

Franklin Senior Softball League

SPRING 2024

INTRODUCTION BYLAWS RULES & REGULATIONS

The Franklin Senior Softball League is a recreational league founded in 2006 to promote co-ed softball for senior players. Games are played using modified fast pitch rules. The league is open to players age 50 and over who live in or work in Franklin Township and its surrounding towns. The league is governed by its member teams through a council formed from its team managers and a league commissioner.

The goal of the league is to provide its players with a safe and friendly environment to play softball with an emphasis on participation and sportsmanship. On behalf of the players, managers and officers of the Franklin 50+ Softball League, we would like to welcome you.

The league rules and regulations are reviewed and evaluated on a yearly basis with the input of the league managers and players.

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Revised 4/4/2021

Team Registration & Eligibility

- A. Teams will be accepted into the Franklin Township 50+ Softball League upon receipt of league fees and completed roster forms with a minimum of 12 players and maximum of 22 players.
- B. Team will be charged an entry fee that covers the cost of umpires, field reservations, game balls, insurance and administration.
- C. The team entry fees are due by the registration deadline April 1. Season Fees are based on an 18-game season plus playoffs and championship games.
- D. In order to continue using township fields, we have set a goal of maintaining a league wide majority of our players as In-Town (individuals who live or work within the township limits). To this end each team will also maintain a majority of its players as in-town.
- E. Falsification of the above information for any player is grounds for expulsion from the league without a refund.
- F. A team which fails to submit a completed roster (Minimum 12 players with new player documentation) to the league by Opening Day will not qualify for the current season.
- G. Each player, scorekeeper and manager must read and sign the code of conduct before taking the field of play.

Player Registration

- A. All players must be 50 by Aug. 1 of the current season to be eligible.
- B. All NEW players must submit a photocopy of their driver's license.
- C. Players may be of either gender.
- D. No refunds will be given once schedules have been distributed.
- E. All player information must be completed and the player and manager/assistant manager must sign the roster form. It must be received by the league prior to that team or player being eligible to participate.
- F. In the event of team/player eligibility questions, that team is responsible to supply proof of an approved team roster.
- G. Adding a player after Opening Day requires council approval along with submission of driver's license, Code of Conduct Form and updated roster and waiver forms.

Team & Player Suspension

- A. Any player ejected from a game will face a minimum suspension of the next two consecutive games from league games. The suspension is effective immediately (if ejection occurs in the first game of double header, player must sit out second game and next league game). A second ejection in the same season will result in a minimum suspension of the next three games. A third ejection in a season will result in a 12-month suspension.
- B. A hearing by the league council is required before being readmitted to league play.
- C. Ejected player/coach must leave the ball park area including the parking lot immediately. The game will not continue until ejected player leaves the grounds. Failure to do so will result in the game being forfeited.
- D. Failure to supply umpire/scorekeeper with name of ejected player(s) will result in a forfeit.
- E. Any player, who is suspended from a game, or for the season may not be present at the softball field during the suspension.
- F. A team playing a suspended player will forfeit all games the suspended player participated in during the suspension. This could result in a team suspension from the league.
- G. Managers and players are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators and may be ejected if, after being requested to help resolve a problem, they fail to make an effort to do so.
- H. Any manager, player or fan who confronts an umpire, opposing player, fan or Township employee in any part of the park facility before, during or following a game and physically or verbally threatens them shall be suspended until a hearing by the league council is held to determine the appropriate suspension (s) to be imposed.
- I. A team playing an illegal or suspended player in a playoff game will forfeit that game and all remaining games.
- J. A team will be suspended if they accumulate five season (including playoffs) ejections in a season. That team will be suspended from league play for the remainder of the season.
- K. A hearing by the league council will be held before team will be allowed back into the league.
- L. A second player ejection in the same game will cause a forfeit.

- M. Aggressive profanity (umpires' discretion), fighting, or intentional throwing of a bat (including hitting the fence on the fly or bounce, or over the fence) will result in an automatic ejection from the game. No warning is needed for fighting or throwing the bat! If there is a physical altercation (pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, etc.) between two or more players and/or players from the dugout and/or field positions leave their respective areas, then a double forfeit will be immediately declared.

Casual Profanity

- A. Casual Profanity pertains to expletives and verbal unsportsmanlike language not necessarily directed at umpires or opposing players, but are most likely a player uttering them out of frustration. This type of behavior is penalized by "outs" being declared against the offending team.
- If the team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used, the next batter can be declared out.
 - If the act is committed by a player remaining at bat, he/she can be called out.
 - If the act is committed by the defensive team, the first person to bat in the next inning can be declared out.
 - The outs will be treated as a delayed dead ball situation.
 - If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning, where the fielding team may not bat again, the ejection rule can be applied. If a team has an eligible substitute, they can continue the game.
 - A game may be ended by a casual profanity out.
- B. All other verbal unsportsmanlike language directed at umpires, opposing players or Township Employee would warrant an ejection.

Forfeits

A forfeit will be declared by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault in the following cases:

- A. If a team appears with less than nine (9) players at game time.
- B. Violation of Franklin League rules or Franklin Township park rules.
- C. Teams that forfeit more than two games may be suspended from further league play and will not be eligible for the playoffs. League fee will not be refunded.

Protests

- A. All protests must be filed, in writing by the next business day, to the League Commissioner via email, Fax or written report (signed and dated).
- B. The only call that you may protest is an umpire's misinterpretation of a rule, you may not protest judgment calls.
- C. All protests must be filed with the umpire and scorekeeper before the next pitch after the incident.
- D. All player eligibility protest must be made to the umpire and scorekeeper before the game is over.
- E. If the player in question does not have identification, he or she will then have 48 hours to show photo ID to the League Commissioner.
- F. Use of illegal players may result in a team being suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.
- G. All illegal player issues will affect only the game in which it was raised.
- H. The official score sheet cannot be protested. It is the managers' responsibility to check with the scorekeeper to make sure that it is correct.

Playing Fields

- A. Games will be played at the Following Fields: Middlebush Park Softball Field, Demott Lane. Inman Park Lower Field, Leupp Lane. Williams Park Softball Field, Matilda Ave.

Umpires

- A. The Franklin Senior Softball League will provide umpires for all its games.
- B. An umpire has the right to cancel or call off any game at any time during the game if they feel that the action of participants or weather and field conditions are a liability to the players and/or the Township of Franklin.
- C. There will be one umpire utilized for all regular season games and first round playoff games. Two umpires will be assigned for all championship games. The umpire(s) is/are the sole authority on the field and any arguing or verbal threats will not be tolerated. Umpires will discuss rule interpretation only with the manager and/or assistant manager.
- D. If a team manager/assistant manager are satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of any umpire, the manager/assistant manager is requested to file, in writing, specific complaints or suggestions to the League Commissioner.

- E. The Commissioner will then review these comments. After review, if further action is warranted, he will take necessary action.
- F. In the event of an umpire no show: Please call the League Commissioner. An attempt to secure a substitute umpire will be made if possible.

Injuries

- A. All injuries, no matter how small, must be reported to the League Commissioner within 24 hours. The proper injury report needs to be filled out within this period.
- B. Blood Rule: If a player sustains a scrape or cut that is bleeding, the player MUST be removed from the game until the injury has been tended to and blood is no longer exposed. Clothing with blood stains are not allowed to be worn at any time.
- C. Injured players may re-enter the game (once injury has been addressed) so long as they keep their same place in the batting order.

Miscellaneous Rules

- A. Smoking is not permitted on any Township Property.
- B. Possession of or consuming of alcoholic beverages in all Township parks is prohibited as stated by Township ordinance.
- C. Managers/Assistant Managers are responsible for covering the league rules with team members so that they are aware of them. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse. Please take a copy of these rules with you to all games.
- D. It is recommended that each team provide their own first aid kits.
- E. Please make use of the trash and recycling cans.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. Threatening statements, disrespectful behavior, excess profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, deliberate throwing of equipment, bat and/or glove by player or coach is grounds for automatic ejection and removal from a game area. Any further disruption by the same player is grounds for additional game suspensions and forfeit of the game. Refusal to leave the game area is also grounds for a forfeit.
- B. Disrespectful statements regarding the umpires or League Commissioner will result in an automatic removal from the game.
- C. Striking a game official, utilizing a piece of sports equipment as a weapon and any physical contact with the intent to do bodily harm such as fighting before, during or after a game will result in automatic indefinite suspensions.

Franklin Senior Softball League Code of Conduct

1. No participant shall make threats, lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or spit upon an official, player, or spectator.
2. No participant shall physically or verbally attack as an aggressor any player, official, or spectator.
3. No participant shall curse or make derogatory remarks directed at an official, player, or spectator.
4. No participant shall show an objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision.
5. No participant shall leave a dugout and go onto the field of play to confront or argue with an official, player, or spectator.
6. No participant shall refuse to abide by the official's decisions. Officials are required to immediately suspend the player from further play and report such player to the League Commissioner. Such player shall remain suspended until the League Managers Council has considered the player's case.
7. No participant shall consume or possess an alcoholic beverage or illegal substance, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances, while on the field of play or during a scheduled game.

My signature acknowledges that I have received a copy of the Franklin Senior Softball League Rules & Regulations and that I understand and agree to all stated rules & regulations and Code of Conduct.

Participants Signature

Participants Name Printed

Date _____

BYLAWS

1. The league functions as an association of its members to organize a spring season on an annual basis for its member teams and promote such activity as desired in the pre-season and fall such as Sunday morning pickup games or practices.
2. The league is a co-ed recreational league for senior players residing or working in or in the vicinity of Franklin Township.
3. All games are played on fields in Franklin Township.
4. The league is governed and supervised by a council made up of its team managers presided over by a league commissioner.
5. The league will be duly registered with a national softball association such as ASA/USA and liability insurance procured.
6. The league council as represented by its member teams voting through their managers or other representative shall decide by a majority vote on all questions concerning league affairs.
7. Each member team having one vote in all league matters.
8. Council meetings are held as needed. They can be called for by the commissioner or by a majority of teams with 48-hour notice. As called for by the commissioner, timely matters may be voted on by email or telephone and tallied by the commissioner.
9. A quorum will constitute three-fourths of the member teams present with or without a commissioner presiding.
10. A majority vote at any meeting with a quorum will decide all league matters.
11. League officers as voted by the league managers shall be: a commissioner, treasurer and secretary. These officers may be current or former league managers or players or outside persons.
12. The commissioner shall call for and preside over council meetings and will vote to break a tie. In his absence the secretary or other officer may preside over meetings.
13. Treasurer shall be in charge of league finances and keep records of all its accounting; receive all annual team fees, make deposits and disbursements from league bank account on its behalf.
14. No part of the fees collected by teams or the league may be used for the personal benefit of any individual.
15. League expenses will be shared equally by member teams. Each team fee will be determined by the treasurer.

16. Teams are allowed to solicit team sponsors.
17. Player fees paid to their team are determined by each manager.
18. Secretary shall record and maintain records of all league proceedings and meetings and publish minutes to all concerned; also update bylaws and rules and prepare season schedule and keep the in season standings.
19. The secretary will register the league with a national softball association and procure for the league liability insurance each year.
20. Also reserve Franklin Township fields for the spring season and arrange for the permits.
21. Chief umpire will make game assignments. Not a member of the council.
22. The council will consider all protests, the teams in question not voting.
23. Officers may be removed for cause only after reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard or without cause by a majority vote by the council.
24. Managers may also be asked to step down by a majority vote of the council. New managers must be approved by the council.
25. Team managers are understood to be a result of its player's vote or their consensus.
26. In an effort to maintain league balance, all new players coming into the league will be assigned by the council and any recruiting by teams must be approved as well by the council.
27. Individual Code of Conduct forms and team waiver forms are required along with all team rosters by Opening Day for review.
28. All team fees must be paid by April 1 or when set by the council.
29. Official league game softballs must be used exclusively in all league games. Only by a vote of the league council can any of the specifications be changed from one season to the next. For 2017 & 2018 the official game ball is a Dudley cork center SB 12 red stitched brand 375 LB compression & .44 COR rating. Product # 4A729Y