

2024 ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS



**CITY OF HOUSTON
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



HPARD
**HOUSTON PARKS
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**
A CAPRA Accredited Agency

February 26, 2024

Dear Team Manager,

On behalf of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, I would like to welcome you as a participant in our **Adult Softball Program**. **We are excited to start our sports leagues again!**

Our goal is to offer quality sports programming at affordable prices and see that each participant has an enjoyable leisure experience.

Please read the rulebook at your first opportunity to familiarize yourself with our league's rules and regulations. Also, you will find a listing of online registration dates for each season in on page 3.

We now have an online registration system. You can establish your online account at www.houstonparks.org (Adult Sports Section), but you will not be able to register for a league until the specified registration dates for a specific season. The online registration system was approved by the Mayor and City Council in 2009.

Separate flyers with upcoming registration information, fee changes and rule updates will be sent to you as they become available. You can also visit our department's web site at www.houstonparks.org for additional information as well. Please be sure to advise the Adult Sports Office with ample time if your contact information changes, including email address.

The USA SOFTBALL sanction fee this year is \$30, which is due once per calendar year for each team. Unless you change the Team Name, Managers Name or Change Players on the Team.

We now have an [HPARD Facebook Page](#) and [Twitter Page](#). We will add updates on league registrations and tournaments throughout the year.

Again, welcome to our program. Wishing you and your team a very enjoyable and successful season.

Sincerely,

Sean Gay, Senior Superintendent
Recreation and Wellness Division

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE PROGRAM:

Spring I Season

League Dates: February 26 – April 14, 2024
Online Registration Dates: January 15 (8:00 am) – January 28 (5:00 pm)
Team Manager's Meeting: February 22nd at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Team's Virtual Meeting
Holiday: Easter Good Friday: April 5th

Spring II Season

League Dates: May 6 – June 23, 2024
Online Registration Dates: April 15 (8:00 am) – April 28 (5:00 pm)
Team Manager's Meeting: May 2nd at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Team's Virtual Meeting
Holiday: Memorial Day: Monday, May 27th, Juneteenth: Wed, June 19th

Summer Season

League Dates: July 8 – August 25, 2024
Online Registration Dates: June 17 (8:00 am) – June 30 (5:00 pm)
Team Manager's Meeting: TBA at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Team's Virtual Meeting
Holiday: Juneteenth: Wednesday, June 19th, Independence Day: July 4th

Fall Season

League Dates: September 9 – October 27, 2024
Online Registration Dates: August 19 (8:00 am) – September 1 (5:00 pm)
Team Manager's Meeting: September 5th at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Team's Virtual Meeting

Winter Season

League Dates: November 12 – December 16, 2024
Online Registration Dates: October 7 (8:00 am) – October 20 (5:00 pm)
Team Manager's Meeting: November 7th at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Team's Virtual Meeting
Holiday: Thanksgiving: Thursday & Friday, November 28 – 29th



1. **TAAF STATE TOURNAMENT**

All teams interested in participating in the Texas Amateur Athletics Federation (TAAF) State Tournament must complete a TAAF Softball Team Registration Form and submit a \$25.00 fee.

Team managers who do not submit their TAAF Softball Team Registration Form and the \$25.00 fee **by** TBA will not be eligible to participate in the TAAF State Softball Tournament.

You can find a TAAF Softball Team Registration Form at the end of this rulebook, or stop by the Adult Sports Office.

For information on TAAF State Tournaments, please visit www.taaf.com.

2. **LENGTH OF SCHEDULE**

Regular leagues will consist of four (4) to eight (8) teams playing ten (10) games in a double-header format for (5) weeks. Each team will play 10 games total. Schedules may have other formats to accommodate situation.

Playoffs may be held if rainouts weeks are not exhausted.

3. **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:**

Team managers register online during the registration dates listed on page 3 at <https://apm.activecommunities.com/houstonparks/Home>

Team managers can establish their online account in advance on our online registration website (this only has to be done once).

If you do not have Internet access, team managers may register for leagues during the above registration dates between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Adult Sports Office, 6200 Wheeler Street, Bldg #3, Houston, TX 77023. Personal checks are not accepted. Entry fees are accepted by cash, credit card, company check, and money orders only. Company checks and money orders need to be made payable to “City of Houston.”

Registrations are accepted on a “first come, first serve” basis.

Team managers cannot register more than 1 team per league nor create duplicate accounts.

4. **ENTRY FEES**

Memorial Park, Cullen Park, Herman Brown Park, Alief Park, Irvington Park,
& Tim Hearn Field (Cleveland Park): \$382.39 per team

Please Note: Entry fees are approved by City Council and are subject to change without notice.

5. **USA SOFTBALL/TAAF REGISTRATION**

All teams participating in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department Adult Softball Program will be required to register with USA SOFTBALL (formerly ASA SOFTBALL) at a cost of \$30.00 per team. Registration with USA SOFTBALL is required once every calendar year and is separate fee from the Houston Parks and Recreation Department League Registration. Cash and business checks accepted only made payable to "City of Houston." Team managers will receive an USA SOFTBALL Rule Book, USA SOFTBALL Score Book and have an opportunity to purchase team insurance. USA SOFTBALL Rule Book and Score Book will be distributed at the Team Manager's Meetings only listed on page 3.

USA SOFTBALL offers team insurance at an affordable price. The City of Houston recommends for team managers to purchase team insurance. Please visit www.taaf.com or www.usasoftballhouston.com for more information.

As per USA SOFTBALL rules and regulations, if you change your team's name or individual's account name, you will be required to pay an additional USA SOFTBALL annual team registration fee.

Registration with TAAF for regular leagues (Spring I, Spring II, Summer, Fall and Winter) is not required. However, if a team desires to participate in a state TAAF tournament, they must register with TAAF to become sanctioned. Please contact the Adult Sports Office to register with TAAF prior to TBA. Please visit www.taaf.com for more information on state tournaments.

6. **REFUND POLICY**

Refund of team registration fees will be granted to team managers less 5% of the team registration fee, provided such request is made on or before the business day 14 days preceding the season's start date. No refunds shall be given for a request submitted less than 14 preceding the season's start date. It should be noted that it could take up to ninety (90) days from the date your refund request is received to be processed. All refunds must be requested in writing to the Adult Sports Office and have the following information:

1. Team manager's name, address, telephone number and signature.
2. Team name, night, league and field.
3. Reason for withdrawal.

7. LEAGUE DIVISIONS

Coed D: No over the fence homeruns allowed (recreational)

Coed D (Plus+) 2 homeruns allowed (competitive)

Men's D: 3 homeruns allowed (competitive)

Men's E: No over the fence homeruns allowed (recreational)

NO HOME RUNS WILL BE DECIDED BY THE TEAMS AT THE PLATE.

The registration of teams in the Adult Sports program, while conducted on a first come, first served basis, shall also be regulated by performance criteria established for each league. Such performance criteria shall recognize various team proficiency levels overall in the Adult Sports program, and provide for meaningful competitive play between teams.

8. ROSTER INFORMATION

- A. All teams can submit rosters at time of registration. Team rosters must include first and last names of all players. Teams are allowed to have a maximum of 20 players on their roster.
- B. Roster changes must be made via email (louis.moore@houstontx.gov) or via fax (832-395-9445). If a player desires to transfer from one (1) team to another, a roster change must be submitted to the Adult Sports Office in person or by e-mail prior to that player participating in a game. Note: If a player desires to transfer from one team to another in the same league, the player must sit out one (1) game. If a player desires to transfer from one team to another in different leagues, the player becomes eligible immediately.
- C. Roster changes must be submitted within the first two weeks of the league via e-mail or fax (832-395-9445). If a team manager fails to receive confirmation of receipt of the email from the Adult Sports Office, he/she is responsible to follow-up on the status at (832) 395-7130.
- D. Team rosters will be final after two (2) weeks of play.
- E. A team's final roster also becomes that team's post-season roster if a tournament or playoffs is held.
- F. Player's full names must appear on the registration roster on file in the Adult Sports Office. A substitute or replacement player must come from the dugout, not from the stands or spectator's area. **Umpires will not decide the player (s) eligibility.**
- G. Tournament Roster: Team (s) may not add players from other leagues to participate in any City of Houston Tournaments. The Adult Sports Staff will check rosters. Teams may use a player (s) from their team roster for that calendar year. For example, for the Spring T.A.A.F Tournament in June, a team may use a player (s) from Spring I Season's team roster who may not be on the Spring II roster. A player (s) that has played in a B/C/D league may not play in the E Division. Player (s) may move up to a higher division, but are not allowed to play a lower division.

Penalty: If a protest is lodged against the offended team and it is verified by the Adult Sports staff, a forfeit of the game shall be declared for incomplete rosters or ineligible player.

9. **TEAM NAME**

Team names are subject to Adult Sports staff approval. Inappropriate and vulgar names are not accepted and may be modified.

10. **LENGTH OF OFFICIAL GAMES**

Slow Pitch: Seven (7) innings or fifty-five (55) minutes whichever occurs first, constitutes a game. In case of rain, light failure, etc., the completion of thirty (30) minutes constitutes a completed game. The fifteen (15) run rule will be in effect after three innings, **twelve (12) run rule after 4 innings** or ten (10) run rule after five (5) innings.

Fast Pitch: Seven (7) innings or one hour twenty minutes (1:20), whichever occurs first, constitutes an official game. In case of rain, light failure, etc., one (1) hour will constitute a complete game. There will be a seven (7) run rule in effect after four (4) innings.

* Rule Change Effective Spring I of 2013:

Tied Game: **Games will end in a tie at the completion of the game: 55 minutes or 7 Innings, whichever occurs first. Both teams will get ½ game win/lost.**

11. **OFFICIAL TIME**

The watch of the umpires will be considered the official time clock for all games. In the event neither of the umpires has a watch, someone selected by the umpires will act as the official timer. Team managers are urged to synchronize their watches with the umpires prior to the start of every game. The game clock will start when the umpire completes the coin toss. In addition, the Team Manager/Team Representative should get the umpire (s) name (s) during the pre-game.

12. **HOME TEAM DESIGNATION**

In playoffs, the home team designation will be determined by the higher seeded team. The home team will be responsible for the official score and keeping up with substitutes. An official scorebook is required. If neither team has a scorebook and a conflict in the score occurs, the home team's score will be final. If only one (1) team, even if it is the visitors, has a scorebook and a conflict occurs, then that scorebook will be valid. Please check with the umpires and opponents after each inning about the number of runs scored. **BE ADVISED THE UMPIRES ARE NOT THE OFFICIAL SCORE KEEPERS OF THE GAME.**

13. **SCHEDULES**

Schedules are posted one week prior to the season's start date on the Adult Sports Team Sideline website and app:

<https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/houstonparks/home>

If you do not have Internet access, please contact the Adult Sports Office at (832) 395-7130 to request a schedule faxed or mailed to you.

14. **FORFEIT TIME**

Any team not ready to play at game time will forfeit to the opposing team. Team must be in the dugout or on the field at game time to be considered present and ready to play. The only exception will be the first game of the night, teams will be given a ten (10) minute grace period. Be aware that the game clock will start at the scheduled start time (ex. If a game starts at 6:30 and the team requests the grace period, the game clock will be running through the grace period). Umpires will not decide on player eligibility. If a team captain desires to protest the eligibility of a particular player, he/she must follow the procedures set forth in Section 13 of this rulebook.

In order to reduce the number of unjustified forfeits by teams, the following rules will be in enforced during the Seasons:

- If a team forfeits 2 or more scheduled dates of games during a 5-Week Doubleheader Season, the team would be disqualified from the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department Playoffs Tournament and subject to being disqualified from the league.
- If a team forfeits 3 or more scheduled dates of games during a 5-Week Doubleheader Season, the team would not be eligible to register and participate in any upcoming seasons within a period of 1 year. For example, if a team forfeits 3 scheduled dates of games during the Spring I season, they will not be able to register and participate in the Spring II Season. In addition, the team may be deleted from the current league and the schedule to be revised with remaining teams.
- If a new team is formed (within 90 days of becoming ineligible to register for another season), there cannot be 5 or more players on the roster from a team that was previously disqualified by forfeiting 3 or more scheduled dates of games in a season.

Of course, if a team experiences an uncontrollable circumstance that caused the team to have a forfeit (death in the family, car accident, etc.), the Adult Sports Office will review any written appeals with documentation submitted within 5 business days after the scheduled game(s) or receipt of forfeit letter to the Adult Sports Office.

15. **PROTESTS**

- Only protests based on misinterpretations of the rules and player eligibility will be accepted.
- Protests must be announced verbally to the umpire immediately when the contested action occurs and before play is resumed. Protest must be presented in writing to the Adult Sports Office at 6200 Wheeler Street, Houston, TX 77023, by 10:00 a.m. the following business day. A \$20 fee must also accompany the protest (Cash Only). In the event a protest is upheld, the \$20 will be refunded as soon as possible. If the protest is denied, the \$20 protest fee is forfeited.
- Omission of any of the above mentioned steps will constitute the denial of a protest.
- When there is a protest against an ineligible player and there is no roster on file in the Adult Sports Office, the protest will be automatically upheld. The protesting team must also have a roster on file in order to file a protest. If there is no roster on file for either team, both teams will be credited with a loss.
- The decision of the protest committee will be considered final.
- There will be only one protest allowed per game, but it may include several items.
- Any protest lodged after the completion of the game will not be allowed.

16. **RAINOUT INFORMATION**

- Team managers may refer to the Team Sideline app or website @ <https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/houstonparks/home> for text alerts after 4:00 p.m. daily to check on field status.
- In an instance where rain may come after 4:00 p.m. the decision to play will be left to the discretion of the umpires at the first game. If the first game of the night is cancelled, the remainder of the games for that night will be cancelled. It would be wise to have representative at the field for the first game to notify team members of any cancellations.
- As many cancellations as possible will be made up in the weeks following the league schedule.
- The Adult Sports Office reserves the right to cancel remaining make-up games if it is determined that team interest is lacking and a champion will be determined on a percentage basis.
- Refunds for games not played during a season will be issued to team managers at the conclusion of each season. Please check your "My Account" section two weeks after the conclusion of a specific season and the refund will be applied to your online account. If you originally paid by cash/check for your team registration, you will need to complete a Refund Request Form 2 weeks after the conclusion of a season. A refund check from the City of Houston will be sent to you within 4 – 6 weeks. If your team has a forfeit(s) no refunds will be given during that season.

17. **PLAYER CONDUCT**

- Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans before, during and after all games and registrations. Please see the Adult Sports Code of Conduct on page 22 of this manual.
- Harassment of officials, players and staff will not be tolerated at any time. Continued harassment may result in player and/or team being suspended from the league with no refund.
- Fighting will not be tolerated and will result in both participants and teams being suspended for a minimum of two games up to a maximum of indefinite suspension, depending on the situation and a review by management.
- If a player or team is suspended for fighting or exhibits unruly/inappropriate conduct at any time during the league, no refunds will be given, regardless of how many games remain.
- All suspensions may be appealed to the Adult Sports Office. All appeals must be sent in writing to the Adult Sports Office within 24 hours after the team manager is notified.
- The Adult Sports Office may notify the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) and/or USA SOFTBALL of any suspensions that occur during City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department league games/tournaments.

18. **ALCOHOL**

- Alcohol is prohibited at the following HPARD parks:
 1. Cleveland Park
 2. Irvington Park
 3. Alief Park
- Alcohol is permitted at the following HPARD parks, but not on the ballfield or in dugouts during games:
 1. Memorial Park
 2. Cullen Park
 3. Herman Brown Park
- Players may not leave the dugout during a game to drink alcohol.
- Alcohol in glass containers is prohibited at all HPARD parks.

Sports officials have been instructed to follow the below procedures to ensure the Alcohol Policy is in compliance.

1. Sports official meets with team manager immediately if a player is drinking alcohol at a park where alcohol is prohibited or if a player is drinking on the actual ballfield or dugout. The sports official will tell the team manager the incident is a warning and he/she must cooperate to ensure players discontinue drinking behavior.
2. If drinking behavior is observed a second time by a player within a specific season, the player will be ejected for the remainder of the game(s) on that date.

Sports official completes a written summary statement to Adult Sports Office within 1 business day.

3. If drinking behavior is observed a third time within a specific season, a forfeit will be issued to the team by the sports official. Sports official completes a written summary statement to Adult Sports Office within 1 business day.
4. If drinking behavior is observed a fourth time within a specific season, a forfeit will be issued to the team by the sports official. Sports official completes a written summary statement to Adult Sports Office within 1 business day. Adult Sports staff investigate incident and complete an incident report for documentation. Suspension of registration for next season for team that violates Alcohol Policy.

19. **UMPIRE COMPLAINTS**

If there is a problem with an umpire, call the Adult Sports Office at (832) 395-7272 the following day and report the problem/issue to the Adult Sports staff. You may also send an e-mail to report the problem/issue to louis.moore@houstontx.gov. During the pre-game meeting team managers should get the name of the umpire (s). Do not confront the umpire at the site. Failure to abide by this rule could result in the violator(s) being removed from the program.

20. **PLAYER INJURIES**

The City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for any injuries to any participant in the program (players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators). USA SOFTBALL and TAAF have very reasonable insurance plans that are available to all teams. It is recommended that all teams acquire such insurance coverage. You may obtain more information on insurance plans by visiting www.usasoftballhouston.org and www.taaf.com.

All players should be aware that softball can be a hazardous activity and by voluntarily participating in this activity, they acknowledge that there are numerous dangers and risks involved including various types of injuries, and even death.

21. **AWARDS:**

Awards will be given to the first place team from each league of the regular season. In order to qualify for awards and to determine a true champion, the team must have completed 100% of the regular season games. For the Playoffs Tournament, awards will be given to the first place team.

Team managers who win their league for a regular season or playoffs may pick up their award by visiting the Adult Sports Office during normal business hours Monday – Friday. Please call 832-395-7130 to make an appointment for pickup. The Adult Sports Office will not be responsible for issuing awards after sixty (90) days of the season/tournament ending.

22. **SCORES AND STANDINGS**

Please check the Team Sideline website to view your team's scores, standings and schedule. Go to:

<https://www.teamsideline.com/sites/houstonparks/home>

Scores and standings are updated within 1 business day after completed games.

23. **PRIVATE/CORPORATE LEAGUES**

- The private/industrial league director and team managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans before, during and after all games and registrations.
- The league director of Private/Industrial Leagues must cooperate to obtain player's contact information when requested by HPARD staff.
- Harassment of umpires, players and staff will not be tolerated at any time. Continued harassment may result in player and/or team being suspended from the league with no refund.
- Fighting will not be tolerated and will result in both participants and teams being suspended for a minimum of two games up to a maximum of indefinite suspension, depending on the situation.
- If a player or team is suspended for fighting or exhibits unruly/inappropriate conduct at any time during the league, no refunds will be given, regardless of how many games remain.

24. **TEAM WEBSITE**

It is recommended for team managers to create a team website on the Team Sideline website or app to better manage and communicate with teammates. You can manage your season efficiently by creating calendars, schedules, reminders, rosters, and photos.

GENERAL RULES:

I. OFFICIAL RULES

Games will be played in accordance with official USA SOFTBALL Championship Rules and Regulations for, unless herein stated. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is also a charter member of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation and will use rules covered with TAAF whenever appropriate.

II. EQUIPMENT

A. Official Bat

Players may use bats which meet all requirements of Rule 3, Section 1 in the USA SOFTBALL rule book and:

1. Which bear an USA SOFTBALL approved certification mark.
2. Which are included on a list of approved bat models published by the USA SOFTBALL National Office and listed at www.usasoftball.com.
3. In the sole discretion of the umpire if manufactured prior to 1995 would comply with the USA SOFTBALL bat performance standards then in effect.
4. Any bat approved for play in 2012 by any other Association USSSA, NSA, ISA, etc. can be used, or any bat bearing the new 2013 USA SOFTBALL or USSSA stamp. The umpire has sole discretion to remove any bat they deem is unsafe for play by rule.

B. Official Softball – 52 - Core ball must be used. This is an USA SOFTBALL rule; Rule 3, Section E – 3 (Effective 2014).

1. For Men's Softball:
 - a. .52 Cor / 300 Compression
 - b. 12"
 - c. Yellow Optic Cover / Red Stitch
 - d. **Green** USA SOFTBALL Logo
2. For Women's Softball:
 - a. **52 Cor /300 Compression**
 - b. 11"
 - c. Yellow Optic Cover Cover / Red Stitch
 - d. **Green** USA SOFTBALL Logo

3. For Co-Rec:

Must provide an official Men's Ball (12 inches) **52 cor / 300 compression** and Women's Ball (11 inches) **52 cor / 300 compression**. Women should hit the 11-inch ball. Women may hit the Men's ball if they choose to.

C. Uniforms

1. For league play, uniforms are not required.
2. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body, so the medical alert information remains visible.
3. Steel cleats or hard plastic with metal attached to the bottom are not allowed in the City of Houston Softball Program. Any player found wearing steel cleats will be ejected from the game. The second violation by the same player during the season may result in that player being suspended from participating in the league for the remainder of the season.

III. PLAYERS

All players must be 18 years or older to participate in an Adult Sports softball league with Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Children 17 years or younger must participate in a youth sports league. Valid identification may be required by the Adult Sports Office to verify age of participants.

- **6:30 GAME (ONLY):**

The first game starting at 6:30 p.m., a team may begin with 8 players. One out will be taken in the ninth spot in the batting order. When and if the ninth player arrives, he/she will be inserted into the ninth batting position. The team that is playing with nine players will not be penalized for not having ten (10) players. Only one out will be taken (NOT TWO). If the other team has nine (9) players, they will not take @ out in the ninth spot. **If this 6:30 p.m. is a Co-Ed game 4 Men & 4 Women an out will not be taken if a male or 2 males arrives, they go to the bottom of the order and Women will now bat between the 2 Men that arrive.**

COED MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) WOMEN TO BEGIN THE GAME.

All other rules will apply in the 7:30, 8:30 & 9:30 games.

A team must have the required number of players present in the dugout or on the field to start a game.

A. Men's or Women's Slow Pitch

1. May have eleven players with one being an extra player who bats only. Any of the eleven may play defense.
2. Must have nine players to begin a game. An out would be given at the end of the lineup.
3. Male rosters shall include only male players and female roster shall include only female players (USA SOFTBALL Rule, Rule 4: Players, Coaches, Substitutes, Section 1: Players).
4. All teams must provide a lineup to the home plate umpire at the beginning of each game. Lineups must include first and last names.

B. Co-Rec

1. **Short Handed Rule:** A game may begin or finish with 9 players, but when and if another arrives (of correct sex missing), that player must be inserted into the line-up at the ninth or tenth batting position (depending on vacant spot by alternating sexes). If a team plays shorthanded with either three in the infield or outfield, at least one of the three must be a male and at least one of the three must be a female player.
2. **Defensive Positioning:** Ten players (five females and five males) with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the outfield and the infield, and one male and one female as the pitcher or catcher. **If playing 6 men & 4 Women, you MUST HAVE A Man Pitching to satisfy the 2 women in the infield rule; the catcher is not an infielder.**
3. **Batting Order:** The batting order for COED shall alternate sexes. COED play will use an 11-inch red-stitch ball when the female bats and 12-inch red stitch ball when the male bats. COED teams may bat 10 or 12 players.
4. After the 6:30 p.m. game, teams must have 9 players present in the dugout or on the field at the start of the game; a forfeit will be given to the opposing team if they do not meet these requirements. **COED teams must have a minimum of 4 women / 5 men. New Rule for 2019: There will not be an out taken between the 2 Men, you just insert the next woman in the lineup. So, when playing 5 or 6 men / 4 women, men remember the men you follow in the lineup and women remember the women you follow in the lineup. You splice the Women in, this way you will always have a male then female batter, with no outs taken.**
5. All teams must provide a lineup to the home plate umpire at the beginning of each game. Lineups must include first and last names.
6. In Co-Ed play, when a female batter hits a fair ball to the outfield, the first play from the outfield may not be on the female batter-runner at first base. Should an outfielder attempt to put out the female batter-runner at first base as the first play from the outfield, the female batter-runner will not be called out and the defense will be given a warning of the rule violation. All subsequent violations of this rule will result in the female batter-runner NOT being called out AND being awarded 2nd base. **Should the female batter-runner be injured during a violation of this rule, the offending outfielder can be ejected by the umpire. This was a new rule for 2018.**

C Players leaving or being ejected

1. If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed, that team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the lineup whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to bat less than nine (slow pitch) or eight (fast pitch).
2. If a player (s) are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct during the first game, it is up to the umpire's discretion as to whether the player (s) may play the second game that night. Depending on the seriousness of the unsportsmanlike conduct the Adult Sports Office may suspend the player (s) indefinitely from future leagues.
3. If playing shorthanded, and a substitute arrives, they must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot. If he/she refuses to enter for any reason, that player becomes ineligible for the remainder of the game.
4. If the player leaving the game is a runner or batter, the runner or batter shall be declared out.
5. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat.

7 Extra Player (EP)

1. An extra player is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the line-up card/scoring sheet in the regular batting order.
2. If the extra player is used, the extra player must be used the entire game.
3. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
4. If an EP is used, all 11 on the starting lineup must bat and any 10 of those 11 may play defense.
5. The EP may be substituted for at any time. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EP may re-enter.

8 Re-entry

1. Any player may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup.
2. Player may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the lineup at the same time.

9 Courtesy Foul

- a. All batters (Men, Women & Co-Ed) begin with a 1 & 1 count (one ball and one strike) before they enter the batter's box. **After 2 strikes the batter is allowed ONE COURTESY FOUL BALL.**

Courtesy Runner

Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a Courtesy Runner. Only one (1) Courtesy Runner may be used per inning. For Co-Ed play "ONLY" you may have one (1) Male Courtesy Runner & one (1) Female Courtesy Runner per inning. A player can only be a Courtesy Runner once per inning. *Example: Bob was a courtesy runner of Alex, Bob can't be a courtesy runner again until that inning has been completed.* The Courtesy Runner is selected using the following order:

1. **Any player that is currently playing in the game.**

The order of selection may be changed due to the flow of the game. The intent of the selection order is to keep the Courtesy Runner from being on base when it is their turn to bat. **The penalty should the Courtesy runner be on base when it's their turn to bat is: They are removed from the base (with no runner allowed to take their spot on the base) and placed at bat. Should this create the 3 out of the inning, they would bat first the next inning**

"Note: males are to run for males & females for females". Above all, do NOT CONFUSE THE COURTESY RUNNER with the SUBSTITUTION RULE.

Hit and Sit

When a batter hits a home run over the fence, the batter is not required to touch 1st base. All other players who were already on a base are not required to run the base.

FIELD LOCATIONS:

1. **Alief Park** – 11903 Bellaire Blvd. – Go west to I-69 and Westpark Tollway W to W Houston Center Blvd. Take the W Houston Center Blvd exit from Westpark Tollway W. – Turn left onto W Houston Center Blvd. - Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Alief Clodine Rd. - Turn right on S Kirkwood Rd.
2. **Cullen Park** – 19008 Saums Road – Go west on I-10 to the Barker Cypress exit. Make a right on Barker Cypress and Follow down to Saums Road. Make a left on Saums and the park entrance will be on your left.
3. **Herman Brown Park** – 300 Oates Road – Go East on I-10 to the Mercury Dr. exit. At the light, take the U-Turn and follow feeder to Oates road. Turn right on Oates Road. Follow Oates Road, the park will be on your right.
4. **Memorial Park #1** – 6501 Memorial Drive - Take South Loop West to the Memorial Dr. exit. Turn left onto Memorial Drive. Follow Memorial Drive and turn left at Memorial Loop Drive. Follow the loop; field is located between field #2 and the swimming pool.

5. **Memorial Park Fields #2, #3 and #4** – 6501 Memorial Drive – Take South Loop West to the Memorial Drive Exit. Turn right onto Memorial Drive. Follow Memorial Drive and turn left at Memorial Loop Drive. Fields are located immediately next to the soccer field and across from the golf course.
6. **Tim Hearn Field (Cleveland Park)** – 200 Jackson Hill – Take Memorial Drive west to Jackson Hill. Make a right on Jackson Hill and the park is on your left.
7. **Irvington Park** – 1000 Cavalcade St. – Follow I-45 N to N Fwy Service Rd. Take exit 50A from I-45 N - Turn right onto Patton St. - Turn left onto Irvington Blvd. - Turn right onto Frawley St.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

General Information	(832) 395-7130
Rainout Information (updated by 4 pm daily)	Team Sideline website
Field Reservations with the Permits Office	(832) 394-8804
Program Information (League and Registration Dates)	www.houstonparks.org
E-mail address	louis.moore@houstontx.gov
Online Registration	https://apm.activecommunities.com/houstonparks/Home



TEXAS AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION
SOFTBALL TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

CITY _____

REGION _____

City Representative: _____ E-mail Address: _____

City Representative Signature: _____ Date: _____

*For each category below, place "number of teams" in the blank space.
Deadline: April 26, 2023 unless otherwise stated under division.*

SOFTBALL:

_____ Men's D Coed C _____ Other _____

_____ Men's E Coed D _____ Women's _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
CHECK # _____ AMOUNT RECEIVED _____ DATE RECEIVED _____
STAFF RECEIVING PAYMENT _____
STAFF SIGNATURE _____

TEAM MANAGER NAME: _____

TEAM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: T.A.A.F.
T.A.A.F, PO BOX 1789, GEORGETOWN, TX 78627, (512) 863-9400

Adult Sports Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct will be enforced before, during, and after all league or tournament play at HPARD parks and community centers. The term "individual" includes the following: coach, manager, player, fan or spectator.

Misconduct will result in the penalty of an individual and/or team for all Adult Sports leagues and tournaments. The term "official" includes the following: umpire, sports official, park monitor, and HPARD staff.

During the team registration process, team managers acknowledge they are responsible for the behavior of their teammates before, during, and after games.

1. No Individual Shall: At any time lay a hand upon, shove, or strike an official or individual.
Minimum Penalty: Ejected from game and/or playing area with a minimum 1-week suspension.

Maximum Penalty: Suspended from HPARD Adult Sports leagues, facilities, and assault charges may be filed.

2. No Individual Shall: Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent by throwing a ball or any other forceful actions.

Minimum Penalty: Warning by sports official/umpire.
Maximum Penalty: Ejection from the game, playing area and 1-week suspension.

3. No Individual Shall: Discuss with sports official/umpire, in any manner, the decision reached by such official except a team manager.

Minimum Penalty: Warning by the sports official/umpire.
Maximum Penalty: Ejection from game and/or playing area with 1-week suspension.

4. No Individual Shall: Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game.

Minimum Penalty: Ejected from game and playing area by sports official/umpire.
Maximum Penalty: Suspended from HPARD Adult Sports leagues and assault charges may be filed.

5. No Individual Shall: Use profane, obscene or vulgar language in any manner, or at any time on or off the playing field.

Minimum Penalty: Warning by sports official, umpire, or HPARD staff.
Maximum Penalty: Ejected from game and suspended for 1-week from the league.

6. No Individual Shall: Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any individual. Sports officials and umpires are required to immediately suspend player from further play and report the incident to the league director. Such player shall remain suspended until HPARD management review the incident.

Minimum Penalty: Suspension from two weeks and placed on probation for remainder of the season.
Maximum Penalty: Suspended from HPARD Adult Sports leagues and facilities and assault charges may be filed.

7. No Individual Shall: Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon or threatening of any sports official, umpire, or individual on or off the playing field.

Minimum Penalty: Ejection from game and 1-week suspension.

Maximum Penalty: Two weeks suspension and placed on probation for remainder of the season.

8. **No Individual Shall:** Appear on the field of play at any time in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of any other type of drug which will infringe upon their safety or the safety of others.

Minimum Penalty: Ejection from game.

Maximum Penalty: Suspended for the remaining season of play, including playoffs.

9. **No Individual Shall:** Be guilty of damaging, destroying or stealing HPARD property.

Minimum Penalty: Compensation for damages.

Maximum Penalty: Suspended from HPARD Adult Sports leagues and criminal charges may be filed.

10. **No Individual Shall:** Be guilty of any demonstration of un-sportsmanlike conduct before, during, or after league or tournament play.

Minimum Penalty: Warning by sports official, umpire, or HPARD staff.

Maximum Penalty: 2-game suspension and suspension for remainder of season.

Concussion Policy and Procedures:

THE FACTS

- A concussion is a brain injury.
- All concussions are serious.
- Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.
- Concussions can occur in *any* sport or recreation activity.
- Recognition and proper response to concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury or even death.

A bump, blow, or jolt to the head can cause a concussion, a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

RECOGNIZING A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION

To help recognize a concussion, you should watch for and ask others to report the following two things among your athletes:

1. A forceful bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that results in rapid movement of the head. --*and*--
2. Any change in the athlete’s behavior, thinking, or physical functioning.

Athletes who experience **one or more** of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body should be kept out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, says they are symptom-free and it’s OK to return to play.

SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHING STAFF, SPORTS OFFICIALS, OR LEAGUE ADMINISTRATORS:

Appears dazed or stunned
Is confused about assignment or position
Forgets an instruction
Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
Moves clumsily
Answers questions slowly
Loses consciousness (*even briefly*)
Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
Can’t recall events *prior* to hit or fall
Can’t recall events *after* hit or fall

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE:

Headache or “pressure” in head
Nausea or vomiting
Balance problems or dizziness
Double or blurry vision
Sensitivity to light
Sensitivity to noise
Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
Concentration or memory problems
Confusion
Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”

DANGER SIGNS

In rare cases, a dangerous blood clot may form on the brain in a person with a concussion and crowd the brain against the skull. An athlete should receive immediate medical attention if after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body s/he exhibits any of the following danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other
- Is drowsy or cannot be awakened
- A headache that not only does not diminish, but gets worse
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Cannot recognize people or places
- Becomes increasingly confused, restless, or agitated
- Has unusual behavior
- Loses consciousness (a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously and the participant should be carefully monitored).

WHEN A CONCUSSION IS SUSPECTED

If you suspect that an athlete has a concussion, implement your four-step action plan:

1. Remove the athlete from play. Look for signs and symptoms of a concussion if your athlete has experienced a bump or blow to the head or body. When in doubt, sit them out.

2. Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by a health care professional experienced in evaluating for concussion.

Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Health care professionals have a number of methods that they can use to assess the severity of concussions. As a coach or team manager, recording the following information can help health care professionals in assessing the athlete after the injury:

- Cause of the injury and force of the hit or blow to the head or body
- Any loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out) and if so, for how long
- Any memory loss immediately following the injury
- Any seizures immediately following the injury
- Number of previous concussions (*if any*)

3. Inform the athlete’s parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them CDC’s fact sheet on concussion. This fact sheet can help parents monitor the athlete for sign or symptoms that appear or get worse once the athlete is at home or returns to school.

4. Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, says s/he is symptom-free and it’s OK to return to play.

A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the first—usually within a short period of time (hours, days, or weeks)—can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in edema (brain swelling), permanent brain damage, and even death.

Procedure: If an athlete sustains a concussion, a doctor’s letter of clearance will be required to be submitted to the Adult Sports Office prior to returning to play in a sports league.

Take a FREE online training on concussion or get more information and educational resources on concussion, go to: www.cdc.gov/Concussion

The above information was provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Also, please note that concussion awareness disclosures, protocols and requirements may be mandated by state or local law. Consult applicable laws for legal requirements.