



## Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Department

30 N. Water St. – W

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

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# 2017 Adult Summer Softball Leagues

## Registration Underway for Weeknight Leagues at Ralph Park Diamonds

Nearly 1,000 players on 55+ teams had almost 25,000 at bats last season in the Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Department Summer 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 Lastuskv @ (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. 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: \$360 TOTAL** (\$220 for player fees & \$140 for sponsor fee = \$360)

\* **Fees cover:** all game balls, umps, 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 10, with 55+ 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.

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

#### (Gold, Silver-Bronze, Novice)

☆ This night of Co-Ed has offered three levels of play during the past couple seasons. The top level involves teams that have a good number of solid players, the middle level has about ½ of the players with good experience & the bottom league tends to have just a couple lead softball players. 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 Wednesday Co-Ed League is open to the mid to lower-level teams – hoping to get a second night of play or the convenience of Wednesday evening play. Teams with more consistent pitching & defense have risen to the top half of the standings. We have been building the number of teams and likely will have two levels of play in '17.

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

☆ The B/C League is likely our strongest level of play in Fort. The D+ league offers some good athletes and the D league is a great starter league or grouping friends together to play. Most D teams have a handful of good athletes/softball players and half that don't have a lot of experience.

### FRIDAY 30 YEARS & OLDER C & D

☆ The C offers some of the best softball in the City from talented veteran players, while the D offers good competition among the weekend warriors. 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 10 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 1.
- ☆ 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 1  
Days Off (No Games): Memorial Day (May 29) & July 3

#### TUESDAY CO-ED LEAGUES

Opening Day: Tuesday, May 2  
Days Off (No Games): July 4

#### WEDNESDAY CO-ED & UNLIMITED ARCH

Opening Day: May 3  
Days Off (No Games): July 5

#### THURSDAY MEN'S LEAGUES

Opening Day: Thursday, May 4  
Days Off (No Games): No days off

#### FRIDAY 30 YEARS & OLDER LEAGUES

Opening Day: Friday, May 5  
Days Off (No Games): June 30

## 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, 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 Wednesday Co-Ed & Wednesday Unlimited Arch League.

## 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.