



## Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Department

30 N. Water St. – W

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Phone: (920) 563-7781 web: fortparksandrec.com

# 2020 Adult Summer Softball Leagues

## Registration Underway for Weeknight Leagues at Ralph Park Diamonds

48 teams took to the Ralph Park diamonds last year in the Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Department Summer & Fall Softball Leagues. Men's & Co-Ed Leagues are offered. The success of Fort's leagues is the ability to draw a great number of teams which allows the department to create divisions of play suitable for nearly every softball skill level.

Whether your team is highly competitive, in the middle or just out for low level fun the Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Softball Leagues have a place for your team.

### IF YOU ARE A NEW TEAM....

**GENERAL INFO:** Games are played once a week at Ralph Park softball diamonds with game times at 6:15, 7:15, 8:15 & 9:15 p.m. The game balls are provided by the Parks & Rec., two umpires & a scorekeeper are assigned to your games. Depending upon the number of teams registered each night, we are usually able to place teams in divisions close to their ability.

If you still have questions... Rules; What League for US?; Bats;  
Call Scott Lastusky or Trista Taylor @ (920) 563-7781

**On GAME NIGHTS:** Team captains will turn in their batting line-ups to our scorekeepers located on the second floor of the concession building. Any game substitutions are reported to the scorekeepers. You will get a first half & end of the season printout of your team's batting averages from your scorekeeper.

**CONCESSIONS:** Teams are discouraged from bringing carry-ins to the ballpark. The Ralph Park concession stand is operated by volunteers from the Fort Lions Club and they sell beer, soda, water/Gatorade, candy, popcorn, chips & hot dogs. Rumor has it that some new menu items will be added. The Lions Club has assisted the Parks & Rec in many Ralph Park improvements. Please support the convenience of having concessions so improvements may continue at Ralph Park.

**FEES: \$380 TOTAL** (\$240 for player fees & \$140 for sponsor fee = \$380)

\* **Fees cover:** all game balls, ump, scorekeeper, awards,  
field maintenance, 30" bats for men in co-ed leagues

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.....

- \* Use the enclosed roster sheet & fill in, at least, 10 player names.
- \* Circle the night & your preferred level of play
- \* Return roster & sponsor fee (minimum) to the Fort Parks & Rec. Office
- \* Even though the roster deadline is April 13, with potentially 40 teams registering it is possible that some leagues may fill prior to the deadline
- \* If you need help with the registration process, which league your team best fits, wondering the chances of your team being moved up or down - please contact the Fort Parks & Recreation Office at (920) 563-7781.

## LEAGUE DESCRIPTIONS

### MONDAY MEN'S B/C & D

☆ The B/C Leagues are two separate leagues that will play some interleague games. The B/C level has a high percentage of the team being good athletes/softball players. This was home to our best softball talent in 2019.

The D League is a mid-level competitive league. This league is typically comprised of new teams trying to build experience or veteran ballplayers & teams looking to slow it down – just a bit.

### TUESDAY CO-ED

#### (Bronze, Novice)

☆ This night of Co-Ed has offers two levels of play. The Bronze level involves teams that have a good number of solid players & the Novice league tends to have just a couple lead softball players. We have had Bronze play Novice teams, but a run handicap is used to make the games more competitive. If you have a Co-Ed team that isn't very good talent-wise, then Novice is your best choice to start.

### WEDNESDAY CO-ED (mid-low level)

☆ This league took last year off after several good seasons. We will be re-offering this league in 2020. This is a mix between Silver & Novice level on a different night.

### THURSDAY MEN'S C & D+ & D

☆ The League is not as deep as year's back, but with run handicaps has proven to be competitive for most D+ teams. The D+ league offers some good athletes and the D league has vastly improved to boast solid play. If you are a true entry-level team, please inform our department. Most D teams have ½ of the team with limited softball experience.

### FRIDAY 30 YEARS & OLDER C & D

☆ Lately, we've developed a few competitive "C" level teams which leaves a very balanced "D" division. It also has a social gathering atmosphere with many players bringing their families to the park to enjoy the playground and hanging out.

## LEAGUE DATES & INFORMATION

### Registration Deadline is

**APRIL 13 or when leagues fill**

- ☆ Teams are called with their opening day game time 5-7 days before the start of the season. You will need to notify your ball players.
- ☆ League play begins on May 4.
- ☆ Complete schedules are constructed & printed for distribution at your first game. To increase accuracy & avoid re-printing, the complete season schedule *will not* be available prior to your first game. Your Ralph Park scorekeeper will hand you schedules for your players at your opener.
- ☆ Teams play approximately 12 games
- ☆ Schedules are also added to our softball pages on the web site: [fortparksandrec.com](http://fortparksandrec.com)  
Scores and standings for all leagues will also be updated daily on the web site.
- ☆ Schedules and standings are also posted on the bulletin board at Ralph Park's concession stand shelter.
- ☆ Please notify Fort Parks & Rec. or the scorekeepers if you notice an error in game schedule, time, scores or standings.

### START DATES & LEAGUE DATES OFF (NO GAMES)

#### MONDAY MEN'S LEAGUES

Opening Day: Monday, May 4

Days Off (No Games): Memorial Day (May 25)

#### TUESDAY CO-ED LEAGUES

Opening Day: Tuesday, May 5

Days Off (No Games): Tentatively, no days off

#### WEDNESDAY CO-ED

Opening Day: May 6 or May 13

Days Off (No Games): July 1

#### THURSDAY MEN'S LEAGUES

Opening Day: Thursday, May 7

Days Off (No Games): July 2

#### FRIDAY 30 YEARS & OLDER LEAGUES

Opening Day: Friday, May 8

### About Legal Bats.....

We follow the ASA bat rules (for illegal & legal bats). ALL bats must have the stamp (at right) to be legal. Old ASA stamps are also legal. NOTE: If the bat has the stamp it is legal with exception of some bats failing testing after being stamped. We keep a photo list of these bats at the ball park and it is available online at [softball.org](http://softball.org) – under certified equipment.



It is unlikely Fort Parks & Rec will add bats to the not legal list – unless warranted. HOWEVER, use of an altered bat will lead to a season-long suspension....that is modifying a previously legal bat.

### About Softballs.....

We will be using the same softball as last year – Trump .44 375.

### About Playing Rules.....

We utilize USSSA playing rules, with a few local modifications.

If you need to obtain the league rules specific for Fort Atkinson, they are included with your season's schedule (available at the ballpark on opening night) or stop by the Parks & Rec. Office for a copy of the rules prior to the season.

Fort Parks & Rec provides all of the game balls and they are same make, compression and COR as it has been in recent years.

### About Playing on 2 Teams on Same Night...

Sorry, you can't. Once a player plays in a game on a night, they are not able to play for any other team on that night – even if it is on a team in a different division of play. EXAMPLE: Can't play in both the Thursday Men's D+ and Thursday Men's D.

### About Conduct....

Our umpires don't bet on the games – they simply try to consistently and accurately call each and every pitch & play. Respect our game officials, help keep your players focused on the next play – instead of re-hashing an old call & avoid any trash talking and other forms of conduct that ruin a great playing atmosphere.

### About Umpiring....

Our umpires get paid. If you think you might have an interest in umpiring on your off nights, we may be interested. Umps need to commit to umpiring just two days each month to be considered. Contact the Parks & Rec. Dept. at (920) 563-7781 if interested  
We will train interested candidates.