

2017 Bloomington Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department

Slowpitch Softball Leagues

RULES & REGULATIONS

Article I - GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Shall be under the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts of the City of Bloomington (*BPARD*) which shall conduct and regulate all League rules and regulations.

Article II - PURPOSES

1. To promote a recreation program for the city and surrounding areas.
2. To create civil betterment, good citizenship, sportsmanship, and active opportunities.

Article III - LEAGUE NAME

Henceforth: Bloomington Parks & Recreation Men's and Co-Rec Slowpitch Leagues:

1. **Men's Open Slowpitch**
 - A. Recreational A
 - B. Recreational B
2. **Co-Rec Open Slowpitch**
 - A. Recreational B
 - B. Recreational C

Article IV - MEMBERSHIP

Teams and Players: Shall be open to all teams/players which believe in and carry out League objectives. They shall fully abide by and live up to rules and regulations of the League. Total number of teams allowed into the League and their class and/or division will be determined by BPARD administration.

Players:

1. Age requirement for men is 18 years of age or older.
2. Age requirement for women is 16 years of age or older.
3. Each player must personally sign roster form. **No manager may sign for a player.**
4. Protest of player eligibility must be submitted in writing within 24 hours of said game with any proof of claim.

New Players:

1. Roster changes must be completed on the official Drop/Add form and turned into BPARD office during hours of operation.
2. May be added to the total team roster by the manager only.
3. Are eligible to participate in League play 24 hours from the time the manager submits a roster addition form to BPARD office.

Rosters:

1. Purpose of signing roster is to insure players participate legally on their respective team. Because of the large number of teams and vast turnover of players throughout the season, BPARD is unable to inform every manager of those changes. Therefore we ask each and every manager's assistance in following the roster regulation. Contact Athletics Program Manager if there are questions concerning eligibility.
2. Roster players may not play on more than one team per league but may play in other leagues as long as they remain in the same league classification. For example: All recreational B players may play in any of the recreational B leagues. **Exception:** Rec B league teams may have no more than two (2) Rec A level players on their roster. Rec A league teams may have no more than two (2) intermediate level players on their roster. NO Intermediate level players may compete on any Rec B or C Team.
3. No overall team rosters will be provided to team managers, other than their own.
4. If League members wish to review a team's roster, a meeting must be scheduled with the Athletics Program Manager at least one day in advance.

5. Rosters are frozen as of June 23 of current season unless total team roster drops below 12 players.
6. No team roster may exceed twenty (20) players.
7. A copy of team rosters will be available on site during post season tournament play. These will be utilized by umpires **only** when an eligibility protest is filed and a decision must be made on site in order to determine who plays the next game **that same night**. Otherwise, the protest procedures of Article IX, rule #10 must be followed.
8. Persons on the "Players Looking for a Team" list are considered free agents and can play anytime without being added to a roster. If someone from list signs an add/drop form, they are no longer free agents and are removed from the list.

Player Eligibility

1. **ALL** eligibility concerns must be initiated by the team manager.
2. When a manager initiates an eligibility concern to the umpires on site, it can either be through an objection or protest.
3. Objection - A manager can object to a player(s) taking the field for the opposing team when said player(s) has played previously that night for another team in the same league. Objections can only be presented to the umpire prior to the start of the game and cannot be changed to a protest later.
4. Objections presented by the manager and upheld by the umpire will result in the game being called a forfeit (if the team now has less than nine eligible players).
5. Protest - Player(s) believed not to be on the official team roster can be protested any time before the final out of the game. Eligibility protests must follow the same procedures that are stated in league rules.
6. A protested game must continue on with play and a decision will be handed down by the League Director in a timely manner.

Article V - General League Information

1. Pitching distance will be 50' and base distance will be 65'.
2. Game balls are provided at the field and will be optic yellow restricted flight ball.
3. Teams must provide their own legal softball bats. Check asasoftware.com to be sure a bat is legal.

Article VI - FEES

1. BPARD will determine amount and deadline of all entry fees assessed each team in League and for all tournaments.
 - A. All leagues - \$400.00
2. Entry fees will be used to defray expense of Leagues/Tournaments.
3. A \$20 fee will be collected each time a team forfeits a league game. Fee must be paid at BPARD office between 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, before the next scheduled game.

Article VII - AWARDS

Each League champion shall receive a first-place award plus individual player shirts. Second place teams will receive a team award. Each post season tournament champion shall receive a first-place award.

If a Men's Rec B or Co-Rec B team has won a league title for two (2) consecutive seasons, that team must attempt to play in a higher level of play, change leagues, or forfeit the rights to league and tournament awards. Exception: If team has less than 50% returning roster & maintains that roster for a minimum of six (6) league games. The Co-Rec C league champion must move up the following season.

Article VIII - RULES AND REGULATIONS (All Leagues)

Note: All BPARD League and Tournament games shall follow A.S.A. rules (*current year*) and BPARD Rules and Regulations (*current year*). **BPARD Rules and Regulations shall prevail in all cases.**

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Team managers are mandatory and held responsible for their players' and spectators' conduct on/off the field of play. Any League member/spectator guilty of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct on City facilities will be reviewed for suspension from League.
2. Any player/coach ejected from a game by an umpire shall be suspended from League participation for a minimum of two full games. Individual may also be ejected from park premise and must leave within one minute, if he continues to act in an unsportsmanlike manner, his team shall automatically forfeit the game if manager and/or captain does not enforce the umpire's ruling. If individual continues to conduct himself in an unsportsmanlike manner, he will be suspended from the League.
3. No individual player may dispute an umpire's call except for the designated manager if he/she does so in a sportsmanlike manner. Violation of Rule #3 shall result in suspension by the Department. **No protest and/or disputing of judgment calls.**
4. Any team which forfeits a game must pay a \$20 fee, which must be paid at BPARD office (*during regular office hours*) before the team's next game. A team which forfeits three scheduled playing dates during the season will be dropped from the League.
5. **Time Rule:** In a league game, no inning starts after one hour of play. Umpire's watch or designated one shall be official. A game called due to time limit will be considered "official" no matter how many innings have been played. It is the team's responsibility to check with the umpire when game starts as to the official time. If the game is tied after 7 innings with time remaining, game will be played to 1-hour limit.
6. A 10-minute grace period for **6:00 p.m. games only** each evening on all fields will be provided. Forfeit will be declared if nine players are not on the field and starting line up has not been submitted to the plate umpire. The 10-minute grace period is only allowed if a team has less than nine players by game time. For all other game times, game time is forfeit time.
7. Visiting team shall use any space available on the first-base side of the playing field for the pre-game warmup. Home team shall use the third-base side unless there is a mutual understanding by both managers to the contrary. Under no circumstances will the infield be used for practice before game time. All teams are expected to cooperate with umpires and ground supervisor in this gesture.
8. Teams must submit to official scorekeeper (*home team*) and umpires, a list of team batting order prior to game. Home team is also required to submit their team batting order if requested by visiting team.
9. **Run Rule:** This rule shall prevail in all league games. A team ahead by twenty runs anytime after three, fifteen after four, ten after five full innings shall be declared the winner. **Note:** Home team will not bat in their half of the inning beginning with the fifth inning if they are leading by the ten-run rule.
10. **Protest:** All protests must be submitted in writing within 24 hours to the BPARD office. Each protest must be accompanied by a \$10 fee. If the protest is honored, fee will be returned. If the protest is disallowed, fee will be deposited into League account. For a protest to be valid, manager must notify plate umpire and **both** managers must sign the scorecard before the next pitch. It is a responsibility of the protesting manager to make sure this is done before the next pitch. If a team protests a game because of a player's eligibility, the player in question must immediately show a picture ID to the home plate umpire who will document the information on the scorecard. If the player in question refused or has no ID, they are ineligible to play that game. Once the protest has been officially filed, the game will continue and a decision will be made by the Athletic Program Manager.
11. Tournament and League games will be operated under a two-man umpire system. All officials will be certified with the A.S.A. and dress according to A.S.A. regulations. Teams cannot protest a game because a two-man system did not operate the game in question.
12. No player will be allowed to play if there is evidence that player has been drinking prior to coming to the game.
13. No player playing professional or semi-professional baseball or softball is eligible to participate in the League.

14. Final standing of each division will be determined by win/loss records. Tie games shall be recorded as such and count as 1/2 win and 1/2 loss. If there is a tie for league championship, tie will be broken by: a) past direct competition between teams, b) number of runs scored between direct competition, c) number of runs scored allowed in season, d) playoff.
15. A change in managers and/or change of mailing address or email of manager must be reported to the Parks and Recreation office. BPARD is not responsible for misdirected mail because of above aforementioned rule.
16. All leagues: Batter begins with a one ball and one strike count. Second foul ball after two strikes is an out.
17. Suspended Games: Games suspended by rain or lightning before 4 complete innings shall be replayed from the beginning at a later date. Games suspended by rain or lightning after 4 complete innings shall be a completed game.
18. Forfeited Games: If a team calls into the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department office to forfeit a game and the game is cancelled, said game will remain a forfeited game.
19. Pitching = The ball must be delivered with arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground. Exception: Maximum pitching arc for Mens Rec A will be unlimited.
20. Strike zone will be determined by a mat placed directly behind home plate. Any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on any part of the mat will be ruled a strike.
21. Double First Base: A batted ball hit over the white portion of the base is fair, over the colored portion is foul. If an infielder is making a throw to first, the batter-runner must use the colored base while the defense use the white base. The infielder must appeal verbally or by tagging the runner before they return to first base if the batter-runner misses first base or uses any part of the white base. The batter-runner can use the white base
 - A. if the ball is hit to the outfield or the infielder is not making a play,
 - B. if the throw is coming from the foul side of the base to avoid a collision.

In any case, after the runner has passed the base, they may return to either portion of the base.
22. Double Home Plate: Any play at home plate requires the catcher to step on home plate only and the base runner will use the mat only. There will be no tags or sliding allowed at home plate.
23. **Home plate force-out rule is used.** Plays at home plate shall be force outs at all times. Catchers will simply step on home plate to put runner attempting to score out. There will be a perpendicular chalk line 20 feet up the third base line, which will determine whether or not the runner advancing toward home plate may retreat back to third base. If runner crosses line and attempts to go back to third he/she should be ruled out immediately.
24. Courtesy Runner: Any eligible player on the official line up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used only once per inning & must be gender specific if used in Co-Rec league play.
25. No Stealing allowed.
26. **Home Run Limits** per team out of the ballpark. Any homeruns hit over the limit will be ruled an out.
 - Co-Rec B & Men's Rec "B" = 2
 - Men's Rec "A" = 5
 - Co Rec "C" = 0
27. **Weather/lightning delay of game rule.** Any on-site cancellation due to inclement weather will be made by the umpire. At the sight of lightning or sound of thunder all players, umpires, and spectators are to report to the nearest safe shelter or enclosed vehicle. The umpire will then wait 20-30 minutes after the last lightning or thunder to resume play.
28. **Heat Issue Policy.** If Temperatures reach 103 degrees and /or a heat index of 107 degrees, adult sport programs will be cancelled. For evening programs, a decision will be made by 5:00 pm regarding program cancellations due to extreme heat. All program cancellations will be announced on the Bloomington Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts hotline (434-2386).

Article IX - Rules and Regulations (Co-Rec League)

1. Teams must have 9 players to start and finish game. When playing with nine, first batter must be gender with 5-players. If a team plays with nine (5 females & 4 males), the tenth batter shall NOT be an automatic out in the batting order. If playing with 4 females & 5 males, there will be an automatic out for the 10th spot in the order.
2. The batting order for Co-Rec softball shall alternate the sexes.
3. **No metal spikes** are allowed in Co-Rec leagues.
4. Co-Rec defensive positioning shall include 2 males and 2 females in the outfield, 2 males and 2 females in the infield, and 1 male and 1 female as pitcher/catcher.
5. If the EP is used in Co-Rec, all 12 must bat, and any 10-5 male and 5 female may play defense. If the EP is used in Co-Rec, 12 players must be used. It is not permissible to use 11 players because of the alternative batters. Defensive positions may be changed as long as the following ratio is used: 2 male/2 female in the outfield, 2 male/2 female in the infield and 1 male/1 female as pitcher/catcher. The batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
6. Any walk to a male batter (*intentional or not*), will result in a two base award. The next batter (*a female*) will bat. **Exception:** with two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
7. In all Co-Rec games, the 12" softball will be used.

Article X - Rule and Regulations (Men's Leagues)

1. Team must have nine players who are on the roster to start and finish a game. There is no penalty (*automatic out*) for only having nine players. **Notice:** When a team is using the EH (*Extra Hitter*)—if a player leaves the game for any reason other than an ejection, and the team has no substitutes, a team can finish with ten, eleventh man would be out in the batting order. However, if a player is ejected—the game would be forfeited.
2. Men's leagues will use a 12" softball for game play.

Article XI - Rain Procedures

1. BPARD will make a decision as to whether or not to cancel scheduled games due to inclement weather after 4:00 pm. Players/managers may call the **HOTLINE at 434-2FUN (2386) or check our Facebook page** to check on the status of their games. **DO NOT CALL THE BPARD OFFICE PHONE NUMBER!**
2. If the decision is **not** cancellation of games, it is solely the umpire's and/or Athletics Program Manager decision whether or not a scheduled game will be played. Teams must report to the playing field or risk forfeit should it be possible to play the games.
3. Under no circumstances will a league or tournament game be rescheduled if teams fail to follow rain procedures.
4. Rain games will be rescheduled at the end of the season, added in as 6:00 pm games, or Sundays, when necessary. Make up games will be posted on site, sent to managers via email, and posted on the sports webpage at **www.bpard.org**

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED
ON ANY PARK PREMISE OR PARKING LOT AREA.