

Horn Lake Parks and Recreation  
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# ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES SPRING/FALL 2010

## **LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The City of Horn Lake Parks and Recreation reserves the right to change any rules or regulations whenever due cause warrants a change. If a change is made, all team managers will be notified. In addition, Horn Lake Parks and Recreation reserves the right to add additional rules and regulations when they will benefit the program.

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Rules on Slow-Pitch Softball will apply to all league and tournament situations not covered in the Horn Lake Parks and Recreation League Rules and Regulations. For equipment and safety concerns Horn Lake may refer to one or more, but not limited to the following softball associations: Amateur Softball Association (ASA), United States Sports Specialty Association (USSSA), Independent Softball Association (ISA), Senior Softball USA, Softball Players Association (SPA), National Softball Association (NSA).

### **CO-ED SOFTBALL BASIC RULE LIST:**

1. Batters must alternate between male and female.
2. A minimum of 8 players are needed to start a game.
  - a. A team's game day make-up may consist of the following:
    - 8 players – 4 men and 4 women
    - 8 players – 3 men and 5 women
    - 9 players – 5 women and 4 men
    - 9 players – 5 men and 4 women (only 8 can bat – 4 & 4) (the extra male must share a spot in the order)
    - 10 players – 4 men and 6 women (at no time can a team play with 6 men & 4 women in the field)
    - 10 players – 5 men and 5 women
3. No new inning can start after 55 minutes
4. When a female player is batting: Outfielders must be positioned behind the outfield boundary line until the ball is hit, and infielders must be positioned in the dirt until the ball is hit.
5. The pitcher's count always starts at 1 ball and 1 strike. Once the batter has 3 strikes they are out. If a female batter gets 4 balls, then they advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base. If a male batter gets 4 balls, then they advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. If there are two outs and a male batter is walked, then the next female batter has the option of either advancing to 1<sup>st</sup> base or batting.
6. In a double play situation at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, the runner advancing towards 2<sup>nd</sup> base must slide or get out of the way to keep from interfering with a throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base. The particular play is a "judgment call" designed to keep players safe.

## **LEAGUE POLICIES – MEN’S AND CO-ED**

**Conduct:** The site supervisor and/or umpire will have the authority to eject a player or spectator and forfeit a game without warning for any conduct deemed unsportsmanlike or detrimental to the game (See Sports Code of Conduct). Outbursts of foul language will not be tolerated. Any participant assaulting an official, city employee or participant will automatically be suspended for the current season and the incident may result in legal action. Threats to officials, city employees or participants will result in multiple game suspensions. Any comment deemed a threat by the site supervisor and/or umpire will be taken seriously. When players are listed on a team’s roster it is understood that the team manager will notify them of all rules and regulations including the Sports Code of Conduct. **Teams are responsible for the conduct of their fans.**

**Ejections:** Players ejected from a game must leave the playing area immediately. Any player ejected will face an automatic one game suspension. If a player is ejected during tournament play, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament. Depending on the incident and upon review, Horn Lake Parks and Recreation reserves the right to determine the length of the suspension. Each incident will be reviewed and the team manager will be informed of the decision within a reasonable length of time. **Teams suspended from the leagues for violation of the Sports Code of Conduct are not eligible for entry fee refunds.**

**Team Roster:** All players must be *at least 16 years of age* prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> of each season. Team rosters may contain not less than **twelve (12), no exceptions, and no more than twenty (20) players.** Completed and current roster (names, addresses and phone numbers) must be submitted at the time of registration.

**Players may be added to or deleted from the original roster through the 6<sup>th</sup> week of the season.** Roster changes must be completed on the appropriate drop/add form before the player participates in a game. **Roster drop/add must be completed at the field through Tracy Bryant and the player being added must sign the drop/add form.**

**Players may participate on only one (1) City of Horn Lake slow-pitch team per league (Men’s and Co-ed). Players may not fill in as substitutions with another team in their league. Any player found playing on more than the legal number of teams will be considered ineligible.** Team managers and field supervisors may challenge the eligibility of any player. Player eligibility challenges are considered protest situations; refer to league rules and regulations.

Falsifying a roster, playing with ineligible players or compromising the registration process will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and may result in forfeiture of games, loss of tournament participation and/or loss of softball program privileges. Team managers are responsible for roster authenticity. **Work addresses are not acceptable.**

**Tournament Roster Check:** All teams that advance to the second round of the season ending tournament will be subject to a roster check. Players will be required to show a picture ID that matches the name on the roster. If they cannot provide identification or if they are not on the roster, they will not be allowed to play. Please check with the site supervisor towards the end of the season to make sure your roster is up to date.

## **ALCOHOL**

The consumption of alcoholic beverages during a Horn Lake Parks and Recreation sponsored activity is strictly prohibited. Malt beverages shall not be consumed within any portion of a public park or recreational area at such times as recreational activities organized by the community services department (Parks and Recreation) is being conducted. **THIS INCLUDES SPECTATORS AS WELL AS PLAYERS.**

Penalty: Participants or teams under the influence of alcohol or drugs or found consuming alcohol in the park, dugout or parking lots will be suspended from the current and any subsequent games on the same day. After review, the player(s) and team may be assessed further suspensions and possible forfeiture of games won.

## **BEFORE THE GAME RULES & REGULATIONS**

**Game Time:** Each game is scheduled for a one hour window, with **no new inning to start after 55 minutes.** The objective is to keep the games moving so games are as close to being on schedule as possible. The game clock will start after the umpire(s) have communicated the following procedure:

The umpire will on two occasions, from the field, ask the home team to take the field. After the second request the umpire(s) will take the field and instruct both teams that the clock will start. It is the home team's responsibility to take the field in a timely manner and the visiting team's responsibility to step to the plate in a timely manner. At this juncture the time you waste is your game time.

After the umpire announces the clock will start there shall be no additional warm up activity allowed except that the pitcher is allowed two warm up pitches. At this point the batter should be ready to step into the batter's box. Remember, the clock does not start with the first pitch, but when the umpires have communicated the above procedures.

**Forfeit: A TEN MINUTE GRACE PERIOD** will be given to all game times. The 10 minutes will come out of the 55-minute game time. Teams that must use the grace period, waiting for an eighth player, will be penalized two (2) runs. If both teams use the grace period, no penalty runs will be awarded. The game will start when both teams have the eight (8) players present. **The term "present" means the player must be in the dugout for the visiting team or on the field for the home team – at the 10 minute mark. The term does not mean player(s) in the parking lot, walking from the parking lot or**

**changing his/her shoes in the dugout.** On a team's second forfeit, they will be dropped from the league and replaced with a team from the waiting list.

**Home Team:** The second team on the schedule will be the home team. Higher seed will be home team for all tournament games.

**Weather Conditions:** Decisions on rain-out games can usually be obtained after 3 p.m. If unplayable conditions are known earlier in the day, the Parks and Recreation staff will make every effort to contact coaches. Cancelled games will be made up at the end of the regular season, when possible, and teams will automatically play the next week's games per the current schedule.

**HORN LAKE PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST LEAGUE OR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES OR FORMATS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

**Tie Games:** If the game is tied at the end of the time limit the teams may play one additional inning. Each team will begin their half inning with a runner on second base; that runner shall be the last out from the previous at bat. If, after the extra inning, the game is still tied, the game will enter the record book as a tied game.

**Metal Cleats: Metal cleats are not allowed.**

**Uniforms:** All teams must attempt to wear matching jerseys and/or full uniforms. Numbers must be worn on the back of all jerseys.

**Dugouts:** Only players, coaches and site supervisors are allowed in the dugouts. *Children are not allowed in the dugouts or on the field of play. Games will be delayed until children have left the dugout.*

**Soft Toss/Infield Practice:** There will be no infield practice allowed between games. Soft toss against fences is prohibited due to the extensive damage it causes.

## **BATTING RELATED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Home Team:** Home team will keep track of the score on the score sheets provided by the league. Make sure the batting line-up is exchanged with each team at least 5 minutes prior to the game time; line-up cards are available from the site supervisor and should include the player's last name, first initial and jersey number.

**Run Rule:** A team ahead by 15 runs after four complete innings automatically wins. A team ahead by 20 runs after three complete innings automatically wins.

**Bat Rule: Men's and Co-ed Leagues may use all bats that meet ASA or ISA bat performance standards. Teams CANNOT use the bats found on the ASA or ISA Non-Approved Bat List.**

Players and umpires may challenge the legality of a bat. If the bat is deemed illegal during an at bat, the bat is simply removed from the game. If a bat is deemed illegal, after an at bat, the player will be called out and all runners will return to the base prior to the at bat if the appeal is made prior to the first pitch to the next batter. If the appeal is not made prior to the first pitch to the next batter, the bat will be removed from the game and the previous bat will stand. Under no circumstance will the offensive totals be appealed or reversed prior to the last batter. If the legality of a bat is debated, the umpire will stop the clock and the bat will be compared to the colored rendition of non-approved bats held by the site supervisor.

Bats removed from a game will be considered an ejection. An ejection report will be filed listing the player and team. Future violation will result in additional penalties, up to and including player suspension from the league.

**Batting Order:** Co-ed team batting order must remain mixed – female, male – with no two male batters batting consecutively: The batting order will be a maximum of 12 batters. There will be unlimited substitution at all fielding positions and batting positions.

**Batting Order Vacated:** In all leagues, if a player leaves the game due to injury or simply leaves and does not return or if a player is ejected, his/her spot on the official score sheet can be taken by a bench substitute. If a substitute is not available, that position in the line-up is an automatic out for the player's next scheduled at bat. After the one turn at bat, the position will be passed over with all players moving up in the batting order. Co-ed teams must adjust the batting order if a vacated position results in two men batting back to back.

**Strike Zone:** The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six feet from the ground while not exceeding a maximum height of twelve feet from the ground.

**One and One Count:** All batters will begin their turn at bat with one ball and one strike. After two strikes on a batter, the second foul ball will result in an automatic out.

**Foul Tips:** Any foul tip caught by the catcher must be with two strikes to be recorded as an out.

**Bat Throwing:** Any player that deliberately throws a bat will be ejected from the game. In the case of an accidental bat throwing the umpire will issue a warning.

**Home Run Rule:** There will be a **TWO HOME RUN** limit in both co-ed and men's league. All home runs after the above listing per inning will be recorded as outs.

## **BASE RUNNING / FIELDING RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**Interference:** It is the responsibility of the base runner to avoid contact with the ball and/or defensive player and not interfere in any way with the completion of the play.

Contact is not always necessary – arm waving/yelling may be interference. Result: base runner will be called out.

- If you slide or run past the bag and contact the defensive player, the runner is considered out of control for the situation and in violation.
- If you are obviously going to be out (force play) or you prefer not to slide, give up the play and move out of the base path or the runner may be called for interference.
- The emphasis will continue to be the protection of the defensive player.
- Out of position defensive players (playing in front of the bag) risk serious injury and will not be protected by the umpire unless the slide is deemed to be a roll block and/or a take out slide, which are illegal. See below.

**Roll Block:** The roll block or take out slide is illegal. All base runners must slide directly to the base and/or attempt to avoid all contact with the defensive player. This type of play can be very dangerous and will not be tolerated in Horn Lake Parks and Recreation leagues. The penalty is ejection with the strong possibility of additional penalties after the incident has been reviewed.

**Fielding:** Any defensive player who, in the opinion of the umpire, deliberately throws the ball at a base runner will be ejected, with the strong possibility of further penalties after the incident is reviewed. **This type of play will NOT be tolerated.**

**Blood Rule:** A participant or umpire who is bleeding or has blood on his/her clothing shall be prohibited from further participation in a game. Bleeding must be completely stopped before an individual can resume play. If a player's clothing is blood soaked, it must be changed.

**Courtesy Runner:** One courtesy runner is allowed per inning. The courtesy runner is typically the last out or a non player using the following guidelines:

1. In the event there are no outs in the first inning, the courtesy runner will be the last person in the batting order.
2. The scorekeeper will inform the teams of who the courtesy runner is. If the scorekeeper makes an error, the correct person will then be placed in the game.
3. In the event the courtesy runner is coming to bat, the last run to score will be the runner.
4. In the event that the same runner gets on base two or more times in the same inning, he/she may be run for as many times as the same runner gets on base in the same inning.

## **MEN'S RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**SOFTBALL: 12' 44 COR. 375 COMPRESSION - WHITE OR YELLOW**  
**BASES: 70'**  
**PITCHING DISTANCE: 53'-60'**

**\*\*\*\*IN BOTH LEAGUES, EACH TEAM WILL SUPPLY THEIR OWN GAME SOFTBALLS\*\*\*\***

## **CO-ED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The following rules and regulations are in addition to the ones listed above.

**Bat Rule: See Batting Related Rules and Regulations.**

**Softball Size:**

**Female Batters: 11" 44 COR. 375 COMPRESSION – WHITE OR YELLOW**

**Male Batters: 12" 44 COR. 375 COMPRESSION – WHITE OR YELLOW**

## **POST SEASON INFORMATION**

**MAKE-UP GAMES:** Make-up games will be scheduled upon field availability. Refunds will not be issued if every attempt and opportunity has been addressed to play the guaranteed number of games.

**LEAGUE CHAMPS:** The season's record will determine the champion for each league. All teams will play in the post season tournaments.

**TIED STANDINGS/TOURNAMENT SEEDING:**

Tournaments will be seeded by the league records from season play.

For teams tied at the season's end, the following tie breakers will be used:

Tie Breaker #1 – Head to head competition.

Tie Breaker #2 – Runs allowed in head to head competition.

Tie Breaker #3 – Total runs allowed during the season.

Tie Breaker #4 – Multiple teams tied, uneven head to head play will use tie breaker #3.

**AWARDS:**

Tournament winners will receive a team trophy.

# CITY OF HORN LAKE PARKS AND RECREATION SOFTBALL CODE OF CONDUCT

## DEFINITIONS

**Softball Coordinator/Site Supervisor:** Parks and Recreation employee directly responsible for administration of the softball league.

**Official:** Person(s) on the field to administer the official rules of play. Also includes site supervisor and Parks and Recreation staff.

**Coach/Manager:** Person designated as team spokesman. May be a player or non-player.

**Individual:** Coach, manager, player, fan or spectator.

**Player:** At any mention of a “player” in any documentation, including the Sports Code of Conduct, from Horn Lake Parks and Recreation, it is understood that this also includes coaches and managers, as well as, all members of a registered team in the softball program.

## ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

### A. Suspended / Ejected Player

1. The site supervisor or game official may suspend a player from a current game.
2. When requested, a suspended player must remove him/her self immediately from the field.
3. If a suspended player does not leave the field area, then the team members are responsible for his or her removal.
4. Two minute clause: At some point a player will be allowed two minutes to leave the field. If the time limit is not met, the game will be forfeited to the opponents.
5. A suspended player may remain in the park if they remain orderly. If there are additional outbursts or threats the player will be asked to leave the park. Police assistance may be requested. Failure to leave will cause his/her team to forfeit.

### B. Length of Suspension

1. Player's suspended from a game will automatically be suspended from the next scheduled game the team plays.
2. The league coordinator shall be responsible for suspending players for more than one game.
3. The leagues coordinator and recreation supervisor shall be responsible for suspending players from further league play.

4. Players removed from further league play cannot be replaced on the team roster.
5. Repeated Sports Code of Conduct violations may jeopardize post season participation by the individual or team.
6. The severity of the infraction will determine the penalty and maximum penalties may involve more than one season and more than one sport.
7. Each Sports Code of Conduct incident will be reviewed and the team manager will be informed of the decision within a reasonable length of time.

## SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT

### A. Physical Contact Misconduct

1. No Individual Shall: At any time strike, shove, threaten to strike, or lay a hand upon an official, player or spectator.
2. No Individual Shall: Use unnecessarily rough tactics during the course of a game.
3. No Individual Shall: Threaten an official, employee, player or spectator with future violence.

**Assault charges may be filed for the above examples of misconduct.**

### B. Verbal and Visual Misconduct

1. No Individual Shall: Engage in an abusive, verbal attack upon any official or individual on or off of the field area.
2. No Individual Shall: Use trash talk; profane; obscene; or vulgar language, under any circumstances, while at the park, either on or off the field.
3. No Individual Shall: Engage in an objectionable demonstration of dissent or unsportsmanlike conduct such as throwing equipment or any other forceful action.
4. No Individual Shall: Except the coach or manager, contest the decisions of an official.

### C. General Misconduct

1. No Individual Shall: Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
2. No Individual Shall: Appear around or on the field area under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
3. No Individual Shall: Consume alcoholic beverages while the team is participating in a game or in the contest area.

### D. Penalties

**Minimum Penalty:** Warning by the official or site supervisor.

**Medium Penalty:** Suspension from the current game and any subsequent games on the same day.

**Medium Penalty:** Official may call the game and award a forfeit victory to the opponent.

**Medium Penalty:** League coordinator may suspend the individual/team from between one additional game and from further league play.

**Maximum Penalty:** Penalty will be determined after Parks and Recreation staff reviews the situation.

