

MEN'S SOFTBALL

Information Sheet

Spring 2023

This information sheet is intended to provide basic information and rules for this activity. Please refer to the “Policies” link on the home page of the intramural web page for detailed information about policies and procedures of the Intramural Sports Program.

ENTRIES OPEN

Online team schedule registration will begin at 9:00 AM on Monday, May 1 and will end at 11:00 AM on Thursday, May 4 (**Entries are limited**). Visit our website and click on the ‘Registration’ tab. Schedule distribution will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday, May 5.

ENTRY FEE

A \$40.00 entry fee will be required for each team.

CAPTAINS MEETING

A meeting for team captains (or a representative from each team) will be held **Monday, May 8 at 4:00 PM in 267 Richards Building**. Intramural policies and procedures will be discussed so it is important that all teams be represented at this meeting.

ELIGIBILITY

All current full-time BYU students are eligible. All current faculty, administrative staff, ¾ and full-time staff employees and their spouses are eligible.

The following are eligible with an Intramural Activity Fee: Part-time students, students on leave of absence, non-degree seeking students (Post-Baccalaureate, Evening School, Salt Lake Center, English Language Center), student employees, and spouses of students. All students are also eligible to participate for two semesters beyond the last semester in which they were enrolled in classes.

The Intramural Activity Fee is paid online. **Payment must be made before a participant can be added to a team roster.** The cost is \$25 per semester (fall/winter) or \$15 per term (spring/summer). This fee enables a participant to compete in any intramural activity during the current semester or term. **Do NOT pay this fee before the first day of the applicable semester or term.**

To participate in a team sport, each player must be added to his online team roster by 3:00 PM for weekday games and by 3:00 PM on Friday for Saturday games. Team rosters are limited to **twenty-one** players. Each participant may play for only **one** Softball team.

RELEASE AGREEMENT

All Intramural participants must complete an online [release agreement](#) before they can be added to a team roster. Release agreements are valid for one academic school year – fall semester through summer term.

DAYS, TIMES, AND LOCATION

Games will be played Tuesday through Friday 6:15 PM to 10:15 PM & Saturdays 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM. Games will be on the West Stadium Fields located west of the football stadium off University Avenue.

CHECK-IN

It is recommended that participants check-in with the activity supervisor at least ten minutes prior to game time. All participants must show a valid (government or school issued) picture ID card before every game. The Y-App and Picture ID printouts are not acceptable.

FORFEITS

Teams are encouraged to arrive ten minutes before game time. **FORFEIT TIME IS GAME TIME!** A forfeit is given to teams with less than **eight** legal players at game time. Teams receiving their second forfeit may be dropped from regular season and elimination tournament play. *Refunds will not be given for forfeited schedules.*

EQUIPMENT

The Intramural Office will supply softballs each night of play at every field. A limited supply of used softballs can be purchased at the Intramural Office for \$1.00 each.

The Office of Intramural Sports will not supply bats or gloves for game play. Only official bats, as described in the USSSA rulebook, will be allowed. The official bat can be no more than 34 inches long, not more than 2 1/4 inches in diameter at its largest part, and shall not exceed 31 ounces. In addition, the Bat Performance Factor (BPF) shall be 1.20 or less.

UNIFORMS

An appropriate, modest athletic uniform is permissible. Shirts and shoes must be worn. Sleeveless shirts are not allowed. **No metal cleats will be allowed.**

UMPIRES

The Office of Intramural Sports will provide all umpires. Umpires assigned to your game have the authority to make decisions on any point not specifically covered by rules of the game or by intramural policies.

LIABILITY

All participants play at their own risk and must acquire their own insurance.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The decision to cancel activities due to inclement weather will be made by 4:00 PM on weekdays and 8:00 AM on Saturdays. Weather updates, when needed, will be posted on our website – iSports.byu.edu.

SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP

“Athletics are explosive, as any of us know who have participated in them. The problem therefore, is to do everything that is fair and honorable to win, and also to know the line where sportsmanship stops and mockery starts. Stop short of winning if integrity is to be impaired.... Sportsmanship is the spirituality in athletics” (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson).

Sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. We hope everyone will conduct himself in a mature and friendly manner. The BYU Intramural Sports program has identified the following principles as our “Spirit of Sportsmanship” guidelines. We encourage all employees, participants, and spectators to incorporate these principles on and off the playing field.

1. **Stand as a Witness:** *We are to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places* (Mosiah 18:9). Be consistent with who you are in all situations. “Never check your religion at the door. That kind of discipleship cannot be – it is not discipleship at all.” (Elder Jeffrey R. Holland – Israel, Israel, God is Calling. September 2012)
2. **Live with Integrity:** *We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men...* (Thirteenth Article of Faith). Honesty applies equally in sports as it does in all other areas of life. Never lower your standards because “it’s just a game.”

3. **Play by the Rules:** Do not push limits or escalate the level of physical play to match the style of enforcement. This style of play endangers other players. Intentional disregard for the rules of the game is unsportsmanlike. Play hard, but honor the rules.
4. **Be Accountable:** Although we are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose the consequences. Others cannot determine our feelings or thoughts. We are each accountable for what we do and say and should never blame others for our behavior.
5. **Live the Golden Rule:** *And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise* (Luke 6:31). Sportsmanship is the Golden Rule in action. Treat others—officials, opponents, spectators, teammates—with honor and respect.
6. **Be Meek:** If you begin to feel unsettled or agitated, take a personal timeout. Step back to gain composure and perspective. Retaliation does not solve conflict, it only compounds the situation. Demonstrate humility in victory and dignity in defeat.
7. **Be Gracious:** Compliment your opponent after a good play. Focus on the good. Build people up, do not tear people down. Be genuine when you congratulate your opponent.
8. **Have Fun:** *Men are, that they might have joy* (2 Nephi 2:25). Be safe, play fair, and enjoy the experience.

YELLOW/RED CARD SYSTEM

A yellow/red card system is used to monitor unsportsmanlike behavior and improper conduct. A participant who receives a yellow card will be required to sit out for one inning of game time. A participant who receives a red card will be ejected from the game and must leave the facility before play resumes. A team with a carded player must play with one less player until the penalty time has expired (Yellow = 1 inning & Red = 2 innings).

The following are examples of yellow/red card offenses:

Yellow Card: Non-directional profanity; arguing; rough play; taunting opponents.

Red Card: Illegal participation; directional profanity; flagrant contact; fighting; threatening behavior.

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

There will be one men's division (open) for regular season play. Each activity has a classification process that is intended to place similarly skilled teams against each other for tournament competition. Teams will be given a ranking between 1 and 5 (5 being the highest) for each regular season game they play. To receive a 5 ranking, a team must be proficient in each of the following five criteria:

1. Intelligent and aggressive base running.
2. Consistent hitters that can place the ball.
3. Pitchers that can consistently throw strikes.
4. Team cleanly catches or fields batted balls.
5. Accurate throws to the right places.

At the conclusion of regular season play an overall average of each team's rankings will be computed and eligible teams will be placed in the tournament division that best fits their ability. Important tournament dates are listed below.

- Tournament classification rankings will be posted by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 31.
- Teams will have until **4:00 PM on Friday, June 2** to challenge classification rankings.
- Tournament brackets will be posted by 4:00 PM on Saturday, June 3.
- Tournament play begins Tuesday, June 6.

Tournament brackets may be viewed on the intramural web page or in the glass cases located next to the Intramural Office (145 RB). **Posted game times will not be changed for personal conflicts.** Team captains should notify the Intramural Office **in advance** to avoid potential scheduling conflicts for their team(s). This can be done with a schedule request form, which is available in the Intramural Office. This form must be submitted by 4:00 PM on Thursday for the following week's schedule.

SOFTBALL RULES

Intramural softball abides by the 2023 USSSA rules with the following exceptions or points of emphasis:

1. *Team Composition:* A team must have at least **8** players to start the game. A maximum of 10 players are allowed in the field and a maximum of 14 players are allowed on the batting line-up.
2. *Game Duration:* Games will last seven (7) innings or 50 minutes. A team that is ahead by 10 runs at the end of five (5) innings shall be declared the winner.
3. *Extra Innings:* In the event of a tie game during regular season play, the game will stand as a tie with each team being credited with a win. During tournament, additional inning(s) will be played until one team has scored more runs than the other at the end of a completed inning, or the team second at bat scores more runs in their half of the uncompleted extra inning.
4. *Sportsmanship:* Any base runner crashing into a fielder in an attempt to dislodge the ball or prevent a double play will be called out and may be ejected from the game. Any player who interferes with a throw may be called for interference. Any incident of either throwing the bat or presenting a fake tag may warrant a warning, a yellow card, or a red card depending on the severity of the action.
5. *Strike Zone Mat:* If a legally pitched ball strikes any part of the mat, it shall be declared a strike. However, all strikes must have at least 3 feet of arc and not rise higher than 10 feet off the ground, otherwise the pitch will be declared a ball.
6. *Balls and Strikes:* The batter is out on 2 strikes (including a foul ball on the 2nd strike) and walks on 3 balls.
7. *Homerun Rule:* All fair untouched fly balls over-the-fence will be ruled an out.
8. *Field Markings:* An out-of-play line will be painted on each field. Any ball caught with the fielder's feet outside this line will be declared a foul ball. Any ball that is caught with the fielder's feet on or inside the line and then carried over the line due to momentum will be declared an out and all runners on base will advance one base. If the ball is carried intentionally or thrown into the dead ball area, all runners on base will be awarded two bases.
9. *Flip Flop Rule:* At the end of the 4th inning if the home team is down by ten runs, the home team will remain at bat and become the visiting team at the top of the 5th inning. If that team (new visiting team) does not score enough runs to reduce the run difference below the ten-run rule, the game is over. If they reduce the run difference to below ten runs, then the new home team will bat. If they subsequently score enough runs to exceed the run rule the game will be over, if they do not the game will continue under that format.

**If you have any questions, contact Saxton in 145 RB (801-422-7597) or access our web page.
iSports.byu.edu Have a fun season!**