

**LOUDON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM**

**LEAGUE RULES**

City of Loudon Parks and Recreation (LPRD) Leagues will follow the guidelines set forth in the current Amateur Softball Association (ASA), USA Softball Official Rules of Softball with the following additions and clarifications.

**RULE 1. ORGANIZATION**

Sec. 1. The City of Loudon Parks and Recreation Department will be the administrative body of the City of Loudon Softball League. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to have the final say in all matters.

Sec. 2. MANDATORY RULES MEETING. A mandatory rules meeting will be held at the beginning of each season. Each team that registers must have a representative at this meeting. The purpose of this meeting is so all teams participating will have a clear understanding of the rules and all team participants can have an open discussion with LPRD and other team representatives about rules. Any team that fails to send a representative to this meeting may be refused entry into the league.

**RULE 2. LEAGUE FEES**

Sec. 1. ANNUAL FEES. Fees shall be paid before the start of the season. The fees will cover the cost of umpires, official scorers, and any other expenses incurred during League play. Teams not having all fees and rosters into the office before the deadline will not be allowed into the League. No partial payments will be accepted.

Sec. 2. REFUND. Any team which has paid the entry fee and wishes to drop out of the League may do so before the mandatory rules meeting and will be entitled to a full refund. No refunds will be given after the mandatory rules meeting.

**RULE 3. ROSTERS/WAIVERS/ELIGIBILITY**

Sec. 1. OFFICIAL ROSTERS/WAIVERS must be filled out completely and be signed by all participants. They must be typed or printed plainly. Rosters/waivers must be turned in three (3) days before first game.

Sec. 2. ROSTER LIMIT. There is a maximum of twenty (20) active players per roster. Industries working rotating shifts may petition the LPRD for additional players.

Sec. 3. NEW PLAYERS. Those who have not appeared on another roster during the current season may be added to the roster at any time. To add a new player, LPRD must receive a call or a letter from the team representative approving the addition of the new player and player must sign the official roster form at the LPRD office by 4:30 p.m., and pay a fee of \$5.00 per player.

Sec. 4. ELIGIBILITY.

- A. City of Loudon Parks and Recreation Department Softball League is open to all organizations, groups or individuals wishing to comply with these rules and regulations.
- B. All players must be sixteen (16) years of age before participating in league play with the exception of the church league, which has a minimum of fourteen (14). Any player under eighteen (18) years of age must have a signed release by both parents or guardians.
- C. Any team, which fails to report for two (2) consecutively scheduled games during the season may be dropped from the League. Players from such teams shall be declared free agents and can sign the roster of and play with any team immediately after the LPRD has declared them dissolved.
- D. Any player who is ruled ineligible for signing or being on the rosters of two (2) teams, or playing as a non-rostered player, shall be out of competition for a maximum of fourteen (14) days which shall include at least two (2) ballgames.
- E. Any coach found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be suspended for seven (7) days.

Sec. 5. WRITTEN NOTIFICATION. Any suspensions or disciplinary action will be confirmed in writing by the LPRD to the involved coaches and players.

**RULE 4. CONDUCT RULES ADOPTED BY LOUDON CITY COUNCIL.**

The City of Loudon Parks and Recreation Department feels that due to increasing violence in all sports, that rules, regulations, and guidelines need to be set for any and all of our sports, events, or activities. **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Loudon believe it is necessary and appropriate to provide for a code of conduct for participants and spectators of events and programs conducted by the Loudon Parks and Recreation Department.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Loudon, Tennessee, as follows:

Sec. 1. GENERAL

The following basic rules shall be followed, having been established in the best interest of users and recreational service facilities. Any additional rules posted at recreation facilities or directed by staff shall be enforced. Individuals not cooperating with established policies will be asked to leave and may be barred from further participation.

Sec. 2. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT AND EJECTION POLICY

- A. If a participant or spectator in a recreation program or facility is ejected from any facility (indoor or outdoor), program, contest, or activity, he/she is immediately

ineligible for further access or competition in any recreation program or facility until he/she appears before the Recreation Advisory Commission for the program in which unsportsmanlike conduct and/or ejection occurred.

- B. It is the participant's responsibility to schedule an appointment with the Recreation Director or his designee to review his/her behavior and subsequent eligibility in any recreation program or facility. Participants and spectators suspensions are effective upon notification by the Recreation Director or his designee. Suspension remains in force during the review process and the Recreation Director's decision is final.
- C. Any participant or spectator who commits, incites, or aids others in committing any of the following acts of unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct shall be subject to the following disciplinary procedures:
  - 1. When a participant or spectator hits, strikes, or pushes a recreation employee, recreation representative, coach, umpire, or referee (league official, he/she shall be subject to indefinite suspension from recreation services and facilities. Participants or spectators may petition the Recreation Advisory Commission for reinstatement after a minimum of one calendar year.
  - 2. Threatening behavior (verbal or physical) toward a recreation employee, recreation representative, or coach, he/she shall be subject to indefinite suspension from recreation programs and facilities. After a minimum of two (2) months, the suspension may be appealed to the Recreation Advisory Commission for consideration of reinstatement.
  - 3. Threatening behavior (verbal or physical) toward another participant or spectator, he/she shall be subject to indefinite suspension from recreation programs or facilities. After a minimum of one (1) month, the suspension may be appealed to the Recreation Advisory Commission for consideration of reinstatement.
  - 4. Verbally abusing a recreation employee or coach, participant, user, or spectator, he/she shall be subject to indefinite suspension from recreation programs or facilities. After a minimum of one month, the suspension may be appealed to the Recreation Advisory Commission for consideration of reinstatement.
  - 5. Actions that could potentially cause equipment or facility damage, he/she shall be subject to indefinite suspension. After a minimum of one (1) week, the suspension may be appealed to the Recreation Advisory Commission for consideration of reinstatement. The City may take additional legal action to recover the costs of damages to facilities and equipment.
  - 6. Participants and spectators are expected to be cooperative and honest when asked for identification and assistance in identifying individuals who may

be involved in incidents. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the use of facilities or programs.

7. The Recreation Director or his designee responsible to the program in which the unsportsmanlike conduct and/or ejection occurred would deal with personal conduct situations that are not covered by the previous rulings in an appropriate manner.

### Sec. 3. OTHER PENALTIES

Violation of the City's ejection policy shall be declared a public nuisance. Any participant or spectator who violates the terms and conditions of the ejection policy shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine for each offense.

## **RULE 5. PLAYING RULES**

### Sec. 1. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. A team must have eight (8) players to start, continue, or finish a game. If the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> players arrive and wish to play, they must be inserted into the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> positions in the lineup. The scorer, umpire, and opposing coach must be notified.
- B. If a team starts with eight (8) or nine (9) players, the team will not be awarded an out when the vacant spaces in the lineup come to bat. If a team has included players on the lineup and they are absent or unable to finish a game, then automatic outs will be awarded when it is their turn to bat.
- C. All co-ed games must begin with a minimum of three (3) females in the lineup. The defense must have three (3) females on the field at all times. If three (3) females are not available and your total number of players drop below eight (8), the game will result in a forfeit at that point. At no time will play continue with less than three (3) females. Church League teams shall be allowed to start game with two (2) females, but shall receive an out each time the third female should bat. Games will not start or continue with less than two (2) females in the lineup.

Sec. 2. UNIFORMS. All players shall wear same color shirt with numbers on back with sleeves and shoes when playing. All teams must have uniforms by the second game of the season or a forfeit will result for each game without uniforms. A player will not be allowed to play without a jersey after that date. Proper shoes must be worn at all times. The use of steel cleats is prohibited. Manufactured softball shirts without sleeves are acceptable. Tank tops, basketball jerseys, etc., are not acceptable.

Sec. 3. LINE-UP must be turned into scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes before scheduled start of your ballgame according to the official clock. Line-up must include first and last names as they appear on the official roster.

### Sec. 4. GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME.

Sec. 5. OFFICIAL CLOCK. The scoreboard clock shall be the official time. When there is not a clock, the scorekeeper's watch is the official time. Official game starting time will be noted on score sheet where there is no scoreboard clock.

Sec. 6. OFFICIAL BALL. The official ball is the ball designated by the Recreation Department for league play. An illegal ball is any ball other than the official ball. All softballs must be .44 C.O.R. and the stamp or markings must be legible throughout the game.

Section 7. SLIDE RULE. Any runner is out when he does not slide or attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag. (Note: The ball is dead and other base runners take bases they had reached, in the umpire's judgment when the violation occurred).

Sec. 8. REGULATION GAME.

A. A game TIED at the end of seven (7) innings shall be continued, by playing additional innings until one (1) team has scored more runs than the other at the end of a completed inning, or the team second at bat scored more runs in their half of the uncompleted extra inning.

B. A game called by the umpire during regular season play which cannot be resumed within thirty (30) minutes, may be regulation if five (5) or more innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored as many or more runs during the uncompleted fifth inning, or after four (4) full innings, than the team first at bat has scored in their five (5) completed innings.

C. The run rule which awards a win to a team that is ahead in a game after five (5) or more completed innings are played as follows:

- Men's Open League – 10 or more runs
- Women's or Co-ed Open League – 10 or more runs
- Church League – 11 or more runs

D. The run rule, which awards a win to a team that is ahead after four (4) or more completed innings are played as follows:

- Men's Open League – 15 or more runs
- Women's or Co-ed Open League – 15 or more runs
- Church League – 15 or more runs

E. The run rule which awards a win to a team that is ahead in a game after three (3) or more completed innings are played as follows:

- Men's Open League – 20 or more runs
- Women's or Co-ed Open League – 20 or more runs
- Church League – 20 or more runs

F. Run limit of ten (10) runs per inning for the Church League Division.

Sec. 9.

In coed and church league play, a line will be placed in the outfield 180 feet from home plate. Outfield players must remain behind line while a female is at bat.

A player playing inside this line while a female is at bat will result in the female being awarded a base hit.

### **RULE 6. TROPHIES**

For League and League Tournament purposes, trophies will be awarded as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

### **RULE 7. TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES**

In the event that two (2) or more teams are tied at the end of regular season and it becomes necessary to determine which team(s) finished higher in the standings, the following tie-breaking procedure will be used. This procedure will cover tournament seating and trophy presentations. No games will be played to break ties.

Step 1. Head to head competition. Example: Team A and B have identical 17-3 records at the close of the regular season and are tied for first place.

Team A played Team B and defeated them 10-6. Team A is awarded first place, Team B is award second place. If Teams A and B had played each other twice and each had won a game, go to Step 2.

Step 2. The point spread of the tied teams games with each other will be compared. Example: Team A has defeated Team B 10-6 and Team B has defeated Team A 15-4, during the course of the regular season. Team B would be awarded first place by having a larger point spread in their win over Team A. If the point spreads are the same, go to Step 3.

Step 3. If there is still a tie after Steps 1 and 2 have been carried out, a coin toss will break the ties.

### **RULE 8. RAIN-OUTS/MAKE-UPS**

Sec. 1. RAIN-OUTS. Managers may call the LPRD at 458-7525 to find out the status of games for that day. We will make decisions after 2:00 p.m., on each game day. In the event of inclement weather, you may call the LPRD after 4:30 p.m., for a recording as to the status of cancellations.

Sec. 2. MAKE-UPS. Unless there is an unusually high amount of games to be rescheduled, they will be placed at the end of the regular season schedule. If an extremely large number of cancellations occur, they will be made up whenever possible.

- A. It is the duty of the coach or manager to check with the LPRD for the make-up schedules.
- B. You will be notified and schedules will be sent to you at least 24 hours before the scheduled games.
- C. If there is a time span of under three (3) days that your team is scheduled

to play, the LPRD will notify the team manager by phone and you will also receive a schedule through the mail.

### **RULE 9. TOURNAMENT PLAY**

Sec. 1. If a majority of all teams are interested at the end of the season, LPRD will provide a tournament. This will result in a tournament entry fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_, and will take place the first weekend (if fields are available) after the last game of the regular season. Trophies will be awarded to first and second place teams in each division.

Sec. 2. ELIGIBILITY. Any player who has not actually played in a League game during the year is not eligible to compete in the post season tournament.

Sec. 3. EJECTED. A player, coach, or manager ejected during the play-offs, league tourney, or post season tourney is out of competition for the remainder of the game in question, plus the next game. Playing while on an automatic suspension will result in an immediate forfeit.

## **LOUDON RECREATION LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

The Loudon Parks and Recreation Department (LPRD), with the objective of guiding the manner in which the league would function, has developed the following rules and regulations. Coaches and players should always bear in mind that the most important criteria of this league are fun, fellowship, exercise, and recreation, and that winning is incidental and secondary to these.

1. The Loudon Recreation League will operate under the guidelines of the Loudon Parks and Recreation Department Adult Softball Program League Rules.
2. No formal protests are allowed. If a team is not following these rules, it should be brought to the attention of the LPRD.
3. Malicious sliding is not allowed. Penalty is automatic ejection.
4. No metal spikes are allowed.
5. Teams will play seven (7) innings or approximately seventy (70) minutes, whichever comes first. No inning shall be started after sixty (60) minutes have expired; however, any inning in progress shall be completed. If the game is tied after seven (7) innings, extra innings will be played until a winner is determined.
6. Players may not switch teams or leagues without the consent of both coaches and LPRD. Both coaches must notify the LPRD before approval can be granted to the player.
7. All co-ed teams must have a minimum of three (3) females on the field at all times. (See Church League Rules).
8. Each team shall clean their respective bench areas and playing field of debris immediately following any practice or game.
9. Each player will start with a one and one count when batting with one (1) extra foul ball permitted after two (2) strikes in all leagues.

## **CHURCH LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

1. The Church League is open to any recognized church organization.
2. The Church League will play under the Loudon Parks and Recreation Department adult softball program league rules.
3. Church league teams are required to have three (3) females in the line-up, but teams may play with two (2) females and will receive an out when the batting order calls for the third female. Teams may not play with less than two (2) females in the line-up.



4. Teams adding players may do so only with permission from the team coach only. Permission may be granted via phone, in person, or fax.

## **INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

The City of Loudon will offer an Industrial League or all-employee teams.

1. **ELIGIBLE TEAMS** – All players must be full-time employees of one (1) company or of one (1) city of county government, or of one (1) military installation.
2. **FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE** – To qualify as a full-time employee, a player must work the minimum number of hours per week normally worked in the industry by a full-time employee.
3. **LAYOFFS** – A player who has established seniority on the job and is temporarily laid off may continue to play in the Industrial division.
4. **RETIREEES** – A company's employee who has completed the required number of years of service with the company and then elects to retire under the company's regular retirement plan would maintain eligibility to participate in the Industrial division for said company, as long as the employee remains retired and is not regularly employed by any other company.

## **HOME RUN CLASSIFICATION**

A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in the Loudon Softball League. All balls hit over the fence by a team in excess of the following limitations per game will be ruled on as shown:

1. Loudon- Five (5) home runs per game per team. Any player hitting a home run after the five (5) will result in an out.
2. Church – Unlimited. If teams are playing at Liberty Park a limit of five (5) home runs will be allowed.
3. Co-ed – Two (2) home runs per game per team. Any player hitting a home run after the two (2) will result in an out. If games are being played at Loudon Municipal Park or a Legion Field, teams will be allowed five (5) home runs.

**NOTE:** Any fly ball touched by a defensive player which then goes over the fence in fair territory, should be declared a four-base award and shall not be include in the total of over-the-fence home runs. Any time the batter is ruled out because of the excessive home run rule, the ball is dead and no runners can score.