



# OWENSBORO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

### REVISED 5/31/24

owensboroparks.org

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the City administered leagues shall be to promote and maintain amateur slow pitch softball in Owensboro and Daviess County under conditions most favorable to the enjoyment of the game and to the development of good citizenship and a spirit of cooperation between the players, officials, spectators and managers.

### DIVISIONS

1. League division names are Co-ed Competitive, and Men's Competitive, Co-ed Recreational and Men's Recreational.
  - a. Co-ed Competitive and Recreational has a 12 team maximum and 4 team minimum.
  - b. Men's Competitive and Recreational has a 12 team maximum and 4 team minimum.
2. The Owensboro Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to combine leagues if necessary for play.

### REGISTRATION

1. Registrations must be accepted at the Owensboro Parks & Recreation Department Administrative Center before the deadline. Registration must be paid in full by the season's registration deadline.
  - a. Registration will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.
  - b. Late registrations will only be accepted with prior approval from designated City supervisory personnel and subject to a **\$50 late fee**.
  - c. League registration fees will only be refunded if the team withdraws 2 days prior to the captains meeting.
2. Registration fee for the season will be \$390 per team. All teams go forward to the end of league tournament at no extra charge.
  - a. No refunds will be issued after the preseason Captains' Meeting.
2. Each team participating in the league shall appoint **one** manager and a team representative who shall be responsible to the Parks & Recreation

Department for receipt and distribution of schedules, and for any matter of general concern to the league.

- a. Each representative's name, address, phone number and e-mail must be registered with the Parks & Recreation Department.
- b. If a change to a team representative is made, the new team representative must notify the Parks & Recreation Department immediately.
- c. It is the responsibility of the team representative to contact their respective team members in the event of a game time change, or of any other event of concern to their team.**
- d. Only the team representative will be contacted by the Parks & Recreation Department concerning such notices.

### **PRE-SEASON MEETING**

1. A mandatory captains' meeting will be scheduled in advance prior to the season beginning. League policies and facility procedures will be presented, and game schedules will be issued.
2. **Managers and/or team representatives who do not attend the mandatory coaches meeting will automatically receive a loss for their first scheduled game.**
  - a. The game shall be played and final results such as runs scored/allowed will be recorded.
  - b. If the team receiving the automatic loss fails to show for their first scheduled game their absence will be ruled a forfeit.

### **ROSTER**

1. It is desired all players be 18 years or older to play in the league. Three players per roster can be at least 16 years or older to play in the league.
  - a. Any player under the age of 18 must have a parental consent form filled out and turned in with the team roster before the player is eligible to play.**
2. Men's Division must have a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 20 players per team. Co-ed Division must have a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 24 players per team.
  - a. The team manager and or secondary representative must be listed on the roster as a player to be eligible to participate in league play.**

3. Only one official team roster will be allowed. Any player not signing the official roster, prior to deadlines, will be listed as an ineligible player.
  - a. **A team roster must be completely filled out, legible, signed by all players listed, and submitted before the first scheduled game.**
  - b. Team rosters must be submitted to Parks & Recreation personnel or the game official prior to the team's first scheduled game time.
4. **Player changes to the team roster can be made through the third scheduled game. After the third game is played there will be no player changes made the rest of the season.**
  - a. All requests for player changes must be submitted by the appointed team representative in writing to Bryson Morrow, Recreation Facility Manager ([Bryson.morrow@owensboro.org](mailto:Bryson.morrow@owensboro.org))
  - b. **If a player has signed a team roster but has not participated with that team in a game prior to the third scheduled game. The player is eligible to sign another team's roster, after first removing his/her name from the previous roster.**
  - c. All official team rosters will be recorded after the third scheduled game has been played.

## ELIGIBILITY

1. **A player can only be listed on one team roster in its respective division.**
  - a. Men can occupy a roster spot in both Men's Competitive and Co-ed Competitive Divisions.
  - b. Any team with a player found to be non-compliant with the above eligibility rules, at time of roster check or protest, will forfeit that game and all previous games played, regardless of which players were listed on the line-ups of the previous games.
  - c. Men are not allowed to play in both Co-ed Recreational and Co-ed Intermediate. Women can play in both Co-ed Recreational and Intermediate leagues.
2. **Illegal Player – a player non-compliant with the above eligibility rules, not listed on the team roster, a player failing to sign the official roster prior to deadlines, or a player failing to produce a government issued picture ID will be ineligible.**
  - a. Any team found to have an illegal player at time of roster check or protest, will forfeit that game and subject to forfeit all previous games played, regardless of which players were listed on the line-ups of the previous game

## ROSTER CHECKS

1. Roster checks may be given at any point during the season with or without a protest to verify both roster and player eligibility.
  - a. Parks & Recreation personnel or game officials may require a picture I.D. at any time.
  - b. **ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE IN THEIR POSSESSION A GOVERNMENT ISSUED PICTURE ID DURING LEAGUE PLAY.**
  - c. A player failing to produce a government issued picture ID will be ruled an illegal player.

## COIN-FLIP

1. A team representative, from each team will meet with the game official prior to the match to determine home and visitor status.
  - a. The game official shall toss a coin in the presence of each team representative.
  - b. The team representative of the winning toss shall choose home or visitor status.
  - c. If the team representative chooses visitor, his/her team will bat the top of each inning. Home team will bat at the bottom of each inning.

## LINE-UP & SUBSTITUTIONS

1. **Line-up cards must include the player's last name and first initial for it to be considered an official line-up.**
  - a. Coed line-ups should list the batting order by alternating sexes, i.e., male, female, male, etc.
2. A team representative must submit an **official 3-ply line-up card** to the game official approximately 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of a game.
  - a. If the line-up is not turned in at this time, an out will be charged to the offending team.
  - b. Changes made after the coin flip shall be considered substitutions.
3. **Ten (10) players constitute a full team.**
  - a. Teams can play a maximum of ten (10) players on defense, and a minimum of nine (9).
  - b. Co-ed teams must have no more than (5) males and a minimum of (5) females.

- c. If a Co-ed team is forced to play with less than ten (10), the ratio shall be five (5) males to four (4) females or four (4) males to five (5) females.
  - d. There must be 2 women in the infield and 2 in the outfield.
  - e. If a male batter from the opposing team comes to the plate, one (1) infield female may choose to switch to an outfield position.
- 4. If a team starts a game with nine players, the vacant 10th spot in the batting order shall be declared an out.**
- a. If a team starts with nine (9) players and the tenth (10) player arrives, the team may insert the tenth (10) player immediately to the bottom of the lineup.
  - b. If a team is playing the game with ten (10) players and a player is removed from the game for any reason, that team may continue to play with nine (9) players with the vacated spot in the batting order being declared an out.
  - c. When a team is left with a vacant spot in the lineup because of the removal of a player, the opposing team with two (2) outs may not intentionally or unintentionally walk the previous batter, in order to get to the “automatic out” created by the vacated spot in the batting order.
- 5. A team must have the required number of players present in the team area to start or continue a game.**
- a. Players listed in the starting line-up and not available at game time may be substituted for and re-entered later.
  - b. Eligible roster members may be added to the available substitute list any time during the game.
  - c. A team must have a minimum of nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), or twelve (12) players with which it started the game, with the exception of vacated spots where players are removed for any reason.
  - d. At no time may a team play more than ten (10) players defensively.
  - e. If a team starts with the EP'S and any player is removed, injured, or ejected from the game with no substitute to replace the removed, injured or ejected player, the vacated spot automatically becomes an out each time the vacant spot comes to bat, or anytime a runner is removed from the base with no legal substitution.
  - f. When a team is left with a vacant spot in the lineup because of the removal of a player, the opposing team shall not with two (2) outs intentionally or unintentionally walk the previous batter, in order to get to the “automatic out” created by the vacant spot in the batting order.
  - g. If the previous batter is walked, the vacant spot in the batting order is skipped, the “automatic out” is waived, and the next batter is the

player whose name follows the vacant spot in the batting order. This only applies when there are two (2) outs.

6. **If a game is postponed due to inclement weather the team is only required to have the same amount of players on the line-up for the make-up game, not necessarily the same player in person.**
  - a. All original players that are able to play must play in the original batting line up.
  - b. Players that did not play in the original game will then fill any open slots, up to the total amount of players that originally started the game.
7. Teams electing to play with the **Extra Player (EP)**
  - a. Coed teams batting 12 (6 men, 6 women] and fielding 10 (5 men, 5 women).
  - b. Men's teams batting 12 max and fielding 10.
8. **Teams playing with Extra Players (EP) must make it known prior to the start of the game and properly indicate within the lineup.**
9. The (EP) must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
10. The (EP) may play defense at any time without his/her status being affected.
  - a. He/she may go in and out of the defensive lineup as often as needed as long as his/her position in the official batting order is not altered.
11. The (EP) may be substituted for at any time with the substitute becoming the new (EP).
  - a. The substitute must be a player who has not been in the game.

## **SCHEDULE CONFLICTS**

1. The Parks & Recreation Department reserves the sole right to reschedule any games that cannot be played when originally scheduled for reasons beyond the control of the Parks & Recreation Department. Every effort will be made to give the team affected as much advance notice of such rescheduled matches as possible.
2. **All games must start at scheduled time.** Failure of a team to be ready to play at the scheduled time will constitute a forfeit to the opponent provided the opponent is ready to play. Failure of both teams to be ready for play shall result in a forfeit for both teams.

3. **A third forfeit recorded by a team will automatically disqualify the team from the league and post-season tournament.**
4. There will be a five (5) minute grace period for the first game only. After the first game and a team can't field a team or doesn't have enough players at the current start time, it will be declared a forfeit.
5. **Any team knowing of a game forfeit must contact the Parks & Recreation Administrative Center before 5:00 p.m. The opposing team will then be contacted and will NOT be required to show up at the park.**
6. **There will be a one (1) hour ten (10) minute time limit on each game. Timing will begin at the scheduled time.**
  - a. In Tournament Play, if the time limit is up and there is a three (3) or less run differential, then one additional inning will be played to determine the final outcome of the game.

### **PROTESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH OFFICIALS**

1. **All communications to league officials throughout the course of the league must be conducted via the team manager. Protests shall be considered only in the violation or interpretation of a playing rule.**
  - a. No protests shall be considered on a decision involving a game official's ruling.
  - b. All NSA rules will apply to play.
2. Protests can occur at any time before two outs in the last inning of the game.
  - a. The team manager must make the protest and explain what they are protesting.
  - b. At that time, the game official will notify the Complex Supervisor on duty to initiate a formal written protest with the team manager.
  - c. Parks & Recreation personnel will determine a ruling within 24 hours of receipt of the written protest and payment. Teams will be notified by the Parks & Recreation Department of an official ruling.
3. **A protest fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) cash will be paid to the Owensboro Parks & Recreation Administrative Center in person or by phone. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee shall be returned.**
4. The formal written protest shall contain the following information:
  - a. The date, time, and field color the game occurred

- b. The names of the game official and scorekeeper.
  - c. The rule and section of the NSA Official Slow Pitch Rule Book or local league rules under which the protest is based.
  - d. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
  - e. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
5. The decision made on a protested game or roster will be resolved within 24 hours of receipt of the written protest and payment. The following ruling will be determined:
  - a. The protest is found invalid and the game stands as played.
  - b. When the protest is allowed for misinterpretation of a playing rule, the game is replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected.
  - c. When protest for an illegal player is found, the team shall forfeit the game played to the offended team, and subject to forfeit all previous games played, regardless of which players were listed on the line-ups of the previous game.

### **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT/FOUL LANGUAGE**

1. Any form of flagrant conduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, or the use of foul language on the part of the player, coach, manager, or spectator will automatically suspend the offending person or persons from the league for the remainder of the game, and/or for any period thereafter that the Parks & Recreation Department might deem fair and comparable with the violation.
  - a. If an individual blatantly uses profanity, they will be ejected.
  - b. If an individual throws their bat, they will be ejected.
  - c. **If an individual is ejected they MUST leave the park, if the person ejected refuses to leave the field of play in 60 seconds, their team will receive a forfeit and the game will end.**
  - d. If the situation escalates and creates an unsafe environment, the Owensboro Police Department will be contacted and a request for an Officer will be submitted.
2. "Flagrant Conduct" shall be construed to include verbal abuse toward and/or physical contact or attempted contact with a game official, other players, coaches or managers.
3. Any player who has been suspended from a game may be suspended for the remainder of the season or for any period decided upon by the Owensboro Parks & Recreation Department.



4. **Any player who is ejected twice during a season from a game for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be disqualified from the league and post-season tournament.**

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

1. All games must be played as scheduled unless postponed due to inclement weather or wet field conditions.
2. All players can check the status of game cancellations via our cancellation line at 270-687-0000, Facebook, and/or text messages.
3. If inclement weather occurs after 5:00 p.m. managers, or the second point of contact, should call the Parks & Recreation Department cancellation line at 270-687-0000 to confirm that games are cancelled. We will also make efforts to contact team captains directly if a late notice on game cancellations arise. Postponed games will be played as rescheduled.
4. **It will be the team manager's responsibility to check on times and dates of rescheduled games.**
5. The Parks & Recreation Department will post updated schedules to the website and/or the bulletin board outside the athletic field house.
  - a. The Parks & Recreation Department will not individually notify each team manager of the make-up schedule.
  - b. If a make-up game is forfeited because a team did not call to check on the scheduled time, it will stand as a forfeit.
6. Make-up games may be scheduled on nights other than the regular league playing night.
7. Teams will be expected to make up games on the dates set.

### **THUNDER AND LIGHTNING POLICY**

1. Parks & Recreation personnel on duty will monitor the weather situation.
2. Games will be put on a 30-minute delay at **first sound of thunder or first sight of lightning.**
  - a. Once declared a 30-minute delay, visitors must go to a safe shelter such a vehicle.

### **POST SEASON TOURNAMENT (Double Elimination- Men's & Coed) 😊**

1. All eligible teams will play in the post-season tournament for their respective divisions.
  - a. Teams will be placed into a tournament bracket depending on their final league standing. The official order of finish for regular season play shall be determined as follows:
    - i. Win- loss record
    - ii. If a tie exists then teams shall be ranked according to which team won in head to head competition.
    - iii. If a tie occurs teams shall be ranked according to defensive runs allowed.**
    - iv. If a tie remains it shall be determined by the flip of a coin.
2. The team with the highest seed based on regular season play will be the home team.
3. In the championship game ONLY the team coming in from a winner's bracket will automatically be Home Team, regardless of seeding.


## AWARDS

1. Tournament winners will receive - 15 t-shirts per team.
  - a. Custom shirt orders will be placed at the conclusion of the season.
  - b. Any shirt orders not claimed by a team manager or representative will be donated to an organization or entity selected by the Parks & Recreation Department.**

## OFFICE HOURS- League Softball

1. Owensboro Parks & Recreation Administrative Center (270) 687-8700
  - a. Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
2. Jack C. Fisher Park (270) 687-8725
  - a. Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
  - b. Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## GENERAL RULES

1. Home team will keep the score book.
  - a. If the home team only has 10 players and unable to keep the score book, then the visitor team will assist as needed.
  - b. Scorekeeper receives free drink and popcorn at the concessions.
2. Each batter will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
3. Run Rules are as follows:
  - a. Twenty Five (25) run rule after (3) innings.
  - b. Twenty (20) run rule after four (4) innings.
  - c. Fifteen (15) run rule after five (5) innings.
  - d. Ten (10) run rule after six (6) innings.
  - e. One (1) run rule after seven (7) innings.
4. Home Run Limits:
  - a. Men's and Co-ed: 3 home run rule limit, after third homerun declared an out.
5. **All forfeited games will be officially scored as 14-0.**
6. NSA slow pitch rules will be strictly adhered to unless contrary to these rules and regulations.
7. The team who hits a foul ball out of play or home run will be responsible to retrieve the ball.
8. Stealing bases will not be allowed.
9. If an umpire does not show up, team managers and/or secondary representatives can agree on a volunteer replacement to rule on balls and strikes, outs, foul balls, and runs scored. The final score will be ruled an official game.
  - a. If no volunteer replacement is found, the game will be rescheduled as needed.
10. **All bats must have the 2012 NSA stamp.** 
  - a. Any player using an illegal bat will be automatically ejected.
  - b. It does not require an official protest for a bat to be checked by game official or Parks & Recreation personnel.

11. Men's softballs will be 12" 44/400 and Women's softballs will be 11" 44/400, and must have the NSA ICON stamp.



- a. If the ball does not adhere to standards or the stamp isn't legible, it is the pitcher's responsibility to ask for an approved ball.
  - b. If the pitcher pitches an illegal ball, the play will stand as played.
12. A regulation game consists of 3 1/2 or 4 innings when 7 innings cannot be completed.
13. Double bases will be in effect.
- a. **The offensive player must tag the orange outer base in order to be safe.**
  - b. Defensive plays must be played to the inner white base or else the offensive player will be called safe.
14. A pitching net will be placed, **within reasonable distance**, in front of the pitcher for player safety.
- a. If a batter hits the ball up the middle, and it hits the net, it will be ruled a strike.
  - b. **The pitching net shall not be altered during a batter's swing in an attempt to contact a hit ball and force a strike rule. Any player attempting this action can be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.**
  - c. Courtesy rule is in effect with the pitching net.
15. **No steel cleats are allowed for season or tournament play.**
- a. If player is found with steel cleats, the player must change immediately or be substituted out.
  - b. If no substitute is available, the player will be ejected from the game and previous rules will apply.
16. The registration fee will cover 1 umpire, divisional and tournament champion t-shirts.

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. Please be respectful and help the Parks & Recreation Department conduct an excellent league.
2. **Observe all facility and field rules and help maintain a clean facility.**

- a. No sunflower seeds, peanuts shells, gum, Sugary beverages, food, or tobacco products (including dip) allowed on the fields. **ONLY Water allowed on the field.**
- b. Absolutely no alcohol on City property. This includes the parking lot!
- c. Use of tobacco and smoking products at all City parks, grounds and facilities is prohibited.
- d. Individuals will be ejected and subject to season suspension if disregarding rules.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Parks & Recreation Cancellation Line	270-687-0000
Website: owensboroparks.org Facebook: Owensboro Parks & Recreation Instagram: @OwensboroParks	Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram and visit our website to find out more about all the City's Parks and programming.
Bryson Morrow, Recreation Facility Manager	Office: 270-687-8725 E-mail: <a href="mailto:bryson.morrow@owensboro.org">bryson.morrow@owensboro.org</a>