

# CITY OF PAMPA RECREATION DEPARTMENT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

BYLAWS: Recreation Softball Leagues

ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be at least 16 years of age.

INDIVIDUAL FEES: \$375

Entry Fee:

An entry fee will be charged to cover the expense of operating the league as outlined on the league fact sheet.

Entry fees and rosters will be due **NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M.** at the Recreation Office by the end of registration week. If entry fee is not paid by the end of registration week, teams may enter during late registration week with an added late fee, as outlined on the league fact sheet. Teams not entered by the end of both registration weeks will not be scheduled. It is mandatory that all rosters are turned in and that all fees are paid by the deadline. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

REFUNDS:

In the event that a team wants to withdraw from the league after the deadline date, fees will or will not be refunded as follows:

- A. One to five days after the deadline, a penalty fee will be assessed equal to that teams half of the umpires and scorekeepers fees per game times the number of game scheduled.
- B. Anything over five days after the deadline, no fees will be refunded. Full refunds will be given only in the event that the team withdraws prior to or on the deadline date.

ROSTERS:

Name, address and phone numbers of each team member, coach, and manager shall be turned in to the Recreation Dept. no later than entry deadline. Changes may be made prior to first game without any penalty.

Each team in any league or category is allowed an unlimited number of roster spots. Minimum age is 16 (sixteen) years old. Additions may be made by coming to the Recreation Office, by phone, email, or text. Name of player must be on the teams' official roster before player is eligible. **No players may be added after Week 3 of the Spring, Summer, and Fall Leagues.** Rosters will be frozen after these dates unless the team is in jeopardy of not being able to fulfill its

commitment. Any team caught with illegal players will forfeit any game(s) played with an illegal player.

No player may transfer to another team unless coordinated through the Recreation Director. After a player plays in three (3) games or after cut-off date, he\she cannot transfer under any condition. Any player that is found playing on two (2) slow pitch teams in the same league or category will be disqualified from further play. If a player is listed on two or more rosters, the team that he\she actually plays for first determines his\her official team.

#### WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORMS:

A Waiver of Liability form must be filled out and signed by each team member, coach, and manager for each team. This form must be on file in the Recreation Office before a player is considered to be an eligible player. Playing players without a signed waiver form will result in a team forfeiting each game in which an ineligible player plays.

#### UNIFORMS:

Team uniforms are desirable but each team must be identifiable by team shirts. For identification purposes, shirts must be numbered with legible numbers. It is recommended that team names be put on the shirts.

#### UMPIRES:

All umpires must be members of the Pampa Umpires Association. The head umpire will be in complete charge of the athletic area fifteen minutes prior to and after each game. **NO ABUSE OF THE UMPIRES WILL BE TOLERATED!** Any abuse of any umpire by any team member will subject that player to suspension from the league. This includes actions before, during, and after the game.

Umpire critique sheets are available from each scorekeeper. If a team wants to complain or praise an umpire, please fill out the form and give it to the scorekeeper. These forms will be turned over to the Umpire-in-Chief for his review.

#### CONDUCT:

**Coaches/Managers and the individual players are responsible for their own actions of their team.** If any player or team's actions are considered to be insulting, abusive, offensive, or obscene, it is the game umpire or UIC's discretion to eject the individual(s) involved in these actions. A single warning may be issued to the individual(s) or team. It will be the game umpire or UIC's discretion whether the actions deserve a warning or an automatic ejection. **THE ON FIELD DECISION OF THE UMPIRE OR UIC IS FINAL!**

At any time before, during, or after a game if a player is a spectator of another game, the same rules of conduct shall apply. **No offensive or obscene language/gesture or abuse of the game Umpire, Scorekeeper, or Recreation Director will be tolerated!** At the discretion of the game Umpire, a warning can be given to an individual(s) violating this rule. If a person continues to violate this rule, the game Umpire, UIC, or Recreation Director can and will eject them from the facility. Refusal to abide by this decision will result in a suspension from the facility and from play as determined by the Recreation Director.

Player(s) ejected from a game must immediately leave the complex. It is the responsibility of the player(s) as well as the Coach/Manager to make sure this happens. Failure to do so will result in a team forfeit of that game.

All ejections will be handled on a case by case basis with the exception of fighting or any physical encounter with another player, spectator, or umpire. An offense of this nature will result in a review by the Recreational Director and possible Lifetime Ban from all City of Pampa Recreational Programs. Any ejected player(s) may make an appeal to the Recreational Director within 48 hours from the time of their ejection. At this time, a meeting will be scheduled by the Recreational Director for final determination on the length of suspension and any other action that needs to be taken.

A week with games that get rained out will not count on his\her suspension. It is the manager's responsibility to see that any player that has been suspended does not play until his\her suspension is complete, even if he/she has not been notified of the suspension. Teams will forfeit games in which suspended players play. Any suspended player(s) found participating in a game will be subject to suspension for one calendar year from the date of the offense.

If a player is ejected a second time after returning from a previous ejection, then that player shall be suspended from play for an entire calendar year from the date of the second ejection.

Any player or players ejected from a game for fighting will serve a lifetime ban from all City of Pampa programs, subject to review by the Recreation Director.

Actions considered insulting, abusive, obscene, or offensive are such as but not limited to: cursing, threatening, throwing things in anger, or obscene hand gestures.

**Coach/Managers are the only personnel allowed to discuss a situation or call with the umpire!** Anyone abusing this rule may be ejected from a game without warning.

Any damage done to the facilities will be grounds for suspension and persons causing the damage will be referred to the Pampa Police Department for prosecution.

All teams may be spot checked for ineligible players by an Umpire, UIC, or Recreation Director. An opposing team may request a spot check without protest by the game Umpire, UIC, or Recreation Director and they can conduct a spot check at their discretion. Any players found to be in ineligible will be reviewed by the Recreation Director where actions will be taken.

#### PROTESTS: RULE INTERPRETATIONS:

The head umpire must be notified of any protest in accordance with Rule 4 Section 11, Official U.S.S.S.A. rules. The head umpire will have the scorekeeper record the game situation in the official scorebook at the time of the protest. The protest **must be filed in writing** to the Recreation Department within forty-eight (48) hours.

A \$25.00 protest fee must accompany the written protest, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld. If the protest is overruled, the fee will be forfeited to the Recreation Department. A board will be called by the Recreation Director for each protest, made up of the Recreation Director, an official of the Pampa Players Assn., and an official of the Pampa Umpires Assn. A decision will be rendered, if possible within seventy-two (72) hours and the managers involved will be notified. **PLEASE DO NOT PROTEST JUDGEMENT CALLS AS THESE PROTESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

#### PROTESTS: INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:

The head umpire must be notified of a protest on an ineligible player during the ball game. The head umpire will have the scorekeeper record in the official scorebook that the game is being played under protest and will make notation of the player being protested. Do not protest after the game has been played. Each ineligible player protest must be filed **in writing** to the Recreation Department, within forty-eight (48) hours. A \$10.00 player protest must accompany the written protest, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

If the protest is overruled, the fee will be forfeited to the Recreation Department. A decision will be rendered within seventy-two (72) hours and managers involved will be notified. If protest is upheld, the game will be forfeited.

#### GAME BALLS:

The Recreation Department provides U.S.S.S.A. approved blue stitched softballs that will also have the Pampa Recreation logo stamped on the ball. No lively balls will be allowed. Women's Open, Women's Church will use an 11 inch softball.

Men's Open and Men's Church will use 12 inch softballs. Mixed leagues will alternate 11 and 12 inch softballs as per the USSSA Rule Book (see The Game: Mixed League (e)).

### LINEUPS:

Lineup rosters must be written in the official scorebook by the team manager, coach, or designated team member ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled game time. If teams do not have lineup(s) in official scorebook by scheduled game time, they become the visiting team for that game, and the first two batters in the inning will be declared out. Lineups must have last names and numbers worn by players. Scorekeepers will not accept lineups with only first names. Please keep traffic and noise down to a minimum in the scorekeepers stand. Please make substitutions as quickly as possible so as not to delay the game.

Teams may pick up players not on their roster, with the opponents approval, up to the minimum starting number of eight (8)...four (4) males and four (4) females. Male players may play up in division play but can't play down. Female players can play up or down in division play.

### SCHEDULING:

There can be no guarantees for special scheduling. Only under extraordinary will special scheduling even be considered. We would like for the scheduling to be as fair and equitable as possible.

### GAME TIMES:

Depending on the number of teams that sign up for the league, evening games will start at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, and possibly 10:00. Most games will be scheduled at 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00, reserving 10:00 for make-up games when possible. Times may be changed at the discretion of the Recreation Director if the need arises. "If a team doesn't have enough players to start at game time they will become the visitor automatically and be given 5 minutes to get enough players there to play. After 5 minutes they forfeit the game." Official time will be judged by the head umpire in coordination with the official scorekeeper. Generally, game time will start on the first warm-up pitch unless the umpire feels that one team is deliberately delaying or stalling for time.

### RESCHEDULED GAMES:

No games will be rescheduled unless due to weather or field conditions. Any potential problem nights such as revivals, weddings, school graduations, etc. should be brought to the attention of the Recreation Director before the schedule is made out.

All make-up games will be assigned by the Recreation Director. These games will be played at the reassigned time or will be forfeited. Notification of make-up

games will be within one week after rain out or postponement. If your team has not received notice of make-up within one week, please contact the Recreation Office. It is also recommended that each team manager contact the opposing team manager of postponed game to verify make-up dates.

### LEAGUE PLAYOFFS:

First Place Tie:

1. One game playoff – played the night that league ends.
2. If three teams tie for first, all teams flip a coin, odd man receives a bye to the championship game, other two teams' play with winner going on to the championship game.

Second and Third Place Tie:

1. Head to Head Record
2. Overall League Record
3. Total Runs Scored (Head to Head)
4. Total Runs Scored (All Games)

### STANDINGS:

Scores and standings are updated daily on the city's web-site [www.cityofpampa.org](http://www.cityofpampa.org), listed in the Pampa News Paper, and also put on the Pampa Recreation Facebook Page. If your standings are listed wrong, please call the Recreation Office.

If a team takes 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division one and two in league play, there will be a possibility that those teams will move up into the next division for the following season. This decision will be made by the Recreation Director.

### THE GAME:

All games will be played under the Official U.S.S.S.A. Rules except as follows:

1. No steel cleats are allowed in league play.
2. Sixty-five foot base paths will be used in league play.
3. Slow-pitch games will have fifty-five (55) minute time limit regardless of inning. Head umpire will have official scorekeeper record starting time in the scorebook so that there will be no misunderstanding when game is due to end. Plate umpire will be responsible for the time. "If a team doesn't have enough players to start at game time they will become the visitor automatically and be given 5 minutes to get enough players there to play. After 5 minutes

they forfeit the game." Generally, game time will start on the first warm-up pitch unless head umpire feels one team is deliberately delaying or stalling for time.

4. Games will start at scheduled time and may be played with less than ten (10) players for slow pitch. Slow pitch must field no less than eight (8) players. If a team begins with nine (9), ten (10), or eleven (11) players and one player is removed either by injury, ejection, or some other reason, with no substitute available, he\she is an automatic out every time his turn to bat comes around.
5. Substitution Rule: Same as U.S.S.S.A. rule.
6. Fifteen (15) run rule after three (3) innings will be in effect for all slow pitch games.
7. Slow pitch warm-ups - Warm-up pitches will be allowed in the first inning only. No warm-up pitches or infield is allowed after first inning.
8. In slow pitch a player will be declared out on the first foul ball after batter has two strikes. There will be no grace foul. (Same as U.S.S.S.A. Rule 7: Sec. 2, D1).
9. The use of the courtesy runner is unlimited. The courtesy runner must be the last person who got out and must be the same sex as the base runner. If the courtesy runner's spot comes up to bat and they are on base they will be out.
10. Additional Hitter Rule (A.H.)
  - A. Teams may play with eleven (11) players. The A.H. may be placed anywhere in the line-up (batting order) as long as the batting order remains constant. However, any ten of the eleven players can take a defensive position throughout the game.
  - B. It is not mandatory that a team use an A.H. but failure To declare such a hitter prior to the game precludes the use of an A.H. in that game.
11. No male player shall hit the ball between the pitching area whiskers. 1<sup>st</sup> offense will be an out. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will be an ejection and suspended for the next game. 3<sup>rd</sup> offense will be a 7 week

suspension. Any other offenses will be at the Recreation Director's discretion...including a possible ban from playing.

12. No drinking of alcoholic beverages allowed in the dugout area or on playing field. This applies to players leaving the dugout area and sitting in the stands during their games. Players are subject to being removed from that game for this action. Managers will be responsible for conduct of players in the complex or at any field before and after games. Smoking is not allowed on the playing field. Any player deemed to be a potential problem from being under the influence of alcohol or drugs may be removed from the game by the umpires.

### SPECIAL LEAGUES:

Church League: All team members must be official members or prospective members of the church they represent. In other words, they must be attending the church they represent.

Mixed League: Players may also play on a men's/women's team as well as play on a mixed team.

- a. No steel cleats are allowed.
- b. There will be five (5) men and five (5) women on each team during the game (six and six if A.H. is used). Substitution will be the same except a man will substitute for a man and a woman for a woman.
- c. Batting order must alternate (man, woman, man, etc.)
- d. Teams may play with less than ten players in the following circumstances only:  
  
Eight (8) players are the minimum and these must be four (4) men and four (4) women. Teams may play with nine (9) players, however women must outnumber men (5 women and 4 men).
- e. The 11-inch softball will be used when a female is batting and a 12-inch softball will be used when a male is batting. It is an appeal play when the wrong ball is pitched to a batter. If the appeal is allowed, then the batter returns to bat with the same ball and strike count he/she had at the time of the pitch. Also, any base runners must return to base occupied at the time of the pitch.



- f. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat.

NOTE TO MANAGERS:

Managers are responsible that each and every player is aware of the league rules. If there is a change of manager or change of address or telephone number of the manager during the season, please let the Recreation Dept. know about any changes.

If there is a time when a game will be forfeited or a team decides to drop out of the league, please let the Recreation Department know so that teams can be notified and umpires will not be assigned. At least one business phone number, preferably two, and an email address should be listed on roster in case the Recreation Dept. needs to contact the team.

GLASS CONTAINERS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE SOFTBALL COMPLEXES!

Please cooperate on this matter due to the number of children who could be hurt due to broken glass.

Please patronize the sponsors in our leagues! Let them know that softball appreciates their support!

# **Acknowledgement of City of Pampa Softball Bylaws**

**By signing this means that you have read and understand the bylaws set in place by the City of Pampa's recreational softball leagues. Your signature also states that you are solely responsible for relaying the said bylaws to your team members.**

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_