

## **RICHMOND HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPARTMENT SUMMER COED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

### **FEES:**

- 1-Each team must pay an entry fee of \$400.00.
- 2-Each team must pay \$19 per game for the umpire and scorekeeper fees. (\$38 per team for the doubleheader) Please try to bring exact amount.
- 3-Game balls will be provided by the City of Richmond Heights.

### **ELIGIBILITY & ROSTERS:**

- 1- Each player must be 18 years of age by May 15, 2011. If a player under the age of 18 participates in a game, the team using the ineligible player automatically forfeits.
- 2- Contract cards must be submitted by June 5, 2011 or the first date that a player plays up until June 19.
- 3- Team roster can have a maximum of 20 players.
- 4- A player must play a minimum of four regular season games to qualify to play in the playoffs.

### **GAMES:**

- 1- Games will be played on Sunday evenings at the Richmond Heights Community Park, on diamond # 1, and diamond # 2. The regular season will begin on May 15 and conclude with playoffs and the championship by August 14.
- 2- Doubleheader game times will be at 5:30 p.m. & 6:45 p.m. **NO "GRACE" PERIOD.** Teams will be subject to forfeit if they cannot field a team when the umpire starts the game.
- 3- No new inning can start after 1 hour and 5 minutes for the 5:30 p.m. game. The time limit for the 6:45 p.m. game will be determined by darkness and the umpire's decision.
- 4- In case of rain, or darkness, 4 ½ or 5 innings will constitute an official game.
- 5- Tie games will count in the standings.
- 6- Make up games will be scheduled on the rainout dates listed on schedule.
- 7- Even if the weather is threatening, all teams must show up for their scheduled game. It is not the policy of the Recreation Department to call games off ahead of time due to weather.
- 8- When possible, if it is known that games will not be able to be played, every effort will be made to reach the managers. Players and managers, or interested parties may go to [www.bgsd.com](http://www.bgsd.com) for game status.

### **UMPIRES:**

- 1- There will be one umpire for each game.
- 2- The umpire will be in charge of the game at all times.
- 3- The umpire will review the ground rules before each game with the manager of each team.
- 4- It is the umpire's decision to call a game due to weather, darkness, or field conditions.

### **BALLS:**

- 1- A restricted flight; 12" ball will be used for the male batters and an 11" ball will be used for the female batters. The City will provide one new game ball for each game. The home team will be required to supply the back up ball.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

- 1- Teams must provide their own equipment, bats, catcher's equipment, etc.
- 2- **METAL SPIKES ARE NOT ALLOWED, NO EXCEPTIONS.** *If a player wears metal spikes during a game an out will be issued to the player's team.*

### **UNIFORMS:**

- 1- Matching shirts with a number are required. If a player is not wearing his/her team uniform, his/her first at bat will be ruled an out.

### **BENCHES:**

- 1- All bats and equipment must be stacked out side of playing area.
- 2- No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted on the bench.

### **FORFEITS:**

- 1- When a team cannot start a game at the required time, said team would forfeit. The team that is forfeiting must pay the umpire and scorekeeper fees for both teams. (\$38) If a team has to forfeit the first game because of not having enough players, that team would have twenty minutes to get the required amount of players to play the second game.
- 2- When a game is in progress and a team forfeits, for whatever reason the above rule for payment does not apply. A team is not required to pay both fees when they forfeit after a game has started.

### **CONTRACT CARDS:**

- 1- Each player and manager must sign one contract card, to be kept on file at the Recreation Office. If a player's eligibility is questioned said player must have a picture I.D. to prove his/her identity. (Driver license, or any form of identification with a picture.)
- 2- No new players will be signed after June 19. Each team will be allowed a maximum of 20 players.
- 3- A player must play a minimum of four regular season games to qualify to play in the playoffs.

### **EJECTION FROM GAME:**

1. Any player or coach ejected from a league game for any reason, will draw an automatic two game suspension from the next scheduled games, and may be suspended for additional time if warranted by the offense.
2. A second ejection during the season may result in final suspension.

## COED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

1. Teams can choose to play with 9, 10, 11 or 12 players. (It is each team's choice on how many players they want to play). **There will be no penalty for players on the roster sitting on the bench, not playing in the game.** If a team plays with 9 (5 men & 4 women or 5 women & 4 men) an automatic out will be given for the tenth spot in the order. The inning will be allowed to end on the automatic out. A team can play with 10 with no automatic out at the bottom of the order. (5 men & 5 women). If a team plays with 11 (6 women and 5 men, or 6 men and 5 women) an automatic out will be given for the twelfth spot in the order. The inning will be allowed to end on the automatic out. A team can play with 12 with no automatic out at the bottom of the order. (6 men & 6 women). The extra player's in the 11 and 12 player examples would be extra hitters.
2. Batters will start with a 1-ball/1-strike count. The first foul ball the batter hits after two strikes is not an out. The batter is out if they hit a second foul ball after two strikes.
3. One courtesy runner per inning will be allowed due to injury only (Pre-existing injury or injury during the game). The player of that gender who made the last out will be the courtesy runner.
4. Once during a game, a starter may re-enter a game after they've been taken out of the game. If an injury occurred during the game and a team would have to forfeit because they did not have enough players to continue, a player that was already taken out of the game can re-enter into the game to prevent the forfeit.
5. Only bats, not on the distributed ASA banned bat list, will be allowed. If a player uses an illegal bat, the player will be called out and will be ejected from the game.
6. Defensive line up: Catcher and Pitcher must be of the opposite sex. The infield is comprised of 2 men and 2 women. Outfield is made-up of two men & two women.
7. Sliding is allowed at second base, third base and home plate. With any play occurring at home plate the catcher just has to step on home plate before the runner gets to home. All plays at home will be treated as a force play.
8. The commitment line between third base and home plate is  $\frac{3}{4}$ . Once a player goes past the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mark they cannot go back to third base.
9. Players can be added to the bottom of the batting order. The defensive team must wait till the end of an inning or half inning to add a player.
10. If there is an even number of players, the batting order must alternate males and females. In the 9 and 11 player situations the same sex will be the last batter and the first batter with an automatic out sandwiched in between.
11. If a male batter "walks", that batter will advance immediately to second base. The next female batter has the option of being awarded first base, (a "walk") or taking her turn at bat. If the next batter is a male in the 9 & 11 player situations the male batter that "walks" will still go to second base.
12. During the regular season and first and second rounds of the playoffs a 12-run spread rule will be in effect. If a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 5 complete innings, or 4 1/2 if the home team is winning, the game will be over. The Championship Series will play full seven inning games with no 12-run rule.
13. If a ball is hit and rolls past the homerun fence it is a ground rule double.
14. Out of play will be the fences all the way down. If a ball is hit in fair territory and rolls past the side fence it is a ground rule double.

15. The League will have four orange markers in the outfield to designate where the outfielders must play before the ball is hit. The markers will be approximately 30-feet from the infield dirt and be positioned in left field, left center field, right center field and right field.
16. There is a new rule that goes with the orange markers in the outfield. An outfielder cannot throw out a player at first base if that player hits a ground ball into the outfield. An outfielder can still throw to first base for any other baseball situation.

### **PROTEST PROCEDURE:**

1. Protest of player eligibility must be made before the final out of a game. If it involves a contract card question, determination will be made immediately by the on-site commissioner.
2. Protest involving rule interpretations or rule applications must be made prior to the next pitch. Notification must be given to the umpire and the scorekeeper, and the protest must be noted on the score sheet. Determination will be made by the League Commissioner.
3. A written protest, accompanied by a \$50 fee (payable to the City of Richmond Heights) must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. the next business day. Please bring to the Recreation Department located in the City of Richmond Heights City Hall, in order for the protest to be considered.
4. Following an investigation by the League Commissioner, all parties involved will be notified of the decision. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be refunded.
5. No protest shall be permitted or accepted where an umpire's judgment is the basis of the protest.