

LEXINGTON MENS' SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

League By-Laws As adopted May 14, 2021

Voting and league meetings

At the first meeting of the new year there shall be a vote to determine the league commissioner and other league officers for the upcoming year.

Each team shall have one vote with a majority necessary to make a rule change. In the event of a tie, the League Commissioner will cast the deciding vote.

Eligibility

The league shall consist of seven teams for the 2021 season. Each team's roster shall consist of no more than 25 players. Rosters must include each player's name, address, date of birth, e-mail address, and at least one telephone number. During the season, each team may make changes and/or additions until July 1. A final roster will be distributed by the Commissioner shortly after July 1. A pool of players will exist, or players from other teams asked to play in order to avoid a forfeit by a team that can not field at least 8 men.

Rules for 2020 Season:

Player Eligibility

The minimum age requirement is 45 on or before May 1, 2020 with the following exception, a team is allowed two players on their roster between the ages of 40 and 44.

In addition to submitting a photocopy of a driver's license to the League's Roster Agent **New players** must meet one of the residency/local connection criteria:

Player must have attended school in Lexington

or

A resident of Lexington

or

Work in Lexington

or

Must have been a member of the Lexington Mens' Softball

Rules of Play

ASA rules will govern league play with the following exceptions:

1. The number of innings played to constitute a complete game will be nine innings. A game will be considered “official” providing at least 4 ½ innings have been played with the home team ahead, or 5 innings if the visiting team is ahead. In the event a game cannot continue due to weather, the score at the end of the last inning will be held as the official score.
2. All batters will begin their at-bat with a count of one ball and one strike.
3. A batter will be called out after the second foul ball is hit following a two strike count.
4. The home team will occupy the bench on the first base side of the field.
5. A five minute grace period will be allowed if a team does not have the minimum players for play. Suggestion - that the managers consider playing a shorter game before the start if daylight will become **an** issue (2016).
6. All players who are present at the start of a game must be included in the lineup. Otherwise they are considered ineligible to play for that evening. A player who is present may be eligible for “Reported not Available” status for playoff eligibility (see playoffs).
7. A player arriving late to a game will be inserted into the bottom the order.
8. The batting order shall consist of all players present for play. Once assigned a slot in the batting order, the player must bat in that position only. Fielders, including pitchers, may be freely substituted throughout the game.
9. The batting slot for a player injured or has otherwise departed the field of play will be skipped in the batting order without an out be recorded.
10. A team may start a game with seven players, with the catcher being supplied by the opposition. When an eighth player arrives supplying a catcher by the opposition becomes optional by the opposition. A Gentleman’s agreement between the 2 coaches can be used to supply a team short of players to use an opposing team player for defense only. That player will still bat only with his team.
11. If an umpire does not report for a scheduled game, each team will provide an umpire who will share umpiring duties for the game. Each team’s umpire will umpire behind home plate when his team is at bat. As an alternative, in the event that both teams agree, a bystander may be used as umpire. This rule applies to regular season games only.
12. If a player is ejected from the game by an umpire, he will automatically be ejected for an additional game effective immediately. If that same player is ejected from another game within the same season, he will be barred from

league play for the remainder of the current season, including playoffs. Further disciplinary action may be taken by a committee consisting of each team's manager or his chosen representative and the league commissioner.

13. Any/all game postponements go through and will be communicated by the Commissioner.
14. Players who are unable to run must be designated at the start of the game, unless the player sustains an injury during the game.
15. When necessary, courtesy runners will be allowed, but only in the event of an injury. In this case, the substitute runner shall be the player on the bench who made the last out.
16. If, after 7.5 innings of play, one team leads by 10 runs or more, the game is over IF both coaches agree to end the game (aka it's optional). The score at the time play has stopped will be the final score.
17. Flip-Flop Rule - If after 7 ½ innings a team is trailing by 10 or more runs. The trailing team may with approval of the team ahead bat consecutively in the 8th inning & 9th innings. If they take the lead then the fielding team would get an equal number of at bats.
18. No full inning shall begin after 8:10pm for a 6:30pm game scheduled at Center 2. The inning will be played to its normal completion, whereupon the umpire shall declare the game over and the game's results become final.
19. No team member or anyone associated with any team may tamper with the playing surface, backstops or fences prior to any game. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the forfeit of the game by the team responsible.
20. A double sided 1st base will be used.
21. The base lengths will be 65 feet.
22. The pitch height must be a minimum of six feet and a maximum of twelve feet else the umpire shall immediately call the pitch illegal.
23. The official ball of the league is the Dudley model # "SB-12L Y RF FP" 12" leather, fast pitch, .47 Cor. With 375 pounds compression and of yellow/green color.
24. 3 outfielders shall be at least a minimum of 150 feet from home plate as up to the point that the ball crosses the plate (2016).
25. Pitchers mask is optional. In future this may become mandatory.

25a **SECOND BASE OVER RUN RULE:**

In attempt to make plays at second base safer for all concerned the following rule will be enforced.

On a force play at second base, the runner moving from first to second base will be allowed to overrun second base without consequences. The above rule will be subject to the following conditions:

1. This will apply only to force plays
2. This will apply to second base only
3. The runner must run a straight through the base in the direction of the outfield
4. This will apply to only balls fielded by the identified 4 outfielders.

5. The runner must avoid the fielder while the fielder is making a play at second base. If necessary to avoid contact, the runner should touch the bag/ground as close to the bag as possible as the runner runs past the bag. The umpire will consider this as the runner "touched" the bag. The fielder may not block the runner from reaching second base without the ball or while not making a play for the ball
6. If the runner overruns second base and then decides to proceed to third base the runner must go back and touch second before proceeding to third.
26. Short fielders (1 of the 4 designated outfielders) must identify themselves to the umpire by raising his hand prior to the first pitch.
27. Wooden bats will now be used by all teams. Wooden Composite Bats will be allowed with the exemption of playing teams that choose to "opt-out" of using wooden composite bats. If a team opts-out both teams will use wood only bats. Once a teams opts-out of using wooden composite bats they become a wood bat only team for the remainder of the year. **A team may opt-out by declaring such at a league meeting or an email to all the other coaches and the Commissioner. Wood Bat ONLY Teams for 2021 Goodtimers**
28. The new format is one 7 team league.
29. All teams will be issued a bat ring so as to ensure any new bat purchased passes the test. This should eliminate purchasing a bat only to find out later that it does not pass the "ring" test.
30. Forfeits and cancellations. If a team cannot field a team (7 players), the game will be awarded to the opponent and recorded as a forfeit with a score of 9-0. If a team has indicated that they cannot field a team, and on the day of the scheduled game the fields are closed by the town of Lexington. The game will be recorded as a rainout and not a forfeit. If both teams mutually agree and fields and umpires are available, an attempt to reschedule will be made.
31. If a team does not have 7 players it will be allowed to have players from the other 6 teams to allow that team to field a team and avoid a forfeit.

Scheduling

For scheduling purposes, the league is now a 7 team league.

The schedule will be posted prior to the first game on www.Quickscores.com/lexsenior

Playoffs

At the end of the season, all teams will be involved in a 1 playoff to determine a Champion. The format will be double elimination playoffs. The seeding of teams are based on the final standings. The following tie-breakers will apply in the event two teams finish with the same record:

- a) Head to head records
- b) Total runs scored differential in head to head games
- c) Winning team in the last head to head game

The following tie-breakers will apply in the event three or more teams finish with the same record:

- a) Best Overall Won/Loss Record among teams with the same record (against each other)
- b) Total runs scored differential in head to head games among teams with the same records
- c) Highest seeding based on last year's regular season finish

In the double elimination tournament the home team will be determined as follows:

In the same bracket (winners/losers) the highest seed is always the home team. When a team from the winners bracket plays a team from the losers bracket, the team coming from the winners bracket will be home regardless of seed.

Finals: The winners bracket finalist, regardless of their seeding, will have the choice as to whether to be the home or visiting team in Game 1. For the second game (if necessary) the teams will swap home/visitor positions from the previous game.

To be eligible to play in the playoffs, players must have played in a minimum of **5** games during the season. (In event of a shorten regular season the minimum number of games will be reduced by one for every two games not played by his team during the regular season). A player will be credited with a game for playoff eligibility under the following "special situations":

- a) A player reporting to a regularly scheduled game, and did not play, yet stayed for the entire game, his status would be listed as “Reported Not Available”.
- b) All players on the team receiving the forfeit will get credit for a game played. None of the players on the forfeiting team will be credited with a game played.

Eligibility will be determined by the commissioner at the end of the season by reviewing “scorebooks” that will be supplied by each team.

All playoff games must last a minimum of 9 innings, or 7 (6 1/2 innings if home team is winning) in the event of weather or power outage if the manager of the team that is trailing at the time agrees to accept the game as completed. However, if the team that is trailing is behind by more than 15 runs, the game will be considered completed.

Playoff dates will be announced as field availability for the league is determined.

Two umpires shall be assigned to the second round of playoffs.

Town By-Law on Public Drinking

Drinking of alcoholic beverages before, during or after the game on Town Recreation property will result in the permanent suspension of the player(s) involved. The team manager is responsible for his conduct and that of the players both on and off the field as well as any spectators.

Insurance

As part of the team registration fee, League Offices are covered with 2 million dollars of general liability insurance. The fee is \$40.00 per team each year.

The Town of Lexington requires a copy of a certificate of insurance. It must be for a minimum of \$1,000,000 general liability insurance and the Town of Lexington named as additionally insured.

Uniforms

Players should wear matching softball shirts. Full uniforms are optional.

Dues

The entrance fee will be \$1,100 for each team for the 2021 season. This fee, which includes all fees paid to the Town of Lexington for lights and fields as well as fees paid

to umpires, is due by May 31, 2021. The amount must be paid on one check, be payable to "Lexington Sr. Men's Softball" and be handed to treasurer Bill Popkin.

Officers

The manager of each team is a league officer and is entitled to one vote for his team in all league matters.

Commissioner- Gene Kalb
Assistant Commissioner - Mark Bergeron
Treasurer- Bill Popkin
Manager - Frank Nestico
Manager - John Devlin
Manager - Eric Steinkrauss
Manager - Gene Kalb
Manager - Peter Lee
Manager - Bruce Greenberg

Responsibilities of the Commissioner

The Commissioner shall:

- Be the liaison between the league and the Town of Lexington.
- Prepare and distribute the league schedule and by-laws.
- Coordinate and conduct league meetings.
- Coordinate the rescheduling of all postponed games, as necessary.
- Resolve all disputes as determined by these by-laws.
- Rule on any discrepancy, misinterpretation, or ambiguity.
- Casts the deciding vote in the event the vote of managers results in a tie.
- Update and distribute By-laws prior to start of the regular season after reviewed by the assistant commissioner.

Responsibilities of the Assistant Commissioner

- In the absence of the Commissioner, acts with full authority of the Commissioner.

Ground Rules

Please remember that umpires need to be notified no later than 4:30pm if a game is going to be cancelled.

Center 2 Ground Rules:

1. An imaginary line shall extend straight out at the end of the 1st & 3rd base screens, any ball that passes that line shall be declared dead.

Right Field:

2. Batted balls clearing the fence on a bounce, in fair territory, are considered to be a double. Outfielders are asked to raise their hands to indicate a ball has bounced over the fence. The same rule will apply if the ball should go under the fence in any field.
3. Fly balls hitting trees: If a fair ball hits a tree whose base is on the field of play, the tree is treated like a wall, if the ball bounds back on to the field of play, the ball shall still be in play, however, if the ball is caught off the tree, it shall not be called an out.

Additional rules - all fields:

1. Balls passing through a hole or gap in the backstop and entering foul territory are a dead ball.