

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

2022 SENIOR SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

General. This league is sponsored by Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Department and shall be governed by the following rules and regulations as adopted by team representatives. Contact for Adult Softball will be Justin Petock (843-962-2283 or justin.petock@bcgov.net).

1. League Committee. The following people shall serve to draft, interpret, and enforce the rules and regulations of this league:
 - 1) Shannon Loper
 - 2) Matt Watts
 - 3) Evan Christian
 - 4) Justin Petock
2. This league will abide by the rules specified in the Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Adult Softball Rules and Regulations except as modified and listed below.
3. This league will abide by the most current ASA/USA Softball rules and regulations unless modified and listed in this document or in the Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Adult Softball Rules and Regulations.

Player Eligibility.

4. All players must be 50 years of age or older at the time of registration.
5. This league will allow females to play but will not have any "Co-Ed" rules.

Divisions and Rosters. There will be two divisions of teams: Gold and Silver

6. If there are not at least four (4) teams in each division all teams will join into one league and Beaufort County Parks and Recreation will have a meeting before the season with all managers to discuss the rules for the upcoming season.
7. Teams will declare which divisions they prefer to play in when registering for the Spring 2022 season. Teams will create their own rosters however they see fit and send their league roster to the league contact before the first week of play (March 14th, 2022).
8. Players will not be permitted to play in both leagues.
9. Gold: A maximum roster size of 22 players (including managers and coaches).
 - a. Any players without a team that prefer to play in the gold division should contact the league contact to be put on a "free agent" list. Team managers looking for more players should communicate with the league contact to be put in contact with potential players.
 - b. Rosters will be finalized before the third week of play (March 28th, 2022).
10. Silver: A maximum roster of 15 players (including managers and coaches).
 - a. Any players without a team that prefers to play in the Silver division should communicate with the league contact to be put on a "free agent" list. Potential players must be signed up for senior softball through the Beaufort County Parks and Recreation website before the third week of play (March 28th, 2022) to be eligible to join a team the rest of the season.
 - b. The league acknowledges the Senior Softball Beaufort draft process for the creation of teams. Any team in the silver division can fill out their roster through the Senior Softball Beaufort draft process if they so choose. If a team decides to enter the draft administered by Senior Softball Beaufort they must agree with their methods of

evaluation and selection. Otherwise, teams will follow the league rules on adding players.

- c. Players that do not have a team after the initial creation of teams will be assigned to the "Taxi Squad." These players will be informed ahead of the season of their status on the Taxi Squad to which they can accept or deny.
- d. With the creation of the Taxi Squad coaches/team representatives will acknowledge the possibility of competitive balancing issues due to the unknown level of play of the Taxi Squad players.
- e. If a team believes that they will have less than 11 players for a given week, then they may add Taxi Squad player(s) for that week only. Each Taxi Squad player will be rotated as first, second, etc. to be selected. Teams are required to inform the league contact at least 24 hours prior to their game to access a player(s) from the Taxi Squad list. The league contact will communicate with Taxi Squad players and maintain the temporary Taxi Squad list. Teams are not required to use the Taxi Squad, it is optional.
- f. Any player used as a fill in Taxi Squad player will be returned to the bottom of the temporary Taxi Squad list in the order they were taken off.
- g. If teams lose players for the season due to injury, relocation, or quitting which puts them under the minimum full playing roster (11 players) they may add a player from the Taxi Squad to their permanent roster to finish the season. The Taxi Squad permanent list will be created in order of sign up and the team will receive the player at the top of the list. The permanent Taxi Squad list will be maintained by the league contact.
- h. Rosters will be finalized at the conclusion of each team's final regular season game. (Date may vary). No players will be added to rosters and no "Taxi Squad" players will be used during the Silver league playoffs.

Game Play.

11. A pitching screen is optional to be used. The teams will provide their own screen and must follow the rules listed below:
 - a. This screen must be placed in such a position that it covers a minimum of half the pitching rubber and a maximum of six feet in front of the pitching rubber in the direction of home plate. This will be at the discretion of the umpire.
 - b. The pitcher must have one foot still in contact with the pitching rubber at the release of the pitched ball.
 - c. A ball put in play by the batter that comes in contact with any part of the screen shall be considered a strike and a dead ball. If it is the batter's last foul, it is a dead ball and the batter will be out.
 - d. A ball thrown by a defensive player that contacts any part of the screen shall be considered a live ball and be in play.
12. A strike mat will be used at home plate. All legally pitched balls (6-12 foot arc) that hit any part of the home plate or strike mat will be called a strike.
13. The umpire will announce that a pitch is "illegal" if it is outside of the 6-12 foot arc. If the batter does not swing at the pitch, it is a ball. If the batter swings at the pitch, then it will be treated the same as a legal pitch.
14. A double bag will be used at first base with the outer bag (generally orange) being in foul territory. The defensive first baseman must use the inner bag (generally white) and the runner must use the outer bag. However, when no play is being made at first base, the batter/runner may use either of the two bags.

15. A commitment line (or point of no return) will be marked perpendicular to the 3rd base foul line and placed 20 feet from home plate.
 - a. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past the commitment line, the runner must continue to the scoring plate
 - b. If he crosses back over the commitment line towards 3B, the runner is out.
16. A scoring plate (or auxiliary home plate) will be placed 8 feet from the back of the home plate in a straight line with first base.
 - a. The scoring plate is to be used by the runner only.
 - b. The defense can only get the runner out by touching home plate while in possession of the ball.
 - c. If the runner touches home plate/strike plate mat, the runner is out.
 - d. All plays at home plate are force plays.
17. Runners going into 2nd or 3rd base must slide or go in standing.
 - a. There is no over-run rule at 2nd or 3rd base.
 - b. The runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with a defensive player. If the umpire judges that the runner did not make such an effort, the umpire will call him out.
 - c. The umpire will use standard ASA Softball rules to determine which player, if any, is responsible for interference when a runner collides with a fielder while running between bases.
 - d. Tagging of runners is allowed except past the commitment line.
18. An 11th fielder (includes a middle fielder or rover plus a 4th outfielder) will be allowed. A team's use of 11 fielders is not dependent on the number of fielders available to its opposing team. Outfielders must take a position behind the 200-foot line until the ball is hit by the batter.
19. Batting Orders
 - a. Gold: Teams can bat a maximum of 12 players.
 - i. Teams can use a DH (11 batting) or an EH (12 batting), but not both.
 - b. Silver: Teams must bat all rostered players. Any late players will be added to the bottom of the batting order and can be put in the field as needed.
 - c. If a player becomes ill or is injured during the game and is removed from the game, their team will not be penalized with an automatic out when that player is due to bat, provided they advise the umpire and the opposing manager at the time of the illness or injury.
20. Courtesy runners may be used at any time once a batter gets on base.
 - a. The same courtesy runner may not be used more than once in the same inning unless running for the same batter.
 - b. Gold: There is no limit to the number of times a courtesy runner can be used in a game.
 - c. Silver: Any player is limited to be a courtesy runner a maximum of twice per game. If a team inserts a player as a courtesy runner more than twice in the game, then, after the courtesy runner touches the base involved, the opposing manager may challenge the rule violation with the opposing manager. If both managers agree that a violation has occurred, then the player will be called out. It is each manager's responsibility to track the use of courtesy runners used by both teams.
21. The ball and strike count will be 1 and 1 when a batter steps to the plate.
22. All batters will be given a courtesy foul ball. If the batter hits a foul ball after the courtesy foul the batter will be called out.
23. Home Run Rule
 - a. Gold: Each team is limited to five (5) over the fence home runs in a game. Any subsequent over the fence home runs will result in the batter being called out.

- b. Silver: Each team is limited to two (2) over the fence home runs in a game. Any subsequent over the fence home runs will result in the batter being called out.
- 24. All bats will be USA Softball/ASA approved. A batter using an illegal bat will face the punishment listed in the Beaufort County Adult Softball Rules and Regulations.
- 25. Each team will abide by normal Beaufort County Parks and Recreation uniform rules.
- 26. Each team must have a minimum of nine (9) players to begin a game. Once both teams have at least nine (9) players, the game will start at the scheduled time, i.e. no waiting for additional players. Players that arrive late will be inserted into the lineup and field at that time.
 - a. A team with less than nine (9) players will forfeit the game following a 10 minute grace.
 - b. Teams will not be given a 10 minute grace period for the second game. If the first game is forfeited, the second game will begin once both teams have the minimum number of players. The second game will be considered a forfeit if a team does not have 9 players by the second game time.
- 27. There is a 5 run limit per inning with unlimited runs allowed in the last inning.
- 28. After 50 minutes of game time (1 hour and 10 minutes in playoffs), the teams will finish the current inning and play one more unlimited run inning. The last inning is always an unlimited inning unless the "Mercy" rule is reached.
- 29. If teams are tied at the end of 7 innings or the time limit, they will play one extra unlimited run inning. If tied at the end of the extra inning the game will be considered a tie.
- 30. Mercy Rule: 20 runs difference after 3 innings, 15 runs difference after 4 innings, 10 runs difference after 5 innings.