CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT COED SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

League Rules 2016

This is a **RECREATIONAL** league. We have developed a few distinctive rules and guidelines for our Adult Coed Slow Pitch Softball League. Please consider the following rules and regulations in addition to our team & player eligibility guidelines to determine if this league meets your needs.

Rules Governing Play:

The play will be governed by the 2016 ASA (Amateur Softball Association) Adult Coed Slow Pitch Softball Rules with the following additions, exceptions and clarifications:

1. **ROSTERS**
   - 15-player minimum; 25-player maximum
   - Players must be age 18 and older

   Rosters must be comprised of 50% Lake Oswego Residents

   - To be considered a 'resident' for participation in sports leagues, a player must fit into one of the following categories:
     i. An individual who rents or owns property inside the incorporated city limits of Lake Oswego.
     ii. An individual who lives within the Lake Oswego School District boundaries
     iii. An individual who owns a business inside the incorporated city limits of Lake Oswego.
     iv. An individual employed within the incorporated city limits of Lake Oswego or within Lake Oswego School District boundaries

   Proof-of-Residency

   - Current proof-of-residency is required for players who are claiming residency due to employment in the form of:
     i. pay stub
     ii. business card
     iii. employment verification letter on company letterhead from business owner or human resource department.
     iv. Copy of business website with employee profile/information
   - Proof-of-residency for registration purposes for players residing within the corporate city limits of Lake Oswego or residing within the L.O. School District boundaries will not be required.

     A note about the honor system with proof-of-residency: In striving to simplify the registration process, we are not requiring proof-of-residency for players who reside within corporate city limits of Lake Oswego or reside within the Lake Oswego School District boundaries. **Managers will be responsible for the authenticity of their team's submitted roster.** Teams found with a player claiming falsified residency will forfeit all games in which that player was listed on the team roster and jeopardize the team's participation in the league. Managers must be willing to collect and provide player proof-of-residency upon request from the Recreation Supervisor or another manager.

   - Players are not allowed to change teams once the first league game of the season has been played.

   - Players may play on only one team per league division (Coed Comp or Rec). Playing on more than one team in the same division is not permitted.

- One game each week per division will be randomly picked for ID checks by the field supervisor. Players will be required to provide picture ID to show proof that they are listed on the official roster that will be contained in the clipboard at each ball field. If they cannot provide picture ID or are not listed on the roster, they will not be allowed to play in the game for that night. Rosters can also be viewed online at www.lakeoswegosports.com or www.loparks.org.

Adding Players:

1. A new player will only be accepted when it does not jeopardize the 50% team residency requirement.
2. A new player must be fully registered. "Fully registered" =
   a. Registration & payment made with our registrar at 503-675-2549 or online at www.loparks.org.
   b. If claiming residency through employment, we must have received proof-of-employment.
3. Added players are not on the official team roster until the team manager receives confirmation from the Recreation Department.
   a. Allow a few days to process and update rosters. If a player registers on a game day they will not be added to the roster same day.

Can I add players after May 10?

- By May 10 you need to have a minimum of 15 players fully registered.
- **Final Roster add/drop deadline: July 15.**
- You can add subs up through the player add deadline of July 15
- Starting the week of June 13 the 'Per Player Fee' will be prorated based on the amount of games remaining. This will go into effect on Mondays.
- Subs will then be allowed to play only in the games they have paid for and are eligible to play in the post season tournament.

2. Game Times and Forfeit

A. The umpire's watch/clock is the official time. If, at game time, a team does not have minimum required number of players to start the game, a 5 minute grace period will be given. If a team meets the minimum number required or more, the game will begin on time. The players must be on the field, ready to play by the end of the 5 minute grace period. The 5 minute grace period is deducted from the game time. Game time is still start time. Teams that do not have the minimum of four male and four female players must forfeit the game. If both teams are not able to field the required number of players, both teams will register forfeits. **Forfeited games will not be rescheduled.** Forfeits are recorded with a score of 7-0. Special requests for scheduling need to be submitted before the league schedule is created. Do not wait until the week before your game as we cannot accommodate these requests.

A. Cancellations due to inclement weather are made by the Recreation Department around 2:00 PM. Coaches & players can receive email notifications with this status. See #9 on how to subscribe.
   a. If the field status is questionable, teams must still show to fields with enough players eligible to play at game time. Mangers & umpires will decide if games are playable. If they decide it is not and one team does not have enough players, then that team forfeits. If both teams have enough players then the game(s) will be rescheduled.

B. If for any reason you need to reach us after normal business hours (i.e. forfeiting game) or during your game (i.e. late umpire) contact the **Field Supervisor** at **971-563-8039** who can assist you with onsite logistics.

C. Games consist of seven innings OR 70 minutes, whichever comes first. No extra innings will be played. **No new innings shall start after 70 minutes.** Umpire's clock is the official time. Tie ball games remain tie ball games. There will be no warm-ups after the first inning of play.

D. A game that experiences some form of a delay (rain, lights out, etc.), but 5 innings were able to be completed, the game stands (regulation game) regardless if the 70 minutes have not expired. If 5 innings were not completed the Sports Division, if feasible, will find a way to finish the remaining innings on another night (the score will begin where it was recorded when the game was delayed). If one team cannot make the reschedule then they forfeit the game and the score is recorded as 7-0. The forfeit will not be assessed against the team. If both teams cannot make it then the game is a double forfeit and the score will be recorded as a 0-0 tie.

E. A team that forfeits or cancels **three** games will not be eligible for tournament play and may be suspended from the league. Prior notice of a forfeit or cancellation does not exempt teams from this rule. However, teams must give the Recreation Department at least twenty-four hours notice if they plan to cancel or forfeit a game so opponents and game officials can be notified. Failure to provide this courtesy is grounds for suspension. No refunds will be given to players of teams that forfeit/cancel three games and are removed from the league.

3. <u>Playing Rules</u> –

A. There is a six run limit per inning, except the seventh inning-which is unlimited.

B. ASA rule #7, Section 3, B (Batting Position) – The Batter shall assume a one-ball, one-strike count upon entering the batter's box. Batters are out on their second 3rd strike foul ball.

C. If at the end of five or six complete innings one team is ahead by 10 or more runs the game is over and a winner is declared, <u>unless both teams agree to continue play</u> – *no new inning after 70 minutes*. Please note: If teams agree to continue to play, they can't rescind their decision. Once the decision is made by both teams to continue play at the 5th or 6th inning <u>the game is played out</u> and the final outcome of the game comes at the completion of the game according to Local League Rule 2. D.

D. <u>Courtesy runner rule:</u> Courtesy runner may be used once per inning per gender. The courtesy runner must be the <u>most previous player</u> who <u>is not on base</u>. Courtesy runner must be of the same gender.

E. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The ball is dead. The next batter (a female) will bat. EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.

F. A team may play with 8, 9 or 10 players (minimum number of female players required to field a team is four (4):
8 players* = (4 men and 4 women)
9 players* = (5 men and 4 women OR 4 men & 5 women).
10 players = (5 men and 5 women)

*Teams playing shorthanded must still meet the battery requirement (male/female; pitcher/catcher combination) and may not have more than two (2) of each gender in the infield and outfield (not counting the battery). With a full team, there must be two of each gender in the outfield and infield positions (not counting the battery, which must be a male/female combination).

G. A team can borrow registered players from another team (coed and men's divisions) only if they cannot field a team of 10 players.
   a. A team cannot borrow additional players over the 10 needed to field a full team
   b. The team being asked to lend a player can refuse to lend players
   c. The borrowed player must wear their own team's jersey while playing on the other team.

H. Teams may elect to bat their entire roster and make free substitutions in the field if there are an equal number of men and women to alternate OR utilize 'The Wheel' batting order. If there is an unequal number of men and women playing this must be communicated to the umpire and the opposing manager prior to the start of the game.

1. *Batting the Roster*: The missing player(s) (regardless of gender) must be entered as an out(s) at the bottom of the batting order*. If the out is the third of the inning, the inning is over, but a team cannot walk a batter to get to that out. If the batter is walked, the out is nullified and the next batter comes to bat.* At any time during the game a player, of the needed gender, may take the spot of this out when arriving.

OR

2. *Batting the Wheel*. This option does not require your team to take an out for the missing player(s), but additional players may not be added, once the last batter of each gender has batted. Note: If you are batting eight or nine and are expecting the 9th or 10th player to arrive, do not bat the wheel as you cannot add after the last batter per gender has batted or substitute, when batting the wheel.

I. **Sliding**: Players are allowed to slide into a base but are not required to slide when approaching a base. The following is how the official's association will address sliding/obstruction:
   - You cannot crash a fielder waiting with the ball. If this does happen you will be called out, and if determined to be flagrant, by the umpire, the player will be ejected. If the fielder does not have the ball they will be called for obstruction. If a runner must go out of their way to get around a fielder that does not have the ball, obstruction will be called if the umpire sees it. If you are tagged out because you had to go around the fielder, who initially did not have the ball, you will be called safe because of the obstruction, if the umpire sees it.

J. If a player is ejected from the game, an out will be penalized to the team each time the player's spot arrives in the batting order.

K. Players are required to bring their acceptable photo ID (drivers' license/state ID, passport or military ID) to games for identification. A team manager or field supervisor/staff may request an umpire to check a **players' identification** for eligibility. At the time of the request, the team manager must supply the photo ID and jersey number of the player in question, in addition to the team's official roster provided by L.O. Parks & Recreation to the umpire. The umpire then records the name and number of the player on the game result form for eligibility verification. The game commences as scheduled. If the player in question does not provide the photo ID and the official roster that includes that player's name to the umpire, the player cannot play in the remainder of the game.

   Upon receiving the game report, the Recreation Supervisor will determine whether or not the player was eligible. If the team is found to be using an ineligible player, the game in question will be recorded as a loss and forfeit; the team may forfeit all previous games in which that player played; and the team's participation in the league may be jeopardized.

4. Umpires & Sportsmanship

A. The umpire has full authority to determine what is unsporting/inappropriate behavior. A player or team may be suspended from the game & game premises for misconduct.
   a. Casual Profanity Rule: this pertains to expletives and verbal unsportsmanlike language not directed at an umpire or opposing players or coaches. This is most likely uttered by a player out of frustration. This type of behavior is penalized by an out being charged against the offending team as follows:
      i. If the offending team is at bat, the next batter will be declared out.
      ii. If the act is committed by the batter, who was not out on the play, he/she will be called out.
      iii. If the act is committed by the defensive team, the first person to bat in the next inning will be declared out.

      The outs will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation. A game may be ended by a casual profanity out. Profanity directed at others, especially umpires will result in ejection and/or game forfeiture.

B. Umpires are responsible for officiating each game and must receive the full cooperation of both managers and players. Judgment calls by the umpires are not to be questioned. Managers are

expected to assist the umpire in controlling players and fans at all times. Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeiture and league suspension.

C. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed at City of Lake Oswego Parks or Lake Oswego School District Facilities. Team members, spectators or anyone associated with a team are not to consume any alcohol before, during or after any game at any game site.
   a. Smoking is not allowed on school property. LO Parks are also tobacco free. The use of tobacco products are not allowed on park property (field, stands, parking lots, etc.).

D. Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans.

E. Managers, players, coaches and fans are expected to help ensure the recreational spirit of this league.

F. Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to suspend any player, team manager or spectator from the league &/or premises for any single verbal or physical action/threat or multiple actions/threats deemed inappropriate for this league.

G. Refund of registration fees are not given to individuals suspended from the league.

H. Refund of registration fees are not given to any players from a team who chooses to drop out of the league once play has begun.

I. **Any player ejected from a game will receive an automatic, minimum one-game suspension for the next scheduled game.** This applies to regular season games and for tournament games. If the ejection happens during the last game of the tournament, the suspension will carry over to the first game(s) of the next season. Ejected/suspended players are asked to leave the premises immediately.

J. Concerns regarding the professionalism of umpires should be relayed to the Parks & Recreation Sports Division offices. Concerns will be addressed with the contracted officials association.

5. Rule Interpretations and Protests

A. Protests during or after the game will not be considered if it is solely on a decision involving judgment on the part of the umpire. Misinterpretation of a playing rule can be protested during the game in accordance with ASA rules and process. Protests regarding misinterpretation of a playing rule following games will not be considered.

B. Protests during a game regarding an ineligible player that is roster related: Please see league rule 3.J. above.

C. Rule interpretations and clarifications are made by the Parks & Recreation Department with input from the contracted officials association.

6. Score Reporting

A. Each team must furnish a scorekeeper. The home team is considered the official scorekeeper. It is recommended that both teams keep score and check with each other throughout the game to avoid misunderstandings. Please include first and last name and jersey number of the players in the scorebook. At the end of each game, the official scorekeeper (home team) or team manager must fill out the game report form and have each manager sign it. Game reports signed by both managers (or acting manager) are considered official and accurate.

B. Scores and standings will be posted on www.lakeoswegosports.com

7. Equipment & Uniforms

A. All softball equipment, except game balls, must be supplied by the teams. The home team is required to supply 2 new balls and the visiting team 2 slightly used balls for each game. Yellow 11" slow pitch softballs for women and Yellow 12" slow pitch softballs for men are used for games. No other softballs may be substituted.

B. Teams must play with uniform shirts that are alike in color with visible **printed** numbers (preferably 6" on the back). Numbers may not be written or taped on shirts. **All uniforms must be in compliance by the second week of play.** All players must have their own shirt - no duplicate numbers/no exchanging shirts during a game. A player entering the game without a uniform or without a number will not be allowed to play. A player coming to bat without a uniform and/or number on his/her shirt will automatically be out.
   a. No covering of the jersey is allowed. The jersey/numbers must be visible. Addition apparel must be worn under the jersey.

C. **Bats**: Players in all divisions will not be allowed to use bats listed on the current non-approved ASA bat list. Visit http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-ASA/Certified-ASA-Equipment.aspx for details. The list will also be contained in the clipboard at each ball field for reference.
   a. Umpires will do a bat check before each game.
   b. Players arriving late must check-in a bat with the umpire before it can be used
   c. Any bats found to be illegal must leave the premises or be put in the Parks & Rec equipment box (located behind the backstops) until the end of the game. An illegal bat may not remain in the dugout.
   d. A team manager/coach has the discretion to ask an umpire to do a bat check at any time.

D. Metal cleats are PROHIBITED.

E. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.

8. Insurance not provided

A. The City of Lake Oswego does not carry insurance covering softball injuries at either games or practices. The responsibility for obtaining such insurance is left to the individuals participating in the league. The City of Lake Oswego is not responsible for the loss or damage of personal items while participating in the league activities.
   a. ASA does offer Team and Individual Insurance through Bollinger. Check out their offerings at https://www.rpsbollinger.com/products-programs/asausa-softball/

9. Field Condition Email Subscription

A. The Parks & Recreation department now has an email notification system for status of fields. All managers and any players can subscribe to the list. An email will be sent daily with the playing conditions/field status for that evening. This is how you can find out if a game is playable, cancelled or questionable.
   a. Directions on how to subscribe:
   b. Visit https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/
   c. Click on 24/7
   d. Click on E-News Subscriptions
   e. Click on the Athletic Fields Updates box
   f. Enter email address at the bottom of the page
   g. Click on subscribe
   h. A confirmation/verification email will be sent, click on the link provided to verify.