

SUMMER SOFTBALL 2008 Official Rules (5/20/08)

1. Schedule

Schedule is attached. Play begins on Tuesday May 20 and through July 29. A modified Double elimination playoffs will extend over the next 7 days. We'll try to finish on Thursday, August 7. A picnic/cookout will follow the championship games at the fields.

We have 22 teams participating this year; the most ever. 7 A teams and 15 B Teams. The A- league will play 18 games; the B - league will play 16 games: We will be playing on Monday through Thursday using all 5 fields. The first rainout of any week will be AUTOMATICALLY rescheduled for the Friday of that week (except for the 2nd week of the season and 4th of July week.). If there is more than one rainout in a week or it rains on Friday, then those games will be scheduled on the first available Friday, otherwise, teams will need to make their own arrangements about making up the game. It is NOT required that teams makeup rained out games (These games are being played because both teams want to play. If for any reason, one or both teams do not want to play, so be it.)

The picnic will be after the championship games AT THE FIELDS on **Thursday, August 8. Rain date is Aug 8.**

We will use the "West Windsor" Fields located across Lake Carnegie to the North of Washington Rd as well as the softball field located on Broadmeade Street located north of Palmer Stadium. At West Windsor, are now two fenced in areas (Rugby & overflow) as well as the open area (cow pasture) north of the tree line. We are permitted to play on the fenced in fields as long as they are not being used for an athletic department summer camp. We will begin by using the fenced in area closest to Washington Road. See attached layout of the fields. The home team is required to layout the fields. Distance between bases is 60 feet. Foul line distances to the fence should be at least 220 feet.

The fields have been reoriented this year to address the severe "sun problem" that existed for fields 1 and 3. depiction of what is now the official orientation. As with any of the league rules (except collision and restricted flight rules), as long as both teams agree, you can change the orientation as long as you don't interfere with other games.

The Rugby and Overflow Fields will only be available to us until the 4th of July. After that we will need to use the Cow pasture. Note the location of the fields in the cow pasture.

Equipment for lining the fields will be available in the shed located in center field of Field 4. Please designate someone on your team to be the designated line-person.

2. House rules (Otherwise major League baseball rules apply)

- Games start at 5:45.
- Forfeits are called at 6:00.
- You are required to have at least 3 outfielders deeper than 90 feet from the first-to-second-to-third base line (even with "weak" hitters at bat).
- We use 2 home plates, and the play at home is always a "force" play. The runner must reach the outside (second) plate **before** the force play is made on the normal home plate for the run to score and an out not be recorded. This rule (as well as most other) can be waived if both teams agree prior to the beginning of the game. You may also use 2 1st bases. One inside the foul line, the other outside the foul line. In order to avoid a collision, the runner (and the 1st baseman) may use either.)
- **NO COLLISIONS TOLERATED** (except in unfortunate circumstances at 1st base and while sliding) - The runner must be in control to avoid collisions at all times. It is the runner's responsibility to avoid collisions. Any collision, even minor ones, results in the runner being called out. Blatant (intentional) collisions result in the expulsion of the player from the game. The only exceptions are collisions while the runner is sliding at 2nd, 3rd or home and at first base as the runner is crossing the bag on the foul side of the bag. If the runner is on the second base side of the 1st base bag and a collision occurs, then the runner is out for interference. Note, that a runner can be called out for interference while running to first base in fair territory. (This is true in Major League baseball as well). A runner can not be called out for running out of the baseline to avoid a collision. (If the runner is avoiding a tag, then the runner is out.)
- After 4 balls go over the fence for home runs, hits over the fence are ground-rule doubles.
- The dues this year includes the purchase of 10 Dudley restricted flight balls per team. **No other type of ball** can be used during a game. Dues are \$75 plus \$50 for balls = \$125. Make checks payable to Princeton University or generate an InterDept. Invoice payable to acct # 180-2010. Once you have paid the dues, you may pick up the balls from Bill Huston bhuston@princeton.edu .
- You may choose either to bat everybody and can thus substitute at will in the field. OR Use Major (American) League Baseball substitution rules in which you bat 10 and players taken out of the field or batting order cannot re-enter; one can

be a designated hitter. By mutual agreement, two teams can agree to modify any rule except the collision rule, and the restricted flight ball rule.

- A game becomes official if the home team is ahead after 4.5 innings, otherwise, after 5 innings. If play is suspended before the game is official, it must be replayed from the beginning. If a tie game is suspended after it is official, then play continues from the point of stoppage.
- Officiating: The batting team does the officiating, including the calling of balls, strikes and outs using persons that are approved by the fielding team. Approval of any person is assumed unless specifically vetoed by the fielding team. The fielding team may veto the use of any official for any reason at any t
- The Strike Zone: A strike is defined as a legally pitched ball intersecting to any extent the volume defined by the batter's knees, arm pits front of the plate, tip end of the plate and two sides of the plate and NOT landing on any part of the plate.
- A Legal Pitch: A legally pitched ball is one that is delivered by the pitcher from a standing start on the rubber. At time of delivery, one foot must still be in contact with the rubber. The delivery must be made with an under hand motion with the palm facing up. The pitch must reach a minimum elevation from the ground of 6 feet and must not reach an elevation of greater than 12 feet. Illegally pitched balls may be announced by the umpire as soon as they become illegal. A batter may choose to swing at an illegal ball, which automatically makes the pitch legal, or may accept it as a counted Ball.
- Mercy rule: either team may (not must) terminate a game if there is (or will be) at least a 15 run differential at the end of the 5th or 6th inning.
- The home team is responsible for supplying a new restricted flight ball, 2 home plates and 3 bases.

