

COUNTY OF YORK
DIVISION OF PARK, RECREATION AND TOURISM
ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE
2016 FALL BY-LAWS

The Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism reserves the right to change or alter any rules or regulations that it deems necessary in order to conduct this program.

Section 1 – Registration and Eligibility.

1. Registration for previous teams begins August 1, with open registration beginning August 8. If there are not enough teams in one division, those teams will have the option to play in the other league.
2. Each team may carry up to 20 players, (coed 30 players), under contract. Team rosters must be turned in to the Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism in person on **Wednesday, August 24, 2016**. Rosters will not be accepted on the telephone or by mail. Teams may add and/or delete players to their rosters in order to reach the player limit until September 16, 2016. Players who have participated in a league game may not switch rosters at any time during the season.
3. All team rosters shall be considered frozen at 10:00 p.m. September 16, 2016.
4. Prior to participating each player must complete and sign a roster form and be added to the roster by the coach. The roster forms will remain on file until the completion of the program.
 - a. The first team a player plays for in the regular season game will be the player's permanent team in the league (men's or coed).
 - b. Any team that plays an ineligible player will be charged with a forfeit for all games in which the ineligible player participated.
 - c. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that all participating players are registered and eligible to participate on their team. If a player's eligibility is in question the coach should check with site supervisor prior to a player participating.
 - d. A player found guilty of participating in a game for a team that is not their permanent team is subject to being suspended from the program.
5. A player playing in the men's division **is** eligible to participate in the coed division.
6. Players must be at least 18 years of age on or before September 17, 2016, in order to participate in the men's league. Players must be 16 years old on or

before September 17, 2016, in order to participate in the co-ed league.

7. Teams that play in the Spring/Summer Adult softball league will be eligible to pre-register for the Fall softball league unless they forfeit out of the Spring/Summer regular season. Teams that **only** play in the Fall Adult softball league will not be eligible to pre-register for the next seasons Spring/Summer softball program; they will be treated as a new team and will need to register at the open registration dates.

Section 2 - Uniforms and Equipment.

1. **No steel or metal spikes are allowed.** All persons on the playing field must wear appropriate shoes. No watches, large belt buckles, or any other jewelry deemed by the umpire to be unsafe will be allowed. The player will not be allowed to participate until the item is removed.
2. All game balls .40 coefficient of restitution (COR) maximum softball shall be provided by the Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. After each game, the score keeper or site supervisor shall collect the game ball(s) provided by the division. Each team must retrieve foul balls and or home run balls hit during game play. The umpire will be the sole authority as to whether a ball is legal and playable. **For the 2016 season all 12” softballs must have a maximum .40 COR or less and not exceed a 325-PSI compression rating and have a legible sanction stamp, balls with a minimum .40 COR or that exceed a 325-PSI compression rating will be illegal.**

NOTE: York County Parks, Recreation and Tourism will not accept USSSA’s 12” Classic Plus Ball as outlined in the 2016 USSSA Slow Pitch Rulebook. The 12” Classic Plus Ball will be considered illegal.

3. All teams/players participating in this league will be required to wear uniform shirts.
 - a. ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE UNIFORMS BY September 16, 2016. Beginning September 16, teams without all participating players in uniform **will not** be allowed to begin the game.
 - b. Numbers are recommended, but not required. The body of the shirts must be of **like colors**.
 - c. Baseball undershirts (sleeves) all must have the same color sleeves as the uniform shirt.
 - d. Once the game begins, all participating players shall be considered as having eligible jerseys.
4. Bases shall be provided by the Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and will be set at **70** feet. **PERMANENT IMMOVABLE BASES ARE USED ON THESE FIELDS.** (Tabb Middle School is the exception as it has break away

bases). At Chisman Creek Park and the McReynold's Athletic Complex orange safety bases are used at first base. On force plays at first base, the batter-runner MUST touch the orange base and the defensive player must touch the white base. A player may use either base on subsequent plays or non-force plays at first base.

5. Catcher's or pitcher masks are optional. Teams must furnish their own catcher's masks.

Section 3 – Practices, Game Schedules, and Forfeits.

1. Teams shall be responsible for scheduling their own practices **before** the coaches meeting. Additional practices after the coaches meeting may be scheduled through the Parks, Recreation and Tourism office.
2. At no time are teams allowed to practice on the playing field prior to or following a scheduled game.
3. If a game is forfeited, the teams may use the field, but must be off the field 10 minutes prior to the next scheduled game. The umpire will **not** officiate any "practice game" played.
4. Any team forfeiting 2 games during the regular season (lack of players, no uniforms after deadline, ineligible players) will be automatically dropped from the league. For teams that are scheduled to play 2 games in 1 night, **both games are considered as only 1 forfeit**. Forfeiting two games will result in suspension for the remainder of the league. Any team that forfeits out of the regular season will not be eligible to register as a returning team in the future.
5. The Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism will schedule all games, including pre-season, regular season, make-up games, and post season play.
6. The Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism shall determine home team on the playing schedule.
7. All games shall be played at the lighted fields at Chisman Creek Park, McReynold's Athletic Complex (formerly known as York County Sports Complex), and Tabb Middle School unless otherwise scheduled.

Section 4 – General Rules

1. Time Rule: In any regular season scheduled game, no inning shall begin after **60** minutes from actual starting time. Umpire's watch or other designated timepiece shall be **official**. A game called due to time limit will be considered an official game no matter how many innings have been played. It is the team's responsibility to check with the umpire as to the official time.
2. The following Home Run limits per game and per team, will be utilized for the following leagues:

Men's leagues (4) four
Coed leagues (men only) (2) two

EFFECT:

- a. All fair untouched fly balls over-the-fence in excess of the limit will be ruled an out.
 - b. Any time the batter is ruled out because of an over-the-fence Home Run in excess of the limit, the ball is dead and no runners can advance.
 - c. Any fair ball touched by a defensive player which then goes over-the-fence in fair territory will be declared a four base award and is not to be included in the total of over-the-fence home runs.
 - d. A home run will be charged for any untouched fair fly ball hit over-the-fence in fair territory, whether or not runs score.
3. The following run rule will be utilized for all games.
- a. If, after three (3) innings (2½ with the home team ahead) a team has a lead of **fifteen (15)** runs or more, the game shall be over.
 - b. If, after five (5) innings (4½ with the home team ahead) a team has a lead of **ten (10)** runs or more, the game shall be over.
 - c. The **USSSA** Flip/Flop rule will be utilized for all games.

EFFECT:

In the inning when the run rule takes effect and the home team is losing, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If the team (new visiting team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the run rule the game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below the run rule then the new home team will bat. If they subsequently score enough runs to exceed the run rule the game will be over, if they do not the game will continue under that format. If the situation reverses, the teams would flip/flop again.

4. Games ending in ties and terminated due to the time limit will be recorded as ties during regular season. Teams will be given one (1) point for a tie, two (2) points for a win, and zero (0) points for a loss during the season. Extra innings as the time limit allows may be played.
5. The total number of points teams accumulate during the season will decide the final league standings. If a point tie occurs at the conclusion of regular season play, regular season head-to-head won-lost records shall decide league champions and runners-up. In case of a three way point tie occurs, regular season head to head to head records shall decide league champions and

runners-up. In case a tie still exists, said positions shall be decided by playoff games.

Section 5 – Rain Procedures.

1. The Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism will make a decision as to whether or not to cancel scheduled games because of inclement weather at **5:00 p.m.** Players and managers
2. call the **Recreation Hotline at 890-3852** to check on the status of their games.
2. If the decision at 5:00 p.m. is to play, it is solely the judgment of the umpire and/or designated representative of the Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism as to playability at game time. Teams must report to the playing field or risk forfeit should it be possible to play. When one game is canceled, all remaining games are automatically canceled.
3. In the case of rain, three and one-half (3½) innings (four (4) if the visitors are ahead) will constitute a complete game. This applies to regular season play only.
4. Under no circumstances will a league game be rescheduled if teams fail to follow rain procedures.
5. Rainouts during the regular season shall be replayed on the next available date. All such make-ups will be announced to team managers as soon as possible. All **open** dates will be considered for make-up game scheduling.

Section 6 - Protests.

1. All protests must be submitted in person within 24 hours or the next business day to the Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. A \$25.00 fee must accompany each protest. (Exception: Player eligibility only, no protest fee). **For a protest to be valid the protesting manager must notify the plate umpire and both the umpire and protesting manager must sign the scorebook before the next pitch.** The opposing manager must be notified of the protest and is requested, but not required, to also sign the scorebook. Only a team's manager may protest. In cases when a manager is not present, the player acting as manager may protest. The scorekeeper should record the exact status of the game at the time of the protest. It is the responsibility of the **protesting manager** to make sure these procedures are followed.
2. Protests may address only interpretation of rules and/or player eligibility. **No protests will be accepted concerning the judgment of an umpire.**

Section 7 - Playing Rules and Regulations.

The official 2016 United States Specialty Sports Association Slow-pitch playing rules shall govern all league play with exceptions and clarifications listed throughout these by-laws.

1. A three (3) ball and two (2) strike count will be used. Each batter will begin each turn at bat with a count of zero (0) balls and zero (0) strikes. (See page 38 of 2016 USSSA Rulebook: **Note:** The batter is out on 2 strikes and walks on 3 balls.).
2. Batter is out when he hits **first** foul after one strike, then the ball is dead. Baserunners may **not** advance. (See page 37-38 of 2016 USSSA Rulebook).
3. Homeruns do not have to be run out, however, the batter must touch first base, and all base runners must touch the next base.
4. No courtesy runners are allowed.
5. RE-ENTRY is permitted (USSSA 2016 Rulebook **Rule 5 THE PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES** section 5 page 31).
6. Teams may also use one or two "additional hitters" (AH.)
 - a. Each team will be allowed to play twelve (12) players which includes the AH. The AH may be used anywhere in the line-up. The AH may also be used as a fielder during any inning.
 - b. If a team starts the game with eleven (11) players, they may finish with no less than ten (10). Once a team starts with eleven (11) players, they must continue with eleven (11) as long as substitutes are available, i.e. eligible players that are listed on the team roster form, and are present at the fields. If a team drops from eleven (11) to ten (10) because of injury, ejected players, and **no eligible** substitutes are available the vacated spot in the line-up will be declared an **OUT**.
 - c. Once a team has started with ten (10) players, the AH **MAY NOT BE USED**. If a team starts with ten (10), they may finish with no less than nine (9). However, the vacated spot in the line-up will be declared an **OUT**.

EFFECT: If you start with twelve (12) or eleven (11) players, any ten (10) may play defense at any time. Substitutions are made as usual. Players may be switched on defense as long as ten (10) are used and they are in the batting order in the scorebook.

Below is a chart that outlines the number of players a MENS team can start with and end a game with and the penalties for vacated spots. (COED teams refer to next page).

Men's League - Team continues or finishes with # of Players

<i>Team begins with</i>	9 Players	10 Players	11 Players	12 Players
<i>9 Players</i>	No penalty	No penalty	Can not add	Can not add
<i>10 Players</i>	Out	No penalty	Can not add	Can not add
<i>11 Players</i>	Forfeit	Out	No penalty	Can not add
<i>12 Players</i>	Forfeit	Forfeit	Out	No penalty

Out=Indicates the vacated spot in batting order is an automatic out

Forfeit=Indicates the game is forfeited because of lack of players

COED League: Teams must alternate female and male batters. Playing 9 will result in an automatic out upon the 10th batter position. Coed teams playing 9 must start their line up with a male if 5 males are present (or start the line up with a female if 5 females are present). **Coed teams may not play 11.**

Team continues or finishes with # of Players

<i>Team begins with</i>	9 Players	10 Players	11 Players	12 Players
<i>9 Players</i>	Out	No penalty	Can not add	Can not add
<i>10 Players</i>	Out	No penalty	Can not add	Can not add
<i>11 Players</i>	Not Possible	Not Possible	Not Possible	Not Possible
<i>12 Players</i>	Out	No penalty	Not Possible	No penalty

7. Teams shall furnish a reliable ball chaser for each game to retrieve balls on their side of the field. Retrieving home runs is the responsibility of the team that hits the home run.
8. Both teams must submit to official scorekeeper their starting line-ups **10** minutes prior to start of game. Full names must be listed on the line-up card (no nick names).
9. Teams must field at least nine (9) players at **game time** to avoid forfeiture. If ten (10) or more rostered players are present, team manager **must** start ten (10) players at game time. Coaches are responsible for turning in to official staff scorekeeper their team's line-up cards with only rostered players present at game time. The team line-ups listed in the Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism official scorebooks will be used to verify team line-ups for games.
10. Ground rules shall be established between the Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism with umpires prior to start of season. For all games, any hit or thrown ball that goes beyond the backstop, 1st or 3rd base fence line shall be considered dead. The umpire will then award the appropriate base(s). All other areas are considered "in play" including but not limited to bleachers, guardrails, goalposts.

Section 8 - Co-ed Rules.

1. Five males and five females must be in the lineup at all times (6 and 6 if the Additional Hitter is used.) If ten players (5 males and 5 females) cannot be fielded to start the game, a team may start with nine (9) players (maximum of 5 females **or** a maximum of 5 males). **The tenth batting position will be declared an automatic out.** If a team starts with 10, they must finish with no fewer than 9 players (5 males and 4 females or vice versa.) If the Additional Hitter is used, a team starts with 12 players (6 males and 6 females) it may drop to 10 players (5 males and 5 females) as a result of injury or ejection. If a team starts with 12 they must finish with no

fewer than 9 players (5 males and 4 females or vice versa). However when batting 12, the injured or ejected player and the adjoining player will be removed from the lineup. These two vacated spots in the batting order are **ignored and will not be counted as outs.**

EXAMPLE:

<u>BAT ORDER</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>GENDER</u>
1	M1	MALE
2	F1	FEMALE
3	M2	MALE
4	F2	FEMALE
5	M3	MALE
6	F3	FEMALE
7	M4	MALE
8	F4	FEMALE
9	M5	MALE
10	F5	FEMALE
11	M6	MALE
12	F6	FEMALE

**Player M2 is injured or ejected.
Either adjourning player F1 or F2
must be removed if a male substitute
is not available.**

2. Male and female players must alternate in the batting order.
3. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded first and second base with the next female batter having the option to walk or bat.
4. **For the 2016 season a maximum of .40 COR and not to exceed 325-PSI compression rating for the twelve-inch softball will be used for the men. For the women an eleven- inch softball with a maximum of .44 COR and not to exceed 400-PSI compression rating is to be used for the 2015 season. If the wrong ball is pitched, the play will not count and be replayed. NOTE: The Classic Plus 12” softball is considered illegal and will not be permitted in York County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Adult Softball in 2016. All softballs used will be provided by the county.**

Section 9 – General Conduct

1. It is the responsibility of the coaches to maintain proper player conduct among their teams at all times.
2. Umpire harassment will not be tolerated. Only coaches may leave the dug out area to address the umpire (or “acting coaches” in the absence of the team coach). Any player(s) who leaves the dug out area and comes onto the playing field will be suspended for minimum of (1) games. No notification of suspension will be given.
3. Any player ejected by the umpire for fighting or unsportsmanlike conduct will result in an automatic 1 game suspensions. Any player(s) who leaves the dug out area and comes onto the playing field to fight will be suspended for minimum of (1) games. No notification of suspension will be given.

4. During any dispute, any player(s) leaving the dug out area and entering the field is subject to umpire ejection. Once ejected by the umpire, an automatic 1 game suspension will take effect and possible suspension from the entire season.

Section 10 - Facility Regulations, General Policies.

1. Participants found guilty of drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages on County property will be subject to suspension from further league play. Possession and/or use of illegal drugs will also result in such suspension.
2. Facility Closing Time: Chisman Creek Park and the McReynold's Athletic Complex will close 15 minutes after the conclusion of the final game scheduled. Fields lights will be shut off and staff will be securing restrooms and gates to the parks. (This also applies to Tabb Middle School if utilized for softball games).
3. Under no circumstances may vehicles be parked on County property other than in designated parking areas. This includes the **driveways** which allow entrance onto the playing field. Parking on the road could result in a ticket.
4. Players are to refrain from hitting softballs into fences surrounding fields.
5. Players, coaches, and spectators ejected from the game, or stands must leave the park grounds **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
6. It is the responsibility of each team manager to insure that players and team supporters refrain from littering on County property.
7. Players and managers are not allowed to smoke any where within the field of play including dugouts. Violators will be ejected from the game for failure to comply.
8. Restrooms will be available for use by spectators, players, managers, and employees.
9. Smoking is not permitted at the McReynold's Athletic Complex (MAC). This applies to the entire complex and all persons on site including players, coaches, umpires, staff, and spectators. MAC staff, softball site supervisors, scorekeepers and umpires have the authority to eject any player or spectator who fails to comply with the no smoking ordinance.

APPENDIX A

The Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism has outlined the following criteria that will be used for approved legal softballs in the 2016 York Co. Adult softball leagues:

- All softballs must have a legible sanctioned stamp on the ball from one of the following softball associations: **NSA, USSSA, ISA, or ASA.**
- A maximum of .40 core and maximum of 325 compression rating for all 12" softballs in the Men's leagues.
- A maximum of .40 core and maximum of 325 compression rating for 12" softballs for men in Coed Industrial and Coed Church leagues
- A maximum of .44 core and maximum of 400 compression rating for the 11" softballs for women in the Coed Industrial and Coed Church Adult Softball leagues.

The Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism has provided a suggested list of approved softballs that meets the approved criteria listed above (Appendix A). Also listed are any softballs and bats that have been deemed illegal by the Division and the **USSSA. These will not** be allowed to be used in the league for the 2016 season. Please keep in mind this list is **not all-inclusive** but is help provide coaches with some suggested approved softballs that will be allowed in the league for 2016. Please refer to the current **USSSA approved bat list** for the approved bats to be legal in the Adult softball leagues in York County. A copy of USSSA approved bat list is available at the fields, or access the USSSA approved bat list at <http://www.ussa.com/ussa/ussa-general/legalbats.asp>.

The Division of Parks, Recreation and Tourism reserves the right to change the list of illegal equipment as needed for the 2016 season. The division will make every effort to inform softball coaches of these changes as soon as possible.