



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PARKS & RECREATION DIVISION
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"GET INTO THE FUNSHINE WITH PARKS & RECREATION"
"THE BENEFITS ARE ENDLESS"

March 4, 2019

To Our Valued Participants,

In striving to keep improving our softball program, we thought after 15 years it was time to reevaluate and revamp our softball league format. In recent years it has become more and more difficult to have equity in our divisions in the third and fourth seasons due to fewer teams registering for those seasons. We looked at a number of different format options to try to alleviate those issues and presented the Softball Advisory Board with the option of going to a three season format versus a four season format. The Advisory Board unanimously voted to implement a three season format rather than four season but offers more games in each of those seasons. Each season will now offer a 14 game, 8 week season compared to a 10 game, 6 week season.

We also strive to manage costs whenever possible which is evident by having had no fee increases for our softball leagues since 2009, but it is becoming more and more challenging to do this. Due to the recent increases in minimum wage, inflation, price increases and the cost of maintaining an aging facility we can no longer absorb all those costs. With that being said with the new format we have also implemented a slight increase in registration fees for this year and we foresee another increase in next year's fees with the minimum wage increasing by over 12% in 2020.

We at Yakima Parks and Recreation do greatly appreciate you participating in our softball programs and your continued support. We are looking forward to spring weather and to seeing you out at the Gateway Complex in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Tami Andringa
Recreation Supervisor

Bill Wells
Recreation Program Supervisor