

# Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services

## Adult Spring Softball League Rules

### 1. Governing Body

The governing body consists of the Athens-Clark County Leisure Services Department Athletic Division at Bishop Park (613-3589). The Athletic Program Specialists will coordinate the program.

### 2. Registration

All registration fees must be paid at the time a team is entered into the program.

### 3. Local Rules

All games will be played according to the ASA Rules Book except where local rules supersede the ASA rules.

- All participants are governed by the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Code of Conduct.
- Players must be 18 years of age prior to the season to play in the adult league.
- Players must be 16 years of age prior to the season to play in the adult Ladies and Coed Leagues with parent's permission.
- Players may play for more than one team, as long as the teams are in separate leagues.
- Batter is called out when foul ball occurs on third strike.
- All protested games or games suspended due to uncontrollable circumstances will fall under the suspended game rule.
- **The team at bat is responsible for retrieving foul and homerun balls.**
- The .44 core official softball will be used in all leagues.
- **ASA approved bats will be permitted, with the exception of triple-wall, and titanium bats. Umpires will be responsible for inspecting bats before each game for approval.**
- **ASA approved bats will be used. The ASA Non-approved bats list will be used as a guide. Bats on this list cannot be used in the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Service program.**
- **Run Rule-** If a team is leading by 20 runs after three full innings, 15 runs after five full innings the game ends.
- Games will be scheduled on the half-hour beginning at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30.
- **A five (5) minute grace period will be allowed for all games. When the previous game is over, five (5) minute will be placed on the clock and started. Team must have at least eight (8) players present (at the field or running to the field in view of the official) at the time the clock run out to start the game.**
- There will be a one (1) hour time limit for all games. No new innings can begin after this limit, unless the game is tied at the end of regulation play. If there is time on the game clock and the last out of the inning is made, the next inning or half inning must be played. In case of a tie, the game will be played under the international rule (the

last player giving the third (3rd) out of the inning will be placed on second base to start the next inning). This process will continue until a winner is determined.

- **If a game runs past the time limit, the next schedule game will begin as soon as that game is completed. If a team has less than eight (8) players at that point, the five (5) minute rule will go in effect.**
- **Scorekeepers** at each field will be responsible for the **official time**.
- Teams may begin play with **eight (8) players**. If additional players arrive after the line-up sheet has been turned in, they may be added to the end of the batting order. Players may be added at any point during the game.
- Team should only warm-up in designated warm-up areas to avoid injury to fans.
- **Smoking will not be permitted in the Park.**
- **Homerun Rule will only affect Bishop Park fields.**

• <b>A-Division Teams</b>	<b>Five (5) Homeruns</b>
• <b>Coed-A</b>	<b>Five (5) Homeruns</b>
• <b>Coed-B</b>	<b>Five (5) Homeruns</b>
• <b>Coed-C</b>	<b>Five (2) Homeruns</b>
• <b>B-Division Teams</b>	<b>Five (5) Homeruns</b>
• <b>C-Division Teams</b>	<b>Two (2) Homeruns</b>
• <b>35 &amp; Over Teams</b>	<b>Two (2) Homeruns</b>
• <b>40 &amp; Over Teams</b>	<b>Two (2) Homeruns</b>

- **There will be no homerun limit for Southeast Clarke Park.**
- **Any over the fence homerun hit at Bishop Park** past the league limit will be ruled a single with base runner moving up **one base if forced**.
- **The batter hitting the homerun and base runners must touch all bases.**
- **Any ball hit off the net** in fair territory and enter the field of play will be all you can get. **Any ball lodged between the net and fence will be ruled a double.** Any softball that goes through a hold in the net will be a homerun.
- **Line-up sheet** must be completed and turned in ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game.
- **After three forfeits, a team will be recommended for dismissal from the program.**

#### **4. Player contracts and Team Rosters**

- Contract and team roster must be turned into **Bishop Park on Friday, March 21, 2008.**
- Contract must be filled out properly and signed by all appropriate parties in order for the contract to be legal.
- Managers may add to their current roster on Mondays. **Last day to add will be Monday, May 19, 2008.**
- The number of players on each roster is limited to thirty (30). (GRPA rules limit roster to twenty (20) players.
- When a player's name is removed from a roster, he/she may not be added to that team's roster at a later date.

- Any player found to be playing illegally would forfeit that team game in which he/she participated. The game will be recorded as a loss.

## 5. Uniform Requirements

- **Players must wear the same color jerseys.** All jerseys must have a factory type nonduplicating number on the back at least six (6) inches in height. A team may use three (3) illegal jerseys per game. **If a team is found to have more than three (3) illegal jerseys, the game will be played, but will be recorded as a loss if protested by opposing team manager before the end of the first inning and the governing body upholds the protest.**
- **Metal Cleats will not be allowed on field.**

## 6. Player Conduct

- The umpires will only hear legal protests from a designated team manager and only under courteous and respectful conditions. Any deviance from this procedure will result in the ejection of the offending player and/or coach.
- **First Ejection-** The player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the game and must leave the park facilities immediately.
- **Second Ejection-** The player or coach will be suspended for three (3) weeks including tournament play. If the player or coach plays for more than one team, he/she will be suspended from playing on any with Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services for three (3) weeks, including tournament play.
- **Third Ejection-** The player or coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season. **Players or coaches will have the right to appeal.**
- Any player or coach found to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs shall be immediately removed from the game and suspended for the remainder of the program.
- Any player who does or attempts to do bodily harm to an official or ACC Staff
- Member will be removed from the program for the remainder of the season and could possibly have charges filed against him/her.
- Players and coaches are to refrain from making derogatory comment or using inflammatory statements/action to player, coaches, official and ACC Staff.
- Any player or coach involved in a fight in any aspect will be removed from the game and suspended for the remainder season.

## 7. Protests

- The team manager, who lodges a legal protest (rule interpretation) with the umpire or scorekeeper during a regulation game, must file it at the time of the violation. The manager has 24 hours to submit a written protest to the Leisure Services Department at Bishop Park during office hours for official review. Bishop Park office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. If a game is on Friday night, the protest must be turned into Bishop Park office on Monday morning. No protest will be

accepted based on an umpire's judgement. Each protest must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules and section to justify the protest. The ACC governing body will rule on each protest properly submitted and sends the protesting manager a written ruling.

- **Protests dealing with uniform violations and illegal players** must be lodged by the end of the first inning. **No protest** concerning uniforms and illegal players will be taken after the first inning.
- **Protests dealing with uniform violations and illegal players must be lodged with the field scorekeeper and not the umpire.**

## **8. Field Supervisor**

- A field supervisor will be present at the park during scheduled games. After consulting with umpires, the field supervisor has the authority to cancel any game if hazardous or unsafe conditions exist. He/she will also be responsible for maintaining order and making certain spectators conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner as explained in the Athens-Clarke County Code of Conduct.

## **9. Tournament and League tie Breakers**

- **The head-to-head match up** will be used to break ties for league standings. If the teams play twice during the regular season with each team winning once, then total points against each other will be the determining factor. If two teams do not play each other during the season, the determining factor will be the number of points scored by each team during the course of the season. (Only to decide first and/or second place).
- **Tournament Fees: \$50.00 (Single elimination only for all leagues)**
- The championship game of each tournament will consist of no time limit. The run rule limit will be in effect.
- **Tournament games will be played on the first available day after a league or division of a league has finished their season.**

## **League Provision:**

### **Coed League**

- If the game is played with (9) nine players, **four must be females. Three (3) females must be in the infield (one of the female infielders must be the pitcher or the catcher) and (1) one of the (4) four females must be in the outfield. Two male players may not bat back to back. If the ninth player is a male and the first player in the batting order is also a male, the two must rotate batting in the batting order.** If the game is played with 10 players, **five (5) must be male and five (5) must be female. Three (3) females must be in the infield (one of the female infielders must be the pitcher or the catcher) and (2) two of the (5) five females must be in the outfield.**

- A size #12 ball will be used for as game ball.
- **ASA approved bats will be used. The ASA Non-approved bats list will be used as a guide. Bats on this list cannot be used in the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Service program.**
- A 200 ft. restraining arc will be marked with cones or paint in the outfield. All players must be behind the line when a female is at bat. The players may cross the line once the ball is hit. **Penalty for noncompliance:** Batter is awarded first base and all other base runners move up one base.
- If a male player is walked for any reason, he automatically goes to second base and the female batter following him must hit. If there are two outs the female hitter will have the option to walk or hit.
- **Only (10) ten players can be on the field at one time. Coed teams can play with (12) twelve players (Extra Players). (1) One of the Extra Player must be female and (1) one must be Male. Extra players can replace any player in the field, but that replaced player must be of the same gender. That replaced player and the Extra player must remain in the same position of the batting order.**

### **Church League**

- Any player participating on a church team must be a minister-approved member and minister-approved regular attendee of the sponsoring church.
- The church minister must verify player contracts.
- **Men Church:** Player must be eighteen (18) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.
- **Ladies Church:** Player must be sixteen (16) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.

### **Industrial League**

- A commercial player must be on the payroll of the business he/she represents and must work a minimum of 30 hours per week during the season.
- If a player is terminated from employment, he/she will not be allowed to play for that team. If the player is involved in a layoff, he/she may continue to play, unless employed by another business in the league.
- The Human Resource Department of the business he/she represents will verify player contracts. It is the responsibility of the manager for each team to know when players are no longer working for the business.

### **Men/Open League**

- Players must be eighteen (18) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.

### **Women/Open League**

- A size eleven (11) inch ball will be used in this league.
- Players must be sixteen (16) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.

### **35 and Older League**

- Players must be Thirty- five (35) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.

### **40 and Older League**

- Players must be Forty (40) years of age prior to the season to play in this league.

### **Practice Information:**

**\*\*\* Before a team schedules a practice at Bishop Park, East Athens Community Park or Southeast Clarke Park they must first contact Mark McCoy at 613-3589 for field availability at Bishop Park, Tracey Woods at 706 208-0185 for East Athens Community Park or Terry Dean at 613-3871 at Southeast Clarke Park for available field information.**

**Practice time on Athens-Clarke County Softball Fields will be very limited because of the number of teams and facility usage.**

**\*\*\*If a field is marked closed, do not enter that field without checking with the on duty staff personnel. Penalty for noncompliance: Players or Teams may be suspended from park for vandalism.**

### **Internet Information**

**\*\*ACC adult softball:**

[www.accleisuresrelices.com](http://www.accleisuresrelices.com)

**(Go to Bishop Park, then adult softball)**

**\*\*ASA certified equipment:**

[www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com)

**(Go to certified equipment section (Bats))**