



# FALL 2016

High Point Parks & Recreation Department  
www.highpointnc.gov/pr

## SOFTBALL RULES



High Point Parks & Recreation, NC

### Important Dates:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>June 30</b> (Thursday)         | Organizational Meeting – High Parks & Recreation Offices (Deep River Recreation Center – 6:30pm)  |
| <b>July 5</b> Tuesday)            | Practices begin - Call 883-3469 to schedule a practice.   |
| <b>June 22 – July 8</b>           | <b>Early Bird Registration \$375.00 per team (Non-Refundable)</b>   |
| <b>July 11 – July 22</b> (Friday) | Team Registration Form, Player Roster <b>FILLED OUT COMPLETELY</b> , and entry fee of <b>\$400.00</b> per team is due <b>(Non-Refundable)</b> |
| <b>July 28</b> (Thursday)         | Schedules will be available online  |
| <b>Week of August 1</b>           | Season begins   |
| <b>August 15</b> (Monday)         | Deadline for matching, numbered jerseys – all teams, all players – no exceptions  |
| <b>August 26</b> (Friday)         | Deadline for roster additions, Parks & Recreation Office, 5:00pm  |

**Call 883-3480 if you have any questions**

### LEAGUES

**Men's Recreation – Class A – NO Restriction on Home Runs.** 9 runs per inning maximum; no run maximum in last inning or extra innings.

**Men's Recreation – Class B – Restriction on Home Runs** - after 5 home runs (out of the park), any other home runs will be outs with the ball becoming dead and all runners returning to their original bases.

**Men's Recreation – Class C – Restriction on Home Runs** - after 3 home runs (out of the park), any other home runs will be outs with the ball becoming dead and all runners returning to their original bases.

**\*\*All Rosters and Roster Additions must have the signature of a coach.\*\***

**Church** – All teams in this division must be sponsored by a church. The sponsoring church decides who plays on the team. Players do not have to be members of the church. **Restriction on Home Runs** - after 5 home runs (out of the park), any other home runs will be outs with the ball becoming dead and all runners returning to their original bases.

**\*\* All Rosters and Roster Additions must have the signature of the church's head official verifying membership. \*\***

**Coed CLASS A & B** - No roster restrictions. 5 males and 5 females with alternating batting order

**Class A – Restriction on Home Runs** - after 5 home runs (out of the park), any other home runs will be outs with the ball becoming dead and all runners returning to their original bases.

**CLASS B - Restriction on Home Runs – 3 home run limit for males and 3 home run limit for females (out of the park), any other home runs for males or females will be outs with the ball becoming dead and all runners returning to their original bases.**

**\*\*All Rosters and Roster Additions must have the signature of a coach.\*\* Additional Coed rules attached.**

### PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- All players must meet league requirements in order to participate.
- A player does NOT have to be a resident of High Point.
- A player may participate with only one Parks & Recreation sponsored team per league.  
**EXCEPTION: A player may participate with other Parks & Recreation Teams in other classes. Players may not play on another team in the same division or class.**
- If a player is declared ineligible because of illegal participation, the team will forfeit all games in which that player has participated. Additionally, the ineligible player will be suspended from further participation.
- All players must present photo ID upon request as proof of player eligibility. During regular season any player who can not present a valid state ID will have until 5:00pm the next business day to provide proof of ID (GRACE PERIOD). Should the ID not be presented by 5:00pm the next business day, that team shall forfeit for failure to provide proof of player eligibility. During playoffs any player that is unable to provide an ID upon request will not be ineligible to participate in playoff games. No grace period will be allotted during playoffs.**
- ID checks will only be performed at the discretion of the Athletic Director by High Point Parks & Recreation staff. All unauthorized checks are invalid.**
- State ID or a valid State Drivers License are the only forms of ID that will be accepted.**
- Minimum age is 17. All 17 year old players must turn in a Participation Waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.**

### ROSTERS

- Every player must be on the player roster and may play with that team only. A player listed on more than one roster is considered a valid player on the team with which he first participates. (Exceptions noted above) There is an UNLIMITED ROSTER. Failure to turn in a player roster will result in a team forfeiting all games until the roster is turned in. Written releases from a team are prohibited. Once a player participates with a team, he must remain on that team for the remainder of the season, and cannot be released to another team.
- Any roster additions must be made by the deadline. If any team falls below 9 players, that team will be dropped from the league.
- The Recreation Department will not accept any Roster Additions by telephone. All additions must be put in writing and e-mailed, brought or faxed (822-7126) to the Parks & Recreation Office, 136 Northpoint Avenue, High Point, between 9:00am and 5:00pm.
- All non-playing coaches must be listed on the roster.

### GAME

The National Softball Association of America Official Rules of Softball govern all games with the following Parks & Recreation Department exceptions:

- The game will consist of seven innings, if time permits. The game will be stopped and awarded to the leading team:  
**(a) after seven complete innings, if time permits; or (b) if there is a 20-run lead after 3 complete innings; or (c) if there is a 15-run lead after 4 complete innings; or (d) if there is a 10-run lead after 5 complete innings**
- 1-hour time limit. Exception: Tie games will be played until the tie is broken. An inning started before the 1-hour time limit shall be completed if time expires during any part of that inning. If, after 1 hour fewer than 5 innings have been played, the game will still be considered legal and complete.
- Game time is forfeit time. Exception: 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled game of the night only – 5 minute grace period, then forfeit.**
- The scorekeeper's watch is official.**
- If there is inclement weather, the Parks & Recreation Department will decide prior to 4:00 p.m. if fields are playable. After 5:30 p.m., the umpires make the decision at game time of the first game. If the first game is postponed, all games that night will be postponed. You may call our cancellation number **336-883-1106** between 8:30am-10:00pm or visit our website at [www.highpointnc.gov/pr](http://www.highpointnc.gov/pr) for game day information.
- The Parks & Recreation Department will reschedule all postponed games.

7. **Only game participants are allowed in the team dugout, all players must be in the dugout when not on deck or batting.**
8. All leagues will start with a 1-1 pitch count.
9. If a game should be stopped for any reason, the game will be counted as official if there are 3½ innings complete and the home team leads OR after 4 innings if the visiting team is leading.
10. A team should have 10 players – A minimum of 9 players must be present in order for play to begin.  
*In the case where a team starts a game with nine players, the vacant 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order shall be declared an out for the entire game. However, should the 10<sup>th</sup> player arrive, the team may insert the 10<sup>th</sup> player into the line-up with no penalty. Inserting the 10<sup>th</sup> player into the line-up would eliminate the automatic out. If a team is playing the game with ten players, and a player is removed from the game for any reason, that team may continue to play with nine players, with the vacated spot in the batting order being declared an out. When a team is left with a vacant spot in the lineup because of the removal of a player or having only nine players, the opposing team with two (2) outs may not intentionally or unintentionally walk the previous batter, in order to get to the automatic out created by the vacant spot in the batting order. Under no circumstances may a team play with less than 9 players*

### **Men's**

**Courtesy Runner Slow Pitch: A courtesy Runner may only be used 1 time per inning.**

**The Courtesy Runner can be any player on the team roster. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base it is an out. Only one courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner "MAY NOT" under any circumstances be substituted for. The defensive team "MAY" walk to get to the vacated spot in the line up.**

### **Co-ed**

**A Courtesy Runner of the same sex may be used once per inning for a total of two (2) courtesy runners per inning, one (1) male and (1) female. The courtesy runner *must be of the same sex*. The Courtesy Runner can be any player on the team roster. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base it is an out. Only one courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner "MAY NOT" under any circumstances be substituted for. The defensive team "MAY" walk to get to the vacated spot in the line up.**

**Casual Profanity Rule** - Casual Profanity pertains to improper words not directed at umpires or opposing players, but venting frustration. This type of profanity will result in the offending team being penalized with an OUT. If the team is batting, the next batter will be declared OUT. If the team is on defense, the first batter for that team in the next half-inning will be declared OUT. The above OUTS are on a delayed, dead ball situation. The rule is designed to discourage players from using words that are offensive to other players and spectators.

**Blood Rule** - A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:

1. Stop the game and immediately call a coach, trainer, or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment.
2. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player, and re-entry if necessary.

### **SCHEDULES**

All game schedules will be administered by the High Point Parks & Recreation Department. Game schedules will be produced with a balance of game times and home/away. Any change or deviation from the playing schedule must be approved by the Parks & Recreation Department and all teams involved. Games that are postponed by inclement weather will be rescheduled by the High Point Parks & Recreation Department.

### **SOFTBALLS (NEW)**

**Men** - .52COR/275 NSA or ASA 12-inch balls are approved. Balls must carry a stamp and be approved by the umpires.

**Co-ed** – **MEN:** Will hit .52COR/275 NSA or ASA 12-inch balls. **WOMEN:** Will hit .52COR/275 NSA or ASA 11-inch balls. Balls must carry a stamp and be approved by the umpires.

**The ball can be manufactured by any of the companies approved by NSA or ASA, and must be stamped with the NSA or ASA logo. The single layer cover of the ball shall be optic yellow, tanned horsehide, cowhide or any other materials approved by the NSA or ASA. Teams will hit their own balls.**

### **PITCHING**

NSA pitching rules will apply. The arch must be a minimum of 6' and a maximum of 10'.

### **BATS**

**All bats must be NSA or ASA approved and marked with an NSA or ASA Certified or Recertified Bat Standard logo. NO SENIORS BATS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

### **EQUIPMENT**

**\*\*It is required that each team wear matching jerseys with numbers for purpose of identification.\*\*\*\***

**Any player not in proper uniform (Color & Number) will not be allowed to play. This includes players who coach at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. LOGO's are not required. Same color and number. Distinguishable numbers must be worn on all uniforms. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers.**

**EXAMPLE: #07 and # 7 are distinguishable numbers and are NOT identical. Umpire's discretion will be used when necessary.**

1. Catcher's Mask and Chest Protector (optional): It is recommended that a catcher wear the protective mask with a throat protector for safety purposes so as to minimize the risk of facial injury. A catcher's helmet, chest protector, and **soccer style** shin guards are also recommended.
2. Athletic footwear must be worn. Metal cleats are not permissible. Bare feet are not permissible.
3. Teams must furnish their own equipment (bats, balls, catcher's equipment, etc.).

## **Illegal Equipment**

By taking the field (no matter if a pre-game conference with the team manager/coach was held or not; or if an equipment check was performed or not) the coach or team manager automatically verifies that their team is legally and properly equipped. Any player hitting with or using tampered or altered equipment assumes the liability of that piece of equipment (knowingly or not knowingly) while playing.

**Bats** – Must meet the standards of the approved bat list for NSA or ASA. Fast pitch bats are illegal to use in slow pitch. Bats knobs may not be taped over.

## **Teams shall only have approved equipment in dugouts, warm up areas or field of play.**

Any player who is found using any illegal equipment at the judgment of the High Point Parks & Recreation staff may be suspended from all play for an indefinite period of time. Protest of illegal equipment will not be allowed.

### **Please note:**

A form must be completed for all bats to be tested. Bats will be tested on the first four game nights of each division of play. There will be one additional night for each division, designated by the Parks & Recreation Department, when bats will be tested. All tested bats will be labeled with an identifying sticker that shall remain on the bat for the entire season. Stickers will be good for one calendar year.

### **CONDUCT (Suspension Policy)**

The coach is responsible for his team's and spectators' actions. Any coach, player, manager, trainer, or team that is ejected from a game and/or a facility as a direct result of unsportsmanlike conduct or undue disturbances before, during, or after a game will automatically receive a minimum two (2) game suspension in addition to the ejection from the game. Suspensions will be longer than two games for severe or repeated infractions. Spectators will also be asked to leave the facility if they are unable to follow rules and conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship. Beer, wine, ale, and drugs are prohibited at Parks & Recreation facilities.

### **PROTESTS**

1. There can be no written protests on umpire's judgment calls or rule interpretations.
2. A verbal protest on a rule interpretation can be made to the umpire immediately, prior to the next pitch, and must be settled at that point. There can be no written protests on a rule interpretation once the umpires have made their decision.
3. Written protests are allowed on **Ineligible Players only**.
  - A. The protest must be submitted in writing by the Head Coach and turned into Parks & Recreation by 5:00pm the next working day (Monday through Friday).
  - B. The protest must be legible, neat, and give the exact full name of the player.
  - C. Failure to follow the guidelines in "A" and "B" will cause the protest to be invalid.
  - D. If a protest on an ineligible player is upheld, all games the player has participated in will automatically be forfeited.

### **UMPIRES/SCOREKEEPERS**

1. Umpires will be approved by the High Point Parks & Recreation Department.
2. An official scorekeeper will be provided. **It is the teams' responsibility to submit their starting line-up to the official scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes prior to the start of the game. A team representative must notify the scorekeeper of any and all batting lineup substitutions.**

### **PLAYOFFS**

1. There will be a tournament for all teams at the conclusion of the regular season.
2. In the event of a tie for first place in the regular season, Regular Season Champion will be determined: 1<sup>st</sup> - on won/loss basis, 2<sup>nd</sup> - head to head total points allowed/scored, 3<sup>rd</sup> - season total points allowed/scored, 4<sup>th</sup> - coin toss. If there is a tie for any other place in the final standings, the position (and the seeding for the tournament) will be determined by the inside winning percentages.
3. Regular season rosters must remain the same for tournament play.
4. **NEW: TOURNAMENT PLAYER ELIGIBILITY. A player must have participated in three (3) regular season games to be eligible for the post season tournament**

### **AWARDS**

1. Regular Season Champions will receive a team award.
2. Tournament Champions will receive a team award and fifteen (15) individual awards.
3. Tournament Runner-up will receive a team award.
4. All awards will be presented at the end of the season.

### **FEES**

1. The total entry fee for the entire season, including the tournament, will be due by the deadline date. This fee will cover trophies, scorekeepers, scheduling, umpires, booking and administrative costs. The fee is payable to the High Point Parks & Recreation Department by Visa, check, money order or cash, and is non refundable upon registration.
2. Three forfeits by any one team may result in that team's suspension for the remainder of the season.

**PRACTICE AVAILABILITY - Teams must call the Parks & Recreation Department, 883-3469, Monday through Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm, to reserve a day, time, and field.** Practices are limited to one (1) hour per week. If you call after 4:00 p.m. and there is an open time that night, you may reserve this time.

### **2016 NON APPROVED BALL COMPANIES**

Effective immediately, balls of the following manufacturers and models are **not approved** for use in NSA play.

**Last Update: 9/27/2006 (Balls shown in RED have been added since January 1, 2016)**

#### **Apex Sports**

All Models [All Models]

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#### **Wilson**

All Models [All Models]

# FALL 2016

High Point Parks & Recreation

[www.highpointnc.gov/pr](http://www.highpointnc.gov/pr)

## COED SOFTBALL RULES

### GAME

The 2016 National Softball Association Rules of Softball governs all games. The following rules are for Coed Play only.

1. A team should have 10 players – 5 males and 5 females.  
A team must have a minimum of 5 males and 4 females or 5 females and 4 males to start a game. No other combination of male or female players will be accepted.
2. The batting order shall alternate the sexes until the bottom of the order. **Females must bat in positions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 OR 2, 4, 6, 8, 10** batting orders MUST alternate the sexes.
3. Males must substitute for males, females for females, whether on offense or defense.
4. **A team must meet with the following defensive positioning requirements when playing 5 males and 5 females: There must be two (2) of each sex in the outfield and infield positions. Positioning is left up to the individual manager.**
5. Extra Players (EPs). Twelve players, 6 male and 6 female. All 12 must bat and 10 (5 male and 5 female) may play defense. Defensive positions may be changed as long as the coed positioning rules are followed. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
6. **When a male batter is walked intentionally or unintentionally, the male batter is awarded second base, and the following female batter must bat. EXCEPTION: WITH TWO OUTS the following female batter has the option to bat or walk. The male batter will advance to second base regardless of the choice of the female batter.**
7. Distances:       Base – 70 feet  
                          Pitching – 53 feet
9. Short-Handed Rule (Rule 4, Section 1, D, pp. 50-51) – If a team begins play with the required number of players (Coed 10, Coed with EPs 12), that team may continue a game with one less player than it started with whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection, provided the team has no eligible substitutes remaining.
9. A game that is stopped for any reason shall be considered complete if 3½ innings are complete and the home team leads OR 4 innings and the visiting team leads.