

2012 Softball League General Information

- ❖ Adult softball team registration will be taken at the Parks & Recreation Office at 1920 Grand Avenue in St. Joseph. **Registration will begin Monday, March 19, and conclude on April 30, 2012.** League nights will be filled on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. If field renovations stay on schedule, league play will begin the week of May 20.
- ❖ League set-up this year will be the same as last summer. When a team registers they will sign-up for a day of the week, instead of a particular league. On the registration form each manager will rate his team's skill/competition level. We will use this rating along with past results from the team and its players to set-up each league.

We will take a limited number of teams for each particular league. During a typical season, we play a two segment season, but this year, due to the late start, we will be playing an eight-game schedule with no league adjustments. Staff will do everything possible to place teams in a division best suited for them, but there are other standards to creating competitive and enjoyable divisions, such as number of teams competing in each.

- ❖ Each team registration must be paid in full and the registration form completed at the time of registration. If you have a special request regarding game times, it must be made during the registration period. A team may request “no” or “limited” early or late games, but not both! All requests will be considered, depending on the number of requests and circumstances we may not be able to honor all requests. **WE WILL TRY!**
- ❖ Each team, no matter how many players will pay the same fee. The team fee for this spring/summer will be \$300.00 for eight (8) games, ten softballs and ASA registration.

It took far too long to develop and build a progressive softball complex. One of the ways we plan on keeping it a high quality, clean and safe atmosphere is to administer a fee (\$1.00) for all who enter the park. This will apply to all (including players, coaches, spectators' etc...) who enter the park which are 13 and older. Children 12 & under will not be charged for admittance. We want to ensure that you, as well as your children in the future, will be able to enjoy this great facility. *Thanks in advance for your patronage and support.*

- ❖ There will once again be an "open" double-header league on Friday nights. This league will not play every Friday, but will play five dates (two games per night) during the season. The fee and total number of games will be the same as regular Men's leagues.
- ❖ Mentioned earlier was the Heritage Park Ball Program, this continues to be a great addition to our program as a whole. We are changing softballs this year to the Worth, synthetic cover, ASA certified (.52 cor, .300 compression rating), private “logoed”, optic yellow balls. Each team must begin each game with a new softball. “Throw-in” balls as the game progresses don't have to be new, but must be able to be identified as a Heritage Park ball. Additional softballs will be sold in the concession stand in the pavilion for \$5.00 each.
- ❖ Team packets that will include schedules must be picked-up the week of May 14, at the parks office. In the pavilion at Heritage Park there will be a posting board, which will have all schedules, standings and make-up information. **NO** schedules will be mailed; you may pickup current schedules at the parks office or check the board at Heritage Park for schedule/league information.

One other area where information regarding the program can be found is the city's website. The site is quite helpful to league teams/participants throughout the season. The web site

address is: <http://www.stjoemo.info/parks/leagues.cfm>. Once you reach the home page progress to the softball page where you will be able to find softball information.

Along with your schedules, team packets will include softballs, rulebook, scorebook, ASA information (State tournaments/Insurance) and the local rule handbook. Each team, which registers in our program, will be registered with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). Information and support from the ASA and the Missouri office of the ASA is very helpful. Both have websites, which provide valuable information regarding various topics including rule changes, bat & ball guidelines, which will be followed by ASA rules on banned bats, championship tournaments and many other topics. The two websites are:

Amateur Softball Association: www.asasoftball.com

Missouri ASA: <http://missouriasasoftball.clubspaces.com>

- ❖ All play at Heritage Park will use the reduced core softballs, one of the guidelines from past leagues will not be used. As discussed earlier, we will group teams each night by competitive level; therefore, we will not use the “home-run” rules/limits this year. Once again, all leagues will use the “double-base” at 1st. Please make sure you and your team are familiar with rules/guidelines concerning the “double-base”.

It is our intention to staff each league game with trained, certified staff. Depending on the night of the week, or specific date, we might not be able to provide a “full staff” (two umpires/one scorer). It is our goal to provide each league with dependable, personable and qualified staff . . . this should be two-umpires/one scorer, but depending on the certified staff numbers game staff will be assigned accordingly. You will always have one ASA umpire on the field for each of your league games.

- ❖ Due to the flood damage and subsequent renovations this year, no practice times will be available at Heritage Park. As soon as the fields are playable, games will begin. We will make the northside complex field available on a "first-come, first-serve" basis on the dates listed below.

May 2 - Noon - 8:00pm

May 8 – Noon – 8:00pm

May 9 – Noon – 8:00pm

May 19 – All Day

- ❖ Payment methods for the softball program will be cash, check or credit card (VISA/MasterCard/Discover). If you pay with a check it must be with one check for the total (not individuals) of the league fees.
- ❖ If a team drops from the league following the deadline, the refund will be subject to a 10% fee. If the schedules have been completed/released and a team drops, the refund will be subjected to a 15% fee.