



ATHENS ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES FRIENDLY CITY LEAGUE RULES

Athens Softball League will follow the guidelines set forth in the current USA Softball, (ASA), Official Rules of Softball with the following additions and clarifications.

RULE 1. ORGANIZATION

Sec. 1. The City of Athens Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) will be the administrative body of the Athens Softball League. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to have the final say in all matters.

Sec. 2. Mandatory Rules Meeting. A mandatory rules meeting will be held at the beginning of each season. Each team that registers must have a representative at this meeting. Any team that fails to send a representative to this meeting may be refused entry into the league.

Sec. 3. A Softball Advisory Board consisting of one representative from each team, one umpire representative and league president and will assist in league selection, protests, and grievances.

RULE 2. LEAGUE FEES

Sec. 1. Annual Fees. Fees shall be paid annually before the start of the season. The fees will cover the cost of umpires and any other expenses incurred during the league play. Teams not having all fees and rosters into the office before the deadline will not be allowed into the league. No partial payments will be accepted.

Sec.2. Refund. Any team, which has paid the entry fee and is wishing to drop out of the league may do so before the mandatory rules meeting and will be entitled to a full refund. No refunds will be given after the mandatory rules meeting.

RULE 3. ROSTERS/ELIGIBILITY

Sec. 1. Official rosters must be filled out completely and be signed by all participants. Rosters must be typed or printed plainly. **Only players signed up on roster can play. Anyone caught playing for more than one team will be suspended for a maximum of fourteen (14) days which shall include at least two (2) ballgames.**

Sec. 2. Co-Ed League Roster- Each team must have a **minimum** of 3 players of the opposite sex playing the field and batting, i.e. 7 men & 3 women or 7 women & 3 men. Teams may have any combination and number of co-eds, but must have at least 3 of the minority sex in their line-up.

Teams will place their batting order in alternating formats. The minority sex must be placed in the top half of the order.

Sec. 3. Roster limit. There is a maximum of thirty (30) active players per roster. Industries working rotating shifts may petition the APRD for additional players.

Sec. 4. New players, (those who have not appeared on another roster during the current season) may be added to the roster at any time. To add a new player, the player must sign the official roster form at the APRD office by 5:00 p.m. Release forms will also be made available at either the Regional Park concession stand and must be signed before game time. Prior arrangements must be made with the APRD office before using a release form at the field.

Sec. 4. Switching Teams

- A. A player may change teams as often as he/she wishes until within the first two weeks from mandatory meeting; however, a fifteen (15) day waiting period must occur each time a change is made, (see B. below). Players may only change from a lower league to an upper league, (i.e., you may switch from Volunteer to Capital but not Capital to Volunteer.) **The player must come to City Hall to take their name off a roster.**
- B. Any player wishing to be released from a team must appear in person at the APRD office. A fifteen (15) day waiting period is required before a released player may participate with another team. Day #1 is the day the player requests the release. Day sixteen (16) is the first day of eligibility.
- C. Any player who plays without waiting the entire fifteen (15) day period will be suspended from the league for a period of fourteen days.
- D. Any player whose team dissolves does not have to wait the fifteen (15) day waiting period.

Sec. 5. Eligibility

- A. Athens Softball League is open to any organization, group or individual wishing to comply these rules and regulations.
- B. All players must be sixteen (16) years of age before participating in league play. Any player under eighteen (18) years of age must have a signed release by both parents and/or guardians.
- C. Any team, which fails to report for two (2) consecutively scheduled games during the season, may be dropped from the league. Players from such teams shall be declared free agents and can sign the roster of and play with any team immediately after the APRD has declared them dissolved.
- D. Any player who is ruled ineligible for signing or being on the rosters of two (2) teams, or playing as a non-rostered player, shall be out of competition for a maximum of fourteen (14) days which shall include at least two (2) ballgames.
- E. Any coach found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be suspended for seven (7) days.

Sec. 6. Written notification. Any suspensions or disciplinary action will be confirmed in writing by the APRD to the involved coaches and players.

RULE 4. CONDUCT

Sec. 1. Managers

- A. Each manager will be held directly accountable for the conduct of their team and is responsible to see that all program objectives and rules are observed. The manager must maintain complete control of himself, his team, and his team's spectators.
- B. Managers will see that all of the official's decisions are respected and not interfered with at any time.
- C. Flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting or other serious violations will not be tolerated.
- D. Only one manager will be responsible for each team. He or she will be the one to receive all correspondence and will be the only spokesman for the team, however each team must have two other contacts for mailing purposes. If the manager resigns or is in any other way separated from the team, a new manager must be added to the team's roster as soon as possible. In the event of vacations or an extended leave of absence, the manager must notify the league of same request contact person be changed.

Sec. 2. Suspension. Any player, coach or manager ejected from a league game is out of all competition for seven (7) days. He is not eligible to play from the moment of the suspension until day eight (8), i.e., he will not be able to play in the second game of a double header. One league game must be included in the seven (7) day suspension. Day #1 will be the day after the ejection. The player/coach will be eligible to compete on day # 8.

Sec. 3. Language. Cursing or any type of foul language will not be permitted at any time. Officials will have sole right to remove any people from the game who violate this rule. Managers are expected to have complete control of their teams.

Sec. 4. Alcohol/Drugs/Firearms. Any player who has been a disruptive influence during a league game and is found to be under the influence of alcohol/drugs will be suspended for a period of two (2) weeks for a first offense and one (1) calendar year for a second offense. Additionally, the manager will be suspended for the same period. The manager is expected to have control of his players at all times and under no circumstances should a player under the influence of alcohol/drugs be allowed to play. Note: It is illegal to possess controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, and firearms on park grounds, at any time. Any person found in possession of these will be arrested and subject to a maximum \$500.00 fine. (Athens Municipal Code Ordinance 20-307).

Sec. 5. Smoking is not allowed on the playing field or in the dugout area.

Sec. 6. Permits. Any team or team member using the field permit system in a dishonest manner such as altering an old permit or falsely claiming to have a permit will lose their privilege to obtain a field permit for one calendar year and subject to be penalized as according to the Athens Municipal Code.

RULE 5. PLAYING RULES

Sec. 1. Number of Players

- A. A team must have eight (8) players to start, continue, or finish a game. If the 9th, 10th, and 11th players arrive and wish to play, they must be inserted into the 9th, 10th and 11th positions in the line up. The scorer, umpire and opposing coach must be notified.
- B. If a team starts with eight (8) or nine (9) players, the team will not be awarded an out when the vacant spaces in the line up come to bat. If a team has included players on the lineup and they are absent or unable to finish a game, then automatic outs will be awarded when it is their turn to bat.
- C. Ten (10) players shall play in the field.

Sec. 2. Uniforms. All players shall wear some type of shirt with sleeves and shoes when playing. Manufactured softball shirts without sleeves are acceptable. Tank tops, basketball jerseys, etc. are not.

Sec. 3. Line up must be turned into scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes before scheduled start of your ballgame according to the official clock. Line up must include first and last names as they appear on the official roster.

Sec. 4. Count. The league will play the 1-1 count rule. Every batter that gets in the batter's box starts with a count of 1 ball, 1 strike before the first pitch is thrown. The league will also use the extra foul rule.

Practice/Warm-up

Sec. 4. Practice/Warm-up Forfeit. Game time is forfeit time.

- A. Practice – Teams will be given five minutes, on the clock, or remainder of time before game begins, on field practice time before every game.
- B. Warm-up – Warm-ups are not allowed between the areas of the softball fields and anyone who does so will be asked to leave the park and will be suspended for two (2) weeks.
- C. Forfeit – Forfeit time is the scheduled time of the game or when the practice clock reaches five (5) minutes whichever is later. **The first game the clock will start at 6:30 pm with a 15 minute grace period allowed.**

Sec. 5. Official Clock. The scoreboard clock shall be the official time; where there is not a clock, the scorekeeper's watch is the official time. Official game starting time will be noted on scoresheet where there is no scoreboard clock.

Sec. 6. Official Ball. The official ball is the ball designated by the Recreation Department for league play. An illegal ball is any ball other than the official ball. The Softball Advisory Board met on February 7, 1997 and voted not to supply softballs for league play. League fees were adjusted accordingly. Softballs are to be furnished by teams. The Athens Adult Softball League will follow ASA Rules. **The balls will be 12" (men) 44 core, 375 compression and the stamp markings must be legible throughout the game.** Each team must hit their own ball.

- 1. Official Bat. The official bat may be marked Official Softball by the manufacturer, and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.25 inches in diameter at its largest part. Official bat must bear either ASA 2000 Certification Mark, ASA 2004 Certification Mark, or ASA 2013 Certification Mark.

Sec. 7. A regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings unless otherwise listed below.

- A. Seven full innings are not played if the team second at bat scores more runs in six (6) innings or before the third out is made in their half of the seventh inning.
- B. Time limit: No inning shall be started after seventy (70) minutes have expired; however, any inning in progress shall be completed.
- C. A game that is TIED at the end of seven (7) innings shall be continued, by playing additional innings until one (1) team has scored more runs than the other at the end of a completed inning, or the team second at bat scored more runs in their half of the uncompleted extra inning.
- D. A game called by the umpire, during regular season play which can not be resumed within 30 minutes, may be regulation if five or more innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored as many or more runs during the uncompleted fifth inning, or after four (4) full innings, than the team first at bat has scored in their five (5) complete innings.
- E. The run rule which awards a win to a team that is ahead in a game after five (5) or more completed innings are played as follows:
 - Men's Open League – 10 or more runs
 - Co-Ed Open League – 10 or more runs
- F. The run rule, which awards a win to a team that is ahead in a game after three (3) or more completed innings are played as follows:
 - Men's Open League – 20 or more runs
 - Co-Ed Open League – 20 or more runs

Sec. 8. Protests. Protests are located in the official ASA Rules of Softball handbook Rule 9 – Protests. When protesting compliance with the handbook is required. A formal protest should be typewritten and turned into the Recreation office within 48 hours accompanied by \$10.00 cash.

RULE 6. TROPHIES

For League and League Tournament purposes, awards will be awarded as follows:
 1st place- Silly Pint Wine Tumblers

RULE 7. TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

In the event that two (2) or more teams are tied at the end of regular season, and it becomes necessary to determine which team(s) finished higher in the standings, the following tie-breaking procedure will be used. This procedure will cover tournament seatings and trophy presentations. No games will be played to break ties.

Step 1. Head-to-head competition. Example: Team A and B have identical 17-3 records at the close of the regular season and are tied for 1st place. Team A played Team B and defeated them 10-6. Team A is awarded 1st place, Team B 2nd. If team A and B had played each other twice and each had won a game go to Step 2.

Step 2. The point spread of the tied teams' games with each other will be compared. Example: Team A has defeated Team B 10-6 and Team B has defeated Team A 15-4, during the course of the regular season, Team B would be awarded 1st place by having a larger point spread in their win over Team A. If the point spreads are the same go to Step 3.

Step 3. If there is still a tie after Steps 1 and 2 have been carried out, then a coin toss will break ties.

RULE 8. RAIN-OUTS/MAKE-UPS

Sec. 1. Rainouts. Managers will receive text from the Athens Parks and Recreation Department by 4pm if games are canceled. The City of Athens, Tennessee Facebook page and Twitter accounts will be updated to reflect if games are canceled.

Sec. 2. Make-ups. Games that are cancelled on Tuesday will be played on the Thursday of that same week. If an extremely large number of cancellations occur, they will be made up whenever possible.

A. It is the duty of the coach or manager to check with the APRD for the make-up schedules.

B. You will be notified, and schedules will be emailed to the managers at least 24 hours before the scheduled games and the make-up schedule will be posted online. www.athenstn.gov.

C. If there is a time span of under three (3) days that your team is scheduled to play, the APRD will notify the team manager by phone.

RULE 9. TOURNAMENT PLAY

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any player who has not actually played in a league game during the year is not eligible to compete in the post-season tournament.

Sec. 2. Ejected. A player, coach or manager ejected during the play-offs, league tourney or post-season tourney is out of competition for the remainder of the game in question, plus the next game. Playing while on an automatic suspension will result in an immediate forfeit.

HOME RUN CLASSIFICATION

A limit of over the fence home runs will be used in the following Athens Softball League divisions. All balls hit over the fence by a team in excess of the following limitations per game will be ruled on as shown:

1. Men's Open League – Five (5). **1 Up Homerun Rule.** Hitter may run to first base only and all base runners must advance one base. Batter and base runners' runs will then be automatically counted.
2. Co-Ed Open League – Five (5). **1 Up Homerun Rule.** The batter is ruled out for any in excess.

****1 Up Homerun Rule: Both teams start with a limit of 4 homeruns. If one team hits 4 home runs, they have to wait on the other team to hit 4 or 5 homeruns before they can hit another. From there on it is 1 homerun up.**

NOTE: Any fly ball touched by a defensive player which then goes over the fence in fair territory, should be declared a four-base award and shall not be included in the total of over the fence home runs. Any time the batter is ruled out because of the excessive home run rule, the ball is dead, and no runners can score.

Additional Rules:

1. Extra Hitter Rule: Can bat 12.
2. Pitching Rubber: 6ft. box behind, can pitch anywhere as long as one foot is on the line.
3. Thorguard/Lightning Detection: When horn goes off, clear the field, and go to your cars, when you hear 3 short blasts, you can come back to the field.
4. Courtesy Runner: 1 per Inning/If the courtesy runner is on base when it is his time to bat, then it is an out.