

**CITY OF ENNIS  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
SUMMER 2018 SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

**I. General Information**

1. The Ennis Parks and Recreation Department softball league teams will be registered with U.S.A. Softball of Texas. Teams will be eligible to participate in the U.S.A. Softball of Texas Championship tournaments. Qualifying teams will be responsible for all entry fees to all post-season tournaments. Teams can get information on U.S.A. Softball state tournaments from [www.texas.usasoftball.com](http://www.texas.usasoftball.com) or from Texas U.S.A. Softball District 35 Commissioner, James Villarreal, at [jvillarreal@waxahachie.com](mailto:jvillarreal@waxahachie.com) Teams must go through Texas District 35 to register for U.S.A. Softball state tournaments.
2. The league entry fee will be \$355.00 per team. Entry fees may be paid by cash, check (a maximum of two separate checks) or by credit card. Entry fees must be paid in full and paid all at one time by the registration deadline. When a league reaches the maximum number of teams allowed in the league, the league may be closed for no additional teams to register before the registration deadline. Teams who have paid and decide that they do not wish to play in a league or cannot play in a league, may request a refund until 12 Noon the next weekday after the registration deadline. Scheduling will begin after 12 Noon the next weekday after the registration deadline and no refunds will be allowed from that time forward.
3. Any ties in the final league standings (after eight games) to determine qualification and seeding for the League Championship Tournament will be decided by the following: 1<sup>st</sup>) Head-to-head won-lost record, 2<sup>nd</sup>) Least Number of Forfeits in Head-To-Head Games, 3<sup>rd</sup>) Run Differential in Head-To-Head Games 4<sup>th</sup>) Least Number of Forfeits During The Entire Season, 5<sup>th</sup>) Run Differential For The Entire Season and 6<sup>th</sup>) Least Amount of Runs Allowed
4. Teams will play an eight game season to determine qualification and seeding for the League Championship Tournament. The four teams in each league with the best win – loss records will qualify for the League Championship Tournament. If a league is only a four team league, then only three teams will qualify for the championship tournament. The League Championship Tournament will be a single elimination tournament.
5. Game times will be scheduled at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Some alterations to the above game schedule may be required to make up rained out games.
6. The Ennis Parks and Recreation Department will attempt to provide as close to an equitable distribution of game times as possible. In order to be able to do that, the Parks and Recreation will not accept request of preferences of game times. Any concessions for game times in scheduling will be made will be only for necessities. For example, for a company team that all of their players work until 6:30 p.m. and they cannot play at 6:30 p.m., may not be scheduled to play at 6:30 p.m., but they may receive more than their fair share of 9:30 p.m. games. Church teams or other teams may request **one** certain night off during the season because of a church event or other event, but they may have to play two games on another night to

compensate for the missed night of games. **Any schedule request must be submitted in writing**, either delivered in person or submitted by e-mail, by before scheduling begins (12 Noon the next weekday after the registration deadline). Once scheduling has begun, no schedule requests will be accepted. The only reasons for making changes to the schedule once the schedules are posted will be because inclement weather which forces the rescheduling of games or if there was an error made in scheduling by the Ennis Parks and Recreation Department. No requests for a change(s) to the an already posted schedule will be allowed, even if the opposing team agrees to a change, because the field, umpires, scorekeepers and field maintenance are scheduled far in advance of each game.

## II. ***Eligibility and Rosters***

1. All participants must be at least sixteen (16) years of age by the date of their participation. All players that are younger than 18 years of age must have their parent or their legal guardian sign the waiver on the roster form.
2. All participants for each team must be on the team roster and sign the liability waiver. The Parks and Recreation Department will check score sheets and rosters to determine that all players are legal. The umpires may forfeit games when it is obvious that an ineligible player(s) or a player(s) playing under an assumed name is participating in the game. Any team using a player playing under an assumed name will forfeit the game in which that player participated. In addition, when it is determined that the manager of any team was using a player with an assumed name, the team manager will be suspended for their team's next game. A driver's license or pictured identification will determine whether or not a player is playing under an assumed name. If the player in question refuses or is unable to provide proper identification, the player will be considered guilty of playing under an assumed name. All players must have identification available on the field or in their vehicle.
3. All players may be listed on only one roster per league. The penalty for being on more than one roster will be suspension of the player until he is dropped off of all but one roster.
4. Teams must submit a completed official Ennis Parks and Recreation Department roster with all waiver agreements signed to the Parks and Recreation Department prior to their first game. Teams who do not submit rosters prior to their first game will not be allowed to play and will forfeit all scheduled games until a roster is submitted. **No exceptions will be allowed!**
5. Team rosters are limited to a maximum of twenty (20) total players.
6. Teams may add players to their rosters until **Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5PM**. Additions to the original rosters should be submitted on the original additional Ennis Parks and Recreation Department roster addition forms and submitted on the original roster form at the Parks and Recreation Department office. Additions to the roster that cause the number of players on the roster to go over 20 players will not be accepted.

## III. ***Equipment and Uniforms***

1. Each team must provide an A.S.A. approved, yellow optic color, red stitch 12-inch ball with a size of 11.875 inches or over, a weight of 6.250 oz or over,, a COR of .520 or

under, a compression of 300.0 lbs. or under, and a Dynamic Stiffness of 5500.0 lbs. or under for male batters to hit on their Coed or Men's League team. Also, teams will provide a yellow optic cover, red stitched 11-inch ball with a COR of .520 or under and ball compression of 300.0 lbs. or under shall be provided for female batters to hit in coed leagues.

If an illegal ball is hit, all players who got on base that hit the illegal ball during the current inning shall be ruled out. If it is determined by the umpire's judgment that the illegal ball was inserted intentionally, the manager will be ejected.

2. Shoes must be worn by all players. Metal or hard plastic cleats or shoes with detachable cleats will not be allowed.
3. All bats must be U.S.A. Softball stamped, U.S.A. Softball approved and listed on the approved bat model list or manufactured prior to 2000 and in the umpires' judgement would comply with U.S.A. Softball Bat Performance Standard. Any bat used in league play must not be listed on the U.S.A. Softball Non – Approved Bat List (see [www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com) under "Certified Equipment"). Illegal bats will be removed from the game. Players with altered bats will be ejected and the bat will be removed.
4. Players will not be allowed to wear jewelry while playing. Wrist watches, bracelets, exposed neck chains, rings with rough edges, looped or large earrings will not be allowed. Smooth stud earrings and smooth-surfaced rings may be allowed subject to the discretion of the umpires.
5. Teams are encouraged to wear alike colored t-shirts or jerseys, however, having alike colored jerseys are not required in order to keep the costs down for each team. Each player **must** have a shirt with a permanently affixed, non-duplicated number on the back of the shirt. Taped numbers or numbers that are handwritten (pen, marker, etc.) will not be allowed. Jersey numbers must be **one or two digit** Arabic whole numbers. Numbers with decimals and/or fractions will not be allowed. All other U.S.A. Softball matching uniform requirements will not apply to the Ennis softball leagues.

#### **IV. *Playing Rules***

All playing rules will be those of the current playing rules of U.S.A. Softball. Any additions and/or exceptions to those playing rules are listed below and on the following pages.

1. Teams can play with a maximum of ten players or eleven using an extra player (known as an E.P.) Coed teams must bat twelve players, if using E. P.'s. Coed teams must use two E.P.'s (one extra male player and one extra female player). Extra hitters may not be added after the game has started. The extra hitter must be present at the start of the game for extra hitters to be used.
2. Teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players in the dugout area by scheduled game time to avoid losing their first inning at bat. Any team that does not have at least nine players by the scheduled game time will be the visiting team, regardless of what the schedule says. The team that has a full team at scheduled game time will be the home team and begin the game at bat. The team that is late will not bat in the first inning and receive no runs for the inning. If both teams are late, the first inning will not be played and if both teams have enough players before five minutes after game time, then the game will start with a 0 to 0 score in the second inning. The 55 minute countdown clock will start at game time and five minutes after game

time will be forfeit time. If a team(s) still do(es) not have the required number of players, that team(s) will forfeit the game. There will be no exceptions or extensions to the amount of time of the grace period. Teams who play with only nine (9) players, the tenth player can enter the game at any time. If a team has only ten players and one player is injured the team must accept an automatic out for that position in the batting order. If a team drops below nine (9) players or ten (10) when using E.P. then the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. Teams using E.P.'s without any available substitutes and have a player injured will have to accept an automatic out for the vacant position in the batting order. Coed teams with two E.P.'s cannot finish the game with less than eleven players of which there must be a minimum of five (5) males and five (5) females. The team will forfeit if they drop below five (5) males or five (5) females and a total of eleven players after using an E.P. Teams must have eleven players (twelve in coed leagues) present at game time in order to use an E.P. **Teams must have an eligible substitute for any player who is in the lineup and ejected from the game. If a player in the lineup is ejected and he/she cannot be replaced, the team with the ejected player will be required to forfeit.**

3. Each game will consist of seven (7) innings, 55 minutes or decided by the runs ahead rule; whichever occurs first. All batters will begin with a one-ball/one-strike (1-1) count. One courtesy foul ball will be allowed if a batter has two strikes. (For example: With a count of 1 ball, 2 strikes, the batter hits a foul ball, the batter will get another strike before being ruled "out". However, after the one courtesy foul has been used, if the batter hits another foul ball, the batter will be "out".

4. The runs ahead rules for all Ennis Parks and Recreation Department league games will be as follows:

20 runs ahead after 1 ½ or 2 innings\*

15 runs ahead after 3 ½ or 4 innings\*

10 runs ahead after 4 ½ or 5 innings\*

*\*depending on the status of the home team.*

5. Lineups must be submitted to the scorekeeper five (5) minutes prior to **the scheduled game time**. Failure to submit a lineup five minutes prior to game time will result in one out for that team in the first inning. In that case, the number 2 batter will bat first with one out. If the lineup is not submitted by game time, the result will be a forfeit assessed to the team not submitting a lineup. If a team is waiting on a player, they must submit their lineup and they may omit the missing player and they may inform the scorekeeper when that player arrives at the field.

**Lineups will not be accepted with incomplete information. Completed lineups should include first and last names of players, jersey numbers, and starting positions of all available players.**

6. There will be no infield practice prior to the game. The penalty will be two outs in the first inning at bat.
7. All substitutions must be reported to the umpire and scorekeeper at the time that the substitute enters the game. A substitute player is not required to be listed on the lineup to participate. However, all players including substitutes must be listed on the team roster.

8. Any player may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once providing the player occupies the same batting position in the lineup. Players may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line up at the same time. The opposing manager must protest violations of this rule. The penalty for use of an illegal player(s) will be disqualification of illegal player(s).
9. Any game that is tied at the end of 55 minutes or seven (7) innings will play additional inning(s) under the "3-2" rule. Each batter will come to the plate with a count of 3 balls and 2 strikes under the "3-2" rule. Courtesy fouls will not apply when the "3- 2" rule is in effect.
10. The number of unobstructed (untouched), over the fence home runs is limited in all leagues. Any female hitting an unobstructed over the fence home run in a coed league will not count towards the limit of over the fence home runs. Once a team has reached their limit of over the fence home runs, each subsequent unobstructed over the fence home run will be ruled as an out.  
The limit of unobstructed over the fence home runs for each league, will be as follows: Monday Men's League – 3, Tuesday Coed Recreational – 0  
Wednesday Coed Intermediate – 3, Thursday Men's Church – 2
11. **Base stealing will not be allowed in any of the City of Ennis softball leagues.**  
Baserunners must remain on base until the softball has been hit.
12. One courtesy runner will be allowed to run for a baserunner in each half inning. The courtesy runner will be allowed for only baserunners that have reached a base safely after time has been called from their at bat. Any player may serve as a courtesy runner, however, if that player is in the lineup and they are on base when it is their turn to bat, that player will be ruled out as a baserunner and then take their turn at bat. In coed leagues, male players must run for other male players and female players must run for other female players.
13. Music can be played at a volume determined reasonable by the umpires in between innings. When plays begins, the music must be turned off. Music with profanity or with lyrics unsuitable for children as determined by the umpires will not be allowed. Teams playing music with profanity or inappropriate lyrics will not be allowed to play music for remainder of that game. Refusal to comply with the umpires request to turn off music may result in the team refusing to comply with the umpires' request forfeiting the game.
14. At this time, the Ennis Parks and Recreation Department will not enforce an "up the middle" rule to avoid ejecting players for unintentionally hitting the ball near the pitcher or other infielder. However, intentionally hitting the softball at any player is a dangerous and unsportsmanlike act. If in the umpires judgement, they believe that a player has hit at a player with the intent of injuring them or they hear any player threaten to injure another player from the opposing team, they may eject that player as a result of the unsportsmanlike conduct. Any player guilty of hitting at another player will be suspended for a lengthy period of time at the judgment of the league director, depending on the facts concerning the incident. If hitting at players ever becomes frequent, the City of Ennis reserves the right to institute an "up the middle" rule during a season in progress. Team managers will be notified by e-mail, if it becomes necessary to institute an "up the middle" rule.

## **V. Forfeits**

If a team receives a forfeit, they will have use of the field for practice (except for the last game of the night) until ten minutes before the next scheduled game time. Umpires and scorekeepers will not umpire or keep score for forfeits. The team who wins a forfeited game that is the last game of the night will be given a free practice time with lights.

## **VI. Field Ground Rules**

Umpires will explain any field ground rules at the pre-game meeting at home plate.

## **VII. Disciplinary Action**

Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be automatically suspended from their team's next game. Managers will be responsible for informing the ejected player of his suspension. Any player ejected must leave Bluebonnet Park. The ejected will be allowed a reasonable amount of time to vacate the park, not to exceed a couple of minutes. After that the presence of the ejected players on the property makes them in violation of Chapter 30.05 of the Texas Penal Code (Criminal Trespassing), which will subject the ejected player to arrest. Players disqualified for substitution mistakes will not be suspended from their next game and are not required to leave the park.

The league director will have the authority to expel any player or team from the league for any period of time deemed appropriate for more serious violations of conduct. Suspensions from U.S.A. Softball and T.A.A.F. (all sports) could also result from serious violations of conduct. All suspension decisions will be final.

## **VIII. Protests**

Protests will be accepted only on player eligibility and rule interpretations. Protests of any umpire's judgment call will not be allowed. Examples of judgement calls are whether a pitch is a "ball" or a "strike", whether a batted ball is "fair" or "foul" or whether a batter/baserunner is "out" or "safe".

1. To file an official protest of the umpires' rule interpretations, time must be called and the team manager must verbally notify the umpire and scorekeeper that he or she wishes to file an official protest before the next pitch is thrown. A written statement describing how the rules were interpreted incorrectly must be filed with the Parks and Recreation Department for any protest of rule interpretations on the next working day after the game being protested and before 5:00 p.m. A thirty dollar (\$30) cash protest fee must accompany the written protest of rule interpretations. Any rule interpretation protest ruling will be decided by the league director or his or her agent according to the City of Ennis playing rules and/or the U.S.A. Softball Official Rules of Softball rulebook. All rulings on protests by the City of Ennis will be final. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be refunded to the protesting team and the game will be resumed at the point the incorrect rule interpretation was made with the incorrect rule interpretation corrected. If the protest is ruled to be invalid, then the protest fee will be considered softball league revenue and deposited in the City of Ennis general fund.
2. Player eligibility protests must be filed with the umpire and scorekeeper before the last out of the fourth inning unless the player enters the game after the fourth inning. If the player in question does enter the game until after the fourth inning, then the protest must be filed before the last out of the game. If a player eligibility protest is filed, the player

that is being questioned in the protest must produce a valid picture I.D. to the umpires. The umpires will report the name and date of birth on the picture I.D. to the scorekeeper. The Parks and Recreation Department will check the name reported on the scoresheet against the team roster. If the name reported on the scoresheet is also on the roster, the protest will be ruled invalid and the result of the game will stand. If the name on the scoresheet does not match any name on the team roster for the player in question, the team playing the illegal player will forfeit the game. A protest fee is not required to protest player eligibility. If there are an excessive amount of eligibility protests, the City of Ennis reserves the right to institute an eligibility protest fee at a later time, including during a season in progress.

All protests will be ruled on by the City of Ennis adult softball league director or his or her designated agent.

#### **IX. *Field Conditions and Rainouts***

The Parks and Recreation Department will have the status of playing fields beginning at 3:30 p.m. The phone number to call is (972) 875-1906. Make up dates will be printed on the schedule. Managers will be responsible for providing that information to their players. Any additional make-up game information will be posted online. When possible, rain out information may be available on the Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page.

#### **X. *Coed Softball League Playing Rules***

The following rules are only applicable to the Coed Recreational and Coed Intermediate Softball League. The following rules will supersede the playing rules for other leagues.

1. The defensive positioning for any coed team must be as follows: two males and two females in the outfield, two males and two females in the infield and the battery (the pitcher and catcher must consist one male and one female. If a team is playing "shorthanded", either the infield or outfield may consist of two members of one sex and one member of the opposite sex. If the missing player (male or female) that makes the team "shorthanded" were in the lineup, the team would have two males and two females in both the infield and outfield. Violations of the positioning requirements will result in the manager of the team at bat being given the option of accepting the result of the play or the option of automatically awarding the batter first base and all baserunners be returned to their last occupied base unless the advancement of the batter to first base and the advancement of any preceding runners force the baserunner to be advanced one base.
2. All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield of the field, behind the painted arc at 150 feet from home plate when a female player is batting, until the ball is hit. Outfielders may move inside the painted arc after the ball has been hit. The penalty for outfielders being in the infield when the ball is hit is the same as any other U.S.A. softball positioning violation, the manager of the team at bat being given the option of accepting the result of the play or the option of automatically awarding the batter first base and all baserunners be returned to their last occupied base unless the advancement of the batter to first base and the advancement of any preceding runners force the baserunner to be advanced one base.
3. Each team must provide an U.S.A. Softball approved yellow optic cover, red stitched 12 inch ball, a weight of 6.250 oz. or over, a COR of .520 or under, a compression of 300.0 lbs. or under for male batters to hit **and** a yellow optic cover, red stitched 11-inch ball with a COR of .520 or under and ball compression of 300.0 lbs. or under shall be used for female batters to

hit. The base coaches for the team at bat will be responsible for providing the correct softballs for their team to hit. The pitcher will make sure that a male batter does not hit 11" softball. The base coach will make sure that a female batter does not hit a 12" softball. If either team fails to make sure that an incorrect softball is not used and the ball is hit, the result of the play will stand.

4. In coed league games, if a male batter is walked, he will be allowed to walk to second base legally. If there are less than two outs, the next batter (a female) will bat. If there are two outs when a male batter walks, the next batter (a female) will be given the option of accepting a base on balls or batting.
5. Coed league teams must have a minimum of four (4) male and four (4) female players and a total of (9) players at game time to avoid forfeiting the game. If there are only nine (9) players, an automatic out will be charged for the tenth position in the lineup.
6. If there are ten (10) players there must be five (5) males and five (5) females. If there are twelve players playing, there must be six (6) females and six (6) males. Batting order must alternate males and females. Defensively, there must be two males and two females in the outfield, two males and two females as infielders, and the battery (pitcher and catcher) will consist of one male and one female. All four outfielders must be behind the arc (white line) painted 150 feet from home plate when a female batter bats until the ball has been hit.

#### **XI. Awards**

The members of first and second place teams from the league championship tournament will receive awards. Even though 20 players are allowed on a roster, a maximum of 16 awards will be awarded to the members of both the champion and runner up teams. Each player receiving an award must be on the team roster and played in at least one game. If there are more than 16 players who played in a game, the team manager will determine which 16 players receive awards. Awards will be presented after the League Championship Tournament Championship Game. The awards for the Summer 2018 season will be t-shirts.

#### **XII. Alcohol Prohibition In City Parks**

Team managers are responsible for informing their team members that under Chapter 12 of the City of Ennis municipal code, under section 12.19, the municipal code states that it "shall be unlawful for a person to consume or possess an alcoholic beverage while in a city park". Anyone who does adhere to this prohibition of alcoholic beverages is subject to a fine imposed by law enforcement of up to \$500.00.

Umpires have the authority to eject any player, coach or spectator who in their judgment they deem to be intoxicated. Umpires also have the authority to eject any player, coach or spectator that they observe consuming any alcoholic beverages on the field, in the dugout, in the warm up areas or in the bleachers or anywhere in surrounding area of the field.

#### **XIII. Softball League Director Contact Information**

League Director: Andy Tarkington, Ennis Parks and Recreation Department  
Phone Number: (972) 875-1234, Extension 2248  
E-mail Address: [ATarkington@ennistex.gov](mailto:ATarkington@ennistex.gov)  
League Website: [www.ennistex.gov](http://www.ennistex.gov)  
(the Recreation page under Parks and Recreation Department)