

## SOFTBALL LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The Lynchburg Parks & Recreation Department organizes plans, supervises, and manages all Softball Leagues. It is the responsibility of Parks & Recreation to administer and provide: Officials, facility supervisor, safe playing conditions, and fair play. Parks & Recreation also reserves the right to make changes to the Softball League when it is in the best interest of the overall program.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

The Lynchburg Parks & Recreation Department philosophy overview for the Softball League participants is to exemplify "Sportsmanship." Sportsmanship conduct by managers, players, officials, and spectators is mandatory and requires everyone to remember that this is a recreational league. Altercations with sports officials or other participants will not be allowed or tolerated.

*The Lynchburg Parks & Recreation Department shall have the authority to penalize any individual; player, manager, spectator, and team for any unsportsmanlike conduct.*

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. All players must be of amateur status. Any ex-professional baseball or softball player must meet with the Commissioner to determine if he/she can participate in the league.
2. Participants must be at least 18 years of age to be eligible to play in the city softball league. Individuals 16 years of age are eligible to participate in the league only if they complete a "Waiver Eligibility Form."

***Team Manager's are responsible for the conduct and behavior of their team at all times.***

### **A) INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

1. An ineligible player is defined as:
  - a. A player not listed on a team roster.
  - b. A player participating under an incorrect name.
  - c. A player who falsifies his/her residency.
2. Players should have positive identification available should they be questioned about their identity.
3. Forfeits due to playing with an ineligible player will result in a team loss and any additional forfeits will disqualify that team from the league.
4. A player found guilty of being listed on more than one roster will be immediately ineligible to play for any team until the Commissioner makes a final determination on the player's eligibility.

## SANCTION PLAYING RULES

1. Currently the Parks & Recreation Department uses ASA sanctioned rules for softball play.
2. Local rules will supercede all sanctioned rules for all league play (when applicable)
3. The Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to modify sanctioned rules for local league play in the best interest of the league and participants

### RULE CHANGED IN 2015:

1. **Females may play on more than one co-ed team as long as they are in different leagues.**

## SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

### A) EQUIPMENT

1. T-Shirts, shorts or sweatpants, and proper shoes (tennis shoe or rubber cleated athletic shoe only) are required by all participants. No metal cleats are allowed!
2. Gloves, bats, and balls must conform to ASA regulations and standards. Any bat barrel showing excessive wear dents, or rattles when shaken will be considered illegal.
3. **All Men's Leagues will use a 52 core/300 compression softball.** All teams will hit their own ball. **If a new ball is not used the umpire must be able to read the core and compression of the ball being used.**
4. All female players, in Co-Ed Leagues, have the option to hit 11" softballs **44 core/375 or 52/300 compression ball**.
5. The Official bat must bear the ASA 2000 Certification Mark, the ASA 2004 Certification Mark, or the ASA 2013 Certification Mark.

### B) SCHEDULES

1. The Parks & Recreation Department will create all league schedules and announce changes to any schedule at least one week in advance. Since leagues may vary in number of teams, schedules may be unbalanced.
  1. An **unbalanced schedule** is one that does not provide the same number of home and away games or participation against the other league teams an equal number of times.
  3. All leagues are scheduled **twenty (20) games**. We will try to make up all postponed games when possible, however there is no guarantee they will be made up.
  4. Visit [www.teamsideline.com/lynchburg](http://www.teamsideline.com/lynchburg) for updated schedules, scores, standings, and cancellations.

### TEAM ROSTERS

1. Playing rosters are limited. However, it is the policy that all City of Lynchburg residents may be added to a roster without charge. All non-city residents are required to pay a **\$15 non-city resident fee per player**.
2. Team managers are to follow instructions when filling out the roster and incomplete rosters will not be accepted.
3. A team must have a minimum of 9 players listed on its roster.
4. Each team must submit their original roster and player contracts at the time of registration. Once the roster has been turned in additional players can be added by Player Contracts. **All Non-Resident Player Contracts must be turned in at the main office.** City Resident player contracts may be turned in at the field prior to the start of the game. Teams will be allowed to sign new players, all season, for regular season play. **To be eligible for tournament play all add/drops must be completed in time to allow participation in at least six games.**
5. **Players are allowed to only play on one team in their respective league (Men's and Co-Ed).**  
**2015 Rule Change: Female players may play on more than one team as long as the teams are in different divisions.**
6. Any manager caught playing an illegal player will forfeit that game. The player and manager will also be ejected and could be banned from participating for the remainder of the season.

### WAIVERED PLAYERS

1. Once a player signs with a team they are not eligible to switch teams until the manager "releases" the player.
2. Any player released from a team, by the Manager, is eligible to sign with another team after a 24 hour waiting period.
3. If a team releases a player, they may not pick that player back up for the remainder of the season.

### GAME SITUATION RULES

1. All Men's and Co-Ed Softball Leagues will play under ASA rules, except for rules that have been modified by Parks and Recreation for a specific league.
2. In the Co-Ed Leagues, ASA rules apply to positioning defensive players on the field.
3. All female players, in Co-Ed Leagues, have the option to hit 11" softballs **44 core/375 compression or a 52/300.**
4. All league games will consist of 7 innings, or one hour.
5. If rain or darkness occurs, games will be called official after 4 innings.
6. If a game is rained out before 4 innings have been completed, the entire game will be re-played. The game is official after 4 innings or 3 and a half if the home team is ahead.

7. No inning will start after the umpire has announced the one-hour time limit. If the game is tied; it will be played until a team has won.
8. If a game goes into extra innings or beyond the time limit, every batter will come to the plate with a 2 ball - 2 strike count and the game will continue under the one pitch rule.
9. Home Run Limit - There will be a home run limit rule in effect for all leagues:
10. Men's D-1 / Co-Rec. D-1                      6 home runs per team per game
11. Men's D-2 / Co-Rec. D-2                      4 home runs per team per game
- Men's D-3 / Co-Rec. D-3                      2 home runs per team per game
12. Home Run Rule - When a homerun has been hit players are not required to run the bases. The batter and all base runners return to the dugout.
13. Any home runs that are hit, after the limit is reached, will be an automatic out.
14. Third Strike Rule – This means after the batter has one strike the second foul ball hit will result in a strike out.
15. If a ball bounces over or rolls under the fence, the fielder must raise his hands and it will be considered a ground rule double.
16. **Courtesy Runners may only be used once per inning and the runner must be declared before the next batter. The runner used must be the last recorded out from the previous play. If a runner is used in the first inning with no recorded outs, it must be the player listed last on the lineup card. In Co-Ed leagues males must run for males and females must run for females.**
17. Profanity Rule – Players using profanity will receive a team warning. Any player on that team, after being warned, using profanity will be removed for the remainder of that game.

#### TEAM PARTICIPATION RULES

1. **Teams must have nine players present at the start of the game.**
2. Co-Ed teams with less than ten players may play extra females to avoid forfeits. Teams may not finish a game with less than nine players. If a team has less than nine players, the team will forfeit the game. .
3. The (EP) extra player rule will be used in league play only if you start the game with one. See the ASA Official Rules of Softball page 49, Section D, Shorthanded Rule for additional information. Teams are allowed to play up to 14 players (4 EP'S).
4. No manager or player disputes may be registered on judgment calls made by umpires. All decisions handed down by umpires are final.

#### PRE-GAME PREPARATION RULES

1. Mandatory pre-game talk between the umpire and opposing team coaches should take place before the start of the game.
2. During the mandatory pre-game talk, the umpire must be made aware of the designated team manager who will act as sole communicator with the umpire.

### PRE-GAME TEAM WARM-UP RULES

1. There will not be a pre-game practice by any team.

### SCORE KEEPER

1. The HOME team will keep the official score book.
2. If the home team cannot furnish a scorekeeper and the visiting team can; they then will become the home team.
3. After the game the umpire will sign the game card to make it official.

### SLAUGHTER RULE

- 20 runs after 2 1/2 innings
- 15 after 3 1/2 innings
- 10 after 4 1/2 innings

### EJECTION:

1. **If a team member or spectator is ejected from a game he/she is to leave the property immediately.**
2. If an ejected player continues to disrupt a game in any way, he/she may be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and his/her team may forfeit the game.
3. Any team member or spectator who strikes an umpire, player, spectator, or a Lynchburg Parks & Recreation employee will be expelled from the league for the remainder of the season **and beyond!**

### EJECTION PENALTIES:

1. **First Offense** – Suspended for the next two games.
2. **Second Offense** – Suspended for the next four games.
3. **Third Offense** – Suspended for the remainder of the year.
  - Once a player receives a third offense they will be requested to attend an arbitration hearing with the Commissioner and Advisory Committee. That hearing will determine if any additional penalty is justified towards the offending player.
  - Any player ejected from Bedford County, Campbell County, Amherst County, or Nelson County softball leagues are subject to being ejected from the City of Lynchburg's softball league.

## **PEAKSVIEW SOFTBALL COMPLEX RULES**

*THE FOLLOWING RULES MUST BE OBEYED: (Rules will be strictly enforced)*

1. All team managers, players, spectators, and umpires must respect and adhere to the City of Lynchburg field rules.
2. All players, spectators, and umpires must park in designated areas.
3. There will be absolutely no littering; alcoholic beverages; fighting; gambling; or illegal activities on city property.

4. ***Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed on City-owned property or any field used by this league. Any player, manager, or umpire who is caught drinking, before or after a game, will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season***

## TEAMSIDELINE

Visit [www.teamsideline.com/lynchburg](http://www.teamsideline.com/lynchburg) for updated schedules, scores, standings, and cancellations. Also look for information concerning other athletic programs that are being offered.

## CANCELLATIONS

1. If the weather looks questionable, it has recently rained and/or rained the evening before, team managers should check [www.teamsideline.com/lynchburg](http://www.teamsideline.com/lynchburg) or call the Parks and Recreation Department cancellation line at 455-5892, after 5:00 p.m. for information about field cancellations. **The cancellation line is only updated when games have been canceled.** No phone calls should be made prior to 5:00 p.m.
2. No teams or softball players are to use the fields if the games are canceled!

## FORFEITS

1. Forfeits are to be avoided at all times. If a team forfeits the minimum number allowed (4 games), they are ineligible for the league championship. If a team forfeits the maximum number allowed (6 games) they will be dismissed from the league and forfeit the remainder of their playing schedule. **All forfeits will factor in on final tournament seedings.**

### THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO ALL LEAGUES:

1. Any team that is found guilty of playing with an ineligible player will automatically forfeit games in which the individual played.
2. If a team does not have nine players present at game time, the game will be forfeited.
3. If both teams do not have enough players, at game time, the umpire will rule a double forfeit.
4. Doubleheader Leagues: Once the first game has been forfeited teams have only 30 minutes to play or forfeit the next game.

## PROTESTS

The Commissioner will not receive or consider any protest based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgement of an umpire. *Protests will only be considered concerning matters of the following types:*

1. Misinterpretation of a playing rule
2. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
3. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.

4. Ineligible player.  
Every attempt should be made to resolve rule disagreements between the manager and umpire on the field. If the disagreement cannot be resolved on the field the protesting manager should file a formal protest.

## **PROTEST RULE PROCEDURE**

1. The protesting manager will inform the umpire that he/she desires to file a protest
2. The umpire will immediately call the Site supervisor over the cobra radio to inform them that a protest has been requested.
3. The Team Manager will be responsible for the completion of the "Protest Form". The following information must be recorded on the "Protest Form" at the time of the incident.
  - A. Inning.
  - B. Number of outs.
  - C. Number of balls and strikes (if applicable)
  - D. Position of runners.
  - E. Reason for protest.
  - F. Umpires Signature.
  - G. Managers Signature.
  - H. Site Supervisors Signature.
4. The "Protest Form" will then be submitted to the commissioner for review.
5. The Commissioner will notify the protesting manager within three days of the ruling.

## **TOURNAMENT PLAY**

The playoff format, as decided at the advisory meeting, will be the top six teams in each league advancing to a post season tournament. All league tournaments will be scheduled the first week following the last regular season game. The first two rounds will be single elimination with two teams advancing to the championship round. The championship round will be played the following week which will be the best two out of three games to determine the league champion. The higher seed in the first two rounds of tournament play will be the home team. In the championship round the home team will alternate with the higher seed being home team first. Every attempt will be made to schedule all tournament games on the same night that your regular season games were played. If for any reason the tournament game nights should have to be changed a discussion will take place between the managers, of participating teams, and the Parks & Recreation staff to try and determine the best available night to play. If an agreement, between managers, cannot be reached the Parks & Recreation Department will schedule the tournament games on the first available night. If for any reason the tournament cannot be held the team with the best regular season record will be deemed the league champion. Tournament rosters will be the same as the roster during the regular season. **Players must play in at least six of your team's games to be eligible for tournament play.**