



City of Cuyahoga Falls

Parks and Recreation Department

2310 Second Street

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Edward E. Stewart
Superintendent

February 7, 2014

TO: 2013 Adult Softball Team Representatives
2014 new teams interested in registering a team

SUBJECT: **2014 Registration Information**

It's time to make plans to join us for the 2014 softball season! We're glad you're interested in our adult softball leagues in Cuyahoga Falls; we believe we have a fine program and we welcome you to join. All leagues play at the Water Works Softball Complex and are USSSA sanctioned. The league meeting/open house will be on Wednesday, March 26th from 7-8 pm with scheduled practice times beginning the following week. League play begins the week of April 21st with game times beginning at 6:15 pm for all the leagues.

Enclosed is the information regarding team registration. Returning team deadline is **Thursday, March 13th** and new team deadline is **Friday, March 14th**. For returning teams to be officially registered, you must return a complete roster (no player signatures required for tentative roster), registration form, and entry fee (USSSA sanction fee is included in your entry fee), by 5:00 pm on Thursday, March 13th. **Please note: you're only considered a returning team if you register for the exact same league as the 2013 spring/summer season; otherwise you're considered a new team.** Openings in our league are filled by a blind draw of all new teams who submit the registration form, roster, and fee by Friday, March 14th. Teams will be contacted by Tuesday, March 18th with placement information. Upon acceptance into one of the leagues your entry fee will be deposited and a receipt will be mailed.

Per USSSA, all teams are required to pay the umpire at the field prior to each game. The price for each team is \$10 given to the umpire at the game site. All registration fees have been adjusted to accommodate this payment change.

Our complete policies and procedures for the different leagues and our league rules can be downloaded from our web site at www.cityofcf.com/adultsports.

We look forward to your participation in the 2014 season. If you have any questions, please call me at 330-971-8427 or email richardsoncl@cityofcf.com.

Sincerely,

Chrystan Richardson
Recreation Program Supervisor

Enclosures: Registration form
Tentative roster

Phone: 330-971-8225 Fax: 330-971-8354

Website: www.cityofcf.com/parksandrec

E-mail address: parksandrecreation@cityofcf.com

2014 Adult Softball Team Registration
 Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department
 2310 Second Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
 330-971-8225 Fax: 330-971-8354

Returning Team
 New Team

1. Please prioritize and mark your league choices below as #1, #2, or #3. If you are a returning team, you "hold" the spot only in the league in which you played last year. **Returning team deadline is Thursday, March 13th by 5:00 pm. New team deadline is Friday, March 14th by 5:00 pm.** Registration is taken at the Parks and Recreation Department located in the City Building on 2nd Street. Entry fee checks must be negotiable upon receipt and made out to the "City of Cuyahoga Falls" for the correct amount listed below. **Umpire fees CANNOT be included in the entry fee check.** USSSA sanction fees are included in the entry fee below. All leagues are 18 and older. *Please call 330-971-8427 if you have questions as to which league you should enter your team in.*

_____	Monday Coed League (not super competitive but stronger than recreational teams)	\$250.00
_____	Tuesday Coed Recreational League	\$250.00
_____	Wednesday Coed Recreational League	\$250.00
_____	Friday Coed Recreational League	\$250.00
_____	Wednesday Women's Double-Header League	\$450.00
_____	Monday Men's Church League	\$250.00
_____	Tuesday Men's League	\$250.00
_____	Thursday Men's Double-Header League	\$450.00
_____	Friday Men's Double-Header League	\$450.00

***All teams are required to pay the umpire at the field prior to each game. The price for each team is \$10 per game given directly to the umpire at the game site. All single game leagues play a total of 10 games (\$100); all double-header leagues play a total of 20 games (\$200). All registration fees have been adjusted to accommodate this payment change.**

2. The **2013** team name was: _____
3. The **2014** team name is: _____
4. Team representative #1: _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone: Primary _____ Secondary _____

Email Address: _____
All league information is sent via email

5. Team representative #2: _____
- Phone: Primary _____ Secondary _____

6. The registration fee enclosed is: check cash credit card* money order
**Team representatives will be called on Monday, March 17th for card number*

Comments: _____

OFFICIAL U.S.S.S.A. GREAT LAKES DIVISION TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE ROSTER

TEAM NAME: _____ CITY/COMMUNITY: _____ STATE: _____
 LEAGUE NAME IF APPLICABLE: _____ ; USSSA TEAM ID NO.: _____
 PROGRAM: ___ MEN'S ___ WOMEN'S ___ MIXED ___ CORPORATE ___ CHURCH OTHER: _____
 CLASSIFICATION: ___ MAJOR ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E REC; ___ COMPETITIVE ___ RECREATIONAL; OTHER: _____
 TEAM MANAGER: _____ RESIDENCE PHONE: (_____) _____
 MANAGER'S ADDRESS: _____ BUSINESS PHONE: (_____) _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ CELL: (_____) _____ EMAIL: _____

AMATEUR ATHLETIC WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

- In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the U.S.S.S.A. athletic/sports program, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates and agrees that:
- The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
 - I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
 - I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
 - I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE THE U.S.S.S.A., _____, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.
 - I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS all the above Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my involvement or participation in these programs, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OR LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

TYPE OR PRINT NAME	BIRTH DATE (MM/DD/YY)	PLAYER SIGNATURE	U.S.S.S.A. USE ONLY
1.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	ADDITION PRIOR TO JULY 1ST*
2.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	1. NAME:
3.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DATE:
4.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	ADDIT. 72 HOURS BEFORE TOURN.*
5.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	1. NAME:
6.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DATE:
7.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	2. NAME:
8.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DATE:
9.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	3. NAME:
10.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DATE:
11.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DELETIONS BY AUGUST 20TH-*
12.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	1. NAME:
13.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DATE:
14.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	2. NAME:
15.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DATE:
16.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	3. NAME:
17. * NOTE: YOU MAY WISH TO LEAVE THIS POSITION OPEN TO ADD A PLAYER.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	DATE:
18. * NOTE: YOU MAY WISH TO LEAVE THIS POSITION OPEN TO ADD A PLAYER.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	*NOTE: A manager may add up to four players to a frozen roster. One addition must be made by July 1st. The other three additions may be added up to 72 hours prior to a State, National or World Tournament. You may wish to leave positions 17, 18, 19 and 20 blank to add players. Additions require State Director approval.
19. * NOTE: YOU MAY WISH TO LEAVE THIS POSITION OPEN TO ADD A PLAYER.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	
20. * NOTE: YOU MAY WISH TO LEAVE THIS POSITION OPEN TO ADD A PLAYER.		I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE	

IMPORTANT PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES

- When a team qualifies for a State, National or World Tournament, including the World Series, the team roster will be frozen whether the team accepts the berth or not. The team roster becomes frozen immediately at the qualifying event. Players will be bound to this qualified team up to and including the team's respective State, National, World Tournament/Series, whether the team advances or not.
- A team manager may release up to three players from this team's qualified frozen roster (four releases permitted in the Mixed program). However, such releases must be made prior to August 21st. A team manager cannot replace a released player with an add-on. No player will be allowed to be released from a qualifying team's roster after August 20th.
- A manager shall be allowed to add only four players to a qualified frozen roster. One of the four additions must be made prior to July 1st. Other roster additions may be made as late as 72 hours prior to the start of a State, National or World Tournament. **Exception:** Mixed teams shall be allowed to add four players to their roster. One of the four added players may be added as late as 72 hours prior to the Championship Tournament. Other roster additions must be made two weeks prior to the Championship event. Additions in all programs must have played for a registered USSSA team prior to August 1st of the current season, cannot be on another qualified team's roster, must come from a team that is classified equal to or lower than the team the player is joining, and must be approved by the State Director.
- A team with less than ten players which has used all options for additions and releases MAY APPLY FOR STATUS OF DISBANDMENT WITH THE STATE DIRECTOR. If approval is given, the team forfeits all berths and sponsor travel monies earned.
- Any exceptions to the above must be approved by the respective Vice-President and the appropriate Executive Vice-President.
- All players participating in adult USSSA tournament play shall have photo ID available. Failure to do so will result in Rule 4, Sec. 11-A5 in the USSSA Rule Book to be applied. The offending team loses the game, is ejected from the tournament, placed last in the standings and forfeits all awards, sponsors, travel expense money and tournament berths that would have been awarded at the tournament.

TEAM MANAGER'S AFFIDAVIT - THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THIS ROSTER DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY ASSUMED NAMES AND THAT EACH PLAYER CONFORMS TO THE ELIGIBILITY RULES GOVERNING U.S.S.S.A. SOFTBALL.

TEAM MANAGER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

U.S.S.S.A. DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL - SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

OFFICIAL U.S.S.S.A. GREAT LAKES DIVISION TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE ROSTER

TEAM NAME: _____ CITY/COMMUNITY: _____ STATE: _____
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- The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
 - I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
 - I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
 - I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE THE U.S.S.S.A., _____, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.
 - I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS all the above Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my involvement or participation in these programs, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OR LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

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TEAM MANAGER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

U.S.S.S.A. DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL - SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

2014 ADULT SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL PROGRAM

Calendar of Events

DAY/DATE/TIME	EVENT
Thursday, March 13 th 5 pm	Registration deadline for teams in the 2013 program.
Friday, March 14 th 5 pm	Registration deadline for new teams. Blind draw held to fill leagues.
Monday, March 17 th 5 pm	All new teams will be contact with placement information.
Wednesday, March 26 th 7-8 pm	Softball Packet and Informational Open House. <u>REQUIRED OF ALL MANAGERS</u>
Monday, March 31 st	Scheduled practices begin for next 3 weeks.
Week of April 21	All leagues start games!

NOTE: Final Rosters

All final rosters are *due at your second week of games.*

NOTE: Rainouts

All rainout make up games are played on Saturdays and Sundays for all leagues, beginning at 12 – 9 pm. Do not register for the leagues if you are unable to commit to weekend make up games!

Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department
ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM
2014 Program Statement

All leagues play at the Water Works Adult Softball Complex and other area fields if needed.

There will be one women's **double-header** league on Wednesday evenings. This league will accommodate 8 teams.

There will be one Men's Church league playing on Monday evenings.

There will be four Men's leagues this season. A 12-team **single-game** league will play on Tuesday evenings. A 10-team **double-header** league on Thursday evenings and a 12-team **double-header** league offered on Friday evenings.

There will be four Coed Leagues: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Leagues.

The 2014 Softball Program will close with the playing of the 46th Annual Dick Shine Tournament. Teams with the best overall records will be invited to participate in this free tournament.

ADMINISTRATION

Management of the Adult Softball Program

- A. Those individuals who desire to participate in this program do so with the knowledge that the Parks and Recreation Department establishes all policies and regulates the program as a small phase of its overall parks and recreation service.
- B. The Parks and Recreation Department shall organize the leagues, use an assigner to assign umpires, prepare and release publicity, and maintain the fields and lights.

Team and Player Registration

- A. Teams who played in last season's program will be given first opportunity to register.
- B. At the announced deadline in March, after all teams from the previous year who want to return have been placed in their leagues, there will be a blind draw of the new teams to fill any openings in the leagues.
- C. Teams eligible for the draw must turn in their entry fee, registration form, and tentative roster sheet by the announced deadline.
- D. Entry fee checks must be negotiable and should be made out to the **CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS**. A team's registration form and tentative roster **MUST** accompany entry fee.
- E. Individuals who desire to participate in this program, but lack team affiliation should call 330-971-8427.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP – ELIGIBILITY

- A. A team roster may consist of **20 players**.
- B. Players cannot participate on more than one team on the same night. I.E. Cannot play on both Tuesday Men's and Tuesday Coed, but **CAN** play in Monday, Wednesday, or Friday Coed Leagues. Please note substitutes can play in different leagues on the same night but schedules will not be altered to accommodate them.
- C. Women's Regulation Slo-Pitch: Women who are 18 years of age or older before the first game are eligible to participate in this league.
- D. Men's Regulation: Men who are 18 years of age or older before the first game are eligible to participate in this league.
- E. Coed Regulation Slo-Pitch: Same as C & D.

ROSTERS

- A. Team captains shall present a tentative roster to the Parks and Recreation Office at the time of registration. Rosters must contain each player's first and last name, address, phone, age, and place of employment. Incomplete or illegible rosters will not be accepted. No signatures are required for the tentative roster just the final roster.
- B. Changes in your team roster may be made prior to your team's second week of games. At that time the final roster must be submitted to the Softball Coordinator. Please note: players who are listed on the tentative roster and have played one game cannot switch to another team. After this deadline, the tentative rosters of teams who have yet to submit a final roster shall be deemed the final roster.
- C. **After the final roster deadline, no new member can be added to team rosters.**
- D. After this deadline, league officials will be furnished with copies of the final roster. Managers who wish to validate players from another team may request this information from the scorekeeper.

ENTRANCE FEES/UMPIRE PAYMENT

- A. Teams will be officially registered with the submission of their entry fee, registration form, and tentative roster.
- B. If a league is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, entry fees will be returned to the involved teams. If fewer than eight teams register for a league, the structure of the league and start times may change.

NOTE: Entry fee checks must be made out to "City of Cuyahoga Falls". All fees include the \$25.00 USSSA fee, no additional or separate check is needed.

- C. Monday Men's Church League, Tuesday Men's, and Coed Leagues: the entry fee is \$250.00 per team. Men's and Women's Double-Header Leagues: the entry fee is \$450.00.

ENTRANCE FEES/UMPIRE PAYMENT (continued)

D. USSSA has changed the umpire payment plan. All teams are now required to pay the umpire at the field prior to each game. The price for each team is \$10 given to the umpire at the game site. All registration fees have been adjusted to accommodate this payment change.

1. If a team does not pay the umpire, the game will still be played. The team will be billed and it is due within one week to the softball coordinator. The payment will then be sent to the assigned umpire. The team will not be allowed to play the next week's game unless payment is received for the unpaid game.

USSSA SANCTION

All Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Softball Leagues (therefore all teams) are sanctioned by the United States Specialty Sports Association. This affiliation provides eligibility to all USSSA tournaments, the ability to purchase team insurance at low rates, protection for the teams' representative and sponsor, plus other advantages. Through the USSSA each team will receive a 2014 rulebook, a scorebook, and the sanction card, which covers the USSSA fee in all USSSA sponsored tournaments.

INSURANCE

The Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department does not carry insurance on participants or spectators involved in the program. If the participant desires insurance, it is the responsibility of the individual to secure the same.

EQUIPMENT - UNIFORMS

- A. The Falls Parks and Recreation Department shall furnish the softballs and the equipment and supplies necessary for the fields. The visiting team provides one good used ball.
- B. Participating teams must supply their own bats, catcher's gear, gloves, etc.
- C. All teams must wear some type of uniform, at least like-colored shirts with numbers.
- D. Metal spiked shoes are not permitted.

PRACTICE FIELDS

Prior to the season, the Parks and Recreation Department shall schedule fields for those teams who have paid their registration fees.

ORGANIZATION OF LEAGUE SCHEDULES

- A. For all leagues, a blind draw will be used to place teams into divisions. League schedules are subject to change depending on the number of teams in each league.
- B. All single game leagues will play a ten game schedule. If the teams are divided into divisions the winners of each division shall meet in a single game play-off to determine the league championship.

ORGANIZATION OF LEAGUE SCHEDULES (continued)

C. All double-header leagues will play a twenty game schedule. If the teams are divided into divisions the winners of each division shall meet in a single game play-off to determine the league championship.

D. If there are no divisions then the team with the best won/loss record is the league champion.

***All league formats can be changed based on the number of teams registered for the league.**

E. The 46th Annual Dick Shine Tournament will be held in late July or early August. This will be a single elimination tournament for all leagues with the top teams competing.

CURFEW/RAINOUTS

A. Games that are in progress when a heavy rainfall starts or a heavy fog rolls in shall be called at the discretion of the game officials.

B. If it is raining, teams still must attend to see if the game will be played, unless called by the Softball Coordinator. If games are cancelled, the Softball Coordinator will notify teams. **If you are not called, you are expected to show up.**

C. ***All rainouts will be made up on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning at 12 – 9 pm, depending on how many rainouts need to be made up that day.***

D. If a game is stopped because of inclement weather, darkness, or other reasons rendering the field not playable, a game shall be deemed official after four or more innings have been played. This will depend on whether the home team needs to bat.

E. Any game that has not played four complete innings and is stopped because of rain or darkness will start over on the make up date.

F. **The Info Line for up-to-date rainout information is 330-971-8369. This hotline will be updated daily by 5:00 pm and it will continue to be updated throughout the evening if playing conditions change. DO NOT CALL US WE WILL CALL YOU OR CHECK THE HOTLINE TO SEE IF GAMES ARE CANCELED.**

DETERMINATION OF STANDINGS FOR ALL LEAGUES WITH DIVISIONS

1. The team with the best **overall** won-lost record will be the division champion.

2. If a tie exists, the team with the best **divisional** won-lost record will be designated the division winner.

3. If the tie is yet unbroken, then the team with the best won-lost record in the games played against the tied teams will be designated the division winner.

4. If the tie is yet unbroken the team with the most runs scored in the games played against the tied teams will be designated the division winner.

DETERMINATION OF STANDINGS FOR ALL LEAGUES WITH DIVISIONS (continued)

5. If a tie still remains, a single elimination play-off game involving the tied teams will be conducted.

DETERMINATION OF STANDINGS FOR ALL LEAGUES WITHOUT DIVISIONS

1. The team with the best won-lost record will be the league champ.
2. If a tie exists, the team with the best won-lost record in the games played against the tied teams will be the league champ.
3. If the tie is yet unbroken the team with the most runs scored in the games played against the tied teams will be the league champ.

AWARDS

In all the leagues, the championship team will receive a team award and individual awards.

FORFEITURE

- A. **Coed and Tuesday Men's:** A team will forfeit its game if it does not have at least **eight** members ready to play at the scheduled starting time. **No grace periods.** No more than four of the eight players in coed may be men. Teams starting with eight players may add their 9th and 10th players when they get to the field. You may finish a game with eight players due to ejection or injury, but an out will be called in the missing player's spot in the lineup.

Men's and Women's Doubleheader Leagues: If a team does not have eight players ready to play at the scheduled starting time of the first game, it will forfeit that game. If the team still does not have eight players 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the first game, it will forfeit the second game as well. **No grace periods.**

- B. A team will forfeit a game if any of its players are found to be in an intoxicated condition as judged by the game officials. The law provides that you must not be intoxicated in a public place and provides severe penalties for persons possessing alcoholic beverages or dangerous drugs or narcotics at such recreation programs and equally severe penalties for those persons appearing at such activities in an intoxicated state. Game officials are hereby ordered to bar any such person from the area. In the event of noncompliance, the officials shall notify the police in accordance with Section 331.05.
- C. If, in the opinion of the game officials, a team is excessively abusive, either in a physical or verbal sense, they can stop the game and award the victory to the other team.
- D. Teams forfeiting a game are obligated to pay the full umpire fee of \$20. The opposing team is not obligated to pay their half.

SUSPENSIONS

- A. Multiple forfeitures may result in a team's expulsion from the league, and its spot in the league will not be held for the next season. The only exceptions are weekend make-up games.
- B. Participant Suspensions:
 - 1. If a player or manager is ejected from a game, a penalty of at least one game suspension and possibly more depending on the severity of the offense, will be handed down by the administration of the Parks and Recreation Department. The ejected player is suspended for the next scheduled game.
 - 2. If a player or a manager is ejected from a game for fighting or intoxication, he/she shall be suspended from further participation in the league for the duration of the season.
 - 3. The second time an individual is ejected from a game, he/she will be suspended for the duration of the season. It is each official's decision as to whether or not he will warn a player or manager who is out of line before the ejection occurs.
 - 4. Any player who intentionally throws a bat will be ejected immediately and suspended for the next game played including play-off and tournament games.
 - 5. Any player or manager ejected for any reason must leave the field and the park property immediately, with no further comment, or he/she will be subject to increased suspension for the remainder of the season and/or additional seasons.
 - 6. Any player under suspension for an ejection is not permitted at the playing site for the duration of the suspension.

PROTESTS

- A. Official protests are to be filed with the Parks and Recreation Department and addressed to the Recreation Program Supervisor by the close of the business day following the protested game. An official protest must be in writing, stating the infraction of the rule or league regulations, and be accompanied by a twenty-dollar (\$20) protest fee, in cash only, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- B. The Recreation Program Supervisor, Softball Coordinator and the Umpire-In-Chief shall rule on all protests and levy penalties as they deem fit.
- C. No protest of an official's judgment decision will be accepted.
- D. Protests must be announced to the opposing team captain through the game officials at the time of the infraction before the next pitch or within five minutes after the game has been played when the protest is made on the last play of the game. This procedure (within 5 minutes after game) shall also be followed for all eligibility protests.

GAME REGULATIONS

- A. The following procedure is to be followed by team managers and game officials:
1. During the game any questions a player might have must be channeled through the manager. Umpires will not debate calls with players. A team manager may discuss calls between innings or when the umpire calls "time out" during a game for such a purpose.
 2. All team managers are responsible for full control of their team members and their fans.

GAME RULES

- A. Smoking will not be permitted by team members on the playing field. This includes base coaches.
- B. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at the playing site or parking lots. If players or fans are caught with alcoholic beverages, the police will be called.
- C. If players bring young children to the games, they must be accompanied by another adult. Bringing children to games without proper supervision is hazardous to the children and adversely affects the quality of the leagues.
- D. Spectators are to remain in the bleacher area or well out of the playing area.
- E. Player Bench Assignments:
Home team bench: First base line.
Visitor team bench: Third base line.
- F. Run Rule: Twenty (20) runs at the end of three (3) innings; Fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings or ten (10) runs at the end of five (5) innings. The home team will get to bat last if they are behind.
- G. Length: 7 innings, Rule F, or darkness, whichever comes first. Any inning in progress will be completed. The home team will get to bat last if they are behind.
- Tied Games: Play until the game is won; the time limit is revoked until the game is won.
- H. Game starting times may vary for different leagues depending on number of teams.
- I. If teams desire to warm-up, they must do so on the sidelines before their game is scheduled to start. Ten minutes prior to the start of the first game, the officials may clear the field to prepare for the start of the game.
- J. The Parks and Recreation Department will provide an official scorekeeper for all leagues. In the event an official scorekeeper does not show up, the home team will be designated the official scorer. It will be the responsibility of the teams to check in with the official scorer throughout the game on substitutions and other game occurrences. Substitutions should also be reported to the umpire and scorekeeper so they can be written on the scorecard. If the home team does not have an official scorebook, the visiting team will be designated as the official scorer.

GAME RULES (continued)

- K. Both the home and visiting team managers are required to sign umpire's card and provide the umpires with their line-up. This is to be done before the game is underway.
- L. Scorekeepers will be given each team's final roster and all questions of player eligibility can be directed to them. This does not remove the protest of ineligible players because there will be some teams who will play an individual under an assumed name.
- M. There is to be no parking on the grass at Water Works or Ross Fields. This applies to officials, spectators, and players.
- N. Pitchers will be permitted five warm-up pitches before start of game and one before each inning.
- O. If, in the opinion of a game official, a team or player has any equipment that is detrimental in terms of safety, he may require said team or player to discontinue its use.
- P. The out of play lines at all fields include a line extending from the home run fence straight out to each out of play pole.
- Q. Ross #2
"Any ball hit over the short fence will be ruled a ground rule double. Any ball hit over the tall fence will be a home run. Any ball entering the trees on the fly will be a home run. Any ball entering the street will be a home run. All other hits are what the batter can get."

PLAYING RULES

In addition to the preceding rules, please note the following rules as they pertain to your respective leagues. Any softball rule not covered in these policies will be governed by the current USSSA ruling. These policies and procedures supersede USSSA rules.

ALL LEAGUES

A. EXTRA PLAYERS

1. The extra players provide an opportunity for all players to bat in your line-up. The rule is optional, but if it is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game, and be listed on the scorecard in the regular batting order. If the extra players are used, they must be used the entire game. There is no limit to the number of extra players a team can use; however, if an injury or ejection occurs and no substitutes are available the team must take an out in the missing player's position in the lineup. A team is permitted to finish the game with as few as eight players. An ejected player may not enter the line-up again during the game.

B. SUBSTITUTION

1. Players may enter the game no more than twice.
2. Once removed, players must remain out of the game for one full inning (six outs).
3. Substitutes, as well as re-entries, must be placed in the same position in the batting order in which they were substituted.
4. Eligible roster members may be added to the substitute list at any time during the game. A player may not be in the lineup until he/she is present at the game.

C. A courtesy runner will be allowed in case of injury occurring during the play. The person who made the last out will be the courtesy runner (same sex in coed). This will not count as a substitution. If a courtesy runner is used for the same player a second time, this will count as a substitution.

D. A pitched ball must be pitched underhand at a slow speed. The pitched ball must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the pitchers hand and before it passes any part of home plate. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground. IF A PITCHER PITCHES ONE FAST PITCH, HE/SHE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME.

E. There is no bunting or stealing in any leagues.

F. All batters start with a one ball and one strike count. All leagues have one foul ball to waste.

G. The batter and the base runners do NOT have to circle the bases on an over the fence home run.

H. Each team will be permitted to hit a total of four over-the-fence home runs in each game. Additional home runs hit over the fence will result in an out and runners may not advance.

PLAYING RULES (continued)

- I. **BAT RULE:** Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department follows the USSSA legal bat list. If you have a question about a bat, please check with the umpire or scorekeeper. An up-to-date list of legal bats can be found in the field box and on the USSSA web site.

If a player is caught using an illegal bat, he/she will be called out, their name noted, and any future violations will result in suspension.

If a player is caught using an altered bat he/she will be suspended for the rest of the season and the following season.

MEN'S LEAGUES

- A. Sliding will be allowed at all bases.
- B. There is no time limit.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

- A. Sliding will be allowed at all bases.
- B. One hour and ten minute time limit.

MEN'S BIG BALL AND COED LEAGUES

- A. In an attempt to minimize collisions, the following rules have been established:
 1. A defensive player cannot block the base if he/she does not have the ball - this is obstruction.
 2. A runner cannot make an attempt to dislodge the ball when the defensive player has it - the runner will be automatically out even if the ball is jarred loose. If action is flagrant, runner will be ejected from the game.

COED LEAGUES

- A. Coed players: ten players, five male and five female - with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and the outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher/catcher. You can always have more female players than male, but never more male players than female.
- B. Coed with extra player(s). Optional: if one extra player is used, the player must be a female. If two extra players are used they can be one male and one female or two females.
- C. If a male is walked, he automatically goes to second base. If there are two outs and a male is walked, the female has the option to walk or to bat.
- D. Sliding will be allowed at all bases.

PLAYING RULES (continued)

- E. One hour and ten minute time limit.
- F. If a female player is injured or ejected and no female replacement is available, then the following male must be removed from the game as well. An out will be called for the female, but no penalty will be incurred for the male.

PLAY-OFF AND TOURNAMENT RULES

- A. The run rule will be in effect for all games including the semifinal and championship games. The time limit will be waived for all league championship and tournament championship games.
- B. Higher seeded teams will be designated the home team.