



2022 Men's Slow Pitch Softball League By-laws

Additional information can be found at www.harrisonburgva.gov/softball.

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

- A. The name of the league shall be known as the Men's Slow Pitch Softball League.
- B. This league shall be governed by the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletics Division.
- C. League games shall be played under the Official Softball Rules of the current year as prepared by Softball Nation, except for the noted exceptions. Softball Nation rules can be found at slowpitch.sportsnation.org.

ARTICLE II – LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- A. The 2022 season will be played as an open league.
- B. Playoffs will be divided into an "A" division (top half teams), and a "B" division (lower half teams) if adequate number of teams to do so (minimum 6). If less than 6 teams are registered, a double elimination playoff will be held in a singular division.

ARTICLE III – SCHEDULE AND TIMES

- A. Teams will play a minimum of a 7-game regular season, and then play a double-elimination playoff. Games will be played on Monday nights, unless postponements or cancellations prevent otherwise. Games will begin on April 11, 2022. The deadline for registration will be **March 11, 2022 at 5:00pm or when the 8-team maximum has been reached.**
- B. The make-up night for this league will be Wednesday depending on umpire availability. If umpires are not available, the game will be made-up at the end of the season.
- C. All league and playoff games will be played on the upper field at the Ramblewood Athletic Complex (2129 Ramblewood Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801).
- D. All games will be played as scheduled. Facilities are booked solid, thus not allowing for switching of games.
- E. Official game times are printed on the schedule. Starting times for first games will be strictly observed. All other games will start five minutes after the conclusion of the preceding game but not before the official time as printed on the schedule. The umpire will establish the official time for each game before the start of the game. Five-minute forfeit time, one-hour time limit.
- F. The home team will be the second team listed on the schedule.
- G. For the first game, the home team will be off the field 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Visiting team must be off the field 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- H. Pitcher gets one warm-up pitch between innings.
- I. No infield between innings.

- J. A game may end after:
 - 1. 2 ½ innings or 3 innings if a team is 20 runs ahead.
 - 2. 3 ½ innings or 4 innings if a team is 15 runs ahead.
 - 3. 4 ½ innings or 5 innings if a team is 10 runs ahead.
- K. Each batter will use a 3-2 count. The second foul ball after a strike will be an out.
- L. There will be a 2-homerun limit.
- M. There is no longer a courtesy foul awarded in the Men's Softball League. This is a sanctioned rule installed by Softball Nation in 2018.
- N. 2019 Courtesy Runner Rule Modification: A team will now designate a courtesy runner before the game begins. This runner is called the "Rabbit". The Rabbit may be in the line-up or on the bench. The Rabbit may run unlimited times per inning for any runner. If the Rabbit is in the line-up but on base as a courtesy runner and it is the Rabbit's turn at bat, that spot will be declared an out. You may substitute another player as the new Rabbit once per game. If the substitute Rabbit has to be replaced, only the original Rabbit may re-enter one time per game.

ARTICLE IV – POLICY ON POSTPONED GAMES

- A. Decisions on postponements are typically not made until 4:00pm on game day. Team captains will be notified, and a notification will be posted at the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation-Athletics Facebook page (www.facebook.com/hprathletics). Please make sure captains provide a working phone number, preferred email (if applicable), and a call/text preference.
- B. Whenever in doubt, report to the park.
- C. Postponed games will be played on TBD dates throughout the season based on field space and umpire availability. A makeup schedule will be posted at www.harrisonburgva.gov/softball.

ARTICLE V – PLAYER & TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. Minimum of 15 players and maximum of 25 players on team rosters.
- B. No player will be eligible unless they are at least the age of 16 by April 1st of the current year.
- C. Players may be added to rosters up until the start of the second week of play. No players will be added after this point.
- D. Teams must provide an initial roster by the 2nd week of the season. All participating players must have signed the roster/waiver.
- E. Players may not play on more than one team in the Harrisonburg Men's Softball League. They may play in the Co-ed Softball League, or any other organization's softball league.

ARTICLE VI – PLAYER & TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. The team registration fee is \$300. Checks are made payable to the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department. Fee includes: umpires, softballs, champion t-shirts, and all other league expenses.
- B. Uniform jerseys/shirts will be worn by each player while participating in all league games.
- C. A team may start or continue a game with 9 players; however, the tenth position will be an out. See the Softball Nation Rulebook for specifics on this.
- D. Men's League will play under a two-homerun limit rule.

- E. Home team scorebook is the official scorebook in each game.
- F. Only authorized personnel allowed in the bench area. No children permitted.

ARTICLE VII – UMPIRE & DEPARTMENT DUTIES

- A. One new ball will be issued each game. The home team will keep this ball and use it for their second ball of their next game. All balls will be issued by the umpire. Official game ball provided by the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation will be Yellow A.D. Starr Max. 44/400.
- B. The team that is batting will be responsible for retrieving the foul balls and supplying a back-up ball until the game ball is put back into play.
- C. Bat – must have BPF 1.20 stamped on them and be approved for Softball Nation play. Umpires reserve the right to ban bats from league play that are “banned bats”. A list of banned bats can be found at www.harrisonburgva.gov/softball.
- D. The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff or the umpire will decide if the field conditions are playable.
- E. No metal cleats will be allowed. Anyone found using metal cleats will need to change shoes immediately or will not be permitted to continue play. If this player is a repeat offender of this rule, they may be ejected from the game but may play the next game if proper shoes are worn.

ARTICLE VIII – CONDUCT & FORFEITS

- A. Teams are required to conduct all of their relations with other teams and the game officials in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- B. No profanity or misconduct will take place on or around the playing field before, during, and after a game. If profanity or misconduct of any player occurs, this player will be ejected from the game and could be suspended from league play. If a second offense occurs on the same player, this player will be suspended for the entire season, and his team may lose the game by forfeit.
- C. Two forfeits, for any reason, may disqualify a team from the league. This disqualification may be for the remainder of the season and will include forfeiture of the team’s registration fee. The manager of the team involved may appeal this in writing within twenty-four hours to the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff. They will review the case and make the final decision. Any team which forfeits out of the league may not enter the league the following year.
- D. Managers must be responsible for the conduct of their players on the field at all times.
- E. The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff will take any action they feel necessary to discipline a player, manager, or team during the current, and possibly future seasons.
- F. Anyone ejected from a game, will be suspended for the following game as well. The exception to this would be an ejection for metal cleats.
- G. Consumption of alcoholic beverages could cause indefinite suspension from the league.
- H. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed on Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation property at any time.

ARTICLE IX – PROTESTS

- A. Procedure for protest must be followed as stated in the official Softball League Rules of the current year. Formal protests must be in writing and presented to the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletics Office within twenty-four hours. A protest committee is composed of the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff.

ARTICLE X – PLAYOFFS & AWARDS

- A. Playoffs may be played on any night of the week.
- B. All teams that are in good standing, will qualify for a double-elimination format bracket for the championship of each division (if adequate teams to allow split divisions).
- C. Ties for playoff positions will be determined by regular season head-to-head competition, and then run difference.
- D. The higher seed will be the home team throughout the entirety of the playoffs. The exception to this is the championship game, if the higher seed is coming out of the loser's bracket. If this occurs, the team in the winner's bracket will be the home team.
- E. The team winning the playoffs will have the choice of a team trophy or t-shirts.
- F. Awards must be called into the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletics Office within two weeks of the last night of playoffs.