To: All City of Auburn Adult Recreation Softball League Members

From: Parks and Recreation Department

Re: 2015 Softball Season

Date: 3/13/15

Please find listed below some changes as well as old policies that will aid your team when preparing for the upcoming 2015 season.

1) The umpires' fee schedule has been increased to $34 per game. This means that each team is responsible for paying the umpire $17 before the game begins. This is the first increase in over eight (8) years and equals the salary schedule for umpires both in the upstate and downstate areas.
2) As in past years, teams must finalize their team rosters by the filing date of **4/6/15**. This allows the League Coordinator an opportunity to sort out and place stronger and weaker teams in the various divisions for a more competitive league and playoff schedule. If teams are in need of adding players to their roster, a Player Addition form must be obtained and completed and then reviewed and approved by the League Coordinator prior to participation.
3) The consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited on city property. This policy will be enforced and violators will be prosecuted. If alcohol is observed in the team bench areas or in the spectator areas, the game will be stopped.
4) Teams are allowed to request certain nights to play; however, being granted your request is not a guarantee. Teams are placed in various leagues based on roster strengths and weaknesses. Every attempt will be made to accommodate all teams. If we are unable to accommodate your requested night of play, before league play commences you can request a refund if the night of your scheduled play is not convenient.
5) As always, when a team advances to a playoff or when a rainout is rescheduled, teams probably will not be playing on the same night as they did for their regular schedule. If a team is unable to advance to playoffs for this reasoning, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department and that team will be withdrawn from the playoff schedule.
6) Prior to placing a team in the league, it is recommended that all managers review and understand the attached rules.

Sincerely,
Jim Festa
League Coordinator

Cc: Mike Talbot, Superintendent of Public Works

2015 Softball Rules & Roster

Department of Public Works, 358 Genesee Street, Auburn, New York 13021
255-4737 (office) 255-4119 (hotline)
Visit our website at: auburnny.gov

The 2015 Auburn Recreation Program is scheduled to begin on May 4, 2015. Rosters are due by 3:00 PM on Monday, April 6, 2015.

1. All managers and players are responsible for becoming knowledgeable of the rules. Once a roster is completed and filed with the Department of Public Works, that manager is agreeing that he/she has read the rules, is acceptant of the rules, and has informed his/her players of the content and application of those rules.

2. All entry forms accompanied with the proper fee are to be submitted to the Department of Public Works office by Monday, April 6, 2015. Each entry will be numbered upon being submitted. **You will need separate checks for the forfeit fee. Both checks should be made payable to the City Treasurer. Both of these fees will be paid with the entry forms at the Department of Public Works.**

3. The MAXIMUM number of teams per division will be:

Men's A Slow Pitch	10 teams	1 division
Men's B Slow Pitch	40 teams	4 divisions
Men's Over 40 Slow Pitch	10 teams	1 division
Women's A Slow Pitch	10 teams	1 division
Women's B Slow Pitch	10 teams	1 division
Women's C Slow Pitch	40 teams	4 divisions

4. ENTRY FEES:

All Leagues		$200 per team
Nonresident Fees:	Out of City	$30 per player
	Out of County	$60 per player
Forfeit fees:	Slow Pitch	$68 per team

5. Roster:
   A. Typed or printed roster, nonresident fee and forfeit fees must be submitted on or before April 6, 2015. Checks for entry/nonresident fees must be made payable to the City Treasurer. All rosters will be closed with all player names included on or before April 6, 2015. Any changes to the roster after April 6th must be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent of Public Works and Sports Coordinator. Each roster must include at least twelve names. Players whose names appear on more than one roster will be committed to that team once his/her name is entered on the score sheet for the first game that he/she participates. Managers are solely responsible for the accurate completion and maintenance of their roster. Any violations may result in suspension and termination of players or teams.
   B. A responsible team manager must be designated on the roster prior to submittal. It is requested that cell phone number, home phone numbers, e-mail address (this will be used as an initial contact), and work number (if possible) and complete addresses of the managers be supplied so that rain out schedules, cancellations, rule changes and playoff schedules can be mailed or the manager contacted. The Department of Public Works is not responsible for tracking down managers.

6. Player Eligibility:
   A. Anyone residing within the City of Auburn city limits.
   B. Residents of Cayuga County, not residing within the city limits of Auburn, will be assessed a $30 fee per player. Non-county residents will be assessed a $60 fee per player. **THESE FEES MUST ACCOMPANY TEAM ROSTER.** This fee **will not be refunded** for any reason.
   C. **ALL** players must be able to show proof of residence (drivers license, registration, school I.D., etc.) within 48 hours upon request of the Sports Supervisor or the Department of Public Works.
   D. All players must be at least 18 years of age by July 1, 2015, to participate in any league.
   E. Any player found violating any part of Rule #6 will be suspended from further league play and all games said player participated in will be declared a forfeit. The team managers will be responsible for making sure their team members bring in proof of residency to the Department of Public Works upon request.

7. Switching Teams:
   A. A player may switch teams with approval from the Superintendent of Public Works and Sports Supervisor to an upwards division. ie a B Slow Pitch player may switch to A Slow Pitch.
   B. An A Slow Pitch player **may not** switch to a **B Slow Pitch team**.
   C. Players will not be permitted to laterally switch teams during the season unless approved by the Superintendent of Public Works and Sports Supervisor and only under extenuating circumstances.
   D. Players are not permitted to play with more that one team in the A and B slow pitch classification. Please see cover sheet.
      1. An over 40 player may participate on one team in the A or B-League.

   Any player found to be in violation of rules five, six or seven will be fined $40.00 and suspension determined by league coordinator and reviewed by Superintendent of Public Works. Further violations will result in possible termination.

8. The Sports Supervisor will decide on which teams are placed in the "A", "B" or "C" leagues for the 2015 season. The City of Auburn Department of Public Works reserves the right to place teams in the various leagues depending on skill level of the players. Previous year records, roster evaluation and player representatives will be methods that will determine placement and classification of teams in the various leagues.

   The City of Auburn Department of Public Works reserves the right to cancel leagues and refund sanction fees if the leagues are unable to form in the appropriate classification of skill level. The City of Auburn also reserves the right to determine how many players from a refunded team may join another team to compete in a different league.

9. Teams may purchase softballs through the Parks and Recreation Department.

10. Schedules will be mailed to team managers the week of April 20, 2015 and will also be mailed available on the City website. The team managers will be responsible for extra copies for the other team members.

11. The Softball meetings will be held at the Casey Park Recreational Facility, 150 North Division Street, Auburn. All meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. The meeting times are as follows:

All Men's Slow Pitch	6:00 p.m.
All Women's teams	6:45 p.m.

12. The home team is responsible for recording wins and losses on the master schedule. The master schedule is located on the Casey Park Office window or at the fields in the utility boxes behind the backstops. All teams are requested to check their individual wins and losses on a regular basis to ensure proper and accurate recording. Do not wait to the last game of the season to review your current standings, as it may become too late to be included in the playoffs.

    ** **Teams will not be contacted by the softball coordinator to ascertain whether a game was won or lost. Those incomplete games will result in losses to both teams and team manager will accept the responsibility.**

13. Clifford I and Clifford II fields will be issued one set of bases for the season. Failure to return the bases to the boxes at Clifford I and Clifford II by the home team manager, and/or loss of those bases will not be the responsibility of the Public Works Department. Teams will become responsible for supplying bases upon loss of City issued bases.

14. Managers and/or players of those final games being completed on any given night are requested to ensure that the lock is secured on the utility box after recording the win/loss and placing the bases in the box.

15. In all Slow Pitch Divisions, the mat extended off the plate will become part of the strike zone. Any pitched ball conforming to the 6 to 12 foot arc and falling between the highest shoulder and lowest knee on the player from the ground will be called a strike by the umpire.

16. In an effort to reduce serious injuries to the pitcher from batted balls, a chalked line 6 feet from the back of the pitching rubber will be designated. The pitcher will be allowed to choose at the beginning of the game which pitching distance they wish to pitch from. Pitchers will not be allowed to switch the pitching lengths once the length has been determined. A new pitcher entering the game will be allowed to select his/her pitching distance. This rule can only be altered under the discretion of the umpire and only in the best interest of the game.

17. The base paths will remain at 65 feet despite the 70 feet indicated in the 2015 ASA rule book.

18. Games must start when scheduled as long as any nine rostered players are present. No out shall be declared if a team begins a game with nine in the absence of a tenth player. In slow pitch, a tenth player whose name is already on the roster, may enter the game prior to the completion of the fourth inning.

    Without the appropriate number of players, teams may wait ten minutes, after which, game is forfeited.

    A. In slow pitch a team may play with an extra player (EP) who may enter the game as a defensive player. That player who leaves the defensive position then becomes the (EP). No alterations to the batting order will be permitted unless a player enters the game as a fresh substitute.

        1. Once a team starts with the 11 player (EP) they may finish with 10 or 9 players. However, an out will be declared in that player's spot that leaves the game.
        2. Once a team starts with 10 players and loses player(s) to an injury or ejection, that spot in the batting order will be declared an out.

    No team will be allowed to play with less than 9 players.

19. HOME RUN RULE:

The Department of Public Works will continue the home run rule from last season.

A Division – Each team will be allotted three home runs per game. Once team A hits the 4th home run, team B must match their 4th home run. If team A hits the 5th home run before team B hits their 4th home run, it will be declared an out. Teams will be allowed to match each other with unlimited home runs.

B Division – Each team will be allotted two home runs. Any further home runs after the 2nd will result in outs.

Teams are notified that the game will continue with a back-up ball after each home run. At no time should a game be stopped to retrieve the ball. The umpire will be responsible to enforce this rule. If there is violation of this policy, the rule will be terminated and we will finish the season with the past home run policy.

20. FORFEIT POLICY:

All men's and women's leagues are required to pay a $68 forfeit fee to the ***City of Auburn***. This forfeit fee will be refunded at the completion the season barring any forfeits during the season. In the event of a forfeit, the umpire fee will be deducted from the offending team's forfeit fee. The nonoffending team will **NOT** be responsible for payment of the umpire on that evening. A second forfeit will result in payment of the remaining forfeit fee and suspension from further league play.

21. A. Each player plays at his own risk. Any injuries sustained are paid for by each individual or group.
    B. **Blood Rule:** Any player who is injured during the contest and is bleeding from said injury will be removed from the game until such time as the bleeding has stopped. That player must remove all clothing which has been bloodied by the injury, prior to re-entry into the game.
    C. Failure to adhere to the Blood Rule will result in ejection of the player from the game.

22. PROTESTS:

    A. Protest must be made to the umpire at the time of the discrepancy. Protests must be written and forwarded with a $25 deposit to the Department of Public Works within 24 hours of the discrepancy. If protest is upheld, the fee will be returned.
    B. Protest must quote section, paragraph, and number of rule violated, as it appears in the 2015 ASA Rule Book.
    C. The Sports Supervisor and/or Arbitration Board will decide all protests.

23. Any conduct not considered sportsmanlike will not be tolerated. Such players will be ejected from the game, and possibly from the league if the Sports Supervisor deems it necessary. Ejection will mean automatic one-game suspension. Any/all players ejected from a game are required to pay a $40 re-entry fee to the Recreation Office prior to the next scheduled game. Any player ejected a second time will be suspended from league play for the season **OR** will be suspended for an indefinite amount of time. The above applies to individuals as well as teams. Unsportsmanlike action includes any verbal or physical abuse directed at another player, fan or umpire (i.e., swearing, pushing, intimidation, etc.). This rule will be in effect before, during, and after games. Violations of this rule will be automatic forfeiture of games involved. Those ejected players must leave the facility immediately. If the player remains at the location the game will be declared a forfeit.

24. ASA Softball Rules will prevail, unless otherwise stipulated, with ground rules stipulated by umpires. Any rules violation will result in games being forfeited. Any changes regarding rules and regulations must come from the Sports Supervisor.

25. Slow Pitch teams will be dressed in conforming colored shirts once the season begins.

26. Ball Rotation:

A. Ball Rotation - All Men's Divisions: Two new balls shall be delivered to the umpire at the beginning of the game. The umpire will enforce the A.S.A. ball rotation policy.
B. Women's Divisions - one new ball and good back up ball shall be delivered to the umpire at the beginning of the game. Quality of back up ball will be left to the discretion of the umpire. If the back up ball is deemed unacceptable, a new ball must be provided.
C. Scorekeepers - all teams will be issued an official A.S.A. scorebook at the beginning of the 2015 season. The home team designated on the schedule will be required to maintain the official score.

27. In case of inclement weather, the Department of Public Works will be responsible for cancellation of games up until 3:30 p.m. of the day in question. The decision will **NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER 3:00 P.M.** If the game has not been cancelled by 3:30 p.m., teams must report to their scheduled field site at game time, at which time the umpire will determine if the game is to be played or not. **THE UMPIRES DECISION WILL BE FINAL.** At any field with multiple games per night, once a game is cancelled, the remainder of that night's games are cancelled. The softball hotline number is 255-4119. Cancellations can also be found on the City website: , and City of Auburn Parks & Recreation Facebook page.

28. All recreation softball games must be played as scheduled or declared a forfeit. Games will not be rescheduled for any reason, with the exception of rained-out games. Those teams who cancel games on their own by contacting the other team the game will be declared a forfeit.

29. Winning team's manager or representative will be responsible for publicity. He will make sure that the box score and details of each game are turned into the Citizen no later than 7:00 a.m. the day following each game.

30. A player must play in two games to be eligible for playoffs, unless otherwise stipulated by the Sports Supervisor.

31. PLAYOFFS:
In the past, schedules have been supplied by the Recreation Office. We have experienced many problems with inaccurate, unidentifiable and unintelligible standing recordings by the teams. In addition, many playoff berths were not settled until games are played on the last night of the season. This caused many problems as teams were not prepared to begin playoffs the following Monday.

To address and possibly resolve these problems, playoff schedules will be determined during the weekend (following the final night of the season) and supplied to the Department of Public Works early Monday morning. Team managers will be responsible for securing the schedule by contacting the Department of Public Works. **There will be no calls made by the Department of Public Works to those team managers who failed to secure the schedule!** The playoff schedule will begin the following week promptly giving all teams an opportunity to make arrangements with their individual players.

32. Playoffs will be limited to the pennant winners, runners-up or determined by the Sports Supervisor.

33. The ten run, five-inning rule, will prevail in all slow pitch games. In slow pitch, if either team leads by ten or more runs after five innings, the game will be awarded to the team with the most runs. The ten run rule will be in effect for the playoffs.

34. Any team allowing team members or spectators to consume alcoholic beverages on City property before, during, or after any game will be subject to arrest, suspension, forfeiture of games, and possibly all of the above. Team managers or captains are responsible to see that this rule is enforced.

35. Schedules will **NOT** be altered! Early schedule distribution will allow you to avoid any/all schedule conflicts. Inability to conform to this master schedule is a concern of yours and will not be the concern of this department. The early release of said schedule is a convenience for all teams so arrangements can be made in advance of scheduled games.

36. The enclosed rules and A.S.A. rules will govern league play.

37. UMPIRE FEES:
    Slow Pitch:

    a. Each slow pitch team will be responsible for paying the umpire $17.00 prior to each game. Failure to comply with the payment of umpires prior to the game will result in termination from further league play.
    b. The officials will keep the initial fee and complete the rescheduled game if a game in progress is stopped due to rain, etc.

38. **IN ALL SOFTBALL LEAGUES**, metal cleats or football shoes will not be permitted. Anyone violating this rule will be subject to ejection from the game.

39. All existing preceding rules and regulations are subject to change, modification, and/or alterations by the Sports Supervisor ONLY! These changes, modifications and/or alterations are made in conjunction with the Board of Arbitration. The Board of Arbitration will consist of the following:
    1. Softball Coordinator
    2. Superintendent of Public Works
    3. Executive Board (Umpire)
    4. Player Representative

THE FOLLOWING RULES PERTAIN TO THE "OVER 40" "LEAGUE ONLY:

1. Umpires servicing the 2015 "Over 40" Division will be given a copy of the rules/by-laws germane to said division.

2. Extra player (EP) is the choice of the offensive team, thus creating the 11th offensive player.

3. A courtesy runner shall be allowed - one per inning for any reason. The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out (or the player scheduled to bat last if in the first inning with no outs) and must be entered prior to the first pitch to the next batter.

4. **SLIDING IS NOT ALLOWED (UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES)**

5. All home plate outs will be treated as follows: Runners must touch the second home plate located adjacent to the right handed batters box in order to be safe at home. Defensive players can only touch the original home plate and runners can only touch the 2nd home plate. Runners tagged by the defensive team will not be out. If the runner touches the original home plate, he will be out and the ball will remain alive.

6. Base runners are allowed to over-run bases (treat each runner as if a runner is running to first base and beyond).

7. Conforming shirts are required by all teams.

8. Metal cleats are not allowed.

9. The trump ball will be used during the 2015 season, ordering TBA.

10. Fifteen (15) run rule is in effect after 5th inning. In addition, this applies to playoffs.

2015 SOFTBALL ROSTER - AUBURN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT **ENTRY DEADLINE: Monday, April 6, 2015**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE CITY TREASURER – INCLUDE SEPARATE CHECK FOR FORFEIT FEE

Do Not Write in box – for office use only.

Roster #	_____
Entry Fee:	$200.00
Non-res. Fee:	_____
Total:	_____
Forfeit Fee:	$68.00

ENTRY FEE: $200 PER TEAM **NON-RESIDENT FEES:** Non-city- $30. Non-county- $60.

FORFEIT FEE: $68. (Separate check)

CHECK LEAGUE REQUESTED:

___ A SLOW PITCH ___ B MAJOR SLOW PITCH ___ B SLOW PITCH ___ OVER 40

WOMEN'S: ___A LEAGUE - $200 ___B LEAGUE - $200 ___C LEAGUE - $200

2015 TEAM NAME:_____

TEAM NAME LAST YEAR:_____

MANAGER'S NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ZIP CODE_____EMAIL ADDRESS:_____

TELEPHONE: _____ (HOME) _____ (CELL) _____(WORK)

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PLAN AHEAD! Indicate future dates your team is unable to play due to weddings, stag parties and special events. Once the schedules are sent, requests will ***not*** be honored and scheduled games are played!