Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department

Adult Softball
Rules and Regulations

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document has been developed by Wake Forest Parks & Recreation in order to familiarize team managers, players, and game staff with policies, procedures, and league rules for adult softball leagues.

1.1 Mission Statement

The Wake Forest Parks and Recreation Department seeks to enhance the lives of the citizens of Wake Forest by offering a comprehensive system of parks, greenways, facilities, and open spaces coupled with cultural and athletic programs that promote education, health and wellness.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the Wake Forest Parks and Recreation Department adult softball leagues is to provide citizens of the Wake Forest area the opportunity to play softball in an organized and competitive recreational environment that encourages exercise, fun, and sportsmanship.

1.3 Adult Athletics Philosophy

The Wake Forest Parks and Recreation Department staff believes that adult athletic programs serve an important avenue for community building and exercise for participants. The objective of Adult Softball programs is to provide a program for citizens in which participation and sportsmanship are the prime objectives.

2 LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

All leagues will be under the direction of the Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department, specifically the WFPRD Athletics Division. The WFPRD Athletics Division will be responsible for the scheduling of practices and games, equipment orders, contracting with booking agents, official scorers, and supervision of all aspects of the Baseball/Softball program.

2.1 Communication Methods

WFPRD will communicate information to participants, coaches, and staff via telephone (voice messaging) and e-mail. Cancelation of practices and games due to inclement weather/field conditions will be communicated via telephone and e-mail. In addition to the notification, the Weather Line (919 435 9569) will be updated when cancelations become necessary.

2.2 League Schedules (Practice and Game)

League Schedules will be prepared by Athletics Staff. Practice schedules will be distributed to coaches within two weeks of the close of league registration (distribution via email), with each team having a minimum of two (2) practices scheduled prior to the beginning of league play. Game schedules will be distributed at least one (1) week prior to the beginning of league play. The number of games per team scheduled will be dependent upon the number of teams entered into the league. At a minimum, teams will be scheduled for eleven (11) games.

Team managers will be allowed to trade assigned practice times with other teams in the league at their discretion. Once distributed, the only alterations that will be made to game schedules will be due to inclement weather/field conditions that require cancelation of scheduled games.

2.3 Website Information

League Schedules and standings will be posted on the Town of Wake Forest website, www.wakeforestnc.gov. Schedules (practice and game) will be posted to the website and updated as necessary. League standings will be updated on a weekly basis.

2.4 Important Telephone Numbers

Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Office	919 435 9560
WFPRD Athletic Coordinator	919 435 9562
Weather Line	919 435 9569

2.5 Field Locations

- J. B. Flaherty Park 1226 North White Street
- Heritage High School/Park 1150 Forestville Road

2.6 Operating Instructions – Field Lighting Systems

- Flaherty Park lights are controlled by a “throw switch” located beside the main electrical panel. Move the switch UP to turn lights on, DOWN to turn lights off.
- Heritage High School/Park lights are controlled by switches in the dugouts. Turn the switch CLOCKWISE to turn lights on, COUNTER-CLOCKWISE to turn lights off.
- Team managers are responsible for turning lights off at the conclusion of team practices. The WFPRD on-site staff member will be responsible for turning lights off at the conclusion of games.

3 LEAGUE POLICIES

3.1 Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Action

The Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department expects good sportsmanship from its coaches, participants, and spectators as outlined below.

- No individual shall refuse to abide by any League Official's decision.
- No individual shall be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent toward any League Official, participant, or spectator.
- No individual shall be guilty of verbal abuse or physical attack upon any League Official, participant or spectator.
- Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances are prohibited at or near game site. Participants judged to be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances will be ejected from the facility and must serve suspension as outlined in League Rules.

Persons in violation of the Code of Conduct may be subject to penalties up to and including removal from the league, depending upon the severity of their actions. Penalties for ejection are outlined below.

- In the event of an ejection of a player, the player shall be removed from the game for the remainder of the game. Ejected player must serve a two (2) - game suspension, and cannot attend team events (practices or games) while serving the suspension.
- In the event of an ejection of a player or coach, the participant ejected shall be removed from the game and must leave the facility within two (2) minutes or a forfeit will be declared. Ejected participant must serve a two (2) - game suspension, and cannot attend team events (practices or games) while serving the suspension.
- Should a player or coach be ejected a second time during a season, the player or coach must serve a second two-game suspension.
- In the event of a third ejection, the player or coach will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season.
- The Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to impose season-disqualification penalties at any time, should participant's behavior and action deem such disqualification necessary.

3.2 Team Composition/Rosters

Team rosters may have a maximum of twenty-five (25) players. Each player must sign the team roster, and must be at least 18 years of age.

Players may be added/deleted from rosters until the team has played its first game.

3.3 Inclement Weather

Cancellation Procedure

- WFPRD staff will inspect field conditions to determine whether to open fields for practice or game play.
- Team Managers and participants that have opted-in to the communication system will be called by WFPRD staff if it is determined that cancellation of events is necessary. Participants will be notified via telephone messaging system no later than 4:30pm on weekdays**. Weekend event cancellation information will be relayed only via Weather Line recording**.
- Weather Line **(919 435 9569)** recording will be changed after a decision to cancel games/practices has been made, and will play a message stating the day and date, and specific cancellation information (any message other than as stated above will mean that events have not been cancelled by WFPRD).
- Should inclement weather occur **AFTER 4:30pm**, and/or managers/participants have not been notified of a cancellation by WFPRD staff, teams should report to the field prepared to play/practice. *Any decision regarding game cancellations after 4:30 p.m. will be made on site by the umpiring crew (or field supervisor). For team practices, team managers are to use their best judgment regarding field conditions, with player safety being the first priority. Practicing on fields that are wet can result in player injury and damage to the fields.*

Lightning/Inclement Weather Policy for Practices, Games, and Clinics

- During a practice, scrimmage, game or clinic involving WFPRD teams/participants, coaches and/or umpires must use the following policy when lightning is seen: practice/play must be suspended immediately when lightning is seen and within 30 seconds the clap of thunder is heard. Thirty (30) minutes after this condition no longer exists, practice/game/clinic may be resumed. All participants are to leave the field for a safe location such as a car or other lightning-protective enclosure until it is safe to return to the field (i.e. the required 30 minutes have passed with no additional lightning/thunder). Should a second incident of lightning/thunder occur, the 30-minute countdown shall begin again.
- Practice/Scrimmage Lightning Delays: The Team Manager will be responsible for adherence to the policy. During clinics or game play, WFPRD staff or representative (i.e. game officials) will be responsible for adherence to the policy.
- Game Day/Clinic Lightning Delays: When lightning occurs during game play, WFPRD policy requires officials to stop games for safety reasons. Restarting of the remaining games during the day cannot resume until deemed appropriate by the game official pursuant to the WFPRD Lightning Policy.

3.4 Rescheduling of Games

Team managers will be notified via email message regarding rescheduling of games. Games will be rescheduled a minimum of 72 hours after cancellation.

3.5 Uniforms

Team will be required to wear matching jerseys, which are to include individual numbers for players.

3.6 Equipment

WFPRD will provide softballs for all games.

Participants will be responsible for providing their own gloves and any other equipment that they deem appropriate. All equipment must meet the current regulations as established by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA).

Shoes with metal spikes are prohibited.

3.7 Awards

WFPRD will provide Season and Tournament champions with a team trophy and t-shirts for team members.

3.8 Safety

WFPRD seeks to provide safe facilities, and will prepare fields for practice and play in accordance with acceptable industry standards. Team managers and players are to keep the safety of participants in mind during practices and games.

3.9 Blood-Borne Pathogens (PPG)

The safety and health of participants is a priority. Although the possibility of a communicable disease being transferred from one participant to another is unlikely, universal precautions (wearing medical gloves, proper clean-up and disposal of first-aid items) should be taken in all instances where there is a possibility of the transfer of bodily fluids.

4 UNIVERSAL PLAYING RULES

4.1 Governing Bodies

Adult softball leagues will follow the official rules of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) as set for the current year. Local exceptions and additions to the ASA rules are listed by WFPRD division.

4.2 Number of Players Required

Teams must have at least nine (9) uniformed players to start ***and finish*** a game. Teams may add a tenth (10th) player to the lineup upon their arrival.

4.3 Courtesy Runner

Courtesy runner will be the last player to have been put out. Limit of one courtesy runner per half-inning.

4.4 Sliding/Contact With a Fielder

Base runners must slide or attempt to get around a fielder who is in position and waiting to make a play. If in the judgment of the umpire contact between a base runner and fielder was intentional, the player will be ejected and must serve suspension as outlined in the league rules.

4.5 Home Run Rule

Each team will be allowed two (2) home runs per game (balls hit out of the field of play). Following the team's second home run, the batter will be ruled ***out***.

4.6 Game Play

Games will consist of seven (7) innings or a one-hour time limit (exceptions: tied games will continue until a winner is determined, tournament championship game will have a 90-minute time limit, with the "run rule" suspended for the tournament championship).

For the first game of the day, the game clock/timer will be started at the scheduled start time, and will begin the one-hour count down. In the event that a team does not have the minimum number of players required after the expiration of ten (10) minutes, the game shall be declared a forfeit. (Should the game be started, it will be continued to the expiration of the time limit – exception: run rule still in effect). For all other games, no "Grace Period" will be allowed – game time is forfeit time. Teams are to provide Official Scorer with a lineup at least ten (10) minutes prior to game time.

Games will be ended as complete games if, after four (4) complete innings a team has a lead of ten (10) or more runs.

4.7 Forfeits

Teams forfeiting three (3) games during the season will be removed from the League Schedule, with no refund of entry fee. A team forfeiting during the league tournament will be removed from the schedule and will not be allowed to continue to participate in the tournament.

4.8 Protests

Protests may be made only related to the use of ineligible player(s), and must be made at the time that the player in question takes position in the field.

Protests must be submitted to the Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department in written form within twenty-four (24) hours of the time of the game in question. Protest fee of $100 is required, and will be returned only if protest is upheld.

Proper procedure must be followed in protesting games. Failure to follow established procedure will result in protest denial.

5 LEAGUE-SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES

5.1 Men's Softball Leagues

Games will be played per the current ASA rules, with the exceptions listed in section 4.

5.2 Co-Rec Softball Leagues

Games will be played per the current ASA rules, with the exceptions listed in section 4 and those listed below.

Each team must have a minimum of four (4) females in the lineup (and on the field of play) at all times. If a team is unable to place four (4) females in the lineup, the game will be forfeited.

When a male batter who is followed by a female batter in the lineup receives a base on balls, he will be awarded first and second base, with the following batter (female) having the option to bat or take first base.

Outfielders must remain beyond the marked line (150 feet) during an at-bat by a female batter until the ball is put into play by the batter.