



Freedom Florence Recreational Complex
Spring/Fall Adult Softball Leagues By-Laws
2016 Dates to Remember

- 1) Registration for teams will run thru: TBD
- 2) The entry fee to the league is \$450.00.
Check, made to the City of Florence, or cash can be brought to the Freedom Florence Recreational Upper Complex Administrative offices at 1515 Freedom Blvd. in Florence, 29505. Please call (843)669-4597 for more information & before dropping off your fee & information Monday thru Friday.
- 3) Your roster, non-resident fees and insurance forms, on each player, are due before your first game.
- 4) Practice will be available two weeks prior to the start of each season. You can call 669-4597 the week before to set the practice date(s) and time(s).
- 5) Games will usually be played in April, May and June for the Spring Leagues and September, October and November for the Fall Leagues.

Industrial League

- A. Industrial League teams are made up of players who are employed by the same company or firm. Each team will be allowed four (4) outsiders (including spouses of employees) that are not employed with the company or firm. If an employee resigns or is terminated during the course of the season, the player is automatically ineligible to compete unless they can be placed within the 4 outsiders limit.
- B. Outside the business players must be listed on the roster with an asterisk (*).
- C. Each team's roster will be checked and signed by their personnel department to confirm employment.

Co-Ed League

- A. The batting order in Co-Ed is: sexes alternating (no-exceptions). If an additional player is used, the team must have both a male and female additional player (12 players).
- B. Softball: Male batters hit a twelve inch ball and female batters hit an eleven inch ball.
- C. All other Co-Ed rules are discussed in the current ASA rule book except for those listed in the local Adult League guidelines/rules.

Church League

- A. In the Church League, there will be a limit of four (4) non-church members on a team. A church member is defined as: anyone on the official church Sunday school or church role. A player may not be on the church role of one church and the Sunday school roll of another. If two churches are combined to form a team, only two non-members will be allowed per Church team.
- B. The church pastor must sign all team rosters in the church league. Teams without signed rosters will forfeit each game and not be allowed to play until the roster has been signed.

I. League Organization

All teams participating in Freedom Florence Adult Softball programs will participate in one of the following Leagues (given that there are enough participating teams):

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| A. Adult Open | C. Adult Church |
| B. Adult Industrial | D. Adult Co-Ed |

The City of Florence will provide an opportunity for league play based on a minimum of four teams in each league/division. Each league may be divided into divisions as needed. Games could be played on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There will be a 10 minute grace period on the **first game time each night only**. For more information, please contact the Freedom Florence Recreation Complex at 843-669-4597.

FREEDOM FLORENCE FALL ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE
2016 RULES

- 1) ROSTERS: All rosters must be completed with player's names and residing street addresses. They should be neat and legible. Only teams submitting a complete roster, a completed Medical Authorization form on each player and all fees paid will be eligible to participate. There is a \$20.00 per player that lives outside of Florence County that is also due before they are eligible to participate.
- 2) NO tobacco, alcoholic beverages, weapons, or illegal drugs permitted on the Freedom Florence Recreation Complex grounds at any times. Good sportsmanship including avoiding poor language choices is expected at all times on the grounds.
- 3) Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules will apply except where the league by-laws take precedence. There will be no base stealing in any leagues.
- 4) ONLY 2016 APPROVED ASA bats can be used in softball. Must be ASA stamped.
- 5) There will be NO protests over judgment calls. All protests over a rule interpretation will be presented to the home plate umpire at the time of the call and will be finalized before the game continues. The rule committee will consist of the game umpires and league Commissioner.
- 6) PROTESTS over player eligibility must be clearly defined in writing accompanied by a \$25 protest fee and handed into the League Commissioner before leaving the Freedom Florence Recreation Complex the same night of the protest.

Note: The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.

Upon completion of the protest procedure, player(s) in question may be required to produce identification to resolve the protest. A player will be given appropriate time to provide the required identification. If a player(s) are found to be ineligible, that game and any other they participated in will be forfeited and they will be suspended for the remainder of the season and the team will be placed on probation. A second team offense in the same season will result in the team being suspended at that point. The protested player(s) suspension will also apply to all teams they are playing in during the season but the forfeited games will only apply to the league where the protest originated. If they want to return to the league in the future, they must apply in writing to return to the league and that application will be reviewed and determined by the League Commissioner and Recreation Department staff. If the team returns the following year, they will automatically enter on probation including all players from the suspended team as they will be viewed as having full knowledge of the ineligible player. If an ineligible player is found participating with a team under probation, they and the team will be suspended on the first offense.

- 7) RAINOUTS will be decided after 4:00pm on the day of the game and rescheduled according to field availability. Please check your e-mail and you will try to be reached by phone. You are also encouraged to call or e-mail if you have any concerns at 669-4597. If the games are called earlier in the day, you will be notified as quickly as possible. Scheduling changes will be directed to the team Manager/contact and they will be responsible for notifying team members.
- 8) Only the team manager may approach an umpire during games for a protest or a question on a call. Team managers will be responsible for the following:
 - a) Accuracy of team required paperwork and fees
 - b) Player, team and fans conduct and being aware of rules
 - c) Passing on league information and meeting all league deadlines
- 9) UNIFORMS: All team members playing must be in uniform. The uniform only applies to the jersey which must be like colored with a screened or printed number. **TEAMS WILL HAVE THE FIRST 2 WEEKS OF THE SEASON TO FINALIZE THEIR JERSEYS.** After the two week period, players not in uniform will not be eligible to play in the game.

NOTE: Only individuals listed on your roster should be in your dugout at any time.

- 10) LINE UPS should be exchanged with the opposing team prior to the scheduled game time. A line-up is to be given to the home plate umpire before the game starts. Line up should include player's proper first and last name and uniform number.
- 11) GRACE PERIOD: The first game of each night will have a ten minute grace period. Player(s) arriving late must be within the field or dugout area before the grace period time limit expires, for the game to start.
Example: They cannot be driving up or in the parking lot.
There is no grace period after the first game. At the scheduled game time, the minimum numbers of players should be present when called to the game. If the previous game finishes early, then the team will have until the scheduled game time to produce the minimum required to play. If the previous game finishes up after the scheduled game time for the next game, then each team should have the minimum to play present at that time and prepared to take the field.
- 12) All Leagues may start with 9 players. In all leagues, if a team starts with 10 or adds a player and then has 10 players in the line-up and a player leaves the line up for any reason, the player's spot will be an automatic out except if it could result as the third out. In this case the spot is skipped and the line- up continues with the next player following the missing player. If a team starts with 9 and loses a player, except for injury, the game becomes forfeited at that point. (The injured player's spot is an out each time) If a team playing with 9 players has a player show up after the game has started, they can add them to the end of the line up before the end of the 4th inning.
In the Co-ed League if a team starts with 9 players, it must be 5 women players and 4 men players. The 10th player's spot is handled the same in each league.
- 13) In softball, players must be at least 15 years of age with only players 16 years of age, by the day of the game, and older playing the infield.
- 14) Game time starts with first pitch & kept by the umpire(s). Softball game times are determined at the league meeting.
- 15) Run Rule: Regulation games are 7 innings in length.
 - a) 20 runs ahead after 3 innings
 - b) 15 runs ahead after 4 innings
 - c) 10 runs ahead after 5 innings
- 16) INSURANCE: Participant insurance is not offered by the City of Florence. Participants are responsible for their own medical coverage before playing.
- 17) LEAGUE MEETINGS: A team rep will be asked to attend a league meeting and each team will have one vote, when applicable. Teams not attending will forfeit their vote and are responsible for obtaining all information relayed at the meeting.
- 18) In Softball- GAME BALLS: League will provide start up balls for each team. Each team will hit their ball when batting and each team will be responsible for retrieving their foul balls. If all of a team's balls are unusable or lost prior to the end of the season, more balls can be purchased from the League Commissioner for \$5 per ball. Only balls furnished or purchased can be used for league play.
Softball note: Men's league team members will hit 12 inch softballs. Co-ed men will hit 12 inch softballs and co-ed women will hit 11 inch softballs- NO exceptions.
- 19) MAKE UP GAMES will be scheduled as quickly as possible and teams notified. Make up games could be played on a non regular playing day with both teams agreement. This includes the season ending single or double elimination tournament. Tournament format will be determined by league teams and available league funds.
- 20) ADDING PLAYERS: Players can be added to the roster during the first two weeks of the season only. Before the player can play, they must have completed their roster information and Medical Authorization Form requirements and paid any fees, if applicable. They can be added by seeing the League Commissioner on game nights or calling the Freedom Florence office at 669-4597. Any new player must wait till the next day from their addition before becoming eligible to participate.
Roster Limit: **Determined at the League Meeting**

- 21) **PLAYER PARTICIPATION:** Players may only participate on one team in each league. If a player is on two rosters, then they will be tied to the team they play on first. They cannot change teams during the same season, even if their team disbands.
- 22) In order to play in the league tournament a player must participate in: **Determined at the League Meeting** number of regular season games.
- 23) In softball, there is no penalty for touching first base with bat in hand.
- 24) A safety base at first will be used for all League games.
- 25) There will not be any practices available once the league has started at the Freedom Florence Recreation Complex.
- 26) Teams are allowed 3 forfeits without penalty. On the fourth forfeit, the team will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season and tournament play.
- 27) Teams asking for a special playing request should notify the City of Florence at the time of making your payment to the league. Special scheduling may not be possible if it adversely affects the league. No guarantee is made. Every effort is made to equal out days and times of games for each team.
- 28) Any player or coach touching an umpire or any staff in an unsportsmanlike manner will be automatically ejected from the league for the remainder of the season and must apply for possible re-instatement prior to the start of the following season.
- 29) **EJECTION:** Any player/coach removed from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will not be eligible to participate in the team's next game played and will be placed on probation. A second ejection in the same season will result in suspension. If the first conduct dictates, the action could result in league suspension. Anyone ejected must leave the Freedom Florence grounds immediately. This could include fans at games.
- 30) **LEAGUE RECORDS:** In setting up the tournament seeds, overall record will be the first determining factor, followed by head to head games, divisional record if it applies, defensive runs, offensive runs in head to head games and then a coin flip.
- 31) **CO-ED RULES:** All other co-ed rules are listed in the current ASA Rule Book.
 - a) The batting order in Co-ed is with sexes alternating in the playing order (no exceptions). If the additional players are used, the team must have both a female and male player (12 players).
 - b) In Softball: **Male batters hit a twelve inch ball and female batters hit an eleven inch. If the wrong ball is hit, **“the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter bat again assuming the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.”**
 - c) The positioning of players is as follows: Defense must have two female and two male players in the infield and outfield. A male player cannot play into another position. EXAMPLE: A male shortstop cannot set up on or past second base so he may make a play in front of a female at the second base position. One female and one male should be positioned at the pitcher and catcher positions. Please use good judgment in the positioning of players!
 - d) On any walk (intentional or not) to a male player, the next batter (a female) has her choice of walking or hitting.