



# **2024 CENTRAL MASS. RECREATION WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

## Teams

<u>Team #</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Hudson
2	Northborough

## League Schedule

Team listed second is designated as the "Home" team.

<u>Date</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>
15-Sept	1 vs 2
22-Sept	2 vs 1
29-Sept	1 vs 2
6-Oct	2 vs 1
20-Oct	1 vs 2

## Field Location

Northborough – [Melican Middle School, 145 Lincoln Street, Northborough 01532](#)

Park in the main parking lot. Field is located behind the school.

**CENTRAL MASS RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE**  
WOMEN'S Slow-Pitch Softball Rules as of MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022. (Subject to Change)

**Team make-up:** Any number of players on the roster. ALL PLAYERS must have registered thru their team's respective Recreation Department prior to taking part in a game.

**Picking up players:** If your team is shorthanded for a game you **may pick up additional players from the prior game (or another team in the league) to field a full team.** You may not add players to go above 12 total players and you **must have a minimum of 7 players from your regular roster.** When adding players from prior game, you must inform both the umpire and the opposing captain. Pick up players MUST be on a league roster, any other pick up is considered an illegal player and subject to forfeit.

**Start of Games** - Captains or team reps meet with the umpire 5 minutes before scheduled start time. ~~Home team is determined by a coin toss, team listed first on schedule supplies game balls.~~ Play will start on time! A minimum of 8 players are needed to start

**No Grace Period when back to back games are scheduled** – In situation where only a single game is scheduled on a particular field on a particular night, if a team(s) do not have 8 players, **there will be a 10-minute grace period** beyond scheduled start time. Once both teams have 8 players or the grace period is up the game must start.

**At the start of the game (or end of the grace period)** If one team has less than 8 players, but more than 5, they are automatically the away team, and start batting. The team is allowed to bat until 3 outs. If the team still has less than 8 players after batting - a forfeit is awarded. If both teams do not have 8 players at game time, it is a double forfeit.

**End of Games** – All Games are played for 7 innings or 75 minutes, whichever is first. No new inning will begin within 5 minutes of the next games start time (if no game to follow, no new inning to start beyond 1.5 hours of play or when too dark to play – whichever is first). If time allows you may play extra innings. If time does not allow; games may end in a tie. If it is too dark to finish an inning (or game cannot be completed for another reason), the score will revert back to last completed inning.

**GAME RULES**

**ALL BATTERS WILL START WITH A ONE BALL, ONE STRIKE COUNT. 4 BALLS = a walk; 3 STRIKES = a strikeout**

**Pitching - Pitcher MUST be at 50 feet (or further) at time of release of pitch.** Ball must arc 3 feet from point of release, and cannot go above 12 feet. Speed must be slow. Any kind of spin and under hand release points are legal. 12" softball is to be used.

**\*Any pitch deemed by the umpire to be too high or too low will be announced as "illegal". The pitch will automatically be a ball if not swung at.**

**Players on the Field** - Maximum of 10 fielders, minimum of 8. A team must supply their own catcher if they have 9 or more players.

**Batting Order** – Everyone bats. Batting order always remains the same; changes in field position are irrelevant.

**Late arrivals** – Are added to the end of the batting order. They may not assume a higher spot in the order and bump players down in the order.

**Players leaving early** - A player who cannot bat (injury, or has left the premises) in their designated spot is not penalized. A forfeit will be declared, however, if a team is left with less than 8 players.

**Substitutions** – Free substitutions. There is no minimum playing time requirement. Although, we do encourage teams to ensure all players receive a fair amount of playing time. Everyone must bat. Everyone does not have to play the field.

**Courtesy Runners** – Once a batter asks for a runner, it is automatic for the rest of the game. If a courtesy runner is requested, it must be announced prior to each at bat. The Courtesy Runner will start at a predetermined point behind or next to home plate. The Courtesy Runner may not advance beyond first base on a batted ball, except when automatic advancement would be awarded for a ball out of play (i.e., overthrow, automatic double or HR). *Courtesy runner is the last person to have completed their turn at*

*bat, and is not currently a base runner.* There are two scenarios for courtesy runners 1) If a player wishes to have a courtesy runner, they must tell the umpire BEFORE batting, it is then announced to the fielders. 2) If a runner is visibly injured while running the umpire may use discretion in allowing a courtesy runner.

**Safety First Base** - There will be 2 bases at first. One traditional base is in the usual spot for the fielder and a second one next to it in foul ground, for the batter. The batter is the only person that uses this safety base (when trying to beat out a grounder). Once they have reached safely, or if rounding first, they would use the traditional base. **\*If no throw to 1<sup>st</sup> then runner is safe no matter what bag they use.**

**Leaving a base early** – Base runners cannot leave the base until the batter makes contact. **Penalty:** Ball is dead. Runner is Out.

**Legal game** – 4 completed innings (3 ½, if home team is ahead) is a legal game.

**“Mercy” rules** – A) If a team completes two full rotations of its batting order and the defensive team has not recorded 3 outs, the half inning is automatically over. B) If after 4 innings or 3.5 innings, if the home team is ahead, a team is ahead by more than 15 runs, the trailing team can decide whether to continue playing or to end the game at that point.

**Fouling out** - 2 foul balls after receiving 2 strikes is an automatic out.

**No Bunting** - any full swing is OK. FYI...bunting by definition is an intentional act, so if it isn't intentionally, it's not a bunt.


**Safety – Intentional throwing of the bat is illegal** and will result in an out and/or ejection. A player who swings and unintentional throws the bat, shall be verbally warned that future instances could result in an out. Any **excessive base runner contact** will result in an out and/or ejection. This includes contact with catcher.

**Sliding** - is allowed, but not mandatory. No take-out slides (determining factor is intent, and if runner cannot reach base during slide) or intentional interference with a defensive player, the runner & batter will be called out. **You cannot block the base if you don't have the ball.**

**Alcohol/Drugs/Smoking/Trash - Alcohol & Drugs are not permitted** at any of the fields; before, during, or after the game. Violation of this rule jeopardizes the use of the field for the entire league. Violators will be expelled from the league without refund. Many schools prohibit smoking on grounds & are very strict about trash, please pick up after yourself. Treat schools and fields with respect.

**Illegal bats:** All teams will be provided with a “team bat”. We highly encourage everyone to use this bat during play. If, however, you choose to bring your own bat, it MUST adhere to the following criteria. Otherwise, it CANNOT be used. Any bat on the Illegal Bat List

is just that, Illegal. A bat is deemed legal if: Stamped with the new 2013 ASA Stamp  . This bat does not need any other type of

certification. Bats without this stamp, ie: “Older Bats” must have either have the 2000 ASA Stamp  or the 2004 ASA Stamp



**as well** as a reading of the BPF of 1.20. **FAST PITCH SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL BATS ARE NOT ALLOWED!**

For a complete list of illegal bats, please visit [TEAM USA SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT](#)

**Rainouts/Cancellations** – If the weather is questionable or if it has rained recently, each Recreation Department will make a decision on games scheduled to be played in its town no later than 2pm on game day. Given the unpredictability of New England weather, it maybe raining in Westboro, but sunny in Hudson. Northboro fields may do well in the rain, while Southboro's fields may not. We will do our best to give teams as much notice as possible.

## **PROBLEMS AT FIELDS:**

**A) What if another group is there?** Check to see if they have a permit. Call your Recreation Department representative. Between the captains and umpires, try to work something out. Please do not let yourself or a player be a jerk to another group.

**B) What if the umpire doesn't show?** Apologies if this happens, but get the game in! Call your Recreation Department representative. Get someone to umpire, or have the catcher call balls and strikes, and have a good, clean, honest game.

## **UNUSAL and UNFORTUNATE OCCURANCES:**

We hope nothing out of the ordinary happens, but if anything, such as injuries, disagreement about rule interpretation (not whether someone was called safe or out), field condition issues, issues with opposing teams/players, etc., does occur, please let your Recreation Department representative know about it no later than the next day.

### **FORFEIT POLICY**

- 1) Forfeiting in advance – if you know your team is going to forfeit and not show up, you must contact your respective Recreation Department AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The earlier the better. Simple calling and leaving a message or emailing is NOT acceptable notice. You must reach someone or get a response.
- 2) At the field - if you arrive at the fields and one or both teams do not have enough players to field a team, please do your best to get a game played between those players who showed up. Divide players into two teams, mix and match players from different teams.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP AND FUN!**

Above all else, this league is for FUN and enjoyment of all those involved.

We will not hesitate to eject and/or expel players for inappropriate acts. Ejections are subject to further action.

Don't be "that player"!

### **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS??**

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RESPECTIVE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

HUDSON - [dhannon@townofhudson.org](mailto:dhannon@townofhudson.org)

NORTHBOROUGH - [alane@town.northborough.ma.us](mailto:alane@town.northborough.ma.us)

All rules not covered here follow basic SB rules.

We reserves the right to change any rule, at any time, for the betterment of the league