

ADULT FALL SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL BY-LAWS

New Rules for 2020

Delta will be following some of the new game rules in accordance with USA Softball. These rules are in place to aid in Covid-19 prevention.

- I. There is NO STEALING in any Delta leagues for 2020.
- II. Catchers & Umpires are *recommended* to wear masks and to properly distance themselves from batters and each other.
- III. Each team will be given a designated amount of balls to begin each game (placed in bucket by their dugout). Each team will use their designated ball while on defense. This is to allow the same team to be touching the same ball during the duration of the game.
- IV. Teams are asked to practice social distancing when not playing on the field.
- V. No handshakes at the end of the game.
- VI. Teams are also asked to limit the number of spectators that come to the field. If possible, players only.
- VII. This is a participate at your own risk type of season. If you are not feeling well, please do not play!
- VIII. If anybody test positive for Covid-19, they must contact the Parks & Recreation Office immediately so proper alerts can be sent out.

Delta Fall By-Laws

1. The current American Amateur Softball Association Official Guide of Rectified Fast and Slow Pitch Rules shall govern play unless otherwise noted.
2. A player must be at least 16 years of age to be eligible to participate in the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Fall Adult Slow Pitch Softball Program. Players under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign the player registration card as well.
3. There is no limit to the amount of players that can register for a roster.
4. **FORFEIT TIME IS GAME TIME.** A team may start or finish a game with six (6) registered players. A team must have six (6) players to begin batting or to take the field. A team with less than six (6) players shall forfeit. If players 7, 8, 9, and 10 arrive for a team starting with six (6) players, he/she **MUST** bat in the next available spot in the batting order.

(1) **COED GAMES**

- A Team may start a game with a minimum of six (6) players. There must be a minimum of three (3) male and three (3) female players. Three (3) players of one sex may play with four (4) or five (5) players of the opposite sex. Teams must keep infield and outfield positions as balanced as possible.
 - Pitcher and catcher of opposite sex
 - Two (2) outfielders of opposite sex
 - Two (2) infielders of opposite sex
- Additional players beyond six (6) must be added as they arrive. The positions must be balanced. A team can never use more than five (5) male and three (3) female players unless they are starting the game with twelve (12) players (6 male and 6 female).
- For Example: A team could play with five (5) male and three (3) female players. The pitcher or catcher would have to be female. One (1) infielder and one (1) outfielder would have to be female.
- Anytime there are either an odd number of players or the balance of male/female is not equal then there will be an out or outs in the batting order. The batting order must alternate.

5. Unlimited Batting Order

- Teams may bat as many players as they want.
- Batting orders must be submitted prior to the game. No additions can be made once the game has begun.
 - If a player is going to be late to the game, they must be on the line-up card as a sub or in the batting order to play when they arrive.
 - If the player has not arrived when their position in the batting order has come to bat, an automatic out will be issued.
- If a player is in the batting order but does not show up, that position in the batting order will be an automatic out for the remainder of the game.
 - Unless a player listed as a “sub” can fill the position.
- Players listed on the batting order may alternate playing in the field each inning for any player. (male for male / female for female)
 - If a player listed on the “batting order” is **ejected** from the game, that position in the batting order will be ruled as an automatic out for the remainder of the game.
- Players may be marked down as a “sub” and can replace 1 other player during the game. After the sub has entered the game, the player that has been removed from the game, that player may re-enter the game for the substitute that took their position 1 more time. The substitute can enter the game for a 2nd time, for the same player. After the 2nd substitution, the player being subbed for is now “ineligible” and may not re-enter the game or be added to the batting order. Substitutes cannot be added to the batting order after the line-up cards have been turned in.

- **COED GAMES**

- Unlimited batting orders must alternate female & male players throughout the order.
- If there are more players of one gender than another, an out must be taken to balance out the line-up
- Example (6 Male / 7 Female): Male, Female, Male, Female, Male, Female, Male, Female, Male, Female, Male, Female, **out**, Female
- Players in the batting order can alternate playing the field with another player of the same gender.

7. If a player is removed from the batting order for any reason, and the batting position is unable to be filled by a legal substitute, the vacant batting position shall be an automatic out each time that batting position is scheduled to bat.

8. If a player is removed from a base because of an injury, a courtesy runner or a legal substitute must be used to take their place. If no courtesy runner or substitute is available, an immediate out will be declared in all cases.

(1) **COED GAMES**

- You may substitute for your own sex under the A.S.A. rules of substituting and re-entry.
- The batting order for all games shall alternate male/female or vice versa.
- Any walk to a male batter will result in a two (2) base award. The next batter (a female) will bat.
 - EXCEPTION: With two (2) outs, the female batter has the option to take a walk or bat.
- The Delta Township Parks and Recreation Department recommends that pitchers consider wearing protective equipment for safety reasons.

9. Line-up cards, for listing a team's official batting order, will be provided by this department and should be used for all league games. All line-up cards must have **first and last names of all players participating.**

10. Infield practice will not be allowed.

11. Each starting pitcher or relief pitcher will receive one (1) minute to throw not more than three (3) warm-up pitches before facing the first batter and may throw not more than one (1) warm-up pitch in subsequent innings.

12. All games will be played under the 1-1 count system (i.e. each batter will come to bat with a one ball and one strike count on them). **No grace foul ball.**

13. **ALL GAMES WILL HAVE A TIME LIMIT OF ONE (1) HOUR.** No new inning shall start **ONE (1) HOUR** after the game's pre-game conference between the managers and umpires. Games called due to time shall constitute a complete game regardless of the

number of innings played. Extra innings may be played only if they fit within the one (1) hour time limit.

14. **MERCY RULE** - A team leading by 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings and 10 after 5 innings of play shall be declared the winner and that game is considered complete.

15. **REGULATION GAME** - For this department's Fall Adult Softball Program, 3½ to 4 innings shall constitute a complete game in the event of rain, darkness, etc.

16. **KEEPING SCORE** - Home team will be listed first on the schedules and shall be responsible for keeping score. Both the home team and visiting team manager are responsible for verifying the final score and must sign the scorecard turned in by the umpires.

17. **INCLEMENT WEATHER** - Any decision made by this department concerning rain outs will be made at 4:30 p.m. (323-8555). At that time a recording will give the status of the games. The decision will either be:

- (1) The games will be played as scheduled,
- (2) The games have been postponed, *or*
- (3) The decision will be left up to the umpire(s).

If the decision is left up to the umpire(s), the teams should report to the field. If one game is canceled on a diamond, then all subsequent games on that diamond are canceled for the night. If it rains during the game, the umpire(s) shall suspend play for a minimum of fifteen minutes before deciding if the field is playable. 3-1/2 to 4 innings shall constitute a complete game.

18. All rained out games will be rescheduled at the end of the season. Games may have to be rescheduled for the following Sunday (except Thursday leagues which will be rescheduled two Sundays from the rainout), depending on how late in the season it is.

19. Regular league games that are stopped (due to rain, darkness, etc.) before enough innings have been completed for the game to be considered regulation or regulation tie games (that are not considered complete as per these softball by-laws) shall be rescheduled and played from the beginning. During this department's post season tournaments, all regulation tie games or games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped, as per book rule.

20. **PROTESTS** must be filed in writing with the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Department office by 5 p.m. the next business day and must be accompanied by a \$20 protest fee. It is the protesting team's responsibility to cite the rule(s) violated. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded. All protests must be made in accordance with the current A.S.A. Rule Book. The Director and Recreation Supervisor shall act upon all protests.

21. Playoff Tournaments will take place after the final regular season games have been played. All teams will make the Playoffs. Seeding & Brackets will be made by the Parks & Recreation office and distributed to the teams.

22. **MOVE UP RULE** – All teams are reviewed by the league director after they have registered. Teams may be moved to another league in order to provide the best competition possible. This may result in a team having to play on a different night than registered.

23. Delta Township Field Rules

- a. **Alcohol** – No alcohol is allowed on the field or in the dugouts during game time. If a player is caught drinking alcohol during their team's game time, that player will be subject to ejection. All teams need to fill out an alcohol permit at the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Office in order to drink in the park.
- b. **Smoking** – Delta Township Parks are smoke-free. No smoking is allowed in the park.
- c. **Language** – Foul language is not allowed (cursing, derogatory terms, and abusive comments). If an umpire hears a player (on the field, in the dugout, or in the stands) using foul language; that player will be ejected. If there is a spectator using foul language, the associated team's manager may be subject to ejection. It is the team manager's responsibility to keep their players & spectators language under control.
- d. **Threats / Fighting** – Fighting / Threatening other players, umpires, and spectators is ABSOLUTELY NOT ALLOWED! Any players making threatening comments will be ejected immediately. Even if a player is "joking around". If there is any sort of fight/physical altercation, the game will be over immediately. Any fighting situation will be reviewed by parks office to determine disciplinary actions.

24. **GROUND RULES** for all diamonds will be as per book rule along with the following:
(1) Any batted ball that becomes lodged in the fence will be ruled a ground rule double providing the fielder does not make any attempt to play the ball. The fielder should immediately raise both hands to signal to the umpire(s) that the ball has become unplayable. When play has ceased the umpire(s) will check the ball to verify its status and the batter and all base runners will be awarded two bases (Ground Rule Double). However, all base runners and the batter-base runner will be allowed all the bases they got on the play should the ball be ruled as playable by the umpire(s). Any thrown ball that becomes lodged in the fence should be handled in the same manner by the fielder, after which the umpire will make the appropriate base awards as per book rule.

(2) Any fly ball that comes in contact with a limb of a tree that is behind the outfield fence shall be ruled a home run.

25. **HOME RUN RULE** - No team shall be allowed to be more than two (2) over the fence unassisted home runs ahead of the other team. Example: If the visiting team hits two (2) home runs in the top of the first inning they may not hit another home run until the home team has hit at least one (1). The penalty for violation of this rule will be an out.

26. **Courtesy Runner (CR)** – Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. One courtesy runner only may be used per inning. Coed – once per inning for a female (female CR) and once per inning for a male (male CR).

27. **UMPIRE PAYMENT SYSTEM**

- Two-Man Umpire System - \$40 - Men - Each team will be required to pay \$20 per game.
- One-Man Umpire System - \$30 - Coed - Each team will be required to pay \$15 per game.

Men's leagues will be scheduled with the two-man system but if the one umpire system is used the teams will pay the rate of the one-man system.

ALL PAYMENTS TO UMPIRES ARE TO BE MADE IN CASH ONLY. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. PLEASE COME TO THE BALL FIELD PREPARED TO PAY THE APPROPRIATE FEE.

TEAM FORFEITS – The team that receives the forfeit is not responsible to pay the umpire fees. The forfeit fee for men's and women's doubleheaders is \$90 and coed doubleheader is \$75. Should your team forfeit any time throughout the season your team will be required to resubmit the portion of the forfeit fee that you used by noon the day your league plays. For example: If a men's team that plays in a Tuesday night doubleheader league forfeits both games they will be required to re-pay the \$90 forfeit fee by noon the following Tuesday. Umpires are to take no money from either team if a forfeit occurs, the department office will pay the umpires through the use of the team forfeit fee.

INCLEMENT WEATHER – If softball games are canceled due to inclement weather by the Parks and Recreation Office through the rainout information phone number there will be no payment made to umpires. If the games are called at the fields by the umpires before any games start the umpires will be paid by the Parks and Recreation Department, teams are not to pay the umpires under this situation. If the games are started and then canceled due to weather conditions the teams are to pay the umpires the appropriate fee.

If your team has a game canceled at the field due to weather conditions after the game has started and the umpire(s) have been paid, your game will be rescheduled. When

the rescheduled game is played, teams will not be responsible for payment of the umpires. The Parks and Recreation office will pay the umpires.