



## **Bartlett Park District Fall Softball League Rules**

### **CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. All teams should send a captain or team representative to the Captain's Meeting.

**NOTE: Modifications to the league rules may take place at the Captain's Meeting. Failure of a team representative to attend shall not exempt that team from any modifications that may be made.**

2. All captains are expected to inform their players concerning all rules and regulations prior to the first game and as many times thereafter as necessary to make sure that no violations will occur.

3. It is the captain's responsibility to make sure all league fees are paid in a timely manner and all players sign the roster/waiver by the 2<sup>nd</sup> game.

4. All captains are expected to inform their players of scheduled games, schedule changes, make-ups, and standings.

5. It is the captain's responsibility to check the score each inning to insure accuracy and to check the final score which is listed on the official score sheet.

**6. Team captains are responsible for the conduct of their team members and any team spectators at all times, including prior to, during, and after completion of the game. Failure to do so may result in a forfeiture of the game.**

7. Only the team captain is allowed to discuss a call or a ruling with an umpire.

### **LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The Park District provides field equipment (excluding bats and gloves), reasonably maintained fields, game balls, and rules and regulations to captains.

2. The Recreation Supervisor is responsible for enforcing all league rules, supervising league play, tournaments, field supervisors, providing umpires, maintaining league standings and equipment, scheduling rain outs and communicating information to team captains. **The Recreation Supervisor reserves the right to interpret and/or change any league rules at his/her discretion.**

3. The field supervisor is responsible for setting up fields and communicating information to team captains. **Field supervisors are not responsible for conveying information or complaints from team captains to the Recreation Supervisor.**

4. Umpires are responsible for maintaining the orderly progress of each game as defined in the A.S.A. Official Rules of Softball and the Bartlett Park District league rules.

### **LEAGUE ROSTER/WAIVER**

1. All teams must submit an official roster/waiver. Roster/waivers must include each player's name, address, and signature.

2. Players must be at least 18 years of age.

3. Rosters are due **at the conclusion of the second game of the season.** Signatures are required on the official roster prior to participation in league play. If changes to the roster need to occur after the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, captains must notify the Recreation Supervisor ahead of time. It is the discretion of the Recreation Supervisor to allow or deny the roster change. Any player removed from a team's roster may not be added to another team's roster for the remainder of the season.

4. A player may only play on one team in each league. If a player is on more than one team's roster in a given league, he/she will be declared ineligible for that league.

5. Any team giving false information on a roster shall be dismissed from the league without any money being refunded.

6. For consideration as a resident team, 60% of the roster must reside in Bartlett.

7. Rosters will consist of a maximum of twenty (20) players.

### **RAIN-OUTS**

1. Do not assume games are canceled because of weather conditions. Every effort will be made to play the games, even in light rain. If games are determined to be playable and your team does not show, you will lose by forfeit. If there are any questions as to whether a game is canceled due to weather conditions, **information will be available by calling 630-540-4891 or by checking the Sports League website.** Rainout and cancellation information will be available after 4:00pm on weekdays. It is the captain's responsibility to contact their players.

2. The Bartlett Park District has the Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System installed at Koehler Field Complex and Apple Orchard Community Center to help protect participants, spectators, and staff from the potential danger of lightning strikes.

When certain parameters indicate that the likelihood of a lightning strike within the area is high, the system will activate a horn with a single fifteen-second blast, as well as a strobe light. **At this time, all games will immediately cease and players, participants, and staff will be required to clear the fields and stands. Games will not be allowed to continue until an all clear signal is sounded, indicated by a series of three short blasts from the horn.**

Staff & Umpires reserves the right to stop play and clear fields due to weather conditions even if the Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System has not sounded.

- If after fifteen (15) minutes and prior to the game being considered official, conditions have not improved so as to continue the game, the game shall be called off and rescheduled for a later date.
- In the event that weather conditions force a second stoppage of play before the game is considered official, the game shall be called off and rescheduled for a later date.

3. If, during a game, weather conditions force a stoppage of play (with the exception of lightning and/or thunder) before the game is considered official, a fifteen (15) minute delay shall be in effect. If after fifteen (15) minutes, conditions have not improved so as to continue the game, the game shall be called off and rescheduled for a later date.

In the event that weather conditions force a second stoppage of play before the game is considered official, the game shall be called off and rescheduled for a later date.

**4. Should two games be called off in a given evening because of lightning, thunder, and/or weather related issues, the remainder of the evening's games shall also be called off and rescheduled at a later date.**

5. Rainouts will be rescheduled following the regular season or as late-season doubleheaders (schedule permitting). Anytime there are make ups, rescheduling, rainouts, playoffs, tournaments, etc., they will be scheduled in accordance to the availability of Park District facilities and staff. **If necessary, teams may have to play makeup games on nights other than their normal league night.**

6. Teams will be given as much advance notice as possible for all make up games.

## **RULES**

The Bartlett Park District has adopted the following set of rules to govern the Fall Softball League organized and controlled by the Park District. Rules not covered herein will be determined by the 2014 A.S.A. "Official Rule Book."

1. If a player is ejected for inappropriate conduct, the player's place may not be taken by anyone else, forcing a team to play short a player for the remainder of the game. An automatic out will be assessed each time that player would have batted. If an EP is designated and not present, an out will be recorded each time the EP is to bat.

2. One game ball will be provided. In the event of a home run or a foul ball, teams are asked to retrieve the ball so that play may continue. Teams may provide the umpire with an "extra" ball so that play may continue until the game ball is returned to play. "Extra" balls provided by teams must be approved by the umpire and conform to league specifications prior to being allowed to be put into play. Game Ball- 12" Worth Optic Yellow Hot Dot AHD12SY; 14" DeBeer CF14 Clincher

**3. The home team may keep the game ball beginning in week 3.**

4. There will be a 5 home run limit in effect for each game. Any home runs exceeding 5 shall result in a dead ball out. "In the park" home runs are not counted towards this total.

5. No tobacco products are allowed on the fields or in the dugouts. This includes before, during, and after your game.

## **GAME PLAY**

1. An official game is that of 4 complete innings (3 ½ if the home team is winning), if stopped due to rain or other cause. Any game canceled prior to the completion of 4 innings will be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped.

2. A twenty (20) run slaughter rule will be in effect after 4 innings or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead. A fifteen (15) run slaughter rule will be in effect any time after 5 full innings or 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead. Ten (10) runs after 6 innings or 5 ½ if home team is ahead.

3. Games tied after the completion of seven innings (but prior to the one hour time limit) shall continue using the "International Tie-Breaker Rule." Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base.

4. If the score is tied after one hour (regardless of inning), the game will be completed using the "International Tie-Breaker Rule" as described above.

5. The official starting time for a game delayed by a previous game is 5 minutes after the end of the preceding game. In these cases, no infield practice is allowed.

6. After the first inning the umpire shall invoke the "no warm-up" rule, which will remove warm-up pitches and infield/outfield warm-ups.

7. Metal cleats or Metal Tipped detachable cleats are NOT ALLOWED. Shoes with plastic molded cleats that screw INTO the shoe are allowed.

8. Infield Fly rule applies.

9. Collision Rule: The runner must be called out if he remains on his feet and, with great force, crashes into a defensive player holding the ball and waiting to apply a tag. The runner does not have to slide. The runner can avoid a crash by giving himself up, going back to the previous base, getting in a rundown, or sliding.

10. Fake tags will NOT be tolerated.

11. Player Conduct - Players must respect the umpire, Bartlett Park District staff, and other players. Player's behavior is the responsibility of the player and captain of that team. Any player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be suspended for a MINIMUM of two additional games and not be allowed on Park District property.

12. If team line up falls below 10 players due to injury or any other reason other than ejection, the batting order will be discontinued. If a player is ejected, and the line up falls below 10 players, an out will be given every time the ejected player is up.

13. If a pitcher is taken out of the game, he/she must not return to the pitcher position for 1 full inning.

14. Catchers/Pitchers are not allowed to block the plate/base path on a play at home before they have the ball. They must abide by the "Catch, Block, Tag" scenario. Once the catcher/pitcher has possession of the ball, they may go to the base path and tag the runner. If the catcher/pitcher interferes with the runner in the base path before they have possession of the ball, the runner will be called safe.

#### **Co-ed 14"**

Eight players are required for an official game (4 men and 4 women), and teams may add a ninth and tenth player at any time. If there are 5 females and 4 males, an out will not be issued in the tenth spot. If there are 5 males and 4 females, an out will be issued in the tenth spot.

Defensive positioning shall include two males and two females in the outfield, two males and two females in the infield, and one male and one female in the pitcher-catcher positions.

In the case of a team with eight or nine players, the following exceptions apply:

If a team has eight or nine players, they must play at least one female in the outfield and one in the pitcher/catcher position. There is no automatic out in the 9<sup>th</sup> batting spot if a team only has 8 players.

#### **Men's 12"**

Eight players are required for an official game, and teams may add a ninth and tenth player at any time. There is no automatic out in the 9<sup>th</sup> batting spot if a team only has 8 players.

**If at any time after completion of the third inning, a team with only eight players falls behind by fifteen (15) or more runs, the game shall be immediately declared over.**

#### **BATTING**

1. Each batter will begin with a 1-1 count.

2. Batter is out if they intentionally throw the bat.

3. Bunting is not allowed. Players must take a full swing at the ball.

4. A batter is out if they hit one foul ball after two strikes.

5. All bats must be ASA approved and have the 2000, 2004, or 2013 ASA certification mark and not be on the non-approved list. All bats must say "Official Softball Bat". Bats must be covered with a non-slip tape or other approved material. The tape on the handle may not be less than 10 inches and not more than 15 inches.

#### **Illegal Bats (revised for 2014)**

- All bats will be checked by the umpire prior to the start of the game. If an illegal bat is brought into play after the umpire has checked the bats, the player using the bat will be ejected from the game. The team will be documented as using an illegal bat.
- If a team is caught using an illegal bat a second time during the season, the player and captain will be ejected from the game and suspended for a minimum of 3 games.

#### **These rules are in effect for player safety**

6. If a batter steps on or over home plate in the process of swinging, the batter shall be declared out.

7. The extra player rule will be allowed with free substitutions.

#### **Co-ed 14"**

1. The batting order shall alternate sexes. Should two males bat consecutively, an automatic out will be declared.

2. A male batter who receives a walk will be awarded second base. Runners advance if forced. The next batter (a female) will bat. **If there are 2 outs, the female will have the option of batting or taking a walk.**

#### **BASE RUNNING**

1. Distance between bases shall be 70' for all leagues.

2. No Stealing and no lead-offs. Runners on base can leave the base on contact or when the ball crosses the plate.

3. In all games in which a double first base is used, the batter-runner shall automatically be declared out if, on a play on the infield, he/she touches only the white portion of the base.

4. Courtesy runners will be allowed. Courtesy runner will be the last out made of the same gender. If a player requires a courtesy runner, they **must be** used the entire game unless an injury occurs during the game. The umpire must be informed of the courtesy runner before the next pitch.

#### **PITCHING**

1. No hesitation, 10 seconds to deliver a pitch.

2. Pitching Distances:

- Men's 12": The pitching rubber shall be at a distance of 50 feet from home plate.
- Co-ed 14" Hardball: The pitching rubber shall be at a distance of 46 feet from home plate.

3. A strike mat will be used in all games and will be placed approximately one inch off of the plate. If a pitch hits any part of the mat, it shall be declared a strike. For purposes of this rule, any pitch which simultaneously hits home plate and the strike mat shall be declared a strike.

4. There is a 6' minimum arc and a 12' maximum arc from the ground. A "flat pitch" can be taken for a ball or swung on by the batter at their own risk.

- At the pitcher's option, they may choose to start their delivery from any point up to six (6) feet directly behind the pitcher's plate. That point becomes the new *de facto* pitcher's plate. The pivot foot must remain in contact with that point until the ball is released.

## **FORFEITS**

1. Game time is forfeit time! If a team fails to have enough rostered players by game time, the game will be awarded to the opposing team. Once an umpire declares a game forfeited, the game cannot be played. The game will be recorded as 7-0 for the team that has enough players. If a team forfeits 3 games, they will be declared ineligible for the post-season tournament. Forfeiture of a doubleheader, if needed, will be counted as one forfeit. **Please carry enough rostered players so as to not forfeit during the season.**

2. Grace Period – There will be a five-minute grace period for all games that are scheduled to begin at 6:30pm. Should a team fail to have the minimum number of players required to begin the game upon conclusion of the grace period, the game shall be declared a forfeit and awarded to the opposing team. In addition, the grace period is considered a part of the one-hour time limit for the game.

## **PROTESTS**

1. All umpire decisions are final; **NO PROTESTS ALLOWED.**

2. Only the captain will be allowed to question the decision of the umpire. The questioning must be done in an orderly manner. Any acts of unsportsmanlike conduct including the use of profane, abusive, or insulting language can result in a forfeit by the offending team.

## **RULE VIOLATIONS**

1. If a player gets ejected, he/she will then have to also sit out the next two (2) scheduled games and will not be allowed on Park District property. **The ejected players' team will also have 2 runs deducted from their score. The Recreation Supervisor reserves the right to increase/decrease all suspensions at his discretion.** If a player gets a 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection during the season or 2 ejections in a one year span, they will be suspended from all athletic leagues for a MINIMUM of one (1) full year.

2. Use of a un-rostered (illegal) player will result in the forfeiture of the game in which he/she is caught illegally playing. In the event that a team suspects that the opposing team is using a un-rostered (illegal) player, a roster check may be requested. At that time the offending player will be required to produce photo identification. If the player is unable to produce photo identification at that time, they shall be declared a un-rostered (illegal) player and the game will be forfeited. In addition, the time taken to complete the roster check shall be considered as part of the one-hour time limit.

**NOTE: Roster checks must be called prior to the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning of play.**

3. Active participation in any type of disorderly conduct (fighting, etc.) will result in expulsion from the league for a minimum of one (1) full year, beginning the day of the incident, for the player and possibly the team.

4. We ask that you respect the rights of the umpires and Park District Staff. If, for any reason, an umpire or Park District Staff is physically or verbally threatened or abused, struck by a player, captain, or spectator before, during, or after a game, that person will be expelled from participation in any adult leagues indefinitely.

5. Use of excessive foul language by players and spectators must be policed by their respective team members. Umpires have the authority to remove spectators from the park for causing a distraction to the game, players, umpires, or staff. The Bartlett Park District has a zero tolerance for swearing on the softball fields. The following steps will be taken for violators of this policy.

1<sup>st</sup> offense- offending team is warned.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense- player is ejected from that game, and possibly an additional game depending on the severity.

6. No players or spectators will be in possession of alcohol on park property. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of the game.

### **PLAYOFFS/TOURNAMENT**

1. There will be no time limit in the semi-final and championship games.
  2. A single elimination tournament is conducted at the end of league play. League standings determine the seeding of each team in the tournament.
  3. Several games may be played in succession, which is common in tournament play.
  4. The top 6 teams will advance into the playoffs for each league along with any team that has at least 3 wins. Ties will be broken in the following manner:
    - A. Any team with a forfeit during the regular season automatically lose all ties
    - B. Head to head record during the regular season. For ties with 2+ teams, one team must beat **all** the teams involved in order to use this tie-breaker.
    - C. Lowest runs allowed during the regular season
    - D. Record against the 1<sup>st</sup> place team
    - E. Run differential against the 1<sup>st</sup> place team
    - F. If a tie still exists, the run differential from the season will determine the higher seed.
- \*If 2 or more teams are tied, the process will repeat itself after a team is eliminated.

**5. All players must bring their photo I.D.'s to the playoffs. Field Supervisors may ask to check ID's before the game begins. Any player that does not have an ID or is not on the roster, will not be allowed to play.**

6. Prize money from the season and playoffs will be sent to the captain's address listed on the registration form approximately 2 weeks after the playoffs are completed.
- \$150 for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the season, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the season.
  - \$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the playoffs, \$50 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the playoffs.

### **LEAGUE INFORMATION**

1. All rules, schedules, and standings will be available online at <http://www.teamsideline.com/bartlettparkdistrict>
2. Changes in the schedule will be e-mailed to the captains when they are produced.
3. Standings will be updated online within 48 hours of each night's games.
4. Teams are reminded that the Bartlett Park District does not carry medical insurance covering injuries incurred while participating in the Bartlett Park District Softball League.

**The Bartlett Park District reserves the right to modify any and all league rules, regulations, and procedures as necessary.**