



County of Jefferson

State of Missouri

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JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES 2020

1. **2020 USSSA rules prevail with exceptions by league.**
2. **EJECTIONS: Vulgarity and profanity will not be tolerated. Managers are in charge of their players and fans' conduct. Players or fans ejected because of profanity or misconduct are automatically suspended from the next team game (scheduled, rescheduled, or championship.) Undue harassment of the official(s) before, during or after the game may result in the ejection of the individual(s) involved from the game. Any player, coach or fan that is ejected from a game and reported to the Parks and Recreation office by a sports official or department representative will be suspended from attendance/participation in his/her team's next game. The Parks and Recreation Department may lengthen any suspension for any length of time if circumstances so warrant.**

NOTE: A player will be ejected automatically on any thrown bat hitting the fence on the fly or, in the opinion of the umpire, any thrown bat which endangers a person or player.

NOTE: Players ejected because of profanity, unsportsmanlike actions, or misconduct will leave the park complex – not just to the parking lot.

3. **REMOVAL FROM THE LEAGUE: Any player or fan who strikes, attempts to strike or verbally threatens an official; who fights with another player or fan; who is ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior for the second time within one season is suspended for one calendar year.**
4. **PLAYING LEVEL: The Parks and Recreation Department will make every effort to place your team in a league at the playing level you request. However, we are a relatively new program, and our highest priority is to place all teams in a league regardless of requested playing level. Therefore, we reserve the right to place your team in a league at a different playing level if we need to do so. Again, rest assured that we will do all we can to accommodate your request in this matter.**

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5. **MAKE UP GAMES:** The Parks and Recreation Department may reschedule games for any day, field, or time in order to complete the league schedule. If a make up game is rescheduled for a different night of the week and a team is unable to play, the game will count as a forfeit loss on their record. The league coordinator will make every effort to reschedule games on the same night as the teams normally play.
6. **HOMERUN LIMIT:** All leagues will have a limit on the number of homeruns a team can hit per game. The rule is 3 and one up, and you cannot go up in the bottom half of the last inning.
7. **BASE RUNNING ON HOMERUNS:** On an fair-batted ball hit over the fence for a home run, or a four base award, the batter and all runners must touch the next base and are credited with a score.
8. **NO STEALING ALLOWED.**
9. **ALL BATTERS WILL START WITH A 1 & 1 COUNT.** There will be no courtesy foul.
10. A “strike mat” will be used to call balls and strikes in all Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Adult Softball Leagues.
11. **(COED LEAGUE):** Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next player (a female) will bat. With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
12. **(COED LEAGUE):** Teams will be allowed to pick up a maximum of two (2) players. However, these players must play right field or catch.
13. **COURTESY RUNNER:** Any player in the batting order may be used as a courtesy runner (male for male, female for female). A team can use a courtesy runner one time per inning.
14. **ROSTERS:** Roster additions must be made before your upcoming game. **ALL PLAYERS MUST SIGN A WAIVER FORM PRIOR TO PLAYING IN ANY GAME.** Waivers can be obtained from the Recreation staff person on site that evening. Rosters will freeze the last two games of the league season. All team members must have signed individual waivers by game time of their first league game.

NOTE: All teams can have only 20 members on their roster.

NOTE: Players must be at least 16 years of age and have a signed waiver from a parent/guardian, if necessary.

15. **MINIMUM PLAYERS:** Teams may play with the minimum of eight (8) eligible players. **THERE ARE NO AUTOMATIC OUTS!**
16. **ADDING PLAYERS AFTER THE START OF A GAME:** If a team has eight (8) players, the game must start. If the 9th and 10th (eligible) players show up, he/she can enter the game immediately. They must be placed at the end of the order. Coed may play with fewer players, but must take an out for any vacant players in the lineup. **EXCEPTION:** Two or more females may bat in the order for a male slot in the lineup with no penalty.

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17. Batters may be added to the end of the batting order. Players in the original lineup may be removed, without penalty, as their turn in order comes up and they are not present to bat. **EXCEPTION:** Coed must have a female batter between male batters. Remove one (10 male batter or take an out for the female batter.)
18. **RUN RULES (ALL LEAGUES):** Twenty (20) after three (3) innings, fifteen (15) after four (4) innings, and ten (10) after five (5) innings.
19. **TIME LIMIT:** There is a one (1) hour time limit. No inning will be started after 55 minutes.
20. **EXTRA INNINGS:** In case of a tie, one extra inning will be played of 1 pitch. The extra inning will start with a runner on second base. That runner will be the last batter of the previous inning.
21. **FORFEITS:** Game time is forfeit time except for the first game, which is forfeited 10 minutes after game time. That time is subtracted for the game time. Forfeits for a doubleheader league are the same as above, except that the fourth game is forfeited ½ hour before it's scheduled start.
22. **OFFICIAL GAME:** An official game is four and one half (4 ½) innings with the home team ahead.
23. **PROTESTS:** Protests can only be on technical points of rules. Protest cannot be on judgment calls. During the game, \$25 cash must be submitted to the home plate umpire and the situation noted on the official score sheet. The manager making the protest must then submit a written explanation of his ruling to the Parks and Recreation Department at the Parks Office within 48 hours of the protest. The Parks staff will make a ruling. The money is kept if the protest is disallowed or if the manager fails to make a written notice. The money is returned if the protest is allowed or the manager removes the protest. No protest can be made if the team manager does not attend one of the mandatory rules meetings. **TEAMS THAT ARE NOT REPRESENTED AT THE MANDATORY MANAGERS MEETING CANNOT FILE A GAME PROTEST.**
24. **FAKE TAGS:** No fake tags. The penalty is ejection from that game.
25. If a pitcher is struck by a batted ball during any game, the bat will be confiscated and will be tested to ensure that both objects meet USSSA specifications. If the tested bat does not comply with USSSA standards, the offending player will be suspended from our league for the remainder of the calendar year.
26. **PLAYERS MOVE TO ANOTHER TEAM:** Active players transferring from one team to another will sit out one (1) game (must be a **GAME:** byes not included.)
27. **NO STEEL CLEATS. NO DONUTS. NO STEEL BARS.** Only approved USSSA warm up bats or bat sleeves are allowed.
28. **NO JEWELRY.**
29. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE NORTHWEST JEFFERSON COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX, BUT WILL BE LIMITED TO BEER. NO GLASS CONTAINERS ALLOWED!**

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30. GAME CANCELLATIONS: GAMES WILL NOT BE CANCELLED UNTIL 4:00 PM. CANCELLATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON OUR PROGRAM CANCELLATION HOTLINE AT (636) 797-6101.

31. LIGHTNING: The 30-30 Rule will be used when lightning is seen in the area. After the lightning is seen and if thunder is heard in 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within six (6) miles and is dangerous. All games will come to a halt and will not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash has been seen.

32. WARM-UP AREAS: Warm-up is permitted in dead ball area but not in foul territory.

NOTE: There will be NO infield warm-ups.

33. REFUNDS: No refund of the entry fee will be made unless the Parks and Recreation Department cancels a program or portion thereof.

34. BATS: Batters batting with a banned bat will be ejected from the game and the manager of that team will also be ejected.

NOTE: The official USSSA bat must meet all of the requirements of Rule 2, Section 2.

NOTE – ALTERED BAT: Any player discovered using an altered bat, including a doctored bat or a bat with additional weight shall be called out and disqualified from further play for a minimum of one year. The Parks and Recreation Department shall have the right to take possession of a bat that is, in the sole discretion of the league umpire and officials, reasonably suspected to be an altered bat. In the event the suspected altered bat is tested and determined to be an altered bat, the player shall surrender ownership of the altered bat to the Parks and Recreation Department and USSSA; otherwise a bat of equal or greater value, in the sole discretion of USSSA, shall be returned to the player. A team that is discovered to have within it's possession or control an altered bat may be disqualified from further play.

35. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PRECAUTIONS: While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to nonexistent, there is greater risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Precautions for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. Players with bloody nose, cut, scrape an/or etc...must stop the bleeding an/or cover the bloody area and/or bloodied portion of the uniform must be properly disinfected or the uniform changed before the athlete may participate.**
- b. If the player cannot continue within a reasonable time (2 to 4 minutes) the player must be substituted for, upon request of the umpire. PENALTY: Team plays short if there is not a substitute or forfeits if below 8 players.**

MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Managers are responsible for the following:

- Picking up schedules**
- Inform team members of schedule changes**
- Keep current on schedule changes**
- Provide current contact phone numbers to the Parks and Recreation Department**
- Making sure league fees have been paid**
- Conduct of team players and spectators**

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- **Parks and Recreation Office - (636) 797-5334**
- **Program Cancellation Hotline – (636) 797-6101**
- **Parks and Recreation website – www.jeffcomo.org/parks**