

**2011**  
**Coaches' Handbook**

**City of Binghamton**  
**Adult Softball**  
**Binghamton Parks & Recreation**  
**Director – John C. Whalen**  
**City Hall, Binghamton, NY 13901**  
**607-772-7017**  
**607-772-7103 Softball Hotline**

# Rules and Regulations

## Administrative

### Eligible Players – Official Rosters

The following rules apply to eligible players:

1. There is no residency requirement.
2. A player may play on only one team per league, but, they may play in as many different leagues as possible.
3. If a player is listed on two rosters in the same league, the player becomes a member of the team for whom they play their first league game.
4. The minimum age is sixteen years – a player may start play on their sixteenth birthday.

Roster rules are as follows:

1. The official roster is limited to 25 names – **First and last names, addresses and telephone numbers are required. No nicknames**
2. The official roster is published and mailed to all managers early in the season.
3. **The Director has the power to deny roster placement of individuals.**
4. Additions and deletions must be mailed or faxed (607) 772-7068 to the Parks office. **No phone calls except for “day of game” emergency replacements.**
5. Women may not play in men’s leagues, and vice versa.
6. Players added to the roster after June 30<sup>th</sup> and those players who have not participated in at least three games during the regular season are ineligible for the playoffs and championship games.

### Insurance – Accident

There is no league-provided accident insurance – **Players play at their own risk!**

### Insurance – Liability

There is no team liability insurance – **Teams play at their own risk!** Liability insurance is provided to protect the field owner. This coverage is necessary to obtain use of fields for the league games.

## Equipment

**Official League Softball** - The Director selects the official league softball.

**Bats** - See List

**Uniforms** - There is no required team uniform. It is recommended that teams provide, as a minimum uniform, colored jerseys with the team name on the front, and a number on the back.

**Footwear** - Must be worn by all players. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather upper. The soles may be either smooth or have soft or hard rubber cleats. Ordinary metal sole or heel plates may be used if the spikes on the plates do not extend more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch (1.91 cm) from the sole or heel of the shoe. Shoes with round metal spikes are illegal. No shoes with detachable cleats that screw ON are allowed; however, shoes with detachable cleats that screw INTO the shoe are allowed.

### Team

All teams should have the following:

1. Three canvas type bases.
2. A score book and a first aid kit with cold packs.
3. A roster of all players with names, addresses and phone numbers for emergency calls.

## The Catcher

Required minimum equipment is as follows:

- |              |            |                    |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. For men   | Slow Pitch | A mask is optional |
| 2. For Women | Slow Pitch | A mask is optional |

## Pre-Game Guidelines

### Ground Rules

Managers and umpires must agree on the ground rules before each game. Games played on diamonds without fencing must have clearly defined restraining lines marking foul territory. Field obstructions should be noted so that game interference does not take place. Safety of players must be a primary consideration in approval of ground rules.

**We reserve the right to require line up cards listing both first and last names of the players (no nicknames) and players providing photo I.D. as proof of identity.**

### Pre-Game Practice Time

Teams should honor the use of the field as follows:

1. Five minutes before starting time, the umpires and managers review ground rules.
2. Fifteen minutes before starting time, the field is reserved for the home team.
3. The visiting team may use the field prior to the time saved for the home team.
4. There is no practice time between night games, unless the diamond is vacant.

## Playing Rules

### Official Rules of Softball

#### Exceptions

#### Short-handed Rule

1. The minimum number of players to start a contest is as follows:
  - a. All slow pitch: 10 players must start, if present at starting time.
  - b. To avoid forfeit: 8 players may start, but if you start with 8 players an out will be called in the 9th batter's position in the score book. If the 9th player arrives they can be placed into the lineup immediately and the out is eliminated. Where 10 players are allowed to play you cannot get two outs. Once the ninth player shows up you cannot get an out in the 10<sup>th</sup> position.
2. If a player must leave the game for any reason, and there is no legal substitute available, an out will be called whenever that vacant spot in the batting order comes up.

#### Forfeits

1. To rule a forfeit due to player shortages, the umpire should do the following:
  - a. Check that all players are listed in the score book of the winning team
  - b. Have the winning team take the field and throw one pitch to seal the verdict.
2. Additional forfeit rules are as follows:
  - a. If both teams are short players, it is a loss for both teams
  - b. Any time a team can not field 8 players, it is a forfeit
  - c. The winning team via forfeit must report the forfeit to the Director

## **Grace Period      Late Player Arrivals – Delay Start for 10 minutes**

1. Weekday Contests:      The first game on the diamond will have a ten minute grace period. Subsequent games on the same diamond will not have a ten minute grace period and must start as scheduled, or shortly after the preceding contest finishes.

## **Home Run Rule:**

A limit of six (6) over the fence home runs per team per game. For any over the fence home runs in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and runners cannot advance.

## **Legal Games**

1. A game must complete 4 ½ or 5 innings to be a legal game.
2. A game suspended due to weather, before becoming a legal game, may be replayed from the beginning at a later date.
3. A game suspended due to light failure, at any point in the contest, shall continue at that point if rescheduled later in the season.
4. A game tied, after being suspended for any reason, at any point, may be replayed from the beginning later in the season.

## **Regulations for Lighted Fields**

### **Curfew**

**Once a game has started it will be played to completion.** Subsequent games will start five minutes after completion of the previous game, or at the scheduled start time, whichever is later. City of Binghamton fields with lights do not have a curfew. All Town of Union fields have an 11:00 p.m. curfew.

### **Special Rules for Lighted Fields**

1. Pre-game practice for warm-ups may be limited to adjacent areas
2. Players must hustle at all times so that the time schedule is followed
3. Only the first game of the evening is allowed a 10 minute grace period before forfeit. There is no grace period for later games

**Run Ahead Rule:** A run ahead rule will end all games if a team is ahead by 10 runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings.

### **Playoffs**

The Shaughnessy Playoff System is in effect as follows:

1. Semifinals – Single elimination: 1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> place and 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>
2. Finals – One Game, winner takes all.

To be eligible for the playoffs, a player must be on the roster by June 30<sup>th</sup> and have played a minimum of three regular season games.

Additional playoff regulations are as follows:

1. All regular season Binghamton City Softball rules are in effect.
2. The team with the best record is home team. In case of a tie, best record or finish in standings.
3. Each team will provide a good league back-up ball (yellow).
4. The winner of the contest keeps the new league softball
5. The winning team must report the score to the City of Binghamton Parks Department at 772-7103

## Protests

The Director will rule on protests involving age and roster eligibility. Other protest regulations are as follows:

1. No protest will ever be permitted on the judgment of an umpire.
2. When protesting, a team must notify the Umpire-In-Chief before the next pitch, or if the last play of the game, before the teams vacate the playing fields.
3. The umpires need not be notified on eligibility protests.
4. A protest must be filed with the Director, in writing, within 48 hours of the starting time of the contest.
5. A protest must be accompanied with a \$25.00 protest fee, which shall be returned if the protest is receivable according to the rules. If receivable, the Director will proceed as follows:
  - a. Obtain written statements from both managers and the involved umpires.
  - b. Arrange a protest meeting. The Protest Committee will be composed of the Director, and two Other people selected by the Director
  - c. Upon hearing the protest, the decision of the Protest Committee is final.

## Reporting Game Scores

The **winning team** must report the score to the City of Binghamton Parks Department at 772-7103.

## Scheduling

### League Schedule

The Director will make every effort to produce a schedule compatible with the availability of the teams, providing written notification is forwarded.

### Postponed Games

Manager should be aware of the procedure for game postponements:

1. On inclement days, managers must call the Director between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 772-7017
2. After 5:00 p.m. the fitness of the field for play rests with the umpires.

### Make-Up Games

Re-scheduled games are handled by the Director as follows:

1. Availability of diamonds and umpires determine make-up schedules. Games may be made up on different days than normally played.
2. Managers with scheduling problems must keep the City of Binghamton Parks Department informed at least two weeks in advance to avoid conflicts with makeups.

## Standings

### Scoring

The home team score book is the “official book.” **First and last names** of players must be listed as in the case of a player protest, score books must clearly indicate **complete names. No nicknames.** Scorekeepers should check the game score verbally every inning to be accurate.

### League Record Keeping

The Director will keep all league standings.

### Breaking Ties in League Standings

To determine final league standings when teams are tied for championships or playoffs the following applies:

1. How they faired against each other – how they faired against the 1<sup>st</sup> place team
2. If split there will be a coin toss.

# Conduct and Umpires

## Team Responsibility

Managers must inform players of the following:

1. All rules and regulations of the Binghamton City Softball Leagues
2. The need for all players to respect the safety of others
3. The desire for good sportsmanship among all participants
4. The importance of obeying the standard rules that apply to all public parks and school district facilities that are similar in all cases to the following:
  - a. Good field conduct including **no profane language anyplace at the field**
  - b. Adherence to all parking regulations
  - c. A reduction in littering – teams should police the bench area upon leaving
  - d. Remember – **No alcoholic beverages on park or school property including parking lots**
  - e. Respect for speeding laws in the park neighborhood
  - f. Consideration of neighbors who live next to the park
  - g. Complete application of all park rules that may be so posted

Violations of the above rules may lead to player or team suspensions

**All concerned must remember that this is a RECREATIONAL Softball Program!**

## Player Responsibility

**A player should never touch an umpire in dispute during or after a game.**

Team managers must maintain control of team players. Should a written report be filed by an umpire concerning the game ejection or the un-sportsmanlike conduct of a player, the following procedure will take place:

1. The Director will take disciplinary action if necessary
2. Players disciplined by the Director may request a hearing, in writing, at any time within one month of the date of the notification letter
3. Players suspended in the City League are hereby advised that the policy of the Binghamton Umpires Association is to withdraw service to any other area league where a City League suspended player may be participating
4. Players requesting a hearing will be notified when the Hearing Committee will meet to conduct the hearing
5. The Director will chair the hearing and also appoint two other committee members for the Hearing Committee
6. Attendance at the hearing will be as follows:
  - a. The defendant and his witnesses plus any legal counsel desired
  - b. The involved umpires
  - c. The President and the Assignor of the Binghamton Umpires Association

## Expulsion

### Termination of Teams

Teams forfeiting three games will be expelled with no refund of their entry fee.

## Restricted Players

**The Director has the right to limit players on any roster.**

## Awards

### Selection of Awards

The Director will select appropriate awards for League Champions, League Runner-up and League Playoff Champions. Should a team win two of the above, one award trophy will be engraved with both championships.

## Field Locations and Owners

### City of Binghamton Parks & Recreation – 772-7017

Cheri Lindsey Park	Chenango St. to Pleasant St.
First Ward Park *	Charles Street (off from Clinton Street)
Ben Franklin Park	Conklin Ave. to The Arena St.
MacArthur Park Frederic C. Schneider Field Randy Brownell Field *	Vestal Avenue (next to MacArthur Elementary School) Upper Level (Little League)
Sandy Beach Park	Conklin Avenue
Valley Street Park*	Valley Street (near the Red Oak Restaurant on Front Street)

### Broome County Parks & Recreation – 778-2193

Otsiningo Park	Front and Bevier Street, Town of Dickinson
Nathaniel Cole Park	From Court Street turn onto Colesville Road, continue on Colesville Road 6 to 6.5 miles – entrance will be on your right

### Town of Union Parks & Recreation – 786-2970

Route 17C Park Field #4 Field #5 * Field #6 * Field #7	Route 17C, West Endicott First diamond near entrance Second diamond in Third diamond in Last diamond
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\* **Lighted diamonds**