



ADULT COED SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2020

- I. ASSOCIATION:** The City of Suffolk Department of Parks and Recreation: www.suffolkva.us/529/athletics, will be the exercising authority of the softball league. USA rules will be applied throughout the course of the season play, except as modified below. For more information about the USA Softball (USAS) Adult Softball Rules please visit their website at: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball>.
- II. OBJECTIVE:** The objectives of this league are to provide a quality organized softball program while enjoying the fellowship of others along with developing character, skill, sportsmanship, and good will among teams and individuals participating. The sole purpose of this league is for recreation in the City of Suffolk. Remember, this is a COED league. Please show good sportsmanship and keep things in perspective.
- III. ROSTERS:**
- A. Rosters will be limited to 27 players, 1 coach, and 1 manager, unless otherwise authorized by the Department.
 - B. Teams will have a minimum of 2 female players. Teams wishing to compete in the follow-on Tidewater Championship Tournament must have a minimum of 5 female players. The Tidewater Championship Tournament Coed division will require more females than males on the field and in the batting line-up.
 - C. All roster forms must be accurate and complete, and signed by coach or team representative.
 - D. Each coach and player must complete and sign a department roster form before playing.
 - E. Completed team rosters will be due by the first (1st) game. Drops or Add-ons to the rosters will be allowed until Friday, Sept. 11th. Drops or Add-ons must be done in person at the Suffolk Parks and Recreation Admin Building with the Recreation Specialist- Meredith Mockler at 757-514-7254 or the Athletic Supervisor- Dominique Cox at 757-514-7270. There will be no additions at the field.
 - F. A maximum of five additions are permitted on the original roster from the time it is turned in, to the deadline for adding players.
 - G. Each team must submit their original roster on the approved Department form. **All rosters must be signed by each player and coach.**
 - H. Playing a player or players who are not on the roster will result in an automatic forfeiture of all games that have been played by that team along with the coach being suspended for two games.
 - I. A player released from a team may not be replaced for another player if they have already participated on a team. A player may only participate on one team per season.
 - J. Teams that lose players through injury, employment transfer or Armed Forces may petition the league director to get permission to replace that player.
 - K. Players need to have their driver's license or another form of photo identification available at all times during regular season and playoff games.
 - L. Suffolk Parks and Recreation reserves the right to investigate player eligibility. If players and/or coaches are participating illegally, they will be suspended for up to 1 year from the date of the infraction from the league in which the illegal participation

occurred. Playoff teams found to be using ineligible players will be removed from the playoffs.

IV. FEES:

- A. \$350.00 Per Team (Umpires fee is already included)
- B. Fees are non-refundable

V. ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Players **must be 18 years old by September 4, 2020** in order to participate.
- B. Roster changes must be made in writing in person (field monitor or coordinator)

VI. COACHES:

- A. All coaches must be at least 21 years of age.
- B. Only one coach or team captain will be allowed to participate in umpire conferences before and during the game.
- C. The coach/captain shall be the official representative of their team unless he/she designates one of the players as the team captain prior to the start of the game. Only the official team representative is permitted to raise a question concerning a rule interpretation, but he/she shall be prohibited any discussion of a question of fact or judgment.
- D. Each coach or team captain is required to check-in with the field monitor at least 15 minutes before each game or as soon as the preceding game is concluded.
- E. The only individuals allowed to sit on the bench are coaches/managers and players.
- F. **Coaches must present batting line-ups to field monitors before each game. DO NOT TURN IN NAMES OF THOSE THAT ARE NOT PHYSICALLY IN ATTENDANCE.**

VII. OFFICIALS:

- A. One umpire will be assigned to each game. In the event that an umpire does not show, that game will be rescheduled on the first available make-up date/time. Teams do not have the right to refuse any official assigned.
- B. During tournament play, one official will be assigned to each game. Two officials will umpire Championship games.
- C. All game decisions by the umpire are final.

VIII. EQUIPMENT:

- A. The Department will provide all balls (12" 300 .52 cor for males and 11" 375 .44 cor for females).
- B. **Teams will play with USA approved bats.**
- C. If a team is caught using an illegal bat the team will penalized accordingly; **1st offense will be an automatic out, 2nd time throughout the season will forfeit that game and 3rd time team will be suspended for the remainder of the season.**
- D. Practice balls will need to be provided by each team.
- E. Appropriate shoes are to be worn during game play. Tennis shoes and rubber cleats are acceptable. **NO STEEL/METAL CLEATS/METAL TIPPED CLEATS/ OR STEEL TOE SHOES** will be allowed. A player that is found wearing steel or metal cleats will be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season. A player may not play barefooted, or in sandals.
- F. Chest protectors and masks are recommended for catchers.

G. THE USA BLOOD RULE WILL BE IN EFFECT IN ALL GAMES.

Player who is bleeding may not participate in games unless the blood is covered, as with a bandage. A player who is injured in a game and is bleeding will have one minute to take care of the problem and return to the game. If bleeding cannot be stopped and the blood cannot be covered within one minute, a substitution will be necessary or the team must play shorthanded (shorthanded rules will apply).

Substitution and re-entry rules will apply. If a player gets blood on any part of clothing (jersey, pants, socks, etc.), that part of the uniform may not be worn unless the blood is dry. It is strongly recommended that the manager have a first aid kit with bandages, gauze, tape, spare jersey, pants, and socks available. Spare shirts do not have to match and do not have to be numbered.

IX. UNIFORMS

- A. All players shall wear a like colored, numbered jersey or same name on the front of the shirt. All players must have matching shirts by Friday, September 6, 2019. No taped on numbers will be permitted.
- B. Shirts must have at least a four (4) inch number on either front or back. Pockets are prohibited, no exceptions!

PENALTY: A player must change his/her shirt, or fail to participate, if the umpire deems the shirt or number unsuitable. If two players wear the same number, both players may not participate in a game at the same time. Players may not switch jerseys after the line-up has been submitted. Any player not meeting this requirement shall be ineligible to participate in that game.

X. THE GAME:

- A. There will be a 55-minute time limit on all league games. A new inning will not be started after the time limit has expired, except when two teams are tied after the time limit. The teams will be allowed two additional innings to break the tie. If one team is ahead at the end of the first additional inning the game is officially over. If the two teams are tied at the end of the second inning the game will be recorded as a tie in the official book. Any inning started must be completed.
- B. There will be a 5-minute grace period. A game may start earlier if both teams agree. If teams wish to warm up they will be expected to do so outside of the fenced area.
- C. Games will be played at Peanut Park and John F. Kennedy Softball Fields on Fridays at 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm.
- D. Field monitors are assigned by Suffolk Parks and Recreation. Coaches and captains are expected to cooperate with the field monitors in every way possible.
- E. It is the responsibility of the Coach/Captain to maintain proper conduct among team members and spectators at all times.
- F. Players on teams scheduled for the next games shall stay behind the fences and bleachers to warm up while the current game is in progress. Teams must not detract in any way from the game in progress. **NO BATTING OF ANY KIND WILL BE PERMITTED.** For the pleasure and safety of spectators and fairness to the teams playing, coaches/captains must see that this rule is enforced. **PLEASE COOPERATE.**
- G. Due to the time limit, infield practice will not be taken unless awarded by the game umpire.

- H. Make-up game days will be held on Tuesdays per scheduling decisions made by the Athletic Supervisor. If a game is not made up after two (2) consecutive Tuesdays, the game will be recorded as a forfeit. The oldest games will be made up first.
- I. If a team does not have 7 players (including 2 women) at game time, the game will be declared a forfeit by the umpire. If neither team has 7 players (including 2 women), the game will be declared a double forfeit by the umpire.
- J. If one team forfeits a game, players will be allowed to use the field until 15 minutes before the next game.
- K. League format will be double-header with a double elimination tournament. Statistical winnings will determine league champions.
- L. The teams will be seeded in the post-season tournament according to the final round-robin standings. Top 6 teams that have participated in the league will participate in tournament play. Home team advantage will be place according to winning status in the tournament based on seeding from league games.
- M. In the event of inclement weather, a game must complete 4 ½ innings to be officially recorded as a regulation game. Any regular season game stopped prior to the bottom of the 4th inning (except time limit) shall be played again in its entirety.
- N. Playoff games stopped for any reason (except time limit) shall be started from the point the game was suspended.
- O. **The following methods will be used to break all ties in the standings:**
 - 1. Head to head record between tied teams
 - 2. Total victory margin in head to head games
 - 3. Coin Toss
- 3 or More Teams:**
 - 1. Total points scored in all games
 - 2. Blind Draw
- If Teams have not played head to head**
 - 1. Total Points Scored between tied teams
 - 2. Coin Toss

XI. PLAYING RULES:

- A. Teams must start a game when they have at least 7 players (including 2 women) present. They will be able to add players until the team has 10 players. New players may be inserted into the lineup during dead ball situations.
- B. Teams may play ten offensive and ten defensive players. Coaches have the option of putting 12 players in their batting line-up. This option must be declared before the start of the game. The umpire and official scorer must be notified before the game begins. Once the game begins, the 11th and/ or 12th player cannot be added or dropped.
- C. If a team loses a player in the course of the game due to injury or emergency and has no eligible substitute, that batting position will be skipped. If a team loses a player from the game by ejection and has no eligible substitute, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
- D. There will be open substitution by defense; any 10 players may play defense at any time. A substitution only occurs when there is a change in the batting line-up.
- E. Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered into the batting order once, provided they always occupy the same position in the batting order. Exceptions will be considered in the event of an injury or emergency.

- F. If a team is caught using an illegal bat the team will be penalized accordingly; **1st offense will be an automatic out, 2nd time throughout the season will forfeit that game and 3rd time team will be suspended for the remainder of the season.**
- G. Substitutions for players must be female for female, male for male.
- H. The **3-2 rule** is in effect, meaning that when a batter goes to the plate he/she starts with 1 ball and 1 strike. Two strikes will be an out and three balls will be a walk.
- I. **Foul Ball Rule:** A second foul ball after the first strike will be declared an out.
- J. If a game is started with one team having less than 10 players the missing person(s) will be recorded as an out when that place comes around in the batting order.
- K. If a male batter is walked, the next female batter has her choice of hitting or walking, until she steps into the batter's box.
- L. Visible jewelry is not allowed. (Exception: Stud earrings, while not recommended, are allowed). Players who fail to remove jewelry after a warning from the umpire will be subject to ejection and a 2 game suspension.
- M. On any fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run (or on a four base award/error), the batter and any runners are credited with a run, and are not required to run the bases. They may go directly to the dugout, and are not required to touch the next base. Subsequently appeals for runners missing a base are not allowed.
- N. **150 FT Line Rule:**
 Four outfielders must be present in the outfield
- 3 male outfielders, 1 female outfielder: The male outfielders must stay behind the line until contact is made. The female outfielder may come in front of the line and position herself as a rover.
 - 4 Male Outfielders: All outfielders must wait until contact to cross the line.
 - More than one Female Outfielder (ex. 2 men, 2 women): Only one of the female outfielders will be able to come in front of the line and play the rover position.
 - If short only 7 or 8 players present: All outfielders positioned must remain beyond the 150 Ft. Line.
- Penalties for failure to comply with rule:
- A. Warning, optional
 - B. Runners on base, no contact by batter: Every base runner will be advanced 1 base.
 - C. No Runner on Base, no contact by batter: Warning, up to ejection if repeated.
 - D. Runners on base, contact by batter: Teams violated against has a choice of play or advancing runners 1 base and awarding batter 1st base. Or the result of the play.
- O. **Run Rule: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 10 after 5 innings. 10 Run Rule will be effect from the start of the game if a team starts with less than 10 players.**
- P. Pitching arc must reach a height of 6 feet from the ground and not exceed 10 feet from the ground. **No illegal pitch will be called aloud by the Umpire, only "Ball" or "Strike".**
- Q. Bunting is not allowed at any time.
- R. **DOUBLE FIRST BASE:** Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner must use the colored portion. The batter runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter runner touches only the white portion providing the defense appeals prior to the batter-

- runner returning to first base. Once the runner returns to the white, no appeal can be made. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the runner return, the runner can return to the white or colored portion. On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, or an errant throw pulling the defense into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or colored portions.
- S. Courtesy runners shall be the last recorded out made by the player of the same sex. If no player of the same sex has recorded an out, the player of the same sex listed last in the batting order shall be the courtesy runner. Each team can have ONE (1) courtesy runner per inning per gender ONLY. No second courtesy running will be granted, even if an injury occurs. If the courtesy runner is on base and is up to bat, the batter will be considered OUT.
 - T. Runners must remain at the bag until contact is made between the bat and ball. **There is no stealing.**
 - U. SLIDING: Sliding is allowed at any base. However, sliding is not mandatory. A base runner must either slide or make an attempt to avoid a collision with the fielder when;
(1) The fielder has possession of the ball and is attempting to place a tag on said base runner; (2) the fielder obstructs a base runner without possession of the ball. Neither fielder nor base runner will be allowed to use force in performing their duties of tagging or base running. Penalty: Runner or fielder will be ejected from the game if judged flagrant. Note – When base runners collide “standing up” with fielders in the base paths or blocking a base (with or without the ball), said runner will be called out and quite often ejected. Fielders standing in the base paths or blocking any base without the ball is therefore obstructing the base runner, and umpires will protect the base runner to the base or bases the umpire judges they would have reached, had there not been obstruction.
 - V. If a team forfeits 5 games during league play they will be removed from the league and forfeit their entry fee. The remaining games on the schedule will be scored as a win for the opposing team at a score of 1-0.
 - W. A notification of forfeiture must be made by 3:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled regular season game and make up games. Notified forfeiture will not count toward dismissal from the league. However, after fifth (5) notified forfeits, said team is ineligible for tournament play.

XII. PLAYOFFS

- A. Top 6 teams advance to double-elimination playoffs.
- B. There will be a 55minute time limit for playoff games leading up to the championship games.
- C. There will be no time limit in the championship playoff games.
- D. Run rules are in effect for all playoff games.
- E. Coin flip will determine home field for the championship game. All other games will be given home field by lower seeded teams.
- F. It is mandatory that each player possess a photo ID at each game. They will be checked randomly and throughout all playoff games.
- G. A player must participate in at least 4 or more regular season games to be eligible for participating in tournament play. Failure to adhere to this rule will result to ejection from the tournament.

XIII. SCHEDULING:

- A. Pre-season practice schedules will be set up at the coaches meeting.
- B. Games will be played in accordance with the schedule set by the Suffolk Department of Parks and Recreation.
- C. Any coach / captain finding it impossible to play a scheduled game must notify the Athletic Supervisor.
- D. If a game is postponed due to weather, light failure, or other conditions beyond our control, Suffolk Parks and Recreation will set a date for the game to be played on the Tuesday reschedule day.
- E. Suffolk Parks and Recreation reserves the right to arrange postponed games at its convenience, and also reserve the right to cancel games, if necessary, due to excessive rain or conditions beyond our control. In the event of any misunderstanding or error, managers are urged to contact the Athletics office.
- F. If a team forfeits 2 double-headers in succession or 3 double-headers overall in a season (without notifying the Athletics office in advance) for not having the required number of players, the team will be subject to expulsion from the league.
- G. On bad weather days, the SPRD maintenance coordinator will make decisions about playing conditions by 4:30 p.m., when possible. Decisions about field and playing conditions after 4:30 p.m. will be made at the field by the field monitor/league coordinator.
- H. Games **WILL NOT** be played under conditions hazardous to players or damage of the field.
- I. Rainout of the 6:30 game shall result in all games on that field being canceled.
- J. Rainout Hotline contact number is 757-514-7280
- K. www.suffolkva.us/529/athletics

XIV. ALCOHOL, SMOKING, AND PROFANITY:

- A. Alcoholic beverages ARE PROHIBITED on the grounds of the ballparks.
- B. Team will be penalized accordingly: 1st offense—2 game suspension, 2nd offense—removal from the league and post-season tournament.
- C. SMOKING OR PROFANITY in the park and in the vicinity of the park will not be tolerated and players are subject to being ejected. The umpire may or may not give a team warning. A rule of thumb will be if it is loud enough for the field umpire to hear, it is loud enough to be penalized. “F-bomb” is automatic ejection.
- D. NO DOGS ALLOWED ON ATHLETIC FIELDS. Other than Service Animals, animals are not permitted on athletic fields or playgrounds.

XV. CONDUCT / SPORTSMANSHIP:

- A. Umpires are to ensure that games are called fairly and that no one is hurt intentionally.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. If the umpire or the field monitor ejects a player/coach from a game, that individual will not be allowed to play in the next scheduled game.
- C. The umpire is in complete charge of the game. Players and/or managers can be ejected anytime while at the field site, including before, during or after scheduled games. Any player displaying improper behavior or verbal abuse towards an official, spectator or staff member will be immediately ejected from the game and be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game. Any player who physically abuses, pushes, shoves, strikes, touches or threatens to push, shove, strike or touch an official, spectator or staff member shall be suspended from participation in the adult sports program for the remainder of the year with the City of Suffolk Parks and Recreation.

- D. Should a player be ejected from a game, an automatic out will be recorded each time the player is due to bat.
- E. If an individual is ejected twice in one season, that individual will be suspended for the remainder of the regular season and tournament play.
- F. The umpire, field monitors, or Athletic Supervisor/Recreation Specialist has the authority to ask any spectator or participant to leave the park due to misconduct.
- G. **There will be NO TOLERANCE OF VIOLENCE** before, during, or after games or practices held on city property. *Any person (fan, player, coach, etc.) committing a violent act (fighting, throwing objects, excessive arguments with other players, coaches, officials or department staff, etc.) will be removed from league games, facilities, and denied practice requests.* A refund of admission or entry fee will not be given.
- H. Violators will be penalized up to dismissal from the league and/or facility. The disciplinary review board of Parks & Recreation will conduct a thorough investigation if such violence occurs.
- I. Individuals found to have an illegal object (gun, knife, etc.) will be handed over to the proper authority and will be automatically suspended indefinitely from all department facilities.
- J. When the player/coach is ejected from a game, the field monitor will collect a written statement from the official, both coaches and/or any other witnesses within 48 hours. These statements will be submitted to the league coordinator for review. The coordinator then has the right to overturn the ejection, let it stand, or issue additional sanctions as may be deemed necessary.
- K. Premises (ballfields & parking lots) need to be vacated after scheduled practices and games.
- L. **GOOD SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT SHOULD BE EXHIBITED AT ALL TIMES.**

XVI. AWARDS:

- A. Team award will be given to the 1st place team in the league (Season Champion).
- B. Team trophies will be given to Tournament Champions and Runner up teams.
- C. Championship Trophies and Runner up Medallions will be given to winning players of the Post Season Tournament.
- D. Sportsmanship Award will be given to the team displaying the best sportsmanship throughout the season.

XV. PROTEST PROCEDURES:

- A. The department will not act on any protest of an umpire's judgment call.
- B. Infractions of league rules and player eligibility are the only acceptable protest topics.
- C. Managers shall notify the umpire at the time of the incident that the remainder of the game will be played under protest.
- D. The umpire will inform the field monitor and the opposing team's manager of the protest. Monitors will note: **the exact time, the inning, players on base, batter, balls and strikes, etc.**
- E. The protesting team then has until 5:00pm of the next business day to submit a written protest stating the game situation and the rule in question. A \$25.00 fee should accompany this protest. The protest fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. A decision on the protest will be made within five (5) working days.

XVI. PARKING:

- A. PARK IN AUTHORIZED AREAS ONLY.
- B. Do not park in areas with no parking signs or in front of the blue warehouse across from Peanut Park.
- C. Parking at the ball fields is at your risk. The City of Suffolk Department of Parks and Recreation and its affiliates are not responsible for damage to vehicles or towing expenses. Be cautious as to where you park, due to the foul balls that could possibly clear the foul fences.
- D. The fields are for your use, but if they are continually abused Teams will be subject to expulsion from the League.

XVII. INSURANCE:

- A. Players participating in the league should have accident insurance coverage. This is your responsibility.
The Department of Parks and Recreation does not provide insurance in case of injuries to players or Coaches.
- B. **It is to be understood that the Department of Parks and Recreation will not be held liable for injuries sustained by any person or group participating in our program while they are playing practicing, or traveling to and from games or practices.**

XVIII. COVID-19 Adult Coed Softball Rule Additions:

- A. Screening: Coaches, officials, and players must screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to the practice or playing field. No one exhibiting and/or experiencing the symptoms listed below should come to any practices or games until the symptoms are no longer present. Coaches will direct players to self-report screening results.
 - Fever (Temp of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
 - A new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
 - New chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition
 - New sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition
 - New muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- B. Teams:
 - Players provide their own (clearly marked) water bottles.
 - Players provide their own hand sanitizer.
 - All players and coaches must maintain 10 feet physical distance.
 - Equipment placed 10 feet apart from each other along the extended dugout area (both 1B and 3B side). No equipment should be placed in the dugout.
 - Players/teams provide antibacterial wipes to sanitize equipment regularly.
 - Players are encouraged to use their own bat.
 - Offensive team is responsible for retrieving their own bat.
 - Pre-game & post-game handshakes/high fives are prohibited, and instead, more appropriate (socially distant) displays of sportsmanship are encouraged along with not physical contact (high fives, huddles, fist bumps, etc.) and/or sharing of equipment (towel, clothing, etc.) between players.
 - No use of sunflower seeds, gum, or other similar product along with no spitting or other similar acts.
- C. Coaches:
 - Encouraged to wear a mask or face covering.

- Pre-game meeting: only one coach allowed during the meeting and maintain 10 feet apart.
- Lineup cards: exchange team to team (to scorekeeper) via photo, text, or verbal exchange with at least 10 feet physical distancing. No paper lineups shared.
- Softballs periodically disinfected or replaced during the game. New balls should be supplied during the pre-game meeting and balls given to the pitcher who keeps throughout the game. Used balls should be sanitized before going into the game. First/third base coach will be responsible for switching out softballs and holding onto the used balls when not in use. Base coaches are encouraged to use a fielding glove and allow the opposing team (First/Third base player) to grab the ball from the glove.
- Base coaches must stay 10 feet from a runner during or after suspension of play.

D. Spectators:

- Encouraged to wear a mask or face covering.
- No bleachers will be available (used for an expanded dugout when necessary)
- Spectators can line the foul line fence with chairs, and/or stand, etc. but should remain 10 feet from spectators of different households during games.
- Provide your own hand sanitizer.
- Provide your own sanitizing wipes.
- Consider limiting the number of family members who attend a game.
- If an individual is incapable of maintaining physical distancing on their own (e.g., young child), they must be accompanied at all times by someone who can ensure physical distancing is maintained (e.g., when using the restroom).

E. During the Game:

- Use of verbal exchange from safe distance when making lineup changes.
- Coach to umpire interaction must be 10 feet apart.
- Umpires will maintain 10 feet from any player and/or coach, where practicable as a starting position (behind home plate but off to the side maintaining 10 feet between self, catcher, and hitter).
- Umpires should wear a mask or face covering if unable to keep 10 feet physical distance between self and players.

F. Before/After the Game:

- No tailgating or congregating in the facility or parking lot before or after games. Teams must exit the field and facility within 15 minutes of the game ending.
- Two (2) games played on each field (Double Header) to prevent large congregations of players, teams, and spectators.
- No before/after game huddles and/or talks unless maintaining 10 feet physical distancing.

Suffolk Department of Parks and Recreation will make the final decision on all matters concerning this league, and retains the right to modify rules at any time that it is deemed necessary with notification to each team manager.