

Hyannis Softball League Rules & Guidelines

The Hyannis Softball League dates back to 1979. Ours is the only local league whose players actually cleared, designed and built their own ballfield! The 2009 season is our 27th at Lopes Field, and we hope you'll do your part to keep it a great place to play.

Rosters

Each team can include up to 15 players on its roster. The team captain counts as a roster player. All players must be at least 18 years of age, and only two players on each roster can be a player in another summer softball league or on a team that competes in tournaments (employees playing on a company team in a "work league" are exempt). Final team rosters must be submitted in writing by May 17th, and no players may be added or replaced after that date. All players included on the final roster are eligible for the playoffs.

Games

A game must begin at its scheduled time if each team has at least nine roster players in its lineup*. Late-arriving players may be added to the bottom of the batting order during the game or replace starting players.

A team whose ninth player has not arrived 15 minutes after the scheduled game time must begin play with only eight players. A team that cannot assemble eight roster players 15 minutes after the scheduled game time will forfeit the game and must pay a \$15 fine to the League before it will be permitted to play its next game. Three forfeits in one season will result in expulsion from the League.

*Exception: The 8:30am Sunday game must start on time, even if a team has only eight players.

Team may include all 15 roster players in starting lineup and substitute freely in the field. Unless injured, a player may not be dropped from the lineup during the game. A team may designate no more than two players eligible for a "Courtesy Runner" prior to the game. A batter legging out an extra-base hit cannot accept a Courtesy Runner. Captains agree to let every healthy player bat during the course of a game.

All games are nine innings, unless game is tied (extra innings as needed) or ended by the Slaughter or Forty Run Rule. Playoff games (semi-finals and finals) interrupted by darkness or weather before nine innings have been completed will be suspended and resumed to conclusion immediately before the next game of that series begins.

Any game ended by darkness or weather, while tied, after nine or more complete innings is ruled a complete-game tie, and will be replayed in its entirety.

Forty Run Rule: If teams combine for 40 runs before the 8th inning, the game will end after the next complete inning (unless the game is tied). In other words, at the moment the 40th run crosses the plate, the game is in the 8th inning. This rule is suspended for the playoff semi-finals and finals.

Slaughter Rule: Any team leading by 20+ runs after five completed innings or 15+ runs after seven (or more) completed innings will be declared the winner, and the game will end. This rule is suspended for the playoffs.

Fouls on a two-strike count are strikeouts.

Each team is permitted one over-the-fence home run per game. A second over-the-fence hit is a ground-rule triple. A third one is a ground-rule double. A fourth over-the-fence hit is a single. All subsequent balls hit over the fence are outs.

No bat may be used in a game unless it bears a valid HSL sticker and is available for use by all players at the start of and throughout the game. Late-arriving players must immediately present their HSL-certified bat(s) to the umpire for common use. Bats may receive stickers prior to or during the season. Stickers will be removed from bats that become broken or are determined to be “too hot”.

No metal spikes or takeout slides are permitted. Runners are not allowed to crash into fielders and must slide on tag plays. Fielders are not permitted to decoy runners with "phantom tags". Any of these acts or any other intent to injure (in the opinion of the umpire) will result in ejection from the game. Loud profanity, tossing of any equipment or unsportsmanlike conduct toward any umpire or fellow League member will result in ejection. Any player ejected twice during a season will be removed from his team's roster and cannot be replaced.

Rain & Rescheduling

When in doubt, show up. Our field drains well, and we've had some good games in light (and not-so-light!) rain. In case of lightning or steady downpour, reps will agree on reschedule date and notify umpire at least 30 minutes before gametime. Teams may not reschedule games in order to participate in tournaments.

General

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at Marshall Lopes Field, nor is conduct that is inappropriate or offensive to the families who attend our games.

While umpires have complete authority to warn or eject misbehaving players during games, any misconduct at Marshall Lopes Field before or after games by a roster player can be brought to the attention of a team rep. Upon a team rep's recommendation, the League may consider a subsequent suspension or expulsion of the offending player.

Home team supplies two game balls and is responsible for posting numerals on scoreboard. Subsequent replacement balls are supplied by the team that loses the ball currently in play.