

HUNTSVILLE SENIOR ROCKETS
LEAGUE RULES AND PROCEDURES
2024

1. The Huntsville Rockets Senior Softball League is a nonprofit entity which functions as a subsidiary to the STUDIO 60 Senior Center, hereafter referred to as the Senior Center.
2. As defined in the Organizational Structure and Bylaws, the management body of the Rockets softball program shall consist of the League Officer's Board, the Senior Center Representative and the City of Huntsville Recreation Services Representative. The League Officer's Board is the governing operational function of the program and consists of the Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Umpire, Facilities and Equipment Manager and the Team Managers. Members of the Board are responsive to the Senior Center and the City of Huntsville Recreation Services Department in accordance to the functional responsibilities spelled out in the Bylaws.
3. The Commissioner is ultimately responsible for the operation of the League and shall be the primary source of contact with the Senior Center and the City of Huntsville Recreation Services. The Vice Commissioner or another appointed League Board member shall assist the Commissioner in carrying out his duties. In the absence of the Commissioner, the Vice Commissioner will assume the duties of the Commissioner.
4. League Board meetings shall be held on a near-monthly basis during the months of February through October. Off-season or special meetings may be held as required. The Commissioner shall convene and chair the meetings at such a date and time that maximum attendance is realized.
5. Normal organizational discipline requires that the League generate and maintain basic operational documents. These include League Rules, Playing Rules and Organizational Structure and Bylaws. Responsibility for preparation of these documents is to be assigned to League officers on a yearly basis in concert with their function in the Board plus willingness and capability to perform the job. The Board must approve the release of such documents.
6. The functions conducted by the Commissioner shall be limited to officiating at League meetings, settling off-the-field disputes that cannot be resolved by Team Managers and attending to matters pertaining to the operation of the League. Other work that requires attention (such as tournament activity, scheduling of games with outside teams, banquet planning, policies and rules and equipment handling) shall be done by designated League officers or committees.
7. The plate umpire will be final authority concerning the conduct of the game and resolving on-the-field disputes. He is responsible for starting and finishing games during allotted times, declaring rain outs and maintaining the necessary game tempo. It is up to the plate umpire, at his discretion, to consult with the Chief Umpire if the latter is available at that time. Detailed functions and responsibilities of the Chief Umpire are contained in the League's Organizational Structure and Bylaws.

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8. New League officers shall be elected each year as follows: Team Managers shall be elected by individual team members and be approved by the League Board. The Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Facilities Director, and Chief Umpire are elected by the Board. The Commissioner will have a term of 2 years beginning 2008.
9. Team Managers form the skeletal structure of the Huntsville Senior Rockets Softball League organization. They have responsibility for all team matters pertaining to their respective teams as delineated in the League Bylaws.
10. League committees will be formed as needed with representation from all teams.
11. Board meetings shall be conducted in accordance to parliamentary procedures and agreed-upon simpler rules of order. League officers are the voting members and their majority vote rules. Tie votes are to be broken by the Commissioner. Officers may designate a representative to vote in their absence.
12. The League officers collectively determine the League rules and playing rules. Board members will consider rule proposals submitted by other League officers and Team Managers. Members must vote on new rules or changes to existing rules.
13. In accordance with League Bylaws, the Facilities and Equipment Manager is responsible for receiving and recording requirements/concerns pertaining to facilities and the playing field and, in conjunction with the Commissioner, serves as the League interface with the Senior Center Representative regarding field issues.
14. All applicants for the senior softball League must fill out the enrollment/emergency form prior to playing in any preseason practice and League games. A new form is required each year. The form must be completed, signed by the applicant and submitted to the Senior Center Representative together with the registration fee (payable to STUDIO 60 Senior Center) in the form of a check or money order. Newcomers to the League are expected to pay the full League fee amount irrespective of how many games remain to be played for the season. The Senior Center Representative, in turn, will give a copy of the form to the League officer responsible for officially registering the player in the League. A League officer may accept registration form and fees on behalf of the Senior Center Representative. The Commissioner or designated League officer is responsible for coordinating with the Senior Center in all matters associated with the registration process.
15. To be eligible to play in the Huntsville Senior Rockets Softball League, a player must be a minimum of 55 years of age by December 31 during the year of his signup. Beginning in 2002 and thereafter, new players are required to provide a copy of their driver's license or photo ID prior to first game of season.

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16. An injured player or spectator will receive first aid for minor scrapes and bruises. 911 will be called for emergency treatment for anything that requires more extensive treatment or hospitalization. Team Managers are strongly encouraged to be aware of player's special health needs and ailments, as they have shown in their registration forms.
17. Individual teams may book games with outside organizations as long as the games do not interfere with League games or activities. If an outside team goes directly to the Senior Center for this purpose, senior League team selection will be done on a rotating basis. The Tournament Committee will select tournament team members and a tournament team field manager will be selected on a yearly basis. No portion of the Rocket's League kitty shall be used to pay for extracurricular tourney fees. Such fees shall be derived from individual contributions by tournament players or by enlisted commercial sponsors.

18. Player Assignments 2024 Season:

Players will not be officially assigned to a team until they have completed and turned in their registration form.

- a. Players will be rated based on their skill level; Groups 1,2,3,4 or 5.
- b. Each Team Manager will begin the draft with no players preselected.
- c. The snake draft method will be used for the player draft. A lottery will be conducted prior to the draft to determine the draft order.
- d. The draft will begin with Team Managers selecting Group 1 players. Team Managers that are Group 1 players will only be allowed to take one Group 1 player (This rule assumes no more than two Group 1 players are available per team). If there are not enough Group 1 players to have an equal number of Group 1 players on each team, the team(s) that have fewer Group 1 players will choose players from the Group 2 list. At the end of the draft and prior to the first game, Team Managers with one less Group 1 player can designate one of their Group 2 players as a Group 1 alternate player. The purpose of the Group 1 alternate player is to allow the Team Manager to select a Group 1 substitute player for the Group 1 alternate player (see Playing Rule 14b). All other Team Managers must be aware of this selection and the Group 1 alternate player cannot change during the season.
- e. After completion of the round where all Group 1 players have been assigned to a team, the Team Managers will select Group 5 players from the draft pool. If a Team Manager is a Group 5 player, he can select a Group 4 player during the first round of Group 5 players. If a Team Manager only has one (1) Group 1 player, he can select a Group 4 player during the first round of Group 5 players. After all Group 5 players are assigned to a team the Team

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Managers will select players from the Group 4 list of players. If a Team Manager is a Group 4 or Group 5 player, he will not be required to take a Group 4 player during the first round of Group 4 players; a Group 3 player can be selected instead.

- f. When all Group 1 and Groups 4/5 players are assigned to a team the Team Managers will draft players that are in Group 2 and Group 3.
 - g. The goal is for the six teams to have an equal number of Group 1 and Group 4/5 players on their roster. For example, if the League has twelve Group 1 players and eighteen Group 4/5 players each team shall have two Group 1 players and three Group 4/5 players.
 - h. A player's spouse will be assigned to the same team as the player.
 - i. At the completion of the player draft and prior to player notification, Team Managers will be able to make trades among themselves. The trades must be equal. For example, a Group 1 rated player for another Group 1 rated player. When the team rosters are finalized, further trades are not allowed. However, the League Commissioner may allow changes to team rosters if it is determined that such changes are in the best interest of the League and are agreed upon by the majority of the Team Managers.
 - j. After player assignments are finalized, a player may request to be moved to another team. However, a player request to move to another team requires the approval of the majority of Team Managers.
 - k. Players registering after the registration cut-off will be placed on a team by the League Commissioner. The League Commissioner, if possible, will maintain a balanced number of players, per team. The League Commissioner will also consider the new players skill level to maintain overall equity of teams. The main consideration in player assignments shall be to enhance League balance.
19. Team jerseys will be purchased on as needed basis. The Facilities and Equipment Manager or designated Board member is responsible for gathering jersey requests from Team Managers. He will examine for accuracy and reasonableness and subsequently submit a work order to our current uniform vendor, The Winning Edge Sporting Goods. The Facilities and Equipment Manager or designated Board member are the only authorized contact with Winning Edge for requesting and retrieving uniforms together with the bill. He, in turn, will submit the bill to the Treasurer for validation and preparation of a request for check from the Senior Center.
20. The Secretary shall assist the Commissioner and the Vice Commissioner in the operation of the League. The Secretary will maintain minutes of each meeting and

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update the League organizational structure, League rules and playing rules as changes are made. New updated copies shall be issued to officers, managers and players as necessary. The Secretary may also be involved in the financial affairs of the League along with the Commissioner and Vice Commissioner.

21. The Commissioner will approve and endorse all ordinary League expenditures, such as jerseys, softballs and fill dirt. Receipts will be submitted to the Senior Center for reimbursement directly to the individual involved. Spending for extraordinary items such as field improvements and major equipment purchases will require Board approval. Billing for light usages is submitted directly to the Senior Center for payment to the City Recreation Services Department. (Note: billing is based on number of actual games that required the use of the field lights.)
22. City of Huntsville Recreation Services has entrusted both our leagues with the capability to access and operate key areas of Fields 1 and 2 such as the score keeping booth in conjunction with field lights and scoreboard, the equipment room below plus equipment on the field itself. The leagues are required to be diligent in doing their part to secure the field after each playing night. Consequently, it has been agreed by the Board that the home Team Manager for the last game on any field is responsible to perform the following tasks: (1) shut off scoreboard and field lights, (2) close and lock viewing window, (3) lock the booth and (4) ensure the equipment room is locked.
23. Unsportsmanlike conduct. A player who is removed from the game by an umpire, usually for an unsportsmanlike act or conduct, is ejected from further game participation. He may not remain in the field area or within sight or hearing distance. Failure to leave the field area will result in forfeiture by the ejected player's team. The ejection will be reviewed by the board for additional disciplinary action including suspension for a number of games or removal from the league. For the game the player was ejected, the team will not be permitted to pick up a player to replace the ejected player and must take an out for every turn at bat the player would have been up in the lineup. The ejected player can be replaced on defense if the team has enough roster players in the batting lineup. In a case where multiple players are ejected the team cannot play below the minimum number of players (eight (8)) and the game will be declared a forfeit.
24. Under no circumstances may any member of the Senior Softball League confront coaches, umpires or players of an organized team external to our League who are, to the best of their knowledge, legitimately occupying Field 1 or 2 at the time we are scheduled. Confrontation is defined as obstructing the playing field or disrupting their game through argument and attempts to move into the field. Such schedule conflicts should be identified to the Commissioner or to the Facilities Manager who in turn will coordinate with the Huntsville Recreation Services for resolution. Any violation of this rule will result in the offender being suspended from play for a period of time agreed upon by the Commissioner, the Senior Center Coordinator, and the Huntsville Recreation Services Zone Coordinator.

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25. Consequence involving a team having an illegal player (such as not registered, under age or ineligible because of failure to play in minimum of games) is game forfeit by the violating team. An illegal player can be declared during the game or any time after the fact.
26. Use of cell phones by either players or umpires will not be permitted on the playing field. The playing field is defined as that enclosed area within the fences including dugouts.
27. Smoking, vaping and drinking alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the playing field. The playing field is defined as that enclosed area within the fences including dugouts.
28. Substitution Rules - Rules concerning player substitution, courtesy runners, minimum player requirements and per-game agreements among Team Managers are delineated in the Rockets Playing Rules.
29. Hardship Clause - The Huntsville Senior Rockets Softball League will honor applicants under financial hardship conditions in concert with requirements, standards and evaluation criteria established by the Senior Center. Such applicants will be required to fill the customary softball League registration form and submit to the Senior Center together with the necessary documentation (forms available from the Senior Center) explaining their financial circumstances. The Senior Center has sole authority and responsibility for making the determination that an applicant is in a financial hardship situation. In such cases, these individuals will still be required to pay the FULL League fee amount (installments may be negotiated) during the official softball season.
30. The Rockets League Board is fully empowered and reserves the right to dismiss from the League any individual whose behavior, attitude or interpersonal relationship with other members is judged to be offensive, disruptive or one considered not being in the spirit of the senior softball program. By the same token, the Board can refuse admittance to the League to any individual who in the past has been known to exhibit such behavior in either this or other sporting organizations.