

2022 CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Revised 2/4/2018

DECATUR PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S SOFTBALL LEAGUES
WILL BE GOVERNED BY CURRENT USA GUIDELINES WITH LOCAL LEAGUE EXCEPTIONS.

I. Entrance Fee

Entrance fee for the season shall be **\$475.00 if paid by 5pm Friday, February 25TH, 2022** and shall be **\$525.00 if paid after Friday, February 25th, 2022. NO TEAMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 2022 SEASON IF THEIR ENTRY FEE HAS NOT BEEN PAID BY Friday March 11th, 2022. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. Due to a limited number of fields and playing times, it may become necessary to limit number of teams per divisions, so it will be important to enter a team as soon as possible.** Entry fee includes a 12 game season, double elimination tournament and trophies. Checks for fees should be made payable to Decatur Parks and Recreation. No two-party checks will be accepted.

Checks and team information may be mailed to:

Decatur Parks and Recreation
PO Box 1315
Decatur, AL 35602
Attention Softball

(Post marked by March 11th, 2022)

For more information or questions please contact:

Orlandus King at (256) 341-4810 oking@decatur-al.gov

II. Eligibility

- A. Player must be entered on roster form. Roster must be turned in to league director by first game **April 4th, 2022**. Teams that have not turned in a signed roster by the deadline will be placed in the highest division. Any rosters turned in after the deadline will be charged at a rate of \$1/player as will all other player additions. Any games played after this date by teams who have not turned in signed rosters shall be considered forfeits. There is no maximum number of players a team can have on its roster.
- B. All players must be at least 16 years of age in order to be added to the official roster. The roster must be signed by a parent or guardian if the player is a minor.
- C. Before a new player is eligible to play, a \$1.00 addition fee per player must be included with a roster addition form filled out, signed by the pastor and presented to the league director before the start of the game. This verifies that the player regularly attends the church that sponsors the team. New players must be added **before the last regularly scheduled game.**
- D. Players must regularly attend the church for which they play. Qualification for "regularly attends" is determined by the minister. **Roster must be signed by the minister verifying all players.**
- E. **A forfeit will be declared on all games until a properly completed roster has been turned in to the League Director.**
- F. Once a player has played in a church league game on one team, that player becomes ineligible to play on any other team in the church league during that season. Games played with ineligible players are subject to be forfeited.

III. Forfeit

- A. Teams must be able to field a team of at least 9 players (when the 10th player arrives, he/she will be added to the bottom of the line-up and be allowed to play) all wearing the appropriate matching shirts with permanent numbers (not to be duplicated) when their scheduled field becomes available.
- B. Game times will be **6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, & 8:30 pm with no grace period**. Failure of a team to be ready to play with the adequate number of players, by their scheduled time or within 10 minutes after the end of the previous game on their scheduled field, will constitute a forfeit. Failure of both teams to be ready to play will result in a double forfeit. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

*** Some leagues may be subject to playing four (4) time slots per night (6:15 pm, 7:15 pm, 8:15 pm, 9:15 pm) depending on the size of the league and field availability.**

- C. Time limit of 1 hour will be set for all league games. The inning in progress at the end of the limit will be completed. Tied games will continue on full inning basis until tie is broken.
- D. Line-up must be turned in to the scorekeeper a minimum of 10 minutes before scheduled game time.

IV. Protest

- A. A protest must be declared **to the home plate umpire immediately following the disputed play**, before the next pitch. Protesting team must pay a Ten Dollar (\$10.00) protest fee to the complex manager. The umpires and complex manager will constitute the protest committee and will rule on the protest. If you wish to appeal the decision, notify the complex manager and home plate umpire that the game will be continued under protest. League Director will review the appeal and make the final decision.
- B. Protest on player eligibility
 - i. **PRIOR TO THE GAME:** If a player is protested, he/she must provide a picture ID or he/she will not be permitted to enter the game. If he/she has proof of ID, he/she may participate. The protesting team may require the game to be played under protest if they think the player does not attend the church for which he/she is playing. The League Director will contact the church for verification and then rule on the protest.
 - ii. **DURING THE GAME:** If a player is protested, he/she must be able to show a picture ID or the game will automatically be forfeited. If a player has ID, the game will continue under protest as above.
 - iii. **THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS ONCE THE GAME HAS ENDED.**
- C. If a protest is upheld, the protest fee will be refunded.
- D. Any team protested legally and is found to have an ineligible player will be warned. If such offense occurs again the team will be removed from the league and not be allowed to participate in the league tournament. No refunds will be given to the team.
- E. Any player protested legally and is found to be ineligible for that team will be removed from the league and not allowed to return to his/her legal team. If said player was never on a team legally he/she now becomes ineligible for all teams in that league.
- F. All games played with ineligible player(s) that have been removed by the League Coordinator are subject to be forfeited without protest.

V. EJECTED PLAYERS

- A. Ejection from a game by an umpire for disciplinary reasons may be for the remainder of the game, the next game, the next two (2) games or for the remainder of the season. The degree of severity of the penalty will be determined by the official(s) involved, the Officials' Board and the League Director.
- B. Any player or coach/manager **ABUSING** an official, scorekeeper or staff verbally or physically will be removed from the game and the league for at least the remainder of the season. If it is determined that this act was team oriented, the above applies for the entire team.
- C. Any player that is repeatedly ejected for disciplinary reasons will be suspended from play with all teams he/she participates with for the remainder of the season.
- D. **Profanity will not be tolerated. Players will be ejected. If the profanity is directed to umpires, complex staff or scorekeepers the player or players may be suspended from the park for one year. For the purpose of our league "profanity" will be defined as any word that would not be used in a Sunday School Class.**

VI. Home Run Rule

A limit of over-the-fence home runs will be used in all men's and coed slow pitch leagues. The following limitations are per team per game:

A.	Men's Church Division I	Four (4)
	Men's Church Division II	Three (3)
	Men's Church Division III	Two (2)

Effect: For any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.

VII. Miscellaneous

- A. Leagues will be separated into divisions with the highest division being "1" the lower divisions "2" and so on if numbers allow.
- B. All rainouts will be called off by the Parks and Recreation Department based on the condition of the fields. Please check www.quickscores.com/decatgur for rainout info.
 - i. All rainouts will be made up following the conclusion of the regular season schedule.
- C. The following "Run Rule" will be in effect: A game will be considered complete if a team is behind 10 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings or 20 runs after 3 innings.
- D. Steel spikes will not be allowed. If player is found wearing steel spikes during play, this player will be removed from the game and, if on base, a "dead ball out" will be called; any players on base at the time the removed player came to bat must return to the base occupied at that time if there are less than 3 outs.
- E. In case of a tie for first place, the tie-breaker will determined by www.quickscores.com/decatgur
- F. No head gear may be worn except for: caps, visors, du-rags and/or sweat bands. (NO HANDKERCHIEFS)

- G. If your team finished THE REGULAR in first place, your team will automatically move into a higher division the following year. REGULAR SEASON TEAMS in Last place teams will drop a division unless they choose to stay in that division. **Any team may be moved up or down to try to make divisions more equal.**
- H. All players on a team shall properly wear uniforms that are **SIMILAR** in colors, logo, design, and style. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of **contrasting color**, at least 6 inches high must be worn and **visible** on the back of all uniform shirts. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers. (Numbers 0 and 00 or 3 and 03 are examples of identical numbers.) **All numbers must be permanent - no tape, etc. will be allowed.** Church teams will not be allowed to use equipment or uniforms advertising alcoholic beverages.
- I. Home team will be assigned on the schedule.
- J. Home team will be responsible for providing one new softball and several good used softballs per game. All softballs must be **USA approved and stamped as such.** Stamp must be visible on all used softballs. Men will hit the .52 COR 300 Compression, 12-inch **optic yellow** ball and women will hit the .52 COR 300 Compression, 11-inch **optic yellow** ball.
- K. Championship and Runner-up **TEAM** trophies will be awarded in each division.
- L. **ON ALL HOME RUNS HIT:**
- i. Batter may return to the dugout and is not required to touch first base.
 - ii. All base runners will return to the dugout.
- M. Managers must be listed on roster as a player if they plan to participate as a player.
- N. **LINE-UPS**
- i. **MUST HAVE FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL AS LISTED ON THE ROSTER WITH NUMBER!**
 - ii. **MANAGER'S NAME MUST BE LISTED.**
 - iii. **ALL SUBS AVAILABLE SHOULD BE LISTED WITH NUMBER.**
- O. **No provisions will be made for players playing on more than one team.**
- P. Due to the field availability some leagues will be playing on the same night.
- Q. **The schedule will try to have all COED games play at the first 2 rounds or last 2 rounds but games will not wait for players coming from other fields to start. All teams may have an unlimited number of players on their roster for league play and should not rely on players playing on other teams.**
- R. **ALL BATTERS WILL START WITH A 1 BALL AND 1 STRIKE COUNT. ALL FOUL BALLS WILL BE STRIKES.**

S. **Courtesy Runner rule will now follow the Courtesy Runner rule that has been established by the USA effective for the 2016 season and beyond.** See Pg. 109, Section 9, Rule B & C of the ASA Participants Manual for full explanation and effects of the rule.

- Each team will be allowed one (1) courtesy runner per inning.
- Any player listed on the official line-up may be the courtesy runner, including subs.
- If while on base, the courtesy runner is due to bat, the courtesy runner will be called out, removed from the base, and will take his or her position as the batter.
- A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner except for an injury.

LEAGUE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

- A. **Tournament games may be played on additional days pending field availability and dates remaining.**
- B. The run rules will be in effect for all games, including the finals and IF games: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 10 after 5 innings.
- C. There will be an hour time limit on all games except the finals and IF games.
- D. Trophies will be award to Tournament Champion and Tournament runner-up.
- E. Higher seeds teams will be home team for the entire tournament.

Bats banned by USA will not be allowed in league play. All bats must have the USA certified stamp visible and legible to the umpire or they will not be allowed in league play. An updated list will be posted in press boxes and dugouts. All bats will be checked by the umpires before each game and any bats that are on the banned bat list will not be allowed in league play. For league play if a batter takes the batting position and he/she is discovered using a banned bat that player will be out and will be ejected from the game. The bat will be removed from the game.

Alabama ASA Website www.usasoftballofalabama.com

National ASA Website www.softball.org

Wilson Morgan Website www.decaturoparks.com

League Information www.quickscores.com/decaturoparks.com

Any person or persons that destroy or damage city property will be prosecuted. This will include a minimum 1 year suspension from the complex.