



51 High Street, Bristol, CT 06010 | 860-584-6160 | ParksandRecreation@bristolct.gov

Softball League By-Laws

Updated: 08/28/2025

Registration

- All teams must be signed up through Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth, and Community Services to participate (BristolRec.com).
- No players under 18 are allowed on a team's roster unless approved by the league director(s).

Game Play I

- Certified umpires will be used at each game.
- ASA Rules / 6'-10' Pitch.
- Five over-the-fence home runs per team per game. **Any additional homeruns end the inning and do not count.** Do not run home runs out.
- Batters come to the plate with a 1-1 count, with 1 foul ball to waste. This means if you hit a foul ball with two strikes, you are out.
- The mercy rule is in effect -- (20 runs after 3, 15 after 4, 12 after 5). If the away team goes ahead by one of these run amounts in the top half of the inning, the losing team still gets their at-bats in the bottom half of the inning **through the fifth inning only**. After the fifth inning, if a team goes ahead by 12+ runs, the game is over, and the team trailing does not get their at-bats.
- League director(s) will provide game balls.
- Home/away is switched after each game of a doubleheader.
- A full game is seven innings. Tie games will be continued until a team wins.
- There is a 15-minute grace period to avoid a forfeit.
- In the event of inclement weather, a regular-season game is official if the losing team has batted at least 4 times.
- Pitchers are **strongly recommended** to wear a face mask. Masks will be provided by the league for any team or player who does not have their own. Masks are available in the shed at Mix St. Masks are not stored at Casey, and if a player needs to use one, he/she or the team manager must let the league director know before the game.
- There is a double base at first base -- the white base for defense and an orange base for the runner.
- No bunting.
- Teams must bat at least 10 players. There is no maximum number of players a team can bat.
- If a team only has 9 players, the 10th batter is an automatic out.
- A player can be added to the lineup after a game has begun. If the team has begun to hit, the player will be added to the last spot in the line-up, and the out no longer has to be recorded.
- No metal spikes.



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- The hitting team is responsible for getting any home runs and foul balls that they hit.
- All teams must be paid in full before their first game in order to play in the league.
- A team roster will be collected by the end of the fifth week of the season.

Game Play II/Co-Ed Specific Rules

- There is a 3-girl minimum. If a team cannot meet this requirement, the following penalties apply:
 - With 2 girls, there are only 9 position players permitted, and an automatic out at the end of the lineup.
 - With 1 girl, there are 8 position players, and 2 automatic outs at the end of the lineup. The team may use an extra player at catcher or borrow one from the opposing team. However, this player can NOT be involved in any plays.
 - If a team has no girls to play, a forfeit will be issued.
- A team's lineup may consist of unlimited players; however, they must maintain a 3:1 max guy/girl ratio (or 1 out of every 4 players has to be a female).
- Free substitutions are allowed, and players can be taken out and returned to the lineup, as long as there are always 3 female batters in every cycle of the lineup
- If a player leaves (extra hitters included), and there is no replacement, that spot becomes an automatic out.
- Pinch runners are allowed for injured players. However, a girl must run for a girl whenever possible.
- When a female is at bat, outfielders must be at least 60 feet from the edge of the infield.
- All males must use a wooden softball bat (not baseball). No composites or hybrids are allowed.
- Girls may use any single-wall bat. A composite bat is okay.

Playoffs

- All teams make the playoffs.
- Playoff games must be completed in full (unless the mercy rule applies). If inclement weather causes the game to be postponed, the league director will determine a make-up date and time.
- It is each team's responsibility to make sure they have enough players for a playoff game.
- Any male player must play in a minimum of 4 games to qualify for the playoffs. Any variance needs to be approved by the League Director. Exceptions include injuries, travel, work scheduling, etc. League director(s) will do their best to monitor this. **Rosters will be collected no later than the end of Week 4, and if additions to a team's roster are needed after this, they must be communicated to the league director.**
- Teams cannot borrow a player from another team to fill in during the playoffs.
- The higher seed will always be the home team throughout the playoffs.



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Sportsmanship

- Sportsmanship is expected by players at all times. Teams are encouraged to keep it friendly on and off the field.
- **Treat the umpire and league director(s) with respect.**
- Umpires and league director(s) have full discretion to eject a player from a game.
- Any player ejected from a game an umpire or league director will have to sit out the next game.
- Any player ejected twice in the same season will forfeit his right to play in the Bristol Co-Ed Softball League, and a refund will not be given.

Field Usage

- In inclement weather, the league director(s) will determine if a field is unplayable.
- Players are not allowed to do any maintenance on city fields.
- Keep dugouts clean and throw away all garbage. If there are games after you, please do so quickly.