

Berkshire County Slow-Pitch League By-laws

ARTICLE 1: NAME-ORGANIZATION NAME: BERKSHIRE COUNTY SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVE-PURPOSE: THE PURPOSE OF THIS SOFTBALL LEAGUE SHALL BE TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS AND CONDUCT AMATEUR SOFTBALL FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG ADULTS IN THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE AND THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ARTICLE 3: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ACHIEVING ALL THE OBJECTIVE OF THE LEAGUE. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE MADE UP OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH TEAM IN THE LEAGUE. THE LEAGUE SHALL ALSO HAVE 5 DIRECTORS AS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. ONE OF THE DIRECTORS SHALL ACT AS THE SECRETARY/TREASURER OF THE LEAGUE AND ONE DIRECTOR SHALL ACT AS LEAGUE MANAGER. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A TEAM MAY ALSO BE A DIRECTOR. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL HAVE LIMITED DISCRETIONARY POWERS REGARDING DECISIONS NOT COVERED BY THE BY-LAWS OR ITS AMENDMENTS AND SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS TO ALL COMMITTEES. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER SHALL RECORD MINUTES OF ALL MEETINGS AND CONDUCT ANY NECESSARY CORRESPONDENCE. THE SECRETARY/TREASURER SHALL ALSO MAINTAIN AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE LEAGUE AND GIVE A FINANCIAL REPORT OF ITS FUNDS, INCLUDING PUBLISHED REPORTS OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31ST OF EACH YEAR. COPIES OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH COACH/MANAGER AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THE LEAGUE MANAGER, OR ANY OTHER BOARD MEMBER, SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SCHEDULING OF ALL GAMES INCLUDING MAKEUP GAMES, PROVIDING AND SCHEDULING SCOREKEEPERS FOR ALL GAMES, (PROVIDED SCOREKEEPERS ARE USED) MAINTAINING INDIVIDUAL PLAYER AND TEAM RECORDS, RENDER DECISIONS AS TO RAIN OUT GAMES IN CONJUNCTION WITH "COMPLEX" PERSONNEL AND NOTIFICATION OF TEAM MANAGERS AND UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF ON ANY RAIN DATE. ALL TERMS OF OFFICE WILL RUN FOR FOUR (4) YEARS, FROM MAY 1ST TO APRIL 30TH, ANY DIRECTOR MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY A TWO-THIRD VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PROVIDED THERE ARE NO VACANCIES, THE NEXT ELECTION WILL BE HELD DURING APRIL 2005.

ARTICLE 4: MANAGEMENT-THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF THIS LEAGUE SHALL BE VESTED IN THE MANAGERS OR TEAM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEAMS ENTERED IN THE LEAGUE SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS. THE DIRECTORS OF THE LEAGUE, WHEN NECESSARY, SHALL APPOINT A PROTEST COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF THREE (3) MEMBERS WHO HAVE NO CONNECTION EITHER ACTIVE OR OTHERWISE WITH TEAMS ENTERED IN THE LEAGUE. ANY DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY CAN CALL SPECIAL MEETINGS; A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE DIRECTORS IS REQUIRED.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY.

1. MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE SHALL BE OPEN TO ANY AMATEUR TEAM SUBJECT TO PETITION AND TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY-A PLAYER IS ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN THE LEAGUE UNDER ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RULES:

1. RESIDENT OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY BY MAY 1ST OF THE PLAYING YEAR.
2. WORK IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY BY MAY 1ST OF THE PLAYING YEAR.
3. HAVE PREVIOUSLY PLAYED IN THE LEAGUE.
4. VOTED IN - TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE OPPOSING MANAGER.

3. PLAYER CONTRACT: THE MANAGER OF EACH TEAM SHALL SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE LEAGUE SECRETARY/TREASURER OR LEAGUE MANAGER, A COMPLETED AND SIGNED CONTRACT FOR EACH PLAYER HE DESIRES TO HAVE AS A MEMBER OF HIS TEAM. ORIGINAL TEAM ROSTERS MUST BE FILED WITH THE LEAGUE TREASURER OR LEAGUE MANAGER 24 HOURS BEFORE LEAGUE PLAY COMMENCES. ONLY PLAYERS WHO HAVE SIGNED THE OFFICIAL LEAGUE CONTRACT AND PAID THE PLAYER CONTRACT FEE, IF ANY, SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN LEAGUE GAMES, NEW PLAYERS IN THE LEAGUE (ANY PLAYER THAT HAS NOT BEEN ON A ROSTER) PRIOR TO JULY 15TH OF THE PLAYING YEAR MAY SIGN WITH A TEAM AND PLAY IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT HAVING TO WAIT THE 24 HOURS.

1. PLAYER CONTRACT FEE: A PLAYER CONTRACT FEE MAY BE CHARGED. THE AMOUNT WILL BE \$10. A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED TO CHANGE THIS AMOUNT.

2. TEAM ROSTERS: NO TEAM SHALL CARRY MORE THAN 20 PLAYERS. THE FINAL TEAM ROSTER OF 20 PLAYERS OR LESS MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY/TREASURER OR LEAGUE MANAGER BY JULY 15TH OF THE PLAYING YEAR. NO PLAYER MAY BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THE PLAYOFFS IF NOT ON THE ROSTER BY JULY 15TH OF THE PLAYING YEAR, NO EXCEPTIONS.

3. PLAYER AGE REQUIREMENT: NO PLAYER UNDER THE AGE OF 18, AS OF MAY 1ST OF THE PLAYING YEAR, MAY PARTICIPATE. VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN FORFEIT OF ALL GAMES THE ILLEGAL PLAYER PARTICIPATED. PLAYERS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 AS OF MAY 1ST OF THE PLAYING YEAR WILL BE POSTED EACH YEAR.

4. PLAYERS TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER TEAM: PLAYERS WISHING TO PLAY WITH ANOTHER TEAM IN THE LEAGUE, AFTER SIGNING A CONTRACT WITH A LEAGUE TEAM, MAY BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY. MANAGERIAL RELEASE IS NOT REQUIRED. A PLAYER IS ALLOWED ONE TEAM CHANGE PER SEASON.

5. RETURN OF UNIFORM: NO PLAYER MAY PLAY WITH ANY OTHER TEAM WITHOUT FIRST HAVING RETURNED THE COMPLETE UNIFORM TO THE ORIGINAL TEAM. IF THE PLAYER PAID FOR THE UNIFORM IT IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED. VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT OF ALL GAMES THE OFFENDING PLAYER PARTICIPATED.

ARTICLE 6 GAME TIMES:

1. THE REGULAR HOUR FOR STARTING GAMES WILL BE POSTED ON THE OFFICIAL FINAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE.

2. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS: TEAMS MUST START THE GAME WITH AT LEAST NINE PLAYERS. THE TENTH PLAYER MAY ENTER THE GAME UPON ARRIVAL AND MUST BE PLACED IN THE 10TH BATTING SPOT. TEAMS MAY COMPLETE THE GAME WITH 8 DEFENSIVE PLAYERS PROVIDED THE LOSS OF THE ONE PLAYER IS A RESULT OF AN INJURY AND NOT EJECTION.

3. FORFEIT TIME: IF NINE (9) PLAYERS ARE NOT ON THE BENCH, A FIFTEEN MINUTE GRACE PERIOD IS ALLOWED, AFTER WHICH, THE UMPIRE SHALL FORFEIT THE GAME TO THE TEAM FIELDING NINE (9) PLAYERS IF BOTH TEAMS ARE UNABLE TO FIELD A TEAM, BOTH SHALL RECEIVE A LOSS. THE OFFICIAL LINE-UP MUST BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICIAL SCORER OR A BOARD MEMBER.

4. REGULATION GAME: A REGULATION GAME SHALL CONSIST OF 7 INNINGS. IN THE CASE OF RAIN OR INCLEMENT WEATHER CAUSING PLAY TO HALT, 4 ½ INNINGS, PROVIDED THE HOME TEAM IS LEADING, 5 INNINGS VISITORS LEADING, SHALL CONSTITUTE A GAME. MAKE-UP OF RAINED OUT GAMES WILL BE MADE UP AS SCHEDULING PERMITS. PLAYOFF GAMES WILL BE PICKED UP AT THE TIME PLAY WAS HALTED.

5. BATTING ORDER: EACH TEAM MANAGER OR REP, BEFORE THE UMPIRE ALLOWS PLAY TO COMMENCE, MUST TURN IN A BATTING ORDER TO THE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER OR THE HOME PLATE UMPIRE.

6. POSTPONED GAMES: NO POSTPONED OR CANCELED GAMES WILL BE ALLOWED. UNDER EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES, AN EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE MUST BE APPROVED BY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING: OPPOSING MANAGER 3 OF 5 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE MAKE-UP OF THIS GAME WILL BE AS SCHEDULING PERMITS. SHOULD THE GAME HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE FINAL STANDINGS FOR PLAYOFFS, IT WILL NO BE PLAYED. PLAYOFF GAMES CAN NOT BE CANCELED OR CHANGED BY ANY TEAM.

RAINY DAYS: THE LEAGUE MANAGER IN CONJUNCTION WITH "COMPLEX" PERSONNEL, SHALL RENDER DECISION PRIOR TO 5 PM ON THE DAY OF HEAVY RAINFALL AND WILL NOTIFY THE TEAM MANAGERS AND UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF AND SCOREKEEPERS OF THE DECISION. ON DAYS OF LIGHT RAINFALL, TEAMS SHALL REPORT TO THE FIELD WHERE HOME TEAM WILL MAKE DECISION AS TO FITNESS OF FIELD FOR PLAY. AFTER

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"COMPLEX" PERSONNEL HAVE DEEMED THE FIELDS PLAYABLE, ONCE THE GAME HAS STARTED THE UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF SHALL MAKE A DECISION AS TO CONTINUANCE OF PLAY.

ARTICLE 7: PROTESTED GAMES: REASON FOR PROTEST: A GAME CAN NOT BE PROTESTED ON A QUESTION OF JUDGEMENT ON THE PART OF ANY UMPIRE, BUT, QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO INTERPRETATIONS OF RULES MAY BE GROUNDS FOR SUCH PROTESTS. ALL PROTESTS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING ON THE APPROVED LEAGUE PROTEST FORM BY TEAM MANAGER AND MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ANY LEAGUE DIRECTOR OR HOME PLATE UMPIRE, NOT LATER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE GAME IN PROTEST. IF PROTEST IS LOST THE FEE WILL BE ADDED TO THE LEAGUE TREASURY.

ARTICLE 8: DIVISION OF TEAMS: THE LEAGUE WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR (4) DIVISIONS (SUBJECT TO NUMBER OF TEAMS ENTERED AND IN NO CASE WILL A DIVISION HAVE LESS THAN 4 TEAMS-EXCEPT A-DIVISION) THE LEAGUE DIRECTORS WILL RECOMMEND THE DIVISIONAL BREAKDOWN AND A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED TO APPROVE THE FINAL DIVISION BREAKDOWN. NO APPROVAL IS REQUIRED IF A TEAM WISHES TO PLAY IN THE A DIVISION. ANY TEAM THAT WINS A DIVISION OR PLAYOFF CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MOVE UP TO THE NEXT HIGHER DIVISION. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY REVIEW THE ROSTER AND CHANGE THIS REQUIREMENT. TWO-THIRDS VOTE IS REQUIRED. A TEAM THAT PLAYS THE SEASON IN THE WRONG DIVISION AND DOMINATES THAT DIVISION MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FOR THE DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP AND OR DIVISION PLAYOFFS. A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE BOARD AND A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE AFFECTED DIVISION MANAGERS IS REQUIRED. A HEARING WILL BE HELD ONCE THE PLAYOFF SPOTS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED.

ARTICLE 9: PLAYER SUSPENSION; 1. ANY PLAYER ASKED TO LEAVE A GAME BY AN UMPIRE AS A RESULT OF A FIGHT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT 2 CONSECUTIVELY PLAYED LEAGUE OR PLAYOFF GAMES. ANY PLAYER INVOLVED IN 2 FIGHTS WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE SECOND FIGHT. 2. ANY PLAYER WHO STRIKES AN UMPIRE WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM LEAGUE PLAY FOR 1 YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE INCIDENT. 3. ANY PLAYER EJECTED OR ASKED TO LEAVE A GAME FOR ANY REASON WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED LEAGUE OR PLAYOFF GAME. IF SUSPENDED PLAYER PLAYS IN THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME THE GAME WILL BE DECLARED A FORFEIT. 4. ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE DUGOUT WILL BE SUSPENDED INDEFINATELY. THE GAME WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT.

ARTICLE 10: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS-

1. OFFICIAL BALL- AN ASA APPROVED BALL WILL BE USED IN ALL GAMES. 2. FINANCIAL RENUMERATION: NO PLAYER SHALL RECEIVE FINANCIAL RENUMERATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON ANY TEAM OR FOR TAKING PART IN ANY GAME WITHIN THE LEAGUE. VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN A TWO-YEAR SUSPENSION FROM THE LEAGUE. ALL GAMES PLAYED IN BY THE OFFENDING PLAYER SHALL BE DECLARED A FORFEIT. 3. UMPIRE SCHEDULING: THE UMPIRE IN CHIEF SHALL SECURE AND SCHEDULE UMPIRES FOR ALL LEAGUE GAMES. NO GAME SHALL BE PLAYED UNLESS AT LEAST ONE ASA UMPIRE IS PRESENT. 4. SOFTBALL RULES: UNLESS OTHERWISE VOTED, THE LEAGUE SHALL ADOPT ASA OFFICIAL SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES. ANY RULE NOT ADDRESSED IN THESE BY LAWS WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE ASA OFFICIAL SLOW PITCH RULES. 5. RETRIEVING BALLS: THE TEAM AT BAT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RETRIEVING BALLS. AFTER EACH GAME, THE UMPIRE WILL RETURN ONE BALL TO THE HOME TEAM AND ONE BALL TO THE CONCESSION STAND. IF ONLY ONE BALL REMAINS, IT WILL GO TO THE CONCESSION STAND. 6. REPORTING TO MEDIA: THE LEAGUE MANAGER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING TO THE MEDIA SCORES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF EACH GAME. 7. UNIFORM RULE: ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR, AT A MINIMUM, IDENTICAL SHIRTS AND PANTS. THE DEADLINE FOR THE UNIFORM RULE WILL BE THE DATE OF THE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT OR JULY 1ST OF THE PLAYING YEAR. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE UNIFORM RULE. VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT. THIS RULE MUST BE ENFORCED BY THE LEAGUE MANAGERS AND THE UMPIRES. THE UMPIRES MUST NOT ALLOW THE GAME TO START IF A PLAYER IS NOT IN PROPER UNIFORM. IDENTICAL= SAME COLOR SHORTS OR LONG PANTS CAN BE MIXED. 8. OPENING DAY: UNLESS OTHERWISE AMENDED, THE LEAGUE WILL BEGIN PLAY ON THE TUESDAY FOLLOWING MEMORIAL DAY. THE EXHIBITION SEASON WILL BEGIN ON MAY 1ST OF EACH YEAR AND FIELDS WILL BE ASSIGNED. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE HIGH SCHOOLS SOFTBALL PROGRAM TAKE PRIORITY OVER THE EXHIBITION GAMES. 9. DUES AND ENTRY FEES: NO TEAM WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IF THE ENTRY FEES ARE NOT PAID IN FULL. ALL ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY THE SECOND FRIDAY IN MAY. 10. FORFEIT FINES: \$25. FINE FOR FIRST AND SECOND FORFEIT GAMES. AFTER THE SECOND FORFEIT, THE LEAGUE DIRECTORS WILL MEET TO DETERMINE IF THE TEAM SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THE LEAGUE. IF DECISION IS NEGATIVE, A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE OPPOSING TEAM MANAGERS (GAMES LEFT TO BE PLAYED) IS REQUIRED. AFTER THE THIRD FORFEIT THE TEAM WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON. 11. REFUNDS: NO REFUND OF ANY PLAYER CONTRACT OR ENTRY FEE WILL BE ALLOWED. 12. EXTRA HITTER/EXTRA PLAYER: USE OF THE EXTRA HITTER IS OPTIONAL. IF A TEAM BEGINS THE GAME WITH THE EXTRA HITTER IT MUST FINISH THE GAME WITH THE EXTRA HITTER. THE GAME MAY BE COMPLETED WITH 9 DEFENSIVE PLAYERS. THE EXTRA HITTER MAY PLAY A DEFENSIVE POSITION AS PART OF THE SUBSTITUTION RULE. TWO EXTRA HITTERS MAY BE USED. 13. COURTESY RUNNERS: WILL NOT BE ALLOWED DURING THE LEAGUE SEASON OR IN ANY PLAYOFF GAMES. 14. TWELVE RUN RULE: IN EFFECT FOR ALL REGULATION LEAGUE AND PLAYOFF GAMES. FULL INNING MUST BE COMPLETED IF HOME TEAM IS BEHIND. 5 FULL INNINGS MUST BE PLAYED. 15: 20 RUN RULE: AFTER 4 FULL INNINGS, IF A TEAM IS BEHIND BY 20 OR MORE RUNS THE GAME IS OVER. 16: AWARDS: \$150. IS GIVEN TO THE WINNER OF EACH DIVISION AND THE WINNER OF THE PLAYOFFS. THE AMOUNT IS BASED ON 4 DIVISIONS. 17. TROPHIES: WILL BE AWARDED TO EACH DIVISION WINNER DURING THE REGULAR SEASON. A PHOTO PLAQUE OR OTHER AWARD WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH PLAYOFF CHAMPION. 18. TIEBREAKER RULE: 1. HEAD TO HEAD 2. BEST DIVISION RECORD 3. RUNS SCORED HEAD TO HEAD. 19. PLAYOFFS: WILL BEGIN ON THE 1ST WEEKDAY FOLLOWING THE LAST REGULAR SCHEDULED LEAGUE GAMES. UNLESS OTHERWISE VOTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. NO CANCELED PLAYOFF GAMES WILL BE ALLOWED IF A TEAM CAN NOT FIELD 9 PLAYERS FOR THE PLAYOFFS THE RUNNER UP TEAM IN THE STANDINGS WILL BE ALLOWED TO FILL IN. 20. SUBSTITUTION RULE: MAY BE USED FOR ALL PLAYERS PER ASA RULES. 21. THIRD STRIKE RULE: THE LEAGUE WILL ADOPT THE ASA RULE. ON THE FIRST FOUL BALL ON A TWO-STRIKE PITCH THE BATTER IS OUT. 22. METAL SPIKES: WILL NOT BE ALLOWED PER COMPLEX INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS. 23. BEER IN PLAYING AREA OR DUGOUTS: ANYONE WITH BEER IN THE DUGOUTS, OR IN THE PLAYING AREA INSIDE FENCES WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM THE COMPLEX AND THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY SLOW PITCH LEAGUE FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE INCIDENT. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. 24. HOME RUN RULE: ALLOWED PER TEAM PER GAME- VOTED ON ANNUALLY BY THE LEAGUE MANAGERS. ANY HOME RUN OVER THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED WILL BE RECORDED AS AN OUT. INSIDE THE PARK HOME RUNS DO NOT COUNT IN THE TOTAL ALLOWED. 25. ALLOWED IN DUGOUTS: NO ONE UNDER AGE 18 WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE DUGOUTS. 26: LEGAL BAT: THE LEAGUE HAS ADOPTED A RULE THAT A BAT RATED IN EXCESS OF 1.20 IS ILLEGAL. 27: BY-LAWS MAY BE AMENDED AT ANY TIME THE LEAGUE DEEMS FIT OR NECESSARY PROVIDED A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS IN AGREEMENT.

REV: 6/01