



Important Dates:

February 26 (Tuesday)	Interest Meeting – Deep River Recreation Center, 1529 Skeet Club Road – 7:00pm
February 25 (Monday)	Practices begin - Call 883-3469 to schedule a practice.
Jan. 1– March 8 (Friday)	Team Registration Form, Player Roster FILLED OUT COMPLETELY , and entry fee of \$300.00 per team is due (Non-Refundable)
March 14 (Thursday)	Schedules will be available online
Week of March 18	Season begins
April 12 (Friday)	Deadline for roster additions, Parks & Recreation Office, 5:00pm
Call 883-3480 if you have any questions	

- ❖ **LEAGUES**
 - **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 must have the signature of a coach. **
 - **Coed 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 -.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 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 - 5 home run limit for males and 5 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.
 - **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 must have the signature of a coach. ** Additional Coed rules attached.

- ❖ **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**
 - All players must meet league requirements 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 be ineligible to participate in playoff games.
 - 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 18.**

- ❖ **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 (336-822-7122) 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: 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. 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.
 - Game time is forfeit time. **Exception:** 1st scheduled game of the night only – 5-minute grace period, then forfeit. The Athletic staff’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 5:30p.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 for game day information. Sign-up for our new RainedOut High Point Park & Recreation group now! Receive immediate field closure notifications via text! Opt-in to our HPPR Field Closure group by texting the zip code (27262) to the number 84483. You will receive a welcome text confirming you have joined our group. Afterwards you will begin receiving notifications about closed fields due to inclement weather and poor field conditions.

****RainedOut is a free, ad-supported, service. Each text sent will contain a small sponsor ad at the bottom. There is no charge to subscribers who sign up for the RainedOut service. However, standard text and data rates may apply. Subscribers may text STOP to 84483 to cancel their RainedOut at any time.**

- The Parks & Recreation Department will reschedule all postponed games.
- Only game participants are allowed in the team dugout, all players must be in the dugout when not on deck or batting.
- All leagues will start with a 1-1 pitch count.
- A team should have 10 players – A minimum of 9 players must be present for play to begin.
- **EXTRA PLAYER (EP)** - a) Any team may use one (1) or two (2) Extra Players (EP) per game provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and properly indicated in the lineup. b) The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game. c) The EP may play defense at any time without his/her status being affected. He/she may go in and out of the defensive lineup as often as needed as long as his/her position in the official batting order is not altered. d) The EP may be substituted for at any time with the substitute becoming the new EP
- In the case where a team starts a game with nine players, the vacant 10th spot in the batting order shall be declared an out for the entire game. However, should the 10th player arrive, the team may insert the 10th player into the line-up with no penalty. Inserting the 10th 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, 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.
- **Pitching Screen:** A pitching screen will be available for pitchers to use on an optional basis. Any batted ball that strikes the screen will be considered a foul ball. Any batted ball that is first touched by a defensive player and then strikes the screen will be a live ball. Any thrown ball that strikes the screen will be a live ball. When only one team elects to use the screen, that team will be responsible for placing the screen on the field when on defense and removing it at the completion of the half inning.
- **Courtesy Runner Slow Pitch:**
 - Men's
A courtesy Runner may only be used for one (1) player per inning per team. 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. 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 only be used for one (1) male player and one (1) female player per inning per team. The courtesy runner can be any player on the team roster *and must be* of the same sex. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base it is an out. 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.
- **NOTE:** A player needing a Courtesy Runner is not restricted to any certain number of times per inning that he/she may have a Courtesy Runner.

❖ **CASUAL PROFANITY RULE** - Casual Profanity pertains to improper words not directed at umpires or opposing players, but venting frustration. This type of profanity may result in a warning, disqualification, or ejection at the discretion of the umpire. 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: Stop the game and immediately call a coach, trainer, or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment. 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**

- The solid core ball must be stamped with one of the three official NSA logos. The ball MAY NOT bear any other logos except for the NSA official logo. (NSA ICON, NSA OFFICIAL SOFTBALL)
- Men – 12-inch approved NSA balls. Balls must carry a stamp and be approved by the umpires.
- Coed – Men: Will hit .52 cor 275 compression 12-inch approved NSA balls. Women: Will hit .52 cor 275 compression 11-inch approved NSA 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 and must be stamped with the NSA logo. The single layer cover of the ball shall be optic yellow, tanned horsehide, cowhide or any other materials approved by the NSA. Teams will hit their own balls. ****
- 2019 NON-APPROVED BALL COMPANIES. Please see 2019 NSA Softball Rules for list of softballs, manufacturers, and models that are **not approved** for use in NSA play. (*Wilson and Apex*)

❖ **PITCHING**

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

❖ **EQUIPMENT**

- It is recommended that each team wear matching jerseys with numbers for purpose of identification. **** LOGO's are not required. Same color and number recommended. Distinguishable numbers should be worn on all uniforms. No players on the same team should wear identical numbers. EXAMPLE: #07 and # 7 are distinguishable numbers and are NOT identical. Umpire's discretion will be used when necessary.
- Pitcher's and Catcher's Mask and Chest Protector (optional): It is recommended that a pitcher and catcher wear the protective mask with a throat protector for safety purposes to minimize the risk of facial injury. A catcher's helmet, chest protector, and soccer style shin guards are also recommended.
- A pitching screen will be available for pitchers to use on an optional basis.
- Athletic footwear must be worn. Metal cleats are not permissible. Bare feet are not permissible.
- 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**
 - 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.** **
 - 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.
 - 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. 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, prior to the tournament and 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.
****Teams shall only have approved equipment in dugouts, warm up areas or field of play.****
- ❖ **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 one (1) game suspension in addition to the ejection from the game. Suspensions will be longer than one game 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**
 - There can be no written protests on umpire's judgment calls or rule interpretations.
 - 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.
 - Written protests are allowed on **Ineligible Players Only**.
 - 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).
 - Exception: During tournament play, an ineligible player verbal protest will be allowed during gameplay and must be settled at that point by the Athletics staff.
 - The protest must be legible, neat, and give the exact full name of the player.
 - Failure to follow the guidelines will cause the protest to be invalid.
 - If a protest on an ineligible player is upheld, all games the player has participated in will automatically be forfeited.
- ❖ **UMPIRES/SCOREKEEPERS**
 - Umpires will be approved by the High Point Parks & Recreation Department.
 - **NEW - The home team will provide the official scorekeeper. Each team will submit their starting line-up, with first and last names, to the home team official scorekeeper and umpire, at least five (5) minutes prior to the start of the game. A team representative must notify the umpire and scorekeeper of all substitutions.**
 - **Scorebooks will be provided to each team.**
- ❖ **PLAYOFFS**
 - There will be a tournament for all teams after the regular season.
 - In the event of a tie for first place in the regular season, Regular Season Champion will be determined: 1st - on head to head won/loss, 2nd - head to head point differential, 3rd - season total point differential, 4th - 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 same tie break procedure.
 - Regular season rosters must remain the same for tournament play.
 - **Tournament Player Eligibility:** A player must have participated in two (2) regular season games to be eligible for the post season tournament, regardless of any forfeited games that may have occurred throughout the season.
- ❖ **AWARDS**
 - Tournament Champions will receive a team award and fifteen (15) individual awards.
 - Tournament Runner-up will receive a team award.
 - Regular Season Champion and Runner-Up will receive a team awards.
 - All awards will be presented at the end of the championship game.
- ❖ **FEES**
 - 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.
 - Three forfeits by any one team may result in that team's suspension for the remainder of the season.
 - **Forfeit Fee:** Teams will be charged a \$20 "No-Call No-Show" forfeit fee. This fee must be paid in full prior to that teams next game. If not paid by the next game they will be assessed another \$20 forfeit fee. If neither forfeit fee is paid by the second game following the original forfeited game, that team will be removed from the schedule. To avoid any forfeit fees please notify the Athletics staff no later than 2:00pm the day of your game via email or phone.
- ❖ **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 two (2) hours per week. If you call after 4:00pm and there is an open time that night, you may reserve this time.

Spring 2019

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

COED SOFTBALL RULES

❖ GAME

The 2019 National Softball Association Rules of Softball governs all games. The following rules are for Coed Play only.

- 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.
- 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.
- Males must substitute for males, females for females, whether on offense or defense.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Distances: Base – 70 feet
 Pitching – 53 feet
- Short-Handed Rule (Rule 4, Section 2) – If a team begins play with the required number of players, (Coed 10, Coed with EPs 12), that team may continue a game with nine players, if a player or players leave the game for any reason, provided the team has no eligible substitutes remaining. Vacated spots in the batting order would be declared outs.
- 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.