



WHITE HOUSE PARKS AND RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

(03/28/2024)

General Rules

All players, coaches & spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Each coach is responsible for informing his players and team spectators of these rules. Alcohol is absolutely **prohibited** in park.

Rosters and the Hold Harmless Agreement Form must be signed by each player in order to be eligible to participate.

All rosters (**with names, addresses and signatures**) must be completed and turned in by first day of games. **A maximum of (15) 15 players are allowed per roster.** When a player is added to the roster, the player must come into the Parks offices by 5:15 pm on the day of the game and sign the roster. **No players may be added to your roster after the third week of play. If a player not listed on the roster is playing in any game after the third week, your game(s) will be forfeited.**

All players / coaches must have proper photo ID with them while at the park.

Must be 17 years of age to play. Any 17-year-old playing must have parent approval.

Games will be governed by official USA Softball (formerly ASA) rules unless otherwise stated.

No more than 2 coaches per team shall be on the field and only 1 manager and a designated team captain may confer with the umpire. Any other player involvement will result in that person's dismissal from the game in progress. Players must remain in the dugout when not actively playing or coaching.

Teams that begin with 12 players may go down to 9 players. If you start with 12 players and someone goes out of the game to make it 11 players, then that spot in the batting order that went out will be counted as an out when that spot is supposed to bat, and so on.

Practices are allowed to be scheduled by the team on a week-to-week basis.

Each team will hit their own softballs (only yellow). Each player will use the MSP-44 ball (44 core) (375 compression) (Gold Stitched/Red Stitch ASA stamp) or the new .52 core, 300 compression ball (Green Stamp). **All softballs must have the ASA stamp.** **If an illegal ball is used the batter will be declared out. If it is discovered a second time the coach will be ejected.**

Bats – Refer to illegal bat list.

<https://www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/>

Steel spikes will not be allowed in league play. **Penalty-ejected** from game in progress.

Score keeping

Flip for home team – winner gets the choice of being home team first or second game. Home team will keep official book.

The winning team is responsible for turning in score sheets. You may fax, call or email the information to the Parks office the following day by 12:00 PM. If no score sheets are turned in, it will count as a loss for both teams.

20 run lead at end of 3 innings, 15 run lead at end of 4 innings or a 10-run lead after 5 innings will complete a game. A game shall also be called at the end of 1 hour or at the end of the inning following the time limit. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit or at the end of 7 innings the international tiebreaker will be in effect – Start each half inning with the last batter from the previous inning on 2nd base and no outs. **There is no time limit in the Championship Game. However, there is still a run rule in the championship game.**

Batting

- **All batters will start with a 1-1 count** - After the batter has 2 strikes, then he/she will be allowed a foul ball without being called out, on the second foul ball with 2 strikes the batter is out.
- **Teams may bat up to 12 players. Any 10 can play defense.**
- **The batting order must remain the same throughout the entire game.** Teams may substitute at any time as long as they bat in the same spot in the batting order as the person they are subbing for. If that sub comes back out of the game, then they **may not** re-enter the game.
- **Courtesy runners are permitted. The courtesy runner does not have to be the last batted out, but teams must be aware that if the courtesy runners spot in the lineup comes up while he is on base, it will be an automatic out.**
- A ball bouncing over, through or under a fence on any field will be considered a ground rule double.
- A batted ball hitting or bounding over the inside portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting or bounding over the outside portion is declared foul.

Pitching

- **Pitches must be 6 ft to 12 ft in arc height, otherwise it's considered a ball.**
- Pitchers Box-The pitcher's box is the width of the pitching rubber and 6ft back toward 2nd base. The pitcher must take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet on or inside the line of the pitcher's box.
- **IF A PITCHER IS HIT, IT IS AN AUTOMATIC OUT FOR THE BATTER THAT HIT IT.**

Home Runs

8 Home Runs allowed per team/per game. After 8 home runs have been hit, all “over the fence” home runs will be an out. The one-up ruling will NOT be in effect.

Base Running

- No stealing allowed in any leagues.
- **Base runner may stand on the orange/outside base when the ball is pitched**
- Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the inside portion and the batter-runner must use the outside portion. The batter- runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the inside portion.
- On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, or an errant throw pulling the defense off the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the inside or the outside portion.
- On extra base hits and balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter-runner may touch the inside or outside portion.
- When tagging up on a fly ball, the inside portion must be used.
- If/when using the double base, and there is a force play by an infielder on the batter-runner, who touches only the inside portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the inside portion-interference is ruled, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out, and all other runners are returned to the bases last occupied at the time of interference.

Forfeits

Forfeit time is game time! All games will start on time (no grace period). A team may start and finish a game with 9 players (must use 3 outfielders). If and when the 10th player arrives at the game, he must be put in as the last batter in the line-up. Until the player arrives the last spot in the batting order will be declared an out.

NOTE: On double-header games, if the first game is forfeited the second game will be played or forfeited 30 minutes after the first. Example: If the 6:15 game is a forfeit, then at 6:45 the second game will be played or forfeited.

Teams must report to the field for scheduled games with the exception of the “Call in Forfeit Rule”. If a team calls into the office and forfeits in advance, a representative of the parks department will contact a coach for the opposing team to inform them that they do not need to show up at the field. If a team forfeits in advance and the games are rained out then they will not count as losses.

Rain/ Inclement weather

If games are delayed for rain, they will restart at point of rain delay and/or 4 inning or 45 minutes will be a completed game. If the fifth inning has started and rain occurs before the fifth inning is complete and the game has gone 45 minutes, the score will revert back to the fourth inning.

Decisions on postponing games due to inclement weather will be at the sole discretion of the White House Parks & Recreation Department. Any games stopped in progress by inclement weather will be at the sole discretion of the Head Umpire. **The weather hotline is 615-616-1024.**

VIOLATIONS & PENALTIES

If a player is ejected, he/she must leave the playing field and the general area around the field. **PENALTY: Failure of an ejected player(s) to leave will result in his/her team forfeiting the ballgame. Furthermore, any player(s) ejected from a game will be required to miss a minimum of 1 regular season game. If ejected twice, a player will be suspended for the remainder of the regular season. Player may be allowed to play in tournament. This decision will be made by the Parks Department on a case-by-case basis.**

There shall be no throwing a bat or anything against the backstop or fence before, during or after a game. **PENALTY: Ejection without warning from the game in progress and also suspension from the next scheduled game.**

Any other infractions regarding a player and umpire may be dealt with by the Parks & Recreation Department as they see fit.

Protest Fee is \$50.00 cash, checks will not be accepted. If you lose your protest, you lose your money. If you win your protest, you will get your money back. Protest must be in writing and submitted to the Parks & Recreation Department within 2 working days after the game. Judgment calls may not be protested. Notification of decision will be given within 3 working days of the protest. Protest for games during tournament must be made before the start of each team's next game.

If the protest is for an illegal player, the protest must be done before the completion of the current game. The umpire must receive the \$50.00 cash and then see a photo ID of the protested player.

- If the player in question shows his/her photo ID and is not the person on the lineup card then the player is ejected for the game in progress and must sit out the next game at a minimum (the team must have a legal sub to replace the player or the game is a forfeit).
- If the player in question shows his/her photo ID and is the person on the lineup card then the game will be completed and the Parks office will rule on the protest (check the roster) the next business day.
- If the player in question does not have a photo ID then he/she is automatically illegal.

If a team forfeits 2 games (double header league 3 games), they may be dropped from the league. No money will be refunded.

Final standings from the regular season will indicate seeding and HOME team for the tournament.

Tie-Breakers

Two Teams

1. Head-to-Head
2. Who beat the higher seed
3. Coin Flip

(Note: To deter running up the score, run differential will NOT be considered.)

Any and all rules not covered in the athletic manual will be decided upon by the Parks Department.

Governing Body

The City of White House Parks and Recreation Department will preside as the Governing Body of this League. This Department reserves the right to change, modify, or revise any or all aspects of the League at any time, for any reason, without prior notification. This shall include rules, regulations, game and practice schedules, team rosters, League By-Laws, and any other facet of the League.

Code of Conduct

The White House Municipal Code houses rules and regulations and other commitments upheld by the City of White House and enforced by City of White House personnel.

Title 2 is specific to the City of White House Parks and Recreation, with sections that outline the Code of Conduct for recreational programs

- (1) These rules and codes of conduct apply to all league commissioners, coaches, participants and spectators. These rules are in effect before, during and after activities or events which are conducted on city facilities, and all persons must adhere to them. All co-sponsored organizations are required to administer and adhere to the code of conduct, and to report violations to the White House Parks and Recreation Department.
- (2) (a) When an incident occurs at any White House Parks and Recreation facility, White House Parks and Recreation officials have the authority to institute immediate suspensions. White House Parks and Recreation officials will direct the offending individual(s) to leave the facility. If the offending individual(s) refuses to leave the premises, the White House Police Department will be contacted immediately to enforce the ruling.
 - (i) Officials. Officials shall include but not be limited to referees, umpires, White House Parks and Recreation staff, co-sponsored organization representatives designated by the White House Parks and Recreation Department, and school administrators.
- (3) Conduct that is a violation of Tennessee Statutes of Law or the City of White House Municipal Ordinances will be reported to the White House Police Department. Consequences of violation of state statutes or city ordinances are separate from and in addition to the consequences of violation of the City of White House Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct.

(a) Level 1 - Standard.

(i) Offense. Failure to follow departmental established guidelines, rules, policies and procedures as applicable to related programming; failure to comply with a White House Parks and Recreation official's decision; taunting/mocking/harassment of players; disgruntled expressions such as rude gestures or comments, screaming and loudly disagreeing with others or obscene/profane/vulgar language; throwing/kicking/striking of bats, balls and other miscellaneous equipment; unnecessary roughness among participants.

(ii) Penalty. A warning may be given according to the severity of the offense; otherwise immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum ten (10) day suspension.

(b) Level 2 - Verbal.

(i) Offense. Malicious, obscene/profane/vulgar verbal abuse directed towards another individual; verbal epithets related to race, color, religion, creed, gender or sexual orientation; verbal communication of threats, physical violence or acts of insulting another with the intention to offend, defame or embarrass.

(ii) Penalty. A warning may be given according to the severity of the offense; otherwise immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum thirty (30) day suspension.

(c) Level 3 - Physical.

(i) Offense. Physical aggression towards another; pushing, shoving, striking or touching another individual with the perceived intent to incite, inflict or cause harm; invading another individual's personal space during a dispute.

(ii) Penalty. Not necessarily preceded by a warning; immediate ejection and removal from the premises and a minimum one hundred eighty (180) day suspension.

(d) Level 4 - Unlawful.

(i) Offense. Any violation of Tennessee law; possession of firearms without a license, knives, explosive devices or weapons or under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, controlled substances, chemical or drug paraphernalia; assault with or without a weapon.

(ii) Penalty. The White House Police Department must be contacted immediately. The White House Parks and Recreation Department will issue a minimum



White House Parks and Recreation

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www.whitehousetn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/programs-special-events/athletics/adult-athletics