



# Brookings Softball Association Handbook

Mission: To facilitate the play of adult  
● USA Softball in the city of Brookings, SD

Thank you for playing with the Brookings Softball Association.  
The following handbook outlines Board approved policies and procedures.

**ALL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE ASA RULES FOR PLAY  
IN ADDITION TO THE LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES CONTAINED HEREIN.**

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## SEASONS

The BSA hosts, schedules and provides concessions to Adult slow-pitch Softball leagues for Men's, Women's and Coed. League Fees are as follows and will be paid in full at the designated meetings each season. If you are unable to pay in full at the final manager's meeting, you must have the balance paid in full to the Board Treasurer prior to your first game. Failure to pay in full prior to the first game will result in a forfeit by your team. Failure to pay in full by the second week of league play will result in your team being removed from the schedule.

Upper and Lower Men's – 12 weeks + tournament \$850

Wednesday Women's – 10 weeks + tournament \$650

Tuesday Coed – 10 weeks + tournament \$450

Fall Ball – 6 weeks participation weather permitting - \$25/Player

## ROSTERS

All teams must complete and submit their rosters by the designated deadline, which will be communicated via BSA social channels (Facebook, Group Me) and player meetings. Every player is required to sign their team roster in order to be eligible to participate in games. By signing the roster, players acknowledge that the Brookings Softball Association (BSA) is not responsible for injuries that may occur on the field or within the complex.

## AGE LIMIT

Players must be at least 16 years old at the start of the season to be eligible to play. Players under 18 are required to have a parent or legal guardian signature on their team roster prior to participation. Proof of age may be required and must be verified by a valid ID or birth certificate.

## PLAY

Each batter will enter the box with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike. There is no courtesy foul.

All games will start at the times printed on the schedule. Each team must have 10 players in the dugout to start, however, a game may start with 9 players. If a team starts a game with 9 players, when position 10 comes up to bat the team must take an out in place of this missing player. When/if a player arrives to take position 10, he/she may enter the game at the top of the inning, in the same position where the out has been taken.<sup>1</sup>

If a team is not ready at the scheduled time, the result will be a forfeit. However, starting games earlier than scheduled is acceptable provided the field is available, the umpires are present, and the teams have agreed to play.

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<sup>1</sup> Participant Manual Official Rules of Softball Rule 4, Section 1.D

All doubleheaders will play with a two-hour time limit for both games. When time runs out, the inning of play will be finished and the game will be considered complete. Games may end in a tie.

All split games will have a 55-minute time limit. When time runs out, the inning of play will be finished and the game will be considered complete. Games may end in a tie.

### CROSSOVER PLAYERS

Players are able to play two divisions. Lower and Upper players can be rostered on a secondary team on the opposite division. Upper players can be rostered as secondary players with the following limits:

1. Secondary players do not count as rostered players for State and National Tournaments
2. Secondary players must be highlighted on the roster
3. All rosters for adding/dropping players will be locked in by start of tournament
4. Players cannot play in both upper and lower tournaments (must play up).

### HOMERUN LIMITES

Men's Lower Division – 1 Team Homeruns Per Game

Men's Upper Division – 3 Team Homeruns Per Game

Women - Unlimited Team Homeruns

COED - 2 Team Homeruns Per Game

### COED

#### LACK OF FULL TEAM

If a team does not have a full roster present at the scheduled start time, the team may begin play with a minimum of eight players (at least three females or five males). If the minimum number of players is not met, the team must forfeit. However, a team may choose to forfeit its first at-bat in order to allow an additional 10 minutes to reach the minimum player requirement. If the team is still unable to meet the minimum after this time, the game will be forfeited. Teams may then split available players to play for fun; however, an umpire will not be provided.

A team that is short players may pick up **NO MORE THAN TWO PLAYERS**:

1. If a team begins the game with eight rostered players, any additional **rostered** player who arrives may enter the game and will be added to the bottom of the lineup until the team reaches a full lineup of ten players.
2. If a pickup player leaves the game and no rostered player is available to replace them, the vacant spot in the batting order will be recorded as an out. The game will **not** be considered a forfeit.
3. Pickup players may be used from any team, regardless of division.
4. Any vacant spot in the batting lineup will be recorded as an out.
5. Players may be added to the lineup card at any time.
6. If a pickup player leaves the game for any reason, that player may **not** be replaced by another non-rostered (pickup) player.

7. When a missing rostered player arrives, they must enter the game as soon as possible.
8. If a rostered player is available, they must play in the game before any pickup player.

#### MODIFIED RULES - (6 Men / 4 Women)

If absolutely necessary, teams may play using a modified lineup consisting of six males and four females. Teams must make their best effort to field five males and five females whenever possible. If a team has five males and five females available, the modified rules may not be used.

When using this format:

- **Pitcher and catcher:** must be male
- **Infielders:** two men and two women
- **Outfielders:** two men and two women

The required batting order for a 6 men / 4 women lineup is:

**W, M, W, M, M, W, M, W, M, M**

#### BATTING

When there are two outs, if a male walks, the female batter may automatically take first, but it is not required.

The batting order must alternate male and female players, unless the team is playing short or using modified rules (see above). If a team is playing short and an out is taken in the batting order, the out must be recorded between batters of the same sex to maintain the male/female alternating format.

#### FIELDING

No defensive player shall be permitted to play in front of the 150' foot line until the batter's bat makes contact with the ball.

When fielding 10 players, you must have two females in the infield, two females in the outfield, and the pitcher/catcher must be male/female.

#### ROSTERS

Each coed team roster must include a minimum of five males and five females. Teams should not plan to use modified rules throughout the season; modified play is intended as a last resort only when necessary.

#### EJECTIONS

Umpires or Board Members (not player reps) can eject a member of any team at their discretion. Reasons for ejection include, but are not limited to, arguing balls and strikes, disrespectful act towards umpires, other players or spectators, foul language, physical altercations or cheating.

Once ejected, the player must gather his/her things and leave the complex immediately. Failure to leave will result in a forfeit.

## END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY

A one-hour time limit will be enforced for each game up to Championship Night. Games played on Championship night will have no time limit.

The higher-seeded team will receive home field advantage, unless the game is played in the loser's bracket (indicating the higher-seeded team has already lost a game) or is the second championship game. In those cases, home field advantage will be determined by a coin toss.

## TIEBREAKERS

Tiebreakers for the purpose of determining standings are as follows:

1. Head-to-head
2. Runs allowed head-to-head
3. Runs scored head-to-head
4. Runs scored for the season
5. Runs allowed for the season
6. Coin flip

## WEATHER POLICY

It is our goal to provide as much playing time as possible, therefore, assume that you will be playing and please show up on time. Refunds will not be provided to teams who missed games due to weather delays.

The City of Brookings is in charge of calling games up until 3:30 PM on game day. The Board will then be in charge of calling games up until start time, at which point the responsibility transfers to the Umpire in Chief (or his designee) once games have started, and he/she will determine if play is still safe during inclement weather. Once games are cancelled, no further games will be played that evening. Should a game be called mid-play, it will be considered a complete game if at least 5 innings have been played, or the home team is ahead after 4½ innings.

We will make every effort to call games as soon as possible and information will be posted on the Facebook page.

## MAKEUP GAMES

We will not make up the first game cancelled due to rain/inclement weather, per league. If more than one game is canceled due to weather in the same league, makeup games will be scheduled and the tournament timeline may be adjusted accordingly. Any schedule changes will be communicated via the league's Facebook page and Group Me app.

If your team chooses not to participate in the makeup game, it will be considered a forfeit. If both teams do not participate, a coin toss will determine the winner for standings.

## COMPLEX RULES

Southbrook Softball Complex is a city park, and as such there are NO DOGS allowed within the park. Umpires and board members will ask anyone with a dog to remove the dog from the complex immediately. Managers will be expected to fully support this policy and police your own team and spectators.

No outside coolers or beer are allowed on the complex grounds. You will be asked to return coolers or beer to your vehicle immediately. Water bottles are allowed.

No glass bottles will be allowed in the complex. No hard alcohol is allowed in the complex.

No metal cleats allowed. Umpires will ask anyone wearing metal cleats to change shoes immediately.

Please remind your families, fans and spectators that the complex can be a dangerous place. Fans should only be seated in the bleacher area or gazeboes and should always be aware of batted and overthrown balls. Safety cannot be guaranteed anywhere on the complex.

Children should be supervised at all times and not be allowed to run unattended.

## SPONSORS

Keep in mind the generosity of your sponsors. They are sponsoring teams not only to reward/assist good customers, but to also advertise and gain support for their businesses. We strongly encourage teams to make every effort to patronize your sponsors throughout the year, not just during the season. Area businesses are under no obligation to provide funds to any team, and we can't expect them to do so without the support of your team and fans.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN BROOKINGS SOFTBALL, LET'S HAVE A FUN SEASON!**