



Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation

MECKLENBURG COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL RULES (ASA)

Revised 1/7/21

I. PROGRAM:

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Adult Softball Leagues

II. ELIGIBILITY:

- A. **RESIDENCE:** There is no specific residence requirement for participation in this league. Anyone living or working in Mecklenburg County or the surrounding counties are eligible to participate.
- B. **AGE:** Players must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and be able to present a driver's license and or a picture identification for documentation if challenged.
- C. **PARTICIPATION:** Players may play on only one (1) team within the same (1) league, in the Open Classification (A, B, C, D) format, within the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department. Outside participation will be allowed; however, players and teams must remember their first priority is to the County's program. No regular or make-up games will be re-scheduled because a team or any of its players are involved in play elsewhere.
- D. **ROSTERS:** The official roster will be held by the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department league director.
 - 1. All players must be listed on a team roster provided by the Park and Recreation department and must be submitted to the department prior to your team's first game.
 - 2. Rosters must be filled out completely (preferably typed). **No nicknames.**

3. A player whose name is listed on two different rosters that are in different classifications, prior to the first game will be considered a VALID player only on the first team roster that is received.
4. A team roster will be limited to (25) players. Including the manager if he/she is a player.

5. ROSTER CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS:

- a. Will not be accepted over the phone. Player additions and subtractions must be done at the park.
- b. **Rosters will be frozen after your fifth (5) game. Exception being a verifiable medical reason.**

Penalty issued for any violation of the above policies or rules will result in forfeiture of game(s).

PENALTY: Players not meeting the eligibility guidelines will receive a one (1) game suspension from league play, from the verified date of infraction. Any coach who knowingly plays an ineligible player will also receive a one (1) year suspension from league play, from the verified date of infraction.

6. Women may petition to play on any men's team under extenuating circumstances. All petitions must be presented in writing and will be reviewed and either approved or disapproved on case by case basis.

III. PRINCIPLES OF ADULT ATHLETICS

A. It is the aim of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation to provide organized recreation games and activities, facilities, supervision and leadership to the citizens of Mecklenburg County, in their ideals and interests in the area of leisure time activities and/or its administration.

B. To promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, rejuvenate individual skills/talents and provide the County's residents with the convenience to enjoy the best possible physical advantages and wholesome recreation atmosphere.

IV. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

The following rules and regulations apply to the conduct of spectators, coaches, managers and players while on County property before, during and after scheduled games.

A. Boisterous behavior and unsportsmanlike conduct such as:

1. Unduly yelling and screaming at participants or official (s)
2. Profane language or gestures.
3. Public threat or physical violence; and/or
4. A violation of **ANY** of these standards will constitute partial or permanent programs suspension at the discretion of staff.

B. Any individual ejected during a game, for a non-violent act, will remain suspended for (1) additional game.

C. Any individual ejected from a game for fighting will be subject to at least a (2) game suspension, depending on the severity of the act.

C. Two (2) accumulative suspensions during one (1) season will constitute suspension from play for one year from the date of the infraction.

D. The use alcoholic beverages at the game site or on the premises is prohibited. Violation may result in a \$50 fine and will result in a one game suspension from league play for the first offense.

E. Any player ejected from the game **MUST LEAVE THE FIELD AND PLAYING AREA IMMEDIATELY** and at the request of the calling umpire can be asked to leave park property for the remainder of the night.

V. DUTIES OF THE COACH OR MANAGER

A. It is the duty of the coach/manager to see that the roster of his/her team is submitted in accordance with the established deadlines of the league director.

B. To see that his/her team warm-ups are a safe distance from all infield spectators. No warm ups will be allowed on the infield surface of the assigned playing field.

C. To see that his/her team reports to the field for games unless officially notified of a cancellation, regardless of weather or other factors.

VI. EQUIPMENT

- A. All teams must furnish their own gloves and bats and ASA approved **yellow 52 core and 300 comp. balls.**
- B. Co-Rec teams can only use ASA bats. All other divisions can use any legal, non-senior league bat.
- C. All teams must furnish their own uniforms. **All shirts must be like (or close to it) in color and numbered by your third game. Teams will be allowed up to three players to participate without a number as long as they meet the rest of the uniform requirements. Any number in excess of that will be ineligible to participate.**
- D. Tennis shoes or molded rubber spikes must be worn by all players. **(Steel spikes are prohibited)**

VII. PLAYING RULES

- A. Official ASA Slow Pitch rules will be used with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Modified speed-up rule will be in effect:
 - a. Starting with **ONE STRIKE** and **ONE BALL** and **ONE FOUL BALL**
 - a. Each pitcher will be allowed five (5) warm-up pitches, only, prior to the start of each game.
 - b. Each pitcher will be allowed 5 warm-up pitches before **each game**. Warm-up pitches at the start of each inning **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED**. No throwing the ball around the bases or infield after each out. (All balls should be thrown back to the pitcher.)
 - c. Stealing in Men's B, C & D Leagues only
 - 2. All league games will have a **one (1) hour time limit** for a regular seven (7) inning game. **NO REGULATION GAME INNING** will be started after the time limit is reached.
 - a. All games will start at their scheduled and designated times.

b. Grace Period: There will be a 10-minute grace period allowed for the **first game only**. For all other games, **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME**.

3. All leagues must begin and end with a minimum of (9) players. The 10th batter in the line-up will be an automatic out regardless of the inning or the out that it occurs. **Exception:** In the Co-Rec Division, the automatic out will occur in the (9) ninth position in the line-up (if the female leads off) and in the (10) tenth position in the line up (if the male leads off).

4. Runs ahead rule: If a team is ahead by 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 after 5 innings, they will be declared the winner

5. Home Run Addendum: Men (B-6, C-4, D-2) ***Note: Men's DI leagues can play 3 & 1 up IF both teams agree**; Women/Co-Rec (C-4, D-2);

6. **Courtesy Runners-** (All Adult Slow Pitch, except Seniors) **Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.**

7. **If the pitcher is struck by a line drive batted ball, the batter is automatically out, and the bat used will be checked and removed from use for the remainder of the game.**

VIII. Co-Rec Slow Pitch Playing Requirements

Ten players: **(5 male and 5 female OR 6 male and 4 female or vice versa)** with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and the outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher and or catcher. Co-Rec with Extra Players (EP) Twelve Players: seven male/female and five male/female or 6 male/6 female plus to EP's bat in the lineup. **NOTE: If a team bats 6/4 but has 5 males and 5 females eligible to play, the other team has the OPTION to bat 6/4 to match them if they also have 5 males and 5 females eligible to play. What you bat is what you have to play in the field.**

IX. PROTESTS

A. Protests can **ONLY** be made concerning:

1. Misinterpretation of a playing rule
2. Illegal substitute or re-entry

3. Ineligible player

B. Protest Process

In the instance of a misinterpretation of a rule, a verbal protest must be made to the umpire in charge at the time the play is being questioned. The umpire must make both managers aware of the reason for the protest. If the protest is determined to be valid, the correction will be made, and the game will be resumed from the point of interruption.

In the instance of an illegal substitute or re-entry, a verbal protest must be made to the umpire in charge, while the player is still in the game and before the umpire leaves the field. Both managers will be notified of the protest. If the protest is determined to be valid, the mistake will be corrected, and the game will be resumed from the point of interruption.

In the instance of an ineligible player, a verbal protest must be made to the umpire in charge, before the completion of the game. Both managers will be notified of the protest. If the protest is determined to be valid, the offending team will forfeit the ballgame.

***Each team will be granted two denied protests per season. After the second protest denial any subsequent protests must include a \$25 (cash) protest fee.**