



**CITY OF HURST PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
Adult Softball Program Bylaws - Fall 2011**

THESE BY-LAWS ARE A SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2011 ASA RULEBOOK AVAILABLE AT THE HURST ATHLETIC COMPLEX.

\*\* New Rules for the 2011 season

**A. PLAYING RULES:**

1. Game time is forfeit time. Home team will be designated on the schedule. Games will only be rescheduled for inclement weather situations or reasons given by the City of Hurst.
2. Time limit: No new inning will start after 55 minutes of play. Time will stop if a serious injury occurs; judgment of the umpire is final. The official start time is noted in the scorebook and established by the umpire. The running scoreboard clock will be the official game time length.
3. Each batter will come to bat with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike. A courtesy foul will be given. This rule shall apply to all regular league games, make-up games, and city play-off games unless otherwise noted.
4. A 20 run rule will apply after 3 innings, a 15 run rule will apply after 4 innings and a 10 run rule after 5 innings (4 1/2 innings if home team is ahead). If the game is tied at the end of the 7th inning, or the time limit has expired, the game will go to the international tie breaker: runner on 2nd and 1 and 1 count stays in effect. The "flip/flop" rule will be in effect: In the inning when the Run Rule is exceeded and the Home Team is losing, the Home Team will remain at bat and become the Visiting Team. If the new Visiting Team does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the Run Rule, the game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below the Run Rule, then the new Home Team will bat. If they subsequently score enough runs to exceed the Run Rule, the game will be over, if they do not the Game will continue under that format. If the situations reverse, the Teams would flip/flop again.
5. Warm-up before or during the game must be taken in the space marked "Designated Warm-up Area". No practice is allowed on the soccer fields or spectator areas. No infield practice.
6. A team must normally start and finish with 10 players (extra player [EP] may be used). The minimum number of players necessary to start the game must be present in the dugout at game time. A team may start with nine (9) players and take an out for 10th player if player is delayed. A team may drop back to nine (9) players once play has begun and take an out for the 10th player. The above does not apply if player is ejected from the ball game.
7. Fifteen (15) players per team maximum.
8. Home Run Rule: On any fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run or on a four base award, the batter and all runners are credited with a run. The batter and any runners on base are not required to run the bases.

CLASS D: One (1). All other home runs are ruled a dead ball single.  
(This includes Men's Church "C")  
Base runners do not advance unless forced by another base runner.  
(State Tournaments: depends on classification of tournament.)

CoEd REC: None (0). All home runs are ruled an out.

Any time the batter is ruled out because of the excessive home run rule, the ball is dead and no runners can advance.

9. Women's Slow Pitch: Runner's in Women's Divisions are allowed to steal bases.
10. Pitching: The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of as least six (6) feet from the ground while not exceeding a height of ten (10) feet from the ground.

**B.**     **RAIN-OUTS:**

1.     In the case of inclement weather, players may contact the Recreation Division office at (817) 788-7323 (recorder) after approximately 3:00 p.m. on the day of the game to see if the games have been canceled. The rainout recorder is updated throughout the evening if conditions warrant. If the games are canceled, makeup schedules will be posted on the City of Hurst website. The managers must call if there is any question about rainouts. The Recreation office will not call each manager. If you are unable to reach anyone by phone, arrive at the Athletic Complex ready to play. Teams may check the flagpole at the Athletic Complex after 4:00 p.m. A white flag indicates the fields are play able and a red flag means the fields are too wet for play.
2.     Any game called prior to being an official game will be replayed in its entirety. Make-up games will be played during the week or on Saturday and Sunday during the season. A 2/2 format with thirty-minute time limit [with courtesy foul] may be used if needed. The run ahead rule for thirty minutes games will be ten (10) runs after four (4) innings. Each team must play as scheduled or forfeit.

**C.**     **FORFEITS:**

1.     If a team receives a forfeit, they may have use of the field for practice unless asked to leave by the umpire. No umpires or scorekeeper will be available at this time. Forfeits are scored 7-0 in favor of the team not at fault. This applies to games where a team fails to appear and/or games that are called due to ejections.
2.     Games postponed due to inclement weather will nullify forfeited games. Ex. If a team forfeits and the game is subsequently rained out, that game will be rescheduled.

**D.**     **EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS: (Provided by each team)**

1.     Only A.S.A. approved equipment will be allowed. Go to [www.softball.org](http://www.softball.org) for the list of A.S.A approved and non-approved equipment. Hurst reserves the right to modify the ASA list at its discretion. Judgment of the City of Hurst is final.
- \*\* 2.     Balls: Two playable optic yellow balls (with A.S.A. approved stamp) with red stitching per game, per team. Women's leagues must use 11" softball. Men must use a 12" softball. Ball must have a COR of .44 or under and have a compression of 375 lbs. or under. Balls must be approved by the home plate umpire prior to entering the game.
3.     Uniforms: All players on a team must wear uniform shirts that are like in base color. Ex.) Navy blue and royal blue will be considered "blue." All shirts must have numbers (permanently affixed-No masking tape or marks-a-lot numbers) visible. If an illegal jersey(s) is discovered, player(s) may have an opportunity to change jerseys without penalty. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending player(s) being removed from the game. Each team will have a two (2) week "Grace Period" to obtain their jerseys. After the second week, players with non-approved jerseys may be ruled ineligible. Obscene, profane or vulgar team names or logos as deemed by the City are prohibited and will not be allowed.
4.     Metal cleats or cleats with exposed metal are not allowed.
5.     Jewelry - Exposed jewelry, which is judged by an official to be dangerous, may not be worn during the game. NOTE: Players will be asked to remove jewelry if judged to be dangerous. If they fail to do so, the player may be disqualified from the game. Medical alert bracelets and necklaces worn under the uniform are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.

**E.**     **ELIGIBILITY:**

1.     All participants in adult leagues must have attained the age of sixteen (16) years prior to the registration date.
2.     Players may play on more than one team in the City of Hurst but must choose one team as his own prior to participating in the city playoffs. EXCEPTION: Players cannot play on two teams in the same league/night. Games will not be delayed to allow players to play on two teams on the same night. Players may play with only one team in the city playoffs. The first team played with is that player's chosen team.
3.     Players on teams advancing to TAAF State Tournaments must meet all TAAF guidelines as outlined in the TAAF Cavalcade of Sports.

**F. TEAM ROSTERS:**

1. Player cards will no longer be used as your team's roster.
2. Team rosters must be filled out completely with player's address and home phone numbers. Completed rosters must be submitted to the Recreation Division office or scorekeeper no later than game time on the day of your first game. Failure to do so may result in forfeit or suspension. Church teams must have the signature of the pastor, priest, etc., on the roster.
3. Players cannot be added to a team after the last regular season game (ie: no players may be added for the city play-offs). Each player must sign their team's roster and turn it into the Recreation Division office or scorekeeper prior to game time on the day he/she wishes to participate. To play on a church team, players must be bonafide members of the sponsoring church.
4. A completed roster must be submitted prior to the city playoffs to be eligible for state tournaments. This is your final roster.
5. Everyone who plays must sign their team's roster form.
6. Completed team rosters may be turned in Monday thru Friday at the Recreation Division 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or at the Athletic Complex 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.
7. SPECIAL NOTE: Umpires may periodically conduct an eligibility check on all teams. A valid driver's license will be required by each player. Players protested about eligibility or thought to be playing under an assumed name may be asked to show a valid drivers license to the umpire. Players who refuse and/or cannot show proper identification may be ruled ineligible.

**G. LINE-UP:**

1. Line-ups must be turned into the scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to game time. First/last name, jersey number & position required. Changes in the lineup must be made prior to home team taking the field. Even if all players are not present 10 minutes prior to game time, turn in the line-up with the names of the players present & add the other players prior to game time upon arrival. All players must be in the dugout or be identifiable to the umpire prior to the start of the game.

**H. DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

1. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: (Before, during or after a game): May result in suspension from the Athletic Complex for one calendar week (seven days) on the first offense. A second suspension during the season may result in suspension for the remainder of the season. Unsportsmanlike conduct, even on the first offense may result in suspension for a longer period of time.

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes but is not limited to: verbal or physical harassment of officials from players, managers, or coaches before, during, or after the game or any other conduct deemed unsportsmanlike by the Recreation Division office. This is not subject to protest and judgment of the official is final! Suspended player(s) will not be allowed in the playing or spectator area during the suspension period. If violated, the game will be forfeited and further action will be taken as necessary by the Recreation Division office.

Suspensions:

- Must be for actual games played; if the games are rain-outs or forfeits during the suspension period, the player is suspended for the following games or until he/she has met the suspension requirement.
  - Apply to games scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays, if applicable.
  - Requires the player(s) to leave the playing facility area after being ejected. Failure to do so may result in a forfeited game.
  - Of one (1) calendar week will not be reviewed.
  - Of more than one (1) week may be reviewed by the Hurst Adult Softball Advisory Committee (HASAC).
2. HURST ADULT SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HASAC): Players suspended for more than one week may have the HASAC review the suspension. Players wishing to have HASAC review a suspension must submit a written appeal to the Recreation Manager within five (5) business days after notification of suspension. During review, the HASAC may uphold, shorten or lengthen the suspension. Judgment of the HASAC is final.
  3. INTENTIONAL BAT THROWING: Automatic disqualification for the remainder of the game. If a player, coach,

umpire or spectator is injured by the act of a bat being thrown, the Recreation Manager may impose a suspension of a minimum of one (1) game.

4. FRAUD: One who has committed fraud while a player, coach or manager; this includes but is not limited to playing under an assumed name, falsifying roster, player cards, or I.D.

PENALTY: Minimum of one (1) calendar year suspension from the Hurst Adult Softball program. Up to three (3) years loss of eligibility in T.A.A.F. and A.S.A. play.

5. Physical contact or violence by any player, coach, manager or team against another player, coach, manager, team or umpire may result in suspension from the City of Hurst Adult Softball Program for an indefinite period of time. This could also carry up to three years suspension from all T.A.A.F. and A.S.A. activities.

#### **I. PROTESTS:**

1. All protests must be made at the time of the incident and prior to the next pitch. A protest fee of \$25.00 cash or check (made payable to the "City of Hurst") must accompany the written report of the conditions causing the protest and be submitted to the Recreation Manager by 12:00 noon on the day following the protest (Mon-Fri). If the protest is upheld, the \$25.00 will be returned. If a protest is being filed on player eligibility, notify the umpire during the game so the scorebook can be marked and the umpire can check with the manager and player to identify player in question (proper ID may be requested). The \$25.00 protest fee is waived for eligibility protests. Protest on player eligibility must be made before or during the game. Only protests on rule interpretations and player eligibility will be accepted. Judgment calls are not subject to protest. Protests on interpretation of the rules must be made at the time the game is being played.

#### **J. TIES:**

1. The winner of each league will be determined by the most games won.
2. If two teams are tied, the following steps will be used to break the tie:
  - A. Head to Head results between two teams tied.
  - B. Run differential in Head to Head games.
  - C. Total runs scored during entire season.
  - D. Total runs allowed during entire season.
  - E. Coin toss.
3. If three or more teams are tied, the following steps will be used to break the tie:
  - A. Head to head results between teams tied.  
(NOTE: If an unequal number of games have been played between the 3 or more teams tied, then #3.A, #3.B., #3.C., and #3.D. below will not apply.) "If a team has wins over all teams tied, that team shall be declared the winner."
  - B. Run differential in head to head games.
  - C. Total runs scored in head to head games.
  - D. Total runs allowed in head to head games.
  - E. Total runs scored during entire season.
  - F. Total runs allowed during entire season.
  - G. Coin toss.

#### **K. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. A.S.A. and T.A.A.F. rules shall govern play unless otherwise specified in the league by-laws.
2. AWARDS: Team trophies and individual awards will be awarded to the first and second place teams in each league. The same will be awarded to the overall champions and runners-up in the City playoffs.
3. The Recreation Division and the Hurst Adult Softball Advisory Committee have settled on these rules and regulations to accommodate a smooth-running program. The umpires calling this league are instructed to carry them out to the letter.

4. The Recreation Division reserves the right to delete or add any rule that in the opinion of this department will help to improve the softball program.
5. Drafting of players; must meet all regulations as prescribed by the ASA Code, Article 503.
6. No alcoholic beverages are allowed inside or in the immediate vicinity of the dugouts.
7. CHURCH LEAGUE teams must use their corresponding Church's name within their official Team Name.
8. The double base shall be used at first base in all divisions of play.
9. The City of Hurst may not honor schedule change requests once the schedules have been published.
10. There will be no refunds after the schedules are made.
11. Managers may make a schedule request prior to the schedules being made. In an effort to be fair to all teams, the City of Hurst will not honor schedule requests or changes at any time during the season.

**L. CoEd RULES:**

**General Rules for CoEd:**

1. 10 players take the field; 5 men and 5 women. Exception: If the Extra Player (EP) is used, 12 players must be used (6 male and 6 female and must be present at game time). Teams may start with 9 players and take an out for the tenth player. Team may not start a game with eleven (11) players.
2. The men will hit the 12" ball; women will hit the 11" ball.
3. A foul ball on the fourth strike will result in an out, a courtesy foul is being allowed.
4. No metal spikes will be allowed at any time.
5. Offensive teams must alternate the batting line-up according to gender. If a player leaves the game for any reason their substitute must be of the same gender.
6. Defensively, two (2) males and two (2) females must take positions in the outfield, two (2) males and two (2) females must take positions in the infield and the pitcher and catcher must be of different gender.
7. If a male batter is walked, intentionally or unintentionally:
  - a) With less than two (2) outs, the female must bat.
  - b) With two (2) outs, the offensive manager shall have the option to have the female batter awarded first base or bat in the normal sequence.
8. A player may play on more than one team in the City of Hurst. EXCEPTION: Players cannot play on two teams in the same league. Games will not be delayed to allow players to play on two teams on the same night.
9. Coed Rec. teams may score up to eight (8) runs per inning. After the eighth run, teams change sides. Coed Competitive teams have no runs per inning rule.

**M. 2011 Fall League Dates:**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Aug. 1 - 2  | Fall League registration for 2010 and 2011 returning teams.   |
| Aug. 3 - 19 | Fall League open registration.  |
| Aug. 24     | Schedules available on-line ( <a href="http://www.ci.hurst.tx.us">www.ci.hurst.tx.us</a> ) or may be picked up at the Hurst Recreation Center (700 Mary Drive). |
| Aug. 29     | Fall Season begins (8 game season, with no playoffs.)   |

## **2011 TAAF STATE TOURNAMENTS**

Each Parks and Recreation Department (P.A.R.D.) member will have the right to advance any team that the P.A.R.D. member has registered with T.A.A.F. in all team sports.

All teams advancing to post season tournaments are responsible for paying their own entry fee and all related costs.

### **WANT TO PLAY IN A TOURNAMENT FOR FREE??**

T.A.A.F. now offers an adult comp entry program to ALL adult tournaments. Please contact the T.A.A.F. State Office at [Charlene@taaf.com](mailto:Charlene@taaf.com) or [Kathleen@taaf.com](mailto:Kathleen@taaf.com) or call 512-863-9400 for information.

T.A.A.F Region 4 also offers an adult comp entry to ALL adult tournaments. Please email [Jackie@tcpard.com](mailto:Jackie@tcpard.com) or [info@taafregion4.org](mailto:info@taafregion4.org) or call 972-624-3950 for information.

<b><u>DIVISION</u></b>	<b><u>SITE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
FALL CO-REC SLOWPITCH	WEATHERFORD	OCTOBER 15 - 16
FALL MEN'S SLOWPITCH	WEATHERFORD	OCTOBER 22 - 23

### **WEB SITES OF INTEREST**

<b>City of Hurst (Schedules, scores and standings)</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ci.hurst.tx.us">www.ci.hurst.tx.us</a></b>
<b>Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF)</b>	<b><a href="http://www.taaf.com">www.taaf.com</a></b>
<b>Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) Tournaments</b>	<b><a href="http://www.taafregion4.org">www.taafregion4.org</a></b>
<b>Amateur Softball Association (ASA)</b>	<b><a href="http://www.softball.org">www.softball.org</a></b>