

## ONslow COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### Playing Rules Governing Adult Co-Rec Softball

**RULES:** United States Slow Pitch Softball Association (USSSA) rules will govern play except where superseded by local rules.

**ELIGIBILITY/AGE LIMIT:** All participants must be **16 years of age or older as of July 1 of the current season. Individuals competing on a College or Military sponsored team during the current season (does not include intramural teams) will be ineligible to participate.**

**TEAM UNIT:** There is **NO MAXIMUM** number of players per roster. **Players may not be added to the roster after a team's fifth played game, unless approved by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department due to game forfeitures or other extenuating circumstances.** Additions **MUST BE SUBMITTED** to the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM weekdays. Participant fee must accompany **COMPLETED** registration form. Registration forms and fees **WILL NOT** be accepted at the game site by the District Coordinator. If an individual is placed on more than one roster, they will only be eligible to participate on the team for whom they first play. **The District Coordinator may request to see a PICTURE ID card from a player. If the player cannot produce a PICTURE ID, then that player will not be allowed to play until they produce one.**

**ENTRY FEES:** Team entry fee is **\$425.00**. A **\$10.00 participant fee** is required for **each player on the roster**. Fees must be paid by Wednesday, **July 11, 2018**. Team rosters, registration forms, and optional insurance forms must be submitted to the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department at this time.

**TEAM SPONSORS:** Sponsors may be secured if desired. If the sponsor wishes, the name of the sponsor may be printed on the team's uniform. Sponsors have no voice in the operation of the league.

**UNIFORMS:** All participants must wear **NUMBERED jerseys or t-shirts**. No duplicate numbers are allowed.

**GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS:** Determined by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department according to number of teams and budgetary limitations.

**AWARDS:** Regular Season championship team and team members will receive trophies determined by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department and financed by the league. **A MAXIMUM OF 20 trophies will be given to the champions** with the coach deciding which 20 players will receive the trophies, if the team roster has more than 20 players listed. In case of a tie in the standings, the place will be determined by head-to-head results. If 1<sup>ST</sup> Place head-to-head results are tied, the tie will be broken by one playoff game. If more than two teams remain tied for 1st place after a comparison of head to head results, then a multiple game playoff may be played with byes and/or seeds determined randomly. Ties for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. not broken by head to head results will be broken (randomly) only if tournament seeding is necessary

**COACHES DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Coach will ensure that all fees and completed paperwork are submitted to the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department by the designated deadline. Coach must observe all league rules and regulations and ensure that all members of his/her team observe league rules and regulations and conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

**CONDUCT:** Unsportsmanlike conduct **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. Any player or coach who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will also be disqualified from participating in the team's next game played. Anyone ejected from two games in one season is suspended from the league for the remainder of the season. Games can carry over to the following season. Anyone ejected for fighting (as determined by the officials and documented by the District Coordinator at the time of the incident) is automatically suspended for the remainder of the season (even if it is the player's first ejection). Remainder of the season is defined as a minimum of 5 games. Games can and will be carried over to the following season if needed. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted on any Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department facility. Players/Coaches possessing alcohol or drugs on park facilities will be automatically suspended from the league for the remainder of the season. Spectators possessing alcohol or drugs on park facilities will be automatically ejected from the site for the remainder of the season. Other problems and their penalties will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. All players, coaches and spectators are subject to the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department's **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL ATHLETICS**.

**USE OF ILLEGAL PLAYERS:** All games in which an illegal or ineligible player participates will be forfeited. The team manager will be suspended for the next played game. Further penalties may be assessed to the illegal/ineligible player.

**EQUIPMENT:** The Department will furnish the equipment stated in League Rule 4. All other equipment must be furnished by the team/player. As stated in Rule 6, if a ball goes out of play, that team whose ball went out of play is responsible for putting another ball in play and getting the ball that went out of play.

**PROTESTS:** Protests on official's judgement calls will not be allowed. Only rule interpretations will be considered. If a team wishes to protest, the coach/captain must request a timeout at the time of the rule infraction, notify the home plate umpire that they wish to continue the game under protest. The official will then notify the official scorer who will record the exact time; game details (score, time left in game, runners on base, count on batter, etc.) and the teams involved. The protesting coach must submit the COMPLETED protest form (obtained from the District Coordinator) and the \$25.00 protest fee (cash, check, or money order only) to the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Office prior to 5:00 PM on the next working day. Please specify the rule being misinterpreted on the form. Office is located at 1244 Onslow Pines Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28540 (brick house at entrance of Onslow Pines Park). Protests received after the deadline or forms NOT COMPLETED entirely will not be considered. The Department will rule on the protest. If the protest is granted, then the game will resume from the point of the protest and the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is not granted, the score of the game will stand and protest fee will not be returned. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE COCHES AND UMPIRES TO CORRECT AN ERROR WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

**DISTRICT COORDINATOR:** The District Coordinator is the site supervisor and an employee of the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department. The District Coordinator is granted authority to make on-site decisions concerning the league, including determining player eligibility at the playing site by requesting a PICTURE ID from the player. If the player cannot produce a picture ID, then the player cannot play until they produce one. The District Coordinator will enforce all playing rules and regulations governing the league and maintain control of coaches, players, spectators and officials. The District Coordinator is granted authority over such matters and may take disciplinary action, which may include suspension/removal from the game and/or playing area.

**LEAGUE RULES:**

**USSSA Rules shall govern play except where superseded by these local rules.**

1. Games will be 7 innings in length or 1 hour. No new inning will start after 55 minutes. Time will be kept by the home plate umpire's watch and starting time will be recorded in the official score book. Home Team will be considered the official scorebook. Modified speed-up rules are in effect (batter begins with 1 and 1 count)
2. The first game of the day will begin within 10 minutes of scheduled game time or a forfeit will result. For all games following that day, game time is forfeit time. Forfeits count as losses AND CANNOT be replayed. If a team forfeits 3 games in a row or a total of 4 games in a season, the team may be dropped from the league. In case of a forfeit, the teams involved can practice until fifteen (15) minutes prior to the next scheduled game time unless it is the last scheduled game of the day, in which the facility will be closed within 10 minutes after completion of the previous game.
3. The distance between bases will be 65 feet. The pitching distance for both men and women will be 50 feet.
4. Catchers **MUST WEAR** a protective mask. Catcher's masks will be given to each team prior to their game. The team will return the mask to the District Coordinator immediately after their game.
5. Tennis shoes or molded rubber/plastic cleats must be worn. **NO METAL.**
6. Each Team will provide two official USSSA approved game balls. (1 optic yellow 11" Classic W.44 Core/400 comp and 1 optic yellow 12" Classic M .40 core/325 comp)
7. Bats on the USSSA non-approved list (Ultra and Ultra 2) may not be used. Bats made before 2004 must be marked 1.20 BPF or BPF 1.20.
8. **Each team must start the game with at least 8 players (4 males; 4 female); 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> players may be added upon arrival.**
  - A. **A 10-player team will consist of 5 males and 5 females.**
  - B. **A 9-player team may have either 5 males or 5 females. The 10th player may be added upon arrival.**
  - C. **There are no automatic outs for playing short-handed.**
  - D. **Extra Players/Hitters are allowed. If used, the team must have both a MALE extra player and FEMALE extra player in the original lineup. Extra players CANNOT BE ADDED once the game begins.**

9. Substitutions must be made in accordance with USSSA Rules.
10. A walk to a male batter results in a two-base award. The female batter then has the option of walking or batting.
11. If a game is suspended (weather, etc.) and has not ended by time limit, run rule, forfeit, etc, then it will resume later from the exact point of suspension.
12. The mercy rule will be 20 after 3, 15 after 4 and 10 after 5 in accordance with USSSA rules, with the flip-flop rule in effect.
13. When a female batter is at bat, all outfielders (a minimum of 4 players, if defense is playing with 10 players OR a minimum of 3 players, if defense is playing with 9 players) **MUST** remain on the outfield grass until the ball is hit. **PENALTY:** The female batter is awarded first base, all runners advance if forced OR the coach may take the result of the play.
15. Home runs are unlimited.

**REVISED May 2013**