

# *Recreation & Community Services Department*



## *Fall 09 SOFTBALL HANDBOOK*

Schedule's & Standings

[www.leaguelineup.com/vistasoftball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/vistasoftball)

Registration Website

<http://activenet.active.com/VistaRecreation>

City of Vista  
**Parks & Community Services Department**

**Fun, Friends & Family it's all found on the diamond.**

Welcome to the City of Vista Parks & Community Services Department Adult Softball Program. We are pleased you have selected our league for recreational enjoyment. We here at Vista take great pride in our recreation programs and facilities. This booklet is designed to acquaint and inform participants, managers and sponsors of the rules, regulations and guidelines of the program. Should you ever encounter a problem, have a question on a rule or would just like to talk about the program, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to a great new season with all of you!

Ryan Snyder  
League Coordinator

**Recreation Staff**

Sam Beukema-Recreation Manager  
Rob Anderson-Recreation Supervisor  
Kerran Hartung-Senior Recreation Coordinator  
Robert Rhoades-Recreation Supervisor  
Ryan Snyder-League Coordinator/Park Director  
Brian Sallerson, Justin Thomas, Ramy Kaufler-Park Director

**Umpire Staff**

Margarita Officials Association  
[www.moal.org](http://www.moal.org)

**Adult Sports Division**

8am-5pm 726-1340 ext. 1576 or 1583  
City Hall Bld. K  
8-5pm Monday- Saturday

**Rain Out Hotline 726-1340 Ext. 3244**

### League Fees

- ◆ Team league fees cover cost of staff, softballs, scorekeepers, official assignment fees, field preparation equipment, field maintenance and any other costs associated with running the program. **\*\*\*Please note that the City of Vista does not include SCMAF/Insurance fees with the team registration. Team insurance needs to be purchased through a separate provider like Bolinger USA or ASA.**

- ◆ **Resident/Non-Resident Fee**

Teams with three (3) or more non-residents on their roster must pay the \$502.00 non-resident fee. Non-resident teams may add players at a \$2.00 cost by using an add form and are not required to submit any proof of residency when submitting a roster or add slip. Resident teams may at no time contain more than two (2) non-residents on their roster and must pay a fee of \$419.00. For resident teams they must also pay a \$2.00 fee for player additions. Proof of residency must be provided for all rostered and added players. If at any time the roster contains more than (2) non-resident players, the team must pay the \$75.00 fee difference. All teams are required to pay a \$30.00 forfeit fee however, this fee is refundable if the team goes through the entire season without forfeiting a game.

### League Format

- ◆ Teams are placed into leagues according to their skill level. Teams will select a preferred night, however, the final decision as to what night and/or division a team will play is the discretion of the league coordinator.
- ◆ Games will be played Sunday through Friday nights at Brengle Terrace, Breeze Hill & Buena Vista Fields. Once placed in a league, a team will play on the same night for the entire season. Exception: Unforeseen circumstances may require make-up games to be played on other nights. In this case, the department will give the teams one-week notice.
- ◆ The season will consist of 1-2 placement games, 12 league games (in two halves), a playoff between the top teams in each league (number of teams in playoffs is dependant on the number of teams in the league) and a best 2 out of 3 game championship series between the playoff winners.
- ◆ The playoffs and championship series will be played the week following the last game of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half (unless a holiday or extenuating circumstances prevents it). Teams are expected to play on those dates or they will forfeit.

### Awards

- ◆ Awards will go to the top two (2) teams in each division. The top two (2) teams will be determined by the championship series.
- ◆ The number of awards given to a team is based on the number of players eligible for the championship series (i.e.-played in half of the league games) not the number of players on the roster. **Please note, trophies are no longer awarded!**

### Line-Ups

- ◆ Teams are responsible for providing the scorekeeper with a team line-up (consisting of the batting order and first & last name of all players participating) at least 10 minutes prior to game time. All players must be 18 years of age to play
- ◆ All rostered players who are present and physically able must bat. They do not have to play the field.
- ◆ In the event of an injury to a player that results in the player no longer being able to bat, their name will be removed from the line up (they cannot bat again in the game) without penalty. If a player is removed from the line-up for any other reason their next turns at bat will be recorder as an out unless that person is substituted for.

### **Sport Specific Rules**

- ◆ The league will be governed by SCMAF rules. All teams will receive a SCMAF rulebook (annually) prior to the start of the season. The following are modifications of SCMAF rules or are rules that are particular to Vista:
- ◆ Courtesy runners shall be the last recorded out made by the player of the same sex, if no player of the same sex has recorded an out, the player of the same sex listed last in the batting order shall be the courtesy runner. Teams are allowed one male and one female courtesy runner in each inning.
- ◆ After the game has started, all additions and/or changes to the batting line-up must be made by notifying to the plate umpire/scorekeeper.
- ◆ There are 3 major appeal plays (1) Missing a base (2) Leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched (3) Batting out of order.
- ◆ A batter-runner carrying his/her bat to first base does not in itself constitute interference, and an automatic out should not be called unless the batter-runner commit interference in some other way.

### **Slide or Avoid**

- ◆ All players must slide or avoid contact at plays at the bases or home plate. "Take out" slides and/or sliding with your leg raised or to the right or left of the bag is illegal.
- ◆ Players who do not slide or avoid may be called out or even ejected from the game. In addition, other runners may be called out as well. Decision as to this call is at the discretion of the umpire.
- ◆ Sliding can be a hazardous aspect of the game. It is recommended that the novice or inexperienced players do not attempt to slide into bases. Furthermore, sliding is by no means required. It is better to concede an out and "avoid" the player, then to slide and risk an injury.

### **Courtesy Runners**

- ◆ To be used for injured players only. The courtesy runner will be the last out of the same sex recorded that inning.
- ◆ Courtesy runners are limited, but once a player has a courtesy runner they must have one for the entire game.
- ◆ Please do not abuse this rule for slow runners.

### **Four Foul Rule**

- ◆ A player with two strike count is allowed only one (1) foul ball. A second foul ball after two strikes and foul ball will result in a strikeout for the batter an out will be recorded.

### **Insurance**

- ◆ *The City of Vista will no longer provide a secondary form of insurance with the league fees, however if a team is looking for a secondary form of insurance it can be purchased through SCMAF (if interested please contact league director).*
- ◆ In the event a player sustains an injury, please make sure that the on-site staff is aware and documents it.

### **Umpires**

- ◆ Umpires will be assigned at every league game scheduled by the department. The cost of the umpire is \$15.00 per team.
- ◆ The umpire is in complete charge of the game at the game site. They have the ability to cancel games (due to unsafe field conditions) or forfeit games for player conduct situations (including fans).

### **Softballs**

- ◆ The department will provide one (1) new softball and one (1) used softball per game. It is the team's responsibility to retrieve foul balls and home runs. Softballs lost or not retrieved will not be replaced. If both department balls are lost, the teams are responsible for providing the game ball.

## Tie Breakers

- ◆ If at the end of a half, two or more teams are tied in the league standings the following tie breaking system is used: 2-Way Ties: 1) head to head season games during the half of tie 2) head to head point differential 3) overall point differential (offensive-defensive). 3 (or more)-Way Ties: 1) overall point differential (offensive-defensive) 2) most offensive points.

## Playoffs

- ◆ The typical playoff will consist of the top (4) teams in each league; the top two (2) teams from each half. To ensure that 4 teams compete in the playoffs a team that places 1st or 2nd in both halves will only be considered for one half (the better placement of the two). The other team(s) will be decided by the best overall (both halves) record. The 1st place team from the first half will play the second place team from the second half and the 1st place team from the second half will play the second place team from the first half. In the event a team places 1st or 2nd in two (2) different leagues, they will qualify for the playoffs in the higher league (I.e.-qualify in both "B" & "C" would play in "B"). Playoff games will have a 1 hour 20 minute time limit and a 15 run rule. Leagues with more than 7 teams may have a modified playoff format.

## Championship Series

- ◆ The season will culminate with a championship series between the winners of the playoff games. The teams advancing from the playoffs will play a 3 game series with the winner being the first team to win two games. *However, if the teams meeting in the championship game would like to only play one game (winner take all) this may be done if the following procedures are followed; 1) both teams contact league director four days prior to their game 2) both teams need to agree upon the rule change 3) once the decision is made there will be NO over-rulings.* Due to time constraints and the need to get all games played in one evening, there will be a time limit of 1 hour and 10 minutes and a run rule of 12 on all championship series games.

## Playoff/Championship Player Eligibility

- ◆ Only players who have played in half of the league games will be eligible for the playoffs/championship series. Placement games do not count towards eligibility. **All players are required to bring picture ID to the championship games in the event it is needed for verification.** The department will furnish an eligibility list. With this rule in mind, teams should carry enough players on their roster (and play enough players in six games) that in the event of injury or other extenuating circumstance they have enough eligible players for the playoffs. **All player eligibility protest must be done at the time a player is disputed. A protest after the game or at the time the protesting team is losing will be invalid and not considered.**

## Men's Limited Arc Division

- ◆ Pitching height in this division is limited to the no lower than 6 feet and no higher than 12 feet.

## Home Run Rule (Men's Limited Arc Only)

- ◆ *After a team has hit a home run, they may not hit another home run until the opposing team has hit one or it will result in an out.* Example, if team A is the first team to hit a home run then they can not hit another home run until team B matches their home run. Remember, a team can only go up by one home run. *Any ball hit over the fence before the opposing team matches it will be ruled an out.*

## Coed

- ◆ A coed team may start and play the entire game with 5 men and 4 women. However, if a 5<sup>th</sup> woman is present she must play the field. If a team only has eight players, they must field 4 men and 4 women or the game is forfeit (no exceptions).

Players must always bat in alternating order by sex

- ◆ A minimum of three outfielders must remain behind the outfield restriction line (160 foot arc line) until the batter swings while a female batter is up. In addition, the rover position may only be played by a female when a female is up.
- ◆ A male batter walked on four consecutive balls without a strike being pitched will be awarded second base. The female batter following him must bat.
- ◆ The pitching height is limited from 6 feet to 12 feet for women and unlimited to male batters.

### **Home Plate Mat/Bases**

- ◆ All games will be played using a plate extension for pitching purposes only. The mat is not an extension of the plate for scoring.
- ◆ Please be aware that the bases may become damp and slippery.

### **Uniforms/Equipment/Bats**

- ◆ Teams are not required to have uniforms of any type. Cleats are highly recommended but not required; no metal spikes.
- ◆ Titanium bats are not allowed in any Vista adult softball game. Double wall (and all multi-walled) bats use is prohibited in the coed division. All bats used must have a BPF rating of 1.20 ratio (usually found on the barrel of the bat) or less or be approved by ASA/SCMAF. In addition, the department is currently investigating the use of other “high performance” bats and reserves the right to ban the use of any bat for any reason at any point of the season. Teams may want to consult the league director prior to the purchase of a new bat.

### **Warm-Ups**

- ◆ Please be considerate and safe when warming up prior to the start of your game. At Brengle Terrace please do not warm up by throwing the ball in the direction of the bleachers in between field #1 & #2. The best spots to warm-up is the grass area above field #2 and on the infields and outfields.
- ◆ At the conclusion of the first half, the top and/or bottom team(s) in each division **may** be moved to a higher or lower division. New league standings will be kept for each half.

### **Player Eligibility**

- ◆ Team rosters are limited to 16 players for all men’s divisions and 18 for all coeds. All players must have signed the original roster or an add form prior to participating. No player will be allowed to compete who has not signed the roster or add form. All players must be 18 years of age or older to participate. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO AGE REQUIREMENT.**
- ◆ A player may play on as many teams in Vista as he/she wishes. However, a player may not play on two teams in the same league (i.e. two Men’s Monday “A” teams) and no team’s roster may contain 50% or more of the same players as another roster.

### **Player Conduct**

- ◆ Good sportsmanship is expected to be maintained at all times. A player may be ejected from a game, without warning for any of the following player conduct infractions:
  - Vulgar or profane language; taunting or derogatory remarks directed at the official, city personnel, spectators or players.
  - Throwing equipment and/or destruction of equipment.
- ◆ Any player ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next regularly scheduled game (or more depending on the severity). There are no appeals to this suspension. If a player is ejected a second time the same season, he/she may be suspended for the remainder of the season, the same penalty will apply and be assessed the next season. All suspensions will be carried-over to the playoffs if the suspension was not served during the regular season

- ◆ Fighting or physical abuse will not be tolerated. Any player involved in a physical confrontation will receive an automatic three game suspension (regardless of the severity) up to expulsion from the league. The decision as to the extent of the penalty is solely at the discretion of the league coordinator and is not subject to appeal.
- ◆ Upon ejection from a game, the umpire may eject the player from the field as well. If ejected from the field, the player has two minutes to leave the park or his/her team will forfeit the game.
- ◆ Player's who have been ejected and/or suspended from play for severe disciplinary problems in other cities, may be forbid to and/or suspended from play in the Vista program.

## **The Manager**

- ◆ The manager as established by the team will be responsible for:
- ◆ The dispersal of all league information relayed to the team by the department. This will include, but is not limited to: game times and dates, schedules and schedule changes, rainouts and cancellations, forfeiture charges, player suspensions, memos and awards. In the event the manager cannot be reached, the assistant manager will be contacted. After that point, it is the responsibility of the team to obtain the information from the department.

The conduct of his/her team before, during and after a game. He/she will serve as spokesperson during the game and should be the only player who discusses discrepancies with the official. In addition, the manager (and team) are responsible for the action of their fans. Fans are bound by the same code of conduct as players as players and subsequently the same penalties. Fan misconduct may result in removal of a fan(s) up to game forfeiture

## **Time Limits/Tie Games/Run Rule**

- ◆ The game shall consist of seven innings or one (1) hour and (10) ten minutes; whichever comes first. No new inning will be started after one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes. Once a new inning has been started it will be finished.
- ◆ If after the completion of seven innings a game is tied and the time limit has not expired, the team will play extra innings until the time limit has expired or the tie is broken. If the game is tied at the expiration of the time limit, the game will be considered a tie and each team will receive a half win and half loss in the standings.
- ◆ The game will be considered legal and complete if the Visiting team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 5 innings or the home team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 4 ½ innings.

## **Schedules**

- ◆ Each team will receive a game schedule for each half of play. This schedule is to be followed as scheduled unless modified by the department. If your team cannot make a regularly scheduled game, please contact the league coordinator at least 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled game to forfeit. No make-up will be scheduled and a loss will be recorded in the standing, but no forfeit will be charged.
- ◆ The department will only reschedule games due to inclement weather, light failure or other extenuating circumstances (associated with department not being able to provide a safe, payable field). Games will not be rescheduled because a team cannot field enough players, is missing players or other conflicts related to the team.

## **Rain-Outs/Cancelled Games/Make-Ups Games**

- ◆ The department and/or official at the site may cancel a game due to inclement weather, light malfunction or other extenuating circumstance. Games cancelled by the department will be made-up at the end of the half/season *if they* Games called on site that have completed 5 or more innings will be considered legal and complete. If the game has not reached the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, a new game will be rescheduled and a new umpire fee will be due at that game. The umpire's fees for that game will not be refunded.
- ◆ On rainy days or days after heavy rains, it is the responsibility of the teams to contact the rain-out at 726-1340 x.3244 for ball field conditions and decisions and decisions on the cancellation of games. Decisions as to the cancellation of games will be made after 4pm each day and updated as needed after that time.

## Alcohol/Glass Bottles

- ◆ Consumption and/or possession of alcohol is strictly prohibited at all Vista organized sports activities. Any player or manager found to be in possession of or consuming an alcoholic beverage would be ejected from that game. In addition his/her team will forfeit that game. **This ruling applies to before, during and after a game.** In short, there is no reason to have alcohol in the park at any time. The alcohol rule applies to fans as well.
- ◆ Any player found to be intoxicated while participating in a City sponsored game will be ejected from that game, ask to leave the park and suspended for one (1) additional game.
- ◆ Glass containers are not allowed at any City of Vista park.
- ◆ Submitting a team line-up to the scorekeeper at least 10 minutes prior to game time and keeping him/her advised of any changes to the line-up as they occur.
- ◆ Please be aware that the department is not liable for league information not retrieved from answering/message machines or relayed incorrectly by a message taker. If the manager has a preferred place of contact, please inform the league director. In addition, if the established manager is not a good contact person please provide an alternate contact. Most of all, if you have questions or need clarification, ask it, by calling the Sports Office.

## Addition/Deletion of Players

- ◆ Players may be added to and/or deleted from the team roster by completing an Add/Drop form furnished by the department. This form must be returned by 6pm to the league coordinator the day prior to a game in order for the player to be eligible to participate along with **\$2.00**. In addition, if the team is a resident team they must provide proof of residency for the player.
- ◆ After the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) league game, a team must receive permission from the league coordinator to add a player. Players will only be allowed to be able to be added in cases of injury or other extenuating circumstances.

## Protests

- ◆ The following steps must be taken in order to file a valid protest:
- ◆ At the time of the incident, the manager of the team filing the protest must inform the umpire, scorekeeper and opposing team of the intent to file a protest. This must be done before the next legal pitch.
- ◆ Only rule misinterpretations and player eligibility can be protest. Protests on judgment calls will not be reviewed.
- ◆ In the case of protests regarding player eligibility, the player in question must sign the score sheet and provide a valid picture ID.
- ◆ All protests must be filled in writing along with a \$25.00 refundable protest fee within 24 hours of the incident. If the protest is denied, the \$25.00 fee will be forfeited.
- ◆ All valid protests will be replayed from the point of protest at the end of the season and only if it affects 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the standings of the protesting team.courts.
- ◆ Breeze Hill: additional parking can be found at Breeze Hill Elementary through the Basketball Court
- ◆ Our parks are a popular destination and host many activities, because of this we thank you for your patience and encourage teams/player to carpool.

The city of Vista Parks & Community Services Department is responsible for all phases of the program and has jurisdiction and control over all aspects of the program. The City of Vista Parks & Community Services Department and League Coordinator reserve the right to adapt, change, modify or interpret any of the rules, regulations and guidelines described in this handbook and/or the SCMAF rulebook at any time. In addition, we reserve the right to rule on any rule or regulation not specifically defined in this and/or the SCMAF rulebook. All decisions by the department are final.

## **City of Vista Recreation Website**

**[www.vistarecreation.com](http://www.vistarecreation.com)**

## **Activenet.com Web Address**

**<http://activenet.active.com/VistaRecreation>**

Standings, Schedules,  
League Information,  
Certified Equipment

[www.leaguelineup.com/vistasoftball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/vistasoftball)

