



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# Adult Softball League Rules



# ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

## 1. Governing Body

The governing body consists of the Athens–Clarke County Leisure Services Department Recreation Division at Bishop Park (706-613-3589). The Recreation Program Specialist will coordinate the program.

## 2. Registration

All registration fees must be paid at the time a team is entered into the program.

## 3. Local Rules

All games will be played according to the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Rules Book except where local rules supersede the GHSA rules.

- All participants are governed by the Athens–Clarke County Leisure Services Departments Code of Conduct.
- Players must be 18 years of age prior to the season in order to be eligible to play in the adult league.
- Players may play for more than one (1) team, as long as the teams are in separate divisions.
- Players may not play for more than two (2) teams per League.
- Teams are permitted to have an extra player in the starting lineup.

The extra player position:

- Must remain in the game throughout the game, and cannot be replaced.
- Can be substituted for at any time during the game and may play in the field.
- Does not replace another batter in the starting line-up.

When a team uses an extra player, all eleven (11) starting players bat and only ten (10) players can play defense. If a player is injured, leaves the game, and the team is without a substitute, the extra player position will be skipped and no "out" will be called. If the player is ejected or leaves on his own, an "out" will be called when it is his turn to bat in the batting order. This rule applies to all leagues except the co-ed program.

- Batters will begin with a one ball/one strike count.
- Batter is called out when second foul ball occurs on third strike.
- All protested games, or games suspended due to uncontrollable circumstances, will fall under the suspended game rule.
- **The team at bat is responsible for retrieving foul and homerun balls.**
- The .52 core official softball will be used in all leagues.
- **ASA approved bats will be permitted, with the exception of triple-wall, and titanium bats. Umpires will be responsible for inspecting bats before each game for approval.**
- A Player caught using an illegal bat will be called out and ejected from that game. If the player plays for more than one team, he/she will be suspended from playing on any team that is participating in an Athens–Clarke County Leisure Services adult softball program for one (1) week, including tournament play.
- “Run Rule” – If a team is leading by twenty (20) runs after three (3) full innings, fifteen (15) runs after four (4) full innings and twelve (12) after five (5) full inning the game ends.
- A five (5) minute grace period will be allowed for all games. When the previous game is over, five (5) minute will be placed on the clock and started. Team must have at least eight (8) players present (at the field or running to the field in view of the official) at the time the clock runs out to start the game.
- No new innings can begin with five (5) minutes or less, unless the game is tied at the end of regulation play. If there is time on the game clock and the last out of the inning is made, the next inning or half inning must be played.
- An official game constitutes seven complete innings or one (1) hour time limit. In the event of inclement weather, lighting failure, etc., four (4) complete innings will constitute an official game. A game that fails to go four (4) complete innings or one (1) hour shall be treated as a suspended game and will resume later at the exact point stopped. Games that do not complete one (1) inning shall be treated as no game and will be restarted later.

- In the event of a tie, the game will be played with the last batter, giving or forcing the third out of the inning, will be placed on second base to start the extra inning. This process will continue until a winner is determined.
- If a game goes past the time limit, the next scheduled game will begin as soon as that game is completed. If a team has less than eight (8) players at that point, the five (5) minute rule will go in effect.
- Scorekeepers at each field will be responsible for the official time.
- Teams may begin play with eight (8) players in all leagues. If additional players arrive after the line-up sheet has been submitted, they may be added to the end of the batting order. Players may be added at any point during the game.
- Team should only warm-up in designated areas to avoid injury to fans.
- Smoking is NOT permitted in the park.
- A two (2) Homerun Limit Rule will be implemented at all fields for all leagues.
- Any over the fence homerun hit at Bishop Park past the league limit will be ruled a single with base runner moving up one base if forced.
- The batter hitting the homerun only has to touch first base. All other base runners must touch all bases.
- If the batter does not touch first base after hitting a homerun, then it is an automatic out, and the homerun will count toward your teams homerun limit. If there are runners on base those runs will count.
- Any ball hit off the net in fair territory is considered in play. Any ball lodged between the net and fence will be ruled a double, if the fielder throws hands up immediately. However, if the fielder plays the balls in the net, the ball is considered in play and the play is then treated as a live ball. Any softball that goes through a hole in the net will be a homerun.
- Line-up sheet must be completed and turned in ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game.

- After three (3) forfeits, a team will be recommended for dismissal from the program.
- Forfeits will count as 7–0 score awarding the team that was present for the game.

## 4. Player Agreements and Team Roster

- Agreements and team roster must be turned into Bishop Park Office before the first game.
- Agreements must be completed properly and signed by all appropriate parties in order for the contract to be legal.
- Managers may add to their current rosters up to their third game of the season.
- The number of players on each roster is limited to twenty (20).
- When a player's name is removed from a roster, he/she may not be added to that team's roster at a later date.
- Any game in which a player was found to be playing illegally would be considered a forfeit and recorded as a loss.

## 5. Uniform Requirements

- Players must wear the same color jerseys. All jerseys are **REQUIRED** to have non-duplicating number on front or back of each shirt. Each number must be visible by the umpires and scorekeepers. If a team is found to have more than one (1) illegal jerseys, the game will be played, but will be recorded as a loss if protested by opposing team manager before the end of the first inning and the governing body upholds the protest.
- Metal cleats are **NOT** allowed on field.
- Protests dealing with uniform violation must be lodged with the field scorekeeper and not the umpire.

## 6. Player Conduct

- The umpires will only hear legal protests from a designated team manager and only under courteous and respectful conditions. Any deviance from this procedure will result in the ejection of the offending player and/or coach.

- **First Ejection** – The player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the game and must leave the park facilities immediately. The game may not continue until the suspended player or coach has left the field area.
- **Second Ejection** – The player or coach will be suspended for three (3) weeks including tournament play. If the player or coach plays or coaches for more than one team, he/she will be suspended from playing or coaching on any team that is participating in a Athens–Clarke County Leisure Services adult softball program for three (3) weeks, including tournament play.
- **Third Ejection** – The player or coach will be suspended indefinitely from ACC Adult Sports. Players or coaches will have the right to appeal.
- Any player, or coach, found to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs shall be immediately removed from the game and suspended for the remainder of the program.
- Any player who does or attempts to inflict bodily harm to an official or ACC staff member will be removed from the program for the remainder of the season and could possibly have criminal charges filed against him/her.
- Players and coaches are to refrain from making derogatory comments or using inflammatory statements/action to players, coaches, officials, and ACC staff.
- Any player or coach involved in a fight, in any aspect, will be removed from the game and suspended for the remainder season.

## 7. Protests

- The team manager, who lodges a legal protest (rule interpretation) with the umpire or scorekeeper during a regulation game, must file it at the time of the violation. The manager has twenty–four (24) hours to submit a written protest by e–mail to the Program Specialist. No protest will be accepted based on an umpire’s judgment.
- Each protest must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules and section to justify the protest. The ACC governing body will rule on each protest properly submitted and sends the protesting manager a written ruling.

- Protests dealing with illegal players must be lodged before the completion of the game. No protest concerning illegal players will be taken after the completion of the game.
- Protests dealing with uniform violations and illegal players must be lodged with the field scorekeeper and not the umpire.

## 8. Field Supervisor

- A field supervisor will be present at the park during scheduled games. After consulting with umpires, the field supervisor has the authority to cancel any game if hazardous or unsafe conditions exist. He/she will also be responsible for maintaining order and making certain spectators conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner as explained in the Athens–Clarke County Code of Conduct.

## 9. Tournament and League Tie Breakers

- **The head-to-head matchup** will be used to break ties for league standings. If the teams play twice during the regular season with each team winning once, then total points against each other will be the determining factor. If two teams do not play each other during the season, the determining factor will be the number of points scored by each team during the course of the season. (Only to decide first and/or second place).
- The championship game of each playoff will consist of no time limit. The run rule limit will be in effect.
- Playoff games will be played on the first available day after a league or division of a league has finished their season.
- Coin flip will determine Home and Visiting teams for ALL playoff games.

## 10. Divisions within Leagues

- Players may play for more than one (1) team, but no more than two (2) teams as long as the teams are in separate divisions.
- Teams may be moved up a division or moved down a division based on previous stats. This will be determined by the softball coordinator.

# LEAGUES

## COED League:

- Ten players - five (5) male and five (5) female with the following positioning requirements:
  - Two males and two females in both the infield and outfield and one female and one male as pitcher and/or catcher. Teams will be permitted to begin and play games with eight (8) players: four (4) men and four (4) women
- Batting order shall alternate genders. At no time may a male bat after another male in the line-up. The two male players would have to alternate hitting in the batting order. For example, the male player in the first position of the batting order and a male player in the last position of the order will alternate hitting so that they do not bat back to back. If a female arrives before the end of the game, she may enter the game in the tenth (10) position in the batting order.
- A game may be played with more females than males, but never more males than females.
- A game may begin and end with twelve (12) players or less, extra players must be one (1) female and one (1) male. If this situation presents itself, no male players will be able to hit back to back.
- If only nine (9) players are present, four (4) or more must be females, two (2) males and two (2) females must be positioned in the infield, with a female as either the catcher or pitcher; one female must be positioned in the outfield.
- A minimum of three (3) outfielders must be behind an outfield restriction line (200 foot arc from home plate) when a female batter hits the pitch. While the female is batting, the rover can only be a female. Penalty: The batter and all base runners will be awarded one base unless each has advanced one base safely, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the violation.
- If there are zero or one out and male player is "walked" , he automatically goes to second base and the female batter following him must hit. If there are two outs the female hitter will have the option to "walk" or hit.



- Co-ed: If a player leaves for any reason, and no substitute is available an out will be recorded when the departed player is scheduled to bat (A team must finish with at least eight players), and can only have a maximum of 5-players of either sex play defense.
  - If a player is injured and unable to continue playing, if no substitute is available, a team may choose to take an out in the spot of the departed player, or remove the player of the opposite sex who is directly before or after the injured player in the batting order, without penalty of an out (must have at least 8 players remaining).

## Church League:

- Any player participating on a church team must be a clergy–approved member and clergy–approved regular attendee of the sponsoring church.
- The church minister must verify player contracts.
- **Men Church:** Player must be eighteen (18) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.
- **Ladies Church:** Player must be sixteen (16) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.

## Men/Open League:

- Players must be eighteen (18) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.

# PRACTICE INFORMATION

- Practice time on Athens–Clarke County Leisure Services Department softball fields will be very limited because of the number of teams and facility usage. Call each facility to inquire about field practice space.
- If a field is marked “closed,” do not enter that field without checking with the on duty staff personnel. Penalty for noncompliance: players or teams may be suspended from park for vandalism.

# INTERNET INFORMATION

- **ACC Adult Softball:** [www.athensclarkecounty.com/sports](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/sports)  
(Click “Adult Sports” then “Softball” )
- **ASA Certified Equipment:** [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com)  
(Go to certified equipment section – “Bats” )
- **Emily Mann:** Softball Coordinator and Officials Supervisor  
[emily.mann@athensclarkecounty.com](mailto:emily.mann@athensclarkecounty.com)