



# City of Pataskala

## Parks and Recreation Department Co-Ed Adult Softball Rules and Regulations 2024

### I. Fees

There will be an entry fee of **\$385.00** per team which must be paid in full before the first game of the season

### II. Team Roster

#### A. *Roster Minimum/Maximum*

A minimum of eight (8) player will be allowed on a roster and a maximum of twenty (20). Rosters must be submitted to the Parks & Recreation Department before the first game of the season. Changes can be made on the roster up until the second week of the season. After the second week of the season, the roster is frozen.

#### B. *Age Limit*

All players must be 18 years or older.

#### C. *Playoffs*

Only players listed on the roster are eligible to play. All players must have played in at least 30 % of your regular season games to be eligible for playoff and may be required show a photo ID before taking the field. Any player without a photo ID at playoffs will be ineligible to play.

#### D. *Sanctioned Players*

There will be only 2 male players (Current or within past year in Class D or below) on any team in this recreational coed softball league from USSSA, One Nation or Premier Softball League. You can have unlimited sanctioned females (Class C and below). If your team has submitted more than 2 sanctioned Class D or below males, the team will forfeit any further games until the roster is confirmed legally compliant with the board. If your team is found playing with more than 2 sanctioned Class D or below males, you will forfeit those games that have been played. The board will check every submitted for a sanctioned rank at the beginning of the Spring/Summer league.

### III. General Park Rules

#### A. ***Parking Lot***

Please drive slowly in our parking lot. WATCH FOR CHILDREN! Only vehicles with handicap stickers may park in the designated handicap spot.

#### B. ***City of Pataskala Section 955 of the Codified Ordinances***

All participants, visitors, and guest must adhere to Section 955 Parks of the City Codified Ordinance. (Available on the City of Pataskala website)

#### C. ***Food & Beverage***

Food or beverages may be brought into the park. We reserve the right to stop and inspect all bags that are brought into the park. Anyone caught consuming alcohol will be ejected from their game and asked to leave. Consumption of alcohol in the parking lot is strictly prohibited.

#### D. ***Bicycles, skates, and pets***

Absolutely no bicycles, skates, or pets are permitted on the softball fields. There are no exceptions to this rule.

#### E. ***Dugouts***

Only managers, players and coaches are permitted in the dugout. Smoking is not permitted in the dugouts, spectator areas, and practice areas or near the concession stands or porta johns. Additionally, evidence of alcohol abuse will not be tolerated in the dugout or on the field.

#### F. ***Injuries/First Aid***

Pataskala has a limited first aid supply, which is kept in the softball garage. Paramedics, Fire and Police Department services are within minutes of the facility. All managers are required to carry a minimal first aid kit. A completed injury report must be filed with the Parks Manager for any injury sustained while on grounds and/or participating in the City of Pataskala Adult Softball League.

### IV. Playing Rules

#### A. ***Sanction***

United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) rules will govern all play unless otherwise stated in these rules.

#### B. ***Authority of the City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department***

The above reserves the right to interpret rules and all situations. Furthermore, the above reserves the right to insert, delete, or change rules at any time. Additionally, the above is empowered to make decisions retroactive, should it deem necessary for the benefit of the league. The above will be the final authority on all plays, rules, and situations.

### **C. *Umpires***

Umpires will always oversee the games. The umpires will review the ground rules before the game with both managers. It is the responsibility of each manager to advise their players of the ground rules.

### **D. *Base Running***

The City of Pataskala requires that all runners get out of the way while going into a base or home plate instead of attempting to jar a ball loose or colliding with the defensive players. If the defensive player clearly has the ball, is waiting for the runner, and the runner intentionally runs into or crashes into the defensive player, the runner is declared out. The offender is ejected, the ball is dead, and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of collision. This rule is subject to the interpretation of the umpire.

### **E. *Commitment Line***

A three-foot commitment line shall be marked across and perpendicular to the foul line and placed forty-five (45) feet from home plate. Once a runner has crossed the commitment line, he/she: (a) cannot return to third base; (b) must continue home; (c) does not have to be tagged out by the defensive player; the defensive player can touch home plate.

**EXCEPTION:** A runner who “committed”, passed the commitment line, may return to third base after a caught fly ball OR to touch a base previously missed.

### **F. *Batters***

Each batter enters the box with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike. After three balls, the batter is awarded his/her base. Any foul ball hit with two (2) strikes on the batter is an out.

#### **1. Home Plate and Strike Zone Mat**

1. Legal pitches striking ANY portion of the home plate (Including the black) and/or the strike zone mat shall be strikes.
2. Together, home plate and the strike zone mat will form a rectangular shape.

### **G. *Pitching***

1. The pitch shall be released with an underhand motion at a moderate speed. The speed is left entirely up to the umpire. The umpire shall warn the pitcher who delivers a pitch with excessive speed. If the pitcher repeats such an act, after being warned, he/she shall be removed from the pitcher’s position for the remainder of the game.
2. The ball must be delivered with a distinctive arch of at least 6 feet from the ground after it leaves the pitcher’s hand until it reached home plate. The pitched ball shall not reach a height of more than 10 feet at his highest point. There will be no quick pitching or pump faking.

### **H. *Courtesy Runners***

You may have one male and/or female courtesy runner per inning. The batter must always get to first base. The courtesy runner shall be the most previous (same gender as batter) player that

has been called out. You must notify the umpire each time you are ready to put the courtesy runner on base. If somehow the courtesy runner is still on base and their turn comes up to bat, they must take an out and stay on base.

**I. Home Run Limits**

3 home runs that are hit over the fence will be valid, after that each home run during the rest of the game will be considered an out. The team that hit the home run is required to retrieve the ball prior to the end of the game. If the ball is not retrieved, the team that hit the home run will owe \$5 per missing ball. This fee will not be assessed if effort is put forth looking for ball. If this fee is not paid by the end of the regular season, the team will not be participating in the tournament. Umpires will track this.

**J. Run Rules**

A run rule will be in effect for all games including the end of the year playoffs. If a team is ahead by 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, or 10 runs after 5 innings and beyond, the game will be considered complete.

**K. Batting Order**

1. No more than 2 of the same sex shall bat in a row. For example (2 men in a row then a female must follow, or 2 females then a male must follow). You must follow the team batting order during the entire game. If you are short a male or female, then an out must be taken by the team for each time the absent player comes up in the batting order. There needs to be between 8-10 players (depending on how many you are playing in the outfield) on your lineup and no more than 12. If using 12 people, it will be 1 male and 1 female. Which means you may have 2 extra batters, but you must still follow the batting order rules, with no more than 2 of the same sex batting in a row, and they must be on the team roster. The one exemption is a team can bat 16 players if both team managers agree before the game and notify the umpire of said agreement.

2. If a male batter is walked, he will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base and the following female will have the option to take a walk to 1<sup>st</sup> base or hit. If a female chooses to walk, the male player will be moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. If she chooses to hit, then the male stays on 1<sup>st</sup> base.

**L. Number of Players in Field**

A team must have at least 8 players to start the game but no more than 10 on the field at one time. If only 8 players are on the field, there must be 3 males and 3 females (1 male and 1 female in the outfield, and 2 males and 2 females in the infield) with the pitcher/catcher being either male or female with equals 8 players on the field.

1. If 10 players are on the field, there must be 4 males and 4 females (at least 1 female in the outfield) with the pitcher/catcher being either male or female which equals to 10 players on the field.

**M. Home Plate**

All plays at home plate will be force plays. Once a player's foot touches the ground past the commitment line, they are committed to advance home. If the runner retreats across the commitment line the runner is declared out and the ball remains alive. **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SLIDING AT HOME PLATE.** If a player slides, it is an automatic out. The catcher is to stand on the plate and the runner is to utilize the black mat behind home plate to limit collisions.

**N. Position Placement**

When a player is at bat, all players are to maintain their normal positions while all outfielders must remain at least 175 feet from home plate until the ball is hit. There will be a line in the outfield to designate this mark.

**O. Time Limit/Length of Game**

The scheduled length of any game played at Foundation Park is 7 innings or a 70-minute time limit. If the time limit expires during the home teams at bat and they are winning the game, then the game is over. If the time limit has expired in the middle of an inning with the away team at bat, the inning must be completed.

**V. Equipment**

**A. Shoes**

The only spikes that can be worn are those with plastic or rubber molded bottoms. Athletic shoes with metal cleats are illegal and are not to be worn by players. Umpires will enforce this rule.

**B. Softball Bats**

All softball bats used MUST conform to the guidelines set forth by the USSSA rules. All bats must be approved by USSSA with the USSSA stamp.

**C. Softballs**

All games played at Foundation Park through the City of Pataskala must be played with an official ball provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. These balls will be a minimum of .44 core with a .325 compression. If the ball goes out of play on your side of the field, your team must retrieve the ball. All back up balls do not have to be new but must be an official ball provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. The team that hits the home run must retrieve the ball or be subject to a fine.

## **VI. Miscellaneous Information**

### **A. Website/Facebook Group**

Our league website is [www.adultpataskalasoftball.com](http://www.adultpataskalasoftball.com)

Our Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/groups/pataskalacoedsoftball](https://www.facebook.com/groups/pataskalacoedsoftball)

### **B. Schedules/Standings**

Managers are responsible for attaining the schedule for their teams at the manager meeting prior to the start of the season. Furthermore, managers are responsible to check their schedule for changes following any rain out or cancellation. For schedules, updated standings, cancellations, or any other type of information regarding the league, please visit the City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation website or the above listed Facebook page.

### **C. Uniforms**

Team shirts with either a name and/or number on back are required in this league by the start of week 2.

### **D. Game Times**

Managers are responsible for having their team ready to play at the schedule game time. A 5-minute grace period will be given on each diamond for that day. If one or both teams do not have the minimum number of players after the 5-minute grace period, there will be a forfeit. The game will officially begin when the umpire calls the home team to take the field. At this time, the official game clock will begin. There will be no new inning after 60 minutes.

### **E. Rain Out/Cancelling Games**

Games can be called at the fields or earlier in the day prior to the scheduled match. Check the city website or the Facebook page for this information. Information pertaining to the makeup date for a rain out will be posted as soon as it is determined. Decisions, if possible, will be made at 10am on the weekends and not before then. In case of any rain or act of God, the game can be called by the umpire due to field conditions, thunder, or lightning (wait 30 minutes after each roll of thunder/lightning until time expires for the game) or any other unforeseen conditions that would interfere with playing of a game. If this happens before the 4<sup>th</sup> inning is played, the game will be rescheduled.

### **F. Make-Up Games**

We will try to play all make-up games on the same day your league is played. However, it is sometimes not possible to do so. Make-up games could be played on Sunday's from 9a – 7p or on weekdays. Managers will receive at least a 3-day notice on all make-up games. A missed makeup game is a forfeit.

### **G. Forfeits/Fees**

Forfeits will happen from time to time, which greatly inconvenience others who make the trip to the fields to play. All forfeits must be called or emailed to a member of the Adult Softball Board preferably the day before the game but no later than 9a the morning of your game. The board

will then notify the Parks Manager of the forfeit. The opposing team will be awarded 10 runs for a forfeit. The penalty for multiple forfeits will be as follows:

1. First forfeit – Warning
2. Second forfeit - \$25 fee to be paid prior to being allowed to play in the next game.
3. Third forfeit – Team will be ejected from the league for remainder of the current season.

#### **H. *Rosters***

Players can only be on 1 team roster. All rosters MUST be turned in prior to the team's first game of the season. Changes can be made on the roster up until the second week of the season. After the second week of the season, the roster is frozen. All players must be listed on any team's roster that is playing in the league. You must have at least 4 male and 2 female players from your team roster if you must use substitutes from other teams. No additional hitters will be allowed if this occurs. If you do not, then this will be counted as a forfeit unless the other team agrees to the changes. You cannot use a sub from another team while benching one of your rostered players. Any team that does not have a roster turned in by the stated deadline will not be permitted to play in their next scheduled game. All team rosters must be filled out completely. All players must have a driver's license or government issued ID on them at all times in case of a player eligibility protest. Teams will not be permitted to use subs during the league playoffs.

#### **I. *Lineups***

Lineups must be filled out completely with both first/last name and position. Each team shall exchange lineups prior to the first pitch. The home team is responsible for keeping the official book for that game. Lineup cards must be completed each game and turned into the umpire.

#### **J. *Adding/Removing Players***

Each team must have 8 eligible players to start the game. A team may add in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> player at any time during the game. When adding the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> player they must be entered at the bottom of the batting order. If a team begins with 9, 10, 11, or 12 players and a player is injured and there is no replacement, they can remove this player from the lineup with no penalty. If a team has a player that is ejected or leaves the game for personal reasons, they may be replaced. If a team does not have a replacement, an OUT will be awarded in the batting order spot of the player who left the game. Any replacements or substitutes that need to be made during the game, need to be already listed on the roster for that team.

#### **K. *Protesting Rules***

Protests must be filed with the umpire or member of the Adult Softball Board before the next pitch. The specific protest must be noted on the score sheet at the time the rule in question is raised. The umpire and at least 1 board member (whether present or on call) will meet with both team managers to discuss the protest which will be ruled on immediately, if possible. If the protest cannot be ruled on at that time, the game will be completed. The protest will then go before the park manager. Protests will not be accepted after the game has been completed.

#### **L. *Protesting Player Eligibility***

Starting players may not be protested after the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. Substitutes may be checked anytime as they enter the game, but before they complete their turn at bat. The following is the proper way to handle a player protest.

1. Indicate to the umpire the player or players who are being questioned.
2. The umpire will then meet with both managers and the players in question where the rosters will be checked. Players must have their driver's license or government ID with them.
3. The protest will then be decided by the umpire and a member of the board if possible. If a roster position has been completed for the player(s) in question, the game will continue.
4. If the protest is upheld, the illegal player and team manager will be ejected for the remainder of the game. The game will continue from the exact point when the protest was lodged.

#### **M. *Ejections***

If any player is ejected from a game, they are not eligible to play for the remainder of the game and the remainder of the day. This is automatic regardless of the circumstances. The Adult Softball Board will review every ejection immediately and notify the park manager. The review may result in further suspensions. Managers will be advised of the decisions. Any fight that takes place anywhere in the complex will result in the automatic suspension for the individual(s) involved from Foundation Park and The City of Pataskala Adult Softball League for the remainder of the season.

#### **N. *Final Standings***

Two-way ties will be determined by head-to-head competition. If teams' records are tied or teams did not play each other, the total number of runs allowed will be used. If teams are still tied, then total number of runs scored will be used.

#### **O. *End of Season Playoff***

The top 8 teams will advance to a single elimination playoff at the end of the season. Teams in the championship will have 2-coin tosses to determine what team gets to pick for home team and to determine who the home team is. This will be conducted by the umpire with both team managers.

#### **P. *Awards***

Trophies or plaques will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams.

Approved as Written:

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Lenier Crawford, City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Manager

