

2019 ADULT LEAGUE SOFTBALL
Revised 2/4/2018

DECATUR PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S SOFTBALL LEAGUES
WILL BE GOVERNED BY CURRENT ASA GUIDELINES WITH LOCAL LEAGUE
EXCEPTIONS.

I. Entrance Fee

Entrance fee for the season shall be **\$475.00 if paid by 5pm Friday, March 1st, 2019** and shall be **\$525.00 if paid after Monday, March 4th, 2019**. **NO TEAMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 2019 SEASON IF THEIR ENTRY FEE HAS NOT BEEN PAID BY Friday March 8th, 2019. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.** Due to a limited number of fields and playing times, it may become necessary to limit number of teams per divisions, so it will be important to enter a team as soon as possible. Entry fee includes a 12 game season, double elimination tournament and trophies. Checks for fees should be made payable to Decatur Parks and Recreation. No two-party checks will be accepted.

Checks and team information may be mailed to:

Decatur Parks and Recreation
PO Box 1315 (Post marked by March 8, 2019)
Decatur, AL 35602
Attention Softball

For more information or questions please contact:

Orlandus King at (256) 341-4810 oking@decatur-al.gov

II. Eligibility

- A. Player must be entered on roster form. Roster must be turned in to league director by **March 8, 2019**. Teams that have not turned in a signed roster by the deadline will be placed in the highest division. Any rosters turned in after the deadline will be charged at a rate of \$1/player as will all other player additions. Any games played after this date by teams who have not turned in signed rosters shall be considered forfeits. There is no maximum number of players a team can have on its roster.
- B. All players must be at least 16 years of age in order to be added to the official roster. The roster must be signed by a parent or guardian if the player is a minor.
- C. Before a new player is eligible to play, a \$1.00 addition fee per player must be included with a roster addition form filled out, signed by the pastor and presented to the league director before the start of the game. This verifies that the player regularly attends the church that sponsors the team. New players must be added **before the last regularly scheduled game.**

Church

Players must regularly attend the church for which they play. Qualification for "regularly attends" is determined by the minister. **Roster must be signed by the minister verifying all players.**

Once a player has played in a church league game on one team, that player becomes ineligible to play on any other team in the church league during that season. Games played with ineligible players are subject to be forfeited.

Coed

Once a player has played in a league game on one coed team, that player becomes ineligible to play on any other team in the coed league during that season. Any games played with ineligible players are subject to be forfeited.

Independent

Once a player has played in a league game on one independent team, that player becomes ineligible to play on any other team in the independent league during that season. Any games played with ineligible players are subject to be forfeited.

Industrial

Team players must be a full-time employee or spouse of a full-time employee of the firm for which he/she plays. Contract and/or temp workers are only eligible to participate if they work a minimum 40 hr week, do not work at any other company and are recognized by the company as a full-time contractor or temp. Roster must be signed by Personnel Director for all players. Contractors and temps must also have their agencies HR sign the roster. Players will be required to show their most recent check stub with a work badge and picture ID before being allowed to participate to verify full-time status. If they are participating as a spouse of a full-time employee their spouse's check stub and proper ID will be required. Only players who verify full-time status will be allowed to participate. Rosters may be mailed back to the Personnel Director for verification.

Before a new player is eligible to play, a roster addition form must be filled out and a \$1/player fee paid to the Complex Staff and the receipt, most recent check stub, work badge and picture ID must be presented to the scorekeeper and/or complex staff before the start of the game. Addition form must be signed by Personnel Director and if this player is a contractor or temp their agency must also sign the player addition. Players will not be allowed to participate until verifying full-time status. New players must be added before the last regularly scheduled league game.

Players may participate in any leagues sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. Once a player has played in a league game on one team, he becomes

ineligible to play on any other team in that league. Exception would be if player participating in the Industrial league has changed jobs and his new place of full-time employment has a team participating in the league he must play for that team. Once the player is no longer employed by his first company he can no longer legally play for that team.

- D. **A forfeit will be declared on all games until a properly completed roster has been turned in to the League Director.**

III. Forfeit

- A. Teams must be able to field a team of at least 9 players **(5) five women and (4) four men Coed** (When the 10th player arrives they will be added to the bottom of the line-up and allowed to play), all wearing the appropriate matching shirts with permanent numbers (not to be duplicated) when their scheduled field becomes available.
- B. Game times will be **6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, & 8:30 pm with no grace period**. Failure of a team to be ready to play with the adequate number of players, by their scheduled time or within 10 minutes after the end of the previous game on their scheduled field, will constitute a forfeit. Failure of both teams to be ready to play will result in a double forfeit. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

*** Some leagues may be subject to playing four (4) time slots per night (6:15 pm, 7:15 pm, 8:15 pm, 9:15 pm) depending on the size of the league and field availability.**

- D. Time limit is one hour for all league games. The inning in progress at the end of the time limit will be completed. Tied games will continue on full inning basis until tie is broken.
- E. Line-up must be turned in to scorekeeper a minimum of 10 minutes before scheduled game time.

Coed

The 10th spot in the batting order will constitute an out. This includes injuries and players leaving for work.

If at anytime a team cannot field the adequate number of males and/or females it will constitute a forfeit. This includes injuries and players leaving for work.

Men's Independent

If a team forfeits game(s) on three different nights during the season, that team will not be permitted to complete the season or participate in the league tournament.

IV. Protest

- A. A protest must be declared to the home plate umpire immediately following the disputed play, before the next pitch. Protesting team must pay a Ten Dollar (\$10.00) protest fee to the complex manager. The umpires and complex manager will constitute the protest committee and will rule on the protest. If you wish to appeal the decision, notify the complex manager and home plate umpire that the game will be continued under protest. League Director will review the appeal and make the final decision.
- B. Protest on player eligibility
 - i. **PRIOR TO THE GAME:** If a player is protested, he/she must provide a picture ID or he/she will not be permitted to enter the game. If he/she has proof of ID, he/she may participate. The protesting team may require the game to be played under protest if they think the player does not work for the company or attend the church for which he/she is playing. The League Director will contact the church or company for verification and then rule on the protest.
 - ii. **DURING THE GAME:** If a player is protested, he/she must be able to show a picture ID or the game will automatically be forfeited. If a player has ID, the game will continue under protest as above.
 - iii. **THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS ONCE THE GAME HAS ENDED.**
 - iv. **Men's Industrial Only:** No player will be allowed to participate unless properly checked in by showing proof of full-time employment to complex staff before game. Game may be forfeited at any time during a game if there is a player participating that has not properly checked in. If the complex staff, umpires and or scorekeepers have reason to question a player's identity or that the player is participating under a false name the player may be asked to show a picture ID. If the player refuses or cannot show a picture ID at that time the game will be forfeited.
- C. If a protest is upheld, the protest fee will be refunded.
- D. Any team protested legally and is found to have an ineligible player will be warned. If such offense occurs again the team will be removed from the league and not be allowed to participate in the league tournament. No refunds will be given to the team.
- E. Any player protested legally and is found to be ineligible for that team will be removed from the league and not allowed to return to his/her legal team. If said player was never on a team legally he/she now becomes ineligible for all teams in that league.

- F. All games played with ineligible player(s) that have been removed by the League Coordinator are subject to be forfeited without protest.

V. EJECTED PLAYERS

- A. Ejection from a game by an umpire for disciplinary reasons may be for the remainder of the game, the next game, the next two (2) games or for the remainder of the season. The degree of severity of the penalty will be determined by the official(s) involved, the Officials' Board and the League Director.
- B. **Any player or coach/manager ABUSING an official, scorekeeper or staff verbally or physically will be removed from the game and the league for at least the remainder of the season. If it is determined that this act was team oriented, the above applies for the entire team.**
- C. Any player that is repeatedly ejected for disciplinary reasons will be suspended from play with all teams he/she participates with for the remainder of the season.
- D. **Profanity will not be tolerated. Players will be ejected. If the profanity is directed to umpires, complex staff or scorekeepers the player or players may be suspended from the park for one year. For the purpose of our league "profanity" will be defined as any word that would not be used in a Sunday School Class.**

VI. Home Run Rule

A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all men's and coed slow pitch leagues. The following limitations are per team per game:

A.	Men's Church Division I	Four (4)
	Men's Church Division II	Three (3)
	Men's Church Division III	Two (2)
B.	Men's Industrial Division I	Four (4)
	Men's Industrial Division II	Three (3)
	Men's Industrial Division III	Two (2)
C.	Men's Independent Division I	Four (4)
	Men's Independent Division II	Three (3)
	Men's Independent Division III	Two (2)
D.	Coed Division I	Four (4)
	Coed Division II	Three (3)
	Coed Division III	Two (2)

Effect: For any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.

VII. Miscellaneous

- A. Leagues will be separated into divisions with the highest division being "1" the lower divisions "2" and so on.
- B. All rainouts will be called off by the Parks and Recreation Department based on the condition of the fields. Please check www.quickscores.com/decatu for rainout info.
 - i. All rainouts will be made up following the conclusion of the regular season schedule.
- C. The following "Run Rule" will be in effect: A game will be considered complete if a team is behind 10 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings or 20 runs after 3 innings.
- D. Steel spikes will not be allowed. If player is found wearing steel spikes during play, this player will be removed from the game and, if on base, a "dead ball out" will be called; any players on base at the time the removed player came to bat must return to the base occupied at that time if there are less than 3 outs.
- E. In case of a tie for first place, the tie-breaker will be determined by www.quickscores.com/decatu
- F. No head gear may be worn except for: caps, visors and/or sweat bands.
(NO HANDKERCHIEFS)
- G. If your team finished THE REGULAR SEASON in first place, your team will automatically move into a higher division the following year. REGULAR SEASON Last place teams will drop a division unless they choose to stay in that division. Any team may be moved up or down to try to make divisions more equal.
- H. All players on a team shall properly wear uniforms that are **IDENTICAL** in colors, logo, design, and style. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of **contrasting color**, at least 6 inches high must be worn and **visible** on the back of all uniform shirts. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers. (Numbers 0 and 00 or 3 and 03 are examples of identical numbers.) **All numbers must be permanent - no tape, etc. will be allowed.** Church teams will not be allowed to use equipment or uniforms advertising alcoholic beverages.
- I. Home team will be assigned on the schedule.
- J. Home team will be responsible for providing one new softball and several good used softballs per game. All softballs must be **ASA approved and stamped as such.** Stamp must be visible on all used softballs. Men will hit the .52 COR 300 Compression, 12-inch **optic yellow** ball and women will hit the .52 COR 300 Compression, 11-inch **optic yellow** ball.
- K. Championship and Runner-up **TEAM** trophies will be awarded in each division.

L. ON ALL HOME RUNS HIT:

- i. Batter may return to the dugout and is not required to touch first base.
- ii. All base runners will return to the dugout.

M. Managers must be listed on roster as a player if they plan to participate as a player.

N. LINE-UPS

- i. **MUST HAVE FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL AS LISTED ON THE ROSTER WITH NUMBER!**
- ii. **MANAGER'S NAME MUST BE LISTED.**
- iii. **ALL SUBS AVAILABLE SHOULD BE LISTED WITH NUMBER.**

O. **No provisions will be made for players playing on more than one team.**

P. **Due to the field availability some leagues will be playing on the same night.**

Q. **The schedule will try to have all COED games play at the first 2 rounds or last 2 rounds but games will not wait for players coming from other fields to start. All teams may have an unlimited number of players on their roster for league play and should not rely on players playing on other teams.**

R. **ALL BATTERS WILL START WITH A 1 BALL AND 1 STRIKE COUNT. ALL FOUL BALLS WILL BE STRIKES.**

S. **Courtesy Runner rule will now follow the Courtesy Runner rule that has been established by the ASA effective for the 2016 season and beyond.** See Pg. 109, Section 9, Rule B & C of the ASA Participants Manual for full explanation and effects of the rule.

- Each team will be allowed one (1) courtesy runner per inning.
- Any player listed on the official line-up may be the courtesy runner, including subs.
- If while on base, the courtesy runner is due to bat, the courtesy runner will be called out, removed from the base, and will take his or her position as the batter.
- A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner except for an injury.

COED SPECIFIC RULES

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

With 10 players, 5 must be male and 5 female. There must be 2 males and 2 females in the infield and 2 males and 2 females in the outfield. The pitcher and catcher must be one female and one male. If the team starts with 9 players and has three in either the infield or outfield, one of the three must be a male or female.

BATTING ORDER

Must alternate male-female.

BATTING TWELVE

- A. With EP, there must be 6 males and 6 females with defensive positions as above. Defensive positions may be changed as long as coed positioning is followed. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.

- B. When batting twelve: if a player must leave the game for work or for an injury, the batter directly above or below must also be removed from the batting order or an out will be received each time the batter that left the game comes up in the batting order.

COURTESY RUNNER

The courtesy runner must be of the same gender as the original or injured runner.

BASE ON BALLS

The ball is dead. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. **EXCEPTION:** With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. **NOTE:** Should the female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out should be called during this dead ball period. A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.

USE OF WRONG BALL

If the wrong ball is used, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter rebat and assume the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.

INDUSTRIAL COED

Player must be a permanent full-time employee or spouse of a permanent full-time employee of the firm for which he plays. Roster must be signed by personnel director. Team may have a sponsor that differs from the firm; however, all players must work permanent full-time or be a spouse of a permanent full-time employee of the same firm. Personnel Directors will make final decision concerning status of an employee regarding permanent full-time status.

CHURCH COED

Players must regularly attend the church for which they play. Qualification for "regularly attends" is determined by the minister.

LEAGUE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

- A. **Tournament games may be played on additional days pending field availability and dates remaining.**
- B. The run rules will be in effect for all games, including the finals and IF games: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 10 after 5 innings.
- C. There will be an hour time limit on all games except the finals and IF games.
- D. Trophies will be award to Tournament Champion and Tournament runner-up.
- E. Higher seeds teams will be home team for the entire tournament.

Bats banned by ASA will not be allowed in league play. All bats must have the ASA certified stamp visible and legible to the umpire or they will not be allowed in league play. An updated list will be posted in press boxes and dugouts. All bats will be checked by the umpires before each game and any bats that are on the banned bat list will not be allowed in league play. For league play if a batter takes the batting position and he/she is discovered using a banned bat that player will be out and will be ejected from the game. The bat will be removed from the game.

Alabama ASA Website www.usasoftballofalabama.com

National ASA Website www.softball.org

Wilson Morgan Website www.decaturoparks.com

League Information www.quickscores.com/decaturoparks

Any person or persons that destroy or damage city property will be prosecuted. This will include a minimum 1 year suspension from the complex.