



Men's Softball League

League By-Laws

Spring 2021

Registration

- All teams must be signed up through Bristol Parks and Recreation to participate.
- All players must sign a Bristol Parks and Recreation waiver in order to participate (will be provided to players at their first game).
- No players under 18 are allowed on a team's roster.
- A player is only allowed to participate with a single team and cannot change teams once the season has started.

Game Play I

- Certified umpires will be used as each game.
- ASA Rules / 6'-10' Pitch.
- **Five** over-the-fence home runs per team per game. **Any additional homeruns end the inning and do not count.** Do not run home runs out.
- Teams **MUST** use **ASA** approved bats. Any team caught using a non-approved bat will be removed from the league without a refund.
- Batters come to plate with a 1-1 count, with **1 foul ball** to waste. This means if you hit a foul ball with two strikes, you are out.
- The mercy rule is in effect -- (20 runs after 3, 15 after 4, 10 after 5). If the away team goes ahead by one of these run amounts in the top half of the inning, the losing team still gets their at-bats in the bottom half of the inning.
- Flip-Flop Rule is in effect. Scenario: If Team A is the home team and is trailing by 14 runs going into the top of 5th inning, they become the away team and must score 5 runs in the top of the 5th inning to extend the game.
- League director(s) will provide game balls.
- Teams will flip a coin for home/away game one. Home/away is then switched for game two.

- A full game is seven innings. Tie games will be continued until a team wins.
- No grace period between games.
- In the event of inclement weather, a regular season game is official if the losing team has batted at least 3 times.

Game Play II

- 1 courtesy runner per game (one person per game can be run for by anyone on the bench). This person needs to be designated before the start of the game.
- There is a double base at first base -- white base for defense and orange base for runner.
- No bunting.
- Teams must bat at least 10 players. There is no maximum number of players a team can bat.
- If a team only has 9 players, the 10th batter is an automatic out.
- A player can be added into the lineup after a game has begun. If the team has begun to hit, the player will be added to the last spot in the line-up and the out no longer has to be recorded.
- No metal spikes.
- The hitting team is responsible for getting any home runs and foul balls that they hit.
- All teams must be paid in full before their first game in order to play in the league.
- A team roster will be collected by the end of the fifth week of the season.

Playoffs

- All 8 teams make the playoffs.
- Playoffs will be a double elimination format.
- Playoff games must be completed in full (unless mercy rule applies). If inclement weather causes the game to be postponed, the league director will determine a make-up date and time.
- It is each team's responsibility to make sure they have enough players at a playoff game.
- A player must play in at least one-third of a team's regular season games to participate in playoffs; league director(s) will do their best to monitor this. **Rosters will be collected no later than the end of Week 5.** Players who join teams after this can be added onto rosters but will not be eligible for playoffs.
- The higher seed will always be the home team throughout playoffs.
- The team entering the finals undefeated will automatically have their choice of home/away in the first game of the championship. If there is a winner take all IF game, then a double coin flip will be used to determine who is home/away.

Sportsmanship

- Sportsmanship is expected by players at all times.
- Treat the umpire and league director(s) with respect.
- Umpires and league director(s) have full discretion to eject a player from a game.

- Any player ejected from a game an umpire or league director will have to sit the next game.
- Any player ejected twice in the same season will forfeit his right to play in the Bristol Softball League and a refund will not be given.

Field Usage

- In inclement weather, the league director(s) will determine if a field is unplayable.
- All players must be out of the park when the lights are turned off.
- Players are not allowed to do any maintenance on city fields.
- Keep dugouts clean and throw away all garbage.