

2022 ADULT SOFTBALL RULES

LEXINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION

updated 9/21/22



Mission Statement

Lexington Parks and Recreation strives to promote community pride and wellness through diverse, intentional, and relevant leisure opportunities.

Purpose

To provide an opportunity for men and women, ages 18 and older the opportunity to participate in a fun, safe and enjoyable physical activity to socialize, compete and develop positive relationships with other members of the Lexington and surrounding community.

Teams, Leagues, Divisions

1. Coed Rec
 - a. One Division - 5 homeruns male / unlimited female

Registration

Each team is required to register their team during assigned registration dates. Online registration will not be accepted without payment. Each team must have an appointed team manager/coach that is responsible for the league communication with the Athletic Coordinator.

Refund Policy

Lexington Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel a program at the sole discretion of the department, including when a program's minimum enrollment is not met. In the event of a program cancellation, the department will endeavor to provide as much advance notice as possible to participants. In addition, the department reserves the right to alter schedules and fees, as necessary. In the event the department cancels a program or event, registration fees are 100% refundable except in cases when an alternative refund policy has been provided in writing to registrants at the time of registration.

Entry Fee

The entry fee of \$450.00 will be payable prior to the start of the season. Entry fee covers officials, awards, and tournament games. No refunds will be given after schedules have been printed.

General Information

- The official NSA Softball rulebook will govern play in all leagues, except for rule alterations covered in the "Local Playing Rules" section. Each team will have access to an NSA rulebook access online at www.playnsa.com.
- Lexington Parks & Recreation will have jurisdiction over all managers, players, and leagues. LPRD reserves the right to supersede NSA rules regarding the best interest of the program.
- It is the responsibility of the Team Manager/Representative to see that all participants of their team understand the rules/regulations of the league.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, postponement of games will be announced as soon as we can due to its unpredictability. After game time, the decision of play will be left up to the umpire. If the first games for the night are cancelled, all games for the night will be cancelled. For more information, call the inclement weather hotline at 336-248-3969 or check online ([facebook.com/groups/lexparksandrecathletics](https://www.facebook.com/groups/lexparksandrecathletics)). Games which are postponed will be rescheduled at the end of the season or double headers during the season. Only with extreme cases will games be made up on different nights.

Schedules

The official schedule will come from the Athletic Coordinator and will be posted online at registration.lexingtonnc.gov under the Athletics tab.

Please make sure that you check the schedule on a regular basis in case there are any changes. Scores and regular season standings will also be posted. Games will be played as scheduled. Game times will be played 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

Rosters/Line-Up Cards

- *Rosters must be turned into the Lexington Parks & Recreation Department by your first game or when requested by LPRD.*
- Team rosters are limited to a 20-player maximum for the season and will be LOCKED at game time of your 4th game of the season. No additional players will be added after this date unless approved by the LPRD (ex: multiple season-ending injuries).
- Each team manager will be responsible for turning in a line-up card consisting of all players present for each individual game. First names and last names must appear on the lineup card. No nicknames will be used on the card. This information must be printed legibly, signed, and handed to the umpire before each game. Line-up cards are posted on the red clip board located at each field.
- Any substitute not listed on the card will not be allowed to play.

Eligibility

- Eligible participants may play on any team in any league; however, *a participant may only play on one team per league.* Once a participant has played in a game, that team will be their official team for remainder of the season.
- All players must be listed on the team roster and have filled out/signed the participant waiver form before they are eligible to play. It is the team manager's responsibility to make sure their teammates have completed the waiver forms.
- Players in adult leagues must be 18 years of age or older.
- The Softball Field Supervisor will track all rosters and players to compile an eligibility list for all teams. Only full names (first & last) on the line-up cards will be counted. It will be the team manager's responsibility to make sure that the umpire makes notation of the substituted names on the score card.
- Playing of an ineligible player during the regular season will result in forfeiture of all games the player participated in and a warning from the league office. A second offense will lead to dismissal of the team from the league. Playing of an illegal player in the post-season tournament will result in a loss and elimination of that team for the tournament.
- Any participant playing under an assumed name will be suspended for 1 year from all Lexington leagues, and a photo ID will be requested in such situations.
- Tournament: Players must play in at least 4 regular season games (50%) in an 8-game schedule to be eligible for tournament play.

- Regular season: If a player has played in at least one game, signed a waiver sheet, or appears on a roster of any given team within a league, that player cannot play for another team within the same night in the same season. This will constitute an Illegal player.
- Post season: If a player has not played in the required number of games during the regular season and then plays in post-season tournament play, this will constitute an Illegal player.
- If a team forfeits (calls, emails or in person) then all players on the winning team will receive eligibility for playing in that game. No player on the forfeiting team will receive eligibility.

Game Time

- An official game will be constituted by a 1-hour time limit or 7 innings, whichever comes first. No new inning will be allowed to start after the 55-minute mark. The umpire will keep official time on the field. Each team manager is responsible for checking with the umpire at the beginning of the game for the official starting time.
- Tie Game: Extra innings will be played until a winner is decided (Post Season Only)
- Injury: Any time taken out for injury will be added to the playing time.
- In the case of a forfeit, the team scheduled to play will have use of the field for 30 minutes. If a team forfeits three games in a season, that team will automatically become eliminated from any postseason competition and forfeit all team fees.
- A game that is called off for inclement weather before 4 full innings of play shall not be considered a regulation game and will be rescheduled from the beginning. If the home team is winning after 4 1/2 innings the game is considered official.

Game Balls

- Each team must furnish the ball they would like to use when on offense. The balls do not have to be new, but of usable quality as deemed by the umpire.
- Optic Yellow
- No specific brand is required but it must be an approved stamped.
- Co-Rec
- 52 COR, 275 compression, 12 inch-

Uniforms

- Metal cleats/spikes are PROHIBITED. Tennis Shoes/ Turf Shoes are recommended.
- The umpire has full authority to request certain types of jewelry to be removed if deemed a safety hazard.
- All teams must furnish their own shirts or uniforms. Shirts are preferred to be all the same or similar color but not required. Shirts with numbers are not mandatory but are highly encouraged.
- Tank tops and/or any boots are NOT allowed at any time.

Bats

- No illegal or altered bats. All bats used must be approved NSA bats. You can get the approved bat list on www.playnsa.com.
- All equipment must meet NSA requirements and is subject to the umpire's approval.
- Batting balls against ball field fencing IS NOT allowed.

Local Playing Rules

- All players must always stay inside the dugout when their team is batting. The only exceptions are 1st and 3rd base coaches and the on-deck player. There may only be two bats allowed outside of the dugout. (1 warm up, and the one being used by the batter)

- **Run Rule:** Teams have the option to keep playing (scrimmage with no umpire) within the one-hour time limit regardless of the score if both teams agree.
 - 15 runs after 3 innings
 - 12 runs after 4 innings
 - 10 runs after 5 innings.
- LPRD will begin with a ONE & ONE count (1 ball & 1 strike), with no extra foul (Once you have two strikes on you, batted ball must be fair). A foul ball on 2 strikes is a dead ball and an out.
- **Teams must have (8) eight players to start a game at the official game time or the game is forfeited. In the case where a team starts a game with eight players, the vacant 9th spot in the batting order shall be declared an OUT.** Should the 9th player arrive, the team may insert the 9th player into the line-up with no penalty (Their name must be listed as a SUB on the line-up card before the game begin). Inserting the 9th and 10th player(s) into the line-up would eliminate the automatic out(s). The 9th and 10th position in the line-up must be left blank if only (8) eight players are available. In coed the out can be the 9th batter depend on the gender short and how the line-up card was started.
- Since the lineup card contains a total of (12) twelve spots/names the following scenarios can occur:
 - 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. In the case where a team starts the game with eleven or twelve players and that player has not arrived the vacant spot in the lineup prior to their first at bat, shall be declared an out for the entire game. The eleventh or twelfth position in the lineup must be left blank until a player arrives. If the eleventh or twelfth player(s) arrives, they can be inserted into the game and eliminate the automatic out from the lineup, but their name **MUST BE LISTED** as a SUB on the lineup card before the game begins.
- Teams may play with the following scenarios:
 - Normal - 5 men/5 women or 6 men/6 women.
 - Short - 5 women/4 men, 5 men/4 women, 6 men/5 women, 6 women/5 men, 4 women/4 men

In the case where a team starts the game with eight, nine or eleven players (a short scenario 4/4, 5/4 or 6/5) and that player has not arrived the vacant spot(s) in the lineup shall be declared an out for the entire game or until a player arrives to fill the spot.
- Score - Both teams will be required to keep score with the HOME team book being official. In the event of inclement weather, the losing team must have batted 4 times for the game to be official.
- A 5-minute grace period will be allowed for the first game of the night only.
- Courtesy Runner- Any player on the lineup can be a courtesy runner. If that player comes up to bat in the lineup while on base, it is an automatic out. Courtesy can only be used if a player must be removed permanently due to injury. A sub listed on the line-up card may replace injured player in line-up.
- Walks (Coed)- If a male batter has been walked the female can:
 - One out or less- Only option is to hit
 - Two outs- Two options, Hit or Walk (go to first)

Tournament

- Co-Rec league will conclude with a single elimination tournament to determine a champion and runner-up.
- Tournament games will adhere to a one-hour time limit until the championship game, in which teams will play 7 innings with the homerun and run rule in effect.
- Tournament seeding will be based on regular season record. Once the tournament begins, highest seed will determine HOME teams.

Awards

- Tournament winner: 1st Place - One Dozen Balls

Protests

- Should a dispute arise about whether a player is eligible, it will be the team manager's responsibility to bring this to the attention of the umpire and the Field Supervisor will pursue the following procedures to make an accurate judgment at the field. Match the card to the eligibility chart. *Refer to each line-up card handed in throughout the season to count games played by the player in question.
- Protests can only be made regarding rule interpretations or use of ineligible players. To protest, the team manager must alert the umpire at the time of the protest during the game.

Homerun Limits

Each League will have a homerun limit. Once the limit has been reached each additional homerun hit will be an out against the offense. This will be in effect on a per game basis.

- Coed Recreation - 5 Homerun allowed male / unlimited Homerun allowed female

Rules of Conduct

Lexington Parks and Recreation encourages clean and sportsmanlike conduct on the field and in the stands.

- Bad sportsmanship, fighting, profanity, or arguing/threatening the umpires will not be permitted on the field or at the ballpark. Players, coaches, or spectators approaching umpires in a negative manner will not be permitted. Such actions are subject to ejection from the game and/or suspension from the league.
- PROFANITY - If profanity is loud enough to hear by the umpires and spectators in the stands, the player will be ejected from the game.
- EJECTION - **Any player or coach ejected from the game will be required to leave the premises IMMEDIATELY.** Refusal to do so will lead to team forfeiture of the game. An ejected player is expected to simply gather belongings and leave the field and spectator area immediately. ***Ejection from a game will automatically lead to a suspension from the league for a minimum of 1 game*** (LPRD have the final call if an offense calls for more than 1 game). A second ejection in the same season will result in suspension from the league for the remainder of the season and/or a period of 1 year from ejection date. This decision is made by LPRD at their sole discretion.
- Throwing a bat - If you intentionally throw a bat during play, you will be automatically ejected from the game at the umpire's discretion.
- Any action involving excessive profanity, assault on an umpire or employee, or excessive disruptive behavior of a player, coach, or fan will result in permanent banning from any other activities offered by the LPRD and that individual may be subject to criminal charges with local authorities.
- LPRD will NOT tolerate physical or verbal fighting for ANY REASON on and off the field and all patrons (fans and/or players) involved will be subject to a ban from all LPRD facilities, programs &/or be subject to criminal charges.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages on park property is prohibited.
- No tobacco products are allowed on or near the fields at any time.
- Dogs are NOT allowed on the field or in the dugouts at any time.