



2020 SPRING YOUTH SOFTBALL RULES AND BY-LAWS KNOX COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Please understand that these by-laws are for guideline purposes ONLY and that each Community in Knox County that has a softball organization may have their own rules and regulations that need to be followed as well.

Knox County has Softball Programs throughout the County. For a Commissioner Name and Number please go to our website at www.knoxcounty.org/parks or contact Jennifer at 215-6609.

I. ARBITRATION BOARD:

The Arbitration Board will be made up of the Recreation Manager, the Sports Operations Manager and the board that is in place at said community. This board will settle all disputes and hear all protests **if deemed necessary**. There will be a \$100.00 (cash only) fee for lodging a protest. This protest must be in writing and in the hands of the Sports Operations Manager by 4:00 pm the following day, unless the day following is a Saturday or Sunday. It must be submitted verbally to the Umpire before the last out of that half-inning.

II. SIGNING AND RELEASING OF PLAYERS:

REGULAR SEASON for the youth runs from March 30th through July 3rd
Practice may begin on March 1st

- A. No new players are to be added in youth after Monday, April 13th
- B. Use of an ineligible player will result in forfeiture of all games this player participated in and a one year suspension of the head coach /manager and player.
- C. If a person's name appears before the Arbitration Board **twice** he/she will be automatically dismissed for the rest of the season.
- D. **Two forfeits will be allowed, then on the third forfeit, the team will be dropped from the league.**
- E. There will be no more than 15 players on a team for youth.
- F. A player is not allowed to play on multiple teams in **league play and/or tournament.**

Sports Commissioners are responsible to ensure coaches have taken the **national background check and completed the concussion & sudden cardiac arrest training**. Forms must be turned into Knox County Parks and Recreation. Recreation coaches are also responsible to **complete the online training: Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training**. Coaches that have **NOT** completed both the national background check and the concussion/sudden cardiac arrest training are **NOT authorized to coach in a Knox County Youth sports program.**

III. SITE SUPERVISOR

There will be a Field Director at each site. These directors will be responsible for lining of field, umpires, and will determine if the field is in condition to play. He or she will have sole jurisdiction over field until game actually starts. **If first game cannot be played, please keep in mind that the remaining games for that night may be played so please contact your commissioner.**

IV. EQUIPMENT:

Girls 10 and under use 11" size ball which is .470 COR and 375.COMPRESSION with Yellow Optic Cover but Red Stitch only.

Girls 12, 14, 16 and 18 under use 12" size ball which is .470 COR and 375.COMPRESSION with Yellow Optic Cover but Red Stitch only.

V. GAME PROCEDURE:

- A. Official A.S.A. (USA) rules will be in effect.
- B. A grace period of fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed if a team does not have nine players. This is effect for the first game only of every night of League/Tournament play.
- C. **Players are based upon the age on January 1st of the current year. Players may play up one league level with prior permission from their Commissioner, but must remember if they play up they can not play back down in the season or at tournament time. Players can't be on 2 different teams in the league.**

VI. TEAM FRANCISES :

The Parks and Recreation Department will determine team Franchises. This Franchise may be withdrawn at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct (conduct unbecoming a player or continuous rule violation). Any player who starts a fight will be dismissed for the rest of the season. If the fight occurs during the last two weeks of the season, the Arbitration Board will decide on the eligibility of that person for the next or following season. Any other participant in a fight will be suspended for a one-week period. Any manager found knowingly playing an ineligible player will be suspended for one game & the second time for a one year period. A player will be ineligible for two weeks, and the second time for good. **If a manager or player is ejected from a game by an umpire they will be suspended for the rest of that game plus one game. The second time in a season he/she will be suspended for the rest of the season.**

- A. **There is a ten run rule at the end of 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead. If either team is ahead by ten runs at the end of five innings or any inning thereafter, the game will be called.**
- B. Youth will have a *one-hour time limit*. Inning being played will be finished, but **no new inning will be started unless game is tied. (Some leagues play a set number of innings instead of a time limit so please check with your commissioner on specific rules.)**
- C. **Rain-out games will be made up ASAP.** Please contact your Commissioner of your League for updated information.
- D. **Please check out the approved list of approved bats on USA's web site at USASoftball.com.**