

GREAT PARKS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

SOFTBALL RULES



Triple Creek

[A valid Motor Vehicle Permit is required to enter the parks. Cost for residents of Hamilton County: \$10 annual/\$5 daily; other visitors: \$16 annual/\$8 daily.]

LEAGUE FORMAT

There will be a spring, summer and fall season. Each season consists of a minimum of seven (7) games, weather and season depending. Any rainouts will be made up at the end of each schedule as long as weather allows. All leagues are USSSA sanctioned. That fee is included in your league fee. League tournament will be held in September for the top 2 teams in each division from the spring and summer sessions. Tournament will be played on the Saturday morning/afternoon following the end of the summer session.

GAMES

1) There is a 60-minute time limit for all games. For both the early game and all subsequent games throughout the day: If a game is tied after the 60 minutes, one new inning with the 1- pitch rule will be played. If the game remains tied after that then the final score shall be a tie.

FORFEITS

- 1) There is a 10-minute grace period in the early game. If the grace period is used, the 60-minute time limit will begin at the scheduled game time. No grace period after the first game.
- 2) If a team has two (2) or more "No Show" forfeits, they will be dropped from the league. No refunds will be granted. A team may request to be reinstated in writing to the League Director. The League Director has final decision. If a team knows they can't make a scheduled game, the team should call at least 24 hours in advance (By Friday morning for Sunday games). If this procedure is followed, the forfeiting team will not be charged with a "No Show" forfeit, but, will still be charged with a forfeit in the standings.

ROSTERS

- 1) 22 player limit
- 2) If a player plays a game and is not on the roster, the game is forfeited.
- 3) Rosters are due after the third game of the season.
- 4) If asked, players must show a picture ID. It would be advisable to have all players carry proper ID.

PROTESTS

- 1) Protests must be made in accordance with USSSA Rules.
- 2) In roster protests, the protest must be made when the person being protested enters the game.
- 3) There is a \$50.00 protest fee. If the protest is accepted, the money will be refunded. Checks should be made out to the Great Parks of Hamilton County.
- 4) All protests must be made in writing and delivered with the fee to the League Director by 4pm the following business day. (A protest on Friday, must be made by 4pm Monday)

OTHER RULES

- 1) Metal spikes are not allowed in any leagues.
- 2) One courtesy runner is permitted per inning (courtesy runner shall be the last recorded out). No courtesy runner shall be allowed on any extra base hits (singles only) unless there is an injury.
- 3) The Team Manager is responsible for the conduct of the team. If a player or manager is suspended by an umpire or Park Official, the person shall be suspended for 1 full week and not be permitted to play in any game during that time.
- 4) Absolutely no alcoholic beverages may be brought into the park.
- 5) Amplified music is not permitted on the fields or within close vicinity of the fields. Amplified music is strictly reserved for the parking lot.
- 6) Umpires are provided by the Great Parks of Hamilton County. 5 new softballs will be provided to the team manager prior to each session. Each manager will furnish a softball each game and that will be the ball used while that team is batting. Teams can purchase additional softballs from the snack bar for \$5/new ball. Women's league will use Worth Green Dot and the Men and Co-ed leagues will use Worth Super Gold Dots.
- 7) The 12" softball shall be used for both men and co-ed league play. The 11" softball shall be used for women's league play.
- 8) The safety base will be used during all league games. Please refer to your USSSA rule book for the official rule. MIXED COUPLES: 5 men and 5 women on defense. Players may play anywhere on defense. Players do not have to alternate on defense. The batting order must alternate man, women. Please refer to USSSA Rule Book for official rule. Teams may have the AH(s) but must continue the man woman batting order.
- 9) Home runs: Maximum of 3 home runs per team. It will be the player's option to run the bases. Hitter may stop once the umpire declares it a home run. The 4th home run after the limit will be an inning ending out. The 5th home run after the limit will be an inning ending out and offensive ejection in the lineup (Player may remain in defensively or be substituted with another player).
- 10) A 3 (three) ball and 2 (two) strike count will be used. **NO "FREE FOUL" - hit balls after one strike must be fair.** This was a new USSSA rule for 2014.
- 11) Home Team's Book is official. Both teams shall keep a book.
- 12) The game shall be called final when one team is winning by 20 runs after the 3rd inning, 15 runs after the 4th inning or 10 or more runs after the 5th inning.
- 13) If a team is short players for their game, they are permitted to pick up a sub to start and if necessary play the game. If a team is at 8 players, they are permitted to pick up only 1 player to make 9 for both men and women's play. Teams are not permitted to pick up 2 players to make 10 unless the opposing team gives permission to the umpire. In co-ed play, teams are permitted to pick up subs to reach 5 girls and in which case are permitted to pick up a player and make 10 on the lineup card. The sub shall be removed from the game if and when a member of the team's roster shows up.
- 14) Fake pitching is not permitted.
- 15) All bats must have the permanent USSSA mark on its taper or be a wood bat to be permitted during league and tournament play.

ADDITIONAL HITTER (AH)

1) A team may bat all players present with only 10 players in the field. It is the option of each team. Once you start with that number, you must keep that many players in the lineup or an out will be recorded when that spot in the order is due up. If the AH is used in Co-Ed games, 12 hitters must be used.

UMPIRES

- 1) Umpires have official time for game.
- 2) Umpire has authority to remove a player from the park.
- 3) Severe types of verbal abuse and any physical contact on an umpire or league official will be dealt with severely.
- 4) It is the judgment of the umpire to call a game on account of darkness or rain once the game has started.

Profanity Rule/Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

The umpire will assess an out to the offending team, offense or defense, for use of profanity during any part of the game. The penalty will be assessed at the first dead ball prior to the next pitch. Defensive team will be assessed at its next at bat. Second offense, by the same player, will result in ejection. This rule does not affect the umpire's ability to eject a player prior to this ruling.