

# New Berlin Recreation Department

## Softball Rules – 2024



### 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 22, 2024. Entry fee is non-refundable. League play is tentatively planned to begin the week of April 22.
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. Teams are welcome to complete their registrations and payments in-person at the Recreation Department, but we will also be adding the option for teams to submit their team fees and/or player fees online (with approval from the League Coordinator). Once your team has been guaranteed a spot in a specific league, contact the League Coordinator to inquire about this process.
4. All players must be at least 18 years of age to participate in Men's or COED Leagues.
  - a. A minimum of 90% of players (per team) participating in the 35+ league must be 35 years of age by the first game of the season, but players cannot be under the age of 30. If a team rosters 20 players, that team would be eligible to roster two 30-35 year olds, but only one of these players would be permitted to be on the field at a given time. For batting purposes, only one player aged 30-35 is permitted to bat each time through the lineup unless a team is batting all 20 rostered players.
  - b. A minimum of 90% of players (per team) participating in the 45+ league must be 45 years of age by the first game of the season, but players cannot be under the age of 40. If a team rosters 20 players, that team would be eligible to roster two 40-45 year olds, but only one of these players would be permitted to be on the field at a given time. For batting purposes, only one player aged 40-45 is permitted to bat each time through the lineup unless a team is batting all 20 rostered players.
5. 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.

6. 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 the manager and the 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.
7. Individual players seeking to leave a current team manager will be considered a new team.
8. Teams may add players to their team during the roster adjustment period. This is from the time between when player fees are due through June 7, 2024.
9. There are no "resident or non-resident" player fees. However, all players will be required to pay a standard "Player Fee" of \$15/ player (not to exceed a total of \$225).
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Once the season begins, players are not allowed to transfer to another team.
13. If the Men's 45+ League is unable to field enough teams by the deadline, the registered 45+ teams will have the option of transferring into the 35+ League **OR** receiving a full refund of team and player fees.

### 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. If inclement weather occurs after 4:30 PM, the hotline will not be updated and a decision regarding games will be made at the playing site.
2. Additionally, the City of New Berlin web site publishes rainout information at: <http://www.newberlin.org/475/Program-Status> and on the Rec. Dept. Facebook page.
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 cancelled by the department may be cancelled 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 a 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. Fees can be paid in-person, via mailed check, or online.
3. Multiple forfeits:
  - a. A second team forfeit will return the team to new team status for the next season. 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. 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. No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products are permitted by players or spectators at practices held at New Berlin Public School fields and youth games at Malone Park; violators will be notified and removed from the premise if needed. A concession stand serving alcoholic beverages and various other beverage/food options will be open during Adult Softball League Play.
3. 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. **Excessive amounts of swearing or other profanity WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**, and repeated violations of this may result in ejections/suspensions/forfeitures.
4. 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.
5. Players shall not throw bats. One warning will be called and any incident may result in a player ejection/suspension.
6. Maliciously running over another player is unsportsmanlike and will result in an automatic out and ejection.
7. Any player repeatedly arguing balls and strikes will be out and ejected from the game.

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. No gloves on fences.

#### 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. USA Softball (previously 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 cancellations 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. There will be no run rule enforced during regular season league play. The postseason run rule is as follows: "20 run lead after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, or 12 runs after 5 innings."
6. **Recreational Batting Order:** All rostered players that will be playing in a game must be listed on the "Softball Sign-in Sheet" given to each team prior to a game. The players may be listed in any order and may be freely substituted on defense. Any player arriving after the game has begun shall be allowed to play and will be entered last in the batting order. However, a player listed on the lineup and not present at their time of bat will be counted as an out and removed from the lineup not to be re-entered. The batting order may not be changed once it has been submitted without the following exceptions:
  - a. Late addition – A player arriving after the lineup has been submitted will be listed following the last player on the lineup.
  - b. Injury – An injured player will be dropped from the batting lineup and the batting order will resume with the next batter. If an injury occurs to a player while that player is on base, the last player who made an out will substitute for the injured player on base. Players leaving the game may not re-enter.
  - c. Emergency – Any player that leaves the game due to some emergency will be dropped from the batting lineup and the batting order will resume with the next batter. Players leaving the game may not re-enter.
  - d. Defensive Ejections – Ejected players will be dropped from the batting lineup and the batting order will resume with the next batter.
  - e. Offensive Ejections – Ejected players will be dropped from the batting lineup and the batting order will resume with the next batter. Players ejected while occupying a base will not be replaced and will be counted as an out one time only.
7. No leading off. Runners may advance only after the ball has been hit.
8. No child ball/bat shaggers allowed.
9. No fake tags. This is a safety issue and a warning followed by team "outs" will be called.
10. Sliding is not required but is encouraged/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.
11. Runners are not permitted to maliciously or intentionally contact or "plow over" the catcher or any fielder; violators will be called "out" and be subject to ejection/suspension or potential removal from the league as deemed necessary by the Umpire & League Coordinator.
12. Defensive players cannot block any base without having possession of the ball.
13. Coaches in box may only have scoring materials.
14. Pitchers shall pitch from on or behind (up to a max of 6 feet behind) the rubber. The ball must be delivered with a distinctive arch of at least 6 feet from the ground after it leaves the pitcher's hand until it reaches home plate. The pitched ball shall not reach a height of more than 12 feet at its highest point.

15. Balls and Strikes:

- a. The strike zone includes home plate and a strike mat as called by umpire.
- b. One and Done Rule :
  - i. Hitters that swing and miss on the first pitch are out
  - ii. COED Women are allowed two swings and are out following the 2<sup>nd</sup> missed swing
- c. Two looking strikes and the hitter is out
- d. One foul ball and the hitter is out (COED women two fouls and out)
- e. Three called balls and the hitter walks
- f. Umpires shall call for an illegal pitch verbally. If the hitter chooses to swing, the call is nullified and the play is live and stands.

16. 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.

17. Courtesy Runner: All teams (with exception of team in the 45+ League) are given (1) courtesy runner per inning. The courtesy runner must be the last player who was called out on their team. The hitter must indicate to the umpire that they need a courtesy runner and the umpire must grant this request before the new runner takes the place of the hitter. For COED leagues, men shall run for men and women for women.

- a. The 45+ League will have no limit on courtesy runners, however they should only be used for players that truly require a runner and should not be used for an unfair competitive advantage. Courtesy runners must follow the rules above.

18. 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 1<sup>st</sup> base.

19. 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 a team must have a minimum of (4) females playing.
- e. There must be a minimum of 2 female players in the infield, and 2 female players in the outfield.

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.

## 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. Playoffs may be arranged by the Recreation Department to determine first place, or the Department may award co-champions if necessary.