

BELLINGHAM MEN'S OVER 30 SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2021 BY LAWS

Revision #14 12/01/2021

LEAGUE MOTTO: "LET'S GET TOGETHER AND HAVE FUN!!"

ARTICLE I

ORGANIZATION

A. LEAGUE NAME

(1) The official name of the league is the Bellingham Mens's 30 and Over Softball League

B. OFFICERS

(2) The league will be ruled by the following Officers and Directors

* President

* Vice President

* Treasurer

* Secretary

* Auxiliary Director Positions #5, #6, #7 and #8

Officers are nominated and elected annually, for the subsequent year, by all league members attending the annual banquet.

(3) Term of office will be from election to election and the outgoing Board will service in an advisory capacity until January 1, following the election.

(4) In the event of resignation before term of office has expired, the office will be filled as follows:

1. Runner-up in the previous election (or)

2. Appointed by a majority of the Board of Directors

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

(5) President - To preside at all league meetings. In executive session, if any vote ends in a tie, the President will have the authority to break the tie with an additional vote.

(6) Vice President - To assist the President and preside at meetings in cases of absence by the President. "(Recreation Director) to administer all social activities."

(7) Treasurer - To account for all league receipts and expenditures. To submit a monthly written financial report to all league Directors. To submit for end-of-year audit by the President and two league members.

(8) Secretary - To formally record all minutes of all league meetings. To also administer Web Director Responsibilities and all social media activities.

D. LEAGUE MEETINGS

(9) League Meetings will be held monthly throughout the calendar year. Special meetings will be called as deemed necessary by the President.

(10) A majority of League Directors must be present to hold an official league meeting.

E. BY-LAWS

(11) By-laws may be amended at an official league meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present. Any Registered Member can propose a change in the By-Laws. By-Law changes must be proposed at an official league meeting. Vote for approval of amendments to the By-Laws shall only be made at the first league meeting following the meeting at which the change is proposed.

ARTICLE II

PLAYERS

A. REGISTRATION

(12) All prior members and town of Bellingham residents twenty-five (25) years of age and older by April 1st of the upcoming season year are required to register prior to the start of the season with new membership priority given to residents of Bellingham MA. Late arrivals (I.e., after the season begins) must be approved by League Directors prior to participation. Proof of age and residency will be required of new members.

(13) In the case that insufficient players can be fielded from in-town residents, out-of-town residents may be accepted on a first come-first served basis up until the league threshold of 128 players is met. Out-of-towners become grand-fathered into the league and may sign up normally as veterans in subsequent years.

(14) All members must be registered and paid prior to Draft Day and will be assigned to a team. All members will be assigned until a total of one hundred and twenty eight (128) participating players is reached. The remaining members will be assigned to a substitute (or waiting) list in the order of registration dues received. Members on the substitute list are eligible to participate in all league activities.

(15) Prior members who have not signed up before the end of the third sign up date will lose their 'veteran' status and be considered "new" members and placed accordingly. New members who have signed up before the end of the third sign up date will be guaranteed a place on a roster as long as the total membership does not exceed one hundred and twenty eight (128) participating players on that date.

B. DUES

(16) Dues shall be payable at the time of registration. Exceptions to payment of dues may be allowed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(17) Dues shall be waived for members of the Board.

(18) Registration will not be accepted after Draft Day unless total membership is below one hundred and twenty eight (128) participating players.

C. DRAFT

(19) Each team will be represented by one League Director. Each League Director will be responsible for drafting the members of each team. The order of the draft will be selected by random drawing of eight (8) numbers. The draft order will follow a standard “snake draft” format (First round: Picks 1-8, Second round: Picks 8-1, Third round: Picks 1-8, etc, etc) until each team is filled with 16 players and one board member. It is the responsibility of each League Director to ensure that the draft process ensures league competitive balance, each team should have an established “Pitcher”.

D. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

(20) Transfer of players from one team to another may be obtained if requested by the player to the Board prior to the start of the season. Transfer must have the approval of the Board of Directors with a tie vote to be decided by the President.

ARTICLE III

CAPTAINS

(21) No League Director can be a team Captain. Captains will be elected by a majority of team players prior to the opening game of the season.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM CAPTAINS

(22) Maintain team score book and records. Report to the Board of Directors any team member not meeting the minimum required number of games played.

(23) Captains will be required to formally present a written protest, when one is involved, to any League Director prior to the start of the Captain’s team’s next game. They will be allowed to present their case before the Board of Directors, but they will not be allowed to vote.

(24) Captains will exchange team batting rosters upon request.

ARTICLE IV

FIELD RULES

A. Field Player

(25) The maximum number of players allowed defensively will be eleven (11). The minimum number of players allowed for an official game will be seven (7). If pickups are available, teams must field eleven (11) players. A team that cannot field at least seven (7) of its own members must forfeit the game and record an automatic loss.

(26) Pickups will be selected from the sign up book based on order of sign up. In the event that a team eventually has eleven players arrive, signups will be allowed to continue playing if they so desire.

(27) When a shortage of available pickups occurs, the teams will fill in until they are equal.

B. ALLOCATION OF PICK UP PLAYERS

(28) Pickups will not be allowed in the Playoffs.

(29) Method of Choosing Spares, as per rule (35)

In the event that multiple teams need to use pickups - players will be assigned in the following order: (1) Home Team (A Field), (2) Visiting Team (A Field), (3) Home Team (C Field) and (4) Visiting Team (C Field). This order will continue until each team has the required number of players. Upon agreement of all Team Captains involved, pickups may also be assigned based on position of need of each team needing pickups. This should only occur with the agreement of team captains and the approval of Board Members present at the time.

C. OFFENSE

(30) All players present will be part of the rotation in the batting order.

(31) Batters batting out of order are automatically out. Play reverts back to the same situation before the player was up. The mistake has to be caught by the opposing team before the next batter receives his first pitch. In the event that the incorrect batter does not complete the at bat (via hit, walk or out), and the mistake is recognized by either team, the correct batter will be assigned to the batter's box and assume the current count established by the incorrect batter. The correct batting order will resume as soon as the mistake is corrected.

D. DEFENSE

(32) Any player who starts an inning defensively must complete the inning, with the exception of an injury to said player. Each defensive team will consist of (1) Pitcher, (1) Catcher, (4) Infielders and (5) Outfielders (including the Short Fielder). The Short Fielder must begin each play while standing on the outfield grass and be positioned between the 2nd Baseman and the Shortstop players.

E. FREE SUBSTITUTION

(33) Each player is guaranteed three (3) innings defensively in all games if he is there at the start of the game.

(34) Substitute runners are taken from the last person to make an out. If this is the first inning, the last player in the lineup is used. Batters must reach first base safely prior to being granted a substitute runner.

F. OFFICIATING

(35) All games will use the pitching mat, which will be placed directly behind home plate. Any pitched ball that touches the mat or home plate is considered a "strike". A ball landing elsewhere is considered a "ball". As per normal ASA/USA Softball rules, 4 balls means the batter is walked. In the event that an umpire is not available for the game the catcher is responsible for making all strike and ball calls. To speed up the pace of play, each batter will begin his at-bat with a (1) ball and (1) strike count. Therefore, a batter obtains a walk if he is pitched (3) additional balls in an at-bat. As such, a batter obtains a strike-out if he receives (2) additional strikes during an at-bat.

(36) The Short Fielder will be considered an Outfielder for the purposes of determining base advancement on an overthrow. Any overthrow by the Short Fielder will result in a two base advancement by all runners.

(37) In the absence of an umpire, Field Arbitrators on offense will be those in the First and Third base coach's boxes, for the best view of the field.

(38) When a close play is undecided, and an umpire is not present, the flip of a coin will determine which team has the decision.

(39) During the playoffs there will be a Chief Umpire appointed by the Board of Directors to coordinate and assign umpires. Two game umpire will be picked from each of the two teams not playing. Two umpires must be present to officiate each game.

G. EQUIPMENT

(40) The league will supply bats, balls and other equipment purchased by the league.

(41) Players will provide their own playing apparel including gloves and approved bats.

(42) Metal cleats (spikes) are not allowed.

H. GROUND RULES

(43) Prior to the start of the softball season, Ground Rules will be established for each specific field.

(44) The arc of the ball will be between six (6) and twelve (12) feet from the ground at a distance of (50) feet.

(45) All weeknight games will be seven (7) innings and start at 6:00PM. Sunday morning games will be seven (7) innings. Early games will begin at 9:00AM.

(46) Teams will be granted a fifteen (15) minutes grace period from the scheduled starting time to attain the minimum number of players.

(47) A game may be called off at any time for inclement weather or darkness, etc at the discretion of both Captains, Any canceled or suspended game will be considered a “complete” game if the game has exceeded the minimum of 3 1/2 innings (i.e. - the game must have completed the top half of the 4th inning).

(48) In the event of a suspended game (rain, darkness, etc) that does not meet the required number of innings that game will be rescheduled and played in its entirety at a later date.)

I. PROTESTS

(49) Physical fighting will result in automatic suspension for the player from the game. Further action, involving the player(s) will be determined by the Board of Directors.

(50) A verbal protest must be made by the opposing team Captain at the time any incident takes place. It is the responsibility of the Captain making the formal protest to present the written protest.

ARTICLE V

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

(51) It is recommended that an annual family outing will be held during each softball season.

(52) A banquet will be held for all team members and one guest after the playoff games.

(53) Additional social activities may also be planned throughout the year for the promotion of the league.

ARTICLE VI

ADDITIONAL BY-LAWS

(54) Each team (meeting the minimum requirement of games played) will qualify for the league playoffs. Any team forfeiting in excess of 1/3 of the season’s games will be disqualified from playoff contention.

(55) A new ball is to be entered into the game at the middle of the 4th inning during the playoffs

(56) The playoff format will be “double elimination”, each team will be eliminated upon earning their second loss during the playoffs. The two teams earning a spot in the championship series will play a “best of three” series to determine a league champion.

(57) Members of the waiting list may be assigned to a team at the discretion of the Board of Directors in the order of the substitution list.

(58) A Field League Board meeting will be held prior to playoffs to discuss playoff rules and player eligibility.

(59) The League will award a five hundred (500) dollar scholarship to a Bellingham High School senior who has participated in a varsity sport for a minimum of two (2) seasons. The scholarship will be awarded in May and be presented to the recipient in February of the following year subject to proof of

successful completion of the Fall Semester. Additional donation opportunities may be approved upon vote by the Board of Directors.

(60) AWARDS - League Awards will be presented to deserving players at the culmination of the regular season and playoffs. Individual player awards will be determined and voted on by the Board of Directors. Awards to be presented will included (but not be limited to): 1.) League Player of the Year, 2.) Playoff MVP, 3) Rookie of the Year, 4) President's Award. Additional awards may be added at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(61) EQUIPMENT - All bats must adhere to the leagues current standards for approval. The standards for approval of bats and other equipment may change from year to year. The approval standards will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(62) PLAYING RULES - Unless otherwise specified within these by-laws, all playing rules will adhere to those set forth by ASA/USA Softball.