

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

GSA Softball Rules and Guidelines

Flip-Flop Rule – In the inning when the Run Rule for that particular program is exceeded and the Home Team is losing, the Home Team will remain at bat and become the Visiting Team. If the Team (new Visiting Team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the Run Rule the Game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below the Run Rule then the new Home Team will bat. If the new Home Team subsequently score enough runs to exceed the Run Rule the Game will be over, if they do not the Game will continue under that format. If the situation reverses, the Team would Flip/Flop again.

NO PETS ALLOWED – DO NOT BRING PETS into the Complex. Please make sure that your family & friends are aware that PETS are NOT ALLOWED in the complex. Anyone entering the Park with a PET will be asked to REMOVE their PET from the premises IMMEDIATELY. If your pet is a service animal, you have to be able to show service credentials and they must remain on their lease at ALL TIMES while inside the complex.

ELIGIBILITY – All participants in the City of Garland Softball Association sports leagues must be 18 or older and must fill out a GSA Roster form which will be provided to you in your schedule packet. This form must be filled out completely and turned in **PRIOR** to your first scheduled game. Players are eligible to play on **one mixed open league team** on the same night. **Only on Fridays** may a player be eligible to play on **one open league team and one church league team**. **ALL TEAMS may add an eligible player to their roster anytime during the season**. You can find the “ADD-ON” Forms in the Park Office.

DISCIPLINE – The **entire** team is responsible for each player’s actions. Any player ejected from a game will be out for the remainder of that game and the next game. If a player is ejected after a game, that player will sit out the next two (2) games. Depending upon the severity of the situation (threats, violence or continued profanity), a player, coach or the entire team could be suspended for a longer period of time.

GAME TIME + FIVE MINTUE GRACE PERIOD IS FORFEIT TIME – For all scheduled games each night, there will be a five-minute grace period. A team must have a minimum of nine (9) players present (must have 4 females) and ready to start and/or continue a game. If a team does not have the minimum number of players present after the five-minute grace period, the game will be considered a forfeited game. **Game start times for Sunday night leagues are at 5:00pm or 6:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, and 9:00pm. Friday night leagues are at 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:00pm, and 11:00pm.**

TIME LIMITS – All league games will be played with a fifty (50) minute time limit. If a game is tied after the time limit is expired, it will be played to a conclusion. Any extra full innings that starts after the time has expired and is tied, each batter will have a full count and receive only one pitch for that turn at bat. There will be a run rule of twenty (20) runs after three innings, fifteen (15) runs after four innings, and ten (10) runs after five innings.

LINEUPS – A team’s lineup must be filled out and turned into the umpire prior to the umpire saying “Play Ball.” Failure to do so will result in your team’s losing their first at-bat. A team may bat with 10 or 12 batters in the line up. **MUST HAVE NO LESS THAN 5 FEMALES IN THE GAME AT ALL TIMES. ONCE A TEAM DROPS TO ONLY 4 FEMALES ABLE TO PLAY IN THE GAME, THAT TEAM WILL FORFEIT THE GAME.** A team can start a game with 9 players (5 females and 4 males). If a team starts a game with nine players, a female player **MUST** occupy the first position in the batting order. The missing 5th male occupying the 10th batter’s position in the lineup will be an automatic out until they show up to play. Teams starting a game with 12 players in the line up may drop down to 11 players if a male player can not finish a game due to an injury and you have no legal substitution for that player. Only that males batting position will be declared an automatic out for their time at bat. If a

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female can not finish the game due to an injury and you have no legal substitution for the injured player, the team may drop the batting line up down to 10 batters by having the injured female and the next male players in the batting line up becoming an automatic out every time their batting position is due to bat.

UNIFORMS – Starting with the 1st Game, each player can have any color shirt with a **permanently-affixed** (6" *inch number*) located on the back. No Tape is allowed for numbers.

NO JEWELRY allowed during the game, so please remove Watches, Rings and Earrings before you begin to play. (**ONLY Studs allowed**).

SOFTBALLS – Only 12" (MEN) and 11" (WOMEN) USSSA-approved blue-stitched softball with a COR of .40 or Classic stamp **AND** having a GSA logo stamp can be used during league play. It is the responsibility of the pitcher to make sure they are pitching the correct ball to the batter. These balls can be purchased at the Concession Stand (*Cost \$6.00 per ball or \$65 per dozen*).

HOME RUN RULE – Only three (3) over the fence home runs will be allowed per team, per gender, per game for all league play. All other over the fence home runs will be considered an out and **the bat is immediately taken & held to the end of the game**.

PROTESTS – Any protest of a rules interpretation must be made before the next pitched ball in the game you are playing. Player's eligibility protest can be made at any time prior to the end of the game.

"F" WORD – Anyone that says the "F..." word will be automatically ejected for foul language, either before, during or after a game. If a player is ejected from a game for any reason, then the team whose player was ejected can continue the game provided they have an eligible substitute for the ejected player. If no substitute is available, his/her team will be allowed to continue the game, provided they have the required number of eligible players to continue. The required number of players to continue a game would be nine (9) players.

Regardless of the type of ejection, the ejected player will still be subject to the same rules we have today for ejections ... in most cases, he's ejected for that game and the next game.

TIES / TEAM STANDINGS – Tie Breaker will be as follows:

1. Win - Loss Record
2. Head to Head competition
3. Highest run differential (runs scored - runs scored against) in head to head competition
4. Total highest run differential for each team during all of league play.
5. Coin toss

TEAM INSURANCE COVERAGE: Go to ussa.com/slowpitch website for more information on getting your team insurance.

RAINOUTS – In case of inclement weather, please call (972) 738-9111 for rainout information. Please call after 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and after 2:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

New League Rules for Garland Softball Complex:

There is no longer an 'extra' foul in USSSA play ... now, the batter comes to the plate with a 0-0 count ... in the example, he takes the first pitch for strike one ... he then fouls off the next pitch ... he is "out" ... no "extra" foul ... runners may tag up and advance at their own risk to the next base if the fouled ball is caught in the air ...

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Courtesy runner: A team can have a courtesy runner once per inning per gender, that person can be any player that is currently in the line up ... A male can only run for another male and a female can only run for another female. If the courtesy runner is still on base at the time of his/her turn at bat comes up, that spot in the batting order will be an OUT. NOTE: an offensively effected player cannot become a base coach or a courtesy runner.

MUST BE 18 or OLDER TO PLAY!!!

Teams can no longer play with 6 males and 4 females. MUST have no less than 5 females in the game at times to play. Teams can play with 5 females and 4 males with the 5th missing male being an out as the 10th batter.

No more "Hitting the Pitcher" Rule. However, if the umpire feels that the batter intended to hit the pitcher, the umpire can EJECT THE BATTER FROM THE GAME FOR UNSPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT.

Due to safety concerns, at no time can a cell phone, camera, audio, or video device be worn or used by a player or coach on the field of play

BAT FLIPS: Any batter that flips their bat after batting will be an out and EJECTED from the game.

BATS: All bats used in league play must have the following stamp on it:



Any batter that uses a bat that does NOT have this stamp on it will be an out.