

BALLFEST 2015 Rules of Play

(updated July 22, 2015)

The first and most important rule of BALLFEST is FUN FIRST!

GENERAL

- **NO ALCOHOL ON FIELDS OR DUGOUTS!**
- Play rain or shine.
- Team Roster must be completed and submitted prior to first game!
- A team representative must check-in on Friday Night to receive team package and to register bats.
 - If you are unable to make it please call Fraser Young 403-966-9533.
- A Scoresheet will be provided for each game. Turn in official score sheets IMMEDIATELY after each game to the concession.
- Round robin format:
 - Recreational: 4 pools of 4 teams (3 games in Round Robin)
 - Intermediate: 2 pools of 5 teams (2 games in Round Robin)
- Playoff Format:
 - Recreational: Single Elimination. Top two in each pool compete for Rec championship, 3rd place and 4th place to consolation.
 - Intermediate: Top three in each pool qualify for playoffs. Top in each pool gets a first-round "bye".
- Tiebreak: for two or more teams with same win/loss record.
 - Record against each other.
 - Best plus/minus, all games.
 - Best plus/minus excluding non-tied teams.
 - Least runs allowed, excluding non-tied teams.
 - Draw from hat.
- Home Team (batting first, etc) in Round Robin determined by rock-paper-scissors.
 - Dugout assignment is independent and written on schedule.
- Home team in first round of playoffs is the higher ranked team from round robin (tiebreakers in effect). After first round, determined by rock-paper-scissors.
- All rules and/or principles not addressed below will be specified in the current SPN rulebook.

GAME

- All games will be seven innings (if time permits). Home team does not bat in the bottom of seven if they are ahead.
- Time limit: no new inning may begin after 1 hour and 10 minutes for round robin games. (10 min before next time slot) Playoff games will have no time limit.
- There is a 5 run limit per inning except the 7th inning, which is open. Note: if last inning is called before 7th it is NOT open; only the 7th is open.
- Ties are in effect for round robin after last inning. Playoffs go to extra innings. Starting with the third extra inning, teams start with a runner on 2nd base.
- Mercy rule in effect: 13 runs after 5 innings or 10 runs after 6 innings.
- Home-Run rule: 3 match + 1. After a team has hit 3 over the fence home runs they must wait for the other team to hit 3 before they can hit another. Thereafter no team can be ahead more than 1 HR. HR's hit after limit will be singles.

- Teams are responsible for retrieving their HR and foul balls
 - Batters do not have to run around the bases on over-the-fence HRs.
 - Wooden strike mats must be hit for strike. Arc minimum 6 feet, no maximum.
 - Third strike foul rule is in effect, the batter is declared out if he/she hits a foul ball (or foul tip) with two strikes.
 - Infield fly rule is in effect. Runners on 1 and 2 with less than two outs, pop up batter is out.
 - If there is a four pitch walk to a male batter with a female immediately following, the male gets second base and the female has the option of taking first base without batting.
 - Courtesy runners are allowed but it must be the last person on your team to be called out of the same gender. Starts behind home plate
 - No bunting. Players must swing at the ball.
 - There is no anticipation and no lead-offs. If a player leaves the base before contact with the bat has been made he/she will be called out.
- A small step on a swing-and-a-miss is ok. We're trying to have fun here.

PLAYING FIELD

- Commitment line is 20' from home plate. Base runner must continue once foot is past line, also no tag outs at home, its a force play where the runner must cross the safe line before the catcher receives the ball with a foot on the wooden plate.
- There is no sliding at any base. Players may run through any base provided they turn to the right before returning, turning left will be taken as an attempt at the next base and the runner may be tagged out.

EQUIPMENT

- No metal spikes allowed.
- SPN / ASA approved bats only, see list of illegal bats.
- Safe base on first is there for a reason, fielder must use field side of base while runner running through must use foul side if there is no reasonable play at first the fielder must yield entire base to the runner. Use common sense - we don't want any injuries.
- Game balls will be provided. Teams are responsible for collecting balls hit out of the field.

PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- Minimum 9 players to take the field, maximum 10 on the field at one time.
- Defensively, gender ratio is 6/4. You may play with 6Male/4Female, 5M/5F, or 4M/6F.
- Batting Order: There can no more than 2 males in a row at anytime in the batting order.
- If a team starts a game with 6M and 3F the missing female spot in the batting order is declared an automatic out, however a team can start with 5M and 4F without any penalty.
- **A team may bat their full roster provided there is no more than 2 males in a row at anytime, including bottom of order to lead-off.**

ALL PLAYERS AND COACHES WILL CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER AT ALL TIMES. ANY HARASSMENT, VERBAL OR PHYSICAL TOWARDS UMPIRES, GAME OFFICIALS, TOURNAMENT EXECUTIVES OR OPPOSING TEAMS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

The last and most important rule of BALLFEST is FUN FIRST!!