



Adult Softball Rules

Revised 8/26/2019

I. ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. ROSTERS: Each team must submit a completed roster/waiver form to the Athletics Office. Teams will forfeit their first game if the roster is not turned in by the assigned time. A roster must include: team name, captain's name, address and phone numbers, and each player's name, complete address and phone number. Each player must sign the roster/waiver. A player will be removed from the roster if the complete information is not given. A team must have a minimum number of 12 eligible players (up to a maximum of 20) listed on the roster. Rosters will freeze before your 8th game. Player names will be posted on the website under team rosters.

2. ROSTER ADDITIONS: Roster additions are allowed until the end of the 8th game of the regular season.

3. AGE: All players must be eighteen years of age or older, on or before the day of registration.

4. ELIGIBILITY:

a. A player must play in at least 3 regular season games to qualify to play in the playoffs. A player may not play for two teams in the same league (night). For example, if you play Monday night Advanced field, you cannot play Monday night intermediate field. A player may move to a different team until the rosters are closed. However, (s)he must be removed from one roster before (s)he can be placed on another and may not play for two different teams in the same league during the same week. Once dropped from a roster, the same player may not be added again. The coach must initial all deletions to the rosters.

b. Temporary Player: A temporary player is defined as a player that is not on a team's roster but is on the roster of another team that plays the same night (any league). A temporary player can only be used when a team has only 8 players and would normally have to forfeit. You cannot add a temporary player if you have 9 players and would like to add a 10th player. The temporary player can be added to your lineup card before the game has started. The manager must notify a City staff member that this person is their temporary player that night. If a City staff member is not notified of a temporary player then result of the game will be a forfeit. Each team is allowed a total of 2 temporary players during the 10 game regular season. *No temporary players are allowed in the playoffs.*

Church League only:

a. A team may have an unlimited number of players on the roster, however all additions to the roster must be made before the team's **final regular season game**.

b. A religious team may join the co-ed league and play with an unlimited roster; however, the team must follow all NSA/City of Boca Raton league rules.

5. EQUIPMENT:

a. Bats: The city will supply all bats for the league. There will be at least 3 different bats for a player to choose from (34", 26, 27 or 28 ounces). Bats are not allowed to enter area near or in the dugout. Personal bats are not to be used. If bat rule is not followed, players or teams may be subject to suspension. City owned bats will be test on a weekly basis to ensure the condition is satisfactory and safe for use. Bats may not be altered by teams; this includes taping the bat's grip or using pine tar/other adhesives. Players are subject to immediate ejection if caught altering the bats.

b. Balls: The city will provide a game ball, but the Home team will provide the umpire with a back up ball. Each team is responsible for retrieving their foul balls or home run balls. Umpires will provide an extra ball if needed. But the home team will not receive the original game ball back. Only the back up ball will be returned.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. SCHEDULES/LINE-UPS: Changes to the schedule may be made after the schedule is posted on the league website. The second team listed on the schedule is designated as the **HOME** team. The home team is responsible for keeping the score in a score book. The visiting team is responsible to verify the score after each inning. Once a new inning begins, no changes will be made to the previous innings.

2. STANDINGS: Standings are available on the league website at www.leaguelineup.com/cityofbocaraton

3. RAINOUTS: Make up games will be played when fields are available. This may be a different night than your regularly scheduled league night. You must field a team or the game will be declared a forfeit. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

It is the captain's responsibility to contact the Athletic Field Condition number to find out if games have been postponed due to inclement weather. **Call 561-367-7068 after 5:00PM** for a recorded message. If there is no message, assume all games will be played, and the final decision will be made on site. Games will be postponed on a game-to-game basis. If a game in progress is called because of rain/lightning and the game has not progressed to the point of being official (4.5 innings if home team is winning, 5 innings if the visiting team is winning) the game will: in regular season and playoffs - game will be resumed from the point and time that the game was called.

4. CITY ORDINANCES - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES / DOMESTIC ANIMALS

a. In accordance with the City Code Article III, Section 11-61: **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** whatsoever shall be permitted to be brought into or consumed in any park area of the City. Failure to comply will result in the discontinued use of the facility.

b. City ordinance article III, sec. 11-66 prohibits domestic animals in any park or park area.

c. In compliance with the above rules, any team member not following these ordinances will serve a one game suspension. A second infraction will result in a two-game suspension. A third infraction will result in suspension from the league.

5. PLAY-OFFS

a. All teams qualify for the playoffs if participating in an eight (8) team league or less.

b. Play-off position tiebreakers for the seeding in the playoffs, go in this order:

1) Head to head overall.

2) Head to head run differential for the season.

3) Total runs scored against for the season.

4) Total runs scored for season.

If there are more than two teams tied, then there must be a head to head game played by all teams and a clear cut or decisive advantage to one of the teams. If there is not one team with an advantage than the next tie breaker will be used to determine playoffs. It is up to the athletic staff's discretion as to whether or not there is a team with a clear-cut head to head advantage. If a team forfeits against another team during the regular season and those two teams end up tied in the regular season, the team that forfeited during the regular season will automatically receive the lower seed. Any forfeits incurred with more than 2 teams tied will not be used as a factor for section (3) Total runs scored against and (4) Total runs scored. Therefore, just the games that were played will be figured into the formula to determine seeding for the playoffs.

c. Format: The playoffs will be single elimination. A one-hour time limit is in effect for all playoff games except for the championship game which will not have a time limit but will be played to its conclusion (7 innings). Run rules will be in effect for first round, second round, and semi-final playoff games. The 15-run rule is in effect after 5 innings (or 4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) for all Championship Games.

d. Seeding for the playoffs will be determined by overall record. The highest seeded team is the home team.

6. AWARDS:

- a. Co-Ed & Men's Leagues - Team trophy or plaque for 1st place regular season **upon request only**, T-shirts for 1st place playoff team.
- b. Religious League - 1st place regular season trophy or plaque **upon request only**, 1st place playoff champion trophy or plaque.

7. PROTEST: All protests must be made at the time of the incident to the plate umpire, the base umpire (if included in the league) and the Athletic Staff. Any protest made after the final pitch of the game will not be considered. Protest time will be deducted from the game time. Only rule interpretations may be protested, judgment calls may not be protested. A protest must be submitted to the Athletic Office, in writing within one business day of the incident, and accompanied by a \$45.00 check made payable to the City of Boca Raton. If the fee is not received in time the protest will not be considered. If the investigation rules in favor of the protesting team, the check will be returned. If not, the City will deposit the check.

III. GENERAL RULES

N.S.A./Softball rules will be used with the exception of the following league rules:

1. NUMBER OF PLAYERS: No team may start a game with less than 9 players. If a team starts with 9 players, there will be no outs recorded when the vacant player's spot, the 10th position in the batting order comes up in the batting order. However, a team may not drop to nine players due to an injury or player ejection without taking an out in the vacant player's spot. When a team starts a game with 9 players, the team may add a tenth player at any time during the game. An added player shall bat in the 10th position order. In order to use an EP (extra player), a team must start with 11 or 12 players. There is a maximum of 10 players on the field at a time.

2. UNIFORMS: Teams are to be in uniform by the **third game**. If uniforms have been ordered but are not ready for the teams' third game, the team manager must present a receipt, before the start of the game to a member of the City Athletic staff, confirming the uniform order. Players will check in with city staff at the scores table before the game starts with their jerseys on. City staff will inform the umpire which team will receive runs. Each team will be permitted to have one player out of uniform per game without penalty. The umpire will call both managers to home plate before the game starts to award runs to any players out of uniform. Once the umpire starts the game there will be no runs awarded to players out of uniform unless that player or players show up late for the game. No runs will be awarded to any team after the 4th inning. All players must wear the same color shirts, and each shirt must have a clearly visible number on it. Each team has one week to get a **PRINTED** number on the back or front of their jerseys. **Tape or marker** is not permitted. Numbers that do NOT count listed on some shirts are phone numbers, year, or dates. Examples (2015, 2016, 561-367-7039, or August 6, 2017. For each player out of uniform, the opposing team will be awarded 1 run unless the player rents a jersey from Athletic Staff for \$5.00 per game. Metal spikes or cleats with metal tips are not permitted.

3. GRACE PERIOD: The first game of each night will have a 5-minute grace period; subsequent games will not receive a grace period. There is no grace period for Saturday or Sunday leagues.

4. COUNT: A batter will start each turn at bat with a 1 ball - 1 strike count.

5. STRIKE ZONE MAT: A rectangle mat which includes the plate and the plate extension (mat). Any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on any part of home plate or mat will be ruled a strike.

- a. The strike mat is not home plate. Therefore, when a runner is trying to score, he or she must touch home plate in order to score. If he/she touches the strike mat and not home plate, and then is tagged, the runner will be out.
- b. The pitch must have a minimum arc of 6 ft. from the ground. The maximum allowable arc is 10 ft. from the ground. If the pitch does not meet these requirements, an illegal pitch shall be called. The batter has the option of taking the pitch for an automatic ball or swinging at the pitch. If the pitch is swung at, the illegal pitch is ignored.

6. COURTESY RUNNERS: Each team is allowed one courtesy runner per inning unless the same player bats more than once that inning. If this is the case the same courtesy runner must be used. The courtesy runner can be any player on the team roster. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base, it is an out. (Co-ed must be the same gender).

7. HOME RUN RULE: Hitting a home run after limit has been met will result in an out. A home run is any ball batted fair that clears the fence untouched. All players on base will automatically scored as runs. Neither the batter nor runners on base need to touch the remaining bases after a home run is hit.

8. HOME RUN LIMIT: All fields have a **2 and 1 up** home run rule. Once each team hits their 2 home runs then a team may go 1 UP. The home team, in the bottom of the 7th or later innings, may hit one home run to pull even in the number of home runs as the opposing team, but may not hit a home run to go one up. In case of inclement weather or other circumstances, and a time limit is implemented, the home team cannot go one-up once the time limit has expired.

9. RUN RULE: Games will be seven innings in length. The 15-run rule is in effect after 4 innings (or 3 1/2 if the home team is ahead). The 10-run rule is in effect after 5 innings (or 4 1/2 if the home team is ahead). Run rule is also in effect for playoff games.

10. TIME LIMIT: No new inning will start with less than 1 minute on the game clock. If there is a tie when time expires, then one pitch will be played for up to 1 additional inning. The umpire will keep track of the official time. A one-hour time limit is in effect for all regular season games and playoff games. The championship game will not have a time limit but will be played to its conclusion (7 innings).

11. DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

a. A physical or verbal threat to any league official or player or fighting (throwing a punch and /or making physical contact while engaged in any form of unsportsmanlike conduct) will result in at least an immediate suspension for anyone involved from the remainder of the team's games including playoffs or at a minimum of 10 games which could include games into the following season. If a suspended player is involved in more than one league, the suspension will carry over and ban those involved from every game in every league including playoffs. If a player is ejected during his/her last game of the season, the incident will be reviewed by league officials to determine if the player will serve a suspension for his/her next season.

(1) **ONLY the coach or team manager may speak to the umpire regarding a decision/call made on the field and shall be done in a professional manner.**

b. When a player/coach is suspended or ejected from a league/game, that person is **NOT** permitted to be in the **softball complex area** for the duration of the suspension/ejection.

c. Aggressive behavior or derogatory remarks towards participants, league officials, and/or City staff while in the park will result in at least removal from the game and possible suspension from the league for those involved. Anyone ejected from a game for any form of unsportsmanlike conduct (verbal/aggressive behavior, foul language, etc...) will be suspended for:

- 1. First Ejection:** game ejected from and the team's next game played.
- 2. Second Ejection:** game ejected from and teams next two games played.
- 3. Third Ejection:** suspension from remainder of league including playoffs.

d. All ejections will be reviewed by the Athletic staff and based on the severity of the incident the ejection/suspension may be set for an **additional period or up to a "finite period"** exceeding the listed penalties above.

e.. Athletics staff will review any egregious behavior not specified within these rules and may determine a Suspension or additional suspension is warranted.

f. Players ejected from a game for rule violations (throwing bat, etc.) will be ejected from the game being played but will **not** serve additional game suspensions.

g. **Bat Throwing:** Any player that deliberately throws a bat will be ejected from the game. In the case of an Accidental bat throwing the umpire will issue a warning. This will be a judgment call by the umpire. This is a safety hazard and the bats are property of the City of Boca Raton.

12. INELIGIBLE PLAYER: Any suspected ineligible player should be brought to the attention of the umpire and Athletic staff. The Athletic staff has the right to compare team line-ups to a team's roster or intervene at any time if an ineligible player is suspected. If a player is found to be ineligible, then that team will forfeit their game.

a. **Regular Season:** The questioned player's identity will be confirmed by the official roster and the player's photo ID. If a player's name appears on the roster but the player in question does not have a photo ID on hand, the questioned player has 24 hours to present a photo ID to the Athletic Supervisor and the game will be completed under protest. An ineligible player will result in a forfeit of the game in question. In addition, the team's manager and the illegal player will be suspended from coaching and/or playing on any team in any City of Boca Raton league for at least the remainder of the season including playoffs.

b. **Playoffs:** There will be a mandatory roster check conducted by the Athletics staff throughout the playoffs in which each player must present a photo ID. If the player cannot produce a photo ID and if the photo ID cannot be verified with the roster/waiver form, the game will be declared a forfeit. In addition, the team's manager and the illegal player will be suspended from coaching and/or playing on any team in any league for the remainder of the playoffs.

13. BLOOD RULE: When a player is bleeding, or has an open wound, the bleeding must be stopped, and the open wound covered with a bandage/dressing; strong/sturdy enough to withstand the rigors of competition. This treatment must be immediate and a suspension of play for a reasonable amount of time (determined by Home Plate Umpire-no more than 5 minutes) will be awarded to the team. Should the treatment of this wound exceed a reasonable amount of time, the affected player must be substituted for. If no substitute is available, and the team is using the EP, the team may play on with 10 players until the affected player can continue with all penalties set forth by Rule 4, Sec. 4 in effect. When the affected player can continue (s)he may re-enter the line-up as a re-entry. Should this player be the EP, (s)he may now re-enter back into his original spot in the batting order with all outs charged to his vacated spot being official. Return to play will be determined by appropriate medical personnel or the Home Plate Umpire. Any player whose uniform is saturated with blood, regardless of the source, must follow the same guidelines as stated above for a person bleeding and must have the uniform changed, if determined necessary before returning to the game.

14. FORFEITS:

A team failing to field a team at the scheduled game time will automatically forfeit the game. If a team forfeits because they do not have enough players to start a game:

1st forfeit game - no penalty;

2nd forfeit game - lose one position in final playoff standings;

3rd forfeit game - will be dropped from the league (no refund).

If a team is aware they will not be able to field a team and must forfeit a game and notifies the Athletics section at least 24 hours in advance **IN WRITING** (email or fax), they will be charged a loss, but will not be penalized for a forfeit.

15. FRIDAY CO-ED LEAGUE ONLY:

- a. Teams may play with the following combination: 5 males and 5 females.
- b. A female/male either pitcher or catcher. The other females can play any other position without regard to any specific number of infielders or outfielders being male or female, but must still have 1 female in both infield and outfield
- c. If there are zero or 1 outs and a male batter walks, he automatically advances to second base and the following female batter **MUST** bat. If there are two outs and a male batter walks, he automatically advances to second base the following female batter has the option to walk or hit.
- d. If your team only has 9 players to start the game, the out goes in the 9th position if you are missing a female. If the player missing is a male, the out goes in the 10th position. A team may play with 6 girls and 4 guys without any outs given.
- e. When a female player bats, no outfielder may cross the 200ft. line until the ball is put in play. Also, infielders must play in the clay area only.
- f. A temporary player is defined as a player that is not on a team's roster but is on the roster of another team that plays the same night. A temporary player can only be used when a team has only 8 or 9 players and would normally have to forfeit or be short a player. You cannot add a temporary player if you have 10 or 11 players and would like to add a 11th player or 12th player. The temporary player can be added to your lineup card before the game has started. The manager must notify a City staff member that this person is their temporary player that night. If a City staff member is not notified of a temporary player, then result of the game will be a forfeit.

16. CORPORATE CO-ED

- a. A corporate co-ed team lineup shall be comprised of 7 males and 3 females. A team may have more than 3 females in the lineup at one time.
- b. A team can play a game with 2 females, but they must take an out in the lineup where the 3rd female would normally bat. A team cannot walk the player before the automatic out with 2 outs to receive the final out. If that player is walked with 2 outs then the automatic out is NOT taken and the next batter will bat.
- c. There are no position restrictions. A team cannot bat more than 3 males in a row of batting order.
- d. The 200 ft. restraining line is utilized when a female is at bat.
- e. Extra Players are allowed but must follow the established ratio i.e.: the 11th player must be a female, and the 12th player can be either male or female.
- f. If there are zero or 1 outs and a male batter walks, he automatically advances to second base and the following female batter **MUST** bat. If there are two outs and a male batter walks, he automatically advances to second base the following female batter has the option to walk or hit.
- g. Should the male batter walk with another male batter succeeding him in the batting order the male batter who was walked will only be awarded 1 base.
- h. Each team is allowed one male and one female courtesy runner per inning.

18. PITCHING SCREENS:

- a. The pitching screen is **OPTIONAL** for teams. The team manager must notify the umpire before the game starts if they are using the screen or not. Once a team decides to use the pitching screen it can be not be removed. If your team decides not to use it and your pitcher is injured during the game, you may add the pitching screen at that time.
- b. A batted ball that hits a portion of the pitching screen will be declared a foul ball and there will be no advance of the runners. A batter will be called out if they hit the screen twice during the same at bat.
- c. A batter can hit the screen one time and be called out such as when a batter has 1-2 count.

- d. The pitcher must let the umpire know where they want the screen to be placed each inning before a pitch is thrown. The pitching screen must remain no more than 2 feet in front of the pitching rubber and must protect 50% of the rubber.
- e. The screen will not be moved once a pitch has been thrown to start an inning.
- f. Any thrown ball that hits the pitching screen will remain a live ball.
- g. Any pop fly in the vicinity of the pitching screen, in the umpire's judgment, regardless of how many players are on base, will be treated as a dead ball out. There will be no advance of the runners.
- h. If the pitcher steps in front of the screen to play the ball and it hits the pitchers' glove or body then hits the pitching screen, the ball is LIVE.

19. INSURANCE:

- a. The city of Boca Raton Recreation Services Department does not carry insurance covering any injuries received while participating in this program.
- b. Team insurance is offered by N.S.A. For more information call 1-800-684-6404

20. DIVISIONS AND REFUNDS:

- a. City of Boca Raton Athletic Staff and Management reserve the right to place any team in a higher or lower division. Any team that comes in First place in its division during the regular season and/or playoffs will be moved up to the next highest division the following season. *Example- a team wins the intermediate division on Tuesday night, they may have to move up to the Tuesday night advanced division the following season. Also, if this same team wishes to change the night it plays on, they must also move up to the next division despite changing its normal game night.*
- b. **Refunds will be processed after the first scheduled game and takes approximately 4 weeks to process. In-Season (once the official schedule is set) refunds will include a 20% administration fee deduction.**

The City of Boca Raton will determine any situation not covered in these rules. In addition, the City of Boca Raton reserves the right to interpret any and all rules, situation, and further reserves the right to insert, delete, or change rules at any time and make decisions retroactive should it be deemed necessary for the benefit of the league.

City of Boca Raton Athletics Office

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