



**Brighton**<sup>SM</sup>

## **ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

All leagues will be governed by 2021 USSSA rules with the following additions/exceptions:

### **Adult Softball Rules for COVID-19**

- **The City of Brighton WILL USE a “Commitment Line” and “Scoring Line” to insure player safety and eliminate all contact at home plate for ALL LEAGES.**
- To adhere to Tri-County Health Department and State guidelines, all rosters must be completed in full by the first game. We will need Full Name, Phone Number and Email of everyone on the roster. Any changes of roster will need to be completed by the third game.
- PPE is required for Coach’s Meetings, while in the dugout, while on base, any time you talk to staff and/or umpires, and when social distancing is not attainable
- Should any player not abide by PPE requirement while on base, this will result in an out. Any player refusing to wear a mask in the dugout, can be penalized with a team forfeit
- Teams are allowed to spread players out and expand the dugout area when room permits and only if player safety will not be compromised. Expansion of the team dugouts should not be done into foul ball areas. **Players only in the dugouts**
- Teams are required to clean their dugout of all trash and other items after each game.
- Participants are asked to stay home if they are feeling ill in any way
- If you get sick please let Brighton Sports know so we can conduct proper tracing
- Field Supervisor and Recreation staff will utilize disinfectant to clean all benches, fence gates and any other common touch points
- Max roster size is 16, however, roster size must be limited to 12 players per team during games.
- Utilizing any subs at game time will NOT be permitted. Any subs used will need to be included on your roster
- Spectators will be encouraged to not attend events until gathering limitations are increased or removed.
- Avoid post-game handshakes

### Recommended Best Practices – League / Game Play:

1. Players should bring an individual water bottle.
2. Avoid sharing equipment, each player should have their own equipment (bats, gloves, etc.). If not possible, teams must supply antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared playing equipment and cleaning hands between innings/quarters/periods.
3. Allow players to wear PPE items if they choose while in the Field, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game.
4. Game scheduling may be adjusted to ensure adherence to social distancing during the crossover of teams.
5. All staff, players, umpires and spectators are encouraged to continue social distancing on and off the field during an event.
6. New softballs will remain in their original packaging until they need to be introduced into a game.
7. One coach per team will conduct a pregame meeting at home plate, all involved are requested to keep 6 feet social distancing during ground rules and coin toss.
8. The catcher and umpire shall position themselves during a player's at-bat to allow for social distancing.
9. Staff involved must wear gloves during bat inspections. One representative will handle the bats for the entire team, and this person also should wear gloves.

### **Adult League Softball Rules**

1. All players must abide by all regulations and the Code of Conduct of the Brighton Adult Softball League. Copies of these regulations are available at the Brighton Recreation Center.
2. Players may register and play with not more than two men's, one women's or one co-ed team in the Brighton leagues. Dual registration is permitted however, they may not be in the same league. Schedules will not be adjusted in league play, make-ups, or playoffs to accommodate players participating in more than one league.
  - A. Anyone playing in Mid. Rec. will be classified as a Mid. Rec. player. No more than 2 Mid. Rec. Players can play on any lower classification team. This Includes Pick-up players.
  - B. No Mid. Rec. players are allowed to play on Novice Teams.**
  - C. Co-ed teams may have only two men and two women from a Mid. Rec. team on their roster or play with them at any one time. Co-ed Novice Teams are allowed one player from Mid. Rec. on their roster.
3. All Teams must register and pay a registration fee with the Adult Softball League at the Brighton Recreation Center. **Rosters must be turned in by the first played game prior to game time**
4. Players must have an I.D. at the complex for all games. If there is a question as to a player's status on a team roster any player may be asked to produce an I.D. to prove he or she is on the roster in question. If the player has no picture I.D., the player is ineligible to participate if the city of Brighton's staff cannot prove the players identity. If a team is reduced to less than eight players because of eligibility, the game is a forfeit.
5. Registration for additional players must be made at the Brighton Recreation Center or the Brighton Sports Complex by the team manager no later than the third Game. NO REGISTRATION WILL BE TAKEN AT THE FIELDS. ALL MONEY TRANSACTIONS MUST BE DONE AT THE BRIGHTON RECREATION CENTER, EXCEPT PROTEST FEES.
6. Players may be added during the first 3 weeks of the season. All players added after that date are subject to the approval of the league supervisor. Players in Mid. Rec. or high recreation leagues will not

be allowed to play down on novice teams. Unless approved by the Sports department. If players are caught being on both rosters, it will mean automatic forfeits for every novice game that player played in.

7. All players must be 18 years of age.
8. The softball league program is amateur and recreational. In case of any question regarding the standing of any player, contact the Brighton Recreation Center for clarification before player enters competition.
9. **NO STEEL CLEATS** WILL BE ALLOWED IN MEN'S, WOMEN'S, OR CO-ED SOFTBALL. Shoes are to be molded soles only; detachable cleats or shoes made of hard plastic or polyurethane are allowed. Work boots are not allowed.
10. In case of rain or wet grounds, after the game has begun, the umpire will decide if the grounds are playable. IT IS THE MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL THE BRIGHTON RECREATION CENTER 1 HOUR BEFORE GAME TIME FOR RAIN OUT INFORMATION (303-655-2210). PLAYERS, PLEASE CALL YOUR TEAM MANAGER FOR RAIN OUT INFORMATION. OR go to to <http://www.teamsideline.com/sites/brightonco> and click on "communication" to sign up for text message alerts. Make-ups may be played on weekends and weeknights other than your regularly scheduled league nights. If a game has to be called due to inclement weather, lightning, etc., it shall be resumed from the exact point where it was stopped as long as one inning has been completed. (Exception: If a game is not tied and 3.5 (if home team is ahead) or 4 innings has been completed, depending on score/home, the game is considered a complete game).
11. **Rain Out Scheduling Procedures/Make-Up Policy:** It is the City of Brighton policy that all make-up games will be scheduled as fields are available week nights and weekends. Please check your schedule for make-up dates. Teams must be available on those weekends if they have had any rain outs. The schedule will be available and handed out 5 days before the make-up weekend. **Once the make-up schedule is out, there will not be any changes.**
12. The City of Brighton reserves the right to not issue refunds on any games that are cancelled due to weather and are not able to be made-up.
13. **City of Brighton reserves the right to re-classify any team into a higher or lower level of play at any point in the season.**
14. No refunds will be granted after the start of the league. Refunds issued will ONLY be issued to the team captain/ household account used to enroll the team. Household credits will ONLY be issued to the household that enrolled the team.

## **GAMES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Game Time: Game times will range from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
  - A) If home team is ahead, the inning will continue until the time limit is up.
  - B) Game time starts the 55-minute clock. If a team does not have enough players, or has not turned in a roster that team has 10 minutes to field a team or turn in the roster from the time game clock starts. If the team cannot field a team by that ten minute time limit, the game will be called a forfeit. If the team does field a team or turn in the roster, the game starts without resetting the game clock.

C) In all situations, the umpires will be the ones to indicate the game time both starting and ending.

**D) NO NEW INNINGS WILL BEGIN WITH 2 minute REMAINING ON THE GAME CLOCK!**

**E) Tie Break Rule/ International Rule**

If the score of a regulation game is tied at the end of 7 innings or when time limit has expired, the Tie Breaker Rule shall be in effect.

- Starting with the top of the 8th inning, or after the time limit has expired, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with a ONE PITCH COUNT and with the player who batted last in the previous inning being placed on second base, with no outs.
- There will NOT be a courtesy foul ball allowed.
- If the pitch is called a ball, the batter walks.
- If the pitch is called a strike, the batter is out.
- If the pitched ball is hit by the batter and is ruled a foul ball, the batter is out.
- If the game is still tied after one (1) inning of extra play, each subsequent inning will begin its turn at bat with the player who batted last in the previous inning being placed on 3rd base with no outs.

2. The OFFICIAL USSSA RULES OF SOFTBALL will govern play with the following exceptions:

A) Managers must turn in their line-up to the score keeper **TEN MINUTES** before the game is scheduled to start.

B) A time limit will be used instead of the usual 7-inning regulation game. In the event that a team is ahead by **10 runs or more at the end of the 4 1/2 inning or 20 runs or more at the end of 2 1/2 innings or the game runs** past the scheduled starting time of the next game, the team that was ahead in the last complete inning will be declared the winner (see schedule for starting times). Regardless of score, no new innings will start after 53 minutes. **If a team is behind by 15 runs in 3 ½ innings or behind by 20 after 3 innings the U.S.S.A. flip flop rule will be used.**

C) Rain/ Weather (i.e. Lightening , aggressive wind, etc)

- 1) In case of rain, 3.5 innings (if home team is ahead) or 4 full innings will constitute a complete game.
- 2) Umpires shall decide when game shall be postponed in the event of rain.
- 3) Make-up times will be arranged by the Recreation Department.

3. Men's and Women's teams may start and finish with a minimum of eight (8) players, or a maximum of twelve (12) players in the event of:

A. If a player is ejected by an umpire, that team may continue to play with as many as eight (8) players. If no legal substitutes are available, the player(s) that was ejected by the official will be counted as an "out" when his/her turn appears at bat.

NOTE: The ejected player will be suspended for the remainder of the game and the next game. Field Supervisor will access incident and let manager know the length of suspension according to rule of conduct. See code of conduct for specific penalties.

B. If three (3) or more team members (players and coaches) are ejected, the game will result in a forfeit.

C. For reason of injury, teams may finish with as few as eight (8) players and no out will be recorded (spot will be skipped in the batting order). If a player is injured, removed from the game and not legally substituted for, that player cannot legally reenter the game. PENALTY: Forfeit.

- D. Once the game has started the batting lineup cannot be changed, except when adding players. Adding late players must be added to bottom of lineup. Any changes or substitutions must be reported to the scorekeeper.
4. Additional Player (A.P.) & Pick-up Players- A team may insert two additional players into the batting order. The batting order must remain the same; however, only 10 players may take a defensive position.
- A. A team may only pick-up players if the team has less than 10 players for the game.
  - B. Teams may only pick-up enough players to get to 10 and may not pick-up more players to get to 12 players.
  - C. All pick-up players must be declared prior to the start of the game at umpires meeting, and have the other team's approval. Failure to declare pick-up players shall lead to the team forfeiting the game.
5. Home Run Rule  
\*Three over the fence Home Run per game for all leagues in Spring.  
\***Excess balls that are hit over the fence in any Spring League will result in an out**
6. NO SMOKING WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE SPORTS COMPLEX. NO ALOCHOL WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE SPORTS COMPLEX. ALOCHOL FOUND IN DUGOUT WILL RESULT IN A FORFEITED GAME AND BE A FINAL WARNING PRIOR TO TEAM SUSPENSION.
7. No intoxicated person (as determined by umpires or League Supervisor) will be allowed inside the playing field. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed in the Sports Complex. Players found with open containers will be asked to leave the complex and will not be allowed to play in games scheduled that night. **Teams or players violating this policy will be automatically suspended from the league.**
8. **Profanity will not be tolerated.** Continuous unsportsmanlike conduct and non-adherence to the "Player's Code of Conduct" will result in withdrawal of the privilege of participating in Brighton softball leagues by suspension for a specified time or indefinitely. No taunting or racial slurs will be allowed by players or spectators. **This also inappropriate music deemed inappropriate by the Field Supervisor.**
9. In case of a dispute, the umpires are instructed to talk to managers only. All others will retire from the immediate vicinity (at least 20 feet). **ANYONE** violating this regulation shall be subject to immediate removal from the game. Prolonged arguments will not be allowed. The umpires are instructed to notify managers that they have the right to file protest and then call "play ball" and the game shall proceed. See code of conduct for specific penalties.
10. Team rosters: Number of players on a team's roster shall be limited to nineteen (19) plus a non-playing manager and coach, or two coaches if the manager is playing. All rosters must be filled out and turned in by the third week. Changes and additions will be allowed the first 3 weeks. Rosters will be finalized on the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> week. NOTE: If your team goes to a CARA State Tournament, you will only be allowed 15 players on your state roster. NOTE: Only 16 individual awards will be awarded to winning team.
11. Protest shall be received and considered on matters of:
- a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule

- b. Failure to apply correct rule to a given situation
- c. Failure to impose correct penalty for a given situation
- d. Player eligibility

Notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next legal or illegal pitch. Upon notification to home plate umpire, umpire shall inform opposing manager and official scorekeeper. Scorekeeper shall note in scorebook "played under protest" and note the spot where protest was lodged. Immediately after the game a **\$50 cash protest fee** shall be paid to the field supervisor along with a protest form completed and turned in that night or within 24 hours after the game. If the protest is valid, the fee will be returned; if not valid, the fee will be retained for operating expenses.

Protest on player eligibilities must be made before the player(s) completes their first at bat. When the first at bat is achieved, the right to protest ends. If player(s) in question is not on the roster, does not have an I.D., and was not approved by the field supervisor or recreation department the game is a forfeit. It does not matter if an illegal player is noticed by the manager, scorekeeper, supervisor, or umpire.

If any of those persons notice an illegal player before their first at bat, the game will be forfeited unless opposing manager approves and has no objections to illegal player(s) playing. The Recreation Protest Committee will decide any Protest that is filed. Protest committee to be: Recreation Coordinator, League Supervisors and appointed citizens.

**NOTE: No protests regarding umpires judgment calls will be considered.**

- 12. Managers are responsible for keeping the player's bench clear of all persons except players and those who are directly associated with the team. Umpires are to enforce this rule. Players of other teams shall not be permitted to sit on the bench. Children **MAY NOT** sit on the bench. No dogs or smoking allowed in the dugouts. **No** alcoholic beverages are allowed in the dugout. Players with alcohol will be asked to leave the complex and not allowed to play in their game or games. Game will be counted as a forfeit if alcohol is found in the dugout by an umpire or supervisor. There may be no more than **TWO** non-player persons associated with a team on the bench at any time.
- 13. No club may have more than one bat person. This person is to be no younger than 10 years, and be competent in the judgment of the umpires and league personnel.
- 14. No player or team is to warm up on the skinned area of the infield.
- 15. Teams will not be allowed to warm up by the bleachers.
- 16. Pitchers will be limited to five (5) warm up pitches at the start of the game, with one (1) warm up between innings. If pitcher delays getting to the mound, this will be waived and "play ball" will be called. Teams may throw the ball around the horn after an out.
- 17. The umpire can call the game a forfeit if team employs tactics designed to either delay or hasten the game.
- 18. **Double First Base.** When the softball is hit in such a manner that there is going to be a play at first base, the batter/runner must run to the orange bag and the defender must use the white bag. If the correct

bag is not used the batter/runner will be called out or if the defender doesn't use the white bag the batter/runner will be called safe.

19. Teams may use a courtesy runner. The preceding batter, who is not a base runner, will be the designated runner (or the player scheduled to bat last, if in the first inning with no outs).
20. **We reserve the right to disqualify a team or player(s) from further participation if that team or player(s) exceeds the qualifications of their league.**
21. All umpires will have the final say of the legality of the bat. **The Brighton Sports Complex will allow a Double Wall Bat as long as it has a factory stamped 1.20 BPF on the bat. Bats that are Double wall, Triple Wall, or Multi Wall that are not marked with the 1.20 BPF will not be allowed.** When bat is discovered, game will immediately be forfeited.



Note: Legal Bats. Bats will be legal for play only if the bat is manufactured by an approved USSSA bat manufacturer on the USSSA approved bat manufacturer list (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website) and has the new USSSA mark (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website) on the taper of the bat. Wood bats made on the approved USSSA bat manufacturer list shall be legal without regard to this section.

22. **Blood Rule:** A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from further participation in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If said injured person cannot cover up the injury within five (5) minutes, that person will have to leave the game. (Teams should have extra jerseys available).
23. In the event of conditions not covered by these regulations, these events shall be reviewed by the Recreation Manager, Recreation Coordinator, and League Supervisor. However, if an incident needs immediate attention, the Sports Coordinator and the League Supervisor will have the authority to take action immediately.
24. Revisions to all softball rules will only be made at the beginning of each new season during the summer rules meeting.
25. **Please help keep the park clean.** Teams and spectators are responsible for cleaning up their dugout and bleachers after the game is over.

**CO-ED Rules:**

1. 12 inch USSSA balls will be used for both female and male players.
2. When a female is up to bat, all outfield players must position themselves behind the outfield white arch (175ft).
  - a. Outfield players can cross the white arch once the ball is HIT.
3. The City of Brighton WILL USE a "Commitment Line" and "Scoring Line" to insure player safety