



PLANO ADULT SPORTS

SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL BY-LAWS

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Article I. City of Plano Policies & Procedures

Section 1.01 GOVERNMENT

1. This league shall be governed by the Plano Parks & Recreation Department and assisted by an Adult Softball Advisory Committee consisting of appointed player representatives from both Men's and Coed leagues. The Umpire-in-Chief shall also be a member of the Softball Advisory Committee.
2. The Softball Advisory Committee shall rule on protests, appeals, and extended disciplinary action.
3. Any rule not covered in the league By-laws will be covered under the USA Softball Association Official Rules of Softball and USA Code.
4. USA Softball Association rules will govern play, and TAAF rules will govern player eligibility.
5. Per City Ordinance, the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited in all parks located within city limits. This also includes parking lots.
6. The officials' decision shall be final on judgment calls and on the conduct of the game. These decisions do not involve interpretation of the rules, the by-laws of the league, or the eligibility of players.

Section 1.02 REGISTRATION

1. On-line registration is available on our website teamsideline.com/plano.
2. Click on the sport and division that you wish to play. Only the top four teams will advance to playoffs in a playoff league. If you are in a playoff league that has five teams or less, then only the top two teams will make the playoffs.
3. Your team will not be registered until we have received payment. You may also register in person at the Adult Sports office located at 5901 Los Rios Blvd. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
4. Special requests that are noted in the appropriate location on the registration form will try to be honored if possible.
5. If you have multiple teams playing on the same night and more than one qualifies for the playoffs, you may be required to choose which team will advance to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Section 1.03 FEES

1. Each team shall pay a participation fee set by the Parks & Recreation Department with either cash or debit/credit card.
2. All fees shall be paid in full by the designated due date set by the Parks & Recreation Department.
THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. There will be no refunds once the schedules have been published.
4. All teams are required to play game schedules as posted. Game schedules will not be changed to accommodate individual teams. The only changes to game schedules will be made by Parks & Recreation Staff due to rain-outs or other unforeseen administrative or facility-related circumstances.

Section 1.04 ELIGIBILITY

1. **AT ALL TIMES, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ELIGIBILITY AND CONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS RESTS WITH THE MANAGER OF THE TEAM.**
2. All participants on softball teams must have attained the **age of fifteen (15)** prior to the registration date.

3. Participants must either live, work, or worship within the city limits of Plano. Part-time jobs do not fulfill the “work” requirement. However, non-resident teams will be permitted on a space-available basis.
4. No player shall be eligible who has not signed the official playing Roster or Player Addition form (both can be found at teamsideline.com/plano under Downloads).
5. Players may not play on different teams within the same league. No player will be released to play on another team in the same league. Players may play on more than one team; however, they will do so at their own scheduling risk.
6. No player may participate who has been suspended from any other affiliated Parks & Recreation activity until approved to play by the Softball Advisory Committee upon recommendation by the Parks & Recreation Department.
7. Teams may question eligibility of only two players per game. Whole rosters may not be questioned. Teams playing ineligible players will forfeit all games in which the ineligible persons appeared in the lineup and may forfeit all remaining games in the current season’s schedule. The ineligible person will be suspended, and no entry fees will be refunded. Managers playing ineligible or suspended players may be suspended for two (2) full calendar years from Plano Parks & Recreation Department activities.
8. Women are eligible to participate in a Men's division if they choose to do so. Rules in those games will continue to be governed strictly by Men's league rules, with no modifications or exceptions.
9. Detailed rules for protests can be found on page 9 of this document.

Section 1.05 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. Depending upon enrollment figures each season, it may become necessary to group both lower and higher level teams together. Lower skill level teams may play in a higher skill level division but higher skill level teams will not be allowed to play in a lower skill division. Changes regarding runs and home runs in mixed leagues will be implemented to make such a league as competitive and enjoyable as possible for all teams. Accurate records will be kept. Implementation of these rules will be at the discretion of the Adult Sports staff. An email will be sent to all of the teams involved.

Article II. Rules

Section 2.01 HITTING

1. All batters will begin with a 1 – 1 count.
2. A batter will be awarded first base after three (3) balls have been called by the umpire.
3. A batter will be called out:
 - a. On a second called strike by the umpire.
 - b. After hitting a foul ball with a two-strike count.

4. **Player Protection Rule**

A pitcher that is hit by either a line drive or a one-hopper within the pitcher’s box will result in the play being called a “dead ball,” and the batter will be called out. This includes a defensive move within the pitcher’s box in which a pitcher knocks down the ball. The pitcher’s box is defined as five (5) feet in front of the pitcher’s rubber and extending back ten (10) feet from the pitcher’s rubber toward second base. Any further occurrence at any point during the game by either team will warrant a removal of the batter and a three (3) game suspension. This rule may not be protested and is at the discretion of the umpire.

Section 2.02 HOME RUN LIMITS

1. Home run limits are in effect as listed below. For any over-the-fence home runs in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.
 - a. Men's Recreational and Coed Recreational – One (1) home run allowed
 - b. Men's A, Coed A – Two (2) home run allowed per game plus "One-Up Rule."
 - c. Men's AA – Five (5) home runs allowed per game plus "One-Up Rule."
 - d. Men's Open – Unlimited home runs

Section 2.03 ONE-UP RULE

1. Once both teams have reached their respective home run limits, either team may hit an additional home run; however, no team may ever go more than one home run up on the other team. Any additional home runs above the One-up will be scored as outs. Once the home team has reached its home run limit and there are fewer than ten (10) minutes left in the game, the home team can hit one (1) home run to pull even but cannot go one-up. The "10-minute rule" does not go into effect until the home team has reached its home run limit.

Section 2.04 HOME TEAM

1. "Home" team is named on game schedules. Teams may occupy either dugout on a first-come, first-served basis.

Section 2.05 SHORT-HANDED RULE

1. Games will begin if a team has nine (9) players. There will be an automatic out when the absent player's time comes to bat. However, if a tenth player arrives, the player may be substituted for the absent player. Teams may play shorthanded for any reason. **Teams may not play with fewer than nine (9) players.**
2. Coed teams normally field 5/5. However, Coed teams may start and play shorthanded for any reason. **There must be a minimum of nine (9) players** (5 men/4 women or 4 men/5 women). There will be an automatic out when the absent player's time comes to bat.

Section 2.06 TEAM ROSTERS

1. Please be mindful when picking your team name. The City of Plano Parks & Recreation leagues and facilities are family friendly. Please refrain from using suggestive, derogatory, profane, or offensive team names. The City of Plano Adult Sports Staff has the right to refuse any team name that may be viewed as non-family friendly.
2. Team rosters will be limited to twenty (20) players.
3. Players must be fifteen (15) years of age.
4. All players must have signed the official team Roster form or have completed a Player Addition form prior to playing in a game.
5. The official Roster form **must** be completed through the Team Sideline link that each team manager was sent before the season began. This must be completed before your third scheduled game.
6. In order to add a player to the team after the Roster has been turned in, a Player Addition form must be filled out and submitted in person at Heritage Yards office (middle of the complex) during game times. Players may not be added to your Roster after the completion of the sixth game played in the season.

Section 2.07 THE LINE-UP

1. Line-ups will be exchanged at the home-plate meeting before the game. All players must either be on the official Roster submitted to the City of Plano Adult Sports Department or they must have completed a Player Addition form after the original roster has been turned in.
2. A legal hitting line-up can consist of **up to 16 batters**. **In coed leagues as many of those 16 batters may be female players as a team wants. If a team is batting with 10 or more players, no more than half of a coed team's batting order may be male players.**
3. **Coed teams may play with up to ten (10) female players in the field. Coed teams may never play with more than five (5) male players in the field.**
4. **Coed line-ups must never have male players batting back-to-back.**
5. There is **no** gender distribution requirement on defense in the infield or the outfield. Pitcher and catcher may be of either sex. There must be a minimum of nine (9) players (5 men/4 women or 4 men/5 women). There will be an automatic out when the absent player's time comes to bat.
6. Line-up cards are available on our website at teamsideline.com/plano under Downloads or at the Heritage Yards office.

Section 2.08 CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER

1. Continuous batting order is optional. Either team may exercise its option to use or not to use the continuous batting order. However, when used:
 - a. Teams must inform the umpire prior to the start of the game at the home plate meeting and may not change their option after the start of the game.
 - b. Teams will be restricted to a maximum of sixteen (16) batters in the line-up.
 - c. Teams may not add additional batters to the batting order once the game begins unless the team starts with only nine (9) players.
 - d. Men and Coed: when a void in the continuous batting order is created for any reason, an out will be recorded when the player in that spot in the line-up is due at bat.

- e. Any ten (10) players listed in the continuous batting order may play defense at any time during the game. Players must remain in the same position in the batting order throughout the game unless substituted.
- f. If substitutions are made to the continuous batting order, the **re-entry rule** will apply.

A player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the same position in the batting order after his/her substitute has met mandatory play.

Section 2.09 COURTESY RUNNER

- 1. Courtesy runners will be allowed in all leagues. Any eligible player on the official line-up, including available substitutes, may be used as a courtesy runner. Only one runner, per sex, per team (a man for a man or a woman for a woman) may be used per inning. If a courtesy runner's turn at bat comes while on base, the courtesy runner will be called 'out,' removed from the base, and take his/her turn at bat.

Section 2.10 IMAGINARY "OUTFIELD" LINE

- 1. In all Coed leagues an imaginary "outfield" line will exist approximately 40 feet into the outfield (marked by hash marks on the foul lines). All outfielders must remain behind this line until the batter hits the ball. Violations of this rule will result in a one-base award to the batter/runner and any other runners on base at the time of the violation. If the "outfield line" is not clearly visible, it will be up to the umpire's discretion whether or not an outfielder is too close to the infield.

Section 2.11 SAFETY BAG

- 1. On a play made on a batter/runner advancing to first base, the batter/runner must use only the orange portion of the base, and the fielder must only use the white portion of the base. After a batter/runner passes the first base, both the white and orange portions of the base become live. Exception: On a force out attempt from the foul side of first base, the defense and the batter/runner can use either the orange or the white portion of the base.

Section 2.12 PITCHING

- 1. The pitcher's box is defined as five (5) feet in front of the pitcher's rubber and extending back ten (10) feet from the pitcher's rubber toward second base.
- 2. The pitcher must release the ball after coming to a complete stop with one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate or anywhere within the pitcher's box. One foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate or within the pitcher's box when the ball is released with an underhand motion. A step may be taken in any direction with the non-pivot foot. The pitcher must be facing the batter when delivering the ball.
- 3. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six (6) feet from the ground while not exceeding ten (10) feet from the ground.

Section 2.13 RUN RULE

1. All games will be played under the following run rules with the exception of Recreational leagues.
 - a. **2-1/2 or 3 innings: 20 runs**
 - b. **3-1/2 or 4 innings: 15 runs**
 - c. **4-1/2 or 5 innings: 10 runs**
2. **Flip/Flop Rule:** In the inning when the Run Rule for Men's Open, Men's AA, Men's A, or Coed A is exceeded and the home team is losing, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team. If this "new" visiting team does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the Run Rule, the game is over. If this new visiting team reduces 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.

Run Rule	Flip/Flop Rule
20 after 3 innings	After 2nd inning
15 after 4 innings	After 3rd inning
10 after 5 innings	After 4th inning

Section 2.14 STEALING

1. The stealing of bases will be allowed in all **men's** leagues with the exception of the Recreational leagues.

Section 2.15 USA BLOOD RULE

1. Players who are bleeding may not participate in games unless the blood is covered, as with a bandage. A player who is injured in a game and is bleeding will have one minute to take care of the problem and return to the game. If bleeding cannot be stopped and the blood cannot be covered within one minute, a substitution will be necessary, or the team must play shorthanded (shorthanded rules apply). Substitution and re-entry rules will apply. If a player gets blood on any part of clothing (jersey, pants, socks, etc.), that part of the uniform may not be worn unless the blood is dry. It is strongly recommended that the manager has a first aid kit with bandages, gauze, tape, spare jersey, pants, and socks available. Spare shirts in this case do not have to be numbered.

Section 2.16 BATS

1. All bats must be USA approved. Please check the USA website at www.USAsoftball.com (equipment) for the current approved and banned bat lists.
2. Teams must make all bats available to the umpires for a pre-game bat inspection. If a player is discovered to be using a banned bat after the pre-game inspection, the player will be called out. Both the player and the bat will be removed from the game. Any time that players have a question regarding the legality of a bat, they must ask the home plate umpire for a ruling prior to taking a position in the batter's box.

3. If a banned bat is discovered during the pre-game inspection or prior to the batter entering the batter's box, the bat will be removed from the game and no penalty will be assessed to the player or to the team.
4. All bats must be inspected (or re-inspected) each calendar year. All bats used must bear a NEW City of Plano hologram sticker in order to be used in league or tournament play. **Stickers from prior years are no longer viable and must be removed from the bat prior to inspection.** Players must bring their bats to the Heritage Yards Office to be inspected before the first game played to obtain the required hologram sticker. If a sticker is no longer readable, comes off, or is damaged, the bat must be presented for re-inspection before a new sticker can be provided.
5. If a player is discovered using a bat that does not have a City of Plano hologram sticker, the bat will be ruled illegal, and the following penalty will be assessed:
 - a. If the batter reached the base and the illegal bat is discovered prior to the next pitch, the batter on base will be declared out, and all runners must return to their positions prior to the "at bat." The bat will be removed from play until a sticker is obtained.
 - b. If the illegal bat is discovered after the next pitch, the bat will be removed from play until a sticker is obtained, but no penalty will be assessed to the player.
 - c. If discovered while the batter is in the batter's box, the batter will be declared out, and the bat will be removed from play until a sticker is obtained.
6. League officials have the authority to inspect any bat suspected of being altered in any way. The inspection may include weighing the bat, performing a compression test on the bat, photographing the bat, or doing any other tests that can be performed at Heritage Yards. During the inspection the bat will remain on-site, and the owner of the bat may be present.
 - a. If upon completion of the inspection the league official determines that the bat should be kept for further inspection or testing, the player and/or owner of the bat has two choices:
 - i. Choose to allow league officials to keep the bat for further testing with the understanding that the bat may be sent to either the bat manufacturer or the USA Softball Association. If the player and/or owner of the bat allows league officials to perform further testing on the bat and it is found that the bat has been altered, the player and/or owner will forfeit ownership of the bat and will be suspended from future participation in any City of Plano league or tournament games from the date of refusal.
 - ii. Refuse to allow league officials to keep the bat for further testing and accept a one (1) year suspension from future participation in any City of Plano league games from the date of refusal.
 - b. Upon completion of the suspension in either case above, the player and/or owner of the bat will also be placed on probation for a period of one year. If while on probation the player and/or owner is found with an altered bat or refuses league officials the opportunity to keep a bat for further testing, that player and/or owner will be permanently suspended from future participation in any City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament games.
 - c. The responsibility of knowing whether a bat has been altered is that of both the user and the owner of the bat. If an individual uses an altered bat in City of Plano league or tournament play and the owner is not identified, the suspensions will be imposed without regard to actual knowledge of the bat being altered. In addition, if the owner is not identified, the team will be suspended from future participation in City of Plano Adult Softball league or tournament play until someone claims ownership of the bat. Any bat that goes unclaimed will be treated as

abandoned property and will be held by the City of Plano staff until claimed by the rightful owner.

- d. The game in which a suspected altered bat is discovered will be forfeited by the team of the user/owner of the bat.

Section 2.17 DISTANCES

1. The distance from the back of home plate to the pitcher's box is 50 feet. The distance between bases is 70 feet.

Section 2.18 GAME BALLS

1. All balls used must have a USA-approved certification mark and must not appear on the USA non-approved list. All balls must be Optic Yellow in color, with red stitching.
2. The umpires must be able to read the specifications on the ball. Due to safety concerns, playability of the ball is at the discretion of the umpire.
3. **Game balls used by men must be 12-inch. They must be cor. 52 and 300 compression.**
4. **Game balls used by women must be 11-inch. They must be cor. 52 and 300 compression.**
5. Game balls are available in the office at Heritage Yards.

Section 2.19 UNIFORMS

1. All jerseys/shirts must be numbered. A legal number of contrasting color, **at least 3" inches high**, can be worn **anywhere** on the jersey. Numbers may not be fractions. **These numbers must be of a permanent nature. No tape is allowed. Penalty: A player must change his/her shirt, or fail to participate, if the umpire deems the shirt or number unsuitable.**
2. If two players wear the same number, both players may not participate in a game at the same time.
3. Players may not switch jerseys after the line-up has been submitted.
4. During cold weather, players may wear a jacket over an appropriate jersey.
5. Apparel including uniforms worn by spectators, players, managers, and coaches must be appropriate and not of obscene, lewd, vulgar, profane, or disruptive manner in either written or graphic format. Anyone wearing apparel as described will be considered a public nuisance and will be subject to penalties as provided in Ordinance 15-3 of the City of Plano.
6. Teams will be expected not to make a mockery of the game (i.e., wearing inappropriate attire).

Note: The City will have a limited number of t-shirts with numbers available for sale (\$10) at the Heritage yards office for teams to purchase in the case that a player does not have a shirt.

Section 2.20 SHOES

1. All players must wear shoes (sandals unacceptable). Metal spikes, boots, and open-toed shoes are illegal. Screw-on spikes that have exposed metal are illegal. **Penalty: A player must change his/her shoes, or fail to participate, if the umpire deems his/her shoes to be unsafe for themselves or other players. If a player refuses to change his/her shoes, the player will be removed from participation for the remainder of the game.**

Section 2.21 FORFEITS

1. The official score of a forfeited game due to ejection or due to lack of players at game time shall be recorded as **10-0**. In the event that a team has to forfeit due to injury, the official score will be recorded as **5-0**. In the case of a double forfeit, the official score shall be recorded as **0-0**.
2. Games will begin at the scheduled start time, and the clock will be started. If the event a team does not have the required number of players to begin the game, that team will automatically become the visiting team and will bat first. The game will continue to be played until such time as there are no longer any eligible batters or the team does not have the minimum number of required players upon the completion of the third out. At that point, the game will be forfeited.
3. If neither team can produce the required number of eligible players at the stated game time, a double forfeit will occur, and the official standings shall show a loss for both teams. There shall be no opportunity to replay the game.
4. **Forfeiture of four (4) league games will automatically suspend a team for the remainder of the season. All remaining games to be played will be forfeited and no entry fee refund will be made. The scores for all completed games will be recorded as played.**
5. If a team manager knows prior to game time that his/her team will be required to forfeit the game due to lack of eligible players, he/she should **verbally** forfeit the game by contacting the Adult Sports staff **by phone (not by email)**. **Prior to 4:30 pm, please call 972-941-5275. After 4:30 pm, call staff at the Heritage Yards softball complex office at 972-712-3930.** Leave a message if necessary, so that the opposing team can be notified. A voicemail will be considered a notification if left before your team's scheduled game time. This forfeit will count as a forfeit toward suspension from the league.
6. **"No-Show" Forfeit Rule:** This rule applies only if **no players** show up for the scheduled game and the Adult Sports Staff has not been notified of the forfeit. Any offense will incur a \$20 penalty fee for each "no-show" forfeit. The penalty fee **must** be received before your team is allowed to play again. Failure to provide this payment will result in an automatic forfeit of any future games scheduled until the fee has been paid. Payment can be submitted in person to the Adult Sports staff at 5901 Los Rios Boulevard, or to office staff at Heritage Yards, or payment information can be given over the phone (972-941-5275) to Adult Sports staff.
7. **\$20 Fine:** \$20 fine will also be applied if a forfeit is called in within one hour of game time. This is not enough time to notify officials, city staff or opponent.
8. Forfeited games will be rescheduled only if all games and game time are canceled by the Adult Sports Staff (due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances) prior to the scheduled start time of the forfeited game.

Section 2.22 TIES

1. Time limit on games is 55 minutes. If at the end of seven innings and/or the end of the time limit the score is tied, recreational leagues will end in a tie.

Section 2.23 SCHEDULES

1. Teams are required to play schedules as posted. Game schedules will not be changed to accommodate individual teams. The only changes to game schedules will be made by Parks & Recreation Staff due to rainouts or other unforeseen administrative or facility-related circumstances.
2. All games will be played as scheduled except in the event of unavoidable conflicts in facilities or inclement weather. Any postponed games will be rescheduled by the Adult Sports Office of the Parks & Recreation Department. Decisions on cancellations of games due to inclement weather will be made by the Parks & Recreation Department on the scheduled game day. Managers can call the rain-out hotline **(972-210-2936)** at 4:00 pm, on game day, to check the status of the fields. Any change in the decision after 4:00 pm on game day, due to later weather conditions will be updated at the time of the call on the rain-out hotline and at teamsideline.com/plano.
3. Games that are called due to rain or other unforeseen circumstances will be considered final if the game has progressed through 3-1/2 or 4 innings, OR has fulfilled the 15-run rule, OR has progressed through forty (40) minutes of play. **All uncompleted games will be started from the beginning.**
4. All make-up games will be played as time allows during and after the regular season. Make-up schedules will be available online. An effort will be made to reschedule all make-up games on each league's respective night of play, but scheduling on weekends or other week-nights may become necessary due to limited availability on a given week-night to keep leagues from overlapping each other.
5. In an instance where multiple rainouts occur, and the season is not able to be played at a time before the following season. Playoff games may be able canceled. In such cases, teams that qualified for the playoffs may have their playoff fees credited towards the next season.

Section 2.24 PROTESTS

1. Rule Interpretation Protests:

- a. Protests will not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of a judgment on the part of an umpire.
- b. Only protests involving the **misinterpretation** of a playing rule will be allowed.
- c. Only protests that actually affect the **win-loss** outcome of the **protested game** will be considered.
- d. **Teams wishing to protest the misinterpretation of a playing rule must:**
 - i. Notify the home plate umpire stating the reason for the protest prior to:
 1. The next pitch **OR**
 2. All infielders having left fair territory, if on the last play of the inning **OR**
 3. The umpire having left the playing field, if on the last play of the game
 - ii. Notify City Staff **in writing**, signed by the team manager, and filed by 5:00 pm the next business day.
 - iii. **Provide a \$50.00 deposit** (cash or check) to City Staff by 5:00 pm the next business day. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded.
- e. All protests will be ruled on by City Staff and the Umpire-in-Chief.
- f. If the protest is upheld, all penalties will be determined by City Staff and the Umpire-in-Chief whose decision shall be final.
- g. It is recommended that both teams keep a scorebook. The home team's book will serve as the official scorebook from which standings and records will be recorded.

2. Eligibility Protests:

a. Teams wishing to protest the eligibility of a player must:

- i. Inform the home plate umpire that the game is being played under protest and identify the person(s) in question **prior to the completion** of the game.
- ii. Notify City Staff of the protest **in writing**, signed by the team manager, and filed by 5:00 pm the next business day.
- iii. **Provide a \$50.00 deposit** (cash or check) to City Staff by 5:00 pm the next business day. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded.
- iv. The eligibility of only two (2) players per game may be challenged.
- v. All protests will be ruled on by the City Staff and the Umpire-in-Chief.
- vi. If a protest occurs during a playoff game, the officials as well as city staff should be notified immediately and will be handled immediately. Protests will not be considered in the playoffs if staff is not notified during the game.

b. Protested player(s) must:

- i. Produce picture identification to the Umpire issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety within ten (10) minutes of the completion of the game. **Failure to produce picture identification will result in an automatic forfeiture by the team using the player(s) in question.**
- ii. City Staff will verify the identity of the player(s) in question with the umpire. Rulings on player eligibility will be made within 48 hours, and City Staff will notify both team managers. **If the team roster is not on file and a player's eligibility is challenged, the game in question will be automatically forfeited.**

Article III. Rules (Men's Recreational & Coed Recreational)

Section 3.01 STRIKE ZONE

1. A strike zone mat measuring 25-1/2 inches long and 17 inches wide with a V shape cut out to fit tight with the point of home plate will be used. Any legally-pitched ball not struck at then landing on any part of home plate or the strike mat will be ruled a strike. **The shoulder-to-knee strike zone is eliminated.**

Section 3.02 TIME LIMIT/RUN RULE

1. Ties will be allowed in Men's Rec and Coed Rec league games, and recreational games will not be played with a Run Rule. All league games including recreational games will be 55 minutes. The Stymie Rule goes into effect at the expiration of 55 Minutes.

Section 3.03 STYMIE RULE

1. If a team cannot win or tie due to the 5-run per inning rule, the game is over. If the Stymie Rule has not been achieved at or after 55 minutes, the inning will be continued until the Stymie rule is in effect or the inning has been completed.

Section 3.04 RUNS PER INNING

1. Teams may score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning including the last inning.

Section 3.05 BASE ON BALLS (COED)

1. A walk to a male batter will result in a two (2) base award, and the next batter (female) must bat regardless of the number of outs.

Section 3.06 SECOND HOME PLATE

1. A second home plate will be used in all Coed and Recreational leagues. The runner will run to the second home plate. The catcher will remain on the regular home plate. If the runner runs to the regular home plate instead of the second home plate, it will be an out. If a runner returns to third base after passing the commitment line (a marking 20 feet from the second home plate), the runner will be called out, and the ball will remain live.

Section 3.07 STEALING

1. Stealing of bases is **NOT** allowed in any recreational leagues.

Article IV. Rules (Men's Open League)

Section 4.01 GENERAL OPEN LEAGUE RULES

1. The Men's Open League will play by the Men's A League rules.

Section 4.02 HOME RUNS

1. Unlimited home runs will be allowed in the Men's Open League

Article V. Discipline

Section 5.01 MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Managers will be responsible to see that all their players know and abide by the rules as stated in the City of Plano Adult Softball By-laws. Further, managers are responsible for their players knowing and abiding by the City of Plano Adult Sports Sportsmanship Guidelines. If a manager cannot or will not control his/her players and spectators, he/she faces league sanctions ranging from removal or ejection to forfeiture of games.
2. The manager shall be the official representative of the team unless he/she designates one of the players as a team representative on the line-up card prior to the start of the game. **Only** the manager or his designated team representative may discuss a call or decision made by the officials. The manager or designated team representative is responsible for maintaining the team's cooperation with the umpires and City Staff.

Section 5.02 SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct is contrary to the basic principles of athletics. The player Sportsmanship Guidelines have been established for the protection of the participants and spectators. Violation of the Sportsmanship Guidelines is not condoned by the City of Plano Adult Sports Department.
 - a. **No Person Shall:** At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, harass, or threaten an umpire. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - b. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an umpire's decision.
 - c. **No Person Shall:** Refuse to abide by an umpire's decision. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - d. **No Person Shall:** Discuss with an umpire in any manner the decision reached by such umpire except the manager or designated team representative.
 - e. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game against a person of the opposing team. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - f. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of endangering a player, league umpire, City Staff, or spectator.
 - g. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of physical attack upon a player, umpire, City Staff or spectator. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - h. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon a player, umpire, City Staff or spectator. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - i. **No Person Shall:** Appear upon the field of play at any time in an intoxicated condition. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - j. **No Person Shall:** Use profane language before, during or after any game on City property. Umpires are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.

- k. **The Manager and Team Shall:** Be responsible for the conduct of their fans and supports. If fans and supporters become abusive toward team members, umpires, or City Staff, they place the team in jeopardy of forfeiting the game.

Section 5.03 PENALTIES

1. Use of profane language and/or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be an automatic suspension. It shall not be necessary for the Adult Softball Advisory Committee to meet except to increase the length of a suspension.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at any time for any reason. Managers, players, coaches, and spectators may be suspended from league play for any violation of the Sportsmanship Guidelines before, during, or after any game on City property. The Parks & Recreation Adult Sports Supervisor will decide on the length of suspensions, but there shall be a **minimum of one game or more** for the violation of any Sportsmanship Guideline.
 - a. **One-Game Suspension:** The player shall immediately be ejected from the game in which he/she is playing. The player is required to leave the facility and is ineligible to play in any other game that night, regardless of the league. The one-game suspension shall be enforced beginning with the next game in the league in which the violation occurred.
 - b. **Suspension Greater Than Two Games:** The suspension shall be effective for the number of games designated following the game in which the violation occurred. The suspended player may not return to the park and will not be allowed to participate with any team playing in a City of Plano softball league game or tournament until the suspension has been fulfilled.
3. Any player **ejected** from a game **must immediately leave the park**. If the player refuses to leave the park or threatens an umpire at the time of the ejection, the game will be forfeited even if there are still nine (9) players eligible to play.
4. Penalties may be enforced not only to individual players but also to an entire team if deemed necessary.
5. Bye-weeks and rained out games do not count towards a suspension.
6. Players may not participate in playoff games until the full suspension has been served.
7. Playoff games will count as games served to fulfill a suspension.
8. The suspension will be carried over to the next season if a player does not have a sufficient number of games remaining on his/her team schedule to complete the suspension.
9. There will be an indefinite suspension for fighting (fights will be defined as intent to do harm). Any or all persons involved in a fight will be suspended. Whole teams may be suspended if the infraction is severe enough (i.e. striking an umpire, mass fights, striking a City Staff member, etc.).
10. A **one-year suspension** will be warranted if a second two-game suspension is drawn. **THE MAXIMUM PENALTY APPLIED AFTER THE SECOND EJECTION MAY RESULT IN A ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN ALL CITY OF PLANO ADULT SPORT LEAGUES.**
11. A **one-year or more** suspension will be issued for striking an umpire or City Staff member.
12. Umpires have the option of **removing** a player for minor infractions. A removal means that the player may not play for the remainder of the game only. The player **does not have to leave the park**, and the game may continue if there are at least eight (8) players eligible for play. **The umpires have the right to increase a removal to an ejection if the unsportsmanlike behavior continues.**
13. Any player(s) found on park property in possession of an alcoholic beverage will be immediately ejected from the game, which will result in an automatic two-game suspension. If a player(s) is found in possession of an alcoholic beverage on park property **before a game**, the team's scheduled game(s) that night will be an automatic forfeit. If a player(s) is found in possession of an alcoholic beverage **after a game**, the team's next scheduled game(s) will be considered a forfeit.

Section 5.04 APPEALS

1. The City of Plano Adult Softball Advisory Committee will accept appeals of suspension from teams or players as long as:
 - a. The length of the team or player suspension is four (4) weeks or greater.
 - b. The suspension is not connected to any pending investigations by law enforcement.
2. To file an appeal, the team or player must:
 - a. **Contact the City of Plano Adult Sports Supervisor within three (3) days of being notified of the suspension.**
 - b. Provide a **written** account of the incident that led to the suspension, stating why the suspension should be terminated or reduced. This written account must be received within 48 hours of contacting the Adult Sports Supervisor and declaring the desire to appeal the suspension.
 - c. Provide **contact information for any and all witnesses** to the incident.
3. The City of Plano Adult Softball Advisory Committee will review all written documentation provided by all parties involved including players, umpires, spectators, and City Staff. Upon reviewing the written documentation, the Committee will decide the necessity of:
 - a. **A meeting** with all involved parties to gain additional information.
 - i. If the Softball Advisory Committee finds it necessary to meet with the individuals involved, staff will set the date, time, and location of the meeting. All involved parties will be contacted and informed of the date, time, and location of the meeting. Every effort will be made to give at least one (1) week notice of the meeting. Once a date and time for the meeting have been set, they will not be changed or rescheduled except for unforeseen circumstances.
 - b. **A suspension**
 - i. If the Softball Advisory Committee decides that meeting with all the involved parties is not necessary, Committee members will decide if the suspension is warranted. If the suspension is deemed to be warranted, members will decide if it should be shortened, lengthened, or remain as is.
 - c. **Once The Softball Advisory Committee has ruled on the suspension**, the team manager and player will be notified by the City of Plano Adult Sports Supervisor who will inform them of the Committee's ruling. All appeal rulings by the City of Plano Softball Advisory Committee are **FINAL** and may not be appealed a second time.

Article VI. General Information

Section 6.01 DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE WINNER

1. If a tie exists for any award position, the following tiebreaker criteria will be followed:
 - a. Win-loss in head-to-head games(if teams have played each other an equal amount of times)
 - b. Fewest runs allowed in head-to-head games(if teams have played each other an equal amount of times)
 - c. Most runs scored in head-to-head games(if teams have played each other an equal amount of times)
 - d. Run differential in head-to-head games(if teams have played each other an equal amount of times)
 - e. Fewest runs allowed in league play
 - f. Most runs scored in league play
 - g. Lowest number of forfeits
 - h. Coin flip

Section 6.02 FREE AGENT LIST

1. A password-protected “free agent” list is maintained by the Adult Sports Staff. This list will be updated each new season and will contain information regarding individuals wishing to be added to a team. Managers will receive an emailed password prior to the beginning of each new season. The free agent list can be accessed by team managers on our website at www.teamsideline.com/plano.

Section 6.03 AWARDS

1. 1st place award consisting of fifteen (15) custom championship shirts for first-place winners.

Section 6.05 LEAGUE ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENT

1. The City will maintain league standings for all leagues. At the end of the season, any men’s recreational or coed recreational team ending the season with a 6:2 record or better will be expected to move up to the “A” league division. Teams may move back down to Recreational the next season if desired. Please note that final advancement decisions will be made at the discretion of Adult Sports staff.

Section 6.06 QUESTIONS

1. The Adult Sports office telephone number is **972-941-5275**. Office hours are **Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm**. The City of Plano Parks & Recreation Department is located at 5901 Los Rios Blvd.