

## 2021 COED FALL LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Revised 7/28/20

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

### I. Entrance Fee

Entrance fee for the season shall be **\$375.00 if paid by 5pm Friday, August 20, 2021**, and shall be **\$425.00 if paid after August 21, 2021 at 5pm. NO TEAMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 2021 SEASON IF THEIR ENTRY FEE HAS NOT BEEN PAID BY AUGUST 27, 2021. 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 9 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 August 27, 2021)

For more information or questions please contact **Orlandus King, League Director, At (256) 341-4810 or oking@decatur-al.gov.**

### II. Eligibility

- A. Player must be entered on roster form provided by Decatur Parks and Recreation. Form must be completed and turned in with entry fees by **August 27, 2021**. Teams that have not turned in a signed roster in 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 16 years of age as of January 1, 2021 for the 2021 season.**
- 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 and presented to the League Director before the start of the game. New players must be added **before the last regularly scheduled league game.**
- D. Once a player has played in a league game on one coed team, that player becomes ineligible to play on any other team in the coed league during that season. Any games played with ineligible players are subject to be forfeited.

### III. Forfeit

- A. A. Teams must be able to field a team of at least (5) five women and (4) four men all wearing the appropriate matching shirts with permanent numbers (not to be duplicated) when their scheduled field becomes available. **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 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. Failure of a team to be ready to play when their scheduled field becomes available will constitute a forfeit. There will be no exceptions to this rule.**
- B. If the team does not have 10 players, the 10th spot in the batting order will constitute an out. This includes injuries and players leaving for work.
- C. If at any time a team cannot field the adequate number of males and/or females it will constitute a forfeit. This includes injuries and players leaving for work.
- D. Time limit is one hour for all league games. The inning in progress at the end of the time limit will be completed. Tied games will continue on full inning basis until tie is broken.
- E. Line-up must be turned in to scorekeeper a minimum of 10 minutes before scheduled game time.

### IV. Protest (Refer to RULE 9 in the USA Rule Book)

- A. All protests must be declared to the home plate umpire. Protests on a misinterpretation of a playing rule must be made 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
1. **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 is not legally on the roster of the protested team. The League Director will review the roster and then rule on the protest.
  2. **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.

### 3. 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, and 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. 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:

Coed Division II	Four (4)
Coed Division III	Three (3)
Coed All Other Divisions	Two (2)

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

## VII. Miscellaneous

- A. All rainouts will be called off by the Parks and Recreation Department based on The condition of the fields. The rainout number is 256-341-4810 or log on to [www.quickscores.com/decatgur](http://www.quickscores.com/decatgur) for rainout info.
- B. 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, season records between the teams will determine which team is first. If there is a tie in head-to-head, fewest runs allowed for all games played (9) by the teams involved will determine ranking. If a tie still exists, co-champions will be declared. Same procedure will be followed for second place tie.
- F. No head gear may be worn except for: caps, visors, durags and/or sweat bands. (NO HANDKERCHIEFS)
- G. If your team finished in first place, your team will automatically move into a higher division the following year. 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 ball and women will hit the .52 COR 300 Compression, 11-inch ball. (**OPTIC YELLOW**)
- K. Championship and Runner-up **TEAM** trophies will be awarded in each division.

L. **ON ALL HOME RUNS HIT:**

1. Batter may return to the dugout and is not required to touch first base.
2. All base runners will just 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**

1. MUST HAVE FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL AS LISTED ON THE ROSTER WITH NUMBER.
2. MANAGER'S NAME MUST BE LISTED.
3. ALL SUBS AVAILABLE SHOULD BE LISTED WITH NUMBER.

P. **No provisions will be made for players playing on more than one team.**

Q. ALL BATTERS WILL START WITH A 1 BALL AND 1 STRIKE COUNT.  
ALL FOUL BALLS WILL BE STRIKES.

**LEAGUE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:**

1. 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
2. There will be an hour time limit on all games except the finals and IF games.
3. **Trophies will be award to Tournament Champion and Tournament runner-up.**
4. Higher seeds teams will be home team for the entire tournament.

**Alabama USA Website**      [www.alabamausa.com](http://www.alabamausa.com)

**National USA Website**      [www.softball.org](http://www.softball.org)

**Wilson Morgan Website**      [www.decaturoparks.com](http://www.decaturoparks.com)

**League Website**      [www.quickscores.com/decaturoparks.com](http://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.*

**Bats banned by ASA will not be allowed in league play. All bats must have the ASA 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.**

## **COED SPECIFIC RULES**

### DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

With 10 players, 5 must be male and 5 female. There must be 2 males and 2 females in the infield and 2 males and 2 females in the outfield. The pitcher and catcher must be one female and one male. If the team starts with 9 players and has three in either the infield or outfield, one of the three must be a male or female.

### BATTING ORDER

Must alternate male-female.

### BATTING TWELVE

- A. With EP, there must be 6 males and 6 females with defensive positions as above. Defensive positions may be changed as long as coed positioning is followed. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
- B. When batting twelve: if a player must leave the game for work or for an injury, the batter directly above or below must also be removed from the batting order or an out will be received each time the batter that left the game comes up in the batting order.

### BASE ON BALLS

The ball is dead. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. **EXCEPTION:** With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. **NOTE:** Should the female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out should be called during this dead ball

period. A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.

#### USE OF WRONG BALL

If the wrong ball is used, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter re-bat and assume the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.

#### COURTESY RUNNER

Each team will be allowed one (2) courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner must be of the same gender as the original runner or injured runner. **Courtesy runner can be one male and one female per inning.** First offense for entering an ineligible runner, if appealed, will result in the ineligible runner being called out and forfeit of the team's courtesy runner for that inning. Second and further offenses will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in the ineligible runner being called out, the ineligible runner and the coach being ejected, and forfeit of the team's courtesy runner for that inning. Ineligible runners may be appealed by umpires or the opposing team at any time the runner is on base.