

Youngsville Parks and Recreation

Adult Softball

Rule Book



Youngsville
**Parks
& Rec**

1. Introduction

This document has been created by Youngsville Parks and Recreation to inform volunteer coaches, officials, employees and players about the policies, procedures, and league rules that the Town of Youngsville has constructed.

Mission Statement

The Town of Youngsville Parks and Recreation is essential to the wellbeing and quality of life of every individual and family in and around the Town. Our mission is to enrich the lives of our citizens by offering quality recreational opportunities to youth and adults while pursuing the preservation and enhancement of our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Purpose

The purpose of Youngsville Parks and Recreation adult softball league is to bring the community together and to promote a positive environment for the community.

Website Information

League schedule and standing will be posted on Youngsville Parks and Recreation registration software, RecDesk.

League Schedule (Practice and Games)

The league schedule will be prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department. Each team will have the same number of regular season games. The games will last 8 weeks, followed by play-offs.

Play-offs will be determined by the regular season standings. These can be found on RecDesk.

In the event of a tie in the standings, placement will be determined by head-to-head wins. If the teams remain tied, the next tiebreaker will be points scored, followed by points allowed.

Communication Methods

Youngsville Parks and Recreation will communicate information through a new app called TeamReach and email.

Important Emails

Youngsville Parks and Recreation Director – Alysa Murphy

- Email amurphy@youngsvillenc.gov
- Phone 919-925-3398

Youngsville Adult Sport Coordinator – Ravi Boze-Adams

- Email rbozeadams@youngsvillenc.gov
- Phone 919-925-3392

Youngsville Parks and Recreation Staff

- Email parksandrec@youngsvillenc.gov

Field Locations

Luddy Park- 200 Youngsville Blvd Youngsville, NC 27596

2. League Policies

Code of Conduct / Disciplinary Action

The Town of Youngsville expects positive behavior and sportsmanship from coaches, players, and spectators! Below is the Code of Conduct:

- No individual should refuse to follow rules instructed by the game officials or the Town of Youngsville.
- No individual should demonstrate verbal abuse or physical abuse on any player, coach, parent, official or staff.
- Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances are prohibited at or near game sites. Participants judged to be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances will be ejected from the facility and must serve suspension as outlined in the League rules.
- Music is permitted in the dugout; however, it must reflect good sportsmanship and must not contain any foul language. If inappropriate language is detected, you will be asked to turn the music off. Repeated violations will result in the revocation of music privileges for your team.

If an individual violates the Code of Conduct, they may be subject to penalties, depending on the severity of their actions.

- In the event of an ejection of a player, the player ejected shall be removed from the game and must leave the facility within two (2) minutes or a forfeit will be declared. Ejected players must serve a two (2) – game suspension and cannot attend team events (practice or games) while serving the suspension.
- Should a player be ejected a second time during a season, the player or coach must serve a second two-game suspension.
- In the event of a third ejection, the player or coach will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season.
- The Youngsville Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to impose season- disqualification penalties at any time, should participant's behavior and action deem such disqualification necessary.

Team Composition

Team roster may have a maximum of twenty- five (25) players, with a minimum of 3 females. Each player must sign the liability waiver and must be at least 18 years of age.

Players may be added/ deleted from the roster until uniforms have been placed.

Inclement Weather

Should inclement weather occur, the Parks and Recreation will contact the captain of the team scheduled to play that day.

There will also be a notification sent out on TeamReach as well.

Uniforms

Team uniforms purchased by Youngsville Parks and Recreation may not be switched after the start of the season. They also must not be altered.

Equipment

The Town of Youngsville will provide game balls. If you choose to practice, you must provide your own ball.

Each game ball will be 12".

For players assigned to the pitcher position, it is highly recommended that you wear a face mask to protect yourself from potential impact by a batted ball. If you choose not to wear a face mask, please be aware that you are assuming full responsibility for this decision. Youngsville will provide a face mask for use during each game if desired; however, it must be returned immediately following the game.

Awards

The winning team will be provided a championship plaque.

Safety

Youngsville Parks and Recreation will seek to provide safe facilities for all the participants.

Coaches, players, and spectators are to keep safety in mind during games and practices.

Refunds

There will be no refunds if you or the team gets ejected from the league.

There will also be no refund once uniforms have been placed.

3. Universal Playing Rules

Games will be played per the current USA Softball rules, with the exceptions listed in number 3 (universal playing rules) and those listed below.

Governing Bodies

Adult Softball leagues will follow the official rules of the USA Softball as set for the current year. Local expectations and additions to the USA Softball rules are listed by Youngsville Parks and Recreation Department.

Number of Players Required

Teams must have at least eight (8) uniformed players to start and finish a game. Three (3) of the eight (8) players must be females.

Participants

Only those listed on the team's roster shall be allowed in the dugout.

Teams are only permitted to borrow players if they do not have enough to field a team. A minimum of 8 players is required to play a game. If your team has only 7 players, you may borrow one player to meet the 8-player minimum. Borrowing is not allowed if your team already has 8 or more players. **Exception:** If your team meets the minimum player requirement but is short on female players, you may borrow one female player in order to meet the required three females per team, regardless of your total roster count.

ALL borrowed players **MUST** be in the current adult softball league. You will not be allowed to borrow players during the play-offs and championship game.

If you are caught having players participate on your team that do not play in the current league, your team will be disqualified for the remainder of the season.

Strike Zone

Softballs must be pitched underhand over home plate, with the arc's peak height between 6 and 12ft, and landing on the extension mat to be a strike.

Courtesy Runner

Courtesy runner will be the last player to have been put out. The limit of one courtesy runner per half-inning.

The courtesy runner must be the same gender as the player they are replacing, male for male and female for female.

Fielders Right of Way (Batted Ball)

Fielders have a right to occupy any space needed to catch or field a batted ball and also must not be hindered while attempting to field a thrown ball. If any member of the batting team interferes with a fielder's right of way to field a batted ball, the batter shall be declared out.

Obstruction

If a fielder obstructs a runner's path to a base, the runner is awarded the base they would have reached, and the ball becomes dead.

Runners Do Not Have the Right of Way

Runners do not have the right of way on the bases; fielders have the right to occupy any space needed to catch or field a batted or thrown ball.

Runner Interference

A runner will be declared out if they interfere with a defensive player attempting to make a play, including but not limited to physical contact with a fielder in possession of the ball or attempting a tag, obstructing a throw by raising their hands, or any other action that impedes the fielder's ability to execute the play.

Sliding/Contact with a Fielder

Base runners must slide or attempt to get around a fielder who is in position and waiting to make a play. The runner will be declared out for runner's interference. If in the judgment of the umpire the contact between a base runner and fielder was intentional, the player will be ejected and must serve the suspension as outlined in the league rules.

Home Run Rule

Each team will be allowed three (3) home runs per game (balls hit out of the field of play). Following the team's third home run, the batter will be ruled out.

Game Play Composition

Games consist of 7 innings or 1 hour whichever comes first.

No new inning shall start after 55 minutes, unless the game is tied.

A game is official after 4 completed innings (or 3.5 innings completed, if the home team is ahead).

Mercy Rule: If a team leads by 15 runs after four innings (3.5 if the home team is ahead) or 10 runs after five innings (4.5 if the home team is ahead), the game is called.

ALL Batters start with a 1 and 1 count. (1 Ball, 1 Strike). There are no unlimited fouls. An out will occur after two (2) strikes or two (2) fouls. For example, you start with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike, and the first pitch is a strike, your count becomes 1 ball and 2 strikes. If you then foul the next pitch, you will be out.

When a male batter who is followed by a female batter in the lineup receives a base on balls, he will be awarded first base. If the following batter is a female,

she will have the option to bat or take first base. If she decides to take first base, the male runner will advance to second base.

Outfielders must remain in the grass while a female is up to bat until the ball is hit. If the fielder is caught leaving early, the batter will be rewarded with a base.

The championship game will consist of a full 7 innings of play, unless ended early due to the mercy rule.

Team/Player Placement

While on defense, teams may have a maximum of 10 players on the field and a minimum of 8 players. All remaining players must remain in the dugout.

While on offense, only the first base coach, third base coach, batter, and on-deck player are permitted outside the dugout. All other players must remain in the dugout.

On Deck Batters

The on-deck batter may loosen up prior to their turn at bat, but may not interfere with a defensive player's opportunity to make an out.

Bunting

Bunting is prohibited in the Town of Youngsville Adult Softball League. Any player who attempts to intentionally bunt will be declared out.

Grace Period

For the first game of the day, the game clock/timer will be started at the scheduled start time and will begin the one-hour countdown. In the event that a team does not have the minimum number of players required after the expiration of ten (10) minutes, the game shall be declared a forfeit. (Should the game be started, it will be continued to the expiration of the time limit – exception: run rule still in effect).

Batting Lineup

Teams are required to submit their lineups to the scorekeeper no later than five (5) minutes before the scheduled game time. Each lineup must include the player's name and number. Failure to comply will result in the game clock starting at the scheduled time, but play will be delayed until the lineups have been properly recorded in the scorebook.

All players present at the first pitch will be included in the initial batting lineup. Late-arriving players may be added to the lineup at any time before the team has completed its first full batting rotation. Once all players in the lineup have batted once, no additional players may be added.

If a player listed in the batting lineup is not present when it is their turn to bat, they will be recorded as an out for their first at-bat. After this, the player will be disqualified from the game and will not be permitted to participate for any reason.

Exception: If the team captain chooses to keep the player in the lineup despite their absence, the player may remain listed; however, they will be recorded as an out each time they are scheduled to bat until they arrive.

If a player must leave the game for any reason other than an injury, as declared by the umpire and site supervisor, that player will be recorded as an out in the scorekeeper's book each time they are up to bat.

All players listed on the team roster who are present at the game must be included in the batting lineup, which will follow a continuous batting order. Additionally, any player who intends to participate in the field must be listed in the batting lineup.

Tiebreaker

Games cannot end in a tie; therefore, the winner will be determined by placing the last batted out on 2nd base with 1 out and playing the game until a team wins.

Forfeits

Teams forfeiting three (3) games during the season will be removed from the League Schedule, with no refund of entry fee.

Base Measurements

Pitching line will be at 50ft.

Bases will be at 65ft.

Approved COED Slow-Pitch Softball Bat

Players may only utilize bats containing one of two official slow pitch bat logos: (Logo description, centered at the top is the word USA or ASA in large, bold, capital letters. Beneath it, the word SOFTBALL appears in smaller text. Below the lettering is a stylized shield divided into stripes, resembling the American flag. The overall design communicates official approval, national identity, and equipment certification.)

Approved COED Slow-Pitch Softball Cleats

Metal cleats are not legal in Adult Coed Slow Pitch. Players wearing metal cleats after being warned by the umpire that they are not to do so shall be ejected.

Game Dispute and Scorekeeping

To help ensure games run on time, each team is permitted to contest one umpire call per game. Teams will have a maximum of 5 minutes to discuss the call with the umpire(s), after which the game will resume.

Teams may also speak with the scorekeeping staff regarding matters such as the score, number of outs, batting order issues, etc. However, these questions must be asked between innings only. Any questions or disputes raised during active gameplay will not be addressed.

Thank you for choosing the Town of Youngsville Adult Coed Softball League! We are excited to have you as part of this season. This league is designed to foster community involvement and provide a fun, enjoyable environment for all participants. Please remember that sportsmanship is not just encouraged but required and will be upheld throughout the entire season.

- Youngsville Parks and Recreation Staff