

**CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

SUMMER 2011

REGULATIONS

1. There will be a \$385.00 entry fee per team payable prior to the end of the registration deadline, March 31. Make checks payable to the City of Reynoldsburg.
2. A complete roster of players, with a **maximum of twenty players** is to be turned in to the Parks & Recreation Department before the first game of the season. The standard roster form is to be used with all requested information completed for each player. **No changes in the roster will be permitted after the sixth week of the season.**
3. There will be no alcoholic beverages permitted in the parks at any time.
4. NOTE: The Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to expel any participant for the remainder of the season on any offense.
5. All players must have reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday by the first game of the season.
6. All teams will be required to complete a team line-up card before the start of each game which the umpire will supply. Listing on this card will be used to supervise eligibility rosters. Line-up cards should be completed with the first and the last name of each player who participates in a game.

GAME SCHEDULE

1. The league will be made up of a maximum of sixteen (16) teams. The league will play a total of ten (10) regular season games plus a post-season single-elimination tournament.
2. The league will be a twilight schedule format. Game times will be 6:10 and 7:20 pm each night.
3. The first game will begin promptly as scheduled with **NO GRACE PERIOD.**
4. No new inning will start after one hour and ten minutes has elapsed.
5. If the game is in the middle of an inning the umpire will announce that the last inning is in progress and no new inning will start at that point.
6. Should a game be tied at the time when the game is called due to the time limit then the game will be counted as a tie game for each team.
7. **The time limit will apply for both the first and second game of the night.**

RAINOUTS

1. Games that are postponed due to the weather will be made up as follows:
2. The first two (2) times that games are postponed will be played by being rescheduled to the end of the regular season on the same night as the league plays.
3. Any additional nights of postponement after two (2) will be made up on any day available at the direction of the Parks & Recreation Department. **Most often this will be a Friday. It is also possible that it will become part of a double header on the same night as a regularly scheduled game.**

PLAY-OFF GAMES

1. At the end of the regular season there will be a single elimination tournament for all teams.
2. Tournament seeding will be based upon the final standings in the regular season.
3. If ties exist in the final standings those ties will be broken based upon head to head competition. Should two (2) teams play each other twice in the regular season and the teams split in their two games the tie will be broken by giving the higher place in the standings to the team that scored the most runs against the other team that they are tied with from the regular season standings.

FORFEITURE OF GAMES

ANY TEAM WHICH FORFEITS MORE THAN TWO (2) GAMES DURING THE SEASON WILL LOSE THEIR AUTOMATIC POSITION IN THE LEAGUE FOR NEXT SEASON.

PLAYING RULES – ALL LEAGUES

1. The USSSA Rule Book will govern play except where noted below. USSSA league rules can be found at www.ussa.com.
2. A minimum of **nine (9)** players will be required to start a game. There will be no grace period given.
3. Only the team coach will discuss calls or decisions with the umpires. Failure to comply will lead to expulsion from the game at the umpire's discretion.
4. There will be a no grace period for any game.
5. Infield warm-up between innings is limited to twice around the infield after the first inning of play.
6. Sliding is permitted.

7. Baseball shoes are legal to be worn so long as the soles of the shoe are made of molded plastic or rubber. No metal spikes/cleats.
8. Players may be added during the season, but must be added to the eligibility roster prior to the first game they will play. The eligibility roster sheet must be completed and signed by the additional player.
9. Playing an ineligible player is considered a serious infraction of Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department league rules. Managers and players are subject to suspension if an ineligible player is discovered on the team.

Penalty:

- First offense: 1-game suspension for the manager and the player
 - Second offense: 1-year suspension from all Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department adult sports leagues for the manager and the player
10. Score keeping will be the responsibility of both teams. By mutual agreement, a spectator may keep score.
 11. **THE USSSA RULE FOR SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE LEAGUE. A STARTING PLAYER MAY LEAVE THE LINEUP ONCE AND RE-ENTER THE GAME BUT MUST RE-ENTER IN THE SAME BATTING POSITION IN THE LINEUP AS SUBMITTED TO THE UMPIRE AT THE START OF THE GAME.**
 12. A twenty (20) run lead rule is in effect at the end of the third inning, a fifteen (15) run lead rule in effect after the fourth inning, and a ten (10) run lead rule in effect after the fifth or sixth inning.
 13. Any player and/or manager removed from the game by an umpire will be suspended according to the following rules:
 - a. First offense - One game suspension from league play.
 - b. Second offense - Three game suspension from league play.
 - c. Third offense - Expulsion for the league for the remainder of the season.
 14. **THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUSPEND ANY PARTICIPANT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON FOR ANY OFFENSE.**
 15. The two foul balls after two strikes will be used in league play. Once a batter has acquired two strikes in the count, the first foul ball will be permitted without being called out. A second foul ball will cause the ball to become dead and the batter declared out. The ball then becomes dead upon touching by a defensive player.
 16. **When a batter steps into the batter's box to start an at-bat the count on the batter will be 1-1 (one ball and one strike on the batter) before the first pitch is thrown to the batter.**

17. **Protests**

A. Protests (based on the interpretation of a playing rule) must be registered by the manager with the umpire and opposing coach before the next pitch.

B. Formal protests must be made in writing and accompanied by a \$50 protest fee (returned if the protest is allowed). All materials must be turned in to the Parks and Recreation office (postmarks are accepted) within 24 hours from the date of the game in question. If that 24-hour timeframe falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, materials must be turned in on the next business day.

C. Protests will be ruled on by the Parks and Recreation Department staff. When a protest is sustained, the game shall be replayed from the point of the protest with the decision corrected.

D. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will resolve protests involving the eligibility of a player or team on the basis of records on file. The formal protest procedure set forth in 10-B must be followed. Any manager has the right to protest the use of an ineligible player by the opposing team. The protest must be made prior to the last pitch of the game. The player(s) in question must present positive identification to the umpire, sign the scorecard, list their address, telephone number and drivers license number. All games in which an ineligible player has participated will be forfeited to the opponents.

18. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

A. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated **before, during or after a game**, and will result in ejection from the contest and/or indefinite suspension.

B. Any time an incident happens on the playing field or court, all players who leave the bench area will be subject to ejection from the contest unless they are offering necessary medical assistance.

C. An ejection accompanied with a written report by a game official will result in further disciplinary action taken by the Department. Penalties imposed at the end of the season will carry over to the following season.

D. Players and coaches will be suspended for one year from all Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department athletic programs for participating in a game while under suspension. Participating includes being on the playing field or dugout area before, during or after the game.

E. Any player ejected from a game must leave the park immediately.

Discipline Policy:

Ejections and suspensions may carry over from season to season in all adult sport leagues. An ejection noted on a scorecard would allow the umpire to recommend one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a) No suspension, ejection is disciplinary action
- b) 1 week suspension (1 calendar week from the date of the ejection)
- c) 2 week suspension

d) If ejection is judged by the OIC (official in charge), to be of a minor nature, he/she can recommend no suspension.

e) If ejection is of a more serious nature, umpire can recommend 1 or 2 weeks out of play.

f) If a person has a repeated problem with ejections or suspensions (more than 2) the adult sports coordinator, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Director, can suspend a player for a longer period of time, up to a lifetime.

Note: If suspended, players may not attend any Parks and Recreation Department programs for the calendar week. Example: Monday through Sunday, Tuesday through Monday, etc.

All suspensions may be appealed by contacting the sports coordinator (and/or the Parks and Recreation Director) and schedule a hearing. Suspensions are in effect during the appeal period.

Any player caught playing on another team during their suspension week will be removed for the remainder of the season in all leagues.

ADDITIONAL RULES – MENS CHURCH LEAGUES ONLY

1. Church league entry is restricted to church teams only.
2. All players are expected to conduct themselves as Christian persons. The umpire may remove a player if conduct is such that it reflects injury to the league and/or coaches.
3. There will be a short prayer at home plate prior to each game. It is the home team's responsibility to offer either a silent or audible prayer.

ADDITIONAL RULES – CO-RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL LEAGUES ONLY

1. During games, teams shall be made up of five (5) males and five (5) females, who may play any position.
2. A team may begin play with nine (9) players, but there must be at least four (4) males and four (4) females present along with a ninth person who may be a male or female. Failure to be able to meet this rule will require forfeiture of the game. Should a team play with only nine (9) players then an out will be declared every time the vacant position comes up in the batting order.
3. Team batting orders shall alternate batters with male, then female, or female, then male. Teams are permitted to use the Additional Hitter rule of the USSSA rule book. If this option is selected by a team it must be indicated on lineup card. When a team uses the AH provision the team will list a twelve (12) player batting order with six (6) male and six (6) female batters alternating positions. Any five (5) of the male and any five (5) of the female players listed on the twelve player batting order may play defense. The changing around defensively by these players does not constitute a substitution.

4. Should a male batter be walked, the next female batter may have her choice of taking a walk or stepping into the batter's box to attempt to hit the pitched ball. The choice is irrevocable.
5. All **OUTFIELDERS (NO LESS THAN THREE)** must assume a position in the grass of the outfield. No pitch shall be declared by the umpire until the outfielders are in the proper position.
6. Whenever substitutions take place, only male players may replace male players and female players must replace female players.