



**Harris County Parks and Recreation**  
**ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**[www.recreation.harriscountyga.gov](http://www.recreation.harriscountyga.gov)**

## I. League Organization

- A. The governing body of this league is Harris County Parks and Recreation.
- B. USA slow pitch rules govern league play except when superseded by the following rules and regulations. Harris County Parks and Recreation reserves the right to rule on anything not covered in the USA rulebook.
- C. Harris County Parks and Recreation recognizes the manager listed as having sole authority on team decisions the manager's authority supersedes any concerns from sponsors and team players.
- D. Each team will be responsible for checking the website for rain out and make-up game information. We will post this information to the website as soon as it becomes available.
- E. League Supervisor: Stephen Waskey 706.488.0000 [swaskey@harriscountyga.gov](mailto:swaskey@harriscountyga.gov)

## II. Game Rules

- A. All teams must have at least six (6) players to start or continue a game. If a team fails to field at least six (6) players at game time, that team shall forfeit the game. If neither team can field six (6) players at game time, it shall be ruled a double forfeit.
  - 1. If a team starts with six (6) players, or is playing with six (6) players, the 7th to 10th player may be added to the line-up at the time of arrival. The player or players must be added to the bottom of the batting order.
  - 2. If a team does not start the game with the extra player(s), he/she may not be added once the game has started.
  - 3. Pitcher and catcher positions must be occupied when playing in the field.
  - 4. If a player is removed from a game for any reason and the team has no substitutes, an out will not be charged for the removed persons turn at bat. Once removed, the player cannot re-enter the game. Exception 1: If a player is removed from a game for unsportsmanlike or rowdy conduct, an out will be charged for the removed persons turn at bat if no legal substitute is available. Exception 2: See coed rules starting on page 4. Remember no team is allowed to play with less than 6 players.
- B. Games will start at the scheduled time.
  - 1. A ten (10) minute grace period is allowed only on the first game of the night. The grace period is considered as part of game time. However, if a team has six (6) players, the game will start immediately or as soon as the sixth (6th) player arrives. Grace period time counts as game time.
  - 2. All players are expected to hustle on and off the field at all times, for the sake of speeding up the game. The pitcher shall have three (3) warm-up pitches and the inning will start.
  - 3. The one hour game time will be displayed on the scoreboard. If the scoreboard timer is not working, then it will be monitored by a digital clock provided by GCPRD. The game clock will start immediately following the pre-game instruction meeting at home plate between the umpires and team coaches.

4. Teams will not be allowed to swap game times or days with other teams. No exceptions will be made.
  5. Infield practice will be allowed only if it will not cause a delay in the scheduled starting time.
  6. Line-ups should be turned into the umpire 10 minutes prior to the start of each game. Continued violation will result in disciplinary action from probation to suspension.
- C. There is a one hour time limit on each game. No new inning shall begin after this time has elapsed. Five (5) innings shall constitute an official game in the case of rain-outs or four and one half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is ahead. If required regulation innings have not been played, the Harris County Parks and Recreation will reschedule the game at the earliest possible date. (Any rescheduled game will resume from the exact point that the game was delayed or postponed).
- D. There will be a 15-run rule in effect for all games after five (5) innings or 4 1/2 if home team is ahead by ten runs and 20-run rule after 4 innings
- E. A minimum of two (2) umpires will be assigned to every game. A game will be played if only one official is present.
- F. All players can be listed in the batting order with unlimited defensive substitutions.
- G. In case of league standing ties, winners will be determined by:
1. Head to head competition (margin of victory)
  2. Margin of victory against highest place team. If you have any questions concerning this rule, call Community Center at 706.488.0000.
- H. Courtesy runners will be allowed. If no subs, it will be the last batted out. In Coed, courtesy runner must be of the same gender. Only one Courtesy Runner per inning
- I. An Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or bunt) that, in the judgment of the umpire, can be caught by an infielder, pitcher or catcher with ordinary effort when there are runners on first and second or first, second, and third and less than 2 outs.
- The Infield fly only calls the batter out. It does NOT create a dead ball situation. Runners are allowed to advance at their own jeopardy the same as any other fly ball. Because the batter is call out there is no force out on the base runners, therefore they must be tagged out.
- J. The team batting is responsible for balls hit outside of playing area.
- K. Any protested game or game suspended for any reason, that shall be replayed at a later date, will begin at the point the game was suspended or at the point of protest. NO GAME SHALL BE STARTED OVER.

- L. The pitcher has to have a foot on the Pitching plate when they release the ball. The plate will be located between 45 and 50 feet from home plate. The penalty for not having a foot on the pitcher's plate will be an illegal pitch.
- M. The Pitcher will have a proctor net in front of them while pitching the ball. If a batted ball hits the net, it will be a foul ball.
- N. Men's Only – Stealing
1. 1 umpire working the game: Stealing is not allowed
  2. 2 umpires working the game players can steal after the ball crosses home plate on the pitch
- O. The home team will be determined by the schedule on the website.
- P. **Co-Ed League ONLY:**
1. There will be a 200 foot line in the outfield that the outfielders must remain behind while a female is at bat. The penalty for outfielders being over the line will be that all base runners will advance one base, and the batter will be awarded first base.
  2. A team cannot start a game with more men than women.
  3. Teams must arrange their batting order with at least one woman between each man. Male players cannot bat back-to-back.
  4. If a Male is walked:
    - a) *Male gets to advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base*
    - b) *Female gets the option to walk to 1<sup>st</sup> base or bat*
  5. EXTRA PLAYER(S): A team may bat Ten (10) or twelve (12) players, provided Rules 2 and 3 from above are followed.
  6. If a team does not start the game with extra player(s), he/she may not be added once the game has started.
  7. If starting a game with less than 10 players, no team may add players to their line-up causing more men than women on the field or in the batting order.
  8. If a female is removed from the game for any reason and this causes 2 men to bat back to back, a team will have three options:
    - a) *Replace the outgoing female with a female substitute*
    - b) *Remove one male (must be male batting either before or after removed female)*
    - c) *If one male is not removed, receive one out for the removed female for each scheduled turn at bat.*

*Note - if an additional female is removed from the game, options A, B, or C are repeated.*
  9. Fielding Regulations:
    - a) *A team must have one and only one male in the pitcher/catcher combination.*
    - b) *A maximum of two (2) male players are permitted in the infield.*
    - c) *A maximum of two (2) male players are permitted in the outfield.*

*NOTE: Male players are permitted to play side-by-side in the field.*
- Q. The score of a forfeited game shall be seven to zero (7- 0) in favor of the team not at fault.

- R. A player is considered participating in the ball game when the first legal pitch is thrown. This does not include warm up pitches.
- S. 5 Homeruns, then plus 1 – Teams can hit 5 homeruns plus one when the opposing team hit 5 homeruns. On the proceeding homeruns, the batter will be out and nobody will be allowed to advance on bases on each homerun.
- T. When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using a non-approved bat, the batter shall be called out and the bat will be marked as banded.
- U. Each batter will start off with a 1-1 pitch count.
- V. If the game is tied and the game time has expired, the game will go to a 1-pitch format.

### III. Eligibility

- A. Players must be 16 years of age prior to June 1st of the current year to be eligible for Harris County Parks and Recreation Adult Leagues.
- B. Each team must have a roster posted with the league coordinator prior to your first game of the season.
- C. Players not on roster are not eligible to play. Rosters must be turned in prior to each team's first scheduled game or all players on that team are illegal.
- D. A player can be listed on more than one team's roster in each division (Men's, Church, Coed, etc.).
- E. New players may be added to team roster prior to the Fifth (5) scheduled game. After the Fifth game, all rosters are frozen.
- F. A manager wishing to add or release a player must adhere to the following procedures:
  - 1. Obtain a drop/add form from the league Coordinator and fill out form in the following manner:
    - a) *List players full name, address and phone number along with his signature at consent.*
    - b) *Both the releasing and adding manager must sign form in appropriate spaces.*
    - c) *Submit completed form to league coordinator.*
    - d) *Added player will become eligible 24 hours after completed form has been properly completed and submitted to league coordinator.*
- G. Player may change teams only one (1) time.

### IV. Conduct

- A. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its players and spectators. A team may be reprimanded, put on probation, suspended or face expulsion for any unsportsmanlike conduct by player(s), coach(s), or spectators. Harris County reserves the right to deny eligibility for GRPA competitions for poor conduct/sportsmanship.

- B. B) NO SMOKING, VAPING or Chewing Tobacco Products of any kind in Harris County Parks. This includes fields, dugouts, parking lot or any Harris County property. Disciplinary action may result in probation to suspension.
- C. Profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, and verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be a minimum of a 1 game suspension.
- D. Any player, spectator, or manager at the request of any official or league coordinator, must leave the "premises". Failure to do so may result in suspension and forfeiture.
- E. No participant may touch an umpire or league official in anger, or threaten to do him bodily harm. Disciplinary action will result in expulsion.
- F. A minimum penalty for any player expelled from a game because of unsportsmanlike or rowdy conduct will be suspension for the next 3 league games in which his/her team plays, including playoff and tournament games.
  - 1. On a player's second offense, the player is suspended for the season in which his team plays.
  - 2. Third offenses shall result in automatic expulsion from the program for a calendar year.
- G. The manager is the only person authorized to discuss rule interpretation with the umpire.
- H. Alcoholic beverages and intoxicants are prohibited. Disciplinary action will result in reprimand to expulsion.

The Harris County Parks and Recreation Division reserves the right to suspend any or all players, coaches and managers for unbecoming conduct either before, during or after a game.

## V. Uniforms and Equipment

- A. ALL bats must be approved by USA and pass a compression test performed by GCPR staff. Once a bat passes, a sticker will be placed on the bat to indicate that the bat meets USA standards. A current list of all USA legal and illegal bats can be found at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/certified-equipment>.
- B. We strongly recommend all team players wear shirts similar in color.
- C. Players are REQUIRED to have a non-duplicating number on front or back of each shirt. Each number must be visible by the umpires and scorekeeper. Jersey numbers must be permanently attached. Failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate removal from the game.
- D. IMPORTANT: All teams participating in GRPA District and State Tournaments are required to wear shirts similar in color with non-duplicating numbers on front or back (no ink or taped numbers). NO EXCEPTIONS.
- E. Athletic type shoes are mandatory. No metal cleats.

## VI. Protest

- A. Protest shall not be allowed on any judgment call.
- B. If a protest concerning misinterpretation of playing rules is to be made, it must be made following the designated procedure:
  - 1. Manager calls time out and notifies the official and scorer. Protest must be made at point of infraction and prior to the next pitch (legal or illegal).
  - 2. Submit a written protest with the required protest fee of \$100.00 per protest to the Harris County Parks and Recreation within 24 hours (excluding weekends).
  - 3. Each protest must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules, sections and sub-sections to bear out the protest.
- C. If a protest on rule misinterpretation is made on the last play of the game, it must be made to the umpires before they leave live ball territory and the game is called. A called game is a game ended by the umpires.
- D. When a protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the protest fee will be forfeited.
- E. The Harris County Parks and Recreation Division reserves the right to forfeit games when it discovers the use of ineligible players. This may be done with or without the benefit of a protest.

## VII. Post Season Play –

- A. We will host a Single Elimination tournament at the end of the season.

## VIII. Balls

- A. There is one approved softball for league competition, which shall be yellow: .44 COR with a compression rating no greater than 375 must be visibly seen on softball.
- B. The League will provide games balls to the umpires. The umpires will receive 2 games ball before each game. The teams are responsible for getting the foul balls and homerun balls back to the umpire as quickly as they can. Each team must furnish approved softball for the game if the umpire runs out of balls.

## IX. Acceptable Birth Records

- A. Birth certificate, certified abstracts of birth, hospital birth records, notification of birth, notification of registration, certificate of registration, and regulation military identification cards, government ID from US Department of Immigration and Naturalization, passports, adoption records, notarized Correctional Institution records, or clearly processed and readable copies of such shall be considered and referred to as acceptable birth records for GRPA competition. Also, Georgia Department of Public Safety personal ID cards issued for check cashing, etc. are acceptable if date of birth is affixed.

- B. Driver's Licenses and Learner's Permits from any state shall be acceptable birth records for 10 participants of the ages 15 and over, as long as the date of birth appears on the Driver's License or Learner's Permit.
- C. If a name change is involved which is different from the Acceptable Birth Records, a copy of the court order granting the name change must also be presented. An official written statement notarized by a notary public and approved by signature from a parent or guardian may be substituted if a copy of the court order cannot be obtained. Such a court order copy or an official notarized statement shall not be considered as acceptable birth records, but only as evidence that the acceptable birth record presented is the true and accurate birth certificate, certified abstract of birth, hospital record, military identification or copy of such, etc.

## **X. Guidelines for GRPA Tournaments**

- A. All teams that participate in Harris County Parks and Recreation local leagues are eligible to participate in GRPA district and state tournaments.

Distance between bases – 65 ft

Distance to fence – 300 ft

Pitcher's plate – 45 to 50ft

Men's League is allowed 5 homeruns and plus one when the other team equals 5 homeruns.

Coed League – Men are allowed 3 homeruns plus one when the opposing team equals 3 homeruns. Women are allowed to hit unlimited number of homeruns.

Ten players on the field, but can have Men = 11; Coed = 12 batters