



City of Brooksville

Parks & Recreation Department

Adult Softball Rule & Regulations

Welcome

The City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department wishes to extend its welcome to you and your players. We hope that you will have a successful and pleasant season.

You, as the manager of your team, are the only means of communication between the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation office and your players. We ask that you please cooperate with us to keep all players informed of rules & regulations governing the softball league. It is your responsibility to inform your players of game times & places. Please provide them with this information so that we may avoid an abundance of calls on this subject. Your cooperation on this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you as the manager should leave the team during the season, please contact the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation office so that we may take your information off the managers list. Please notify us of all address & phone number changes, so that the mailing lists are kept current.

All playing rules governing league play will come from the Softball Official Rule Book & Guide as published by the NSA.

The following rules & regulations have been set up by the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department & take precedence over any differences in the Official NSA Rule Book. For any rules not listed below please refer to the NSA Rule Book.

City of Brooksville Parks, Facilities & Recreation Department
99 Jerome Brown Place
Brooksville, FL 34601
Phone: 352-540-3835 Fax: 352-544-5496
Parks, Facilities & Recreation Director: Mike Walker (352)540-3830

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

City Ordinance prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages on the city owned or city operated property. If a team brings alcoholic beverages on the premises, they will be asked to remove them from the property. If the team does not comply, the game will be forfeited.

Note: Individual players caught drinking or have it on their breath while on city owned or operated property during, before or after a game, playing or not, will automatically be ejected from the facility & the property & will be suspended for three (3) consecutive ball games. The rule will apply to all play authorized by the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation office, exhibition games & weekend tournaments included.

Second offense will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.

SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited on the field or in the dugouts, if caught in any area deemed a no smoking area you will be asked to move.

RAIN-OUTS

Prior to game time, up until 5pm all decisions on “Rained out Games” will be made by the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department. At game time, it is the duty of the City of Brooksville &/or Head Umpire to determine the condition of the playing field. Once a game has started, the Head Umpire has full jurisdiction as to the playing condition of the field. They have full authority to call the game at any time because of field wetness, hazardous weather conditions or lightning.

1. Any game discontinued by the umpire or the City of Brooksville due to weather or other conditions will be considered official if five (5) or more completed innings have been played or if the home team has scored more runs in four (4) or more innings.
2. We will attempt to makeup all rain outs at the end of the schedule. It is not always possible to reschedule your games on your playing nights, so we would appreciate it if you will play the make-up games as we schedule them.

SCOREKEEPERS & LINE-UPS

1. Line-ups for Home & Away team are due to the umpire 5 minutes before game time, please use the scorecards provided.

NOTE: Both teams will be given a 5 minute grace period, This will allow only 5 minutes for your late players to arrive, if the player(s) do not arrive and the 5 minutes are up, the short handed team will forfeit the game. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

2. Scorecards will be used as lineup cards & are to be filled out completely with player's First & Last name. **NO ABBREVIATIONS.**
3. Home team is the official scorekeeper; however, both teams should keep a book in case an error is made by the home team. **Any such errors MUST be addressed with the umpire before you move into the next inning.** The official home team will be listed second on the schedule. Example 1 vs. 2, 2 is the home team.

POSTPONEMENTS

All requests for postponements must be in writing prior to schedules being released.

UMPIRES

All Umpires working your game have attended an umpire clinic on rules & Mechanics of umpiring. They are there to work your games, not to take abuse or foul language from you & your players. Umpires are not obligated to umpire any forfeited games.

PROTESTS

Notification of intent to protest must be made to the umpire by the manager immediately before the next pitch. Protest must be written on the back of the scorecard at that time & the game continues under protest. The manager must file a written protest to the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Office within 24 hours after the protest occurred. Manager must have all information concerning the nature of the protest & the rule infraction that applies.

NOTE: There will be no protest based solely on a decision which involves accuracy & judgment on the part of an umpire. The lack of knowledge concerning the ground rules is no excuse for a protest. It is as much the duty of the team manager to find out the rules, as it is the Umpire's duty to give them.

EJECTIONS

Any ejected player **MUST leave the facility & property immediately**, without any altercation. It is the Team Managers responsibility to assist the player from the playing field and the facility. If the player does not leave the facility; his/her team will forfeit the game.

Umpires may remove players from the game for any of the following reasons:

1. If a player attempts to arouse the wrath of the other players or spectators.

2. If a player tries to call the attention to the crowd that he/she does not look on the ruling with favor.
3. If a player throws a glove, bat or ball after a displeasing decision.
4. While coaching he/she attempts to annoy the opposition. A coach is there to assist the batter & the base runner & not to annoy the opposing players.
5. The use of profanity on the fields shall also be grounds for immediate ejection of a player or a manager.
6. Verbal abuse directed at an umpire or official of the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department.
7. Anyone making farce of the game.
8. Any batter who throws his/her bat in the act of anger or otherwise, shall be removed from the game and draw an automatic two (2) week suspension.
9. Any team refusing to play or who leaves the field after being ordered to play by the umpire shall be automatically suspended for one (1) year.
10. Any player or manager refusing to leave the playing area before, during or after a game when ordered to do so by the umpire will be disciplined.

PLAYER SUSPENSION

If an Official ejects a player from a game for any reason, the ejection will carry an automatic two (2) or four (4) game suspension. However, under extenuating circumstances, the Athlete Director may reduce or lengthen the suspension. The City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation office shall have sole authority to levy the length of the suspensions, not the umpire involved. All managers will receive verification of a player's suspension along with the date the player will be eligible to play again. It will be the duty of the team manager to see that a suspended player does not play during the time of his/her suspension. If the player should violate this condition, the player & the manager both will be faced with a suspension, if the violation should occur during the absence of the manager, the person who made out the line up shall be suspended. Managers or players must appeal in writing to the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation office within 24 hours or umpires report will be acted upon. Suspensions shall be valid from one season to another.

NOTICE

The standing rule of all activities conducted by the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department is that any player, manager or spectator striking, attempting to strike, verbally abusing or the throwing of any object at an Official of the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department shall be automatically barred from any other activities for a period of one (1) year. Further, if no attempt is made by the team to restrain a player from striking an Official, that particular team shall be suspended for three (3) consecutive games.

During any period that a player is under suspension, a team will not be allowed to postpone a game.

ADULT LEAGUES DISQUALIFICATION & APPEAL PROCEDURE

JURISDICTION

The City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department's Director and/or Athletic Manager shall have sole authority to administer the suspension process from all activities conducted by this department for any of the following acts:

ACTS OF DISQUALIFICATION-SUSPENSIONS

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Physical or verbal abuse such as an attack on an umpire, tournament or recreation department official immediately preceding, during or following a game.
3. Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information or withholding information to recreation department personnel.
4. Participating in league play while knowingly violating league rules.
5. Participating in league play while he/she does not meet eligibility requirements of the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department.

ROSTER INFORMATION

1. The Men's, Women's & Co-Ed league players must be at least 16 years old by the date of the first game. All participants must **COMPLETELY** sign their team roster, waiver & code of conduct.
2. MANAGERS: It is your responsibility to have a team roster, player waiver & code of conduct sheet signed by all players and on file with the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Office prior to due date provided at managers meeting.
3. MANAGERS: If your roster, player waivers & code of conduct papers are not submitted before game play, that game and subsequent games will be forfeited until the office receives the roster sheet.
4. **Sorry there will be NO REFUNDS for the sponsor fees & player fees. Every player must pay their player fee. If a player leaves your team & that player is to replace them, they must pay the players fee as well.**
5. There will be a \$25.00 charge for ALL bad checks. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!
6. Rosters will be frozen at the halfway point of the season. This will be indicated on your schedule provided. Any player(s) added after the cutoff must be approved by the Parks & Recreation Office.
7. The legality of all players is the manager's responsibility.
8. A player will be allowed only **one (1) release per season**. Players changing teams must sit out one (1) playing date from the team they are joining before they are eligible to play for their new team.
9. Players participating in leagues operated by the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department may play on one (1) team only per division. (Men's, Woman's & CO-ED)

Failure to comply shall result in the following: Forfeiture of all games & Suspensions of player & manager.

10. The City of Brooksville offers a Men's League, Women's League & Co-Ed League. Women are not permitted to play in a Men's League & conversely, Men are not allowed to play in a Women's league.

INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

All protests involving the eligibility of a particular player must be in writing and filed with the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Office within **24 hours** of the alleged violation. All Eligibility protests shall be handled in the same manner as rule infractions, meaning that the ineligible player shall be protested before the game is completed.

If an ineligible player protest is filed after the game is completed, the outcome of the game will not be affected; however, the player shall be suspended along with those guilty of inserting him/her in the line-up, if the player was in fact ineligible.

If the player is known by a game Official, this protest may be waived. If no ID is available: It is the player's responsibility to present a picture ID to the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Office before 5:00pm the next working day or the protest will be upheld.

PLAYING UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME

NOTE: Managers...DO NOT PLAY ILLEGAL PLAYERS!!!

If a player is caught playing under an assumed name, then that player, along with the person or persons guilty of putting him/her in the line-up will be suspended for the balance of the season or tournament.

It is the responsibility of all managers to know the names of their players and if they are who they say they are. If an illegal player is caught playing under an assumed name by the opposing team. Umpire or representative of the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation office, the game will be forfeited. That team will be ineligible for post season play & the player & manager will be suspended. If this occurs during post season play, the team will be put out of the tournament.

It is the responsibility of all managers to know if a player is on another roster. If a player is caught playing on two (2) teams by either the Umpire, other team, or an Official of the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation office, the game will be forfeited & so will all games illegal player has played.

UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

1. All bats shall conform to **NSA rules** & must have safety grips.
2. All players & base coaches shall wear shoes & shirts at all times. Football or track shoes will NOT be allowed. **NO METAL CLEATS allowed in city leagues this will result in an automatic ejection from the game.** Sandals or open toed footwear are not to be considered as shoes. Rubber or turf shoes are recommended for all leagues.
3. All teams must have matching uniforms (same color & sponsor listed) with a unique number on the back of each team member's shirt.
4. Uniforms are required by the 3rd week of the season schedule & continuing throughout the entire season.
5. Logo does not have to match but the sponsor names must all be the same per team.
6. Minimum size of a player number is 6 inches
7. Any player without the proper uniform will not be allowed to play.
8. All balls are required to have the N.S.A. stamp 12 inch 52 core, 275lbs max compression for men & 11 inch Yellow Optic 44 core, 400lbs max compression for women.
9. All equipment shall be stored in the dugouts
10. Please note the designated warm-up areas.
11. Any player or manager bringing an illegal warm-up item (bat ring, doughnut, steel bar etc.) on the field will receive one (1) warning. Second offense will be ejection & suspension.
12. No SLOW-TOSS hitting against the fences at any city facility.
13. Bat wraps ARE ILLEGAL

GAME TIMES

All games will have a time limit of **1 HOUR and 5 MINUTES (1:05)**. The official start time will be strictly enforced. Players & umpires must be on the field & ready to play at game time. There will be no warm-up time on the field if it is game time. For the purpose of this rule, an inning is considered to start the moment the 3rd out is made that completes the previous inning.

The umpire will announce when the last full inning of play is approaching & a formal announcement to each coach will be made by the umpire to the start of the last inning due to time limit rule.

FORFEIT

Forfeit time is game time, no grace period. If a game is deemed a forfeit, the teams may remain on the field to play a scrimmage game without an umpire, if they choose.

Forfeit fee will be \$25.00 for the teams first forfeit. \$40.00 for the second & third forfeit. Fee must be paid prior to the teams next scheduled game. After the third forfeit, the team Manager will be required to meet with the Athletic Director to determine the future standing of the team with the league. If it is determined that the team will be removed from the league, the balance of their games will be declared as a forfeit to the opponent they were to play.

TIE BREAKER RULE

The tie breaker rule will be in effect for all levels of softball play conducted by the City of Brooksville Parks & Recreation Department.

The tie breaker rule reads: If after the completion of seven (7) innings of play or the time limit has expired and the game is tied the following tie breaker will be played to determine the winning team... Starting with the top of the next inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin their turn at bat with the player who made the last out in the prior inning being placed on 2nd.

RUN RULE

All league games may be terminated by the following:

1. There will be a 20 run rule after 3 innings, 15 run rule after 4 innings and 12 run rule after 5 innings of play. If the home team is the team leading by the above mention run rule, they will be declared the winner and the bottom portion of the inning will not be played.
2. The completion of 7 innings of play
3. Time limit of 1 hour and 5 minutes (1:05)

GROUND RULES OF SOFTBALL DIAMOND

1. Ball is in play inside the fence, runners may advance as far as possible at their own risk
2. A hit fair fly ball that clears the outfield net, in the air is an automatic HOMERUN.
3. Any ball that clears the fence where there is no net will be an automatic HOMERUN.
4. A hit fair ball that bounces over the outfield fence is an automatic DOUBLE.
5. A thrown ball that goes into the dugout, over the fence, under the fence or becomes lodged in the fence- runners advance according to the position of runner and where the ball was first thrown from 1+1 (the base you're going to plus one base)
6. Batted ball hitting wires in fair territory is a dead ball. No matter where it may be deflected and if caught the batter is NOT OUT.
7. Ball going under or through the field fence is an automatic DOUBLE

OUTFIELD NET RULES

1. A ball that is hit and in fair play that goes over the net is a HOMERUN, if no net is in the area of fair territory and the ball goes over the outfield fence it is a HOMERUN.
2. A ball that is hit and in fair play and lands into or is lined into the net, is a LIVE BALL, and is to be played as such, catching the ball off the net is NOT AN OUT.
3. If a ball that is in fair play gets lodged into the net, stuck, etc, will be ruled an AUTOMATIC DOUBLE.
4. If a ball that is in fair play hits a support pole or light pole & lands over the net will be declared a HOMERUN.

EXCEPTION: On Adult Field 1, the support pole for the net in centerfield, where the netting ends, if the batted ball hits this pole it will be declared a HOMERUN, even if the ball lands back in the field of play.

EXTRA PLAYER (EP) SLOW PITCH RULES

Extra players (EP) may be used, provided it is made known prior to the start of the game.

1. 2 EP's will be allowed (one male & one female) in Co-Ed
2. EP's must remain in the same position on the batting order for the entire game.
3. EP's may enter the game on defense.
4. EP's may be substituted for at any time by a pitcher, hitter or pinch runner; however, the starting EP may re-enter the game.
5. If any player is ejected & the team has no legal substitute an out will be declared for his place in the batting line-up.

MEN'S DIVISION RULES

1. All players must be at least 16 years old by the date of the first game. All participants must **COMPLETELY** sign their team roster, waiver & code of conduct forms.
2. Completed team roster, signed waivers & code of conduct forms along with fees are due to Park & Recreation Staff prior to your first scheduled game of the season.
3. Rosters are frozen at the halfway point of the season & will be signed by the Team Manager at this time. This will be indicated on your schedule.
4. All teams must have matching uniforms. (Same color & same sponsor listed) with a unique number on the back of each team member's shirt by the 3rd week of the season schedule & continuing throughout the entire season. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
5. Any player without the proper uniform will **NOT** be allowed to play.
6. Players may play on 1 team per division. Failure to comply shall result in the following: Forfeiture of all games & suspension of player & manager.
7. Women are not permitted to play in the Men's division.

8. **ONLY** managers & rostered players are allowed on the playing field & in the dugout. This includes the base coaches.
9. The Team Manager is the **ONLY** person who can speak or discuss a ruling on the field with the umpire. No other spectator or player may approach the umpire or can confront an umpire during a game.
10. All teams must have nine (9) rostered players to play for all games.
11. Pick-up player= one (1) player only. Applies to teams with only eight (8) players and are in jeopardy of forfeiting. Pick up player must play catcher or right field.
12. Ball: NSA stamped 12inch 52 core, 275lbs max compression.
13. All bats shall conform to NSA rules & must have safety grips.
14. **HOME RUN RULE: Four (4) home runs will be allowed for each game only. Anything after 4 will be considered an out.**
15. All **HOME RUNS** will be hit & sit.
16. The batter will start with a 1-1 count; one (1) ball & one (1) strike. Batter will have a one (1) foul ball grace.
17. **NO** pick-up players for play-offs.
18. Run Rule: Twenty (20) run rule after three (3) innings. Fifteen (15) run rule after four (4) innings & twelve (12) run rule after five (5) innings.
19. Game is completed in seven (7) innings or time limit of one hour & five minutes (1:05)
20. **A matted home plate is utilized, which is directly behind the original home plate. If the pitched ball touches the mat or home plate with the proper pitch height as indicated in the NSA Softball Official Rule Book & Guide, the pitch shall be called a STRIKE.**

WOMEN'S DIVISION RULES

1. All players must be at least 16 years old by the date of the first game. All participants must **COMPLETELY** sign their team roster, waiver and code of conduct forms.
2. Completed team roster, signed waivers, code of conduct forms & fees are due to the Parks & Recreation staff prior to first scheduled game of the season.
3. Rosters are frozen at the halfway point of the season& will be signed by the Team Managers at this time. This will be indicated on your schedule.
4. All teams must have matching uniforms. (Same color & same sponsor listed) with a unique number on the back of each team member's shirt by the 3rd week of the season schedule & continuing throughout the entire season. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
5. Any player without the proper uniform will **NOT** be allowed to play.

6. Players may play on 1 team per division. Failure to comply shall result in the following: Forfeiture of all games & suspension of player & manager.
7. Men are not permitted to play in the women's division.
8. **ONLY** managers & rostered players are allowed on the playing field & in the dugout. This includes the base coaches.
9. The Team Manager is the **ONLY** person who can speak or discuss a ruling on the field with the umpire. No other spectator or player may approach the umpire or can confront an umpire during a game.
10. All teams must have nine (9) rostered players to play for all games.
11. Pick-up player= four (4) players only. Applies to teams with only six (6) players and are in jeopardy of forfeiting. Pick up players are allowed to play any defensive position on the field
12. Ball: NSA stamped Yellow Optic 11inch 44 core, 400lbs max compression.
13. All bats shall conform to NSA rules & must have safety grips.
14. All **HOME RUNS** will be hit & sit.
15. The batter will start with a 1-1 count; one (1) ball & one (1) strike. Batter will have a one (1) foul ball grace.
16. A matted home plate is utilized, which is directly behind the original home plate. If the pitched ball touches the mat or home plate with the proper pitch height as indicated in the NSA Softball Official Rule Book & Guide, the pitch shall be called a **STRIKE**.
17. NO pick-up players for play-offs.
18. Run Rule: After six (6) runs have been scored in an inning, the side shall be retired & the defensive team shall come to bat. A team may catch up but may not surpass score. The last inning due to time limit shall have a no run rule but will be governed by the normal time limit.
19. Run Rule: Twenty (20) run rule after three (3) innings. Fifteen (15) run rule after four (4) innings & twelve (12) run rule after five (5) innings.
20. Game is completed in seven (7) innings or time limit of one hour & five minutes (1:05).

CO-ED DIVISION RULES

1. All players must be at least 16 years old by the date of the first game. All participants must **COMPLETELY** sign their team roster, waiver and code of conduct forms.
2. Completed team roster, signed waivers, code of conduct forms & fees are due to the Parks & Recreation staff prior to first scheduled game of the season.
3. Rosters are frozen at the halfway point of the season & will be signed by the Team Managers at this time. This will be indicated on your schedule.

4. All teams must have matching uniforms. (Same color & same sponsor listed) with a unique number on the back of each team member's shirt by the 3rd week of the season schedule & continuing throughout the entire season. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**
5. Any player without the proper uniform will **NOT** be allowed to play.
6. Players may play on 1 team per division. Failure to comply shall result in the following: Forfeiture of all games & suspension of player & manager.
7. **ONLY** managers & rostered players are allowed on the playing field & in the dugout. This includes the base coaches.
8. The Team Manager is the **ONLY** person who can speak or discuss a ruling on the field with the umpire. No other spectator or player may approach the umpire or can confront an umpire during a game.
9. All teams must have nine (9) rostered players to play for all games.
10. Pick-up player= two (2) players only (one male/one female) or (two females) to make nine (9). Pick-up player must play catcher or right field. If the Division has (A) & (B) Teams, pick-up players can only come from within the division they play. Example: an (A) team can only pick-up an (A) player from another team & (B) can only pick-up another player from the (B) division.
11. Team with a line up consisting of ten (10) players can be made up of five (5) men & five (5) women. You may also play with six (6) women and four (4) men.
12. Team with a line up consisting of nine (9) players can be made up of four (4) men and five (5) women, or four (4) women and five (5) men.
13. There must be an alternating gender batting order. EXCEPTION (rule #14)
14. When line-up consists of nine (9) players an out will be declared when male batters are back to back in the line-up. In this situation an out must be taken even if the last male batter leads off the next inning.
15. When a line-up consists of nine (9) players and the 9th batter is unintentionally walked with two (2) outs the 10th batter will not be considered the 3rd out but line-up will continue to top of the order.
16. On any walk a male batter (intentional or not) the next batter, a female has the option of walking or hitting up until the time she steps into the batter's box. The male batter will be awarded 2nd base with the walk.
17. Ball: NSA stamped (Men) 12inch 52 core 275lbs max compression. (women) Yellow Optic 11inch 44 core 400lbs max compression.
18. All female players will have the option to use the 11" ball. Each team must supply their own ball.
19. Circle around mound for CO-ED when a female is pitching.
20. All bats shall conform to NSA rules & must have safety grips.
21. **HOME RUN RULE: Four (4) home runs will be given for each game anything after four (4) will be considered an out.**
22. All **HOME RUNS** will be hit & sit

23. The batter will start with a 1-1 count (1) ball & (1) strike. Batter will have a one (1) foul ball grace.
24. Run Rule: After eight (8) runs have been scored in an inning, the side shall be retired and the defensive team shall come to bat. The last inning due to time limit shall have a no run rule, but will be governed by the normal time limit.
25. Defensive positions shall include one (1) female in the pitcher-catcher position. All other positions are the manager's discretion.
26. Infielders MUST play on the clay area until the ball has been hit, exception to this is when a male batter is batting and a female infielder chooses for safety reasons to play out of the clay area. She may do so, but the distance may not be more than 8 feet from the clay area.
27. NO pick-up players for play-offs.
28. Run Rule: Twenty (20) run rule after three (3) innings. Fifteen (15) run rule after four (4) innings & twelve (12) run rule after five (5) innings.
29. If EP's are used (Reference EP Slow Pitch Rules) there must be two (2) players; one (1) male & one (1) female with a total of twelve (12).
30. Game is completed in seven (7) innings or time limit of one hour & five minutes (1:05).
31. A matted home plate is utilized, which is directly behind the original home plate. If the pitched ball touches the mat or home plate with the proper pitch height as indicated in the NSA Softball Official Rule Book & Guide, the pitch shall be called a STRIKE.