

City of Saginaw Softball League By-Laws

Phone (817) 230-0350 Rainout Hotline (817) 230-0303
Web Site: www.ci.saginaw.tx.us

1. GOVERNMENT

A.S.A. rule book, in conjunction with these bylaws, shall be the office rules by which the league shall be run. The Recreation & Community Services Department reserves the right to add or delete any rule (s) that, in their opinion, will improve the league.

2. GAMES

- a. All games will be scheduled and/or rescheduled, if necessary by the Recreation & Community Services Department.
- b. Facility: Softball Field in Willow Creek Park (Corner of McLeroy and Knowles)
- c. All league fees must be paid by the end of registration date or your team will not be put on the schedule. If not paid in full by the first game, your team will be charged a late fee of \$25.00.
- d. Inclement Weather: Each team will be responsible for having one representative check with the Recreation & Community Services Department as to the playability of the fields. This representative is responsible for notifying the rest of your team. Only one representative of each team may call the Inclement Weather Hotline. The *NEW Softball Inclement Weather Hotline* is 817-230-0303. Inclement weather/field playing information will be available after 3:00pm of that game day. No information will be available prior to that time.
- e. Suspended Game: Any game stopped due to weather or for any other reason before it is an official game, will be suspended. The game will resume from the point of play when the game was stopped. Exception: If less than one (1) full inning is completed, the game will start over.
- f. Make-up Games: It is the responsibility of the team manager or coach to call and check with the Recreation & Community Services Department for times of all make-up games. Games will be played at specific times. They will be made up as soon as possible at the discretion of the Recreation & Community Services Department. Each team must play as scheduled or you will forfeit your game. NO EXCEPTIONS!

3. TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. Team rosters and player consent release forms must be submitted to the umpire prior to each team's first game.

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- b. Team Roster: The roster limit is twenty (20) players. Your roster must be turned in to the umpire prior to your first game. Any changes to a team roster must be submitted to the umpire. Team managers can make changes prior to the start of the 5th game. Once your team's 5th game begins, your roster is final.
- c. Player Eligibility: A player must be listed on your team's roster to be considered an eligible player for your team. Players may play on multiple nights and different teams in the City of Saginaw Adult Softball Leagues. However, a player may not play on two or more teams in the same league/same night. A player may not play and be listed on two (2) or more different teams on the same night (i.e.: a player playing on two (2) teams on a Friday Night Coed League is prohibited).
 - (A team may borrow a player to help prevent forfeit, except during the last three (3) games of the season when rosters are locked and set. An eligible player in this circumstance would have to be on the free agent list at the Saginaw rec center or on another eligible roster. You may not borrow more than two (2) players per game and this must be approved at the start of the game by both coaches and umpires.) Effective 2-1-2022
- d. Age Limit: All players must be at least 15 years of age to play in the City of Saginaw Adult Softball League. NO EXCEPTIONS!! Any player under the age of 18 years must complete the attached "Parental Consent Form." Players under the age of 15 (14 & under) are not permitted to play in our league. This is an adult league to be played by players age 15 and above.

4. EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS AND JERSEYS

- a. Shoes: Molded rubber cleats are permitted, but steel cleats are strictly prohibited. No street shoes or boots will be allowed. All players must wear shoes.
- b. Numbers: Duplication of numbers will not be allowed. Numbers should be on the back of T-Shirts/Jerseys, six (6) inches in height and contrasting color. ALL NUMBERS MUST BE PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO JERSEYS. No taped numbers will be allowed. There will be a four (4) game grace period to allow time for teams to purchase matching team uniforms.
- c. Balls: Each team is responsible for supplying their own balls. You need to have two (2) balls available for each game. The 12-inch ball must be stamped either .44 cor or .52 cor 300 compression, the 11-inch ball can be either be .44 cor or .52 cor 300 compression.. All softballs must have the ASA or TAAF certification stamp on the ball. No "Hot Dot"

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type balls will be permitted. Co-ed male and men's league players shall hit a 12-inch ball, and the Coed female players shall hit an 11-inch ball. All balls must have the specifications that are listed above or they will not be accepted. Yellow or white softballs are now approved for league play. *Balls will be available for \$8.00 at the Saginaw Recreation Center, 633 West McLeroy Blvd.*

- d. Bats: A bat cannot be longer than 34 inches and cannot weight more than 38 ounces. Tampered with or illegal bats will be determined by the umpire. Please check the ASA now known as USA softball website for a list of regulation bats.

5. GAME REGULATIONS

- a. The Umpire is the interpreter, manager and enforcer of the rules and regulations during game play.
- b. The Umpire is to keep track of the line-up cards, team rosters, the official time and score of the game.
- c. Although every team is guaranteed 8 games for the Spring, Summer and Fall season games, you might not play each team an equal number of times.
- d. Line-ups: Your team's line-up should be turned in to the score keeper 10 minutes prior to your game time. LAST NAME AND NUMBER REQUIRED. If a line-up is not in by game time, the opposing team has the option of being home or visitors and the other team starts the game with the first batter out. If neither team has their line-up, both teams will start the game with the first batter out. Regular game time exists. A team or teams must then turn in their line-up within a reasonable amount of time. Penalty is a forfeit.
- e. Children will not be allowed in the dugout or on the playing field at any time before or during the game do due to risk of injury and liability.
- f. Warm-up: There will be no infield warm-up prior to the start of the game. A pitcher will be allowed five (5) warm up pitches prior to the start of the game and two (2) pitches between innings.
- g. Game Time: GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME! An official game will have seven (7) inning limit with no inning starting after 55 minutes of play unless the score is tied. If the score is tied, the game will continue with a full count (3 balls & 2 strikes) on each batter until there is a winner. Game time will be kept by the official score keeper.

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- h. Run Rule: A 20 run rule will apply after three (3) innings (2 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). A 15 run rule will apply after four (4) innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). A 10 run rule will apply after five (5) innings (4 ½ inning if the home team is ahead). Flip/Flop rule will be in effect for all games (If visiting team is ahead by 20 runs after (2) innings, 15 runs after (3) innings or 10 runs after 4, 5 or 6 innings, home and visiting teams will swap. This helps with the timeliness and integrity of the game.
- i. Curfew: Facility lights will turn off at 11:30p.m.
- j. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are NOT permitted in any City of Saginaw facility, including the Willow Creek Softball Field. (per City of Saginaw Ordinance)
- k. Player Shortage: Men's teams may begin a game with a minimum of nine (9) players and must finish a game with a minimum of nine (9) players. If a men's team begins play with nine (9) players, it may go to ten (10) players but never eleven (11). When a men's team plays with nine (9) players, the tenth (10) in the batting order will be an automatic out. If it is a game that starts at 6:20 pm men's teams may start with a minimum of eight (8) players with automatic outs for the 9th and 10th players. If additional players arrive and are added, a team may not drop back to eight (8) players.
- l. Player Substitution: Any starting player may be taken out of the game and re-entered only ONE time. If a starter is placed back into the game, he/she must resume his/her original position in the batting order. A substitute may not re-enter the game. If a team re-enters a substitute and it is brought to the attention of the umpire, then the game will be forfeited to the offended team. When making a substitution, the coach or manager must notify the plate umpire, otherwise, the substitute will be ejected from the game.
- m. Extra Player: An extra player is optional. If a team so chooses to use an extra player (11 players in the men's league, 12 players {6 men, 6 women} in the coed league), he or she must be listed in the starting line up. If a men's team begins with eleven (11) players, it may drop back to nine (9) players and take automatic outs for the 10th and 11th players. If a coed team begins with twelve (12) players, it may drop back to ten players (5 men & 5 women) under the following conditions: the two (2) players who leave the game must be of the opposite sex and in consecutive order in the batting line-up. Automatic outs will then be taken in those positions.
- n. Home Run Restrictions: Home runs will be determined by the team representative at the pre-game meeting with the umpires. If the team representatives cannot reach an agreement there will be a maximum of three home runs over the fence with each

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additional ball hit over the fence will be a ground rule single. (i.e.: With runners on base and the ball is hit over the fence all runners will advance one base whether forced to advance or not.)

- o. Blood Rule: If a player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from further participation in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. A uniform change may be required. We suggest keeping ace bandages on hand as bleeding injuries must be covered before a player may return to the game.
- p. All leagues will start with a one ball and one strike count at every bat.
- q. The City of Saginaw will not observe the 2004 rule change allowing individuals to steal bases. (i.e.: You may not steal bases.)
- r. The City of Saginaw will observe the Halo rule. This is in place to protect the safety of all players. The umpire will be allowed to enforce this rule as needed. Effective 2-1-2022.

6. END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT

- a. The top 4 teams from each division will advance to the end of season tournament.
- b. Tiebreaker will be decided as follows:
 - i. Head to Head
 - ii. Margin of victory in head to head games
 - iii. Total runs allowed in all league games
 - iv. Total runs scored in all league games

7. LEAGUE CHAMPION

The league champion is the winner of the end of season tournament (Top 4-teams in each division advance to the end of season tournament)

8. AWARDS

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Individual awards will be given to the champion and runner-up team of each league. If a league has 5 (five) or less teams participating, then individual awards will only be given to the champion.

9. SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: The use of profanity or the use of abusive language toward an official or member of the softball league staff by any player, manager or coach will not be tolerated under ANY circumstances. There will be a minimum of one (1) game suspension.
- b. Any player, manager or coach who is ejected from a game by a softball league official will receive a minimum one (1) game suspension from league play which will be the next game for that team on the schedule. If the next game is a forfeit, it will count as a suspended game and the player in question will become eligible for the next game.
- c. Any player, manager or coach indulging in alcoholic beverage or illegal drugs during a game will be removed from the game. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are NOT permitted in any City of Saginaw Facility, including the Willow Creek Softball Field. (per City of Saginaw Ordinance)
- d. Intentional Bat Throwing: Automatic two (2) game suspension. This is not an offense that can be protested. The judgment of the umpire is final.
- e. Ejected players are required to leave the playing facility, Willow Creek Park and are barred for the duration of the suspension. Failure to comply may result in a forfeited game.
- f. Any player, manager or coach who is ejected for fighting will be EXPELLED from the league for one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction.
- g. Forfeiture of three (3) consecutive games (not showing up) by one team will automatically suspend that team for the remainder of the season.

10. INSURANCE

- a. Individual players are NOT covered by any insurance policy held by the City of Saginaw.
- b. Teams and/or individual players must provide their own insurance coverage if they so desire.

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c. You are playing at your own risk!

11. COMBINING LEAGUES

The City of Saginaw Recreation & Community Services Department has the right and authority to combine leagues in order to ensure a league will not be cancelled.