



2016 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 Athletic 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 2016 season will be played as an open league, then separate into two 8-team brackets for a double-elimination playoff.

ARTICLE III – SCHEDULE AND TIMES

- A. Teams will play an 11 game regular season, then play a double-elimination playoff. A league vote among captains will take place prior to the start of the season to determine the outcome. The only exceptions will be cancellations. Games will begin on April 18th. The deadline for registration for both divisions will be **March 25th at 5:00pm**.
- B. All league and playoff games will be played on the Ramblewood Athletic Fields.
- C. All games will be played as scheduled. Facilities are booked solid, thus not allowing for switching of games.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Pitcher gets one warm-up pitch between innings.
- G. No infield between innings.
- H. 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.
- I. Each batter will use a 3-2 count. The second foul ball after strike one will be an out.

ARTICLE IV – POLICY ON POSTPONED GAMES

- A. Decisions on postponements are usually not made until 4:00pm on game day. Team captains will be notified, and a notification will be posted at the Harrisonburg Softball League’s Facebook page. 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. Makeup nights for the Men’s League will be on Wednesday. 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. Players on rosters must work (full time) for the sponsoring business, be a member of the sponsoring club/church, or live in the City of Harrisonburg. (The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff will make the final decision in determining residential requirements).
 - 1. Exception to this rule: Each team will be allowed ten (10) free agents; meaning that the team will be allowed to pick up ten players, regardless of address, to be placed on the roster. Once a free agent is placed on a roster and the season has begun, they cannot be replaced with another name.
- C. City residents shall be defined as any person having residency in the City of Harrisonburg and pays City Personal Property Taxes. Just because the individuals address says Harrisonburg, does not necessarily mean they are a City of Harrisonburg resident.
- D. Any team or sponsor that knowingly violates the intent of residency rules will be prevented from playing (sponsoring a team) in the league for a period of one year.
- E. Any team with ineligible players shall forfeit all wins from the time these names were place on the roster, until they are removed.
- F. Providing league play has started, a city resident on a team roster who moves to a county address, they are still eligible to play during the 2016 season.
- G. No player will be eligible unless they are at least the age of 18 by May 1st of the current year.
- H. Players may be added to rosters up until the start of the second week of play. No players will be added after this point.
- I. Teams must provide an initial roster before playing their first game. All participating players must have signed the roster.
- J. Players may not play in more than one division of the Harrisonburg Men’s Softball Leagues. They may not play for more than one team in that league. They may play in the Co-ed Softball League, or any other organization’s softball league.

ARTICLE VI – PLAYER & TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. The franchise 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. See the Softball Nation Rulebook for specifics on this.
- D. Men's League will play under a two (2) home run rule.
- E. Home team will be the second team listed on the schedule.
- F. Home team scorebook is the official scorebook in each game.
- G. Only authorized personnel allowed in the bench area.

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. 40/400 with a Softball Nation stamp.
- B. 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.
- C. The Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Athletic Staff or the Umpire will decide if the field conditions are playable.
- D. 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 (24) 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.
- 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 Administrative Office within twenty-four (24) 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. All teams will play either single-elimination or double elimination tournament (based on captain vote) for the championship of each division.
- B. Ties for playoff positions will be determined by regular season head to head competition, and then run difference.
- C. The team winning the playoffs will have the choice of team trophy or t-shirts.
- D. Awards must be called into the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Administrative Office within two (2) weeks of the last night of playoffs.