



2026

**ADULT SOFTBALL
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

www.burkerec.com

706.554.5210

I. League Organization

- A. The governing body of this league is Burke County Parks and Recreation.
- B. USA slow pitch rules govern league play except when superseded by the following rules and regulations. Burke County Parks and Recreation reserves the right to rule on anything not covered in the USA rulebook.
- C. Burke County Parks and Recreation recognizes the manager listed as having sole authority on team decisions. The manager's authority supersedes any concerns from sponsors and team players.
- D. Each team will be responsible for checking the website or our Facebook page for rainout and make-up game information. We will post this information to the website as soon as it becomes available.
- E. Recreation Staff: 706.554.5210 burkerec@burkecounty-ga.gov

II. Game Rules

- A. All teams must have at least six (6) players to start or continue a game. If a team fails to field at least six (6) players at game time, that team shall forfeit the game. If neither team can field six (6) players at game time, it shall be ruled a double forfeit.
 - 1. If a team starts with six (6) players, or is playing with six (6) players, the 7th to 10th player may be added to the line-up at the time of arrival. The player or players must be added to the bottom of the batting order. If a team begins the game with fewer than nine (9) players, the team must take an out in its lineup for each missing player. These outs can be placed at any point in the lineup.
 - 2. If a team does not start the game with the extra player(s), he/she may not be added once the game has started.
 - 3. Pitcher and catcher positions must be occupied when playing in the field.
 - 4. If a player is removed from a game for any reason and the team has no substitutes, an out will not be charged for the removed player's turn at bat. Once removed, the player cannot re-enter the game. Exception 1: If a player is removed from a game for unsportsmanlike or rowdy conduct, an out will be charged for the removed person's turn at bat if no legal substitute is available. Exception 2: See coed rules starting on page 4. Remember, no team is allowed to play with fewer than 6 players.
- B. Games will start at the scheduled time.
 - 1. A ten (10) minute grace period is allowed only on the first game of the night. The grace period is considered as part of game time. However, if a team has six (6) players, the game will start immediately or as soon as the sixth (6th) player arrives. Grace period time counts as game time.
 - 2. All players are expected to always hustle on and off the field, for the sake of speeding up the game. The pitcher shall have three (3) warm-up pitches and the inning will start.

3. The one-hour game time will be displayed on the scoreboard. If the scoreboard timer is not working, then it will be monitored by a digital clock provided by BCRD. The game clock will start immediately following the pre-game instruction meeting at home plate between the umpires and team coaches.
 4. Teams will not be allowed to swap game times or days with other teams. No exceptions will be made.
 5. Infield practice will be allowed only if it does not cause a delay in the scheduled starting time.
 6. Line-ups should be turned in to the umpire 10 minutes before the start of each game. Continued violation will result in disciplinary action from probation to suspension.
- C. There is a one-hour time limit on each game. No new inning shall begin after this time has elapsed. Four (4) innings shall constitute an official game in the case of rainouts or four and one-half (3 1/2) innings if the home team is ahead. If required regulation innings have not been played, the Burke County Recreation will reschedule the game as soon as possible. Any rescheduled game will resume from the exact point at which the game was delayed or postponed.
- D. There will be a Run Rule in effect for all games. 20-runs after 3 innings or 2 1/2 if the home team is ahead, 15 runs after 4 innings or 3 1/2 if the home team is ahead, and 10-runs in after 5 innings or 4 1/2 if the home team is ahead.
- E. A minimum of one (1) umpire, but we will try to assign two (2) umpires every game.
- F. All players can be listed in the batting order with unlimited defensive substitutions.
- G. In case of league standing ties, winners will be determined by:
1. Head-to-head competition
 2. Runs against
 3. Point differential. If you have any questions concerning this rule, call the Recreation Office at 706.554.5210.
- H. Courtesy runners will be allowed. If no subs, it will be the last batted out. In Coed, the courtesy runner must be of the same gender. Only one Courtesy Runner per inning
- I. An Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or bunt) that, in the judgment of the umpire, can be caught by an infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort when there are runners on first and second or first, second, and third and less than 2 outs.
The Infield fly only calls the batter out. It does NOT create a dead-ball situation. Runners are allowed to advance at their own jeopardy, the same as any other fly ball. Because the batter is called out, there is no force out on the base runners; they must be tagged out.
- J. The team batting is responsible for balls hit outside of the playing area.

- K. Any protested game or game suspended for any reason, that shall be replayed at a later date, will begin at the point the game was suspended or at the point of protest. NO GAME SHALL BE STARTED OVER.
- L. The pitcher has to have a foot on the Pitching plate when they release the ball. The plate will be located between 45 and 50 feet from home plate. The penalty for not having a foot on the pitcher's plate will be an illegal pitch.
- M. The Pitcher will have a protective net in front of them while pitching the ball. **If a batted ball hits the net, it will be a foul ball.** The protective screen must be placed in front of the pitcher. **The pitcher may not set it to either side of them to be used as an extra defender.**
- N. The home team will be determined by the schedule on the website.
- O. **Modified Co-Ed League ONLY is 7 Males and 3 Females.** You can have more females and fewer males (No more than 5 Males & 5 Females). To start a game, teams must have at least 3 Males and 3 Females.
1. There will be a 200-foot line in the outfield that the outfielders must remain behind while a female is at bat. The penalty for outfielders being over the line will be that all base runners will advance one base, and the batter will be awarded first base.
 2. A team cannot start a game unless they have 3 men and 3 females. Also, cannot start unless you have 3 Females in the game. (one in the infield, one in the outfield, and one as either the catcher or the pitcher)
 3. Teams must arrange their batting order with at least one woman between two men. **Female players cannot bat back-to-back.**
 4. If a Male is walked (if a Female is the next batter):
 - a) *Male gets to advance to 2nd base*
 - b) *Female gets the option to walk to 1st base or bat*
 5. If a female is removed from the game for any reason and this causes 2 men to bat back-to-back that were not in the original line to do so, a team will have two options.
 - a) *Replace the outgoing female with a female substitute.*
 - b) *If one female is not replaced, receive one out for the removed female for each scheduled turn at bat.*

Note - if an additional female is removed from the game, options A, B, or C are repeated.
 6. Fielding Regulations:
 - a) *A team must have one female and one male in the pitcher/catcher combination.*
 - b) *A team must have a minimum of one (1) female player in the infield.*
 - c) *A team must have a minimum of one (1) female player in the outfield.*

NOTE: Male players are permitted to play side-by-side in the field.
- P. The score of a forfeited game shall be seven to zero (7- 0) in favor of the team not at fault.
- Q. A player is considered participating in the ball game when the first legal pitch is thrown. This does not include warm-up pitches.

- R. 3 Homeruns, then plus 1 – Teams can hit 3 homeruns. When the opposing team hits 3 homeruns, then the teams are allowed one additional “plus one” home run. On the preceding homeruns, the batter will be out, and nobody will be allowed to advance on bases on each homerun.
- S. When a batter enters the batter’s box with or is discovered using a non-approved bat, the batter shall be called out, and the bat will be marked as banned.
- T. Each batter will start off with a 1-1 pitch count. Batters will be allowed one extra foul ball. Batters will not be allowed to foul off any more than two balls in any given at-bat.
- U. If the game is tied and the game time has expired, the game will go to a 1-pitch format.

III. Eligibility

- A. Players must be 16 years of age before June 1st of the current year to be eligible for Burke County Recreation Adult Leagues.
- B. Each team must have a roster posted with the league coordinator before its first game of the season.
- C. Players not on the roster are not eligible to play. Rosters must be turned in before each team's first scheduled game, or all players on that team are illegal.
- D. A player can be listed on more than one team’s roster in each division (Men's, Church, Modified Coed, etc.), but not in the same division.
- E. New players may be added to the team roster before the fifth (5) scheduled game. After the fifth game, all rosters are frozen.
- F. A manager wishing to add or release a player must adhere to the following procedures:
 - 1. Obtain a drop/add form from the league Coordinator and fill out the form in the following manner:
 - a) *List the player's full name, address, and phone number along with his signature at consent.*
 - b) *Both the releasing and adding manager must sign the form in appropriate spaces.*
 - c) *Submit completed form to league coordinator.*
 - d) *Added player will become eligible 24 hours after the completed form has been properly completed and submitted to the league coordinator.*
- G. Players cannot change teams at any time.

IV. Conduct

- A. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its players and spectators. A team may be reprimanded, put on probation, suspended or face expulsion for any unsportsmanlike conduct by player(s), coach(s), or spectators. Burke County reserves the right to deny eligibility for GRPA competitions for poor conduct/sportsmanship.

- B. NO SMOKING, VAPING, or Chewing Tobacco Products of any kind in Burke County Parks. This includes fields, dugouts, parking lots, or any Burke County property. Disciplinary action may result in probation or suspension.
- C. Profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, and verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be a minimum of \$5 for each curse word, to possibly a 1-game suspension.
- D. Any player, spectator, or manager at the request of any official or league coordinator must leave the "premises". Failure to do so may result in suspension and forfeiture.
- E. No participant may touch an umpire or league official in anger or threaten to do him bodily harm. Disciplinary action will result in expulsion.
- F. A minimum penalty for any player expelled from a game because of unsportsmanlike or rowdy conduct will be suspension for the next 3 league games in which his/her team plays, including playoff and tournament games.
 - 1. Any player ejected from the game will have to pay a \$25.00 reinstatement fee.
 - 2. On a player's second ejection, the player is suspended for the season in which his team plays. They will be fined \$100 to reinstate for future Recreation activities
- G. Profanity Game fee is \$5 for the first offence, \$25 for the second offence, and the third offence is ejection. The fee must be paid immediately. This is per game and starts over next game. If not paid before next at bat, it is an automatic out.
- H. The manager is the only person authorized to discuss rule interpretation with the umpire.
- I. NO SMOKING, VAPING, or CHEWING TOBACCO PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND IN BURKE COUNTY PARKS. This includes fields, dugouts, parking lots, or any Burke County property. Disciplinary action may result in probation or suspension.
- J. Alcoholic beverages and intoxicants are prohibited. Disciplinary action will result in reprimand to expulsion.

The Burke County Recreation Department reserves the right to suspend any or all players, coaches, and managers for unbecoming conduct either before, during, or after a game.

V. Uniforms and Equipment

- A. ALL bats used during the season must be approved by **USA Slow-pitch Softball Rules**. The bats must have one of the 3 following stamps to be approved:

2000 ASA Stamp, 2004 ASA Stamp, or USA Softball Stamp



Allowed in all games



Allowed in all Slow Pitch, Men's and JO Boys Fast Pitch and Men's Modified Softball

- B. The Recreation Department reserves the right to do a compression test performed by BCRD staff. Once a bat passes, a sticker will be placed on the bat to indicate that the bat meets USA standards. A current list of all USA legal and illegal bats can be found at <https://www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/>.
- C. We strongly recommend all team members get a uniform with a number on the back of the jersey, or the players need to wear shirts similar in color with a number on the back.
- D. Players are REQUIRED to have a non-duplicating number on the back of each shirt. Each number must be visible to the umpires and scorekeeper. Jersey numbers must be permanently attached. Failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate removal from the game.
- E. Athletic-type shoes are mandatory. No metal cleats.

VI. Protest

- A. Protest shall not be allowed on any judgment call.
- B. If a protest concerning misinterpretation of playing rules is to be made, it must be made following the designated procedure:
 - 1. The manager calls a time-out and notifies the official and scorer. Protest must be made at the point of infraction and before the next pitch (legal or illegal).
 - 2. Submit a written protest with the required protest fee of \$100.00 per protest to the Burke County Recreation Department within 24 hours (excluding weekends).
 - 3. Each protest must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules, sections, and sub-sections to bear out the protest.
- C. If a protest on rule misinterpretation is made on the last play of the game, it must be made to the umpires before they leave live ball territory, and the game is called. A called game is a game ended by the umpires.
- D. When a protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the protest fee will be forfeited.
- E. The Burke County Recreation Department reserves the right to forfeit games when it discovers the use of ineligible players. This may be done with or without the benefit of a protest.

VII. Post-Season Play –

- A. We will host a single-elimination tournament at the end of the season. Seeding will be based on the regular season results. The Tie Breakers will be as follows: Win/Loss Record, Head-to-Head, Points Allowed, and last Point differential.

VIII. Balls

- A. The Burke County Recreation Department will provide the game balls. There is one approved softball for league competition, which shall be yellow: .52 COR with a compression rating no greater than 300, and 12 inches must be visibly seen on the softball.

- B. The League will provide game balls to the umpires. The umpires will receive 2 game balls before each game. The teams are responsible for returning foul balls and home run balls to the umpire as quickly as possible. Each team must furnish approved softball if the umpire runs out of balls.
- C. If fouled or hit out of the playing area, the teams must retrieve the balls.

IX. Acceptable Birth Records

- A. Birth certificate, certified abstracts of birth, hospital birth records, notification of birth, notification of registration, certificate of registration, and regulation military identification cards, government ID from the US Department of Immigration and Naturalization, passports, adoption records, notarized Correctional Institution records, or clearly processed and readable copies of such shall be considered and referred to as acceptable birth records for GRPA competition. Also, Georgia Department of Public Safety personal ID cards issued for check cashing, etc., are acceptable if the date of birth is affixed.
- B. Driver's Licenses and Learner's Permits from any state shall be acceptable birth records for 10 participants aged 15 and over, as long as the date of birth appears on the Driver's License or Learner's Permit.
- C. If a name change is involved that is different from the Acceptable Birth Records, a copy of the court order granting the name change must also be presented. An official written statement notarized by a notary public and approved by signature from a parent or guardian may be substituted if a copy of the court order cannot be obtained. Such a court order copy or an official notarized statement shall not be considered as acceptable birth records, but only as evidence that the acceptable birth record presented is the true and accurate birth certificate, certified abstract of birth, hospital record, military identification, or copy of such, etc.

X. Field Requirements and Home Runs

- Distance between bases –70 ft
- Distance to fence – 300 ft
- Pitcher's plate –50ft with a screen in front of the pitcher
- Men's League is allowed 3 homeruns and plus one when the other team equals 3 homeruns.
- Coed League – Men are allowed 3 homeruns plus one when the opposing team equals 3 homeruns. Women are allowed to hit an unlimited number of home runs.
- Ten players on the field, but can have Men = 11; Coed = 10 batters