

# BELLINGHAM MEN'S OVER 30 SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2006 BY-LAWS

REVISION # 13 11/10/03

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**LEAGUE MOTTO: TO GET TOGETHER AND HAVE FUN!**

## **ARTICLE I**

## **ORGANIZATION**

### **A. LEAGUE NAME**

- (1) The official name of the League is the ***Bellingham Men's 30 and Over Softball League.***

### **B. OFFICERS**

- (2) The League will be ruled by the following six (6) Officers:
- o President
  - o First Vice President
  - o Second Vice President
  - o Treasurer
  - o Secretary
  - o Publicity Director

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 Officers.

### **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) **First Vice President** - To assist the President and preside at Meetings in case of absence by the President.
- (7) **Second Vice President** - (Recreation Director) To administer all social activities..
- (8) **Treasurer** - To account for all League receipts and expenditures. To submit a bi-monthly written financial report to all League officers. To submit for end-of-year audit by the President and two League members.
- (9) **Secretary** - To formally record all minutes of all League Meetings.
- (10) **Publicity Director** - To publicly promote all League activities.

### **D. OTHER DIRECTORS**

- (11) **Refreshment Director** - Responsible for all liquid refreshments at all League functions. Appointed by the Board of Directors and reporting to the Treasurer.

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- (12) **Web Director** - Responsible for maintaining the league web page, if one exists. Primary duties include keeping it current with the latest standings, current game schedule, and upcoming event schedule. Appointed by the Board of Directors and reporting to the Publicity Director.
- (13) **Field League Board** - All Officers and Team Captains will be members of the Field League Board. Field League Members involved in a protest will not be allowed to vote on the Field League Board. The Field League Board will meet prior to the first game to discuss rules, league motto and sign-up card evaluation. In addition, the Field League Board will meet prior to Play-offs and any time deemed necessary by the President.
- (14) **Advisory Board** - To assist the current year's Board of Officers, an Advisory board of three (3) members shall be chosen from the previous year's membership. To be qualified for an advisory position a member must have been in the league at least five (5) years and been on the Board of Officers at least three (3) times.

### E. LEAGUE MEETINGS

- (15) League Meetings will be held monthly during the Softball Season, the first meeting to be held on Draft Day. Special meetings will be called as deemed necessary by the President.
- (16) A majority of League Officers must be present to hold an Official League Meeting.

### F. BY-LAWS

- (17) 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

- (18) All prior members and town of Bellingham residents thirty (30) years of age and older by December 31st of the current year are required to register prior to the start of the Season with new Membership restricted to residents of Bellingham, MA. Late arrivals (i.e., after the season begins) must be approved by League Officers prior to participation. Proof of age and residency will be required of new members.
- (19) 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 132 players is met. Out-of-towners that actually make the cut become grand-fathered into the league and may signup normally as veterans in subsequent years.
- (20) All Members must be registered by 2:00 p.m. on Draft Day and will be assigned to a Team. New members will be assigned until a total of one hundred and thirty-two (132) 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.

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- (21) Beginning with the 1996 season, 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 thirty-two (132) participating players on that date.

## B. DUES

- (22) 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 Officers.
- (23) Dues shall be waived for members of the Board of Officers.
- (24) Registrations will not be accepted after Draft Day unless total membership is below one hundred and thirty-two (132) participating Players.

## C. DRAFT

- (25) Eleven (11) established Players which will include one established Pitcher (determined by the Draft Committee) will be assigned to each Team to balance teams. Remaining players will be selected by three random drawings by the Draft Committee at an Open League Meeting in April. Registration cards will be used for the drawing. There will be at least one League Officer on each team.

<i>First Drawing:</i>	<i>Full - Time Players</i>
<i>Second Drawing:</i>	<i>Part - Time Players Only</i>
<i>Third Drawing:</i>	<i>New Members</i>

## D. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

- (26) Transfer of Player from one Team to another may be obtained if requested by the Player to the Board. Transfer must have the approval of the Field League Board with a tie vote to be decided by the President.

## ARTICLE III

## CAPTAINS

- (27) No Officer of the League can be a Team Captain. Captains will be elected by a majority of Team Players prior to the Opening Game for the Season.

### A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM CAPTAINS

- (28) Manage Team and be responsible for appointing an Equipment Manager, other than a League Officer.
- (29) Maintain records and report to the Board of Officers any Team Members not participating to minimum standards.
- (30) Captains will be required to formally present a written protest, when one is involved, to any League Officer prior to the start of the Captain's Team's next Game. They will be allowed to present their case before the Field League Board, but they will not be permitted to vote.
- (31) Captains will exchange Team Batting Rosters upon request.

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- (32) Each Captain will be equipped with a Scorebook, and be responsible for listing a Batting Order, and maintain the Runs scored by Inning played.
- (33) The winning Team Captain shall be responsible for notifying the Publicity Director and/or Web Director of final score and highlights of each game prior to 6:00 p.m., Sunday.

## ARTICLE IV

## FIELD RULES

### A. FIELD PLAYERS

- (34) The maximum number of Players allowed defensively will be eleven (11). The minimum number of Players allowed for an official Game will be six (6). If pick-ups are available, Teams must field eleven (11) Players. A team that cannot field at least six (6) of its own members must forfeit the game and record an automatic loss.
- (35) Pick-ups will be selected from the Sign-up Book at the Beer Wagon, based on order of sign-up. In the event that a Team eventually has eleven Players arrive, Sign-ups will be allowed to continue playing if they so desire.
- (36) When a shortage of available Pick-ups occurs, the Teams will fill in until they are equal.

### B. ALLOCATION OF PICKUP PLAYERS

- (37) Spares must be chosen from the Substitute List whenever available before other assigned Team Members. Pickups will not be allowed in the Play-offs.

- (38) METHOD OF CHOOSING SPARES, as per rule (35)

Team "A"		Team "B"		Actions to be performed
Players	Requires	Players	Requires	
6	5	11	0	"A" fills roster
7	4	11	0	"A" fills roster
8	3	11	0	"A" fills roster
9	2	11	0	"A" fills roster
10	1	11	0	"A" fills roster
6	5	10	1	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> , "A" fills roster
7	4	10	1	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> , "A" fills roster
8	3	10	1	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> , "A" fills roster
9	2	10	1	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> , "A" fills roster
6	5	9	2	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> , "A" takes 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> and then fills roster
7	4	9	2	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> , "A" takes 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> and then fills roster
8	3	9	2	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> , "A" takes 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>
6	5	8	3	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> , "A" takes 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> through 8 <sup>th</sup>
7	4	8	3	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> , "A" takes 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup>
6	5	7	4	"B" takes 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> , "A" takes 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup>
EQUAL TEAMS				Coin toss winner takes 1 <sup>st</sup> ,

### C. OFFENSE

- (39) All Players present will be part of the rotation in the Batting Order.
- (40) 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.

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## D. DEFENSE

- (41) Any Player who starts an inning defensively must complete the inning, with the exception of an injury to said Player.

## E. FREE SUBSTITUTION

- (42) Each Player is guaranteed three (3) innings defensively in all games if he is there at the start of the game.
- (43) Substitute Runners are taken from the last person to make an out in the previous inning. If this is the first inning, the last three available players in the lineup are used. Substitute runners must stand directly behind the catcher.

## F. OFFICIATING

- (44) All games will use the pitching mat, which will be placed directly behind home plate. Any pitched ball that touches the mat or the home plate is considered a "strike". A ball landing elsewhere is considered a "ball". As per normal ASA rules, 4 balls means the batter is walked. The catcher is responsible for making all strike and ball calls.
- (45) The Short Fielder will be considered an Outfielder for the purpose of determining base advancement on an overthrow. Any overthrow by the Short Fielder will result in a two-base advancement by all base runners.
- (46) Field Arbitrators on defense will be the Catcher, Pitcher and Short Field, for the best view of the field, unless they are involved with the play. In these cases, the secondary defensive arbitrators will be used, in order: Short Stop, Third Base, Second Base, First Base.
- (47) Field Arbitrators on offense will be those in the First and Third Base Coach's boxes, for the best view of the field.
- (48) The Field Arbitrators, when close play is undecided, will converse for two (2) minutes to determine a decision. When no decision is reached, the flip of a coin will determine which Team has the decision.
- (49) During Playoffs there will be a Chief Umpire appointed by the Board of Officers to coordinate and assign Umpires. Two Game Umpires will be picked from each of the two Teams not playing. Two umpires must be present to officiate each game. It is the responsibility of the home plate umpire to call balls and strikes.
- (50) If only one Umpire shows up, he may pick another Umpire, with the agreement of the Captains, and the Game will go on.

## G. EQUIPMENT

- (51) The League will supply bats, balls and other equipment purchased by the Board of Officers.
- (52) Players will provide their own playing apparel including gloves.
- (53) Metal cleats (spikes) are not allowed.
- (54) The Home Team must have two new balls available for each Game. The second ball need only be used if the first is lost or damaged. A ball will be deemed damaged by agreement of the Opposing Captains.

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## H. GROUND RULES

- (55) Prior to the start of the Softball Season, Ground Rules will be established for each specific field.
- (56) The arc of the ball will be between six (6) and twelve (12) feet from the point of release, at a distance of forty-six (46) feet.
- (57) All week-night games will be seven (7) innings and start at 6:00 p.m. Sunday morning games will be seven (7) innings. Early games will begin at 9:00 a.m. Late games will commence within thirty (30) minutes maximum after the conclusion of the First game.
- (58) Whenever each Team has a minimum of six (6) Players, and Pick-ups or Spares are available by the scheduled starting time, the Game will begin. Teams will be granted a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the scheduled starting time to attain the minimum Players.
- (59) A game may be called off at any time for inclement weather or darkness, etc., at the discretion of both Captains, which may be reviewed by the Board of Officers, and the Game may be rescheduled if the Field League Board deems it necessary.
- (60) In the event of a suspended game (rain, darkness, etc.) , any additions to the Batting Lineup will be put at the bottom of the existing Batting Order.

## I. PROTESTS

- (61) Physical fighting will result in automatic suspension for the Player(s) from the Game. Further action, involving the Player(s) will be determined by the Field League Board.
- (62) 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

- (63) An annual family outing will be held during each Softball Season.
- (64) Members of the immediate family will be invited at no cost to the Team Member. In case of specific circumstances, Team Members may invite relatives and friends, if approved by the League Board of Officers. Financial consideration may have to be provided by the Team Member(s).
- (65) A banquet will be held for all Team Members and one guest after the Play-off Games.
- (66) Additional social activities may also be planned throughout the year for the promotion of the League.

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**ARTICLE VI**

**ADDITIONAL BY-LAWS**

- (67) If a Team Member misses five (5) consecutive Games, he is not a participating Member to minimum standards and is subject to being assigned as a Substitute at the discretion of his Captain and the Board of Officers. He will be assigned to the bottom of the Substitute List or dropped from the League.
- (68) There will be a Play-off involving all the Teams, which will be included in the Season's Schedule.
- (69) A new ball is to be entered into the Game at the middle of the 4th Inning during Play-offs.
- (70) All Teams should have two (2) losses before being eliminated from the Play-offs.
- (71) Members of the Substitution List may be assigned to Teams at the discretion of the Board of Officers in the order of the Substitution List.
- (72) A Field League Board meeting will be held prior to Play-offs to discuss Play-off Rules and Player eligibility.
- (73) 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.