



DES PERES PARKS AND RECREATION
1050 Des Peres Road; Des Peres, MO 63131
<http://www.desperesmo.org/index.aspx?nid=437>
314-835-6150 The Lodge
314-835-6138 Weather Hotline



ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

Current USSSA Softball Rules will govern the Des Peres Softball League with the following emphasis and modifications:

EQUIPMENT/FIELD

- Official game softballs will be provided on site (12 inch USSSA for Coed / 11inch USSSA for Women's)
- Bases and one official will be provided. If an official does not show up, the home team must provide an official.
- All softball games are played on a regulation softball field at Des Peres Park (12325 Manchester Road; 63131)
- Closed-toe athletic shoes and athletic attire must be worn by all players. No metal cleats allowed.
- Please call the weather hotline after 3pm on game day for game status 314-835-6138.
- Please do not bring glass bottles or breakable containers to the park. Alcohol is permitted on the bench only.

PLAYERS

- Rosters are to be completed by the first game and given to the official.
- A "normal" team consists of 10 players, 5 of each gender. If a team has 9 players then 5 must be female. If a team has 8 players, 4 must be female. **Teams are not allowed to play with less than 8 players.**
- All players should be in the batting order and written on the score sheets at the beginning of the game.
- Teams must alternate positions in the batting order by sex. If a team has less than 10 players, positions must be alternated in the batting order as far down the order as possible. Males cannot bat back to back.

THE GAME

- Schedules and updates are posted online.
- No changes to the rosters are to be made after the first game.
- Games are 7 innings or 50 minutes.
- Games will consist of seven (7) innings, or run rule, time permitting. No new inning may start more than 50 minutes after the starting time of the game. Any inning in progress will be completed. A game, which is tied after seven (7) innings or after the time limit (whichever occurs first), will remain a tie.
- The official will check the score with both teams after each inning. The home team must keep the official score. Each team manager must initial the official's score sheet at the end of the game.
- Teams should hustle in and out between innings as there is a time limit in effect as well as limited daylight.
- The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of rain, darkness, fire, panic, or other causes which may place the patrons or players in danger. If the game is less than five innings old (4-1/2 if the home team is ahead), games will be postponed.
- At the conclusion of each game, the official will evaluate each team on their sportsmanship. Each team will be given a 1 Below Average, 2 Average, or 3 Above Average, for their sportsmanship rating. In order to qualify for a playoff game, teams must maintain an average sportsmanship rating of 1.5.

RULES

- All games shall be played under the USSSA rules with the following additions or exceptions:
- Eight players are necessary to start and finish a game.
- If in the umpire's discretion, a base runner intentionally makes contact with a fielder who has the ball the runner will be ejected from the game. If a base runner intentionally interferes, in the official's discretion, with the completion of a double play, an automatic double play will result.
- A team may use a pinch runner once per inning. This must be the person who made the last out or in the event it occurs in the first inning with no outs, it is the player listed last in batting order. In co-rec league, the runner must be of same gender.
- Metal spikes may not be worn.
- We will be using a strike mat. If the pitch is between 6' and 12' feet and hits any part of the strike mat, it will be a strike. The height of the pitch is subject to the umpire's discretion. Pitchers must pitch within 5 seconds or a "ball" will be awarded to the batter.
- The USSSA rules can be found here: <http://www.ussa.com/sports/home.asp?Sport=17>
- All players start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count (foul = strike).
- Any balls hit into the playground area on field 3 will be an automatic out.
- Only feet first sliding allowed.
- Runners going to first try to beat out a play, must use the orange safety base to avoid collision. 1st base player must use white 1st base. The orange base is only live on this first play.
- Co-rec teams only:
 - a. Fifty percent (50%) or more of a playing team must be female.
 - b. Batting Line-Up: Batting order will alternate between male and female batters. Teams may bat all players present even if there are more players of one gender or the other. Both teams will keep track of male and female batters, alternating them in gender among each other.
 - c. Defensive Line-Up: Fifty percent (50%) or more of a playing team must be female.

- d. A walk given to a male will result in the batter advancing to second base and leaving first base unoccupied. The next batter (female) has the option to bat or accept a walk regardless of the amount of outs in the inning.
- o Once the pitcher has possession of the ball, the play is dead and runners cannot advance.

LEAGUE AWARDS

- o A prize will be awarded to the playoff game winner of the league.

TIE BREAKER

- o In case of a tie when it comes to seeding the teams for the playoffs:
 1. Head-to-head competition.
 2. Least amounts of forfeits.
 3. Fewest runs allowed.
 4. Winning percentage of teams defeated.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- o In case of inclement weather on the day of the game, call the weather hotline after 3pm on game day at (314) 835-6138

SPORTSMANSHIP

- o Abusive or insulting language, acts of unfair play, or any other inappropriate behavior judged by the official will result in suspension or forfeit.
- o A player, manager, coach, or spectator who is ejected from a game by an official shall be suspended for at least one (1) additional game (next league game played by that team). A second ejection during the season shall be an automatic suspension for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of the second incident.
- o Any player, manager, coach, or spectator who approached an official in a negative manner after the conclusion of a league game shall be suspended for at least one (1) game.
- o Anyone who makes physical contact with or threatens an official shall be suspended for at least one (1) year from the date of the incident.
- o Any unsportsmanlike conduct may result in barring the player(s) or the team from further participation in the League.

PROTESTS

- o Judgment calls by officials are not protestable.
- o Any protest on player eligibility must be brought to the attention of the officials before the end of the game.
- o Any protest on a rule interpretation must be made at that time, before the ball is put back into play. In order to do this, the official must be informed that you would like to protest at the time of the play. You can submit formal protests to the Sports Specialist at cnewgent@desperesmo.org. Along with the protest, we require a \$25 refundable deposit. If the Recreation Supervisor finds the protest valid, she will issue back the \$25 and take necessary action. If the protest is found invalid, the \$25 deposit is forfeited to Des Peres Parks and Recreation.

FORFEIT POLICY

- o There is no grace period for late arrivals. Game time is forfeit time.
- o The official will declare a forfeit and award a "win" to the team that is ready to play with the correct number of players.
- o If neither team is ready to play with the minimum number of players after then both teams will receive a forfeit.
- o Teams found to have ineligible players in the game or on the game roster may forfeit that game, depending upon time of discovery and the player's effect on the game's outcome.
- o Forfeited games will not be rescheduled.
- o If your team is not going to be able to make it to your game, please contact Corey Newgent by 3:00pm that day at (314)835-6166. If you cannot reach him, leave a message and then contact the supervisor on duty at 314-835-6150.
- o In this situation, we will contact the opposing team to inform them of the situation. Your team will receive a loss with a score of 0-7 and no further action will be taken
- o Any team forfeiting twice in a season will automatically not be in next year's league (forfeits result in a 7-0 score).
- o If you do not call and nobody from your team shows up for a game, your team will be removed from the league.
- o In order to gain re-entry into the league, you will need to pay a \$25 reinstatement fee before the start of your next game. If you pay the reinstatement fee, your team will still receive a 0-7 loss. However, you will play the rest of the games as they were originally scheduled.

Corey Newgent
Sports Supervisor
314-835-6166 OFFICE
314-835-6151 FAX
cnewgent@desperesmo.org