2011

ADULT SOFTBALL

RULES AND REGULATIONS

HOUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

houston PARKS & recreation department
www.houstonparks.org
A CAPRA Accredited Agency

January 24, 2011

Dear Team Manager,

On behalf of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, I would like to welcome you as a participant in our **2011 Adult Softball Program.**

Our goal is to offer quality sports programming at affordable prices and see that each participant has an enjoyable leisure experience.

Please read the rulebook at your first opportunity to familiarize yourself with our league's rules and regulations. Also, you will find a listing of online registration dates for each season in 2011 on page 3.

We now have an online registration system. You can establish your online account at www.houstonparks.org (Adult Sports Section), but you will not be able to register for a league until the specified registration dates for a specific season. The online registration system was approved by the Mayor and City Council in 2009.

Separate flyers with upcoming registration information, fee changes and rule updates will be sent to you as they become available. You can also visit our department's web site at www.houstonparks.org for additional information as well. Please be sure to advise the Adult Sports Office with ample time if your contact information changes, including email address.

The ASA fee remains the same this year at $20, which is due once per calendar year for each team.

And finally, take notice we will be offering a double elimination tournament at Memorial Park June 13 – 30th. Teams may qualify to advance to a regional or state tournament with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) or the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF).

Again, welcome to our program. Wishing you and your team a very enjoyable and successful season.

Sincerely,

Louis Moore, MS, CPRP
Senior Superintendent
Recreation and Wellness Division

2011 ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAM:

2011 Spring I Season

League Dates:	February 28 – April 15
Online Registration Dates:	January 31 (8:00 am) – February 18 (5:00 pm)
Fee:	$250 - $300 per team
Team Manager's Meetings:	January 24st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004
	January 29th, 9:00 am @ Cullen Park (Press Box), 19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

2011 Spring II Season

League Dates:	April 25 – June 10
Online Registration Dates:	March 28 (8:00 am) – April 15 (5:00 pm)
Fee:	$250 - $300 per team
Team Manager's Meetings:	April 18st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004
	April 20th, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box), 19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

2011 ASA/TAAF Tournament

Tournament Dates:	June 13 – 30
Online Registration Dates:	May 9 (8:00 am) – June 3 (5:00 pm)
Fees:	$55 per team plus $20 ASA fee and $10 TAAF fee
Team Manager's Meeting:	June 6, 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

2011 Summer Season

League Dates:	July 5 – August 26
Online Registration Dates:	June 6 (8:00 am) – June 24 (5:00 pm)
Fee:	$250 - $300 per team
Team Manager's Meetings:	June 27st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004
	June 29th, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box), 19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

2011 Fall Season

League Dates:	September 6 – October 21
Online Registration Dates:	August 8 (8:00 am) – August 26 (5:00 pm)
Fee:	$250 - $300 per team
Team Manager's Meetings:	August 29st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004
	August 31, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box), 19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

2011 Winter Season

League Dates:	October 31 – December 16
Online Registration Dates:	October 3 (8:00 am) – October 21 (5:00 pm)
Fee:	$250 - $300 per team

Team Manager's Meetings: October 24th , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

October 26, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box), 19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

1. TAAF STATE TOURNAMENT

All teams interested in participating in the Texas Amateur Athletics Federation (TAAF) State Tournament must complete a TAAF Softball Team Registration Form and submit a $25.00 fee to the Adult Sports Office by April 29, 2011. Checks should be made payable to TAAF.

Teams managers who do not submit their TAAF Softball Team Registration Form and the $25.00 fee **by** April 30, 2011 will not be eligible to participate in the 2011 TAAF State Softball Tournament.

You can find a TAAF Softball Team Registration Form at the end of this rulebook, or stop by the Adult Sports Office.

For information on TAAF State Tournaments, please visit www.taaf.com.

2. LENGTH OF SCHEDULE

Regular leagues will consist of four (4) to eight (8) teams playing ten (10) games in a double-header format for (5) weeks. Each team will play 10 games total.

3. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

Team managers register online during the registration dates listed on page 3 at www.houstonparks.org. Team managers can establish their online account in advance at www.houstonparks.org (this only has to be done once).

If you do not have Internet access, team managers may register for leagues during the above registration dates between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Adult Sports Office, 6200 Wheeler Street, Bldg #3, Houston, TX 77023. Personal checks are not accepted. Entry fees are accepted by cash, credit card, company check, and money orders only. Company checks and money orders need to be made payable to "City of Houston."

Registrations are accepted on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Team managers cannot register more than 1 team per league nor create duplicate accounts.

4. **ENTRY FEES**

Memorial Park, Cullen Park, & Tim Hearn Field (Cleveland Park):	$300 per team
Herman Brown Park	$275 per team
T.C.Jester Park	$300 per team
Agness Moffitt	$250 per team

Please Note: Entry fees are subject to change without notice.

5. **ASA/TAAF REGISTRATION**

All teams participating in the 2011 Houston Parks and Recreation Department Adult Softball Program will be required to register with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) at a cost of $20.00 per team. Registration with ASA is required once every calendar year, and is separate from the Houston Parks and Recreation Department League Registration. Cash and business checks accepted only made payable to "City of Houston." Team managers will receive an ASA Rule Book, ASA Score Book and have an opportunity to purchase team insurance. ASA Rule Book and Score Book will be distributed at the Team Manager's Meetings only listed on page 3.

ASA offers team insurance at an affordable price. The City of Houston recommends for team managers to purchase team insurance. Please visit www.taaf.com or www.asahouston.com for more information.

If you change your team's name you will be required to pay an additional ASA annual team registration fee.

All teams participating in the 2011 ASA/TAAF Tournament on June 13 – 30th will be required to register with the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) at a cost of $10.00 per team. Registration with TAAF enables teams to become eligible to qualify for a State TAAF Tournament.

Registration with TAAF for regular leagues (Spring I, Spring II, Summer, and Fall) is not required. However, if a team desires to participate in a state TAAF tournament, they must register with TAAF to become sanctioned. Please contact the Adult Sports Office to register with TAAF prior to April 29, 2011.

6. **REFUND POLICY**

Refund of team registration fees will be granted to team managers less 5% of the team registration fee, provided such request is made on or before the business day 14 days preceding the season's start date. No refunds shall be given for a request submitted less than 14 preceding the season's start date. It should be noted that it could take up to ninety (90) days from the date your refund request is received to be processed. All refunds must be requested in writing to the Adult Sports Office and have the following information:

1. Team manager's name, address, telephone number and signature.
2. Team name, night, league and field.
3. Reason for withdrawal.

7. LEAGUE DIVISIONS

Class B: Unlimited homeruns (Specific Fields Only).
Class C: Limited to 3 over the fence homeruns.
Class D: No over the fence homeruns allowed.

8. ROSTER INFORMATION

A. All teams must submit rosters at time of registration. Team rosters must include first and last names of all players. Teams are allowed to have a maximum of 20 players on their roster.

B. Roster changes must be made via email (adult.sports @houstontx.gov) or via fax (832-395-9445). If a player desires to transfer from one (1) team to another, a roster change must be submitted to the Adult Sports Office in person or by e-mail prior to that player participating in a game. Note: If a player desires to transfer from one team to another in the same league, the player must sit out one (1) game. If a player desires to transfer from one team to another in different leagues, the player becomes eligible immediately.

C. Roster changes must be submitted within the first two weeks of the league via e-mail or fax (832-395-9445). If a team manager fails to receive a confirmation of receipt of the email from the Adult Sports Office, he/she is responsible to follow-up on the status at (832) 395-7130.

D. Team rosters will be final after two (2) weeks of play.

E. A team's final roster also becomes that team's post-season roster.

F. Player's full names must appear on the registration roster on file in the Adult Sports Office. A substitute or replacement player must come from the dugout, not from the stands or spectator's area**. Umpires will not decide the player (s) eligibility.**

G. Tournament Roster: Team (s) may not add players from other leagues to participate in any City of Houston Tournaments. The Adult Sports Staff will check rosters. Teams may use a player (s) from their team roster for that calendar year. For example, for the Spring T.A.A.F Tournament in June, a team may use a player (s) from Spring I Season's team roster who may not be on the Spring II roster. A player (s) that has played in a B/C league may not play in the D Division. Player (s) may move up to a higher division, but are not allowed to play a lower division.

Penalty: If a protest is lodged against the offended team and it is verified by the Adult Sports staff, a forfeit of the game shall be declared for incomplete rosters or ineligible player.

9. **TEAM NAME**

Team names are subject to Adult Sports staff approval. Inappropriate and vulgar names are not accepted and may be modified.

10. **LENGTH OF OFFICIAL GAMES**

Slow Pitch: Seven (7) innings or fifty-five (55) minutes whichever occurs first, constitutes a game. In case of rain, light failure, etc., the completion of thirty (30) minutes constitutes a completed game. The inning will be finished unless the home team is batting and ahead by fifteen (15) – or more runs when time expires. The fifteen (15) run rule will be in effect after three innings, or ten (10) run rule after five (5) innings.

Fast Pitch: Seven (7) innings or one hour twenty minutes (1:20), whichever occurs first, constitutes an official game. In case of rain, light failure, etc., one (1) hour will constitute a complete game. There will be a seven (7) run rule in effect after four (4) innings.

* Rule Change Effective Spring I of 2007:
Tied Game: ASA tie-breaker rules will be used at the end of 55 minutes. Ruling if the number five (5) batter is scheduled to bat, the number four batter (4) begins at second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner as long as he/she is not on the original starting lineup card (s). One (1) extra inning will be played. After one extra inning has been played, if the game still ends in a tie the results ½ loss and ½ of win will be counted for each team. Exception to ASA rule: The Batter begins with 3 balls and 2 strikes; ONE PITCH ONLY (Foul Ball will be an out!!

11. **OFFICIAL TIME**

The watch of the umpires will be considered the official time clock for all games. In the event neither of the umpires has a watch, someone selected by the umpires will act as the official timer. Team managers are urged to synchronize their watches with the umpires prior to the start of every game. The game clock will start when the umpire calls play ball after the coin toss. In addition, the Team Manager/Team Representative should get the umpire (s) name (s) during the pre-game.

12. **HOME TEAM DESIGNATION**

The home team designation will be determined by the flip of a coin. The home team will be responsible for the official score and keeping up with substitutes. An official scorebook is required. If neither team has a scorebook and a conflict in the score occurs, the home team's score will be final. If only one (1) team, even if it is the visitors, has a scorebook and a conflict occurs, then that scorebook will be valid. Please check with the umpires and opponents after each inning about the number of runs scored.

13. SCHEDULES

Schedules are posted one week prior to the season's start date at the online registration section of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department website. If you do not have Internet access, please contact the Adult Sports Office at (832) 395-7130 to request a schedule faxed or mailed to you.

14. FORFEIT TIME

Any team not ready to play at game time will forfeit to the opposing team. Team must be in the dugout or on the field at game time to be considered present and ready to play. The only exception will be the first game of the night, teams will be given a ten (10) minute grace period. Be aware that the game clock will start at the scheduled start time (ex. If a game starts at 6:30 and the team requests the grace period, the game clock will be running through the grace period). Umpires will not decide on player eligibility. If a team captain desires to protest the eligibility of a particular player, he/she must follow the procedures set forth in Section 13 of this rulebook.

In order to reduce the number of unjustified forfeits by teams, the following rules were implemented during the 2005 Seasons and will be in enforced during the 2010 Seasons:

- If a team forfeits 2 or more scheduled dates of games during a 5-Week Doubleheader Season, the team would be disqualified from the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department Playoffs Tournament.

- If a team forfeits 3 or more scheduled dates of games during a 5-Week Doubleheader Season, the team would not be eligible to register and participate in any upcoming seasons within a period of 1 year. For example, if a team forfeits 3 scheduled dates of games during the Spring I season, they will not be able to register and participate in the Spring II Season.

- If a new team is formed (within 90 days of becoming ineligible to register for another season), there cannot be 5 or more players on the roster from a team that was previously disqualified by forfeiting 3 or more scheduled dates of games in a season.

Of course, if a team experiences an uncontrollable circumstance that caused the team to have a forfeit (death in the family, car accident, etc.), the Adult Sports Office will review any written appeals with documentation submitted within 5 business days after the scheduled game(s) or receipt of forfeit letter to the Adult Sports Office.

15. PROTESTS

- Only protests based on misinterpretations of the rules and player eligibility will be accepted.
- Protests must be announced verbally to the umpire immediately when the contested action occurs and before play is resumed. Protest must be

- Omission of any of the above mentioned steps will constitute the denial of a protest.
- When there is a protest against an ineligible player and there is no roster on file in the Adult Sports Office, the protest will be automatically upheld. The protesting team must also have a roster on file in order to file a protest. If there is no roster on file for either team, both teams will be credited with a loss.
- The decision of the protest committee will be considered final.
- There will be only one protest allowed per game, but it may include several items.
- Any protest lodged after the completion of the game will not be allowed.

16. RAINOUT INFORMATION

- Team captains may call the rainout line at (713) 865-4105 after 4:00 p.m. daily to check on field status.
- In an instance where rain may come after 4:00 p.m. the decision to play will be left to the discretion of the umpires at the first game. If the first game of the night is cancelled, the remainder of the games for that night will be cancelled. It would be wise to have representative at the field for the first game to notify team members of any cancellations.
- As many cancellations as possible will be made up in the weeks following the league schedule.
- The Adult Sports Office reserves the right to cancel remaining make-up games if it is determined that team interest is lacking and a champion will be determined on a percentage basis.
- Refunds for games not played during a season will be issued to team managers at the conclusion of each season. Please check your “My Account” section two weeks after the conclusion of a specific season and the refund will be applied to your online account. If you originally paid by cash/check for your team registration, you will need to complete a Refund Request Form 2 weeks after the conclusion of a season. A refund check from the City of Houston will be sent to you within 4 – 6 weeks. If your team has a forfeit(s) no refunds will be given during that season.
- The Adult Sports Office no longer issues credits that can be applied towards a future season.

17. PLAYER CONDUCT

- Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans before, during and after all games and registrations.
- Harassment of officials, players and staff will not be tolerated at any time. Continued harassment may result in player and/or team being suspended from the league with no refund.
- Fighting will not be tolerated and will result in both participants and teams being suspended for a minimum of two games up to a maximum of indefinite suspension, depending on the situation and a review by management.

- If a player or team is suspended for fighting or exhibits unruly/inappropriate conduct at any time during the league, no refunds will be given, regardless of how many games remain.
- All suspensions may be appealed to the Adult Sports Office. All appeals must be sent in writing to the Adult Sports Office within 24 hours after the team manager is notified.
- The Adult Sports Office may notify the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) and/or ASA of any suspensions that occur during City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department league games/tournaments.

18. **ALCOHOL**

- Alcohol is prohibited at the following HPARD parks:
  1. Cleveland Park
  2. T.C. Jester Park
  3. Agnes Moffitt Park
- Alcohol is permitted at the following HPARD parks, but not on the ballfield or in dugouts during games:
  1. Memorial Park
  2. Cullen Park
  3. Herman Brown Park

- Players may not leave the dugout during a game to drink alcohol.

- Alcohol in glass containers is prohibited at all HPARD parks.

Sports officials have been instructed to follow the below procedures starting in the 2011 Spring I Season to ensure the Alcohol Policy is in compliance.

1. Sports official meets with team manager immediately if a player is drinking alcohol at a park where alcohol is prohibited or if a player is drinking on the actual ballfield or dugout. The sports official will tell the team manager the incident is a warning and he/she must cooperate to ensure players discontinue drinking behavior.
2. If drinking behavior is observed a second time by a player within a specific season, the player will be ejected for the remainder of the game(s) on that date. Sports official completes a written summary statement to Adult Sports Office within 1 business day.
3. If drinking behavior is observed a third time within a specific season, a forfeit will be issued to the team by the sports official. Sports official completes a written summary statement to Adult Sports Office within 1 business day.
4. If drinking behavior is observed a fourth time within a specific season, a forfeit will be issued to the team by the sports official. Sports official completes a written summary statement to Adult Sports Office within 1 business day. Adult Sports staff investigate incident and complete an incident report for documentation. Suspension of registration for next season for team that violates Alcohol Policy.

19. **UMPIRE COMPLAINTS**

If there is a problem with an umpire, call the Adult Sports Office at (832) 395-7130 the following day and report the problem/issue to the Adult Sports staff. You may also send an e-mail to report the problem/issue to adult.sports@houstontx.gov. During the pre-game meeting team managers should get the name of the umpire (s). Do not confront the umpire at the site. Failure to abide by this rule could result in the violator(s) being removed from the program.

20. **PLAYER INJURIES**

The City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for any injuries to any participant in the program (players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators). ASA and TAAF have very reasonable insurance plans that are available to all teams. It is recommended that all teams acquire such insurance coverage. You may obtain more information on insurance plans by visiting www.houstonasa.org and www.taaf.com.

All players should be aware that softball can be a hazardous activity and by voluntarily participating in this activity, they acknowledge that there are numerous dangers and risks involved including various types of injuries, and even death.

21. **AWARDS:**

Awards will be given to the first place team from each league of the regular season. In order to qualify for awards and to determine a true champion, the team must have completed at least 80% of the regular season games. For example, in a 10-game 5-week doubleheader season, the team must have completed 8 games. For the Playoffs Tournament, awards will be given to the first place team and runner-up team from each division.

Team managers who win their league for a regular season must pick up award at the following season's Team Manager's Meeting. Below are dates of the Team Manager's Meetings for 2010:

Spring I Season: January 24st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

January 29th, 9:00 am @ Cullen Park (Press Box), 19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

Spring II Season: April 18st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

April 20th, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box), 19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

Summer Season: June 27st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

June 29th, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box),
19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

Fall Season: August 29st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

August 31, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box),
19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

Winter Season: October 24st , 6:00 pm @ Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

October 26, 7:00 pm @ Cullen Park (Press Box),
19008 Saums Road, Houston, TX 77084

You may also pick up your award by visiting the Adult Sports Office during normal business hours Monday – Friday. Please call 832-395-7130 to make an appointment for pickup. The Adult Sports Office will not be responsible for issuing awards after sixty (90) days of the season/tournament ending.

22. SCORES AND STANDINGS

Please check the HPARD online registration website under “My Account” to view your team’s scores, standings and schedule.

23. PRIVATE/CORPORATE LEAGUES

- The private/industrial league director and team captains are responsible for the conduct of their players and fans before, during and after all games and registrations.
- The league director of Private/Industrial Leagues must cooperate to obtain player’s contact information when requested by HPARD staff.
- Harassment of umpires, players and staff will not be tolerated at any time. Continued harassment may result in player and/or team being suspended from the league with no refund.
- Fighting will not be tolerated and will result in both participants and teams being suspended for a minimum of two games up to a maximum of indefinite suspension, depending on the situation.
- If a player or team is suspended for fighting or exhibits unruly/inappropriate conduct at any time during the league, no refunds will be given, regardless of how many games remain.

GENERAL RULES:

I. OFFICIAL RULES

Games will be played in accordance with official ASA Championship Rules and Regulations for 2008, unless herein stated. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is also a charter member of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation and will use rules covered with TAAF whenever appropriate.

II. EQUIPMENT

A. Official Bat

Players may use only bats which meet all requirements of Rule 3, Section 1 in the ASA rule book and:

1. Which bear an ASA approved certification mark.
2. Which are included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office and listed at www.asasoftball.com.
3. In the sole discretion of the umpire if manufactured prior to 1995 would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect

B. Official Softball – 44 - Core ball must be used. This is an ASA rule; Rule 3, Section E - 3 and E – 4.

1. For Men's Softball:
    a. .44 Cor
    b. 12"
    c. White cover / Red Stitch or Yellow Optic Cover / Red Stitch
    d. Red ASA Logo

2. For Women's Softball:
    a. .44 Cor
    b. 11"
    c. White Cover / Red Stitch or Yellow Optic Cover / Red Stitch
    d. Red ASA Logo

3. For Co-Rec:
    Must provide an official Men's Ball (12 inches) and Women's Ball (11 inches 44.cor ball for both men and women. Women must hit the 11-inch ball.

C. Uniforms

1. For league play, uniforms are not required.
2. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.
3. Steel cleats or hard plastic with metal attached to the bottom are not allowed in the City of Houston Softball Program. Any player found wearing steel cleats will be ejected from the game. The second violation by the same player during the season may result in that player being suspended from participating in the league for the remainder of the season.

III. PLAYERS

- **6:30 GAME (ONLY):**

The first game starting at 6:30 p.m., a team may begin with 8 players. One out will be taken in the ninth spot in the batting order. When and if the ninth player arrives he/she will be inserted into the ninth batting position. The team that is playing with nine players will not be penalized for not having ten (10) players. Only one out will be taken (NOT TWO). If the other team has nine (9) players they will not take @ out in the ninth spot.

COED MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) WOMEN TO BEGIN THE GAME.

All other rules will apply in the 7:30, 8:30 & 9:30 games.

A team must have the required number of players present in the dugout or on the field to start a game.

A. Men's or Women's Slow Pitch

1. May have eleven players with one being an extra player who bats only. Any of the eleven may play defense.
2. Must have nine players to begin a game. An out would be given at the end of the lineup.
3. Male rosters shall include only male players and female roster shall include only female players (ASA Rule, Rule 4: Players, Coaches, Substitutes, Section 1: Players).
4. All teams must provide a lineup to the home plate umpire at the beginning of each game. Lineups must include first and last names.

B. Co-Rec

1. **Short Handed Rule:** A game may begin or finish with 9 players, but when and if another arrives (of correct sex missing), that player must be inserted into the line-up at the ninth or tenth batting position (depending on vacant spot by alternating sexes). If a team plays shorthanded with either three in the infield or outfield, at least one of the three must be a male and at least one of the three must be a female player. The vacant position must be listed last in the **batting order** and **an out will be taken when the vacant position** in the batting order appears. ASA Rule 4 - Section D.

2. **Defensive Positioning:** Ten players (five females and five males) with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the outfield and the infield, and one male and one female as the pitcher or catcher.

4. **Batting Order:** The batting order for COED shall alternate sexes. COED play will use an 11-inch red-stitch ball when the female bats and 12-inch red stitch ball when the male bats. COED teams may bat 10 or 12 players.

5. After the 6:30 p.m. game, teams must have 9 players present in the dugout or on the field at the start of the game; a forfeit will be given to the opposing team if they do not meet these requirements. Each team must have a minimum of 4 women/5 men.

5. All teams must provide a lineup to the home plate umpire at the beginning of each game. Lineups must include first and last names.

C Players leaving or being ejected

1. If a team begins play with the required number of players as listed, that team may continue a game with one less player than is currently in the lineup whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to bat less than nine (slow pitch) or eight (fast pitch).
2. If a player (s) are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct during the first game, it is up to the umpire's discretion as to whether the player (s) may play the second game that night. Depending on the seriousness of the unsportsmanlike conduct the Adult Sports Office may suspend the player (s) indefinitely from future leagues.
3. If playing shorthanded, and a substitute arrives, they must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot. If he/she refuses to enter for any reason, that player becomes ineligible for the remainder of the game.
4. If the player leaving the game is a runner or batter, the runner or batter shall be declared out.
5. When the player who has left the game is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat.

D. Extra Player (EP)

1. An extra player is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the start of the game and be listed on the line-up card/scoring sheet in the regular batting order.
2. If the extra player is used, the extra player must be used the entire game.
3. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
4. If an EP is used, all 11 on the starting lineup must bat and any 10 of those 11 may play defense.
5. The EP may be substituted for at any time. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EP may re-enter.

E. **Re-entry**

1. Any player may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup.
2. Player may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the lineup at the same time.

F. Courtesy Foul

1. All batters (Men, Women & Co-Ed) begin with a 1 & 1 count (one ball and one strike) before they enter the batter's box. One extra foul on the 3rd strike will be allowed. The 2nd foul is an out. (Example: Batter begins with a 1 & 1 count they foul off 2 pitches the next foul is an out)

Courtesy Runner

Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a Courtesy Runner. Only one (1) Courtesy Runner may be used per inning. For Co-Ed play "ONLY" you may have one (1) Male Courtesy Runner & one (1) Female Courtesy Runner per inning. A player can only be a Courtesy Runner once per inning. *Example: Bob was a courtesy runner of Alex, Bob can't be a courtesy runner again until that inning has been completed.* The Courtesy Runner is selected using the following order:

1. The last player to make an out
2. The last player that scored (if there are no OUTS in the inning)
3. The last male/female at the end of the batting order for the inning where a Courtesy Runner is being requested.

The order of selection may be changed due to the flow of the game. The intent of the selection order is to keep the Courtesy Runner from being on base went it is their turn to bat.

"Note: Males are to run for Males & Females for Females".

Above all do NOT CONFUSE THE COURTESY RUNNER with the SUBTITUTION RULE!!!!

Hit and Sit

When a batter hits a home run, he/she will touch 1st base and then go back to the dugout. All other players who were already on a base would simply return to the dugout without having to touch the next base.

FIELD LOCATIONS:

1. **Agnes Moffitt Park** – 10645 Hammerly – Go west on I-10 to Beltway 8. Turn right onto the Beltway 8 feeder. Turn Right on Hammerly the park is located on the right.
2. **Cullen Park** – 19008 Saums Road – Go west on I-10 to the Barker Cypress exit. Make a right on Barker Cypress and Follow down to Saums Road. Make a left on Saums and the park entrance will be on your left.
3. **Herman Brown Park** – 300 Oates Road – Go East on I-10 to the Mercury Dr. exit. At the light, take the U-Turn and follow feeder to Oates road. Turn right on Oates Road. Follow Oates Road, the park will be on your right.
4. **Memorial Park #1** – 6501 Memorial Drive - Take South Loop West to the Memorial Dr. exit. Turn left onto Memorial Drive. Follow Memorial Drive and turn left at Memorial Loop Drive. Follow the loop; field is located between field #2 and the swimming pool.
5. **Memorial Park Fields #2-3** – 6501 Memorial Drive – Take South Loop West to the Memorial Drive Exit. Turn right onto Memorial Drive. Follow Memorial Drive and turn left at Memorial Loop Drive. Fields are located immediately next to the soccer field and across from the golf course.
6. **Memorial Park #4 & 5** – 6501 Memorial Drive – Take South Loop West to the Memorial Drive exit. Turn right onto Memorial Drive. Continue on Memorial to the first entrance to the right (Picnic Lane). These fields are across from the sand volleyball courts.
7. **Tim Hearn Field (Cleveland Park)** – 200 Jackson Hill – Take Memorial Drive west to Jackson Hill. Make a right on Jackson Hill and the park is on your left.

8. **T.C. Jester Park** – 4201 West T.C. Jester – Take North Loop West to the West T.C. Jester exit. Turn right on to West T.C. Jester. Follow West T.C. Jester to the park.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

General Information	(832) 395-7130
Rainout Information (updated by 4 pm daily)	(713) 865-4105
Field Reservations with the Permit Office	(832) 395-7010
Program Information, League and Registration Dates, Schedules, Standings, etc.	www.houstonparks.org
E-mail address	adult.sports@houstontx.gov
Electronic Fax	(832) 395-9445

TEXAS AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

SOFTBALL TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

CITY_____

REGION_____

City Representative:_____**E-mail Address:**_____

City Representative Signature:_____**Date:**_____

For each category below, place "number of teams" in the blank space.
Deadline: April 29, 2011 unless otherwise stated under division.

SOFTBALL:

_____ **Men's C** **Coed C** _____ **Other** _____

_____ **Men's D** **Coed D** _____ **Women's** _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

CHECK #_____ **AMOUNT RECEIVED**_____ **DATE RECEIVED**_____

STAFF RECEIVING PAYMENT_____

STAFF SIGNATURE_____

TEAM MANAGER NAME:_____

TEAM NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____**CITY**_____**ZIP**_____

PHONE NUMBER_____**E-MAIL ADDRESS**_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: T.A.A.F.
T.A.A.F, PO BOX 1789, GEORGETOWN, TX 78627, (512) 863-9400

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Adult Softball League Survey

(please include your team name, night of play, and field)

1. Was your schedule posted on the Internet in a timely manner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Are the league registration fees reasonable, considering services provided? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Was your league playing schedule convenient for your team members? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. When you contacted any of the Adult Sports staff, were your questions and concerns dealt with in a satisfactory manner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

   Who did you work with? _____

	Poor		Average		Very Good
5. Rate the league information posted on our department's website: www.houstonparks.org. ☐ N/A	1	2	3	4	5
6. Rate the league information posted on www.thesportslineup.com. ☐ N/A	1	2	3	4	5
7. Rate the playing field conditions for your league.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Rate the Adult Sports' E-mail notices for giving updates on upcoming leagues and programs. ☐ N/A	1	2	3	4	5
9. Rate the City's leagues compared to private leagues in the Houston area.	1	2	3	4	5
10. Rate our sports officials.	1	2	3	4	5

11. Which of the following services do you believe would improve the quality of your league play?
    ☐ Online Registration ☐ T-shirt Awards
    ☐ Concessions ☐ More Playoffs/Tournaments ☐ Other _____

12. If this is the first time ever playing in our leagues, how did you hear about us?
    ☐ PSA ☐ Flyer ☐ Web Site ☐ Brochure ☐ Friend If so, who? _____
    ☐ Other _____

13. Which of the following would you like as an award for league champions?
    ☐ Team Trophy ☐ T-Shirts ☐ Water Bottles ☐ Team Plaque
    ☐ Other _____

14. What other sports would you like to see offered and at what location (s)?
    _____

15. Comments and Suggestions: _____

    _____

Our sincere thanks for taking the time to complete this survey and helping us improve our leagues. Please return to:

Houston Parks and Recreation Department
6200 Wheeler Street, Bldg. #3
Houston, TX 77023
(832) 395-7130 Fax (832) 395-9445

Field:
Night: