

Edinburg THE CITY OF

October 9, 2020

Dear Sponsor/Coach

It is my pleasure to invite you to partake in the City of Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department 2020 Winter Softball Program that is scheduled to begin the week of November 9, 2020. For your leisure enjoyment and convenience, games will be offered at Edinburg Municipal Park which is located on the corner of Raul Longoria Road and Sprague Street, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. In order to secure a team slot on the official Winter schedule, all registration forms along with the registration fee of \$250 **must be received no later than Friday, November 6, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.** Checks must be mailed payable to the **City of Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department, P.O. Box 1079, Edinburg Texas, 78540.** There will be a maximum of 10 teams participating in each division.

The following information is enclosed:

FACT SHEET
RULES AND REGULATIONS
ROSTER FORMS
REGISTRATION FORMS

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to Sonny Rodriguez, Program Coordinator II, at (956) 381-5631. We appreciate your support of the league which continues to evolve into one of the most popular athletic programs in the Valley.

Respectfully,

Rolando Rodriguez
Recreation Manager
City of Edinburg



315 E. Palm Drive • P.O. Box 1079 • Edinburg, Texas 78540
Phone: (956) 381-5631 • Fax: (956) 292-2131



**EDINBURG PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SLOW - PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUES RULES AND REGULATIONS**

I. GENERAL RULES

- A. The United States Slow-Pitch Softball Association Rules will govern situations not specifically covered by the rules contained in this document. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department Rules and Regulations will supersede U.S.S.S.A. Rules and Regulations.
- B. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department is the final authority in making rule interpretations. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department has the authority to add and delete rules to this document at it's discretion.
- C. Registration fees are Non-Refundable, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- D. **During Spring, Summer and Fall Leagues, each league night will consist of two divisions: Division 1 and Division 2 only if there is enough teams or else there will only be one league division. Winter leagues will be only one league.** There will be a maximum of 10 teams participating in Division 1 and Division 2 per league night. If one division fills up, then any team that registers afterwards will be placed in the other division for that same league night. **If necessary, the league director can move any team from division 1 to division 2 or from division 2 to division 1 based on the recommendations from the softball officials and staff.** If a team wins division 2 in any league night, the team will be moved up to division 1 the next season.
- E. Teams do not need to be **properly uniformed**. Teams are encouraged to wear the same color of shirt.
- F. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to schedule league, tournament, and play-off games as deemed necessary. League games may be scheduled on weekdays from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight; and tournament play may be scheduled on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight.
- G. The League Director has the authority to classify teams or players as either division A, B, C, D, or E and may disqualify a team or player from participating in the league at any time.
- H. **The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department does not allow the use of any bats that are banned by U.S.S.S.A.**
- I. Players can NOT play pepper or take practice swings on any portion of the Edinburg Municipal Park softball complex fences.
- J. There will be absolutely NO consumption of alcoholic beverages by players before, during, or after the game. The City of Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department Ordinance (Chapter 16, Article II, Section 16-29) indicates that A It is unlawful for any person to posses, use, or consume any alcoholic beverage on any softball or baseball field owned or operated by the City while such field is being used for softball or baseball purpose.@ A player, who in our opinion, has consumed too much alcohol will be asked to leave the game. AToo much@ will be determined by the Park Security Guards, Umpires and/or Softball League Supervisors. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department does not allow alcohol consumption on the Edinburg Municipal Park premises or parking lot. Anyone caught consuming alcohol on park premises will be asked to leave the park and/or could face police charges for violating the City of Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department Ordinance (Chapter 16, Article II, Section 16-29)
- K. **Smoking will NOT be allowed in the dug outs or on the playing field at any time.**
- L. **ALL PETS are PROHIBITED inside the athletic baseball/softball facilities during organized league and tournament games. ALL PETS must be kept outside these facilities. ONLY SEEING-EYE DOGS ARE ALLOWED.**

II. GAME RULES

- A. Teams must provide, hit, and return their own softballs. All softballs must be standard Classic M optic yellow cover 12 inch Max core 40 U.S.S.S.A. with a max compression of 325 pounds. Approved A.S.A optic yellow 12 inch softballs

Max core 40 with a max compression of 325 pounds can be used. Umpires will determine if the game balls are of legal size, type and. Compression and USSSA/ASA approved. **If a team attempts to use or uses an illegal softball at any point of the softball game, the team in violation will receive an automatic forfeit loss.**

- B. All softball pitches must have an arc between 4 feet and 10 feet.
- C. When the pitcher is hit by a batted softball, the bat used by the batter will be immediately confiscated by the umpire or supervisor on site. If the pitcher can continue to play that same game and/or in the next game that same night, the confiscated bat will be returned to the owner at the end of the evening. If the pitcher can no longer participate that evening, the bat will be submitted to USSSA Headquarters to be further examined to determine if it is a legal or illegal bat. The bat will be returned to the owner. **If the bat is found to be illegal, the batter in violation and the owner of the bat will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one year.** If the batter or the owner of the bat refuses to turn in the bat at the time of the incident, the batter (and owner of the bat) will be automatically suspended for one year from USSSA league and tournament play.
- D. Regular season games and play-off games will be played with a fifty-five (55) minute time limit or seven (7) innings.
- E. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play, the two (2) teams will continue to play with a 3-2 count given to the batter until a winner is declared. The first batter at the top of the inning, after the regulation time has expired, will be given a chance to bat one pitch. A strike will be declared an out and a ball will award the batter a base.
- F. **ONLY** championship games (for first place) will be scheduled for seven (7) full innings, No time limit.
- G. A run rule of 15 runs after four (4) innings or 10 runs after five (5) innings will be administered during league play. If the home team is winning by the run rule in the 3rd, 4th, or 5th inning then the Home Plate Umpire, at his discretion, can switch teams from home to visitors.
- H. **Game time is forfeit time;** however, game time may be adjusted at the discretion of the umpire when extra time is needed to complete tie games.
- I. Line up sheets must show the player's **first name, last name,** and position to be played. **Nick-names are not allowed.**
- J. The start of the official time clock will be initiated with the instruction of the softball official to start the clock at the toss of the coin. The toss will also determine whether teams will be considered home or visitor.
- K. All batters will begin with one ball and one strike count and will NOT be given a courtesy foul ball hit on a two strike count. If a foul ball is hit on two strike count, batter will be out.
- L. Only proper softball/baseball shoes and uniform can be worn for games. Metal spikes, metal cleats, and street shoes are NOT allowed during league play.
- M. A base runner will be called out for intentionally running into a fielder. Flagrant or repeated violations of this rule will constitute the basis for expelling a player from the game.
- N. NO female(s) will be allowed to play on any Men's Softball League and vice versa.
- O. ONLY baseball caps and visors can be worn during the game. Players must wear baseball caps or visors facing forward during offensive and defensive series. Baseball caps and visors can not be inside out, upside down, to the side, or to the back. **NOT ALLOWED:** fishing hats, head bands, sweat bands, or any other object that is not mentioned.
- P. If base runner(s) does not touch home plate, the catcher must appeal to the Home Plate Umpire before the next pitch is thrown, or else the run(s) will count.
- Q. Managers and Assistant Managers are the official spokesman for the team and are the ONLY ones that can call time to question an umpire call. NO other player on the team may call time to question an umpire call.

III. ROSTERS

- A. Teams must carry a minimum of fifteen (15) players on their roster at all times: including a playing manager. A team roster may not exceed twenty (20) players.
- B. Rosters must be legible, completed in full, and must be typed or written in black or blue ink only. Team managers are responsible for insuring that all players sign the official team roster and must submit the roster fifteen minutes prior to the first league game. **Teams will only be given 10 minutes after the softball official starts the game to submit the team roster. Once the ten minutes expires, the team in violation will receive an automatic forfeit loss.**
- C. Rosters must be completed and submitted to the league director or score keeper, before the first game of the season. **Roster changes must be done prior to the 4th game of the season and absolutely NO roster changes will be made after the aforementioned game.** Only manager and assistant managers will be allowed to make roster changes. Players may drop themselves from the team, but must first be cleared by the manager or assistant manager.
- D. **New players and transfer players may be added to the Official Team Roster by signing the roster in person at the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Office located at 315 E. Palm Drive.**
- E. **Although roster changes can be made prior to 4th league game, managers must provide a complete official team roster form to the league director or scorekeeper before first game can be played!**
- F. **Failure to submit a roster prior to the 1st game will result in an automatic forfeit loss thereafter until a team roster is submitted, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- G. Remakes or Alterations to the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department roster form will be null and void.

IV. PLAYER AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- A. **Players may be eligible to play in more than one league during the season but shall be limited to playing on one team per night per league. A player cannot play in two different divisions on the same night. Players discovered to be playing in more than one team a night will be suspended from league play.**
- B. All players must be 18 years of age and older as of the first league game.
- C. Player Violations: 1. Player not of legal age; 2. Player not on the official team roster; 3. Player using assumed name; 4. Player(s) who have been suspended and have not been reinstated.
- D. **If a player has played for a team or is on the team roster for at least three (3) games without officially dropping from the team, the player can NOT play for another team in the same league.**
- E. **A player can NOT be on two different team rosters for the same league at one time. The player will play for the first team he/she plays for, NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- F. **A division AD@ team can NOT have more than two upper division players, in any combination, Class C, B, or A, playing for their team. A division E team can NOT have any C, B, or A division player, but may have no more than three division D players.**
- G. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to suspend a player and/or team manager for violations of any of the above rules for the remainder of the season. Habitual offenders may be suspended permanently.
- H. Should a player be found to be ineligible by the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department, the player's team will forfeit the game in which the player was caught violating the eligibility rule. Team rosters will be checked by the scorekeeper and/or softball official prior to games. If both teams have illegal players, then both teams are issued a forfeit loss.
- I. Should a player or team violate any rule three (3) times, the player/team will be ejected from the league.

V. CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES, SPECTATORS

- A. The umpire will require that all players remain in the dugout or outside the fenced playing area except for team coaches authorized to be on the playing field. Umpires will determine when coaches are legally able to coach on the field.
1. Any player/coach/spectator involved in a fight will be automatically ejected from the game and will be suspended for a minimum of one game. If the incident is serious, the player/coach will be suspended additional games or removed/ejected for the remainder of the season upon discretion of the Superintendent of Recreation, regardless if its regular season games or tournament games.
2. Every coach, player or spectator is responsible for his/her own conduct on and off the court or playing field. Coaches are responsible for their team player's parent's conduct on and off the court or playing field. Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, spectators, or participants will not be tolerated, regardless if its practice, regular season games or tournament games. Individuals may be suspended due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the discretion of the Superintendent of Recreation.
- D. Managers are the official spokesman for their team and responsible for the eligibility of their players. Managers will be held accountable for their actions of their team members and supporters. The assistant manager may conduct the duties of the manager in his or her absence.
- E. Vulgar language, obscene gestures, threats and physical violence - regardless which player(s), spectator(s) started it - will result in a minimum suspension of two (1) game to a maximum of life suspension from any Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department league, regardless if its regular season game or playoff game.
- F. Any assault or physical violence directed toward a league official will result in a five (5) year to life suspension from further participation of any program sponsored by the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department.
- G. Players asked to leave the park before, during, or after the game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be automatically suspended from the following two (2) games regular season, including play-off games played by his/her team. The player has one minute to leave the ball field and two minutes to leave the park. If ejected player(s) fail to leave, then their team will automatically receive a forfeit loss for that game. Players must conduct themselves in appropriate, respectable sportsmanship behavior at all times.**
- H. If a player is ejected a second time, before, during, or after the game for unsportsmanlike conduct, from any league in Edinburg during the same season, THE PLAYER WILL BE EJECTED FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON IN ALL EDINBURG LEAGUES.**
- I. Should a bat be thrown towards the backstop or dugout, regardless of the intent, may result in an automatic ejection from the game and the following two game. If a player unintentionally releases the bat, the player may be called out.

VI. SPECIAL RULES

- A. In an effort to promote public safety, players must warm-up in the designated practice areas of the park only. Failure to adhere to the warm-up safety rule may result in a forfeit.
- B. Men are allowed to coach women's teams and women are allowed to coach men's teams. Coaching will be done from the coach's box and the dugouts.
- C. Games may be postponed or cancelled by the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department if deemed necessary due to staff safety, weather and/or current season running into the next season.
- D. Make-up games will be played at any time during the season at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- E. Any team forfeiting four (4) games due to lack of players will be dropped from the league.
- F. If a team is moved from a lower division league to an upper division league or vice-versa, the games played by the team will not count for/or against the team's record and the games played will not carry over to the new league. If the team is

in contention for a team trophy, the team's record will be based on winning percentage.

- G. Home run limitations per team: **Class C - NO Limit; Class D - 3 home runs; Class E and Class Co-Ed - ZERO homeruns.**
- H. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department League Director reserves the right to classify teams and players in their respective league.

VII. AWARDS AND PLAYOFFS

- A. Standings will be determined by won/loss record, **regardless of head to head competition.**
- B. 1st through 3rd place team trophies will be provided for the top three teams and team sportsmanship trophy. Individual team shirts will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams only with a limit of twenty (20) shirts.
- C. **ONLY** championship games (first place) will be scheduled for seven (7) full innings, no time limit. **ALL** other playoff/tie breaker games will be played as a regular season game, see Rule II E.
- D. If both teams forfeit their schedule playoff/tie breaker game, the awards will be divided equally amongst the two teams. The game will NOT be rescheduled.
- E. In the event of a tie for a trophy, both teams will be scheduled to play a playoff game at the discretion of the league director. Should more than two teams be tied for a trophy, play-off games will be scheduled at the discretion of the league director.
- F. **If a team has played more or less games than the other teams in the league, then the standings will be determined based on by the teams winning percentage.**
- G. **If leagues games are cancelled**, there will NOT be any playoff games played instead it will be based on head to head competition.

VIII. PROTESTS (Two types of protests exist: eligibility protests and rule protest)

- A. **An Eligibility Protest must be presented to the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department in writing no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the league game in question: forty-eight (48) hours on the weekend games.** Only team managers and assistant managers are authorized to request an eligibility protest and the umpires need to be informed of the protest. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department will investigate and rule on the protest at its discretion. **A \$25. Non-Refundable protest fee must be accompanied with protest.**
- B. **Rule Protest on a rule violation must be submitted in writing and presented to the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game in question.** The home plate umpire must be informed of the protest and the rule in question at the time of the infraction and before the next pitch is thrown. **A \$25. Non-Refundable protest fee must be accompanied with protest.**
- C. Only team managers and assistant managers are authorized to submit a rule protest. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department will investigate and rule on the protest at its discretion in writing.
- D. Protests will not be accepted on any judgment call by a U.S.S.A. Certified Softball Official.

IX. FORFEITS

- A. **Game time is forfeit time.** Teams must be prepared to take the field in fifteen (15) minutes prior to scheduled game time. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game.
- B. Line-up sheets must be provided to the scorekeeper ten (10) minutes prior to game time. Should a team fail to provide a line-up on schedule, team will automatically forfeit the game.
- C. Teams with four (4) forfeits, due to lack of players, will be removed from the league and will not receive a refund of league registration fees.

- D. A player who commits a violation and is asked to leave by an umpire has one (1) minute to do so. Failure to comply will result in a game forfeit of the player's team.
- E. Use of ineligible players will result in a game forfeit. The following will constitute ineligible players. 1. Player not of legal age; 2. Player not on team roster; 3. Player using an assumed name; 4. Playing while on suspension; 5. Any player suspected of playing under an assumed name or being under age must provide the home plate umpire with a valid picture I.D. at the time of question. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit.

CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

In addition to standard Edinburg Parks and Recreation Slow-Pitch Softball Rules and Regulations, Co-Ed Rules and Regulations are as follows:

1. The United States Slow-Pitch Softball Association Rules will govern situations not specifically covered by the rules contained in this document. The Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department Rules and Regulations will supersede U.S.S.S.A. Rules and Regulations.
2. The batting order for co-ed softball must alternate the sexes.
3. Defensive Team players can line up in ANY position on the playing field and in ANY combination.
4. Males CAN ONLY bat to their weaker batting side. Only in Power Co-Ed can a male bat to his stronger batting side.
5. Any home runs hit by any player will be an automatic OUT for the team.
6. If extra players are used, all twelve (12) players must bat but a five (5) male and five (5) female combinations must play defense. The defensive rotation can be changed. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
7. On a walk to a male batter, the following female batter has the choice of walking or hitting. Any batter who is walking is not required to step on home plate while advancing towards first base.
8. At the start of the game, **each team must field 5 males and 5 females. All 10 players, 5 males & 5 females, must be in the dugout at the time of the coin flip or it will constitute a forfeit for the team in violation.**
9. If a male is injured or has to leave the game due to an emergency, the game can continue with 5 females and 4 males but it will be an automatic out when the male batting slot is up to bat.
10. If a female is injured or leaves the game due to an emergency, the game can **NOT** continue with 4 females and 5 males and the game will be an automatic forfeit to the team in violation. **EXCEPTION: The game can continue only if a women's softball team is playing against a co-ed softball team.**
11. If a team(s) is batting 12 players, 6 males and 6 females, and a male is injured or has to leave the game due to an emergency, the game can continue with 6 females and 5 males batting but it will be an automatic out when the male batting slot is up to bat.
12. If a team(s) is batting 12 players, 6 males and 6 females, and a female is injured or has to leave the game due to an emergency, the game can continue but with **ONLY** 5 females and 5 males batting. NO outs will be counted for the 11th and 12th batters.
13. Teams must provide, hit, and return their own softballs. All softballs must be standard Classic M optic yellow cover 12 inch Max core 40 U.S.S.S.A. with a max compression of 325 pounds. Approved A.S.A optic yellow 12 inch softballs Max core 40 with a max compression of 325 pounds can be used. Umpires will determine if the game balls are of legal size, type and. Compression and USSSA/ASA approved. **If a team attempts to use or uses an illegal softball at any point of the softball game, the team in violation will receive an automatic forfeit loss.**
14. ANY PLAYER that is pregnant must show proof of an original medical clearance in order to participate in the softball league.

X. WOMENS SOFTBALL TEAMS/LEAGUE

- A. An ALL women's softball teams can play in a Co-Ed Softball League.
- B. All women's softball teams must follow the U.S.S.S.A. Rules and Local City Co-Ed Rules. Local City Rules supersede U.S.S.S.A. Rules.
- C. Women's Softball Teams that play in the Co-Ed Softball League must provide, hit, and return their own softballs. All softballs must be standard Yellow twelve (12") inch MAX core 40 U.S.S.S.A./A.S.A softballs with BLUE or RED stitch. Umpires will determine if the game balls are of legal size and type. COMPRESSION must be approved by USSSA.
- D. At the start of the game, the women's softball team(s) must have all 10 players in the dugout at the time of the coin flip or it will constitute a forfeit for the team in violation.
- E. After the start of the game if player is injured or leaves the game due to an emergency, the women's softball team can continue to play with nine (9) players.
- F. **If at least five (5) women's softball teams officially register, then ALL of the women's softball teams will play separately in their own women's softball league. All teams must follow the U.S.S.S.A. Rules and will play with an 11 inch softball and regulation compression ratio.**
- G. ANY PLAYER that is pregnant must show proof of an original medical clearance in order to participate in the softball league.

POST COVID-19

- 1. Directors and tournaments may be required to cap the total number of teams that can enter an event, to stay within potential gathering limitations. SPECTATORS WILL BE MANDATED TO NOT ATTEND EVENTS UNTIL GATHERING LIMITATIONS ARE INCREASED OR REMOVED.**
2. All staff, players, and umpires are mandated to continue social distancing.
3. All staff, players, and umpires are mandated to wear a mask or other face covering until CDC, state and local authorities declare that masks are no longer recommended. Anyone who refuses to wear a face covering properly will be asked to leave the complex. If he/she refuses to leave, Edinburg PD will be called.
4. It is recommended that new softballs remain in their original packaging until they need to be introduced into a game.
5. Players will be asked to stand outside the dugout to allow for social distancing when their team is batting. There will be allowed one player on deck and two in the dugout.
6. Recommend staff, players, and umpires bring hand sanitizing products.
7. One coach per team will conduct a pregame meeting at home plate, all involved are requested to keep 6 feet social distancing during ground rules and coin toss.
8. Adequate time in event scheduling will be enforced, to ensure adherence to social distancing during the crossover of teams.
9. It is recommended that all players and umpires use their own equipment while participating. This includes gloves, bats, etc.
- 10. The catcher and umpire shall position themselves during a player's at-bat to allow for social distancing.**
11. Teams will be asked to bow or tip their caps/visors to each other from across the field at the end of games.
12. Players should bring their own, personal cooler instead of using a team cooler. Player's should plan on bringing an individual water bottle.

Black or Blue Pen Only!

2020 Winter Softball League Official Team Roster

Team Name _____ League Night _____ Division _____ Coach= Signature _____

JERSEY #	PLAYER NAME (PRINT)	PLAYER ADDRESS	PHONE #	AGE	PLAYER SIGNATURE

I, here by agree to abide by all rules and regulations set by the Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department for the above amateur sport and further agree to hold harmless the City of Edinburg, the organizers, supervisors and participants for any injury and for any known or unknown illness, and/or pregnancy that may occur while participation in the above league. Although roster changes can be made one business day prior to the 4th league game, Managers must provide complete official team roster form to the league director or scorekeeper assigned to each field before first game can be played, NO EXCEPTIONS!

PLAYER RELEASED FROM TEAM: DATE RELEASED COACH’S SIGNATURE STAFF SIGNATURE

1. _____ _____ _____ _____

2. _____ _____ _____ _____

3. _____ _____ _____ _____

