



# Burien

## *Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services*

### CO-RECREATIONAL SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

#### RULES and GUIDELINES 2008 Season

##### Administration

- § The Burien Co-Rec Softball League (BCSL) will be administered by the City of Burien's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department's League Coordinator.
- § The League Coordinator and Recreation Manager will arbitrate and make final decisions on league operation.
- § Official ASA rules will apply, unless otherwise stated on this BCSL rule sheet.
- § Each team's Manager will be the sole spokesperson for the team while communicating with the League Coordinator. This individual will be designated on the league registration form. The Manager is responsible to inform his/her team's players of all BCSL rules and guidelines.
- § Based on final number of teams registering for the BCSL, a mandatory Manager's Meeting will be scheduled on Thursday, July 17th. Final rule sheets and game schedules will be discussed and balls will be distributed at this meeting if they are available.

##### Co-Ed Rules

1. Teams will play with a 12 inch softball when both men and women are at the plate, and male batters will bat regular-handed.
2. If a male player is walked intentionally (on 4 straight balls), and no other pitch has been delivered, that player automatically advances to 2nd base (to avoid a defensive team attempting to set up a double play situation). The next batter does not have the option to take 1st base. Instead, the following batter will step into the batter's box to hit.

3. A female base runner shall be permitted to lead off from any base after the ball leaves the pitchers hand (lead off from third base must be in foul territory). She will not be called out if the pitcher "quick pitches" and she has not regained her occupied base. If a pitch is not hit by the batter, a female base runner may not touch the succeeding base but must return, immediately, to her occupied base with the liability of being picked-off by the catcher ONLY. (The play on such a runner being a 'force out'). The catcher must immediately return the ball to the pitcher if not attempting a pick-off. If a pick-off attempt is being made by the catcher, and the ball is either over-thrown or dropped by the fielder, the ball becomes live and all base runners may advance with the liability of being put out. Over throws to or drops by the pitcher do not constitute pick-off attempts.

### Player and Rosters

1. Rosters limited to 20 players total per team, unless special approval given by League Coordinator.
2. Players must be at least 18 years old and can only appear on 1 BCSL team roster. Seventeen year old players with parent's consent will be allowed, however a team may not have more than three 17 year old players on their roster.
3. Teams will play with 50/50 ratio of men and women on defense, including a minimum of 4 (maximum 5) female and/or male players in the line-up at all times.
4. A team must have 9 players to start and finish a game. If a player is injured, ejected, or unable to finish the game for any reason, a team with only 8 remaining players would forfeit.
5. Players may play in any defensive positioning they desire; however, "encroachment" by players from one area to another for fielding purposes is prohibited. This rule does not apply at home plate. Also, outfielders can be positioned anywhere on the outfield or the infield. (See also # 8 under "Game Rules" on page 5).
6. Unlimited defensive changes are allowed between players. However, males can only substitute for male players and females for female players.

## **Batting Rotation**

1. Teams must bat alternating male/female at all times
2. If a team begins a game with nine (9) players, they can add the 10th player at any time. That player will need to be added to the bottom of the batting order. They also may follow the "legal substitution rule" for adding or removing players. Until the 10th player is added to the line-up, the team must take an automatic out in that spot.
3. Teams may choose to bat all players present. Teams must bat alternating male/female at all times. Teams can only submit 1 batting order listing males and females on that one list. All males must bat in the same rotation and all females must continue in the same rotation throughout the game.
4. When an injury occurs, the team may continue the game with the remaining players on each list without incurring an automatic out (down to nine players). Once a batter leaves the batting rotation, they can not return to the present game.

## **Roster Eligibility**

1. All players must sign the BCSL roster or "roster ADD" form prior to playing. Additions to team rosters must be submitted to the League Coordinator a minimum of 24 hours prior to the next league game.
2. Additions to your roster will be accepted up until the 7th game of the season. In order for any player to be eligible to participate in the playoff's they must have played in at least five (5) regular season games.
3. Players participating in games without their names listed on these forms will be considered ineligible. Teams playing ineligible players will forfeit any game where such player(s) participated.

## **Game Rules**

1. Teams must have minimum of 9 players to start the game.
2. The "3 and 2 Full Count" rule will be in effect (i.e., 4 balls = base-on-ball walk; 2 strikes and 2nd foul ball = out).

3. There will be an unlimited number of home runs per team per game allowed.
4. Until four (4) full innings have been completed, teams are only allowed to score seven (7) runs per inning. However, if the visiting team is behind by more than ten (10) runs in either the top of the fifth or top of the sixth inning, they can score enough runs to tie the game. The same rule applies to the home team in the bottom of the fifth or sixth inning. There is no limit to the amount of runs that can be scored in the seventh inning/or "last inning" (will be determined by the umpire).
5. Uniforms are not required by BCSL; however, it is recommended that all team players have matching T-Shirts with legible numbers on the back of each player's shirt.
6. No metal or hard plastic cleats allowed.
7. Courtesy runners may be used for players who are injured. The batter must reach 1st base. The courtesy runner for a male will be the male who made the last out. Runner for female will be female who made the last out. If no outs have been recorded in the game, the runner shall be the last batter of the same sex in the batting order.
8. The "encroachment" rule shall be enforced. When the umpire makes the call, ball becomes dead and the umpire will award bases on his or her judgment.
9. A team forfeiting games may be dropped from league play based on decision by League Coordinator and Recreation Manager.
10. Designated Composite Bats, (Hot Bats) will not be allowed in any City of Burien sponsored softball league, due to risk of injury to a defensive player. A list of bats may be provided at the beginning of the season and may be updated at any time.
11. Dual first bases will be used for all games. On plays at first base when the batter has hit a ball to the infield, the base runner must run to and step on the orange base prior to the defensive player touching the white base with the ball in his

or her possession. When there is no play at first base on a base hit, the base runner can run and touch the white base when making the turn toward 2nd base. The defensive must not block the white base in that situation.

### **Game Schedules and Time Limits**

1. All games will be played to a time limit, or 7 innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs in the bottom of any inning after 4 and ½ innings, or at the end of the 5th inning if the visiting team is ahead.
2. Games are scheduled 1 hour and 15 minutes apart. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 10 minutes from the scheduled start time.
3. There is a 15-minute grace period for the 1st game. Teams not ready to play by 6:30 pm according to the umpire's watch will forfeit the game. The 2nd game of the doubleheader between the teams will be forfeited by 6:45 pm.
4. If a game starts late, the original start time will apply for the game's time limit.
5. In order to assure there are no tie games, the following will apply during regular season play. The visiting team will start the game with ½ a run and any runs scored after that will be added to include that ½ run. There is no other tie breaker needed during regular season play. Visiting team will always win if there is a tie.

### **Home Team Responsibilities**

**NOTE: Team listed 1st on league schedule will be the home team.**

#### **Home Team Will:**

- § Provide new 12" game ball (issued at Manager's Meeting).  
Visiting team will provide 1 good back-up ball.
- § Keep official scorebook.

- § Phone in umpire or opposing team no-shows, schedule errors, and game cancellations by umpire (due to field non-playability) within 24 hours to (206) 988-3707.

**Both Teams Will:**

- § Call in game results within 24 hours to (206) 988-3707.

**Field Playability, Rain-Outs and Re-Schedules**

1. Daily recorded field playability (rain-out) information is available after 3:00 pm by calling (206) 439-3169.
2. If weather is questionable after field playability decision has been made, teams must still report to the field. If field is considered unplayable, the umpire will make the cancellation decision on-sit.
3. If a game is rained-out after 5 innings have been completed, (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) the game will be considered official and will not be replayed. If game is rained-out before 5 innings have been played, (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) the game will be rescheduled in its entirety.
4. Teams will be notified by League Coordinator of rescheduled game date.

**Umpire No-Shows**

**If an umpire fails to appear for a scheduled game, Team Managers have 3 options to adhere to in priority order (listed below):**

1. Directly contacting ASA Umpire Scheduler at (425) 292-0507 to report the no show and request another umpire be assigned immediately to the game.
2. WE ALSO REQUEST YOU AGREE ON A PERSON TO USE AS AN UMPIRE AND START THE GAME. (NOTE: games starting late will still need to be completed by the regular ending time).

- § Playing the game without an ASA umpire. Both Team Managers must confirm in writing their agreement in each team's scorebook that the game will count as official and not be replayed. Both teams may also agree on a spectator or player to serve as umpire.
- 3. Cancel the game. (Home team needs to contact League Coordinator within 24 hours by calling (206) 988-3707). Please use this option as a last resort.

### **Protests**

1. Protests will be considered when game and/or league rules have violated. Protests regarding umpire judgment calls will not be considered.
2. Team Manager must notify the umpire and the opposing Manager of his/her intent to protest immediately after the incident in question occurs. The home team score book shall be signed indicating that the remainder of the game is played under protest.
3. Team wishing to file formal protest must submit a written explanation and a \$25 check made payable to the City of Burien within 2 business days to the League Coordinator.
4. The League Coordinator and Recreation Supervisor will convene within 5 days of receipt of written protest to make a decision on request. If protest is upheld, \$25 will be refunded to team.

### **Team Conduct Expectations**

1. No alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are allowed in the park complex or parking lot. (This includes any team spectators).
2. Team Managers are responsible for all conduct of both participants and respective spectators during the game. Profanity will not be tolerated.

3. Any player ejected from a game will be required to sit out his or her team's next regularly scheduled game. Any player ejected twice in any season will be ejected from the league.

### **Post Season Tournament**

1. A single elimination tournament will be held at the end of August following regular league schedule.
2. If a tie exists in League Standings between teams, the team that gives up the least amount of runs between the teams tied will be awarded the higher position in the final league standings. If other situations exist, league Coordinator has the option to use a coin flip to determine which team ends up in which playoff bracket spot.