



Meadowlands Area YMCA

436 Ridge Road
North Arlington, New Jersey 07031
Tel: 201 955-5300 Fax: 201 955-2055
Steven Kenworthy
YSPORTS Director

Softball Rules and Regulations

2015 Season

All League Fees MUST be paid in full before any team will be allowed to commence league play. NO EXCEPTIONS

F.S.A. Rules will be used with the following exceptions and emphasis.

Revised 3/22/15

1. OFFICIAL GAME Each game shall be seven innings. Once started the umpire(s) shall decide if the game is to be called off on "account of rain or darkness". If the game is halted "on account of rain", the umpires shall have the authority to have teams stand by for at least 15 minutes and not more than 30 minutes before calling the game or resuming play. Trailing team must have batted 5 times for game to be official. After completion of 7 innings, if the score is tied, the following will take place (daylight permitting,) Teams shall start 8th inning with runner on second base. That runner will be batter/runner who made last out previous inning. **If game is still tied after 8 innings, game will be considered a tie.**

Exception: Playoff games

PLAYOFFS: Seven complete innings will be played (the 10 run rule shall be used). Any game called on "account of darkness" or "rain" will be continued from the exact point where it was left off (only if 4 innings have been played).

2. RUN RULE. The game shall be called a complete game after 4 innings if one team is ahead by **13** or more runs or after 5 innings if one team is ahead by **10** or more runs. The team that is ahead shall be awarded the victory. The game will be called A) after the top of the fourth or fifth inning if the home team is ahead by 13 or 10 or more runs' B) at the exact point where the home team goes ahead by 10 runs in the bottom of the 5th or 6th inning' C) only after the home team is allowed to bat if they are behind. All playoff games must be played to completion unless run rules applies. No run rule in playoff final.

3. GAME TIME. April and September – 6:15 p.m. May through August - 6:30 p.m. (see schedule) Double headers will be scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Any team not ready to play (minimum 8 players) **15** minutes after scheduled starting time will forfeit.

4. LINEUPS No games will start until both team managers submit lineups to each other. **Umpire is to be notified before any substitution is made during the game.** Both teams must keep a book. The home team book is the official book. If the home team does not have a book then the visiting team book will be the official book.

5. TEAMS Team's are ten players or eleven if an Extra Hitter (EH) is used. There must be minimum eight players on the field at all times or the game will be forfeited. Each time 9th spot in batting order is due at plate, batting team will receive automatic out. When a player comes late he/she may be inserted into the lineup at the last batting position. The 10th, or 11th hitters may only be added before lead off hitter bats for **2nd time. Once leadoff hitter bats for second time, lineup is locked.** Teams that shall use normal substitution rules.

6. GAME REPORTING. It is up to the winning team manager to properly report game results. Scores shall be entered on website. Scores should be reported no later than 24 hours after completion of game.

7. EQUIPMENT. The **A.D. Starr Optic 52 .300** is the required ball for league play. Softballs can be purchased at area sporting goods stores or can be purchased from The YMCA at a cost of \$46.00 per dozen. **Only ASA approved bats are permitted to be used. (See attached updated bat information) Bats MUST say "Official Softball" and have ASA Certification mark.** Donuts are prohibited. Home Team must supply bases.

8. UNIFORMS The minimum uniform shall be matching color shirts with numbers. All teams **MUST** comply with this rule starting **April 27th. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Metal cleats are NOT legal foot attire. A Warning shall be given and cleats must be removed. PENALTY: Immediate player ejection.

9. FORFEITS/RAINOUTS AND RESCHEDULING

Games will be postponed only due to inclement weather which has rendered the field un safe or unplayable. If it rains **24 hours** before your start time, teams **MUST** call the YMCA for game status. If this occurs, it is the responsibility of the home field manager (home team is listed 2nd on schedule) and designated home team player to determine if the field is in playing condition the day of a game. If the field is not in playing condition, call the YMCA and a final decision will be made whether to postpone. If the game is found to be called a rain out by the league, the YMCA will leave message at 201 955-5300 ex 32. Rainouts will be announced at **5:00pm.**, not before. Teams **should not call** earlier looking for game status decision. Teams should not take it upon themselves to cancel games. Such action could result in a double forfeit being assessed. Teams should remember that rain in one area does not mean that it is raining at the game site. Teams forfeiting more than 2 games per season are eligible for league expulsion. If the umpire and 8 players from the other team are present at the

game site and a rain out has not been previously called, the team not present, will forfeit. A team that knows that they are not going to have enough players ahead of time and has to forfeit should contact the other team and the YMCA before 4 p.m.

10. SPECIAL SCHEDULE REQUESTS - must be submitted by March 31, 2015. If your team cannot play on a particular day due to extraordinary circumstances, you must inform the YMCA in writing by the above date of these issues. Once the schedule is out, the only way a game can be changed is: The opposing team must be agreeable to it, at least **72 hours before scheduled time**. The YMCA will have the final authority to reschedule the game. Any game that is rescheduled and then rained out will be rescheduled again by the league according to regular rain out procedures. Makeup games from rainouts will be scheduled according to original schedule requests. Any team calling on day of game and asking for a reschedule will be charged with a forfeit.

11. ELIGIBILITY- An online version of roster **MUST** be submitted before your first game. Written (Excel format) rosters must be completed and signed and in this office by June 1st. Roster additions should be made on the roster addition form and sent to the YMCA prior to the new player participating in a game. Players may be added or dropped up until June 1. Players must have appeared in a minimum of **4** games to be eligible for playoffs. **Each player MUST complete and sign roster**. All information should be filled out, including uniform number. **NOTE:** Any team not handing in completed roster will NOT be covered by Insurance.

12. MANAGER/ASSISTANT MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT - due April 13th. It is the manager and assistant manager's responsibility to assure the YMCA that no players shall participate with their team before first reading, understanding and signing the official league roster/waiver form. Additionally, the manager/assistant managers are responsible for informing all individuals of their team of the league purpose, league rules, financial arrangements and schedule arrangements.

13. CONDUCT- Anyone ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct will be automatically suspended for one game. Physical contact with an umpire or league official, will result in automatic league ejection. Fighting between players will also result in ejection, suspension and possible game forfeiture. The YMCA does not condone physical violence and will not be responsible for that type of conduct. Participants involved in such actions may also be liable for civil or legal action.

14. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES will be permitted at the fields before, during or after the game. Any team reported in violation will be suspended for one game for the first offense and ejected from the league for the second offense.

15. PITCHING - The pitcher must face the batter before delivery. The Pivot foot must be in contact with the pitching rubber when ball is released. The ball may be held in any matter during delivery. Pitching distance is **50 feet**. Ball must be pitched underhand at a **slow rate of speed**. The ball must arc at least **4** feet from the ground, and the ball shall not rise higher than **10** feet above the ground. The ball must cross over the plate between a zone which is determined to be the same size as between the batters front knee and back shoulder. A player's strike zone is the same zone located over the plate regardless if the batter stands all the way in the front of the batter's box or all the way in the back of the batter's box. An illegal pitch will be called by umpire when ball is thrown too high/low or fast or if the Pitcher's foot is not in contact with the pitcher's plate at time of release. A delayed dead ball will be in effect. An illegal pitch not swung at, is an automatic ball. If the batter chooses to swing then whatever the outcome of the swing, will stand. Count starts **1-1**. 3 pitched balls will result in a base on balls. 3 strikes will result in an out. If batter is standing in batter's box with two strikes, Batter must put ball into play. No courtesy foul. If pitch is fouled off, ball will be declared dead and batter is out. A ball not swung at which strikes home plate is Not a strike. Remember-Its not where ball lands, its where it crosses home plate.

16. PROTESTS - May only be made on an umpire's interpretation of a rule or on the eligibility of a player, or equipment. Umpire's judgment is NOT grounds for a protest.

1 - An official protest must be made to the umpires at the point in the game when the incident that is being protested occurs.

2 - Record the protest in the official score book indicating the reason for the protest and the point in the game.

3 - Roster protest can be made up to the completion of **3rd inning** for starting players. Substitutes must be protested immediately on entrance to game. The protesting team is responsible for the recording the name of the player in question in the official score book. If that player's name doesn't appear on roster and/or can't show valid ID, said player will be ejected from game and a forfeit will be declared if game is protested properly.

4 - The protest should be called into the Ysports Director's office the next day and sent in writing via email within 48 hours.

5 - Equipment protests must be made before the end of an inning.

6 - The FSA area Umpire in Chief will make the ruling. The U-I-C's decision is final.

17. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Co-Ed Extra Hitter (EH) - is an option to the team manager that permits 2 extra hitters to bat (11th & 12th). If using 2 EHs, one must be male, and another female. The EHs may bat in any position in the lineup. A player coming late may be added as an EH in the last batting position until lead off batter bats for second time. The EH may be substituted for just as any other position.

B. BASES - will be placed **65** feet apart.

C. THROWN BAT WHILE BATTING - Any player throwing a bat while batting shall be given a team warning for the first offense. Any further violation by any player on the same team will result in the ejection of that player.

D. COURTESY RUNNER One courtesy runner per inning. The **last batted out** will be the courtesy runner. In the CO-ED league - if a female wants a courtesy runner then it must be the last **female** to make an out (if there is not available female, the coach may choose the courtesy runner). If a male wants a courtesy runner then the last out will be the courtesy runner regardless of gender. the courtesy runner. If the request is denied, the original runner must stay on the base. A courtesy runner will be called out if he/she is on base when due up to bat.

* During the first inning of a game - if there are no outs recorded and a courtesy runner is used/granted then the last person in the batting line up shall be the courtesy runner (Coed - a female using a courtesy runner will use the last female in the batting order. If there are no other females then the opposing coach may choose the courtesy runner).

E. DEFENSIVE FLIP FLOP RULE - A field player and the EH may switch positions. Neither would be out of the game. Although they switched positions they **MUST** maintain their same position in the batting order.

F. SUBSTITUTION -players may only enter the game one time with the following exception: Starting the game counts as an entry. Only females may substitute for females.

G. RE-ENTRY RULE This rule refers to a player's eligibility during a game. There can be 10 starters or 12 if a EH is used. Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once provided such player occupies the same batting position, whenever he/she is in the lineup. A substitute who leaves game, may not re-enter

H. CATCHERS MASKS - All catchers **MUST** wear masks with throat protectors.

I. FAKE TAGS - Any fake tag made by a defensive player will result in the runner being awarded one additional base. And a possible ejection of defensive player.

J. OBSTRUCTION Running into the catcher or any defensive player will result in an out, ejection from the game and suspension for one game unless the contact is considered incidental by the umpire. Runners **MUST** avoid contact with catcher or any fielder covering a base.

L. GROUND RULES

Will be determined before the start of the game by both teams' captains and umpire. The umpire will have the final decision.

M. WALK- A an inning or game cannot end on a walk to a batter with an automatic out to follow.

N. "BLOOD RULE" - - All players must cover open wounds before playing. The following procedures will be followed regarding players who are bleeding during the course of a game. If the bleeding can be stopped and covered "easily" then the game shall be stopped momentarily to allow the player to treat the area so it is no longer an open wound. It is up to the umpire's discretion as to how long the game is delayed. If the bleeding requires more extensive treatment or a uniform is bloodied then an uncharged legal substitute or uncharged legal courtesy runner must be entered into the game. If there are no subs then: if in the field - must play a player short OR if at bat - if player is not ready to bat then must skip over players position in the lineup without penalty. The bleeding player may only return to the game after treating and covering the bloody area and replacing a uniform with "excessive" amounts of blood (uniform do not have to match). If the blood is dried or not "extensive" the player may continue with the uniform.

18. PLAYOFFS

A champion will be determined in each league using a double elimination format. Team eligibility will be announced. Eight teams in each league qualify.

19. COED RULES

A. LINEUP A minimum of three females must be in the lineup at all times (batting/field). *Exception:* 2 females/7 males (Automatic Out) Females **CANNOT** bat back to back.

If you can only have only 2 females in the lineup, you can only have 7 males in line-up and an automatic out will be issued for the 10th spot in batting order.

B. FEMALE A female player coming late that is going to be 3rd female may be inserted into the lineup immediately in one of the empty batting positions regardless of the inning.

C. SUBSTITUTION - A female may only be substituted for by another female. A male may be substituted for by a male or female.

D. EP The third female may not be the extra player (EP).

E. 30 FOOT RULE. When a female is at bat, a maximum of 4 infielders can be positioned the infield area or "30-foot" line. Outfielders may not play ball till it enters "outfield" (30 feet behind bases)

F. MALE BASE ON BALLS - on any walk to a male (intentional or not) if the next batter is a female, she has her choice of walking or hitting up until the time the first pitch is thrown to her. (if a male is walked he will be awarded 1st base)

G. Optional Extra Hitter (EH) - is an option to the team manager that permits a second extra hitter to bat (12th batter). If 2 EH's are used, only 1 can be a male.

Any rules not found here can be found in the Freedom Sports Association Rule Book.

Men's League website www.leaguelineup.com/bergeny_slowpitch

Co-Ed League website www.leaguelineup.com/bergeny_co-ed

© 2015 Meadowlands YMCA and Jersey All Sports

League Director: Steven Kenworthy 201 955-5300 ex32 732 906-8263

Umpire In Chief Michael Pero 201 394-4517

