



## **TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARK & RECREATION AUTHORITY Spring 2017 ASA SANCTIONED ADULT SOFTBALL BY-LAWS**

### **I. NAME AND PURPOSE**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Adult Softball League. Its membership shall consist of ASA teams duly registered by payment of entry fee and accepted by PARA. The league will be comprised of Men's Independent, Ladies Independent, Men's Church, Ladies Church, and Coed. Men's, Ladies Independent, and Coed leagues are for ages 16 and over. Ladies Church leagues are for ages 14 and over. Individuals must be minimum age by December 31, 2016. There will be no exceptions on minimum age requirements.
- B. An Adult Softball Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the PARA Board of Directors to coordinate all adult softball activities. Representatives from the Adult Advisory Committee shall serve as chairperson of his/her respective league committee. The purpose of the Adult Softball Advisory Committee is to strengthen the administration of the adult softball program, formulate and regulate by-laws of the league, generate community interest and support for the program and provide PARA staff with guidance to improve services. The Committee shall also hear and pass on appeals from the league committees. They shall hear and pass on automatic reviews to the committee (i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup> suspension of player/s, any situation including any act of violence to personal property and/or individual where law enforcement is called to intervene and investigate, etc.) and make recommendations to the Director of PARA action(s) to be taken against all involved for approval. The Director of PARA will make final notice of actions to be taken against all involved in any complaint investigated by the Adult Softball Advisory Committee.
- C. A league committee shall be established for each of the leagues. **Each committee shall consist of four or more representatives from the managers of the respective leagues.** No more than one representative shall be from any one team. It is the duty of each league committee, in cooperation with the league director, to supervise the program and enforce the rules, to divide teams in their league into divisions and to hear and pass on all protests and complaints (i.e., player eligibility, misinterpretation of a playing rule, failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule in a given situation, failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation and 1<sup>st</sup> ejection appeal(s)).

### **II. REGISTRATION**

- A. Teams must turn in a roster with a minimum of ten players listed **and entry fee or letter of commitment signed by an individual able to commit the organization for payment of fees by the registration deadline. A \$25.00 late registration fee will be assessed to teams that register after the registration deadline.** No team will be placed on the schedule without payment of fees or letter of commitment.
- B. **All fees pending due to letter of commitment must be paid by the 4<sup>th</sup> scheduled ballgame prior to 5:00 p.m. at a PARA office. Teams who have not had fees paid by the fourth game risk having to forfeit games until payment is received.**
- C. Church teams with revival requests must turn request in, in writing no later than the managers meeting. Requests will only be honored if received before league schedule is complete.

- D. League fees are broken down into two (2) categories: Men's Independent, Men's Church, and Ladies Independent- 12 game season with post season tournament and a 12 game season without post season tournament. Ladies Church, Coed Church, and Coed Independent 8 game season with post season tournament and an 8 game season without post season tournament. Any team that chooses to pay the fee for the tournament and decides not to play in the tournament during the time frame as outlined in the Spring 2017 ASA Sanctioned Adult Softball By-Laws may receive a refund for the cost of the tournament play only. Fees for the tournament and regular season fees are due at the time of registration. Teams may register for the regular season and may request to participate in the post season tournament if fees are paid, and PARA athletic department is notified before the last scheduled regular season game (not including rain-out make up games).
- E. Teams registered and paid in PARA ASA Sanctioned leagues are automatically registered with ASA. Fall league teams may be required by ASA to re-sanction regardless of whether they are the same team that participated in the spring/summer league. All league fees are non-refundable.

### III. ROSTERS

- A. A roster listing at least 10 players must be turned in prior to team league assignment. A completed roster with each players own legal signature, and mailing address must be turned in on an official roster no later than the **FIRST SCHEDULE BALL GAME, THE OFFICIAL ROSTER CAN BE ADMENDED THRU THE FOURTH SCHEDULE GAME. AFTER THE FOURTH SCHEDULED GAME ALL ROSTERS ARE FROZEN.**
- B. Church Rosters Only. A team roster shall consist of players, all of whom must be a member of the church for which he/she plays. EXCEPTION: Anyone who is not a member of any church and wishes to play for a church team must be a regular attendant of that church. Two or more churches may combine to form a team, which must be approved by the league committee. Pastors or duly assigned church representatives must sign the roster in the appropriate space certifying that all listed team members are eligible under the rules. Also, each player must indicate church affiliation on the roster where indicated.
- C. Any team that fails to turn in a completed roster prior to the league committee meeting to place teams into their respective divisions will be placed in the top division of their league. If a completed roster has not been turned in by the 4<sup>th</sup> scheduled game that team will be subject to forfeiture of scheduled game(s) until such time that a completed roster has been turned in. Managers/Coaches failing to turn in a roster by league tournament time shall cause his/her team to be ineligible for tournament play. Rosters will not be accepted at the beginning or during tournament play.
- D. Players may be added to or dropped from a roster until the league deadlines for player drop/add. The deadline for adding or dropping a player is the **fourth scheduled game**. This includes games, which are scheduled but rained out.

### IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. A player **must be on and have personally signed the team roster with their legal signature and mailing address in order to be eligible to play for that team.** The coach of the team is responsible for ensuring that players on his/her roster are eligible and have personally signed the roster. Participants may participate on a church, an independent, AND a coed team. **PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT PLAY ON TWO INDEPENDENT, CHURCH, OR COED TEAMS. (I.E. EVEN IF IT IS A DIFFERENT DIVISION OF SAID GROUPS)**

**When and/or if it is brought to the attention of the Adult Softball Advisory Committee that a player maybe ineligible an immediate investigation will be conducted that may result in suspension of said player and /or coach/team representative inserting said player into their lineup roster.**

- B. Violation of this rule shall result in forfeiture of game(s) in which ineligible player participated and suspension of player and coach/ team representative who inserted ineligible player in his/her lineup for a minimum of two games. Repeat violations will be handled by the advisory committee. Pickup player rule is listed on page seven (7) of by-laws.

**A league may consist of several divisions but, the divisions are still all under that league. (Example Men's Independent League: Divisions –National North, National South, American South, etc.) EXCEPTION: participant(s) may play for a church, independent and coed church and coed independent without a penalty.**

## V. GAMES

### \*\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*\*

Teams that turn in a blank roster without an addendum before the league committee meeting will automatically be placed in the top division of your respective league.

- A. LEAGUE DIVISION. At the start of the season the league committee will place teams in a division according to previous years' record, players on roster, and league tournament results. After approximately three weeks of play, there may be a one week break in play to review division/league placement and make-up any rain outs (this applies to spring/summer season only. Fall season does not have a break in play. League adjustments in the fall may be made by league committee for tournament play). Respective league committees, with the program supervisor, will review the placement of the teams in the various divisions/leagues and, as deemed necessary, will move any team to what they feel is the appropriate division/league for proper competition.
- B. GAME TIMES. Game times are 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, and 9:15. Game time is forfeit time for all games.
1. A game shall be forfeited to the team with the most eligible players on the field if one or both teams do not have at least 9 (nine) players (both regular season and tournament play). If both teams have the same number of players a coin toss will decide winner (with the exception of rule two below).
  2. A game in progress, temporarily suspended by weather, and resumed with neither team having enough players to complete the game will have the winner decided in the order: a) the team with the most players present, b) the team with the most runs at the end of the last completed inning, or c) in the event of a tie in "a" and "b", a coin toss.
  3. Umpires will not call forfeit games.
  4. The team winning by forfeit may use the field until 10 minutes prior to the next game.
  5. If a team forfeits as many as 4 (four) games during the regular season, it becomes ineligible for league play thereafter, including the post season tournament. If a team is going to forfeit a game it is the responsibility of the coach to notify the program supervisor at least 6 hours prior to game time if at all possible. Scheduled games with ineligible teams shall be forfeited to their opponents beforehand.
- C. INJURIES.
1. Blood Rule. A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall: a) stop the game and immediately call a coach, trainer or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment.
  2. A game may finish with one less (8 players) than required (9 players) to start a game.
  3. If the injured player leaving the game is a runner/batter the runner/batter shall be declared out.
  4. Every time injured person's name comes up in the batting order it will be treated as an automatic out.

5. If playing shorthanded and a substitute arrive, they must be inserted immediately into the vacant (injured person's) spot in the batting order.
6. The injured player who has left the game cannot return to the lineup.  
EXCEPTION: A player who has left the game under the blood rule may return even after missing a turn at bat.
7. Each player assumes full responsibility for himself/herself in case of injury. PARA has no insurance to cover umpires, players or spectators injuries or ambulance calls to the park. The individual assumes these costs.

**D.COURTESY RUNNER: A courtesy runner for Men's Church will be allowed from 1<sup>st</sup> base only. The runner will be the batter or runner who made the last out.**

**E.Jewelry** All participants will be allowed to participate in the adult softball league with piercings that are not the stud type.(bar bell type without the stud backing). Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry.

**F. PLAYING TIME.** Each game shall consist of not less than 55 minutes of playing time. **The game time will start at the end of plate conference and will be kept by the home plate umpire and announced to both team representatives at the plate conference. A stop watch will be placed on the fence showing the game time and remain there the entire game. (As a backup to the scoreboard clock as long as it's operational, Scoreboard clock is official.)** No inning shall start after 55 minutes from the beginning of the game. An inning in progress is to be completed. The ten-run rule will be in effect after 5 innings and fifteen-run rule after 4 innings. **The ASA twenty-run rule after 3 innings does not apply in the PARA Adult Softball League during regular season or tournament.** No pre-game warm up will be allowed on the infield prior to each game. PARA shall designate the time, date and field on which each game will be played.

**G. REGULAR SEASON TIE GAMES** will be played out only when time permits.

**H. ADMISSION.** No admission will be charged for any league games. There will be admission charged for any ASA District, Sub-State, State, Regional, or National Tournament.

**I. PARA WILL PROVIDE** a field supervisor, two umpires, scorekeeper, and a field ready for use for each game. Each team is encouraged to provide a first aid kit.

**J. INCLEMENT WEATHER.** All rained out games will be made up as fields become available. Rain delays will be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes, after which games in progress will either be continued or canceled.

**K. GAME CANCELLATIONS.** No decision on game cancellations will be made earlier than 12:00 noon unless it is readily apparent that play cannot occur. The PARA Director of Physical Facilities will make the decision. When a decision is made, information will be forwarded to the PARA rainout hotline with the number and categories listed below:

SOKOL PARK RAIN OUTS                      562-9133 and follow the prompts

BOWERS PARK RAIN OUTS                      562-9133 and follow the prompts

Regular season games rained out in progress and not official games will be replayed in their entirety.

Tournament games rained out in progress will be resumed at the point play suspended.

**L. HOME AND VISITOR TEAM.** Home and Visitor for regular season games will be designated by the schedule. Home and Visitor for post season tournament games will be determined by coin toss.

**M. LINEUPS** It is the manager's/coach/team representative's responsibility to hand in team lineup to the scorekeeper or field supervisor on the field that the team is scheduled to play on at **least 10 minutes prior to forfeit time. First initials, Last name,** and jersey numbers are to be listed. Person making lineup and turning it in should include his/her name on the lineup as the responsible person. No steel cleats will be allowed for league or tournament play.

**N. SCHEDULES.** Schedules for all leagues are final once published. Church affiliated teams must submit dates for revival no later than team registration deadline.

## **VI. POST SEASON TOURNAMENT**

- A. **DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENTS.** At the end of the regular season, PARA will arrange a series of double elimination tournaments on an ASA bracket with teams seeded by regular season order of finish. League standings include all games played during the regular season even if team(s) changed leagues.
- B. **TIME LIMIT.** Tournament games will be played within one hour and five minutes (65 minutes). **The game time will start at the end of plate conference and will be kept by the home plate umpire and announced to both team representatives at the plate conference. A stop watch will be placed on the fence showing the game time and remain there the entire game. (As a backup to the scoreboard clock as long as it's operational. Scoreboard clock is official.)** All championship games will be 7 innings. Tie games will be played until a winner is determined. Both ten (10) and fifteen (15) run rules will be in effect. **The ASA twenty (20) run rule will not be in effect.**
- C. **TIME, DATE AND LOCATION.** It is the responsibility of each team manager to find out the time, date and location of their tournament game. Tournament games suspended by weather (and not official games) will be resumed at the exact point they were stopped. All tournaments will begin the next regular playing day following the conclusion of the regular season and any make up games.
- D. **TROPHIES.** Trophies will be awarded in league tournament based upon a minimum of teams in a league. Eight teams or more – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places; seven teams or less – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places only. For regular season play, a trophy will be awarded to the team with the best record in their league. All games will be used to determine a league winner, even if a team was moved from another league during regular season play. In the event of a tie, head-to-head won/loss record against team(s) with identical records will be used. If this record is again equal, the team allowing the fewer total runs during a season will be declared the winner. Should this be tied also, another tie breaker method will be used by the Adult Softball Advisory Committee to determine a champion.

## **VII. PLAYER/COACH/PARTICIPANT/SPECTATOR CONDUCT**

- A. **PARA ATHLETIC PROGRAMS HAVE A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON ANY AND ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE, ASSAULT AND ABUSE. (i.e. VERBAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL). These include, but are not limited to such forms of abuse as: yelling, threatening, using profanity, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality, sex or age.** Any violations of this rule may lead to a hearing by the Adult Softball Advisory Committee, arrest and further disciplinary action up to and including termination of privileges to participate in all PARA activities, events, programs and use of facilities. Any violations of the PARA adult softball by-laws will require a hearing before the league committee, or the adult softball advisory committee. If there is any adverse action taken by this committee the individuals involved will be notified by certified mail at the address listed on the roster of the committee decision. Individuals involved will have 30 days after the notice has been sent to appeal the decision of the appropriate committee. Notice of intent to appeal the decision must be submitted to the PARA Adult Program Supervisor in writing within the 30 day period.

**B. Any Infraction of the Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority ASA Sanctioned Adult Softball By-Laws will be investigated, when it is brought to the attention of the Adult Softball Advisory Committee, whether by protest or otherwise that any infraction of the By-Laws has occurred. The alleged infraction will be looked into by said committee to determine if any infraction of the By-Laws did indeed occur. If determined the infraction is a violation of any of our By-Laws then the committee will take appropriate action to address said violation if one has occurred.**

**C. EJECTIONS.** Any ejection by an umpire from any game results in an automatic two (2) game suspension with the opportunity to appeal the second game. A suspension may be longer than two games if ruled so by the Adult Softball Advisory Committee. The fee for the ejection appeal is \$40.00 and is refundable if the ejection is overturned. **Umpires should ensure that ejected person/s know that they have been ejected from the game by immediately notifying the field supervisor / scorekeeper and said player and coach of the ejection. A second ejection cannot occur until player/ spectator and coach have been notified of the ejection. Ejected individuals must leave the park (playing field, softball complex and parking lot) immediately without causing a disturbance. Two ejections in one (1) year may result in a one (1) year suspension. Failure to leave the park constitutes a suspension and the individual must appear before the Adult Softball Advisory Committee, before resuming play with any PARA sanctioned team. Suspension for failure to leave may result in a suspension of one (1) year.**

A written appeal of the ejection must be turned in to PARA Athletics by 2:00 p.m. on the following working day.

**D. UMPIRES - Penalty for not doing paperwork such as ejection report. – Whenever a person is ejected from a game the official making the ejection, after making all verbal notifications of the ejection, will complete the written ejection documentation before leaving the complex for the night. The other official will also make a report of any activity he/she observed pertaining to the ejection. If written documentation of the ejection is not completed then the official responsible for the ejection will be subject to a complaint from PARA with recommendation made to the Umpire Association for discipline.**

**E. SUSPENSIONS.** Any person who physically strikes or verbally threatens a player, coach, umpire, or person will be immediately suspended from the park. Such person may be suspended up to permanent suspension from any and all PARA events, activities and facilities and will have a hearing before the Adult Softball Advisory Committee. This rule applies at any time before, during, or after any game.

**When an individual is ejected and/or suspended from league play they shall not be allowed in softball complexes and parking lots adjacent to softball complex while serving out his/her suspension unless special permission is granted by the Director of PARA or his/her representative acting in the Director's behalf.**

A written appeal of the suspension must be turned into PARA Athletics by 2:00 p.m. on the following working day.

**F. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:** The coach of the team is responsible for ensuring that players on his/her roster are eligible. Violations of this rule shall result in forfeiture of game(s) in which the ineligible player/participant participated and suspension of player/coach/ team representative who inserted ineligible player in his/her lineup for a minimum of two games.

**G. USE OF ALCOHOL/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:** Neither alcoholic beverages nor illegal substances are permitted at any time at any park. Any person(s) discovered using alcoholic beverages or illegal substances on park premises (including parking lots) will be suspended. **The user(s) of alcohol/illegal substances on park premises will be subject to criminal charges being brought against them and/or arrest.**

**H. COMPLEX RULES**

1. There will be no glass containers allowed within any softball complex.
2. No dogs, skateboards, or bikes are allowed within any softball complex.

## VIII. BALLS

- A. Each men's team must furnish one playable ASA approved restricted flight 12" ball for each regular season game and one new ASA approved restricted flight 12" ball for each tournament game. All Men's leagues will use the .520-core ball compression 300.lbs or under with the ASA logo indicating it is as ASA approved ball.
- B. Each ladies team must furnish one playable ASA approved 11" ball for each regular season game and one new ASA approved 11" ball for each tournament game. Each ball must be a **.520-core ball compression of 300 lbs with ASA logo indicating it is an ASA approved ball.**
- C. Umpires will decide whether or not ball is acceptable. Failure to use a new ball for tournament play will not result in forfeiture of the ballgame.
- D. No "lively" softballs will be allowed in league play. Determination of "lively" balls disallowed for league and tournament play will be made by the Adult Softball Advisory Committee. All balls must be ASA approved for appropriate league.
- E. Each team will hit their own ball. NOTE: In the event one ball is put out of play, a second ball will be put in play and used with no delay of game. If the second ball is hit out and neither ball has been returned, a playable ball must be submitted immediately. A team shall not stall the game waiting on a ball to be returned.

## IX. BATS

- A. **All bats must be ASA approved.** A list of approved bats will be posted in the field house. Others may be deemed to be illegal by ASA and/or AASA or Adult Softball Advisory Committee at a later date. A list of approved bats may be obtained on line at the ASA web site @ [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com).

## X. HOME RUNS AND HOME RUN LIMITS

- A. If a batter hits a home run, then he must tag first base and return to his dug out; all batters on base will circle the bases.
- B. **All leagues will have a over the fence home run limit per team per game. All over the fence home runs after the home run limit has been reached will be considered a out.**

- C. **The limit for each league will be as stated below:**

National North six (6) per/game  
National South four (4) per/ game  
American North two (2) per/ game  
American South two (2) per / game  
International North one (1) per/ game  
All Men's Church four (4) per/ game  
All coed leagues two (2) per/ game

## XI. PROTESTS

- A. It is the duty of each league committee, in cooperation with PARA, to supervise the program, enforce the rules, and hear and pass on all protests and complaints. Protests that will be received and considered concern matters of the following types:
1. **Eligibility of Players.** Any protest made on the eligibility of a player on an opposing team must be done while they are in the game **and** before the umpire leaves the playing field. The manager or team

representative then has until 2:00 p.m. of the next working day to put a formal protest in writing along with a \$20.00 protest fee, and bring it to the Belk Activity Center office.

2. Misinterpretation of a Playing Rule; Failure of an Umpire to Apply the Correct Rule in a Given Situation; and Failure to Impose the Correct Penalty for a Given Violation. Any protest must be made immediately before the next pitch, by the manager or acting manager, by notifying the plate umpire that the game is being continued under protest. The plate umpire will then notify the scorekeeper and opposing manager and have the scorekeeper to indicate on the score sheet the time of protest, inning and time remaining in game. After the game all umpires involved will sign off on the score sheet ensuring that the time of occurrence, inning and time remaining is indicated on score sheet. Please complete any other necessary paperwork to be forwarded to the league advisory committee. The manager or team representative then has until 2:00 p.m. of the next working day to put a formal protest in writing along with a \$20.00 protest fee, and bring it to the Belk Activity Center located in Bowers Park. If the protest is upheld, the \$20.00 protest fee will be refunded.

B. All formal protests should contain the following information:

1. The date, time, and place the game was played.
2. **The time and inning that the infraction, protest occurred.**
3. **The time remaining in the game.**
4. The names of the umpires, scorekeeper, and field supervisor.
5. The rules and section of the ASA rules or league by-laws under which the protest is made.
6. The decision and conditions surrounding the making of a decision.
7. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.

## **XII. PICK UP PLAYER**

A. Pick Up Player Rule. This rule applies to regular season games only. **Players may NOT be picked up for post season tournament games.**

1. Player must be on a PARA ASA sanctioned team roster.
2. Men's or ladies teams may pick up as many players as needed to play a game as long as the majority of the players are from their own team roster (as many as four) during the regular season.
3. A game may begin or finish with one less than required by ASA. The vacant position must be listed last in the batting order. The vacant position in the batting order **will not be recorded as an out.**
4. **Pick up players must be listed on the line up after the teams regular players and must be at the end of the lineup, (teams may not pick up player(s) to make a ten person team.( except for coed teams.)** If regular team member(s) arrive during course of the game, pick up player(s) must be substituted.
5. **Coed teams must have (6) players from their roster present to be eligible to pick up four players, (observing 5 males/ 5 female ratio)** to complete a ten player line up to play a game, or have the option to play the game short handed with nine players, in which (6) of those must be from their own roster with the other three being pick up players. Coed teams may pickup players to make a roster of ten, if a team elects to play with only nine (9) players, the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order becomes an out. The coach shall list the 10<sup>th</sup> position on the lineup card as "out."
6. Pick up player(s) may play any position but must bat last in lineup.
7. Lineup card must indicate for which team pick up player regularly plays.

B. Penalty for Illegal Pick-Up Player Use.

1. If it is determined that a pick up player is not signed on a team roster as indicated, team will forfeit the game in which player participated.
2. Use of illegal player will result in suspension of that player and coach/team representative using illegal player for two games. Repeat offenders will be dealt with by the Adult Softball Advisory Committee.



3. Use of pick up player(s) in tournament games will result in suspension of pick up player and the coach of the team adding player(s) for time limit specified in league by-laws for use of illegal player.

### **XIII. GOVERNMENT**

The 2017 Official ASA Softball Rules as approved by the Joint Rules Committee of ASA will govern play, with the exception of the above by-laws.

- A. The preceding by-laws were adopted by your Adult Softball Advisory Committee and shall be enforced and will be effective for one year (with possible amendments for fall league play).

