



## Parks and Recreation Department

### Softball Players Guide

*Updated: May 1, 2018*



*Welcome to The Woodlands Township Adult Softball Program. This recreational program is provided for your fun and enjoyment. Your cooperation, good sportsmanship, and communication with our League Coordinator are important in making this program a success. On behalf the Parks and Recreation Department we would like to wish your team a successful season.*

If a player has any questions about these administrative rules or the exceptions to ASA Rules, he or she is invited to contact the League Coordinator listed below.

The exceptions to the ASA rules have been implemented to make the game less intense, less dangerous, and so that we may all enjoy the games in the evening and get to work the following morning.

Softball is an amazing game and I greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and participation in our softball league

# Adult Softball League

## LEAGUE CONTACTS

### Township League Representative:

Tyler Little, M.S.

Program Coordinator, The Woodlands Township

281-210-3957 Direct

[tlittle@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov](mailto:tlittle@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov)

### Softball League Coordinator:

Clint Johnson

Owner, Fury Baseball

832.887.7881 Direct

[woodlandssoftball1314@yahoo.com](mailto:woodlandssoftball1314@yahoo.com)

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## THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP ADULT SPORTS LEAGUE WEBSITE

<http://www.teamsideline.com/thewoodlandstownship>

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## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Woodlands Township requires each manager to complete a team roster and return it to the Parks and Recreation Department office with entry fee payment in full, to be eligible to participate in leagues. Rosters are limited to 20 players.

## LEAGUE FORMAT

The Woodlands Township softball league currently utilizes an 8 game league format. Each team will advance to a single elimination playoff the week after their final regular season game is completed. You may obtain your team schedule by visiting [www.teamsideline.com/thewoodlandstownship](http://www.teamsideline.com/thewoodlandstownship). The rules and conditions of The Woodlands Township softball program will follow the ASA Rulebook unless noted in this manual.

## INSURANCE

Medical insurance is the responsibility of the team or the individual. The Woodlands Township does not carry medical insurance for participants or spectators.

## SOFTBALL LEAGUE PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

All managers must read and agree to follow this Code of Conduct prior to the first game of each season. Agreement is implied with signing the bottom.

1. I am responsible for ensuring I have read/reviewed The Woodlands Township's Softball Player's Manual and am knowledgeable of the information within.
2. I will play by the rules of the game.
3. I will not argue with an official. If I disagree with the call, my team captain/manager may approach the official during a break or at the conclusion of the game.
4. I am responsible for controlling my temper. Verbal abuse of officials and other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or nor permitted behaviors.
5. I will not behave with unsportsmanlike conduct and I am aware that it will not be tolerated.
6. I will not engage in any behavior that could endanger the health safety or wellbeing of any player, league official or spectator.
7. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any player, league official or spectator.
8. I will treat all participants as we would want to be treated.
9. I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background, ethnicity or religion.
10. I understand that there is a no tolerance policy in regards to umpire assault.

I hereby agree that if I fail to conform to the above codes of conduct, I shall be subject to disciplinary action, including warnings and up to permanent suspension from The Township Recreation Leagues.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

1. League fees for an eight game season and playoffs are set at \$450.00. This fee includes schedule, umpire fees, and awards for the regular season and tournament champions. Any team registering after the league schedule is posted must pay the additional late fee of \$50. **Any team not paid in full upon the closure of registration shall be dropped from the league.**
  - **No refunds will be given once the schedule has been posted.**
2. All game times are subject to change and cancellation at the discretion of the Softball Coordinator and/or The Woodlands Township.
  - In the event of inclement weather The Woodlands Township Parks Department will evaluate the Alden Bridge Softball in the following manner:
    - Tier A: Fields will be evaluated at 3 pm with all grass fields. In the event of grass field closures, all games will be canceled for the evening.
    - Tier B: In the event of inclement weather after 3 pm, the League Coordinator will re-evaluate the softball fields in between 4:30pm & 5:30pm. In the event that fields are unsafe for play all games will be cancelled by League Coordinator.
    - Tier C: In the event of inclement weather after 5:30 pm, the Softball Coordinator or approved League Official will re-evaluate the fields prior to the first game. In the event that the fields are unsafe for play all games will be cancelled by the Softball Coordinator or approved League Official.
    - Tier D: In the event of inclement weather during play, all games will be played until fields are deemed unsafe by League Officials or League Coordinator.
  - Games will be canceled and re-scheduled anytime there is a delay (due to weather, lights, irrigation, thunder & lightning, etc.) exceeding thirty (30) minutes in length.
  - The team's primary and/or secondary manager **will be notified via email/text (if registered) through teamsideline.com** and will be responsible for notifying their players
  - The team's primary or secondary manager **may be** contacted via phone due to game cancellation, and will be responsible for notifying their players.
  - The Softball Coordinator shall update the league website when possible in the event of cancellation.
3. League Coordinator and Township Representative retains the authority to modify or deviate from any league rule(s) as deemed necessary.
4. A team may play with a minimum of eight (8) players. A forfeit shall be called if a team cannot field eight (8) players within ten (10) minutes of the designated start time of the game. If both teams agree then a **scrimmage** game may be played with borrowed players. In the event of a scrimmage game: no umpire(s) shall be present and the team which cannot field eight (8) players will take a forfeiture loss.
5. In the event of forfeiture the team manager must provide adequate notification to the League Coordinator.
  - The opposing team will receive a 7 – 0 victory.
6. Each team shall designate one person as team manager and liaison to The Woodlands Township. The manager shall be responsible for all team players.
7. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted. Glass containers are prohibited within The Woodlands Township's Parks.
8. Standings (to determine tournament brackets) are based on win-loss record. Tiebreakers will be determined by: 1) Run differential. 2) Most run forced. 3) Team with fewest runs allowed. 4) Coin Flip.
  - Standings are found online at [www.teamsideline.com/thewoodlandstownship](http://www.teamsideline.com/thewoodlandstownship)

## GAME TIME/CLOCK

1. The game clock begins at the scheduled game start time. Each team will have a ten (10) minute grace period as needed which will be deducted from the game time.

- In the event that the previous game has run late the proceeding game clock will begin approximately five minutes after the conclusion of the previous game (i.e. 6:30 game concludes at 7:35. The game clock for the 7:30 game will begin at approximately 7:40).
- 2. Time limit – No new innings will start after fifty (50) minutes or seven (7) innings of play have concluded.
  - If a serious injury should occur, the umpires will suspend the game clock until it is permissible to restart. Any stoppage/restart shall be at the sole judgment of the umpire(s).
  - If the game is tied at the end of regulation play there will be a one pitch format. Each batter will receive one pitch. They will either walk, hit into an out, or a base hit. All foul balls are to be strikes in this situation. In the event the game is still tied following two (2) innings of one pitch the final score will be recorded as a tie.
- 3. If during a game weather becomes a factor the game will be replayed from where it was suspended.
  - If thunder or lightning is present, matches will be immediately delayed 15 minutes at each sighting or sound of thunder or lightning.
  - Both managers are responsible for maintaining notes on where play was suspended.
  - Exception: If thirty (30) minutes or more has been played and/or 3½ innings have been completed (with the home team ahead); it shall be ruled a complete game.
  - In the event bad weather persists; the League Coordinator will notify all managers as stated within ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 2.

## ROSTERS

1. All players must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. Each team may have up to twenty (20) players on the roster. The permanent roster must be emailed to the Softball Coordinator **prior to the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) game**. Roster changes **may not** be made after the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) game of the season.
2. Players may only appear on one roster per league.
3. During the regular season, the manager of a team with fewer than eight (8) players may request permission from the opponent's manager to allow "guest" players for that game. A team may borrow up to eight (8) "guest" players with the approval of the opposing manager.
  - The manager of the opposing team shall have the sole decision to allow the "guest" players to play or not.
4. If the opposing manager allows "guest" players to play, the maximum number of "guest" players and roster players shall not exceed sixteen (16), e.g. eight (8) roster players and eight (8) "guest" players. If players on the roster arrive after the game has begun, the team with the "guest" players must drop the "guest" players (if exceeding 16 players).
  - During the postseason tournament, a team may only use players who are on the team's official roster.
    - No "guest" players are to be allowed unless approved by the opposing team manager.
  - Any "guest" player must be approved by the League official onsite.
5. Free Agents:
  - Individuals looking to join a team may sign up for the free agent/players list through [teamsideline.com](http://teamsideline.com).
  - Free Agent/player information is made available to managers seeking additional players only.
  - Free agent listing does not guarantee placement on a team.

## EQUIPMENT

1. Teams will be required to provide the following equipment: bats, balls, and gloves.
2. Uniforms are not required.
3. Game Balls:
  - Each team must provide a minimum of two (2) game balls.
  - Men's league:
    - 52/300 12" yellow covered ball
  - Co-Ed league:
    - Men's ball – EASTON 12" incrediball yellow covered ball
    - Women's ball – 52/300 12" yellow covered ball
    - Worth Super Blue Dot balls are prohibited.

- Raised stitches balls required; non-stitched balls are prohibited.
- Any ball deemed illegal by the umpire will not be allowed. The umpire(s) decision is final.
- The pitcher is responsible for all incoming opponents ball. If the pitcher believes one to be illegal it should be brought to the attention of the umpire(s) immediately. All play up to that point is legal.

#### 4. Game Bats:

- All bats must be ASA approved.
- No baseball, senior softball, or fast pitch bats
- The Woodlands Township Umpires retain the authority to remove any bat that he/she suspects has been altered in any way. This is left entirely to the discretion of the umpire in any given game. The game shall be immediately forfeited by any team whose player takes a position in the batter's box with any bat that has been previously removed by the umpire in accordance with this rule.
  - Older bats used that have worn labels from long time usage will be left to the discretion of the umpire(s).
  - Please visit <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-ASA/Certified-ASA-Equipment.aspx> for more information on acceptable bats

#### 5. Braces and Casts

- Any brace or cast must be sufficiently padded to prevent other players from being injured if struck.
- The umpire may require a player with a brace or cast to leave the field if they feel that the player is playing in a manner that is dangerous to themselves or other players. Another player may be substituted for the player sent from the field.

### THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP EXCEPTIONS

***Please note ALL Woodlands Township Softball Leagues adopt ASA Rules in conjunction with additional Township Rules and Regulations listed here.***

- Five (5) men and five (5) women for Co-Ed line leagues. Note: it is permissible to start with eight (8) players as long as there are at least four (4) women. Additionally, it is permissible to play more women than men; but not more men than women.
  - Defensively: two (2) males and two (2) females must take positions in the outfield. Two (2) males and two (2) females must take positions in the infield. The pitcher and catcher must be of opposite gender.
- When a player receives a written warning they must be immediately subbed out of the game. If there are no substitutes available for the team, the team will play short one player until the umpire allows the player to return to the game.
- Sliding will be allowed. If a base runner intentionally slides into a fielder that runner shall be ruled out and is subject to ejection.
  - In the event a play is being made at home plate, with the fielder in possession of the ball, the base runner **must attempt to avoid contact.**
  - A fielder at any base that does not have the ball in their possession while making a play must allow room for the runner to cross the plate/base without obstruction.
- All batters start with a one strike and one ball (1-1) ball count. After a batter receives two strikes, and hits a foul ball, they will be allowed one attempt to hit. If the batter swings at the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) strike and does not foul it off, the batter shall be called out. All third (3<sup>rd</sup>) strike foul balls are dead balls and base runners may not advance even if they are caught.
- Batting line up will alternate genders for Co-Ed Leagues.
  - Women can bat back to bat
  - Men are prohibited from batting back to back
  - A team may bat women back to back or rotate the men within the line up in Co-Ed Leagues.
- Any male player to walk will result in a two base award. The next batter (female) will bat in Co-Ed Leagues
  - Exception: with two (2) outs the female player may opt to walk.
- Any player deemed to be a risk to themselves or to others may be removed from the field and Township property.
- In the event of an injury to a runner, courtesy runners will be allowed.
  - This runner shall be the last out of the same gender
  - In the event of no outs, this runner shall be last batter of the same gender from the previous inning.

8. Home run rules:
  - One (1) & one (1) up for Men's Leagues
    - Inside the park home runs are not counted against the home run limit.
  - One (1) & one (1) for men per game for Co-Ed Leagues
    - All other will be outs with no advancement of base runners.
9. Run Rules – 15 after 3 innings, 12 after 4 innings, 10 after 5 innings.

## **DISCIPLINARY**

1. The League Coordinator and Township Representative retains the authority to remove and/or suspend any player/individual from the league based upon their behavior while on The Woodlands Township's property.
2. League officials have the authority to issue verbal and/or written warnings to any player, spectator, or coach (regardless of whether they are playing) as deemed necessary to maintain control of a game.
3. League officials have the authority to send off any non-registered coach or spectator as deemed necessary in order to maintain control of the game. Furthermore, these individuals may be subject to additional disciplinary measures as seen fit by the League Coordinator and Township Representative.
4. Verbal abuse by any individual towards players, officials, and/or spectators will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action as deemed necessary.
5. **Written Warnings**
  - Written warnings are cumulative over a one season period which includes league playoffs.
  - Written Warnings may be issued from arrival to the field until departure by any league official.
  - Two (2) written warnings in a season shall result in an automatic one (1) game suspension.
  - Three (3) written warnings shall result in an automatic suspension for the remainder of the current season.
6. **Ejections**
  - A minimum one game suspension for any ejection. Any player ejected will be suspended for the remainder of the current game and the next game; even if that game is in the next season.
  - Should any player be ejected twice within one season the following penalties apply:
    - Suspension for the remainder of the current season or a total of six games should the suspension overlap into the proceeding season.
  - Ejections from games due to violent conduct such as fighting, punching, striking, kicking, stomping, slapping, scratching, biting, choking, elbowing, head-butting, etc.: An additional minimum one (1) season suspension to be reviewed by the League Coordinator.
    - Violent Conduct towards a player—minimum one (1) season
    - Violent Conduct towards a League Official—minimum one (1) year
  - **An ejected player must leave the park immediately** and may be subject to additional suspensions at the discretion of the League Coordinator. Further sanctions shall be at the discretion of the League Coordinator.
    - Any player ejected shall leave The Woodlands Township's property within 2 minutes or the game shall be forfeited.
  - Profanity will not be tolerated and may result in ejection.
  - Intentionally throwing a bat will result in an automatic ejection.
  - A player will be called out and ejected for intentionally knocking down a field player while running the bases.
7. Clearing the bench will automatically forfeit the game along with a two (2) season suspension to be reviewed by the League Coordinator and Township Representative.
8. Any team or player making an appeal to the League Coordinator must send an email no later than two days after the event took place.

**SOFTBALL LEAGUE ROSTER FORM**



**Team Roster - Wednesday Night Co-ed**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Signature</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____	_____	_____

\*If more players needed to be added, another sheet will be provided\*



## The Woodlands Township Softball League

**Game Report - TEAM CAPTAINS, PLEASE HAVE YOUR TEAMS SIGN IN**

Date:	
Location:	
Time:	

Home Team:
Visiting Team:
Umpire:

Home Score:	
Visitor Score:	
League:	

[illegible]

**Waiver and Release:** In consideration of the furtherance of your purpose, objectives and work and in consideration of your permitting me, my child, work or heir to participate in any programs or events pertaining to THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, I, the undersigned, or if under 18, my parent guardian, intending to be legally bound hereby waive and release any and all right and claims for damages, whether based upon negligence or any other theory of law, which I, my child, ward, or heir and our parents guardian, heirs executors, representatives, administrators, and assigns may have against THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP, any affiliates or subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees associated with THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP, the municipalities or counter in or through which the programs or events take place affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, employees and agents, FOR ANY AND ALL INJURIES OR DAMAGES WHICH I, MY CHILD, WARD OR HEIR MAY SUFFER, while taking part in such programs or events or as a result thereof.

**Player Code of Conduct:** I hereby agree that as a league participant it is my responsibility to be aware of the contents within the Adult Softball Player's Guide and to abide by the Code of Conduct put forth within said Player's Guide. Agreement is implied upon signing above.

Game Notes: