

# Birmingham Sport and Social Club

## Official Co-Ed Softball Rules

**1. Schedule** - All games are to be played at the time, date and place specified on the schedule.

**2. Roster:** Each team can have as many players as they choose. There must be at least 3 female on your roster.

**3. Forfeits** - Game time is forfeit time. **(Minimum to start is 7 {2 female})**

**a.** If you know you may not be able to field a full team, please call an BSSC representative at least four hours in advance; you should attend with as many people as you can and play pick up... it is the fun and polite thing to do.

- Call: 205-644-8341
- Email: [havefun@Bhamsportandsocial.com](mailto:havefun@Bhamsportandsocial.com)

**b.** Teams forfeiting more than two league games will not be eligible for the playoffs. Teams forfeiting three or more games will be asked to leave the league without refund.

**c.** See forfeit policy and guest passes below for more information.

**3. No show officials** - Teams have a choice to self-officiate or mutually agree upon an official (team member or spectator). Games will not be rescheduled. Game will count as official game.

### 4. Roster Checks

- Roster minimums must be met before week 1 of games.
  - Minimum number of players/roster
  - Minimum number of female players/roster in Co-Ed divisions
- Roster checks will be conducted
  - During t-shirt delivery
  - Before the start of each playoff game
- Roster checks may be done once or twice, randomly during the regular season, at the League Manager's discretion.

5. **RAIN OUTS** - The procedure for possible rainouts shall be to check BSSC's website or call **205-644-8342**.

a. Games will be rescheduled for the end of the season, or as part of a doubleheader on certain league nights. **BSSC also reserves the right to shorten the season or move games to other than normal league nights due to excessive cancellations.**

**6. Overly Competitive Players:** All BSSC sports are intended to be recreational (unless designated as a competitive league at registration.) Any player who is deemed to be excessively competitive and/or overly aggressive may be removed from competition at the discretion of an BSSC staff member. Birmingham Sport and Social Club follows the rules and guidelines created by various national flag football entities. Below, are important notes, modifications, and exceptions unique to Birmingham Sport and Social Club flag football league play:

- Equipment
  - Cleats
    - Only rubber molded cleats are permitted. NO METAL CLEATS. NO SCREW INS.
  - Balls
    - Birmingham Sport and Social Club will provide game balls each week. .52 COR 300 Compression
  - Bases
    - Bases will be provided for all games
  - Bats
    - In line with ASA regulations, the bats featured on the [ASA Banned Bat List](#) are not permitted in BSSC softball leagues. If you have any questions about whether your bat is legal, feel free to call or email us with your bat details.
  - Bat Rule of Thumb
    - Do not rush out and buy a newly released bat just because it's not yet on the list. Check with us first!

### **Game Rules**

- Regulation Games:
  - The game time is indicated on the schedule and that's when the game clock will start.

- Incomplete innings are to be played to completion.
  - No new innings will start after 53 minutes of playing time.
  - The Umpire's watch is the official time
  - Regulation games last 7 full innings.
- A game that is called off by the Umpire for darkness or other safety reasons after 4 full innings of play or 30 minutes of expired game time, will be considered a completed regulation game
- In the event of a tie score at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning OR 53<sup>rd</sup> minute, during the regular season, the game will be recorded as such.
- Fielding Team:
  - The maximum number of infielders is 6 (including Pitcher and Catcher). Outfielders must stay in the grass until contact is made. If an outfielder comes into the infield dirt before contact is made, and is in any way involved in that play, all runners will be ruled safe.
    - Fielding positions can be changed between players on the field while on defense, however new players may not substitute in except for:
      - A pitching change
      - The team is short fielders,
      - An injury substitution
    - The batting order must always stay the same despite any changes made on the field.
    - When female batters are at the plate, outfielders must stay behind the co-ed line that is marked with cones and/or field paint, until the ball is put into play.
      - Co-ed line distances vary, based on the facility.
      - If an outfielder comes inside the line before contact is made and is in any way involved with that play, all runners will be ruled safe.
    - When female batters are at the plate, infielders must remain on the dirt even with or behind the baseline until the ball is put into play.
      - If an infielder comes inside the baseline or goes into the outfield before contact is made and is in any way involved in the play, all runners will be ruled safe.
- The Count:

- Batters will start with a one-ball/one-strike count. With two strikes, the batter has courtesy foul. The second foul with two strikes will be called strike three and the batter out.
- **Batting Order:**
  - All players may bat but no more than three males can bat in a row.
  - If a player plays defense, then he/she must bat as well. (No pure DH)
  - There are no substitutions in the batting line-up, with the exception that females are allowed to re-hit to maintain the proper ratio (**In-game INJURY**). (SEE BELOW)

**If at team begins the game short (less than the minimum number of females (3)) female players are not allowed to re-hit, and therefore the result is an out.**

- If the team has a third female show up after the game has started, that team may insert that female into the designated spot in the lineup at any time and will no longer have to take an automatic out.
- All late arriving players may be inserted at any time. Late arrivals must be inserted into the bottom of the batting order, or as close to the bottom to ensure gender rules apply.
- **Batting Out of Order:**
  - If the error is discovered while the incorrect batter is hitting, then the correct batter will assume the ball/strike count of the incorrect batter.
    - If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has safely reached base, the incorrect batter will be called out, and all runners will return to their original base.
    - The opposing team must make the umpire aware of “batting out of order” before a pitch is thrown to the next batter. If it is not, then the incorrect batter will stay on base.
    - If a team starts the game with only three females and one of them gets hurt, they must play defense with only 9 players. However, when that player’s position in the batting order comes up, they will not be forced to take an out. (RE-HIT)
- **Walked Batters:**
  - When the umpire has called four balls. The batter-runner is awarded first base
  - **EFFECT:**

- The ball is dead and runners may not advance unless forced.
  - If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, he may do so by notifying the plate Umpire who will award 1<sup>st</sup> base to the batter.
  - If two batters are to be walked intentionally, the second intentional walk may not be administered until the first batter reaches first base.
    - If the umpire mistakenly allows two walks at one time and the first batter fails to touch first base, no appeal will be honored on the first batter.
- **CO-ED:**
  - The ball is dead. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award, if the next batter is a female.
  - The next batter (female) will bat.
  - A walk to a male batter with a male batter following will only result in 1 base award.
- **EXCEPTION**
  - WITH TWO OUTS, THE FEMALE BATTER HAS THE OPTION TO WALK OR BAT.
    - Should the female batter-runner pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out will be called during this dead ball period.
    - A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base will be called out if properly appealed.
- Home Run Rule
  - Fenced Fields
    - Each team will be allowed 3 home runs per game for all leagues. Any ball hit over the fence after the 3<sup>rd</sup> HR will be declared an out.
    - After hitting a homerun over the fence, the batter does have to run and touch first base only, but does not have to touch any other base unless they choose to do so. All runners on base at the time of the homerun have to circle the bases and touch home plate.
  -
- Playoff Games:
  - **During the playoffs if a game goes into extra innings, each team will begin their half inning with a runner on second and**

**2 outs. This runner must be the last person who batted in the prior inning. This will continue until a winner is determined.**

- An BSSC league manager, prior to the game time, will verify all rosters. Players not found on a roster are not eligible to play. Teams found with an illegal player during a playoff game will automatically forfeit that game
- The playoffs begin the week after the regular season ends and all make up games have been played.
- The top four teams (BSSC reserves the right to expand playoff team counts) with the best records at the end of the regular season will make the post season.
  - Playoff Tiebreakers:
    - Total Points (Overall Record)
    - Point Differential (Runs Scored vs. Runs Allowed)
    - Head To Head
    - Record vs. common opponents
    - Coin Toss



