

OAKLAND MEN'S SOFTBALL 2023 RULES / GUIDELINES

****** PLEASE NOTE: For insurance purposes, team games will not be played (and be considered a forfeit) unless your roster is submitted prior to opening day.**

Each team will be scheduled for 12 games, playing each team twice. Games will be scheduled for Sunday nights at 6:00p & 8:00p, Tuesday nights at 8:30p and Thursday nights at 8:30p. Rainouts will be rescheduled ASAP. Games that cannot be made up will be evaluated at the end of the regular season for relevancy with play-off positioning. Games not relevant, will likely not be made up.

Standings will be based on best record (winning %).

Play-offs will be structured as a "double elimination" round robin tournament, with rankings based on best record (winning %) at the end of the regular season. Should there be a tie in record, the tie-breakers will be: 1) head to head record, 2) head to head run differential. If it is still tied, a coin flip will be conducted.

Note: the final two teams will play a best of three series (with the winner's bracket team as the home team in games 1 & 3). 2 Umpires at championship

Practices will start Tuesday, April 5, with **a practice schedule distributed by Tom Larsen.**

The Regular Season will commence on Tuesday April 25th. Regular season schedules will be posted to the web-site, and commence accordingly. No games will be scheduled on Mother's Day (May 14th), Memorial Day (May 28th), Town Carnival (Mid-June), Father's Day (June 18th), and Independence Day Week (July 2nd,3rd). The Regular Season will likely end around early-July (pending excessive rain-outs). The Play-offs will commence at the conclusion of the regular season.

General League Rules

- No females are allowed to participate in the men's league
- **Only bats allowed:**
 - **Easton Reflex SX70 (discontinued)**
 - **Easton Reflex SX72 (discontinued)**
 - **DiMartini Ultimate Weapon WTDXUWE-15**
 - **2017 Miken Vicious MPAVIC**
 - **DiMarini Ultimate Weapon WTDXUWE-18**
 - **2019 or 2020 Miken Vicious MPAV19 or MPAV20**

- Easton Ronin SP21RA1
- DiMarini WTDXUWE20
- DiMarini Ulitimate Weapon WTDXUWE22
- East Ronin 240 USA/USSSA Slowpitch Bat

(Check JustBats.com or Amazon for all bats)

- **Only the TATTOO 300 .52 core ball (YELLOW ball) will be allowed**
- The “10 run mercy rule” is in effect after 5 innings (Regular Season) – game ends
- The “15 run mercy rule” is in effect after 5 innings (Play-offs Only) – game ends
- ***EXCEPTION: In the 5th inning, the losing team must be allowed the opportunity to come within the run rule.
- **REVISED:** as a “30 and over” league, the only exceptions: **three players** are allowed per team between ages 25-30 (must be from Oakland/Franklin Lakes/Wyckoff), **five “out of town” players** must be 30 or older, and pitchers must be 30 or older (must be Oakland/Franklin Lakes/Wyckoff). All players will follow the Eligible Players rule.
- 8 players can start a game, but if a team has less than eight present, the umpire will call the game a forfeit after 20 minutes waiting time has elapsed. After the start of the game, if a team falls below the “eight player minimum” (i.e. injuries), the game becomes a forfeit regardless of the score.
- All games are considered regulation after the 5th inning of play. All games called before the 5th inning will be made up as a new game (0-0). All games called after the 5th inning will be final if the losing team batted the same amount of innings as the team in the lead. If the losing team has not had equal opportunity to bat, the game will resume with the existing score and situation, at a later date. All such games need to be reported to the Commissioner.
- In compliance with the submitted roster on opening day, all players will be eligible for the play-offs, regardless of the amount of games played. Rosters will comply with the Eligible Player Rules.
- To avoid injury, slide or avoid contact on all plays.
- Managers, please emphasize to your players: play with class. Should there be any controversy with an umpires call, only the two managers should deal with the umpire. We all make mistakes, but were here to have fun. Let’s prevent altercations with the other team and the umpire.
- NOTE: All the league rules within this document will be provided to the umpires to properly uphold.

Game Cancellations / Rain-Outs/ Forfeitures

If you can’t field a team, you need to contact me no later than 24 hours before game time. This will allow sufficient time to contact the umpires and the other team involved. Any cancellation inside the “24 hour window” will be considered a forfeit. NO EXCEPTIONS.

On the day of games, Jason Duncan will be responsible for checking the fields for playability. You can also check the Oakland Rec website to see whether the fields have been closed by the town. To meet deadlines with the umpires, and contacting the managers impacted, the decision will be made no later than 4:30p on Sunday's and 7:00p on Tuesday's, Thursday's and (if necessary) Friday's. To avoid confusion, the Sunday decision will be consistent for both the 6:00p and 8:00p games.

Eligible Player/Roster Rules

The following eligible player guidelines were discussed, and agreed upon by all managers:

- All eligible players must reside in the town, or own a business in the town, of Oakland/Franklin Lakes/Wyckoff. These towns represent the FLOW, or regional, area.
- If you only work for someone in the town of Oakland/Franklin Lakes/Wyckoff you are NOT ELIGIBLE.
- If you have continuously played in the league for several years, and since moved out of town, you will be considered grandfathered, and WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY.
- 2008 rosters are considered the "baseline" for grandfathered players. IF YOU WERE NOT ON A ROSTER IN 2008, AND DO NOT LIVE IN OAKLAND OR HAVE A BUSINESS IN OAKLAND >>>> YOU ARE NOT AN ELIGIBLE PLAYER.
- Again, as agreed upon, all new players commencing with the 2009 season, will need to submit a pictured driver's license for eligibility support. To avoid any confidential information, the player is encouraged to blackout their driver's license number. This copy is only to support your name & Oakland address with a picture. Managers, please enforce this rule with your new players. A copy must be submitted to the League Commissioner before the season commences.
- An illegal roster is one that has greater than 3 players between ages 25- 30 or any players below 25 years old. Age eligibility is solely based on the player's age on the first day of the season, April 19, 2022.
- Lastly, as agreed upon at the managers meeting, if a player is deemed to be found as illegal or the team roster is illegal:
 - The team will forfeit the game in question
 - The player will be out of the league
- It remains the full responsibility of the team managers to uphold league rules, i.e. eligible rosters / players
- Not everyone in attendance for a game needs to be in lineup that is up to the captains
- ASA Sub / ASA Re-Entry Rule is in effect.

• **NOTE:** each team will be allowed five “out of town” players (beyond the players already covered under the grandfather rule of 2008 (see above). These players: 1) must be 30 years or older on opening day (April 19), 2) they can’t pitch, 3) they must be designated as the teams “out of town” player(s) on their submitted roster (by opening day). Note: it was agreed that a copy of such player’s driver’s license must be submitted to the league prior to commencing the season. Further, note these guidelines are in addition to all the other “eligible players/roster” noted above, not a replacement thereof. Failure to comply with these guidelines will be handled as denoted above (game forfeit, player out for the season).

Appeals Process

All appeals must be made in writing, via e-mail, within 48 hours since the start of the game in question. Nothing will be accepted after this time frame. If the appeal happened during the game, the umpire and other manager must be dually informed. If the point of contention is within our league rules (or their interpretation thereof), a decision will be reached by the Appeals Committee (Tony Davino, Mike Rose & Craig VanDeursen). If the appeal involves any members of the Appeals Committee, the alternative committee member is Paul O’Keefe. There will be no appeal fee for rulings handled by the Appeals Committee, but let’s not appeal everything.

If the appeal relates to an ASA rule that is not covered by the league, and requires submission to the ASA Umpire Association, the appealing team will be responsible to pay the prevailing rate (\$30) for an ASA appeal.

Pitching Regulations

- The pitcher shall take a position with both feet in contact with the pitching rubber.
- The pitcher must not use a windmill motion or slingshot-type pitch.
- The ball must not be outside the pitcher’s wrist on the backward swing, at the top of the backward swing (which can’t go above the pitcher’s head), on the downward motion, or during the complete delivery.
- The delivery must be an underhanded motion with the hand below the hip at the release point.
- On the forward swing of the pitching arm, the elbow must be locked at the point of release, and the shoulders and driving hip must be squared to home plate when the ball is released.
- The release must have a complete, smooth follow-through with no abrupt stop of the arm near the hip or any contact with the hip/body. Contact of the ball or hand to the body will be considered an illegal pitch.
- **First illegal pitch: WARNING, Second illegal pitch: BALL, Third illegal pitch: REMOVED FROM PITCHING THE REMAINDER OF THE GAME**

Softballs

Throughout this season, we will only use the **Tattoo 300 .52 core softball (YELLOW ball)**. Should a replacement ball be needed to put in play, as should be the case, the umpire should always throw the replacement ball to the pitcher. The umpire will be responsible to enforce this process. Managers, please have your pitchers check the ball they are throwing, particularly when a replacement ball enters the game. Once the game has commenced, the use of a "deemed" illegal ball will be handled in accordance with ASA rules.

Bats

○ Commencing with the 2009 season, our league agreed to unify our bat eligibility. **For 2021, the only bat models that will be legal in our league will be the Easton Reflex Model SX70, the Easton Reflex Model SX72, DiMartini Ultimate Weapon WTDXUWE-15, DiMartini Ultimate Weapon WTDXUWE-18, 2017 Miken Vicious MPAVIC, 2019 or 2020 Miken Vicious MPAV19 or MPAV20, Easton Ronin SP21RA1 and the DiMarini WTDXUWE2, - DiMarini Ulitmate Weapon WTDXUWE22 - East Ronin 240 USA/USSSA Slowpitch Bat**

. No other model bats, regardless of ASA rules, will be deemed legal in our league. Our unified agreement was that safety should be the highest priority.

The umpires will be reminded that they are required to check each team's bats before the game starts. I will ask if they can kindly do a random check during the game. This will be at the umpire's discretion. If you are caught with an illegal bat, in the batter's box, up through the next batters appearance (first pitch), you are fair game for a challenge to the umpire. If you are found with an illegal bat, the batter's plate appearance will be an automatic out, and you will be thrown out of that game (not extended to the next game). Each time that player's position in the order comes up, it will be an automatic out. Please keep in mind, your protest window ends once the next batter has had a pitch thrown.

Bottom line: Guys, our league has moved toward a new ball and safer bat, over the last four seasons. It is a safety factor. Embrace the rule. Follow the rule.

I appreciate every manager assisting in the rules and structure of the 2022 Men's Softball League. Let's have fun and play competitively, but safe. I am open to hear any concerns you have throughout the season.

Tony Davino
League Commissioner
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