

# SUMMER SOFTBALL 2013 Official Rules v0 (4/28/13)

## 1. Schedule

Schedule is attached. Play begins on Tuesday, May 14 and through Tuesday, July 23. A modified Double elimination playoffs will extend over the next 9 days. We'll try to finish on Thursday, August 1. A picnic/cookout will follow the championship games at the fields.

We have 26 teams participating this year equaling the most ever. : 8 A teams and 8 B Teams, and 10 C Teams. We will use 6 fields each day as opposed to 5. Broadmeade looks great and we may be able to use the back field also. There is construction on the Washington Road fields. We will try again to use the 4 Rugby Fields and the Wash 4 Field until they are used for Sports Camps later in the summer. If the Sports Camps use only the Rugby Fields, then Rugby moves to Wash and Wash 4 moves to Cow 4. If we also lose the Wash Fields, then Rugby moves to Cow and Wash 4 moves to Cow 4. See map on page 3. We play Monday through Thursday. The first rainout of any week will be AUTOMATICALLY rescheduled for the Friday of that week (except for the 3rd week of the season.). Early season rainouts can also be played on the Cow Fields on any day if both teams agree.. When we lose the Rugby and Wash fields to Sports Camps, rainouts will be restricted to Fridays, first come first serve or whatever you can arrange among yourselves. 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 1. Rain date is Aug 2.**

**We will again try to have 3 pick-up "All-Star" games during the Championship Games. This will allow those not in the Final game to play one more game before the picnic and allow more participation in the picnic.**

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, there are now two fenced in areas (Rugby & Wash) 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. Depicted in the image below are the official orientations. 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 Wash Fields will only be available to us until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. After that we will need to use the Cow pasture. Note the location of the fields in the cow pasture. Various orientations are possible for Broadmeade; however, the orientation with the backstop is the official orientation if the playing captains can't agree on an alternative.

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 others) can be waived if both teams agree prior to the beginning of the game. You may also use 2 1<sup>st</sup> bases. One inside the foul line, the other outside the foul line. In order to avoid a collision, the runner (and the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman) may use either.)
- **NO COLLISIONS TOLERATED** (except in unfortunate circumstances at 1st base or 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 same rule applies to over-the-head home runs when playing in the fields without fences.
- **Broadmeade Ground Rule:** Trees in short left field are “foul”. Ball hit in the air in those trees, if caught is an OUT, if not it’s a FOUL BALL! Fair ball rolling in is a ground-rule DOUBLE. (If you are dying for a cheap home run, don’t pull it as much.)
- 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 \$75 for balls = \$150. 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 Brian Duncan bduncan@princeton.edu .(Brian, I hope that you will help again)
- 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 time.
- 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: the losing team may (not must) terminate a game if there is (or will be) at least a 15 run differential at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> inning.
- Overthrows:
  - At the time that the ball crosses the “overthrown” player: all runners get AT MOST: the base they are going to plus 1. If the ball is gathered by the defensive team and a runner is tagged out before reaching the “at-most-base” the runner is OUT (No Freebies). Nothing is “out of play”
  - During any one “at-bat” there can be at most one overthrow.
- The home team is responsible for supplying a new restricted flight ball, 2 home plates and 3 bases.
- Only Official Softball bats are permitted to be used. A batter striking a ball (fair or foul) may be ruled out by the defensive team if the pitched ball was struck by other than an official softball bat.

### 3. End of year Cookout

We will have an end-of-year cookout immediately after the Championship Playoff games on August 1 at the site of the championship games. Everyone who participated in the league and guests are invited and encouraged to attend. **Each league will have a pick-up “All-Star” game in order to encourage a larger attendance at the picnic.**

**Progression of fields relative to names on schedule:**

If the Rugby Fields are available, then names are as listed.

If Rugby Fields are Not Available, But Washington Road Fields are, then Field X = Wash X and Wash 4 = Cow 2

If neither Wash nor Rugby are available, then Field X = Cow X and Wash 4 = Cow 5

