

**Bothell Parks and Recreation**  
**MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

Revised – 3/25/15

League Administrator: Ric Jones

425.486.7430 [ric.jones@ci.bothell.wa.us](mailto:ric.jones@ci.bothell.wa.us)

Bothell Parks and Recreation Softball League rules will be consistent with current ASA rules except for the following modifications and clarifications. Any situations that arise during a game that are not covered in the League rules are at the discretion of the game umpire.

**I. Equipment**

- a. No metal spikes are allowed
- b. Teams are recommended to provide players alike colored shirts with #'s on the back
- c. The home team is responsible for the official scorebook and providing the umpire with a new game ball. The visitors must provide a good back up ball at the start of the game.
- d. Teams must list each player's first initial and last name in the official scorebook
- e. Bothell Parks and Recreation's bat rule is consistent with ASA Championship play. If there is a question about a bat, the bat must be approved by the game umpire.
- f. If a player brings a banned bat into the batter's box during a game the umpire is required to award the defensive team an out and eject the player from the game.
- g. If a player brings a bat that is suspected of being altered into the batter's box during a game, the bat in question will be confiscated by the umpire and turned over to the League Coordinator. The player is not ejected in this situation.
  - i. Failure to turn over the suspected bat to the game umpire will result in the game being forfeited to the opposing team. The team in possession of the suspected bat will not be allowed to continue with the season until meeting with the League Coordinators from Bothell and Redmond and an ASA representative.
  - ii. The League Coordinator will then work with ASA to confirm whether the bat has been altered.
  - iii. If the bat is found to have been altered, the player will be suspended from play in Bothell and Redmond Adult Softball Leagues for a five (5) year period. Also, the game in which the bat was confiscated will be scored as a forfeit by the team in possession of the altered bat.
  - iv. If the bat is found to have been altered it will not be returned to the player. If the bat is not found to have been altered, the bat or a replacement bat will be returned.
  - v. Altered bat information will be shared with the Seattle Tacoma ASA commissioner.

**II. League Participation**

- a. Players must be at least 18 years old to participate
- b. All players must sign the official team roster or add/delete form to participate. Rosters must be on file with the recreation office prior to participation.
- c. Players may appear on only one official roster form
- d. Players not on your teams' official roster on file with the Recreation Office are ineligible to participate. "Fill-in" players are not allowed.

**III. Participation & Substitutions**

- a. Teams may elect to bat through their entire roster. You must notify the opposing team if you will be batting through the entire roster or if you will be using a standard 10 player batting order with substitutions. Please note, if you are batting only 10 players you must comply with ASA substitution rules.
- b. Teams must have at least 8 players present to start and finish a game. There will be **no** "automatic out" for teams with fewer than 10 players present. If a team has fewer than 8 players present, the game will be considered a forfeit.
- c. If a team begins with fewer than 10 players and then the 9<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> player arrive, they may be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- d. If a player gets hurt or needs to leave during the course of a game, they may be dropped from the order with no penalty. (assuming the team still has 8 present), however they cannot re-enter the game if they have missed a turn at bat.

- e. If a team is only batting 10 players, any player (starting or non-starting) may substitute in and out of the game no more than twice. They must retain their original spot in the batting order when they re-enter.
- f. If a player is ejected from a game leaving a team with fewer than 10 players, an automatic out will be charged when it is that person's turn in the batting order.
- g. If a team is batting through their entire roster, they may substitute freely on defense with no re-entry restrictions.
- h. Courtesy runners are allowed with consent from the umpire. The courtesy runner must be requested immediately after the batter reaches base. The courtesy runner must be either 1) the last player to make an out or 2) the furthest player away from the current batter in the batting order that does not require a courtesy runner. If one of those players is not available to be a courtesy runner then no courtesy runner may be used.

#### IV. Game Structure

- a. Games are scheduled 1 hour and 15 minutes apart. No new inning may begin 1 hour and 10 minutes after the **SCHEDULED** start time of the game. If a game starts before its scheduled start time there will be no new innings after 1 hour and 10 minutes of the ACTUAL start time.
- b. There is a 10-minute grace period for the first game of each scheduled doubleheader. Teams not ready to begin play 10 minutes after the scheduled start time will forfeit their first game. The second game of a double-header will be forfeited if a team is not ready to play 30 minutes after the scheduled start time of the first game.
- c. Each game will be scheduled for 7 innings
- d. If a team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the end of 5 innings, the game is over. (4½ if the home team leads by 10 runs)
- e. Incomplete games of less than 4 innings will be rescheduled and must start from the beginning of the game. Games of 4 innings or more that end in a tie will not be rescheduled.
- f. Games will be played with a standard 4 ball/3 strike count
- g. Players will NOT have a courtesy foul ball. If a foul ball is hit after having 2 strikes, the batter is out.
- h. Stealing bases is not allowed
- i. For safety purposes, a pitcher may elect to pitch from a distance up to 10' behind the standard 50' pitching rubber. The pitcher must be directly behind the pitching rubber and all regular pitching rules including pitch height still apply with the exception of the pitchers foot being in contact with the rubber. The pitcher will establish the pitching distance on the first pitch of each at-bat. The pitcher must remain at that distance throughout the entire at-bat. Switching distances during an at-bat is not allowed.
- j. **The umpire shall automatically apply a "Dead Ball Out" ruling when a batted ball strikes a pitcher who is in line with the pitching rubber and home plate after delivering a pitch. This rule applies to line drives and sharply hit short hops. The rule does not apply if the ball hits the pitcher's mitt first, unless it is deemed by the umpire that the pitcher only used their glove as an act of self-defense and was unable to make an actual play on the ball. This rule applies whether the pitcher elects to pitch from the pitching rubber or up to 10 feet behind the rubber.**

#### V. Forfeits/Protests

- a. If a team forfeits two double-headers during the course of one season, they will automatically be dropped from the remainder of the schedule. They will also lose their "returning team" status for the following season and paid league fees.
- b. All games that are umpired by an ASA umpire will be considered official contests. If no umpire is present but the teams elect to play, the results are not official.
- c. Intent to protest must be made by the team manager immediately after the questioned incident. The umpire(s), and the opposing coach or manager must be formally notified, and the intent to protest must be written in the official scorebook.
- d. Teams may not protest judgment calls.

#### VI. Ground Rules

- a. The 50' pitching rubber is used in this league.
- b. There are no restrictions of home runs.
- c. On the three North Creek synthetic turf fields (**#1, #2 and #4**) the out of play area will be designated by the actual fences that surround the field. For example, a throw to first that gets by the first baseman will be live as long as it stays within the fence.

- d. The only area inside of the fences that will be designated as out of play will be any concrete that extends into the turf area. A good example of this is on NC #4 where there is a 4' x 4' concrete extension on the end of each dugout. Any ball that goes onto the concrete is immediately out of play.
- e. A ball hit over the outfield fence will be considered a home run.
- f. On **North Creek #3** the out of play area will remain the interior dugout fences extended. A ball that goes into the trees, wetlands or parking lot "on the fly" is a homerun. If a ball bounces or rolls into these areas it is a ground rule double. The game umpire will use their judgment to award bases.

## **VII. Park and Conduct Rules**

- a. Physical or verbal abuse of umpires will not be tolerated. Physical abuse will result in the offending player and/or coach being suspended from the league pending a hearing. SEE PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT.
- b. An ejection will result in a player being ineligible for the remainder of the current game, as well as the next scheduled game. The offending player must be out of sight and sound of the field.
- c. There are NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED ON PARK PREMISES
- d. Sunflower seeds, tobacco and gum are not allowed on the Turf fields. Teams and players that violate this rule will be subject to fines, ejection or removal from the league as decided by the league administrator.
- e. Rainout information will be available after 3:00 pm by calling the Parks and Recreation Rainout Line at **425.489.3388**.
- f. The winning team is responsible for reporting the scores to the League Administrator by email at [ric.jones@ci.bothell.wa.us](mailto:ric.jones@ci.bothell.wa.us). The report must include the night, division and both team names. The score will be recorded as a tie if the winning team does not report the score within 24 hours of the completed game.
- g. All game results and league standings will be available on the softball website [www.leaguelineup.com/bothellsoftball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/bothellsoftball)
- h. Manager's/Coaches are responsible for communicating the league rules and the code of conduct to their players and spectators. Please take a copy of the league rules and the Participant Code of Conduct to your games.