**THE ST. LOUIS SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

**2024 SPRING/SUMMER SESSION**

**The St. Louis Softball League** will begin its twenty-second season of operation on **Sunday, April 7, 2024**. Leagues will be offered in Forest Park (Aviation Field) and at several South City fields Sunday through Friday. With the exception of specialty leagues, which vary in size and set-up, all single game leagues will consist of **twelve** game seasons. Doubleheader leagues will consist of **twenty-four** game seasons.

Starting times on all **non-lighted fields**, plus all **Sunday** leagues will start on the **hour** (Example – 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., etc.). On **lighted** fields, Monday through Friday, the games will start on the **half-hour** (Example – 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., etc.). Teams must have at least **nine** players to start a game. If, for the 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. games, one or both teams do not have enough players to start a game, the umpire will start the game clock and wait up to **ten** minutes before declaring a forfeit. This will apply only to the 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. games.

Entry fees to participate in the St. Louis Softball League are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12 Games | Lighted Fields | Aviation Field/Forest Park | $610.00 |
| 24 Games | Lighted Fields | Aviation Field/Forest Park | $1,140.00 |
| 12 Games | Lighted Fields | South City Fields | $565.00 |
| 12 Games | Non-Lighted Fields | South City Fields | $505.00 |
| 24 Games | Lighted Fields | South City Fields | $1,045.00 |
| 24 Games | Non-Lighted Fields | South City Fields | $920.00 |

To reserve a spot in a **particular league (category)** on a **particular evening** at a **particular park/field** teams need to send a **non- refundable** $100.00 check, money order or cashier’s check made **payable to the City of St. Louis – The St. Louis Softball League**. Payment should be mailed with a completed and signed application form by **5:00 p.m**. on **Friday, February 16, 2024** to the following address:

The St. Louis Softball League 5600 Clayton Avenue

(in Forest Park)

St. Louis, MO 63110

**Teams can still apply after February 16, 2024, but they are required to send in the full payment along with a completed and signed application.** The deadline for **all** Spring/Summer session applications is **5:00 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2024**. Leagues are filled on a **first come, first served** basis as final payments are made. Also, if a team has sent in a partial payment to reserve a spot on a certain evening/league/category, it is **their** responsibility to send in the balance by or before the due date. **No** second notice or reminder will be sent. Teams that **do not** pay their balances off by the application deadline will **forfeit** their deposits and their spots will be given to other teams.

**Remember** – **NO CASH OR CREDIT CARDS**. THERE ARE **NO** REFUNDS!

The St. Louis Softball League will use the USA rulebook to govern league play with the **exception** of a few **in-house rules**. This information, along with game balls, scorebooks, USA rulebooks, schedules, roster sheets and illegal bat list are contained in the packet that teams pick up after they have paid their entry fees. These items can be picked up at “The Lab” (located on the north side of the Greenhouse in Forest Park next to Highway 40) according to the following schedule:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| South City Leagues | Monday through Friday | March 18-22, 2024 | 3:30 PM-6:00 PM |
| Aviation Field in Forest Park | Monday through Friday | March 25-29, 2024 | 3:30 PM-6:00 PM |

Teams that play in the St. Louis Softball League need to be aware that **glass bottles (of any kind) are not allowed at or near the fields**. This is in accordance with **City Ordinance #76522**. Teams that do not abide by this rule will **forfeit** their games! **This is a safety issue and will be enforced at all times**. Teams that play on Aviation Field in Forest Park need to be aware **that coolers of any kind, buckets and packaged beer/liquor** (opened or not) are also **not** permitted. Teams that do not abide by this rule will forfeit their games! **However**, teams are **allowed**

to bring **a one gallon (or smaller)** thermos as long as it does not contain **beer/alcohol**. In all situations, the manager/coach **should** police their team members to ensure that this does not need to become an issue! Teams should also **clean their bench** when their game(s) are completed.

In 2023, The St. Louis Softball League changed its home run policy (balls hit over established fence) to the “one-up” rule. Teams were allowed to hit more “over the fence” home runs than they were previously allowed to. The past limits were Men’s Super/Competitive (S/C) -9, Men’s Competitive (C) -6, Men’s Competitive/Recreational (C/R) -3, Men’s Recreation (R) -0, Coed Competitive (C) -3, and Coed Recreation (R) -0. There were no limits in Women’s Competitive (C) or Women’s Recreational (R).

Now, for example, a team in the recreational level of play could, in the top of the first inning hit a ball over “an established fenced field” and it would count. That team is now “one up”, home run-wise on the other team. A second “over an established fence” home run in the same half inning would result in two things. One would be an out and the other would end the half inning. The reason for this is simply to keep the game moving. If your team is already “one-up” on the other team in home runs, it makes no sense to continue to do this. And as far as ending the half timing, it allows for more game time. To stand and “admire” a ball hit over an “established fenced field” once a team has already hit their limit means that, that team should probably play in a higher category.

Moving into the bottom of the first inning, the home team could hit two over an “established fenced field” that would count. The first would match the other team’s home run output. The second would put the home team with a “one-up” home run advantage. A third “over an established fenced field” home run would result in an out and end the half inning. In the other classifications, a team in the **Men’s Competitive/ Recreational and/or a team in Coed Competitive could hit up to three (3) home runs** over an “established fenced field”. But before they could hit a fourth home run, the opposing team would have to hit three. After that the “one-up” policy applies. The same would work with **Men’s Competitive -six (6) and Men’s Super Competitive -nine (9).**

**\*Teams that hit over the fence home runs in excess of the limit for their classification/category will have the following action applied – the ball is dead, the batter is out and the inning is over!**

The St. Louis Softball League will hold an end of the Spring/Summer session playoff. The tentative date for the start of the playoffs is Monday, August 19, 2024. First and second place teams from each league and category will qualify for the playoffs. As with the regular session winners, playoffs winners will have their choice of either fifteen (15) t-shirts or one (1) trophy.

**Every attempt will be made to reschedule games lost to rain or wet fields. However, depending on the number of games lost to these conditions, some games may need to be made up later in the season on a different night than originally scheduled or on the weekend. In any case, teams need to be flexible toward the end of the season so that these games can be made up prior to the playoffs.**

As has been the policy for the last twenty-one (21) seasons, **demand will determine play**! If demand for a certain classification/category exceeds that of what is offered on a particular night in a particular classification/category, then the least demanded one will be dropped and the one of more demand will be added.

**Sunday (There will be no games scheduled on Sunday, May 26, July 7, and September 1, 2024)**

**\*10:00 a.m. Starting Time**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PARK** | **FIELD** | **CATEGORY** | **L OR NL** | **PRICE** |
| \*Forest Park | Aviation – SB#1 | **GLASS League** | L | TBD |
| \*Forest Park | Aviation – SB#2 | **GLASS League** | L | TBD |
| \*Forest Park | Aviation – SB#3 | **GLASS League** | L | TBD |
| \*Forest Park | Aviation – SB#4 | **GLASS League** | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB #3 & BB#4 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#1 | Men’s C/R DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#2 | 2 Men’s (R) | L | $560.00 Each |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#3 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#4 | 2 Coed (R) | L | $560.00 Each |
| Arsenal/Francis Slay Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) DH | NL | $455.00 |
| Arsenal/Francis Slay Park | SB#2 | Men’s (R) DH | NL | $455.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | L | $515.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#2 | Coed (R) | L | $515.00 |

**Monday (There will be no games scheduled on Monday, May 27 and September 2, 2024.)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PARK** | **FIELD** | **CATEGORY** | **L OR NL** | **PRICE** |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#3 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#4 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#1 | Men’s (C) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#2 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#3 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#4 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#1 | Coed (R)  | NL | $505.00 |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#2 | Coed (R)  | NL | $505.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#2 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Lindenwood Park | SB#1 | Coed (R)  | NL | $505.00 |
| Lindenwood Park | BB#1 | Coed (R)  | NL | $505.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#2 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Willmore Park | SB#1 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Willmore Park | SB#2 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |

**Tuesday**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PARK** | **FIELD** | **CATEGORY** | **L OR NL** | **PRICE** |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#3 | Coed (C) – ERAC LEAGUE | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#4 | Coed (C) – ERAC LEAGUE | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#1 | Men’s (C) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#2 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#3 | Men’s – Over 60 years old | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#4 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | NL | $505.00 |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#2 | Coed (R) | NL | $505.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#2 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Lindenwood Park | SB #1 & BB#1 | Men’s (R) DH | NL | $920.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#1 | ABEA League | L | TBD |
| Lyon Park | SB#2 | ABEA League | L | TBD |
| Willmore Park | SB#1 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Willmore Park | SB#2 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |

**Wednesday (There will be no games scheduled on Wednesday, July 3, 2024)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PARK** | **FIELD** | **CATEGORY** | **L OR NL** | **PRICE** |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#3 | Coed (R) | L | $610.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#4 | Coed (R) | L | $610.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#1 | Men’s (C) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#2 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#3 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#4 | 1 Coed ® / 1 Coed (C)  | L | $610.00 Each |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | NL | $505.00 |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#2 | Men’s (R) | NL | $505.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#1 | NGA League | L | TBD |
| Lyon Park | SB#2 | NGA League | L | TBD |
| Willmore Park | SB#1 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Willmore Park | SB#2 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |

**Thursday (There will be no games scheduled on Thursday, July 4, 2024)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PARK** | **FIELD** | **CATEGORY** | **L OR NL** | **PRICE** |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#3 | Coed (R) ZMD League | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#4 | Coed (R) ZMD League | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#1 | Men’s (C) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#2 | Coed (C) Advertising League | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#3 | Coed (C)Advertising League | L | TBD |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#4 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | NL | $505.00 |
| Francis Slay (Arsenal) Park | SB#2 | Men's (R) | NL | $505.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#2 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Lindenwood Park | SB#1 | Women’s (R) | NL | $920.00 |
| Lindenwood Park | SB#2 | Women’s (R) | NL | $920.00 |
| Lindenwood Park | BB#1 | Men’s (R) | NL | $920.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#1 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#2 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Willmore Park | SB#1 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Willmore Park | SB#2 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |

**Friday\* (There will be no scheduled games on Friday, July 5, 2024)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PARK** | **FIELD** | **CATEGORY** | **L OR NL** | **PRICE** |
| Forest Park | Aviation – BB#3 & BB#4 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#1 | Coed (R) | L | $610.00 Each |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#2 | Coed (R) | L | $610.00 Each |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#3 | Men's (R) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Forest Park | Aviation – SB#4 | Men's (CR) DH | L | $1,140.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#1 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Berra Park | SB#2 | Coed (R) | L | $565.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#1 | Men’s (R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |
| Lyon Park | SB#2 | Men’s (C/R) DH | L | $1,045.00 |

**\*Announcements:**

**\*UMPIRE CLINICS**

 **For people interested in working as an umpire in 2024, please call Roger Berry at (314)289-5307 for more information.**

**\*SHORT SUMMER LEAGUES**

**The short-summer leagues will start Sunday, June 2, 2024. The application for these leagues will be available on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, on the St. Louis Softball League’s website:** [**www.stlmosoftball.com**](http://www.stlmosoftball.com/)**. These leagues are contingent upon fields being open and available for teams to play on.**

**\*TOURNAMENTS**

**An announcement about several tournaments that will be held over the summer at various parks will be handed out when teams come in to pick up their softball material. A skills contest will be added to one of the tournaments.**

**\*FALL LEAGUES**

**The 2024 Fall Leagues will start on Friday, September 6, 2024. Applications for these leagues will be available on Monday, July 1, 2024 on The St. Louis Softball League’s website. The deadline for application is Friday, August 16, 2024. Leagues will be played in Forest Park (Aviation Field) and Lyon Park SB #1 & SB #2.**

**\*The 2024 Spring/Summer playoffs will tentatively begin on Monday, August 19, 2024. May include league champions from St. Louis County Leagues.**