



Bloomsburg Area YMCA

RECREATIONAL CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES 2021

- Starts June 8, 2021 – July 27th
- July 29, Aug 3, & 5 are designated as make-up dates
- Games played Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Cost is \$20 per player or \$250 per team
- Must sign participation waiver
- Games start at 6:30 p.m.
- Games are 9 innings long. (must be agreed upon by both captains prior to start of game.)
Games that don't get started before 6:45 p.m. will be 7 innings long.

All teams must play by YMCA rules only and not any other league rules.

- **This is a wooden bat ONLY league (NO METAL BATS).**
 - Single piece bats only. Prior to buying a bat, confirm that it is regulation for the Y league.
 - Be sure to inspect all bats before each game to assure that bats are not cracked or flawed, for safety purposes.
 - The opposing team has the right to inspect any suspicious bats.
 - Use of illegal bats will NOT be tolerated. It is the batter's responsibility to know that his or her bat is legal. Bats should not be altered in any way (NO CORKED BATS). Bats must be manufactured. Any batter stepping into the batter's box with an illegal bat will result in an automatic LOSS.

No wearing spiked metal cleats- NO EXEPTIONS. Plastic/Rubber Only!

AGE: Players must be 16 years old to play by June 1st of the playing year. (Players 16-17 years old must submit a minor permission slip.)

DEADLINE FOR ROSTER AND PAYMENT

- The team fee of \$250.00 and the roster MUST be turned in by **Friday, May 21st, 2021** before the start of the season!
- Rosters are not required in recreational league – anyone who shows up may play

GAMES

- Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday nights.
- Coaches/Captains may adjust how games are played on a given night as long as both teams agree.
- Make-up games must be scheduled between team captains of the cancelled game. If both team captains agree to play the game on another field other than the one being used during the league play, you must get permission from the YCMA before doing so.
- Both captains must agree to the field and rules pertaining to that field.

RAIN OUTS

- YMCA will notify captains of Rain Outs by email and/or text message. Captains are responsible for notifying their team members. If weather or natural light becomes a factor during game play, ONLY team captains will decide when to call the game. Games MUST end after a full inning. (This must be agreed upon prior to the start of the new inning.) Final score will be the score at the end of the last full inning. If a game cannot be made up it is no big deal.
- Teams must play 5 full innings in order for the game to count.
- If a team is losing by 20 runs at the end of the 6th inning, the losing team has the right to decide to end the game. Feel free to make team shifts and play a second game if time permits.
- If Y calls the game by 3 p.m., the game is cancelled. The fields will not be set up to play!
- Option 2- If the game is NOT cancelled and the weather takes a turn for the worse, it is up to the captains to decide if they are going to play. If they cannot come to an agreement, there will be no game.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON FIELD

- Maximum players on the field are 10.
- Minimum players on the field are 8.
- Must have 3 girls on the field at all times.
- There will be no forfeits due to being short—just show up and play if possible, teams will be adjusted to compensate.
- Must have 3 women on the field at all times. Must have 1 female batter after every fourth male batter in the batting order. This is a co-ed league, so each team must have at least 3 women playing at all times. If this is not possible the rules will be negotiated by the captains at the start of the game.
- FREE DEFENSIVE SUBS ONLY.

UMPIRES

- The team that is batting supplies the 1st and 3rd base umpires, and makes responsible calls at 2nd and 3rd. On deck batter calls plays at home plate. If the deck player is not there, the batter is OUT on a close play. The catcher calls ball, strikes, and foul balls only. Finally, since we do not have official umpires, it is expected that teams make calls FAIRLY.
- If an umpire is not on plate, opposed play will always be an OUT.

BASE RUNNER

- All base running ties go to the runner. If it is a close play, the runner must slide OR avoid contact with the fielding player (or give himself/herself up). If the runner makes forceful contact, the runner is automatically out.
- AVOID CONTACT WITH FIELDERS AT ALL COSTS.
- A base runner hit by a batted ball is automatically out.
- A base runner that runs 3 feet out of the base line will be called out.

- In a close play, if the runner interferes with the catcher making the play, the runner is out. A catcher is NOT allowed to block home plate. If a catcher does so, the runner is safe.
- 2017—pinch runner only in case of an injury, please let other team know before game starts of any need for a pinch runner. Last out is pinch runner.

FOUL TIPS

- A foul tipped ball caught by a catcher must be above the batters head to be considered an out!
- A foul ball on the batters 3rd strike caught by the catcher results in the batter being out. Regardless of how high the ball goes.

PITCHERS

- Pitching distance is 48 feet.
- The pitcher must touch the mound at some point during each pitch (before, during, or after release). **If after 1st warning from the opposing team captain the pitcher does not abide by this rule, it will result in an automatic walk thereafter.** Pitching Arc MUST be between 6-12 feet. Most player's average height is 5'6-6'. Any pitch under the top of a player's head is a no pitch (to be called by team Captains ONLY). Height is obviously hard to tell, so please give pitchers a little leeway. If the pitch is over 14 feet, it will be a no pitch. **Don't make this a difficult issue; only push the issue if the pitcher continually pitches at an arc too low or high. Pitchers, please try to pitch within your restrictions.*
- **No intentional walks. Captains will review the call if any discrepancies.**

BATTERS

This league does not have a marked out batter's box. However, you are still expected to stay within that imaginary area. DO NOT step forward to the point of being way up out of that area toward the pitcher. A foul on the 3rd and 4th strike results in the batter being out.

OVERTHROWS

On a no-contained field (NO FENCE) a runner gets 1 base on an over throw from the outfield and 1 base on an over throw from the infield. This is counted from the last base touched by the runner when the ball is released from the fielder's hand.

OUTFIELDERS

- Outfielders (other than 1 short fielder) must play NO shallower than 150 ft at ALL times.
- The short fielder must remain approximately 15 ft behind the infield. After contact has been made, outfielders can move within that point to field the ball. The result of breaking this rule is a free base. If a runner is on base, runner(s) advance to the next base. If no runner is on base, the batter takes the base.
- 2014 New Rule— a team may only play 3 outfielders, plus 1 short fielder. Any player playing more than 15 feet beyond the baseline is considered an outfielder.

INFIELD FLY RULE

An infield fly is a fair ball hit in the infield (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when 1st and 2nd or 1st and 3rd bases are occupied with less than 2 outs. The pitcher, catcher, or any outfielder stations himself in the infield on the play will be considered infielders for the purpose of the rule. (Keep in mind in this league the outfielders should be starting at the 150 ft mark). When it is apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the 1st and 3rd base coaches should immediately call out “infield fly” for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the base line, the 1st and 3rd base coaches should declare “infield fly” if fair. When the infield fly rule is called, runners may advance at their own risk. Even if the infielder later drops the ball, it makes no difference. As soon as the 1st or 3rd base coach makes the call, the batter is and must leave the field.

THERE IS NO BUNTING OR STEALING BASES IN THE LEAGUE! YOU MUST REMAIN ON BASE UNTIL BALL IS HIT!

FIRST AID

If first aid is required for a player, the player must be immediately removed from the game unless treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time. A player, coach, or official will not be allowed to participate unless:

1. All bleeding has stopped.
2. Any exposed cut/scrape which has bled is completely covered.
3. Bloody clothing shall be removed.

PLAYOFFS

- As a recreational league there will be no playoffs – the option to hold a post season tournament will be decided upon by team captains by mid-season.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- It is expected, as this league is supposed to be for “fun” as well as “competitive,” that ALL teams conduct themselves appropriately. Inappropriate language/swearing or unsportsmanlike conduct WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
- First offense—if a person **confronted for swearing/fighting** that person will be ejected from the game **and suspended from the NEXT game. This offense must be documented by both captains of each team and submitted to the Y.**
- Second offense (by the same person in a future game) will result in being ejected from the league the remainder of the season and the Playoffs. Documentation is required by the Captains and turned into the YMCA.
- **Ejected players will be reviewed before the next season to see if they are permitted to play.**
- Discrepancies/Questions coming up during game play will be discussed between team Captains ONLY.

ANY PHYSICAL/VERBAL ALTERCATION BY ANY PARTICIPANT WILL RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM THE LEAGUE.

- Situations will be reviewed by the Captain/YMCA to determine status of teams/players.
- Team players are also responsible for the actions of their family that have come to cheer them on at the games. Please inform them that they cannot be screaming/ swearing at the other team/players if they dislike a call. If a family member gets out of hand, the play associated with them should calm the situation or have them leave the playing area.
- **Physical altercation will result in league suspension...no warnings.**

NO SMOKING ON FIELDS.

NO ALCOHOL DURING OR AFTER GAMES ON FIELD.

- First offense—if a person confronted for smoking/drinking that person will be ejected from the game and suspended from the NEXT game. This offense must be documented by both captains of each team and submitted to the Y.
- Second offense (by the same person in a future game) will result in being rejected from the league the remainder of the season and the Playoffs. Documentation is required by the Captains and turned into the YMCA.
- **Ejected players will be reviewed before the next season to see if they are permitted to play.**

GROUNDS KEEPING

The YMCA expects ALL trash to be picked up and put in the proper place at ALL fields. If bathrooms are provided, please use them. If it is determined that a player/team is not following this rule, that person/team will be automatically thrown out of the game. NO questions asked. We are guests on all fields that we use; respect the fields and their surroundings.

CAPTAINS...

It is your responsibility to make sure that you and your team know, understand, and obey all the rules of the YMCA Softball League.

THIS IS A FAMILY LEAGUE. PLEASE PLAY SAFE, BE HONEST, RESPECT ONE ANOTHER, BE RESPONSIBLE, AND ENJOY THE SEASON!

COMMON DECENCY

1. This is NOT the big leagues.
2. We are playing for FUN.
3. Allow the players that are not “all-stars” the experience to still enjoy the game.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Brianna Felty, YMCA Director of Healthy Living: (570) 784-0188
- Robin Houser: (570) 437-4391
- Jeff Watkins: (570) 204-8821

****If you would like more copies to hand out to your team, please let Bri know.**