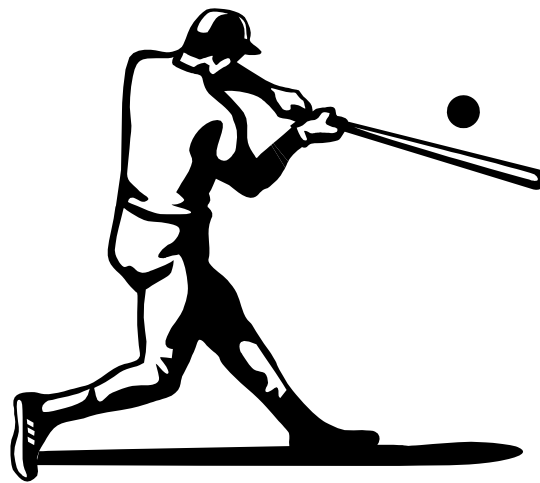


CITRUS COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION

2008 FALL MEN'S LEAGUE
AUGUST 18 - NOVEMBER 3



MEN'S SOFTBALL RULES



REVISED 01/14/08

CITRUS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
2007 SUMMER MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I. Participation

- A. Any organized team with a manager to represent it may enter a team by satisfying the entrance requirements, provided space is available.
- B. All entrance requirements must be met, registration forms and waivers fully completed and submitted in a timely fashion.
- C. The last day to add men to your roster is Friday, September 12, 2008. Our office closes at 5:00 PM. No, Exceptions!
- D. If there are extenuating circumstances, you will need to fill out a hardship form that was included in the manager's packet and drop it off 24 hours prior to your next game at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Building. Parks and Recreation will make the final decision.
- E. A team may carry no more than twenty (20) players on its roster at ANY time.

II. Player Eligibility

- A. All players must be 16 years of age or older. Proof of age may be required. Anyone under 18 will be required to fill out the child waiver form.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Manager/Coach to advise any player participating in high school or college athletics that playing in adult leagues may violate eligibility rules.

- B. A player may not transfer to another team after Friday, September 12, 2008.
- C. If a team forfeits out of the league, their players will be eligible for a one-time draft. The players will be put on a draft list and chosen by the remaining Managers. The team in last place as of the date the forfeiting team officially drops or is dropped from the league, gets first pick, and so on. Players can only be chosen once. At no time will rule I-E be waived, however, in the rule I-B will not apply.

III. Manager/Coach

- A. Each player's name must be on the team roster, furnished by the Parks and Recreation Division. All players must sign the release and waiver accurately and completely in order to be eligible to play. If at any time an ineligible player is discovered in a game, that game will result in a forfeit as well as the following two games being considered a loss.

- B. **Each team's roster must be received by the Parks and Recreation Representative prior to the start of the first game of the season. No exceptions.**
- C. A team's official representative is the Manager/Coach; if the Manager/Coach is not able to be present at a game or meeting he/she may designate an alternate.
- D. The Manager/Coach is responsible for:
 - 1. Having their team observe USSSA and local rules.
 - 2. The conduct of their players and spectators.
 - 3. Submitting the starting line-up to the home plate umpire prior to game time and the manager of the opposing team.
 - 4. Adhering to the participation/eligibility requirements for each team member by signing official roster and the official starting line-ups for each game.

IV. Games

- A. There will be a 10-minute grace period for the **first game only**. For all other games, game time is forfeit time and will be determined by the Head Umpire's watch.
- B. When observing the 10-minute grace period, the moment you have 9 eligible players, play must begin with the one hour 10 minute game limit beginning at that moment. The 10th player can be added during any part of the game.
- C. **You can bat up to 12 players. Drop to 9 with an out being recorded for each one of those players unless you have a substitute(s).**
- D. If both teams are unable to field 9 eligible players a double forfeit will be declared.
- E. **A one hour 10 minute time limit** will be in effect for each game unless the game is tied. In the event of a tie, play will continue until a winner is decided. No game shall start after 10:00 p.m. If the game is in progress it will proceed until finished.

Run Rule: 20 after 3rd inning or 12 after 5th inning

NOTE: This time limit also applies to games not reaching the fifth inning.

- F. **Home team** is responsible for keeping score in a professional manner. The Recreation Program Specialist is not responsible for keeping score. Anyone who is keeping score is welcome to use the score booth.
- G. In the event that two teams end up tied for placement, head to head points will be tallied up between the two teams to determine the winner
- H. This fall league is a round robin league that will place you in a single elimination playoff based on the top four teams. There will be trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in the league. Once your team is placed in the playoffs the league no longer has anything to do with the playoffs. You must keep your same roster for the playoff and the players playing in the playoff will have to have participated for at least half of the season. The last team standing will receive a championship trophy.
- I. In the event of a forfeit, the team not at fault may use the field until the next game is to be played. The non-forfeiting team, at their discretion, may play the forfeiting team. Umpires are not required to officiate. If we are notified in advance, Parks and Recreation will make every effort to contact the opposing team prior to the scheduled game time.
- J. For the safety of the pitchers there will be a 3 foot safety circle around the pitcher and anyone hitting up the middle will be considered out. Malicious behavior from any player will be ejected from the game and must follow the criteria under **VI. C Rules of Conduct**. Malicious behavior will be judged under the umpire's discretion.
- K. Any team dropping out of the league will forfeit all funds submitted to date.
- L. All USSSA Men's rules will be in effect except when local rules supersede them. At no time can teams reach an agreement among themselves to exclude a league rule.
- M. Only the team Manager/Coach may communicate with the official.
- N. If game #1 is rained out, all other games scheduled for that date are also rained out.

NOTE: If a game is stopped due to rain and/or lightning, players should seek shelter in their cars. The field areas, including the dugouts, are not a safe haven.

- O. The umpires shall have the right to penalize players and/or teams for un-sportsman like conduct. Depending on the infraction, the officials may first

warn the offending party. Next offense may result in players/team expulsion. It will be left to the official's discretion.

- P. No Home Run rule will be applied and players hitting a home run are not required to run the bases.
- Q. A 1 strike and 1 ball count will be used.
- R. When a play is at any base, all participants are to slide or get out of the way of play. If the runner fails to do so an automatic out will be counted. We encourage all players to play out in front of the plate. Judgment is at the discretion of the home plate umpire.

V. Equipment

- A. Only USSSA approved bats can be used.
- B. Balls to be used are 12" core .47 men's ball.

VI. Rules of Conduct

- A. All players, manager, and coaches should make themselves knowledgeable on USSSA rules of conduct.
- B. There is a ZERO tolerance for any unsportsmanlike conduct.**
- C. If a player is ejected from a game, that player shall be classified as an ineligible player until the following criteria has been met:**
 - 1. Report his presence to Park & Recreation representative before the game.**
 - 2. Attend the very next game; sit on the bench and not participant in the game in any manner.**

NOTE: If the severity of the situation is extreme, the player may be barred from participating in this league and/or any other event/facility sponsored by Citrus County Parks and Recreation.

- D. A player ejected from three games during the league will be suspended from play for the next 5 games.
- E. Any player or Manager/Coach that throws a ball /bat at, strikes, or verbally abuses another player, umpire, spectator or Manager/Coach will be immediately suspended from play for the remainder of the season. Should circumstances warrant it, the Parks and Recreation Section reserves the right to invoke stiffer penalties.
- F. No drugs or alcoholic beverages are allowed on the park property or in the parking lot.

1. First Offense: Minimum 3 game suspension.
2. Second Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season.

NOTE: The Parks and Recreation Division reserves the right to invoke stiffer penalties depending on infraction.

- G. No excessive offensive contact is to occur during defensive plays; in other words slide, get out of the way, or yield to the out. This rule applies to all bases and home plate. If the runner does not comply with this rule an automatic out will be called. Refer to IV-s for more specifics regarding home plate.
1. No excessive defensive contact is to occur during a play; a defensive player must yield the base or base path if he does/does not have the ball or a potential play on a runner.
 2. If in the judgment of the umpire, rule VI-f is violated, the offending player(s) will be ejected from the game.

NOTE: All conduct problems will be reviewed and acted on by the Parks and Recreation Division. All decisions will be final.

- H. Warm up will be allowed only in designated areas. **NO PEPPER GAMES OR HITTING BALLS INTO THE FENCE WILL BE ALLOWED.**

NOTE: Violation of this rule may result in forfeiture of the game or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Parks & Recreation Division.

I. Dugout Rules are as follows:

1. No one under 16 is allowed in dugouts.
2. **No smoking is allowed in dugouts.**

VII. Schedules

All schedules will be the responsibility of Citrus County Parks and Recreation Division. A gift certificate from Citrus Sports Apparel will be awarded to The First Place Team. The Gift Certificate will include 20 T-shirts of your color, with your choice of three colors for your design to be printed on the front and the back of your shirts. This also includes the art fee.

- A. The Parks and Recreation Division will be responsible for rescheduling games that are rained out or postponed. It is the responsibility of the Manager/Coach to find out when the game is to be played.

- B. In the event a team drops from the league: All games which that team has played will remain as official games. The remaining games will be counted as forfeits.

NOTE: The Official League Schedule may be changed to make more effective use of the field.

VIII. Protests

- A. All protest must follow these guidelines:
1. Be submitted in legible writing, accompanied with a \$25.00 cash protest fee, and given to the Parks and Recreation Office by 5:00 p.m. the next working day after the protest has been made on the playing field.
 2. At the time of the occurrence, the Manager must notify the umpire of his intent to protest the point or play in question. This must be according to USSSA regulations.
 3. Judgment calls may not be protested.
 4. The protest letter must contain the following:
 - a. Date, time, and place of game.
 - b. Names of teams, players, umpires, and scorekeepers involved.
 - c. Rules and section of the official local rules under which the protest was made.
 - d. Conditions surrounding the decisions.
 - e. Any other pertinent facts concerning the protest.
 5. A protest board will be established which will rule on all protests and notify the involved parties of its decision within 7 days of receiving all necessary documentation.
 6. The protest fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. Any protest fee, not upheld, will be channeled into league fees.

IX. Medical Runner

- A. Teams are allowed to enter two medical runners per game.
- B. The medical runner will be the last batted out.
- C. When a medical runner is used the Coach/Manager must inform the umpire and score keeper prior to the start of the game unless the injury occurs during the game.

X. Umpires

- A. **Authority:** The officials have authority over any and all aspects of a game. An umpire's authority begins 15 minutes before the start of a game and 15 minutes after the completion of the game.
- B. **Jurisdiction:** An umpire has jurisdiction in controlling player and spectator conduct and ensuring the good spirit of the game. Therefore, the umpire may eject a player, a non-playing coach or manager, or a spectator for constant or deliberate violations of the rules, indecent or abusive language, any unsportsmanlike behavior, or gross unsportsmanlike conduct.
- An ejected player must leave the field in the given time declared by the umpire and continue to leave the park.
 - An ejected non-playing coach or manager and/or any spectator must leave the facility in the given time declared by the umpire.
 - The ejected individual has to leave the field in the time declared by the umpire or a forfeit will be charged against that individual's team.
- D. **Accountability:** An umpire is never obligated to discuss a rule interpretation of a specific game situation with anyone other than the team manager.
- E. **Recreation Program Specialist:** The league director is the sole authority on league matters. The league director is not permitted to officiate or override any calls made by the officials.

Parks & Recreation Program Specialist

Jennifer