

BELLEVUE RECREATION

Adult Softball Tournament Rules, Regulations & Procedures

(Revised July 2024)

The Recreation Ministry Hotline is 901-347-5286. This is updated if games or practices have been canceled. **Do not** go out onto the fields for safety and liability reasons.

Current Independent Softball Association (ISA) rules govern play except the variations denoted here. The Bellevue Recreation Ministry (BRM) reserves the right to modify rules, regulations and policies whenever due cause warrants a change.

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

All players must have personally registered prior to participation. The maximum number of players on a team shall be 14. Failure to comply subjects a team to forfeiture of games in which ineligible player(s) participated, and sanctions for the illegal participant and team captain.

Each team is allowed 2 emergency substitution players; Each of which is allowed to be used on 2 nights during the season. Emergency subs are not allowed to be used during the tournament.

1. 1) All participants must present a picture ID, upon request, as proof of identity. Participants who refuse to produce a picture ID when requested are subject to ejection and additional sanctions.
2. 2) Participants who misrepresent their identity for participation purposes and/or team captains who falsify player identities will be ejected and barred from BRM tournaments/leagues for up to one year.
3. 3) A player may not compete on multiple teams in the same division.

GAME PROTOCOL, FORFEITS, TIME LIMITS

A. A regulation game is seven innings or 60 minutes of play, whichever comes first.

B. There is a 5-minute grace period to help prevent forfeits. The game clock will start at the scheduled time.

C. No new innings begin after 55 minutes of elapsed game time. All new innings starting prior to the 55-minute limit are completed (unless weather or other unforeseen circumstances force a game to be called early). A new inning starts when the third out is recorded in the bottom half of the inning.

• If a game is tied after seven innings and time remains on the clock, an additional inning(s) may be played using ISA tie-break procedure (the last batter from the previous inning will start on second base and every batter will start with a full count).

D. A team must always field eight players, otherwise a forfeit is declared.

- Late-arriving players included in the original batting order are not considered an “out”.
- Players arriving late are entered at the bottom of the lineup.

E. If a game is called before the end of an inning due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, the final score will be taken from the last completed full inning, or if the home team is ahead when the game is called. The last full inning completed determines whether the game is considered “official” (3 innings).

F. Run Ahead Rule. The game is considered complete and over when a team leads by at least

15 runs after three innings, by at least 12 runs after four innings, 10 runs after five innings.

G. TOURNAMENT RULES: During post-season play, time limits will apply. Only in the Championship Game will time limit not apply. Time Limit, seven innings or the “Run Ahead Rule” must be reached to be considered a completed game.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Games will be suspended for 15 minutes after each lightning strike. If lightning strikes a second time the time will reset. If lightning strikes a third time during the initial 15 minutes the games will be canceled. If the current hour games are suspended all later games will be suspended.

SCOREKEEPING

BRM will provide a scorekeeper for games.

- The official lineup card (containing complete information) is due to the umpire prior to the designated game time. Failure to comply will result in an out assessed at the start of the game for the offending team.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

A. Teams must retrieve their own softballs, and the game clock will not stop.

B. Teams supply their own equipment except the game ball.

C. Metal or ceramic cleats are not permitted at any time. Umpires will determine if a shoe is a potential safety hazard.

D. Teams must all wear a BRM jersey in order to play. In the event of cold or inclement weather, players may wear jackets or sweaters over their uniforms.

E. Teams will place bats outside their dugout prior to game time for inspection by the game officials. Any late arriving bats will need to be brought to an umpire for approval prior to use.

F. Participant(s) or team who conspire to introduce illegal, altered or non-approved equipment into a game(s) shall be suspended from softball participation at BBCSC softball tournament.

BATTING ORDER/BATTING

A. All players present will be included in the batting line-up at the start of game and will not change, regardless of substitutions made in the field. The only changes that can be made will be the result of an injury or emergency. If only 9 players are present, there will not be an automatic out for the normal 10 player batting order.

- 1) 8 is the minimum number of players allowed, with eight there will be an out every time the ninth position rotates through, but no out for the tenth.
- 2) Players arriving late may be included on the bottom of the batting.

B. If a player is injured during the game or must leave early, he or she may be removed from the batting order without penalty (unless the team drops below the 8-player minimum).

C. Each batter begins an at-bat with a 1-and-1 count.

D. The ISA foul-tip rule will be used. After two strikes, if the ball is hit foul, the batter is given one additional strike.

E. If batter hits an over-the-fence home run, the batter is not required to touch the bases or home plate.

F. HOME RUN RULE. Limit of 5 “over the fence” home runs per game “**with no one up rule**”. All home runs in excess of this limit will be counted as outs, with no advancement by base runners.

PITCHING

A. Pitching arc is 4 feet (minimum) and 10 feet (maximum) with the ball hitting behind the plate for a called “strike”.

B. Minimum pitching distance is 50 feet.

C. Pitchers must come set for at least one second prior to releasing the ball.

D. Any underhand pitching motion is permitted; behind the back and between the Legs is prohibited.

E. Pitchers must use the 12-inch softball for male batters. If the batter hits the wrong size ball and the mistake is immediately discovered, the batter may choose to re-do the at-bat.

F. If permitted by the umpire due to time considerations, a pitcher may throw a maximum of three warm-up pitches each inning or upon entering the game in relief.

G. If a pitcher decides to intentionally walk a batter, he or she should notify the umpire. In order to save time, the batter is automatically awarded first base.

H. A pitching net will be provided for the pitcher’s safety and must be used.

- 1) The screen will directly face home plate within one to four feet in front of the pitching rubber.
- 2) The screen must be placed to the outer left side of the pitching rubber for a right-handed pitcher, and to the outer right side of the pitching rubber for a left-handed pitcher to maximize the pitcher’s safety.
- 3) Any batted ball striking any portion of the screen as observed by the umpire will be declared a foul ball

and will be dead ball. All thrown balls are in play.

4. 4) Once the screen is in position it becomes part of the field and may not be thrown aside to accommodate

a throw from the outfield.

BASERUNNING/COURTESY RUNNERS

A. Teams are allowed one courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner must always be the last person in the line-up to have made an out, and may only be a substitute runner once during the inning. This courtesy runner can replace any base runner (injury, slow, pitcher, etc.).

B. Courtesy runner designation must be declared prior to the next pitch.

C. Stealing is not permitted.

D. Leading off is not permitted. Base runners must be in contact with a base when the pitch is thrown and until contact is made by the batter.

E. Players are required to slide or give themselves up in order to avoid contact with a defensive player or interfering with an attempt with or on the ball.

F. Bases will be set at 70' for men's divisions and 65' for coed divisions.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Improper attitude will not be tolerated. There will be no questioning or arguing about judgment calls, and rule infractions may be handled by **the coach only**, and only in a proper manner. Any player ejected from a game will not participate in the next game and meet with a full-time Recreation Ministry staff member to receive re- instatement. Any action taken by umpires is subject to review for further action from the Recreation Staff.

A. The captain is the official representative of their team unless another player designates them self as team captain to the umpire and/or scorekeeper prior to the game. The captain is responsible for their team (and spectators associated with the team) abiding by rules, procedures and regulations.

B. Any player physically attacking or striking an umpire, scorekeeper/supervisor, player or spectator before, during or after games shall face expulsion from the league and criminal charges.

C. Destruction of property, theft or assault before, during or after activity will be handled by law enforcement. Individuals and teams will be held responsible for any damage or theft stemming from their use of the facility. **D.** If ejected, participants or spectators must depart the softball complex within five minutes, or the team associated with the offending individual will forfeit the game. The game will not resume until the ejected player has departed the complex, and the countdown clock will not stop unless the umpire or scorekeeper deems the ejection is a delay tactic.

E. A player or team expelled from a league will not receive a refund.

PARK RULES/FIELD USAGE

Teams using BRM park facilities must abide by BRM codes, ordinances and posted park rules, including prohibitions of:

- 1) Smoking or tobacco products (including vapor cigarettes)
- 2) Alcohol
- 3) Pets (except service animals)
- 4) No scooters, bikes, rollerblades, or skateboards
- 5) Parking in designated no-parking areas (e.g. along yellow curb paint)

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Any visible blood stains on clothing must be taped over or removed entirely. Numbers are not required for those needing to change shirts due to blood stains.

B. Wearing jewelry is discouraged for safety reasons.

C. Tournament seeding is determined by regular season win-loss records. Ties are broken using the following criteria:

- 1) Winning percentage
- 2) Head-to-head outcome
- 3) Record vs. common opponents
- 4) Total runs allowed

D. Unsupervised children and their parents may be asked to leave the facility by the site supervisor. Children are not permitted in team areas (“dugouts”).