

New Berlin Recreation Department



Softball Rules – 2019

Rule 1 – League Purpose

The purpose of the New Berlin Recreation Department Adult Softball League is to provide desirable physical activity and to foster ideals of good sportsmanship through wholesome recreation sports competition and participation.

It is the intent of the Recreation Department to retain teams in the sponsored adult sports league program on a fair and equitable basis and to include new teams in an orderly manner. The policies and regulations governing this program and their administration will be the responsibility of the Recreation Department as approved by the New Berlin Recreation Commission.

Rule 2 – Players and Fees

1. All softball teams should have all team fees paid on or before March 29, 2019. Entry fee is non-refundable. League play is tentatively planned to begin the week of April 29.
2. Teams must have a minimum of 12 players and no more than 20 players on their roster. Each player must sign the roster form which is submitted to the Recreation Department by each team.
3. All players must be at least 18 years of age to participate in Men's or COED Leagues. Players participating in the 35+ league must be 35 years of age by the first game of the season. Players participating in the 45+ league must be 45 years of age by the first game of the season as well.
4. Those teams which were registered during the previous season will have first priority to return to their same league. If a returning team wishes to transfer to another league, they must indicate their league choice on the team registration form. If available openings exist, the returning teams desiring to transfer will be transferred on a first registered and paid/first served basis.
5. Managers of returning teams will be considered to have possession of the registration slot, however in cases when the team sponsor and team manager both desire possession of the team registration slot, the following policy will apply:
 - a. The sponsor or manager registering the most returning players from the previous year's same team will take possession of the team registration slot. In case both manager and sponsor have an equal amount of returning players, the manager will take possession of the team registration slot.
 - b. If a manager is new, the new manager will obtain the right to the registration slot instead of the sponsor, provided there are a majority of the previous year's players registering with the new manager. In case of a tie, the new manager will obtain the registration slot.
6. Individual players seeking to leave a current team manager will be considered a new team.
7. Teams may add players to their team during the roster adjustment period. This is from the time between when player fees are due to June 7, 2019.

8. **NEW FOR 2019!** There will no longer be “resident or non-resident” player fees. However, all players will be required to pay a standard “Player Fee” of \$15/ player.
9. No accident insurance will be provided for teams and players in this program. Players should have adequate personal health and accident coverage before participating in this league.
10. Players may register on more than one team, as long as they do not register for two teams on the same night of play, except Monday evening men can play for a Coed team and a Men’s team.
11. Once the season begins, players are not allowed to transfer to another team.
12. Teams registered for the 45+ League are subject to merge with the 35+ League pending the older league does not generate enough interest.

Rule 3 – Game Cancellation and Inclement Weather

1. The New Berlin Recreation Department Information Line 262-754-1700 is in service to provide game cancellation notices as efficiently as possible. This hotline will be updated for postponements no later than 4:30 PM on game days when field conditions are questionable.
2. In addition, the City of New Berlin web site publishes rainout information at:
<http://www.newberlin.org/475/Program-Status>
3. Heavy rains on the day preceding game day may make it necessary to cancel a game. Department cancellations are judgmental and made by 4:30 PM without being able to visually inspect all 18 city diamonds at the precise time. Individual games not canceled by the department may be canceled by the Umpire Crew Chief at game time.
4. Postponed games may be rescheduled by the Softball Coordinator in accordance with available facilities. The Department reserves the right to not reschedule games that have no bearing on 1st place. There is no guarantee that all 14 games will be played due to weather constraints.
5. Rainouts may be made up by rescheduling games as doubleheaders or extending the season as long as there are enough dates available.
6. No refunds of any fees if your team has not played all of its games.
7. Should a game be rained out, managers are responsible to check the website for the makeup dates. If for any reason a team does not report for a scheduled game, that team will forfeit the game.
8. If a game has been suspended due to inclement weather, the Umpire will mark on the sign in sheet how many minutes have been played up until the game was suspended/delayed. If the game resumes, the time the game resumed will also be noted.
9. If a game has been stopped due to inclement weather, we will utilize the following guidelines to determine whether the game is a complete game:
 - a. If we have completed 3 ½ innings and the home team is ahead, the game is complete (The visiting team has batted for 4 times).
 - b. If we have completed 4 innings, or during the bottom half of the inning, the home team has gained the lead of the game, the game is complete.
 - c. In the case where less than these inning amounts listed above are not met, we then utilize a **30-minute time factor**. At least 30 minutes of **actual game time** must be played

to qualify the game as complete. It does not matter how many minutes were used to get to the previously completed inning, as long as 30 minutes of game time has expired, we will use the guidelines below to determine game winners:

- i. If the game is in the top half of an inning, we will refer back to the previously **COMPLETED** inning to determine the winner.
 - ii. If the game is in the bottom half of the inning, the home team must be ahead in the score to use the current innings score; otherwise, the score of the last **COMPLETED** inning will be utilized to determine the winner.
10. In case of inclement weather that causes the emergency sirens to be blown in New Berlin, all games will be automatically stopped immediately. Participants will be requested to seek shelter. The sirens are only utilized for a tornado warning, which means that a tornado has been spotted in the Waukesha County area. Tornado watches are not included in the sirens.

Rule 4 – Forfeits

1. **A (5) minute grace period will be granted before game is forfeited.** Failure to field a team of at least (8) certified/registered players by this time would result in a forfeit.
2. A team that forfeits a game due to failure to provide required numbers of players must pay a forfeit fee to New Berlin Recreation Office before the team's next scheduled game. Teams who notify the Recreation Specialist 24 hours prior to forfeited game will pay \$15. No showing a game or notice less than 24 hours will result in a \$25 fee. Failure to pay the fee before a team's next scheduled game will result in forfeiture of said game.
3. Multiple forfeits:
 - a. A second team forfeit will return the team to new team status. Team must pay another forfeit fee.
 - b. A third forfeit may result in immediate expulsion from the league and possible disqualification from further participation in this league program.

Rule 5 – Protests

Protests on an umpire's judgment of play will not be accepted. Protests on interpretation of or violation of rules must be made at the time of the incident by notifying the Umpire and the Softball Coordinator. A written protest must be received by The Recreation Office, accompanied by a protest fee of \$25.00 within 2 working days of the time of the protest. This fee is not refundable, unless upheld. Protests will be ruled on by the Recreation Specialist and Softball Coordinator.

Rule 6 – Conduct and Discipline

1. Participating in this league is a privilege that may be denied or suspended for just cause.
2. No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products are permitted by players or spectators at practices held at New Berlin Public School fields and games at Malone Park. Any players caught will be ejected from the game.

3. At Malone Park, no alcoholic beverages may be consumed in the dug-out or playing field areas during game times. A City ordinance prohibits alcohol carry-ins at Malone Park without a permit. A concession stand is open during league play.
4. Good sportsmanship and proper discipline is a must in this league. Any player removed from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to suspension or dismissal from League play.
5. Players shall not throw bats. One warning will be called and any incident may result in a player ejection/suspension.
6. No gloves on fences.
7. Maliciously running over another player is unsportsmanlike and will result in an automatic out and ejection.
8. Verbal abuse from players or team fans towards any umpire or recreation or park employee will result in an ejection from the game/park with the possibility of a game forfeiture.
9. Any physical contact with any player or team fan will result in immediate ejection from park area and may result in permanent expulsion from the league. A Team Manager meeting with the Recreation Specialist will determine this punishment and a \$50 fine will be assessed to any team involved in physical contact with others.
10. Any player repeatedly arguing balls and strikes will be out and ejected from the game.
11. Any player ejected from a game may be required to meet with the Recreation Specialist before resuming play. This player will also be suspended for a minimum of one additional game.

Rule 7 – Softballs, Bats, Equipment and Team Uniforms

1. Softballs will be provided by the Recreation Department during league games. In the event of a ball out of the field of play ex: home run, the team batting must provide this same COR/LBS softball as below to an official until the previous ball is re-introduced to the field.
2. Men's leagues will bat a Dudley Synthetic 4A-069Y .52 COR 300 LBS Yellow Softball
3. COED leagues will bat a Dudley Synthetic 4E-069Y .52 COR 275 LBS Yellow Softball
4. Please see appropriate Men's or COED information for a complete explanation of banned softball bats.
5. Each team must provide their own scorebook (the home team is responsible for keeping score).
6. Uniforms are optional.
7. No metal cleats.
8. No jewelry shall be worn that, in the discretion of the umpire, may result in injury to any player on the field.
9. The Recreation Department cannot be responsible for lost or stolen articles. Check with the concession stand for lost and found items.

Rule 8 – The Game

1. ASA rules will govern all games, except as specified in these policies/regulations.
2. The Recreation Department will provide one qualified Umpire for each league game. A Softball Site Coordinator will also be present on each night of play. The Softball Coordinator's responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Enforcement of league policies
 - b. Identification of players by team rosters
 - c. Addressing inappropriate behavior in the park
 - d. Act as liaison between Team Managers, Umpires and Recreation Specialist.
 - e. Representative of the Recreation Department pertaining to inclement weather cancelations in conjunction with the Head Umpire.
3. In the event the game Umpire does not appear as scheduled, the teams will be expected to play with a Substitute Umpire mutually agreed upon by the teams involved.
4. No new inning may begin after 50 minutes. (EXCEPTION: IN CASE OF A TIE GAME, ADDITIONAL INNINGS MAY BE ALLOWED TO PERMIT GAME CONCLUSION). If at the end of this additional inning the score is still tied, or if the game is called due to inclement weather or park closing, the game will be recorded as an official tie.
5. No child ball/bat shaggers allowed.
6. No fake tags. This is a safety issue and a warning followed by team "outs" will be called.
7. Sliding is not required but is acceptable. In the event of a dangerous slide as determined by the umpire the runner sliding will be out and may be ejected from the game.
8. Coaches in box may only have scoring materials.
9. Any player arriving after the game has begun shall be allowed to play. They will be entered last in the batting order.
10. Pitchers shall pitch from on or behind (up to a max of 6 feet behind) the rubber with a pitch height being between 6 feet and 12 feet high.
11. Balls and Strikes:
 - a. The strike zone includes home plate and a strike mat as called by umpire.
 - b. Hitters are allowed one swinging strike and then out (COED women two swings) or
 - c. Two looking strikes and the hitter is out
 - d. One foul ball and the hitter is out (COED women two fouls and then out)
 - e. Three called balls and the hitter walks
 - f. Umpires shall call for an illegal pitch verbally. If hitter chooses to swing the call is nullified and play is live and stands.
12. A Double First Base will be utilized in all leagues. The runner is required to step on the orange base while the fielder shall use the white base. Once a player safely reaches first base, the runner must then use the white base.
13. Home Runs:
 - a. There will be no limit to the amount of over-the-fence home runs hit.
 - b. For all home runs hit over the fence, the hitter may immediately return to the bench without touching any base or making a motion towards 1st base.
 - c. After the home run ball is across the outfield fence, the hitter shall immediately return to the bench area.
14. Special COED Rules:
 - a. No more than (4) infielders (besides pitcher and catcher) before batter swings.
 - b. If a male players walks, the female batter after may then either choose to walk or hit.
 - c. Batting order shall alternate by gender.

- d. (9) players may take the field but team must have a minimum of (4) females playing.

Rule 9 – Player Injuries

1. A player rendered unconscious shall not return to that game.
2. If a player has any open wounds or lesions in a game or practice, the game will be stopped and that player must leave the field for treatment. They may not return until bleeding has stopped AND any bloody clothing is removed/replaced.
3. Any player who leaves because of an injury will not be allowed to return to the game. Their team will not be given an out when that player is in turn to hit in the batting order.
4. All teams are given (1) runner to pinch run per inning. The pinch runner must be the last player who was called out on their team. Hitter must indicate to umpire they need a pinch runner and the umpire must grant this request before the pinch runner takes the place of the hitter. For COED leagues, men shall run for men and women for women.

Rule 10 – Awards

Individual awards will be presented to league champion teams. League champions will be determined by the total number of games won and lost. Play-offs may be arranged by the Recreation Department to determine first place, or the Department may award co-champions if necessary.