

BAA Men's Softball  
Rules and Regulations  
March 2024

The Boxford Men's Softball League (the "League") follows ASA Rules except where specifically reflected in the rules and procedures noted below.

**Current year rules changes and/or modifications are highlighted in red.**

**1. Additions/Deletions/Edit of League Rules**

- a. Any addition, deletion or change to the League rules must be approved by a majority vote of the team managers. All additions, deletions and changes to the League rules may only take place at the pre-season or post-season manager's meeting(s). **(2007)**
- b. Any proposals for new rules or changes to existing rules must be submitted to the League commissioner a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the scheduled managers meeting. **(2011)**
- c. **Any new rule and/or rule change cannot be revisited for the duration of a "full season" unless unanimous consent by managers is received to revisit a particular rule. A full season is defined as "from the first pitch of the regular season up to the first pitch of the following regular season." For the avoidance of ambiguity, a rule voted on and adopted for the 2024 season may not be revisited until after the first pitch of the 2025 season unless managers have unanimously agreed to revisit such rule. (2024)**

**2. Player Eligibility**

- a. To participate in the League an individual must be 30 years of age **and**
  - i. A current Boxford resident OR
  - ii. A current full-time employee of the Town of Boxford OR
  - iii. A son of a current or retired player **(2022)** OR
  - iv. A son-in-law of a current player **(2002)** OR
- b. Non-Boxford residents who are brothers, uncles, brother-in laws, or fathers of current players are not eligible to play. **(2002)**
- c. If a current player moves out of town, he remains eligible to play in the League. **(2002)**
- d. If a current player who is a full-time town employee leaves his position with the town, he remains eligible to play in the League. **(2002)**
- e. If a team adds a son or son-in law of a current player to their team, that team forfeits its first-round pick in the upcoming draft. **(2002)**

Commissioner will check new player drivers' licenses for proof of residency and date of birth **(2005)**.

**3. Player Movement**

- a. Trading players from one team to another is not allowed. **(2002)**
- b. No player may switch teams once the season has commenced. **(2002)**
- c. A player who leaves the League for one (1) season or more must return to the last team they played for. If player decides not to return to their last team said player must attend tryouts in order to be drafted to a team. **(2023)**

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- d. Prior to the draft, each team may add one (1) player who is over 50 years of age to their roster. By ~~doing~~so, a team will forfeit their first-round draft pick in that year's draft. This player MUST be **new to the League**, not an existing player, who is currently on the roster of another team. **(2006)**
- e. Players who decide to return to the draft must attend tryouts in order to be drafted to a team. (2023) This rule would be superseded in an expansion year whereby said player(s) will automatically be placed on an expansion team. **(2021)**

**4. Player Selection**

- a. Individuals interested in playing in the League for the first time must register and participate in tryouts to be drafted to a team. A new player is not required to attend tryouts ONLY if deemed the "perennial first draft pick" by the manager of the team with the first draft pick of that season. **(2022)**
- b. The two teams competing in the prior year's playoff final will pick last (Champion) and second to last (Runner up) in the upcoming draft. All other teams will pick in the reverse order of the prior year's regular season finish. **(2003)**
- c. Team forfeits do not count towards winning percentage or win/loss record for draft position. Final position will be determined by percentage calculated on games played. **(2010)**
- d. A player is formally added to a team's roster only after that player has provided a signed consent form and has fully paid their League dues for that season. **(2007)**
- e. All players will be required to sign the BAA waiver of liability and Code of Conduct. Waivers will be maintained by the Commissioner for all players. No player may take the field for a League event without a signed waiver. Waivers will be signed once and will cover multiple seasons. If a new waiver is needed all players will be required to sign the new waiver. **(2020)**
- f. A retired player may play in a game if/when needed upon approval from the Commissioner and completion of the waiver of liability. A retired player may play in a maximum of four (4) games per season and is not eligible to play in the playoffs. An injured player failing to register for the current season may not be deemed a "retired player." **(2022)**
- g. A team with multiple legacy picks in the same draft year said team will forfeit its subsequent year(s) first round draft pick(s). For example, if a team has the ability for three legacy picks in 2021 said team will forfeit its first-round draft pick in 2022 and 2023. **(2021)**
- h. Registration closes for ALL PLAYERS on the date on the BAA Men's Softball website. An unregistered player may NOT participate in any League event other than specifically noted within the Rules. **(2022).**

**5. Too Many Players at Time of Draft**

- a. The team with the highest forfeit count in the prior season gets the 1<sup>st</sup> forced pick if there are player(s) that go undrafted; then lowest roster count as described below. **(2010)**
- b. In the event there are more new players interested in joining the League than there are spots open on teams interested in adding players, those new players who were not chosen at the draft will be allocated to the team(s) with the lowest roster count. If two teams have the identical roster count, the team with the lower order of prior year finish will be allocated the first player. **(2014)**
- c. Roster count shall be defined as all registered players as of the start of the draft plus any additional players chosen on draft day. **(2014)**

**For Example:**

Teams A and B have roster counts of 14 players and teams C, D and E have roster counts of 16. The prior seasons results are as follows:

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Team A -1st  
Team B - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Team C - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Team D - 4<sup>th</sup>  
Team E - 5th

There are 6 players at the draft who were not chosen by a team and require assignment to a team. Team A and B would each be allocated 2 players each with team B receiving the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> players and Team A receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. This brings all rosters to 16. The remaining two players would be allocated to Teams E and D. **(2014)**

**6. Playing Time**

- a. Each player in attendance at each game must play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field and must be included in the batting order for the entire game. Players with legitimate injuries are exempt from these requirements. **(2002)**
- b. No-show request penalty - If an allegation is made against a team that players were asked/told or in any other way communicated not to "show up" for a game, the Commissioner and at least three (3) other managers will investigate to determine if the allegation is true. **PENALTY - Any team proven to be in violation will be banned from competing in the playoffs for the current season and will be moved to the last pick in the following year's draft. An added penalty for no-show requests during the playoffs is that the offending team is also banned from playoffs in the next season. (2011)**
- c. Team managers are to list and/or otherwise identify the player(s) who will need a pinch runner to the opposing manager prior to the start of the game. If a player who was not identified as needing a runner is injured during the game and subsequently needs a runner, the opposing team manager should be informed at the time of the injury and/or prior to any subsequent at-bat. **(2009)**
- d. Players requiring a pinch runner prior to the start of a game may NOT advance past 2<sup>nd</sup> base unless:
  - i. The hit has been deemed a home run by the umpire or
  - ii. A throwing error to 2nd base has occurred and the errant throw has been deemed a dead ball event by the umpire thus awarding the runner 3<sup>rd</sup> base. **(2021)**
- f. During the regular season, a player may only be intentionally walked one time for the first 7 innings. If the teams go to extra innings, the player may be intentionally walked if a manager determines it strategically necessary. There are no intentional walk restrictions for playoffs. **(2019)**

**7. Player Base Contact**

- a. Players are to be reminded that they are NOT allowed to block any base unless there is a viable play at said base. Both runner and fielder are responsible for the nature by which ANY contact - incidental or intentional - occurs during a game.
- b. Should there be contact between players during a play both team managers (or the designated representative) and the umpire will review and discuss the play. If the umpire deems the contact to be intentional by EITHER the runner, fielder, or BOTH, said player(s) will be immediately ejected from the game and serve an automatic one-game suspension effective immediately. **(2006)**
- c. The incident will be reported to the Commissioner who will then consult with both managers and the umpire to determine if further action should be taken including additional game suspension of not more than 3-games. Such suspension to be served immediately and consecutively (including playoff games). If required, said suspension will carry over to the following season until served in its entirety.
- d. Further, should it be determined a player is consistently involved in such situations the Commissioner will report this to the BAA President for any additional action. **(2021)**

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**8. Bats**

- a. Only ASA 2004 certified bats are approved for League play. **(2005)**
- b. New ASA emblem bats for 2014 and after are also allowed per ASA rule changes. **(2014)**
- c. Wooden Softball bats are approved for use in games. **(2006)**
- d. ASA Flag stamp (2016) and USA Certified stamp (2020) are legal for play. **(2020)**

**9. Use of Illegal Bats**

Any player/team caught using a bat that was deemed illegal (e.g., altered in any manner, including a 'rolled' bat, or non-ASA/USA approved) will receive the following penalty **(2024)**:

**PLAYER:**

**1st offense** - Offending player is immediately deemed an OUT, is suspended for the remainder of the current game and the next two (2) games (including playoffs). The illegal bat shall be removed from the game and the team manager will also be suspended one game.

**2nd offense** - Offending player will be removed from the League and ineligible to play in future season.

**TEAM:**

If a team manager purchases an illegal bat and it is used a game manager will be relieved of manager responsibilities. If a team is caught using an illegal bat more than once during the season, the team shall:

- ✓ Forfeit all games the illegal bat was used in.
- ✓ Forfeit playoff eligibility for the current season.

**10. Suspensions**

- a. In the event a player is ejected from a game that player must serve a one (1) game suspension that must be served in the next game immediately following the ejection. This applies to both regular season and playoff games. **(2006)**
- b. A player that was ejected may appeal the following game suspension to the Commissioner for review. The Commissioner's decision will be final upon completion of review. **(2014)**
- c. Teams with nine (9) players will supply their own catcher and play with eight in the field. **(2010)**

**11. Interruption of Play**

- a. Games can be called after commencement due to inclement weather, darkness and/or field conditions.
- b. Four (4) full innings is an official game for all regular season games. Any cause for cancellation before the beginning of the 5th inning results in the game being made up from the start of the last complete inning. If the home team is ahead after 3 ½ innings, and both managers agree to call the game, the home team will be credited with a win **(2022)**.
- c. Playoff games are played seven innings regardless. Any playoff game called prior to the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning is restarted at the exact point in the game prior to the cancellation regardless of the inning at the time of cancellation.

There is a 10-minute grace period to start a game if there are less than 8 players present. Teams with eight (8) players are required to start the game at the schedule time and the opposing team will supply a catcher when that team is in the field. The substitute catcher does not defend on plays to the plate.

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**12. Playoffs**

- a. Playoffs are traditional double elimination
- b. Playoffs will consist of the top ten (10) teams based on final regular season records reflective of all tie breakers. **(2023)**. "Stink offs" have been eliminated **(2022)**.
- c. The top two (2) teams in each division get a bye for the first round and are the home teams in round two of the winner's bracket. **(2010)** Divisions have been eliminated **(2023)**
- d. The first round of playoffs is played on the first night of playoffs with the highest seed having first choice of field. **(2013)**. The highest remaining seed in the Winner's bracket shall have the first pick of fields during the playoffs. **(2023)**
- e. The finals will be played as a best of three (3) games with the winner's bracket champion being the home team in games 1 and 3 and having field choice. Loser's bracket champion will be the home team in game 2 and have field choice. **(2014)**.
- f. A player is eligible to participate in the playoffs IF he has played in a minimum of six (6) regular season games. IF required, manager(s) must provide proof of games played if requested by the Commissioner. **(2018)**

**13. Rain Outs**

- a. In the event of a rain out, the home team must call the umpire at least one (1) hour prior to the game time for cancellation.
- b. In the event of a rain out, the home team must identify two (2) alternative make up dates and communicate those dates to the visiting team for approval. Once a date is chosen, the home team will email the Commissioner to confirm the date is still available and to add it to the schedule. Commissioner will confirm the umpire availability as quickly as possible once the date is communicated.
- c. The home team must communicate the alternate dates within one (1) week of the game cancellation date. Dates must be at least one (1) week out from the day the proposals are made (unless both teams agree to play the game sooner and waive the required time).
- d. Home team must propose at least one weeknight date. The second date may be a weekend day/evening. Confirmation of the umpire for weekend games is required.
- e. If the away team cannot play on either of the proposed dates, the visitor would forfeit the game.

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Field Rules

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At Boy Scout Park

Any ball through the bench openings is dead.

Line from the end of the fence all the way out to right field is out of bounds.

Everything in right and right center is in play including the incline.

In left and left center any ball that rolls or bounces into the woods is out of bounds.

Bases will be awarded on the umpire's judgement.

Line from the end of the fence in front of the bench to the high grass/tree line in left is out of bounds.

At Cole / Cargill

Any ball through the bench openings is dead.

In Right field any fair ball that hits the port-a-potty, trash bin, bounces, or rolls up the hill or into the woods are all ground rule doubles. Any ball into the woods or on the hill in the air is a home run.

On the third base side, the out of bounds line will follow the fence to the high grass / tree line.

Any ball that hits a tree is dead and cannot be caught. If it is a fair ball it is a ground rule double.

If a fair ball hits the sheds or anything around it, it is a dead ball and the umpire will award the bases.

At Johnson

Any ball through the bench openings is dead

Follow the end of the fence to the high grass / tree line in right field for out of bounds.

Follow the end of the fence to the hot top in left field for the out of bounds. No ball can be caught on the hot top. A fair ball that kicks out past the fence in left and right is a ground rule double.

Any ball that bounces over the fence or gets caught up under the fence is a ground rule double.

At Spofford

Any ball through the bench openings is dead. End of the fence to the high grass / tree line is out of bounds on both the left and right field side. A fair ball that hits the shed in right field is dead, a fair ball that rolls or bounces on to the hot top is dead, and a fair ball that hits any trees is dead.

In all three cases, the bases will be awarded by the umpire's judgement.

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