

# GREATER HUNTINGTON PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS



**Updated: 4/26/2021**

*Note: These Softball Rules and Regulations of the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District Supersede Any & All Other Adult Softball Rules and Regulations and are subject to change per Advisory Board Approval at any point in the Season (Teams will be notified of any rule/regulation change).*

*For More information, call 304.696.5954 or visit [www.ghprd.org/softball](http://www.ghprd.org/softball)*

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**COACHES AND MANAGERS' INSTRUCTIONS:**

- A mandatory Managers meeting will be held for all teams wanting to participate. If the team's Manager can't be in attendance, it is their responsibility to have someone at the meeting on their behalf.
- Fees are due by the Managers meeting. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Team registration and roster due by the Manager's meeting or your team will not participate. No exceptions. Non-emergency changes to the roster can be made during the first 30 days of the season.
- **Keep a copy of your team's roster with your team every time you play and your team must present them to the Umpire before you play. The Umpire will not keep your roster. But will inspect it for legitimacy of player eligibility.**
- Print the softball rules and regulations and cover it with your entire team's roster of participants as the Coach you are responsible for your team's awareness of the rules. Do not allow players to contact the Director arguing rules. This is the Coach's responsibility.
- For all field conditions and availability, call the field-availability hotline posted in the rules book and do not contact the League Director or complain to them over reasons for playing or not playing. They do not always contact the League Director of field-availability conditions.
- When on the field playing, each team should have only one person (if not the Coach) who will communicate with the Umpire to question the interpretation of a rule or call on the field. A player is to never argue a judgement call and by rule may be ejected and subject to the accompanying punishment.
- Every Coach should speak with their players to make sure they have not played for another team and thus making them ineligible from playing with their team. There is no excuse for not knowing.
- The Coach/Manager is responsible for speaking to each player and tell them that they are prohibited from playing on other teams within their divisions/Leagues except for other types of Leagues (i.e.: male players can only play on another coed team). They absolutely cannot play in another GHPRD men's division on another night. For female players, they can play in two coed divisions provided they are not in the same-combined division.

**IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER BEFORE TAKING THE FIELD TO PLAY OR PRACTICE:**

- It is the responsibility of each Teams Coach/Manager to make sure that everyone on the team is aware of the rules and responsibilities as they relate to making this League a safe, responsible and fun League for everyone.
- It is the obligation of every player to report any questionable conduct, action or general behavior that would endanger anyone's health or damage any property.
- It is the responsibility of every team's Manager to ensure that their team is playing with approved players and equipment at all times. This includes bats, shoes and people.
- There are Softball Advisory Members made up of members of teams in each division who discuss, review and revise rules for an optimal playing experience. If you have some productive ideas that would enhance the League, then please bring these ideas up for discussion.

**RULE I - PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY**

A player can only play on one (1) men's/women's (if League is in operation) and (1) co-ed team per season unless approved by the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District's (GHPRD) League Manager. Please see requirements below.

**SECTION A: AGE REQUIREMENTS**

1. A player must be eighteen (18) years old. **No exceptions.**
2. Age is determined as of the first game.

**SECTION B: TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS**

1. Higher seeding of regular season's results will determine home team.
2. All players participating in the tournament must be on the roster by the deadline specified.

\*Teams will be penalized for playing illegal/un-qualifying players.

3. If teams are tied in the standings at the end of the season and their overall winning percentage doesn't differentiate them, the following tie-breakers will be followed in order:
  - a. The result of head-to-head competition win/loss record.
  - b. The head-to-head point spread of games played against each other.
  - c. The total number of runs scored during the season (most).
  - d. The total number of runs scored against (least).
  - e. Coin flip.

### **SECTION C: PLAYERS AND ROSTERS**

1. A player cannot play on more than one team in the men's League and co-ed League regardless of the division (A, B or C). Women may play on two co-ed teams providing the number of players playing at a higher level do not equal more than 3-total (meaning men and women). A player can simultaneously play on one men's team and one co-ed team if they satisfy the following requirements:
2. There will not be any roster exemptions for any divisions except for co-ed teams and this is for women players.
3. Completed team roster forms must be submitted the day of the **Mandatory Managers Meeting** and non-emergency roster changes can only occur in the first-thirty (30) days of the season. It is the responsibility of the team to have a copy of the up-to-date roster at **ALL** games should there be *any questions*. If a team does not have their roster with them and another team questions them before the end of the 3rd inning, the team in question will forfeit their game.
4. All players must be on the roster and this must be on file with the GHPRD (this includes the most recent copy). Failure to comply with this rule will result in player and Manager automatic suspensions from the GHPRD League until an appeal is made to the Appeal Board.

5. No team can add players to their roster once the roster deadline has passed without first getting permission from the League Manager. Permission must be granted at least twenty-four (24) hours before game time. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
6. Each team will receive a dated copy of its roster containing a list of eligible players. A dated copy of the roster will be provided after every roster change.
7. All Managers must have in their possession at **EACH** game a dated copy of their team roster. All pages if more than one must be the dated copy issued only by the GHPRD. **Failure to present the official dated roster, if requested by the game official, will result in a forfeit of the game(s) to the opposing team.**
8. **A violation of this rule (playing an illegal player) will result in the automatic suspension of the player for the duration of the season.** A second violation will result in the suspension of that player and their Coach for one calendar year.

#### **SECTION D: PLAYER TRANSFERRING TO A NEW TEAM**

1. Players transferring from one team to another are ineligible to play for their new team within a twenty-four (24) hour waiting period but must notify the League Director in advance.
2. There is no penalty period if a player is transferring from a team that has not played.
3. No player may transfer after the mid-point of the season has been completed.
4. No player can switch back-and-forth from team to team for the purposes of playing multiple times weekly.

#### **SECTION E: REQUEST FOR ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION**

1. Any time a Manager questions the eligibility of an opponent; the Manager must ask the Umpire to check the roster of the opponent. The Umpire will request the player in question to show identification and sign the line-up card. If the roster is not given to the Umpire by the team in question, the Umpire shall forfeit the game to the appealing team. Appeals for

illegal players must be made before the fourth inning starts unless the player has not entered the game at that time. If an assigned hitter or substitutes are added, they can be challenged at the time they enter the game.

2. The Umpire may declare a player ineligible. Reasons could include: no I.D. or proof, the player has played for other teams in their division and not properly acquired their release through the League and other possible issues.

## **RULE II – TEAMS**

### **SECTION A: TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

A team's placement into the League and division isn't guaranteed based upon their choice. A team can be placed into a division or tournament based upon prior success and playing level of players on that team's roster whether they choose to play them or not. A team finishing in the top four during the regular season and possibly their success in the post-season tournament could influence their future placement into a division and/or tournament. This could also be true but not guaranteed for low-performing teams in each division. Each situation will be handled separate and independent accordingly. The goal of this rule is to uphold fair play in the League and to attempt to prevent non-competitive play. Three or more players returning to play constitute that team for purposes of placement and can be a part of the consideration process.

### **SECTION B: CONTRACT/ROSTER SIZE**

1. Each Men's division team will be allowed to have a maximum of twenty-five (25) players and a minimum of twelve (12) players.
2. Each Co-ed team will be allowed to have a maximum of twenty-seven (27) players and a minimum of twelve (12) players.

**MINIMUM FOR STARTING THE GAME**

*FOR SHORT HANDED RULE SEE APPENDIX "A"*

1. Men's teams cannot start a game with less than nine (9) players. If a team starts with nine (9) players, they must finish with at least nine (9) players, or they will forfeit the game. The tenth player may enter the game at the time he arrives. If the tenth man arrives after his team has submitted a line-up card, he must bat in the tenth position in the batting order. The eleventh player cannot be added and the twelfth player may be added before the end of the third inning.
2. Co-ed teams must start with a minimum ten (10) players - five (5) women and five (5) men.
3. Games will start at the scheduled time. There will be a ten-minute grace period for all 6pm games for teams who don't have the minimum number of players to field a lineup. Teams must submit their line up and start the game when that minimum number of players are present. Due to the 6:00pm starting times, the home team may give up their privilege and change to the visiting team should they need to add additional players above the minimum number required. If a player's position has already batted in the lineup, then they will be subject to normal substitution and lineup rules. The League allows teams to add players up until the end of the 3rd Inning up to a maximum of 12 players. Teams will have two hours and ten minutes to complete two games. This ten-minute grace is part of the two hours and ten minutes. This is for 6pm start times only. All teams must have a minimum 8 players at the field now to qualify for a grace period.
4. Any team that is late and using the grace period will then have to be the visitor team and forfeits their ability to be the home team.
5. If a team forfeits their first game, they will have an additional 20 minutes to become eligible to start the second game.
6. Please keep in mind there are **NO GRACE PERIODS FOR TOURNAMENT GAMES** and teams are expected to be at the fields at least 15 minutes before their game times and be ready to take the field to play should their game start early. If a team fails to show up and no call was made prior, the team is no longer eligible to participate in that tournament.



7. If both teams do not have enough players on the field at the game time. Both teams forfeit and a coin toss will take place to see which team move to the appropriate bracket.
8. Should both teams not have enough to field a team, then both teams will be subject to a coin toss and the winner will advance and loser will drop to the loser's bracket. At this point the captains must tell the Umpire if they will have enough to continue or not.

### **RULE III – PLAYER/TEAM SUSPENSION**

#### **SECTION A: SUSPENSIONS**

Any person having been expelled from one game shall be ineligible to play or participate in the team's next two games including the League and/or playoffs. This suspension will be for what is known as a calendar week should the player participate in other Leagues such as co-ed accompanying men's or men's accompanying co-ed. After this one calendar week the player will be allowed to resume play. Now, the player will be on probation for the remainder of one calendar year and any additional disciplinary action will result in a year-long suspension from all Leagues. The softball advisory committee and the Director may take additional action should it be necessary based upon special circumstances (see Section C).

1. Suspended players must immediately leave the field of play and dugout area. Failure to do so within two minutes will automatically result in a forfeit of the game. At this point the player then has 2 more minutes to vacate the property or the second game will be automatically forfeited. If the ejected player continues refuses to leave the field/facility or threatens anyone, the Umpires and Coaches have been instructed to call 911 for safety purposes. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. The Umpire reserves the right to eject any player, fan, Coach or by-stander from the facility if they feel it is necessary for safety reasons.
3. Any threat or threatening behavior/act of any kind will result in an automatic ejection followed by a suspension determined by the Softball Advisory Board pending the results of an investigation.

**SECTION B: INDEFINITE SUSPENSION**

Any person making physical contact in fighting with another player, official, or spectator, shall be automatically suspended from the game and indefinitely from all the GHPRD Leagues, pending further disciplinary action up to and including one calendar year. Fighting is an automatic suspension of a minimum of at least one calendar year. At the end of that year, the player must appeal to return to the GHPRD Leagues. A player is not guaranteed of a return to eligible status at the end of this year long period. Any player contact, threatening or violence towards an Umpire will be subject to a zero-tolerance policy and all games will be stopped at that point and the Umpires/players or spectators are instructed to contact 911.

**SECTION C: SUSPENSION APPEAL PROCESS**

1. Any person (or persons) suspended under the provisions of Section “C” desiring to appeal their status must present in writing their request for a hearing to the League Manager (the same rules apply). The Advisory Board will make a ruling based upon information provided by the parties involved along with any previous issues.
2. The defendant will be informed in writing of the date, time, and place of their appeal hearing. This notification will be sent via registered mail within seven (7) days preceding the date of said hearing, and will be sent to the addressed information on the roster sheet unless otherwise informed.

**SECTION D: PROBATION**

Players suspended under the provisions of Section “C” may be placed on probation upon being reinstated into the GHPRD program. The terms of the probation will be determined by the Advisory Board.

**SECTION E: MINIMUM PENALTY FOR VIOLATION**

1. To establish an orderly way to handle any violation of the GHPRD Softball Rules and Regulations, Section III “C”, the following is a list of violations for which suspensions will occur from the GHPRD League. This is established to include the minimum penalty for each violation.
2. The GHPRD may suspend players and/or Managers indefinitely for conduct or actions detrimental to the League. Detrimental actions include, but are not limited to, violation of the GHPRD Rules, Park Ordinances, and the Softball Rules and Regulations.
3. Managers having an illegal player who plays in a League game will be suspended for two (2) games.
4. Players that have been suspended from a League and play while suspended will have a four (4) game suspension. Any more incidents of this behavior will result in season-ending suspension.
5. Any violations not covered in the above will be at the discretion of the League Manager.

**SECTION F: PROFANE LANGUAGE**

Players will be expected to conduct themselves in a mature manner. Profane or abusive language will not be tolerated and will be cause for immediate ejection and as discussed at the Manager’s meeting - **THIS IS YOUR WARNING**. If a player is ejected from a game, he/she will be suspended from the next two (2) games. A second ejection will cause him/her to be suspended for four (4) games **and the entire team will be placed on probation**. Should another player be ejected while a team is on probation, the team is subject to forfeiture of all remaining games. The Advisory Board has the right to set a higher suspension than the minimum standard stated. This used to be a League where families could come out and enjoy themselves without having to subject themselves to such language.

**RULE IV - MANAGERS/COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES****SECTION A: KNOWLEDGE OF GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **Each Manager shall be supplied with a copy of the GHPRD Softball Rules and Regulations and it is his/her responsibility to acquaint the players with its content.**
2. Any infringement of the general rules and regulations may lead to an expulsion from the League or other measures as the League Manager shall decide.
3. Any matter not covered by the Softball Rules and Regulations will be left to the discretion of the League Manager and/or the Advisory Board.

**SECTION B: MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Only the Manager, Coach, or team captain may approach the Umpire during play of the game. Any other players can be ejected from the game. **(NO MORE THAN ONE PERSON)**. The same goes for contacting the League Director and this could be before, during or after the event.
2. Managers are required to meet with the Umpires before their first game for complete ground rules orientation and to provide their copy of the most recent approved-team roster.
3. Managers are responsible for the conduct of players at all times.
4. Managers are to assist with the enforcement of the GHPRD Softball Rules and Regulations. It is not the responsibility of the Umpires to explain League rules.
5. The softball information line will be updated after 4:00 p.m. for all game cancellation. It is the responsibility of the teams to call this line should the weather threaten the games.

**RULE V - OFFICIALS/SCOREKEEPERS**

1. The game officials are responsible for keeping the score. They are representatives of the GHPRD and are officially in charge of the field and game. All teams are encouraged to keep current score to verify and keep in coordination with the Umpire to fix all

discrepancies. The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. Once a half of an inning has been played, the score cannot be altered unless at the discretion of the game official within allowance by official rules.

2. The Umpire is the official time keeper.
3. The game official/Umpire is empowered to suspend players from the game for violation of the Softball Rules and Regulations. This power is valid before, during and after the game. This rule can be applied if the official is at the location where the violation took place.

## **RULE VI - FEE REFUNDS**

### **SECTION A: FEE REFUND**

1. A team will not be eligible for any refund following the completion of the game schedule.
2. All fees will be returned if requested within two (2) normal working days following entry deadline and prior to completion of the written game schedule.

### **SECTION B: TEAM WITHDRAWS OR FORFEITS**

If a team withdraws, or forfeits from the League, all opponents will receive a win for each scheduled game against that team for the remainder of the season or playoffs. All games played against the withdrawn team will stand as played. The reported score of a forfeited game is 7 to 0.

## **RULE VII - SCHEDULE OF GAMES**

### **SECTION A: GAME SCHEDULES**

Each Team Manager will be furnished with a schedule of his/her team's games and will be notified of any changes in the schedule on the website at least 48 hours before the rescheduled game. This will be on the website: [www.ghprd.org](http://www.ghprd.org); click on the "SPORTS" tab.

**SECTION B: RESCHEDULED RAINED OUT GAMES**

1. Cancelled games will be scheduled for an open date during regular season. It is the Coach's responsibility to call the League Information Line at (304) 696-5587 after 4:00 p.m. to determine if games have been cancelled.
2. The schedule for makeup games will be made by the League Director with at least 48 hours' notice.

**RULE VIII - CONTROL OF LEAGUE**

The League Manager will be responsible to administer and control the League in a manner consistent with the Softball Rules and Regulations. This includes all GHPRD properties. In special instances, the Softball Advisory Committee will convene and decide on exceptional situations and collaborate on developing policies to improve the League as a whole.

**RULE IX - LENGTH OF GAME**

1. Games are to be seven (7) innings and played under the rules as published by the National Softball Association with the following exceptions:
2. Darkness and rain out after five (5) innings it is a complete game. If before five (5) innings, it will be picked up where the game was left off.
3. Time Limits: Doubleheaders shall not exceed two (2) hours and ten (10) minutes.
  - a. A new inning may not start after the time limit has expired; however, if the time limit expires
  - b. after a new inning begins, that inning must be completed.
  - c. A new inning begins immediately following the third out of the previous inning.
  - d. Games called due to time shall constitute a game regardless of the number of innings played.

- e. When an Umpire delays the game because of weather, the duration of “time” called by the Umpire will be added to the game time. This added time shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
  - f. An Umpire can call the first game after it has become official should it jeopardize the availability of the second game.
  - g. Coach/Umpire collaboration to enable both games to be completed before the doubleheader or individual game begins.
4. During playoffs the final four teams remaining will have a one hour and fifteen-minute time limit excluding Championship and/or if necessary game.
  5. If darkness becomes an issue the Umpire reserves the right to determine that both games shall go to 5-inning contests to ensure their completion. If agreed upon prior to the start and both teams can agree, the teams have the option to play a 1-pitch format. It is up to the Managers to come to the Umpire and discuss before the doubleheader begins about the circumstances and everyone come to an agreement.

#### **RULE X - TIE GAMES**

1. If no games are scheduled to play after a game, all ties will be completed.
2. If there is a game scheduled to be played following a game that ends regulation play in a tie, one extra inning will be permitted.

#### **RULE XI - AUTOMATIC OUT**

If a team is playing with less than the number of players they started with, each vacant batting position is an automatic out each time that batting position is to bat. Teams are not permitted to bat less than nine (9) players at any time.

**RULE XII - PROTEST**

1. If a Manager feels that a game official has misinterpreted an NSA or League rule, he/she must register intent to protest to the game official immediately and before the next pitch. It must be done when the play occurs or protest will not be allowed. Upon proper notice, that Umpire must make a note on the scorecard and any other means necessary stating the reasons for the protest and game situation at that point.
2. The Manager must file a written protest on an official form furnished by the GHPRD in the Softball Rules and Regulations stating all details as requested on the form.
3. The completed protest form must be submitted to the Umpire immediately after he/she states the protest.
4. It shall be the duty of the League Manager to sit in judgment on all cases of protest submitted by the team.
5. If the protest is allowed, the game will resume at the point of rule misinterpretation. If the protest is not allowed, the money will not be returned and the game will stand as played.

**RULE XIII - UNIFORMS**

1. All players must wear a shirt, pants or shorts, and shoes during games.
2. **No metal spikes will be allowed for any games, tournaments or practice.** Players wearing metal spikes as an active player during the game will be ejected from the game.

**RULE XIV - AWARDS**

The first and second place regular season and tournament teams will receive an award.



**RULE XV - BALLS**

1. The GHPRD will furnish one (1) new ball per game.
2. After the third out is completed, the game ball must be given to the Umpire.
3. Any batter intentionally hitting a foul ball, in the Umpire's judgment, will be declared an automatic out. The second offense is ejection from the game.
4. If there is a problem with the ball in play, notify the Umpire immediately.

**RULE XVI - DESIGNATED HITTER AND BATTER COURTESY RUNNER**

1. An assigned hitter can be added before the end of the third inning.
2. An assigned hitter can change positions with anyone playing or with anyone on the bench. If a co-ed team is using an assigned hitter, it must have one male **and** one female player.
3. A courtesy runner may be used (one per inning) same runner may run for the same batter if team has gone through the line up a second time. It may be anyone on the bench, regardless if they have played in the game or not. Courtesy runners will be permitted in the first inning. A courtesy runner may not be substituted for once they have entered as a runner. If the courtesy runner is on base when his/her time at bat is scheduled their turn at bat will be an out. (exception a player age 50 or older may receive a runner without penalty, the opposing team shall select the runner. If that selected runner is on base when his/her time at bat is due opposing team shall select another runner.)

**RULE XVII - LEAGUE PLAYOFFS**

1. For ties in the regular season standings refer to Rule 1: Section B: Number 3.
2. There will be no protest on rules interpreted in playoff games. The Umpire's say is final.
3. If weather will not allow a tournament to be played a coin toss will take place. Team Coaches or Managers will be invited to represent their team. If tournament has already been seated, one pitch will take place to finish out the tournament.

**RULE XVIII - EMPHASIS ON RULES**

1. *Fake Tags*: The unsportsmanlike act of faking tags to have a player slide unnecessarily and possibly injure himself/herself **will result in the defensive player being ejected from the game and “obstruction” will be called**. At the Umpire’s discretion, warning will be given before ejection.
2. *Batter Runner*: A properly positioned first baseman receiving a throw from another fielder must offer sufficient room for the runner to touch the bag. Any batter runner, who intimidates the first baseman by running inside the bag and making contact, or attempting to make contact, will be ejected. Incidental contact will be distinguished by the Umpire.
3. *Tag Play*: When a defensive player has the ball, or is about to receive the ball and the runner remains on his/her feet and deliberately crashes into the defensive player, the runner is to be declared out, the ball is dead, and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected.
4. **Drinking of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited anywhere near scheduled League games**. Any player or Coach observed drinking an alcoholic beverage before or during a game shall be removed for the remainder of the game. The Umpire has the authority to eject anyone out of the game who is suspected of drinking any alcoholic beverages. Alcohol consumption is prohibited on all park property without a permit.

**RULE XIX - SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Managers and team members are advised that participation in softball can result in injuries from such incidents as sliding into bases, colliding with other players and objects, and being hit by batted and thrown balls. To help minimize injuries, Managers shall advise their players that:
2. Most bases are stationary and will not move or give any ground upon contact.

3. Bases, home plate tends to be slippery when wet.
4. Collisions with other players and objects can be avoided by players “helping” each other when attempting to catch a batted or thrown ball.
5. Both offensive and defensive players should be aware of the location of the ball always and that overthrows as well as fair and fouled batted balls can result in injury to unsuspecting players.
6. Infields may become hard and cause a burn when sliding.
7. No children or individuals under 18 are to be unattended at the ball fields.
8. Only players and reserves from that team are allowed in the team’s dugout.

#### **RULE XX - INSURANCE**

The GHPRD does not carry accidental participation insurance and cannot be liable for injuries occurred while playing in the League. Participants play at their own risk.

#### **RULE XXI - MERCY RULE**

1. A game will be called complete due to mercy if one team is trailing behind ten (10) runs after five (5) innings.
2. A game will be called complete due to mercy if one team is trailing behind twelve (12) runs after four (4) innings.
3. A game will be called complete due to mercy if one team is behind fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings.
4. Any team has the right to submit at any time during the game.

**RULE XXII - BATS**

1. The Softball Advisory Board has the right to change this list if deemed necessary for safety issues.
2. All bats must bear an NSA approved certification mark; all are included on a list of approved bat models published by the National Office of NSA.
3. The Umpire has the right under any suspicion to disallow a bat from being used in a game. See NSA list for illegal bats listed on their web site ([www.playnsa.com](http://www.playnsa.com))

**RULE XXIII - HOME RUNS**

- Men's Upper Division Limited to Four (4) Homeruns per Game with the 1-up rule.
- Men's Lower Division Limited to Two (2) Homeruns per Game with the 1-up rule.
- Co-ed Upper Division Limited to Four (4) Homeruns per Game with the 1-up rule.
- Co-ed Lower Division Limited to Two (2) Homeruns per Game with the 1-up rule.

**Note:** If divisions are combined, the Softball Director will decide on the corresponding Home Run Rule.

1. Any home run hit outside of the specified rules will automatically be an out and all base runners are required to return to their bases unless the end of the inning has occurred.
2. If the batter hits a home run, the batter/runner has the walk-off option. Meaning they aren't required to run the bases.

**RULE XIV – Players be aware of your situations at all time and maintain safety.**

1. It is recommended but not mandatory that all pitchers in every division wear some type of protective face gear/face mask.
2. At every adult softball park, there is an Avoidance Rule in effect for close plays at home plate or any other base. The runner bears the responsibility to avoid any contact by at least doing the following to maintain the most possible safety.
  - a. First the runner must run in or outside the baseline if heading into home plate if the defensive player is in a direct and (vulnerable) position and cannot see them running towards them.
  - b. Second, the runner is encouraged to either feet-first slide into the plate/base or to simply give themselves up if the defensive player has the ball secured already and there is a play.
  - c. This is not to say the runner doesn't have the option to return to the previous base but to simply define clear boundaries and to avoid dangerous collisions.
  - d. The defensive player is encouraged to position themselves into a place that the plate/base isn't being blocked to encourage contact with the runner. If the runner is trying to reach the base/plate and the defensive player is blocking the success, the Umpire is to award the position to the interfered runner.

**RULE XV – SHORTENED GAMES DUE TO NATURAL CONDITIONS (SUCH AS LATE FALL OR WEATHER SYSTEMS).**

1. The Coaches have the right to work with the Umpires to come up with a modification of the normal structure should daylight or weather fronts threaten the normal 2-hour and 10-minute time limits.
2. Teams previously have agreed to modifying the games to a 1-pitch setup, playing the first game in full and understanding to go as far as possible in the second game knowing the final score is the result and finally an agreement to play two 5-inning games.

**APPENDIX****APPENDIX A - SHORT HAND RULES FOR CO-ED TEAMS****TO START A GAME:**

- A game may begin or finish with nine (9) players but the final 10th position will be an automatic out. The team must inform the Umpire at the onset of the game of this situation.
- The vacant position must be listed last in the batting order.
- An out will be taken when the vacant position in the batting order appears until an
- additional eligible player is put in this position.

**TO CONTINUE A GAME ONCE STARTED WITH A FULL TEAM LISTED ON LINE UP:**

- If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed, the team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the lineup whenever a player leaves the game for any reason that spot in the batting order will become an automatic out every time it comes up in the batting order. Under no circumstances shall team be permitted to bat less than nine.
- If playing short-handed and a substitute should arrive, he must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot. If he refuses to enter for any reason that player becomes an ineligible player the remainder of that game.
- If the player leaving the game is a runner or a batter, they shall be declared an automatic out.
- When the player who has left, the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat. Be advised: An inning and/or the game can end with an automatic out.
- The player who has left the game cannot return to the lineup, unless utilizing the re-entry rule.

**APPENDIX B - *NON-ROSTER PLAYER RULE***

- Teams will be allowed to play one non-roster player to prevent having to forfeit a game, that player must bat in the last batting position and catch. If and when a rostered player shows up that player will be inserted into the non-roster players position in the batting order, but may play any position.

**APPENDIX C - *WALKING RULES FOR CO-ED GAMES***

- When four balls or an automatic walk has been called by the Umpire, the batter runner is awarded first base unless stipulated as in #2.
- Any walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next batter (a female will bat. The exception being with two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.)



## 2021 Season One Softball Registration Form:

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Circle One:**

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Co-Ed</b>
<b>Upper</b>	<b>Lower</b>

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach's Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach's Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alternate Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coach's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing below, the aforementioned Coach accepts responsibility for his/her conduct.**

X  
\_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Signature

X  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name





**GHPRD 2021 SEASON ONE ROSTER:** Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: Men's: Upper Lower Coach's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Ed: Upper Lower Coach's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Disclaimer: GHPRD carries no player insurance and players play at their own risk!*

Name:	Address:	Phone#:	Initial:
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