

# 2024 Biddeford COED Softball League Rules



## **Rule Adoption for the 2023 Season (updated 3/4/24) Cancellation Hotline (571-1616) changed at 8am for rainouts**

We will be adopting all USA Softball Rules governing COED Slow Pitch Softball Leagues except the following:

- 1) All players must register to be eligible to play at [www.BiddefordRec.com](http://www.BiddefordRec.com)
- 2) A minimum of three women must play in the field and be in the batting order. A woman must take an outfield and infield position at all times.
- 3) The entire bench (20) may be in the batting order. The batting order shall not have more than three men batting in sequence. There are no requirements for where the women must hit in the lineup as long as no more than three men hit in a row.
- 4) You may start a game short two players (both may be men with no penalty).
  - A) You may start a game short a woman, when the spot comes up in the batting order where she would have batted an automatic out is recorded.
  - B) If you are short a woman, one still must be in the outfield and one in the infield.
  - C) If you are short a woman in the field, you cannot substitute a man in the playing position.
- 5) Teams may add players to the bottom of the lineup after a game has started. (If your 3<sup>rd</sup> woman is added, they will take their place in the lineup where an out was recorded)
  - A) Teams may drop down to eight (8) from the original line-up without penalty in the following cases: injury, work commitment, or police action. In the case of work commitment, the Umpire must be informed at the start of the game of the time said player must leave. Ejections are not part of this rule.
- 6) An individual can only play on 1 team, a team may borrow only 1 woman to get up to three as the exception to this rule, not including playoffs.
- 7) **Walks:** When a man is walked and a woman is the next batter, the woman gets the choice whether she wants to hit or take first base every time. The man will advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base in this situation every time.
- 8) **Run Rule:** To call a game on the run rule is as follows:

<u>20 runs ahead after 4 innings</u>	<u>12 runs ahead after 5 innings</u>
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- 9) **Rosters:** are limited to a 20-person team, due by the first game of the year. If the roster is not turned in then the team will not be allowed to participate in games until the roster is turned in. A two week add/drop period will be allowed after the first game.
  - A) Changes must be requested in writing to the Recreation Department for review. Female players may be replaced under the following conditions: season-ending injury, change of work hours, relocation from the area, or death. Playoff eligibility requirement will be waived if approved.
- 10) There will be one umpire for each game.
- 11) **Playoffs:** All teams, in each division will make the playoffs. Seeds will be based on regular season standings.
  - A) A player must play in at least 4 of the team's regular season games to be eligible to play in the playoffs. Games won by forfeit will count towards this.

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12) **Equipment: Balls-**The Home team is responsible for one 11” game ball per game. The visiting team is responsible for one 12” game ball per game. If either ball is lost during the game, it is the responsibility of the teams to replace the game ball with a ball from their practice bag. Two balls total are used for each game. **Bats-** All bats will be subject to compression testing and retesting at anytime.

13) **Uniforms:** All teams must wear shirts of a uniform color and design with six inch numbers on the back by opening day, wearing of hats is optional.

14) **Divisions:** There will be one division for the regular season and playoffs. The right is reserved by the Department to move any team between divisions, or change playoff format due to time constraints or competition reasons.

15) **Courtesy Runner:** Refer to USA Softball rule 8 section 9, B2

16) **Protests:** If a game is protested for any reason, it must be protested with the plate umpire at the time the problem occurs. The protest must conform to USA Softball rules and then the game may go on from there under protest. No Monday morning after the fact protests will be honored. A written summary of the protest within 24 hours must be filed with the Recreation Department. A \$25 fee must accompany the written protest. The protest must conform to USA Softball Rules to be considered. The Recreation Department will render a decision within 48 hrs of the filing. The \$25 will be refunded if the Recreation Department upholds the protest (i.e., if you win the protest).

17) **Outfield Rule:** As an outfielder, you must maintain a minimum of 30 feet (10 yards) off the infield dirt until the batter makes contact, no matter if a male or female is batting.

18) No **Metal spikes** are allowed, after a warning, an ejection will result for non compliance.

19) **Kids in Dugout:** For safety reasons, no one under the age of 13 shall be allowed on the playing fields or in the dugouts during games. Umpires will ask teams to remove such persons and will declare a forfeit for non compliance.

20) **Batters Count:1-1,** We will allow 2 fouls on the third strike—If you hit a foul on the third strike, you will be allowed one more foul (unless the foul is caught, then you are out.)

21) **Insurance/ First Aid:** All players are responsible for their own personal insurance coverage. Teams may purchase additional supplemental insurance through Bollinger’s Insurance.

Teams are responsible for their own First Aid kit(s). It is strongly recommended that each team have a minimum of a basic First Aid kit, and ice packs, with them at all times.

22) Smoking is not allowed on the playing field. Smoking is not allowed in the dugouts. Smoking on the playing field or in the dugouts can result in ejection from the game.

23) **Incomplete games:** Games that are postponed, that have not completed 5 innings will be replayed from the start.

24) **Home Run Rule:** Each team will be allowed six (6) untouched, over-the-fence home runs per game. After six (6) each untouched, over-the-fence hit will be an out.

25) **Alcohol Rule:** Penalty for abuse of alcohol rule:

A) First Offense: Player(s) will be suspended for five (5) games. Penalty for first offense applies to player(s) involved.

B) Second Offense: Team will be suspended for two (2) games.

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C) Third Offense: Team will be ejected from the League for the season. Players will not be Eligible for playoffs and tournaments sponsored by the League.

26) **Player Conduct:** Any player who willfully strikes, shoves, runs into, or grabs an Umpire could face a one-year suspension from the League as well as disciplinary action from USA Softball. Players will not be allowed to continue in League play until a hearing is held.

A) Players ejected from a game for profanity, berating Umpires, fighting, etc. are subject to an **automatic one-game suspension** from the League to be served at the team's next scheduled game, including regular season games, play-offs, or League-sponsored tournaments.

B) Three ejections of the same player will result in dismissal from the League. Players ejected for any of the above reasons may be suspended for additional time. The umpires shall file a written report with the Umpire in Chief.

C) The department may drop teams that are constant violators of League Rules or good sportsmanship without refund. Any report of drinking or use of illegal drugs (as defined by State of Maine law), by a player on the playing field(s), practice areas, spectator areas, or parking areas could result in the suspension of that player or team. This includes those players/teams still in uniform that have completed Play-Off or tournament play.