

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

2022 ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **General.** This league is sponsored by Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Department and shall be governed by the following rules and regulations as adopted by team representatives. Contact for Adult Softball will be Justin Petock (843-962-2283 or justin.petock@bcgov.net).

- **League Committee.** The following people shall serve to draft, interpret and enforce the rules and regulations of this league:
 - 1) Shannon Loper
 - 2) Matt Watts
 - 3) Evan Christian
 - 4) Justin Petock
- **Protests.** All protests must be filed, in writing, within 24 hours after the completion of the protested game. Additionally, a \$25.00 filing fee must be made at the time the protest is filed and made payable to Friends of Youth Athletics in Beaufort County. Umpire judgment calls are not to be protested. The committee will rule on all protests within 48 hours of the filing. All decisions made by the committee are final. In the event a protest is upheld, the filing fee shall be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the filing fee shall be used for the purchase of equipment for Parks and Recreation Department athletic fields.
- **Insurance.** Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Department does not provide any insurance for its adult participants. Teams and team members play at their own risk.
- **Team Registration Fees.** The cost for participating in this league will be \$450. This fee goes towards paying for an umpire, balls, chalk, and field maintenance. All team registration fees are due on specified date. There are no exceptions!
- **Alcohol and Drugs.** Absolutely no alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed on Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Department facilities. Consequences for violations are:
 - 1st Offense: The team will be suspended until a \$100 fine is paid to Beaufort County. The manager is responsible for the entire team.
 - 2nd Offense: The team will be suspended until a \$100 fine is paid to Beaufort County. The team will also forfeit game(s) played on that date.
 - 3rd Offense: The team will pay a \$100 fine to Beaufort County. Team will forfeit the remainder of the season, along with the entire team roster will be suspended for 1 year.
 - Notes: For players / coaches to be under the influence of alcohol and or drugs while playing softball is prohibited. The umpire or the Parks and Recreation Department staff member in charge will remove any player(s) if they suspect alcohol or drugs have been used.
- **Tobacco.** Tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, E-Cigs, Vape, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip or any other tobacco or tobacco derived substance) are not permitted on Beaufort County property (includes on the field, outside the fenced areas, in the parking lot, etc.).

2. Eligibility.

- **Rosters.** A maximum roster size of 22 players (including managers and coaches). Rosters are locked in the day before your games (Ex. If your game is on Tuesday, your roster is set as of Monday – no player will be eligible if they register the same day as their game). No changes or add ons to rosters can be made at the field. NO CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO ROSTERS AFTER SUNDAY, MAY 1st. Only those listed on the rosters are permitted on the field or in the dugout. No scorekeeper slot will be permitted, all players on the roster must be eligible to play in the games. All players must always have a picture ID accessible. If a player is on the field and he/she can't produce a picture ID they will be removed from the game. If the player is found to be ineligible the game will be a forfeit. Team reps can call Justin Petock (843-962-2283) or check the team's captain page on RecDesk for an up-to-date team roster.

- **Multi-League Participation.** All men's league players are also eligible to participate in the Co-ed league. Players can move up or down one division. Two (2) player max per team (Ex. A team in the Silver League can only have two (2) players on their roster that are also participating in the Gold League). Explanation of who can move where below:

- Gold League – Players in the Gold League may also play in the Silver League.
- Silver League – Players in the Silver League may also play in the Gold or Bronze Leagues.
- Bronze League – Players in the Bronze League may also play in the Silver League.

Any team in violation will be subject to the consequences under Ineligible Player

In an event that there's not enough teams to provide three (3) open divisions (Gold, Silver, and Bronze), players can only play in one (1) open division. For example, if there's only enough teams to have a Gold and Silver division, players can only play in one (1) or the other, not both. If the Co-Ed division is ever combined with another division, that division is no longer classified as "Co-Ed" and the above rule applies in terms of player participation.

- **Waivers.** Each player would need to register on www.bcscrec.com. Players may also register at either recreation centers – Buckwalter Recreation Center or Burton Wells Recreation Center.
- **Uniforms.** All players are required to play in a numbered uniform, jersey, or similar colored T-shirt (no similar colored t-shirts will be allowed after Sunday, May 1st, 2022. Your team must have the entire uniform by Sunday, May 1st, 2022.
- **Team Names.** Beaufort County P&R will determine the appropriateness of team names at the discretion of the league committee and can have teams change names when deemed inappropriate.
- **Switching Teams.** A player may switch teams only with the consent of both team's coaches and the approval of Parks and Recreation Department. The change must be reported to Parks and Recreation Department prior to the next scheduled game. After Sunday, May 1st, 2022, there will be no changes. Players may not move from one league to another (i.e. - Gold to Bronze) after the 1st scheduled game.
- **Tournament Eligibility.** All players on the roster are eligible for the tournament.
- **Ineligible Players.** Consequences for violations are:
 - 1st Offense: Forfeit of all game(s) ineligible player participated in.
 - 2nd Offense: Team is ineligible for the tournament.
 - 3rd Offense: Team will forfeit the remainder of the season, and the entire team roster will be suspended for 1 year.

3. Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

- **General.** Unsportsmanlike conduct, either on the field or within the confines of the field, will not be tolerated. This applies to teams, individual players, coaches, and spectators. Violators are subject to appropriate action by the league committee and/or BCP&R, including suspension or expulsion from the team or the ball park.
- **Suspensions and Fines.** Any coach or player ejected from a game by the umpire or Parks and Recreation staff will be subject to the following penalties before being reinstated:
 - Suspension for the remainder of that night's games
 - Suspension for the team's next games (2 games) and not permitted to be on Beaufort County property for the team's next games
 - Pay a \$50.00 fine to Beaufort County
 - Umpire one night (two games) for another softball league

A second ejection thereafter will increase the fine, for that individual, to \$100 and suspend them for the remainder of the season. This includes tournament games. This money will be used to finance youth sports scholarships. Number of ejections will also be the first tie breaker for playoffs/seeding – the team with the least amount of ejections (hopefully NONE!) will win any tie breaker scenarios.

- **"Flagrant" Misconduct.** If, in the sole discretion of the umpire or Parks and Recreation Staff, such an ejection is due to flagrant misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct, then the following penalty will be imposed: a fine of \$100.00 payable to Beaufort County will be levied and a five game suspension will be imposed. Additionally, the offending individual may be subject to banishment from the league. The

League Commissioner will rule on this decision, and all decisions are final. “Flagrant” misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Intentionally trying to cause injury to another player.
 - Pushing or striking an umpire or league official.
 - Excessive verbal abuse of an umpire or league official.
 - Fighting or striking an opposing player or coach.
- **Ejections and Multi-League Play.** If a player is ejected from any game and plays in two leagues, that player must sit out the suspension time for both leagues and face the other ejection penalties before that player can play in ANY League game.
 - **Notification Responsibilities.** In the event of an ejection, the umpire shall notify the BC P&R representative / office of the number, name, and team of the ejected individual(s). In the event the ejection was for “flagrant” misconduct, the umpire shall notify the league committee within 24 hours by a written report of the incident.
 - **Illegal Bats.**
 - All bats must be label “Slowpitch Softball” bat and have the official ASA/USA Softball logo stamp/sticker on the bat. All coaches are ultimately responsible to make sure their team’s bats are legal for play.
 - If you have a question about a bat, you may ask the umpire to check the bat for the “ASA” or “USA Softball” stamps, to make sure the bat is legal. If the bat is found to be illegal the owner of the bat will face the punishment below.
 - If there are further questions on the bat, teams can request the bat to be compression tested by a Beaufort County P&R representative. Every compression test request will require a \$50 fee before testing. Once a player walks up to the plate with a bat that will be considered intent to use that bat. The bat will be removed from play immediately and play will not stop for testing. Only the “team contacts” from each team are welcome to be present for testing. USA compression standards will be used to determine the legality of the bats, visit teamusa.org/USA-Softball/certified-equipment for more information.
 - If compression tester is not on site the bat in question will be removed from play immediately and tested the next morning. Any bats removed will be returned to the owner and the following results will be applied.
 - The same bat cannot be tested twice in one night.
 - If the bat is found to be LEGAL, the bat will be returned to the owner and the testing fee will not be returned to the challenging team and used to purchase equipment for Beaufort County P&R leagues. Teams will have a limit of 3 incorrect challenges per season. If this limit is reached the offending team will lose their right to request bats to be compression tested. The intention of this rule is for safety purposes and not to be used to gain a competitive advantage.
 - If the bat is found to be ILLEGAL, the testing fee will be returned to the challenging team. The offending team will forfeit the current game and the OWNER of the bat must pay a fine of \$50 to Beaufort County P&R and will be suspended for the remainder of the current night’s games and the team’s next games. If this player is on multiple teams they will not be permitted to play on those teams until their entire suspension is served. If the owner of the bat is found a second time with an illegal bat, they will pay a fine of \$100 and be suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - Fines must be paid to Buckwalter Recreation Center (905 Buckwalter Pkwy, Bluffton) before the player can play in any league games.
 - Free compression tests will be available at the coaches meeting at the beginning of the year. A bat testing legal at the coaches meeting DOES NOT guarantee the bat will be legal for the entire season.

4. Game Play Rules.

- Any gameplay rules not specified in this document will follow the updated ASA/USA Softball official rules.
- Pitching Height: 6 to 10 feet

5. Player Minimum.

- A team must have a minimum of nine (9) players to start a game. If a team does not have 9 players they may borrow a player from the opposing team only. If this occurs, the game will be considered a forfeit for the team with less than 9 players. You can still play, with no umpire, if you would like but it will go down as two (2) 7-0 wins for the team with 9+ players.
- If both teams have enough players to begin play the game will **start on time/as scheduled** or when the last player arrives. If late players show up they can be added to the lineup once they arrive. The grace period for either game will not be used to allow “starters” to arrive.
- A coed team must consist of ten (10) players **of which at least four (4) are female**.
- If a coed team chooses to use an “extra hitter”, the teams will have to fulfill one of the following options:
 - The “extra hitter” must be a female (batting 11)
 - If the “extra hitter” is a male, the batting order must consist of at least five (5) females (batting 12). M,F,M,F,M,F,M,F,M,F,M,M
- A team may finish the game with 3, 2, or 1 female(s) only in the event of injury. **Girls may play anywhere.**
- A coed team can start a game with three (3) female players but can only play nine (9) players until/unless a fourth female arrives.
- If a team is playing with only three (3) females they **WILL NOT** be allowed an extra hitter, hitting only 9 (nine) participants in the batting order.
- An all-male team participating in the Coed League will consist of players that are of a minimum age of 55 years and they may bat 11 players.
- Men’s league teams will consist of ten (10) players with the option to use an “extra hitter” and bat eleven (11) players OR bat a “designated hitter” which the team would bat 10. You cannot use both an extra hitter and designated hitter.
- If a team begins play with nine (9), ten (10), or eleven (11) players, that team may continue the game with one less player than it began with whenever a player leaves the game for any reason other than an ejection. If the loss of a player is the result of an ejection and that team does not have enough personnel to match its original starting strength, then the game shall be a forfeit in favor of the opposing team. If the player leaving the game is a base runner, he/she shall be declared an out.

6. Game Time.

- The first game time will be 6:30 pm.
- The first game is the **ONLY** game with a ten-minute grace period.
- Games will be no longer than one hour in length. Game length is seven (7) innings. Tied games will continue until the tie is broken and a winner can be determined.
- All games are official after four (4) complete innings of play. Any game rained out before the fourth inning is complete will be rescheduled and played from the time of cancellation.
- Should the first scheduled game at 6:30 pm be declared a forfeit due to the inability of one team to field enough players, there is no grace period for this second game. If the first game is a forfeit, and the team that is short on players gains enough player before the 7:30 start time for game 2, the game will start earlier than scheduled.
- Tie-Breaker Rule. If two teams are tied at the end of the regular season, the team with fewer ejections will be the winner. If the two teams have the same amount of ejections, the team with the better head-to-head record will be declared the winner. If the two teams split their head-to-head regular season match-ups, the run differential of the 2 teams involved will determine the winner. If the matchup is still

a tie, run differential for the entire season will decide who the higher seed is. Last tiebreaker will be a coin flip.

7. Line-ups.

- Managers / coaches must give the other team their roster / batting order no later than ten (10) minutes before game time for each game.
- Managers / coaches must notify opposing team of all line-up changes or substitutions as they occur.

8. Equipment.

- Only ASA/USA Softball approved equipment will be permitted. All bats used in league play must be labeled "Slowpitch Softball" and have the official ASA/USA Softball "Certified" logo on them. All coaches are responsible for checking each team's bats. If they are in question of a bat they need to consult the umpire BEFORE the game begins.
- Only softballs issued by the Parks and Recreation Department representative before the games shall be used. **5 balls will be given per game and needs to finish with 5 balls.** No extra balls will be given during the game. It is the responsibility of both teams to retrieve balls that have gone out of play. If all five balls are used and out of play the game clock will continue to run while BOTH teams retrieve the balls.
- No metal cleats, street shoes, or bare feet shall be allowed. Only rubber cleats or tennis shoes shall be worn in games.
- L-Screens may be used by the pitcher. If at any time a batted ball hits the L-Screen, it is considered a foul ball. (The same rules for "courtesy foul balls" will apply to balls that hit the L-Screen)

9. Home Run Rule.

- There is a maximum of five (5) homeruns per team per game on all fields. Every homerun after the fifth homerun for that team for that game will result in an automatic out. In the event of a homerun all players may walk to the dugout. No base running is required by the batter or any player already on base.

10. Mercy Rule.

- The mercy rule is in effect during regular season play and tournament play except for the championship game. When any of the margins listed below are reached, the game will end in favor of the team in favor of the following margins:
 - After three innings of play: margin of 20+ runs.
 - After four innings of play: margin of 15+ more runs.
 - After five or more innings of play: margin of 10+ runs.

11. Courtesy Runners. Each team is allowed one courtesy runner per inning.

- Courtesy runners may be used at any time. Courtesy runners must be of the same sex as the base runner they are replacing: male for a male; female for a female.
- Any player may be used as a courtesy runner. In the men's league you may only have one courtesy runner per inning. In the co-ed league you may have two courtesy runners per inning, one for each gender. However, you are only allowed one of each gender and it must be a male for a male and female for a female.
- In the event that you bat around during the inning, you may run for the same runner previously ran for earlier in the inning if they reach base again. It must be the same courtesy runner that was used earlier in the inning.

12. CO-ED Rules.

- The Co-Ed line will be placed at 200 feet.
- When a female is batting, outfielders must be behind the Co-Ed line until contact is made with the ball. Once contact is made, outfielders may come and make a play on the ball.

- Batting orders must consist of a male/female and then the opposite gender until you run out of a certain gender. Once the team runs out of a certain gender, the remaining players will be placed at the end of the batting order. (EX: if you only have 10 players and 4 are females the batting order must be M,F,M,F,M,F,M,F,M,M)
- Teams may use an extra player (batting 11 or 12, see below) or designated hitter (batting 10). Teams may NOT use both.
- When using an extra player: if the extra player is a female the team will bat 11 OR, if the extra player is a male, an extra female must be added in the lineup (batting 12).
- Force outs can be made at any base, regardless of gender.

13. Officials.

- One umpire per game will be used during the regular season, and two umpires per game for tournament play, if possible. There will be no tolerance of comments towards or arguing with umpires. They are out there because they enjoy being around the game and you. Treat them with the same respect you want them to treat you with.

14. Make-up Games.

- All games officially postponed due to weather or other reasons will attempt to be rescheduled by Parks and Recreation staff.
- There is no guarantee that rescheduled games will be played on your normal scheduled night. Parks and Recreation staff may have to move game nights to make a makeup game possible.
- One attempt, if possible, will be made to get a postponed game made up. If that attempt is also postponed, the game will go as a 7-0 split between the two teams.

15. Forfeits.

- Any team that forfeits four (4) games shall be removed from the league for the remainder of the season and tournament play. Remaining games will be considered a forfeit for the opposing team. No refunds will be issued if you are removed from the league.
- Forfeits shall be scored 7-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team.

16. Litter.

- Each team is responsible for picking up trash in and around their respective dugout. Please don't litter!

17. Tournament Play.

- Tournament seeds are determined by the regular season standings.
- Tournament games will have a time limit of 1.5 hours. There will be no time limit for the Championship game(s).
- During the Championship Game(s) there will be no mercy rule in effect.
- Throughout tournament play, the higher seed in the matchup will be the designated home team.
- A team in the winner's bracket will be designated home team over any team coming out of the loser's bracket.
- If teams make it to Game 2 of the Championship series the home team will be determined by coin flip.
- Parks and recreation department will determine the number of teams for playoffs dependent upon the number of teams in the league.
- ****Format for the tournament is open for discussion**** (EX: all day Saturday tournament, majority of the tournament on Saturday and then semis and finals on your normal night of play, during the week on your normal scheduled night)