bat for the next game, and suspension of team manager for ten (10) games.** A complete list of approved equipment is available at www.playnsa.com

Field dimension will be 53ft. for the pitching rubber, and 70ft. for the bases.

III. MANAGERS/COACHES

Only team managers may approach an umpire for a protest. Managers will be responsible for the following:

A. Accuracy of team rosters
B. Player conduct
C. Illegal players

D. All-star candidate selection
E. Homerun Derby Participant
F. Communicate with rest of team

Failure to comply with the above rules may result in **forfeiture of games and possible suspension from the league.**

IV. PROTESTS

Protests involving judgement calls will not be recognized. **A misinterpretation of a playing rule protest must be made before the next pitch or, before all infielders have left fair territory, or if on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the playing field.** All protests regarding rules interpretation will be made known to the home plate umpire and the opposing coach. The home plate umpire will then notify the official scorekeeper and the Softball Coordinator. A \$50.00 fee and a written protest must be in the hands of the Softball Coordinator no later than 24 hours following the incident.

Protests involving illegal players will follow the same procedure except for the following: illegal player protest will be addressed before the final out is made. A **\$50.00** fee for **EACH** player protested against will be required at the time of protest. Upon completion of protest procedure, player(s) in question **WILL** be required to produce identification to resolve protest.

Any protested player unable to produce required I.D. will be given **10 minutes** to produce such I.D. **If no I.D. can be produced, the team with the illegal player automatically forfeits and receives a loss.** Any protest not resolved by Softball Coordinator will be referred to the Adult Softball Committee for resolution. Their decision is final. If a protest is won, the protest fee will be refunded. If a protest is lost, the fee remains in the league account.

V. RAIN-OUTS

Games canceled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled at the sole discretion of the RHPRT staff at Cherry Park. Decisions about cancellations due to inclement weather conditions will be made after 4:30 p.m. on the day of play. For information concerning game cancellations, call The Herald's Buzzline at **(803)329-4040 x 2405.** Games will be rescheduled by the Softball Coordinator. Every effort will be made to notify teams of rescheduled games, however, **ultimate responsibility rest with the head coach.** A minimum of 48 hours notice will be given for rescheduled games. During the last three weeks of the season, the 48-hour rule may be waived. Rescheduled games are final and may require doubleheaders.

VI. UMPIRE FEES

Umpires will be sanctioned through the Amateur Softball Association. **Each team will be required to pay \$15.00 to the umpires prior to scheduled time of game.** Only cash payment will be accepted. Those teams who are unable or refuse to make payment prior to scheduled time will have their game recorded as a forfeit.

VII. INSURANCE

All teams will be sanctioned by the Amateur Softball Association, the National Softball Association, and the United States Slo-Pitch Softball Association. Medical insurance is the sole responsibility of each team. Neither the RHPRT Adult Softball program, nor any RHPRT official, will take responsibility in this matter. Medical insurance may be obtained through any of the major associations (ASA, NSA, USSSA). Each team is encouraged to purchase team insurance.

VIII. TEAM UNIFORMS

The league would prefer that all teams be in uniform. However, teams will not be discouraged from playing if they are unable to obtain uniforms. The following rule applies: "Whatever is furnished by your sponsor, the team must wear during their game."

IX. FORFEITS

Teams are allowed two forfeits. The third forfeit will result in expulsion from the league.

X. LEAGUE MEETINGS

Team managers should attend all league meetings or send a representative from their team. If a team is not represented at their league meeting, it is the managers/coaches responsibility to obtain any information presented at the meeting.

XI. ROSTERS

All rosters must be completed and turned into the Cherry Park league coordinator or at the concession stand prior to their team's ***first game. You may add to your roster until the seventh game.*** Every person who participates in a game must be listed on the team roster prior to playing in a game. Team rosters must include players name, street address, and signature. Any player who participates without completing a team roster will be considered an illegal player.

Team rosters will be kept on file with the Softball Coordinator. Players are restricted to playing with only one team per league. Players will be allowed to play for more than one league per season. *(Example: John Doe may play for a church team, an open*

team, and an industrial team during the same season). **No player will be permitted to play on two open teams regardless of conference or division. No player may appear on the official roster for two open teams regardless of conference or division.**

Players must be added to the roster before the seventh game of the season. The roster must be entirely completed before players will be considered legal. **THE ROSTERS MAY ONLY CONSIST OF 25 PLAYERS THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS BYLAW.** The Softball Coordinator will accept rosters between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additions to rosters will also be accepted **before the start of the scheduled seventh game.**

A player who **participates** on a team may only change teams if they obtain a *written release* from the manager of the team they are leaving. Players may not move to a lower conference. (*Example: A player who has participated in the Middle Conference may only change to another team in Middle Conference or Upper Conference. The player may not switch to Lower Conference.*) Players may only change teams one time during a season

XII. SCHEDULING/CONFERENCES

Teams participating in Men's Open and Men's Church will be allowed to choose the conference in which they want to play*. Conference restrictions will be as follows (church conferences listed in next section):

****Spring 2007- Men's American (Upper) will have a six homerun limit. All other leagues will have a three homerun limit. Any homerun over the limit will count as an out.**

In the event that Men's Open leagues are combined we will use the one up rule: A team cannot hit more than one homerun than their opponent after three homeruns are hit. (Team A cannot hit a fourth homerun until Team B has hit its third. Team A cannot hit a fifth homerun until Team B has hit its fourth and so on). The home team may not go "one up" in the bottom of the last inning.

A home run will be defined as any batted ball which while in flight, travels over the outfield fence, untouched in fair territory.

THE TOP THREE TEAMS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON WILL MOVE UP IF THEY RETAIN FIVE PLAYERS OR MORE. ADDITIONALLY, IF FIVE PLAYERS FROM ONE OF THE TOP THREE TEAMS LEAVE AND JOIN A NEW TEAM THAT TEAM MUST PLAY IN THE HIGHER CONFERENCE.

Women's Open, Women's Church, and Adult Co-Ed will be placed in conferences by PRT staff.

***PRT reserves the right to place any team in any conference deemed necessary for the betterment of the league.**

XIII. CHURCH GUIDELINES

1. A church official must verify each roster for accuracy by signature. Those verifying rosters must hold an official position in the church, such as a minister, deacons, elder.
2. Any player added to the roster after the original roster has been turned in, must have signatures of church official before being considered legal. This must take place before mid-season when all rosters are final
3. Church rosters may only consist of 25 players.
*More than 25 players you must divide into 2 teams.
4. Minimum age for participating in Church leagues is 16. Players must turn legal playing age during the calendar year.
5. Church teams will be allowed a one week write-off during the regular season. This write-off must be done in writing two weeks prior to the start of the season.
Example: If you need a week off for Vacation Bible School, write Rock Hill PRT a letter two weeks prior to the start of the season and you will not be scheduled games during that week.
6. Home Run Rules:
All teams will be using the one up homerun rule. The home team may not go one up in the bottom of the final inning.
7. If your church has two teams (i.e. a yellow and orange team) no player can play on both teams or be on both rosters.

XIV. CO-ED GUIDELINES

1. The batting order in co-ed is: sexes alternating (no exceptions). Example: male/female/male/female, etc.
2. Player positioning is as follows: defense must have two male and two female players in the infield and outfield. One male and one female should be positioned either as pitcher or catcher. If extra players are used there must be one male and one female, therefore, the team will be batting twelve players.
3. If a male batter is walked, the next batter (a female) will be required to bat with less than 2 outs. With 2 outs the female has the option of taking a walk or hitting. She must decide before the first pitch.
4. When a female is batting, no outfielder may cross the 200-foot line until the ball has been put into play by the batter. If the player is found to have been over the line

prior to the ball being hit, the batter may elect to take the play or bat over. If all base runners, including the batter advances at least one base, the play stands.

5. All other co-ed rules are discussed in the current ASA rule-book.

XV. FEES AND CHARGES

Teams will be required to pay \$365.00 per team, in the Spring and Fall Season. No individual fees are required. Team fees will include the cost of sanctioning, umpire bonding fee, trophies and awards. Teams playing more than one season during the year, who use the same team name, will be allowed to deduct \$20.00 from their team fee for the additional seasons.

XVI. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

If a PRT official finds a player participating who is not on the team's roster, the current game will be forfeited (as well as any game previous in which participation can be proven) and the player and manager/coach suspended for ten games. (Example: If a team has five games left, they will be suspended for five games next season.) If an opposing team has reason to believe an ineligible player has participated, the opposing team's manager may file a protest any time during the game with the Softball Coordinator.

XVII. PRACTICE

RHPRT will offer special practice times at Cherry Park. Practices will not be made up due to rain. Other PRT facilities may be reserved by calling the PRT Administrative Office at 329-5630 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Practice times can be scheduled as early as Monday each week for the current week; however, fields for Monday, may be reserved on the Friday prior. Teams are encouraged to practice at other existing sites such as churches, schools, etc. Hargett Park is not available for practice.

XVIII. RUN (MERCY) RULE

A winner will be declared when a team is leading by twenty runs after three complete innings, fifteen runs after four complete innings, or ten runs after five complete innings (or the end of the first half of the inning if the home team is ahead).

XIX. GAME TIME LIMIT

League games not affected by the above run rule will have a time limit of **one hour**, beginning at the first pitch, as timed by the Home Plate Umpire. Once the time limit has been reached (excluding injuries), no new inning will begin. In the event of a tie,

the remainder of the game will be played according to ***international tie breaker rules***. The last batter of the previous inning will go to second base and the offensive team starts with one out. Play will then continue until a winner is reached.

XX. NUMBER OF PLAYERS NEEDED TO START/END GAME

Both teams must start and end with nine players. Teams may add an extra player to the line up before the lead-off batter begins a second time at bat. Teams unable to field nine players by the official game time *must forfeit* the game. A double forfeit will result if both teams do not have enough players. Failure to finish with at least nine players will result in a forfeit.

XXI. ALL-STAR GAME

Due to the realignment of conferences, rules and regulations will be posted by at least mid-season.

XXII. MIGHTY CASEY HOME RUN DERBY

Homerun Derby will be split into two fields. Participants will be allowed ten (10) swings for the first round. The top two participants from each field will advance to the final round. There will be five (5) swings for the final round. Players must supply own pitchers and balls. ***The winner will be awarded a trophy and a bat.**

XXIII. City of Rock Hill Championship

After the conclusion of the regular season, a single elimination tournament will take place. A bracket will be drafted for both the American and National Leagues. The winner of the American League bracket will play the winner of the National League bracket for the City championship. Trophies will be awarded for the first and second place finishers only.

*T-shirts will be awarded to the champions from each league.

XXII. TIE BREAKERS

In the event that two or more teams are tied at the end of the regular season play, the following steps will be taken to determine the higher seed:

- 1) Head to head competition between the teams that are tied.
- 2) Record vs. higher seeded common opponents.
- 3) Total runs scored when the teams tied played each other.
- 4) A coin toss.

In the event that two or more teams are tied for first, second or third place at the end of the regular season play, the following steps will be taken to determine trophy recipients:

- 1) One game tiebreaker.
- 2) If three teams are tied, there will be a coin flip. The winner of the coin flip will receive a bye. The two losers of the coin flip will play each other with the loser of this game finishing third and the winner advancing to play the "bye" team for the regular season championship.

This format will be followed for second and third place ties as well. For a second place tie, the first loser is eliminated and the two remaining teams play for second and third.

XXV. SPORTSMANSHIP

The following policy was developed by the Softball Committee and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission to govern conduct in all leagues:

Conduct Guidelines

Rock Hill PRT sports facilities are designed to offer leisure activities for families, groups, and individuals of all ages with diversified interests. Sporting events are provided by the RHPRT Department as opportunities for friendly competition while promoting a spirit of sportsmanship between participants and a pleasant environment for spectators. Our number one goal is to obtain and maintain a family atmosphere.

A player, coach, a manager, team representative, or person (including spectators) is expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner before, during, or after an event on or within 500 feet of City property.

Sportsmanlike conduct includes proper language and actions as judged by game officials, league officers, and/or department staff. Examples of misconduct include (but is not limited to) profanity, excessive inappropriate loudness, gestures, abuse of personal/facility equipment, physical violence (such as attacking or attempting to hurt another) and other derogatory acts.

Taunting is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is defined, but not limited to: gestures, verbal engagements or actions that may aggravate or offend others. Such offenses will result in a team warning for the first offense and a team and coach ejection for the second offense.

Only the designated team manager (or coach) will be allowed to approach the PRT League Coordinator. All complaints and/or concerns must come through the manager or coach.

A designated team manager (or coach) is responsible for the conduct of themselves, team members, and other appropriate team representatives. *Team managers should have full control of their team at all times.* If a player or team member is ejected from the game, *the coach/manager will also be ejected.* All ejected players **MUST** leave the City of Rock Hill property immediately.

At no time will a player or coach/manager be allowed to touch or attack an umpire in any way, for any reason. In the event a person touches or attacks an umpire, that person will be ejected from the game and suspended from the softball leagues for one calendar year. Further disciplinary action maybe taken.

To encourage positive individual conduct and to promote team fellowship, *each league will include a team sportsmanship award* in the league bylaw and team fees. The Adult Softball Committee will determine the type of sportsmanship award and how the recipient will be determined.

Violation of conduct guidelines will result in **EJECTION** from the game for participant(s) in the playing area. If continued violations occur by the same participant(s), expulsion from the property will result.

EJECTION will be accompanied by a write-up of the incident by the appropriate official. The Softball Coordinator or Umpire-In-Chief will be officially notified of the ejection.

All first time ejections will be followed by an automatic one (1) game suspension. First time ejections resulting from a severe act AND second time ejections are subject to expulsion from the league.

A signed copy of the Player's Code of Conduct is due by the second game. Failure to comply with the code of conduct may result in suspension from a league indefinitely. Suspensions are at the discretion of the Softball Advisory Committee and league coordinator.