

BUCKS COUNTY SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

MARCH, 2018

Participants are reminded that softball is a game to be enjoyed. Exercise, fellowship and friendly competition are our goals. Negative comments about fellow players, opponents or umpires are not in keeping with the spirit of the sport. Disagreements between managers and players should be expressed with respect and consideration by both parties, preferably in private. No one should be disparaged or criticized in front of teammates and spectators.

Each season shall begin on the last Monday of April.

1) EQUIPMENT

NO METAL SPIKES are allowed, regulation-sized gloves; and approved bats.

A) BATS

Only ASA approved single wall bats are allowed. No double wall, triple wall, or composite bats are permitted. ONE PIECE BATS ONLY. Any use of an illegal bat will result in suspension.

2) CANCELLATIONS

The home team manager will determine if games are to be canceled due to weather conditions that would impact on the safety and well-being of participants.

Canceled games must be, and will be automatically rescheduled as a double-header the next time both teams meet.

The original home team shall be the home team for the rescheduled game. Both games will be SEVEN inning's unless Mercy rule take effect. Each batter of each game will start with a ONE BALL, ONE STRIKE count. Failure to play the rescheduled game will be a forfeit awarded to both teams. All players will be given credit for both games including forfeit.

3) SCORING

A) MERCY RULE

If a team is leading by 15 or more runs after the 5th inning (4½ innings if the home team is ahead), the game will be considered complete. If the visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the fifth inning, the home team must bat in the bottom of the inning.

B) FIVE RUN RULE

During innings 1 thru 6, teams are limited to five (5) runs per inning. If an over-the-fence home run scores a base runner as the fifth run, only the batters home run will be allowed as the sixth run of the inning.

At the start of the 7th inning and for the duration of the game, a team at bat is not limited to the number of runs it may score.

4) BATTING

A) BATTER'S BOX

The batter's box is the three-foot by seven-foot area to which the batter is restricted. Prior to the pitch, any part of the batter's foot/feet touching a line is considered to be in the box.

B) ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL

An illegally batted ball occurs when the batter hits the ball fair or foul and:

- i) An entire foot is completely outside the lines of the batter's box and on the ground.
- ii) Any part of the foot is touching home plate;
- iii) An illegal or altered bat is used.

In all cases, the ball is dead and the batter will be called out.

C) DOUBLE BAG

A double bag shall be used at first base, the double portion of the bag being in foul territory. If, in the judgment of the umpire, there is a play on a batter-runner going to first base, the batter-runner must touch only the bag in foul territory. He is at risk of being called out if he fails to do so, except to avoid a collision in the judgment of the umpire. This is not an appeal play. The defensive player has only the bag inside fair territory to make the putout; his touch of only the bag in foul territory will not result in an out. The defensive player can have part of his foot on the bag in foul territory and still record an out. The base runner (after ceasing to be a batter-runner) is allowed to utilize either the portion of the bag in fair territory OR the portion of the bag in foul territory, or both, while on 1st base. The practical effect is that the two portions of the bag are “merged” for both offensive and defensive purposes once the batter-runner becomes solely a base runner.

D) FOULED THIRD STRIKE

Upon hitting a foul ball on a third strike, the batter is out. If the ball is caught in the air, the ball remains live.

E) COURTESY RUNNERS

- i) All players are required to run to first base.
- ii) Any player on the official team game lineup and present may be a courtesy runner.
- iii) A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at any time, but the same courtesy runner may NOT be used more than **one (1) time each inning**.
- v) A runner who is replaced with a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.
- vi) A courtesy runner may not be replaced by another courtesy runner except for injury causing removal of the original courtesy runner permanently from the game.
- vii) A courtesy runner on base when it is his turn to bat will be declared out by the umpire. The runner will be removed from the base and no other courtesy runner is allowed. The courtesy runner called out does not lose his turn at bat.

5) PITCHING

A) ARC

The height of a legal pitch must be from six (6) to twelve (12) feet above the playing surface.

B) MAT

Legal pitches striking any portion of the mat or of home plate will be strikes.

6) RUNNERS

A) LEAVING THE BASE EARLY

A runner leaving the base before batted ball contact will not be called out.

B) SLIDING

Sliding or diving into a base or the Scoring Plate is not permitted, and such players will be called out.

C) CONTACT

A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases. If a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, the runner may not be called out (umpire's judgment).

D) OVERRUNNING BASES

- i) Players are permitted to over-run second and third base without being in jeopardy of being called out.
- ii) A player may over-run first base unless he makes an attempt to advance to second base.
- iii) A runner who overruns any base when returning to it is not liable to be put out.
- iv) If, in the umpire's judgment, a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, the runner will not be called out.

E) FORCE PLAYS

All defensive plays on runners toward any base are force plays.

F) COMMITMENT LINE / APPEAL PLAY

Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past the commitment line, he must immediately move toward the next base and can not retreat back to last base touched.

7) LEAGUE ADD ON RULES (MANAGER'S VOTE)

When there is an obvious injury during the game, player can be by-passed in the batting order without being penalized with a out. Team rosters must be turned in by 4/25/2016. No games on 7/6/2016. Bases remain at 65 feet. ASA sticker not required if bat is stamped single wall aluminum bat.

A game can start with 9 or 10 players and be penalized a maximum of one out. Game can't end on automatic out.

Teams must end with the same number of players it started with.

One DH may bat for any fielder and can re-enter game once. EH is used at manager's discretion.

8) MISCELLANEOUS

A) APPEALS

An appeal is a play in which an umpire may not make a decision until requested. The appeal must be made before the next pitch or before the defensive players have left fair territory. There are three types of appeals: Runner(s) missing a base; a runner leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched; and a player batting out of order.

B) PROTESTS

Protests must be made at time of infraction before next pitch is thrown.

C) EJECTIONS

An ejection is the result of an incident that requires removal from the game by the umpire. Umpires may eject anyone who throws equipment in a display of anger.

i) The player or coach must leave the grounds for the remainder of the game. If an ejected player does not vacate the premises in a timely manner, the game will be forfeited.

ii) A ONE game suspension is mandatory for any player or manager ejected from a league game.

iii) When a team begins a game with 11 players and has a player ejected from the game, the affected team shall continue with 10 players.

9) PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

A) Minimum age is 60. Each team however may have a total of 4 players under 60. Of the four exceptions only 2 can be 57. The other two can be 58 or 59. Age qualification is the age you are December 31 of the calendar year. (January 1 to December 31)

B) Players must be on a team roster before being eligible to play.

C) Players must participate in at least 50% of regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.

D) All managers must report from the official score book both teams game participants. It must be e-mailed to www.buckscountyseniorsoftball@gmail.com or jbordone@yahoo.com. It can also be texted or called to 215-403-2402.

10) END OF SEASON TIE BREAKERS

The Tie Breakers below will be used in the order specified to resolve all end of regular season ties.

1) Head-to-head win/loss record

2) Total season runs scored less runs allowed. Team with greatest differential wins.

3) Coin Flip.

11) 2018 RULE CHANGES

- 1) No outs will be charged to a team playing with 9 or 10 players.
- 2) Late players may be inserted into the lineup before the recorded last out if all batters have already batted. If the batting team has not gone through the lineup, the player will be inserted as the last batter.