



**Pinehurst Parks and Recreation  
Pinehurst Softball League  
Information Packet 2024**

**ENTERING YOUR TEAM**

- A. All interested teams must have a minimum of 10 players, consisting of 5 females and 5 males. Minimum number of players to create a team must be registered by the registration deadline. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE SCHEDULE IS FINALIZED! INCOMPLETE INFORMATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** *Players must register individually at [www.pinehurstrec.org](http://www.pinehurstrec.org).*
- B. Entry Fee for 2024 Season – Per Player: \$30 per Pinehurst resident; \$60 per non-resident of Pinehurst.
- C. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: **Falsification of residency status will result in forfeiture of game(s) or even forfeiture out of league and will result in forfeiture of league fees. PPRD reserves the right to randomly check rosters for residency status and request individuals to prove residency.**
- D. Once the schedule has been distributed, no refunds will be made.
- E. Deadline to register is July 12 at 5pm or until the league is full, whichever comes first.
- F. League games start week of July 8, 2024.
- G. If a team is ejected or drops out of the league, the remaining games with that team will be counted as wins for the previously scheduled opponents, therefore, still counting as games in the game schedule.

**ROSTERS**

- A. **All rosters must be signed by each player before the end of their (3<sup>rd</sup>) third game. Failure to comply with this will result in the player being considered illegal and will result in forfeit.**
- B. The coach or assistant coach only, may make additions or changes to the roster. Changes should be made directly with the Athletic Coordinator by a **written notice/email**. The player shall register online through [www.pinehurstrec.org](http://www.pinehurstrec.org) and pay associated fee to be eligible to get added to a team. A player will be eligible for play 24 hours **after** their name has been added and fee has been paid unless otherwise approved by PPRD. **The rosters will be frozen after the team's third (3<sup>rd</sup>) game of the season.** \*PPRD has the right to accept or deny any player addition.
- C. There will be a maximum of 25 and a minimum of 10 players per roster. If a coach is going to play he/she must also be listed as a player on the roster. If you feel that you need to carry more than 25 players on your roster please consult with PPRD staff for approval.
- D. All players must turn 18 years of age on or before their team's first game of the season. Individuals competing on a College or Military sponsored baseball/softball team during the current season (does not include intramural teams) will be ineligible to participate.
- E. All team rosters will be available to each team upon request to the Athletic Coordinator.
- F. If a team should forfeit out of the league before the halfway point, the players from the team will be eligible to be picked by teams within the same division.

- G. Players are eligible to participate on only one team.
- H. If a team is suspected of playing an illegal player (i.e. one that is not on the roster, playing under an assumed name or address, etc.), by the league supervisor or the opposing team and is proven guilty, the game will be ruled a forfeit. The second such offense will result in the team being ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and the tournament with no refund. **\*Picture I.D. may be requested and must be produced within one (1) hour.\***

## FORFEITS

- A. A team must have a minimum of nine (9) or ten (10) players to start a game. The ability to pick up players at the field will not be used this season.
  - a. A 10-player team will consist of 5 males and 5 females. The batting order will alternate genders.
  - b. A 9-player team will consist of 5 players of one gender and 4 players of the opposite gender. In a 9-player batting order, the 1st and 9th batters will be of the same gender. **For this season, no out will be given when 10<sup>th</sup> batter's position, all other aspects of this still apply.** If a player on the roster arrives, and is the gender needed, that player can be inserted at any time.
  - c. Teams have the ability this season to play with 6 females and 4 males without a penalty. If teams do this, they shall play with this lineup throughout the entire game.
- B. The first scheduled game of the day will begin within 10 minutes of scheduled game time or a forfeit will result. *The clock will start at the scheduled game time; teams will have until the clock hits 50 minutes before game is called a forfeit.* For all subsequent games, game time is forfeit time.
- C. Should a team forfeit three (3) games and still desire to play in the regular season or tournament, they will need to pay a \$50.00 re-entry fee (nonrefundable). This re-entry fee must be paid at the PPRD offices between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, before their next scheduled game to be reinstated into the league. The same procedure will be required each forfeit thereafter. Each forfeit will count as a loss. If the re-entry fee is not paid the team will be ejected for the remainder of the season and the tournament. *\*The only exception to paying this fee is if the forfeit occurred during an inclement weather make-up game.*
- D. If a team knows for sure they will have to forfeit a game, a call/email should be made to PPRD representative. The opposing team will have the choice of using the field space for practice or not showing up at the field. If the opposing team chooses not to show up at the field, a call/email should also be placed to the PPRD representative. If the forfeit occurs ahead of time, the winning team will receive eligibility credit for all players on their roster. If the forfeit occurs at the field, only the players present at the field for the winning team will receive eligibility credit for the game. Players of the forfeiting team will receive no eligibility credit.

## PROTEST

- A. Complaints concerning officials, supervisors, and other aspects of the program must be made by the head coach in writing to the Athletic Coordinator.
- B. Protests on official's judgment calls are not allowed. Only rule interpretations and determining player eligibility will be considered. If a team wishes to protest, the captain must request a timeout at the time of the rule infraction, notify the home plate umpire that he/she wishes to continue the game under protest. The official will then notify the Field Supervisor who will record the exact time, game details (score, time left in game, runners on base, count on batter, etc.) and teams involved. The protesting captain must submit the COMPLETED protest form (obtained from the Field Supervisor) and the \$25.00 protest fee (cash, check, or money order only) to the Pinehurst Parks and Recreation Department in the Community Center prior to 5:00

p.m. on the next working day. In the case, where games the next working day will be impacted, the protest form along with payment needs to be turned in by 12pm the day after the game in protest. Please specify the rule being misinterpreted on the form. If the protest is in regards to an illegal/ineligible player the protesting captain should provide the team name, players known name and jersey number. Protests received after the deadline or forms NOT COMPLETED entirely will not be considered. The Department will rule on the protest. Protest Committee will consist of the Parks & Recreation Director, Athletic Coordinator and Field Supervisor present at the time of the incident. If the protest is granted, then the game will resume from the point of the protest and the protest fee will be returned. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE CAPTAINS AND UMPIRES TO CORRECT THE ERROR WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

## EQUIPMENT

- A. It is preferred that participants wear NUMBERED jerseys or t-shirts that are similar in color.
- B. The league will provide game balls for each game. The balls used will be 11 inch and 12 inch, .52 COR, 300 max compression, approved by USA Softball and have the approval stamp & the COR .52 stamp on the ball. If a ball goes out of play, that team at bat is responsible for getting the ball that went out of play. The league will also provide bats. ALL players must use the bats provided by the league. No personal bats/balls are allowed.
- C. **No metal cleats.** Only rubber/plastic molded cleats and sneakers are allowed.

## GAME TIMES/DATES

- A. The league will play regular season games on Monday – Thursday nights.
- B. The field supervisor will have and keep the official score book and clock.
- C. Game times are scheduled for 6:30pm, 7:30pm and 8:30pm.
- D. Ten (10) minute grace period first game only. The clock will start at the scheduled game time; teams will have until the clock hits 50 minutes before game is called a forfeit. All other games will start at the scheduled time or upon completion of the previous game.
- E. The league will be offered as long as 4 teams sign up for the league. Maximum of 12 teams.

## CONDUCT

- A. No player or coach shall be guilty of objectionable dissent at the official's decision by throwing any equipment or protesting an official's call by refusing to play or directing verbal abuse. Furthermore, coaches, managers, and players are not allowed to heckle or engage in "trash talking" or other forms of unsportsmanlike conduct against any game official, opposing players, opposing spectators or scorekeepers. **Profanity will not be tolerated.** Officials and field supervisors have complete discretion and tolerance on these matters. Warning given by the umpires is to be heeded!! Failure to comply can result in ejection, forfeit, and suspension.
- B. No player other than the coach can discuss with an official or staff, in any manner, the decision reached by an official.
- C. Fighting, threatening others and provoking physical attacks against officials, players or spectators are prohibited nor tolerated and you will be ejected.

- D. If a player or coach is ejected, he/she must vacate the property immediately or his/her team will forfeit the game.
- E. Any physical contact or verbal threat toward the officials, other players or PPRD staff will result in ejection from the league for **ONE CALENDAR YEAR.**
- F. If a player is ejected from a game he/she must sit out the remainder of the ejected game and the following game as well as pay the reinstatement fee of \$25 before allowed to play.
- G. It is the coach's responsibility to control the spectators of his/her team. Spectators are held to the same standards as players, as well as the same rules outlined above.
- H. If a player or coach is ejected from two (2) games during the season or tournament he/she will be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and tournament.
- I. Tobacco products are not allowed on park property, which includes the parking lot.
- J. There will be no profanity or alcoholic beverages allowed on park property, which includes the parking lot.
- K. No fighting will be allowed on park property. Pinehurst Police will be called and involved parties will not only be ejected from the current game, but also the facility. Fighting will result in at least a one-year suspension.
- L. Derogatory remarks toward the officials or other team members by players, coaches or fans will not be tolerated. This will be grounds for ejection or forfeiture of game if players, coaches or fans cannot be controlled.
- M. If there is a valid question about a call, other than a judgment call, time should be called and either the coach or assistant coach from the questioning team and opposing team will be allowed to discuss the call with the officials. This will be done in a sportsmanlike manner. Any profanity or loss of temper will be grounds for ejection.
- N. Anyone suspended from league play will not be allowed to return to the park for adult softball during their suspension.

-All violations of Conduct Rules are subject to a case-by-case examination and subsequent judgment from the Parks and Recreation Department. The following penalties will be the guide for how the Parks and Recreation Department deals with these violations accordingly.

#### **Minimum Penalties**

- Ejection from game by officials
- Game or games may be forfeited
- Ejected players will sit out a following game as well and must leave the park immediately after being ejected or officials may rule game a forfeit.
- All ejected players will have to pay a \$25.00 reinstatement fee. Player will be considered an illegal player until fee is paid.

#### **Additional Penalties**

- Higher reinstatement fees of \$50 per incident / repeat offense.

- An additional game suspension, with the possibility of a long-term suspension, no less than one additional game; no more than one year from any and all Recreation Department sanctioned adult athletics.

### **Maximum Penalty**

- Physically, assaulting, attacking, and verbally threatening an official or PPRD staff (at any point: before, during or after) will result in at least a **One Year Suspension** from all adult athletic programs. If circumstances so warrant, the player can face additional suspension from participation in other athletic programs as well as criminal charges and also suspension from park property.

### **PLAYING RULES**

- A. The current USA Softball (formally known as ASA) rules will apply where applicable. PPRD as needed may issue addendums and clarifications to these rules.
- B. Line up sheets will be required to be completed and turned into the official scorekeeper at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled start of the game. Once the lineup sheet has been turned into the score keeper it becomes the official line up. **If a team is trying to purposely stall the game, the game will be ruled a forfeit. Line-up sheets must include a player's first and last name along with jersey number.**
- C. A game called by the umpire, during regular season play, which cannot be resumed within 30 minutes, may be regulation if four or more innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored as many or more runs during the uncompleted fourth inning. A regulation game shall be declared if the score is TIED when the game is called after four or more completed innings, or if the team second at bat has equaled the score of the first team at bat, while batting during any uncompleted inning.
- D. Emails will be placed to all coaches to confirm date of make-up games. It is the responsibility of coaches to inform players of new game times.
- E. Games will be 7 innings or 1-hour 10 minutes, whichever occurs first. Championship game (includes the "If" game), will have a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes. Time begins with the first warm up pitch. Innings shall be played out if started within the 1-hour 10 minute time limit. If the home team is at bat and the home team is winning, time has expired, then the inning does not need to be completed. **If extra innings are required as result of a tie, they will be played at a 3-2 count (one good foul).**
- F. The distance between bases will be 65 feet. The pitching distance for both men and women will be 50 feet. A double first base will be used. If a ball is hit and there is an infield play the runner must use the orange base in foul territory or the runner will be called out. The only time a runner is allowed to use the inside base is when there isn't a play at first or there is a wild throw and the runner tries to avoid a collision with the fielder (subject to umpires discretion).
- G. Extra Hitters are allowed in accordance with USA Softball rules. If used, the team must have both a MALE extra hitter and a FEMALE extra hitter in the lineup. If not, then the Extra Hitter position CANNOT BE USED. Both extra hitters must be listed in the original lineup and CANNOT BE ADDED once the game begins.
- H. The count will be 1-1 for all batters with one (1) good foul, therefore, a second foul ball on a third strike will be an out.

- I. All outfielders must stay behind the “outfield line” designed by cones on the foul lines and an arc on the field, when females are batting. They may not cross the line into the infield until there is contact between the ball and bat. Infielders must remain in the “dirt” until contact between the ball and bat. *If an outfielder crosses the line before contact has been made or an infielder goes onto the outfield grass before contact has been made the female batter shall be awarded first base and any base runner shall advance one base.*
- J. Pitchers and Catchers MUST be of opposite gender.
- K. Substitutions must be made in accordance with USA Softball rules. Male players may sub for male players ONLY and female players may sub for female players ONLY.
- L. A walk to a male batter results in a two-base award if the following female batter elects to walk. The next batter (if a female) has the option to take a walk or bat. Once the female steps into the batter’s box, she then loses the option, must bat, and the previous male batter must stay at first.
- M. The ball shall be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 10 feet from the ground.
- N. The mercy rule will be in effect for all regular season and tournament games. If a team is ahead by 10 runs or more after five (5) complete innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more) the game is over. There will also be a 15–run limit after three (3) innings.
- O. There are no homerun restrictions, however if there is a need to enforce a limit before or during the season, this rule may be modified.
- P. A player must play in a minimum of three (3) regular season games to be eligible to participate in the postseason tournament.
- Q. A courtesy runner must be the same gender as the player they run for, and must be either the last player of that gender not on the bases in the current batting order (typically the last out), or a roster player not in the lineup that game. Teams will be limited to one courtesy runner, per inning, per gender. **If courtesy runner is on base when their turn to bat comes around it will be an automatic out.**

## STANDINGS

- A. Standings will be based on win/loss records and are posted weekly on the department’s website. In the case of a tie it will be determined by head to head play, then runs allowed, then runs scored in all of the team’s regular season games. If still tied a coin flip will decide the standings. The winner will be the higher seeded team for the tournament.

## AWARDS

- A. League champions will be determined by the winner of the post season tournament.

## TOURNAMENT

- A. All teams are eligible to participate in a post-season tournament.
- B. Coaches are responsible for informing their team of their next game time scheduled on the tournament bracket.

- C. Tournament Eligibility- To be eligible for the tournament, a player must play in three (3) regular season games. Pick up players are **not** allowed in any division during the tournament. A player not on the roster is considered an illegal player. A player that is on the roster but has not met their required number of games is considered an ineligible player.
- D. Your team must be prepared to play any night of the week for tournament games. PPRD will make every attempt possible to schedule games on the regular league night.
- E. Highest seed in the tournament is home team, until the Championship game, then below rule comes into play.
- F. In the championship game, the undefeated team in the tournament gets the choice of home or visitor. If the tournament goes to an “if” game, it would revert to a toss of a coin.

**RULES FOR ALL PPRD FACILITIES**

- A. PPRD will have an appointed representative for all games (Field Supervisor). The officials or any PPRD staff member will have the authority to enforce any situation that may arise.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. This league is a PPRD function and operates only as a “Recreational Activity”.
- C. Profanity will not be permitted
- D. No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products allowed on the premises and people that have been drinking will not be allowed on park property.

**INSURANCE**

- A. The Village of Pinehurst Parks and Recreation Department does not have insurance to cover adult sports and cannot assume responsibility for any injury.
- B. Players should provide their own insurances.

**OTHER**

- A. **This league is sponsored by the Pinehurst Parks and Recreation and is a recreational activity.** The department reserves the rights to eject, suspend, or ban any team, player, coach, or spectator for actions that may be harmful to individuals, the Recreation Department or the Village in general.
- B. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to PPRD staff. The decision of PPRD staff shall be final in all matters.

**CONTACT**

Judith Lawhon, CYSA  
 Athletic Coordinator  
 210 Rattlesnake Trail, Pinehurst, NC 28374  
 Phone: (910) 295-2817 x 1282  
 jlawhon@vopnc.org  
 www.pinehurstrec.org