



Beantown Softball League

Minuteman Classic 2019 Tournament Rules

There will be a managers meeting held during Registration Night, however, all teams are expected to know and comply with all USA Softball rules and modifications outlined in these tournament rules. By completing registration, all registered players and non-players are in agreement. Direct your questions regarding the rules to the Tournament Director, Christopher Atwood, chrisa@minutemanclassic.com.

The Tournament will use USA Softball rules to govern Tournament play with these exceptions and points of emphasis.

1. Eligibility:

- a. RATINGS: We follow the **2019** NAGAAA player and team rating guidelines. Submit 2019 player ratings when completing official team roster.
 - i. *C Division: No player rated over 15 with a team maximum of 140.*
 - ii. *D Division: No player rated over 12 with a team maximum of 110.*
 - b. ROSTER: Teams may have up to 20 players on the roster and bat no more than 12 players. USA Softball substitution rules apply. **All roster players must be registered before the end of Pool Play in order to be eligible for bracket play.**
 - c. Teams are under no obligation to have any percentage of male or female players.
 - d. The umpire shall determine what jewelry is allowable on the playing field.
 - e. The only uniform requirement is that all players wear team uniform shirts that are alike in color and style, possessing unique and visible numbers. There are no hat requirements. Outer garments required due to medical reason or inclement weather will be allowed with agreement from the opposing manager.
 - f. A player with prosthesis may use a wooden bat.
 - g. This League will adhere to the American Disabilities Act of July 25, 1990 as outlined by USA Softball.
2. **Registration:** All players, coaches, and managers must register by checking in with a valid form of identification and signing the tournament release form (i.e. registration book) prior to stepping on the field. **No one is allowed on the field or in the team bench area (including score keepers, fans, etc.) without first signing the tournament release form.**

- a. Playing an unregistered player in any game will result in **forfeit** of the game and the unregistered player will be **disqualified from continuing to play in the remainder of the tournament.**
- b. The registration book with the official team roster will be available at the Registration Party on Friday, and at Smith, West Roxbury High, and Hynes fields on Saturday approximately 1 hour prior to the first scheduled game.

3. **Playing Rules:**

- a. Pitching Arc: The pitching arc is a minimum of 6 ft. and a maximum of 12 ft.
- b. Home team
 - i. Round Robin: A double coin toss at the pre-game conference with the Umpire will determine the home team.
 - ii. Double Elimination: the higher seed will be the home team for all games until the Championship game
 - iii. Championship game: the Winner's bracket team will be the home team
 - iv. "If" game: Double coin toss at the pre-game conference will determine the home team.
- c. Time Limit
 - i. **Pool Play:** The **game will end after 50 minutes has expired.** Any play in progress will complete. Tie scores are allowed.
 - ii. **Double Elimination:** **No new inning shall begin after 50 minutes** unless the game is tied.
 - iii. The Umpire will begin the game clock at the conclusion of the pre-game meeting.
 - iv. There is NO TIME BREAK between games; PLEASE leave and enter the team bench area quickly!
 - v. Championship and "If" games: no time limit, 7-innings. All other rules apply.
- d. The batter will start with a **1-ball 1-strike count for all games, no courtesy foul.**
- e. Up to 2 extra hitters are permitted in the batting order for a total of 12.
- f. The official scorebook of the game will be that of the designated home team.
- g. Each team's scorekeeper will verify the number of runs scored with the umpire after each half-inning.
- h. Forfeit Time is Game Time: A team not able to field at least nine (9) players at the game scheduled start time will forfeit that game; extenuating circumstances (playing on a different field, for example) will be taken into consideration. A forfeit may affect participation in remaining tournament games at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

- i. Teams may start a game with 9 players. If a 10th player arrives during the game they may join the game after the inning in progress completes but he/she must have been listed on the line-up card provided to the umpire before the start of the game. The 10th position will NOT be scored an out in the lineup until the position is filled.
 - j. Due to the extreme heat expected this weekend - Injured players may be removed without penalty (no out recorded) if there are no substitutions available, however a minimum of 9 batters must be maintained.
 - k. Courtesy Runners:
 - i. Each team may use one courtesy runner per inning who may be ANY player on the line-up card.
 - ii. If a courtesy runner is on base when their turn at bat comes - the player who is being run for will be called out. The courtesy runner will be removed from the base and take their turn at bat.
 - iii. A second courtesy runner or a substitute is not allowed.
 - iv. A player needing a courtesy runner must take the replacement at the last base reached safely after their at-bat and before the first pitch to the next batter.
 - l. USA Softball Run Ahead Rules will be enforced for all games:
 - i. 3 innings: 20 runs; 4 innings: 15 runs; 5 innings: 10 runs
 - m. Tie games will go to a one-pitch format after the time limit has expired. The player last at bat will be placed on 2nd base at the beginning of each inning. The first extra inning will start with 0 outs, the second extra inning will start with 1 out, etc. All other rules apply.
- 4. Umpires:**
- a. There will be no protest on any decision involving accuracy of judgment of the umpires.
 - b. Protests on rule or procedural interpretations during a game must be made before the next pitch and will be decided upon before the game is allowed to continue. Protests on rule/procedures that occur at the end of the game must be made before the next game begins on that field.
 - c. Ejections for any reason other than a non-approved bat may be extended beyond one game as determined by the Tournament Director, Tournament UIC or site UIC, based upon the severity of the offending behavior and risk to other individuals.
- 5. Equipment:**
- a. The yellow optic color, red stitch 12-inch ball with a ball COR of .440 or under and a ball compression of 375.0 lbs or under will be used. Balls will be provided by the League.
 - b. Only USA Softball approved bats may be used at all games. No bat indicating it is "titanium" or "triple-walled" will be permitted and no bat listed on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List may be used. Umpires may check bats before each game.
- 6. Protests on Player Ratings/Eligibility**

- a. Protests on player ratings or eligibility from teams will require a \$200 cash fee, must be made before the end of the game and will be decided upon before either team continues play.
- b. Administrative protests on player ratings may also be initiated by the Tournament Director or his designee.
- c. The protest committee will be made up of any part of the following: tournament director, site director, tournament UIC, site UIC or any of their designees. If a protest is upheld the \$200 will be refunded and the rating challenged will be reported to NAGAAA. If the protest is denied the fee will be forfeited.

7. Pool Play Schedule and Double Elimination Seeding Determination

- a. Pool Play schedule (pods) will be determined by a random draw of teams
- b. Double Elimination Seeding Determination criteria:
 - i. Points Earned during Round Robin (Win = 2, Tie = 1, Loss = 0) or winning percentage.
 - ii. Average run differential per game
 - iii. Coin toss

8. Miscellaneous

- a. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct will NOT be tolerated in any form.** This serves as your only warning. Umpires will not give another warning before ejecting a player **and their manager** for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. **The ejected player will not be allowed to play in the remainder of the tournament. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, the manager may be allowed to return for remaining games.**
- b. The Tournament Director may make any changes to rules and/or the schedule in order to complete or revise the tournament because of weather conditions or other uncontrollable factors.
- c. Adverse weather is not just cause for refund of the entry fee. We will do everything possible to ensure all games will be played as scheduled.
- d. Have fun!