



PRINCETON FORRESTAL CENTER SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

The Princeton Forrestal Center Softball League will follow a "non - competitive format with playoffs." Teams will have scheduled opponents, single confrontation, from April until August/September. A playoff system will be announced. A plaque will be awarded to the winner of each division.

Before reading these violations, understand that Princeton Forrestal Center is a "player's league" first and foremost--which means that all violations should be handled in a respective manner and polite tone by the captain. With that said, designate a captain with patience and a well-mannered delivery. Please redo the play if you choose to call the opponent for any first violation.

GENERAL

1. **Team Structure:** All team players must be on a roster. If a team allows a person to play, who is not on their roster, that game will be subject to forfeiture, and the team will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season and possibly the next season.
2. An individual may play for no more than one (1) team in each league in a given season.
3. **Release Forms:** Each team member must sign a release form and the team captain must submit all forms to the Princeton Forrestal Center administration office. A team will not be assigned to the league unless all team members' forms are received by the due date.
4. **Additional Players:** Team captains have until the end of May to add players (with release forms) to their rosters. After that date, no additional players may be added. Email release forms as they are received.
5. **Proper Conduct:** Each team is responsible for the proper conduct and comportment of its members and the team as a whole. If a complaint is made to the league secretary regarding a team's conduct or a player's conduct, this will result in a written warning to the team captain. A second complaint will result in a forfeit of a game. Further complaints can and will result in suspension from the league.
6. ALL RULES WILL BE ENFORCED BY TEAM CAPTAINS DESIGNATED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME.
 - Captains are asked to discuss batting, fielding, base coaching and other violations before the game.
 - PLAYERS SHOULD NOT LOITER IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE FOUL LINE AND BENCH. All coolers, equipment bags, lawn chairs, etc. are to be kept behind the player's bench. Balls in this area are considered playable and interference caused by equipment or players could cause a ruling against the offending team.
 - This is a player's league and captains may choose to play their game with looser rules.
7. **HOME team:** Listed FIRST on the schedule. From 5:30 p.m. until 5:45 p.m., the Visiting team has exclusive use of the field for practice. From 5:45 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., the Home team has exclusive use of the field for practice. The field is open for general use before 5:30 p.m.
8. **Game time is 6:00 P.M.** There is a 15-minute grace period. Any team not able to field 9 players (7 male, 2 female) by 6:15 p.m. will forfeit the game.
9. When a team captain is aware that he/she cannot field a team PRIOR to a scheduled game - PLEASE notify the opposing team captain ASAP. Any last minute notification will result in one written warning, then a forfeit of a game, and then finally suspension from the league for the rest of the season.

****Games are re-scheduled ONLY because of inclement weather ****
10. **Inclement weather:** TEAM CAPTAINS MUST MUTUALLY DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PLAY!
 - The captains must wait until 3:00 p.m. on the day of the game to decide if a game is to be postponed due to inclement weather.
 - The game must be made up on the first available date (which includes Friday, if necessary).
 - Captains should discuss and coordinate available dates and notify the league secretary to confirm availability of date/court.
 - The teams involved must be ready to play on that date or be subject to forfeiture.
- ★ 12. **BOTH TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIELD CLEAN UP!!** Receptacles for the disposal of trash are provided.

However, excess bottles and cans are not permitted. Please remove bottles/cans and excess trash from the premises and dispose of it properly. Failure to keep the area clean will jeopardize the league's use of the fields. DO NOT LEAVE IT ON THE GROUND!

EQUIPMENT

1. Only official ASA approved softball bats are permitted. ASA NON-APPROVED bats are NOT permitted. (Including but not limited to the attached list from ASA dated March 31, 2008)
2. Each team will be responsible for bringing a new ball to every game.
 - The Dudley SB-12 ball is recommended (green box)
 - Any brand ball: 12 inch/ COR: 44/ Compression: 375
 - Game balls should not be Red-Dot or restricted flight.
3. The league will provide an extended home plate mat for each field. Please leave the mats at the fields for the duration of the season.
4. Absolutely NO metal spikes.
5. Bases and pitching rubber are permanently installed at all three fields. Please report any problems with the bases or the fields to Princeton Forrestal Center administrative office at (609) 452-7720.
6. Uniforms are optional.

PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

1. **The coed rule is as follows:** 3 women/10 person team, 2 women/9 person team. When a team is fielding 9 or more people, one of those persons must be the catcher. The catcher is allowed to field the ball at home plate and as necessary.
2. **A minimum of 9 players (7 male, 2 female) is needed to play a game.** As late team members arrive they may be placed into the lineup. If a team cannot field a minimum of 9 players (7 male, 2 female) in ANY inning, that team MUST forfeit the game.
3. Batting lineups are to be exchanged BEFORE the game starts.
4. The batting order must contain AT LEAST the number of the people that are playing the field. The batting order must contain AT LEAST the number of women that are playing the field. The batting order MUST remain the same. When a player is assigned a position in the batting order, he/she must retain that position throughout the game.
5. When a woman is assigned a position in the batting order, that position must be represented by a woman throughout the game.
6. A team is allowed to alternate players at a given position in the order so long as that rotation remains constant (e.g., Jim bats in the fifth position the first time, Bob bats in the fifth position the second time, Jim bats in the fifth position the third time, etc.).
7. An absent player may be assigned a position in the lineup. If the player has not yet arrived when it is his/her turn to bat, that position in the lineup is skipped. When the player arrives, he/she will be allowed to bat in his/her scheduled position.
8. Players that are not in the lineup and arrive after the game starts may only be added to the END of the lineup.
- ★ 9. All team members will be permitted to bat, regardless of the number (e.g., 15 players - 15 batters in the lineup). The rotation MUST remain the same—you CANNOT bat more than 3 males in a row. If you only have 3 women and wish to bat more than 12 players, one woman will need to bat twice in the order. The basic rotation MUST REMAIN – MMMFMMMFMFFFMMMF.
10. DESIGNATED HITTERS RULE - a team member may bat without playing the field.
11. NO designated fielder rule - a team member playing the field must have a place in the lineup.
12. Free substitution - any player may be substituted for at any time, in any position. However, the batting order MUST remain the same.

GAME RULES

1. The batting team must provide an umpire who will stand behind the catcher or where ever he/she feels most comfortable and able to have the best view.

***PLEASE NOTE:** The umpire is only responsible for calling balls and strikes in accordance with the rule below, calling foul balls, and calling any plays at home plate.
The umpire is not responsible for calling pitches with illegal arcs or plays at 1st, 2nd or 3rd base.
2. A mat on home plate will be used to determine balls and strikes. If a pitched ball hits the mat or hits home plate BEHIND the black line, it is a strike; otherwise, it is a ball. A batter is out after 3 strikes. A batter is awarded first base after 6 balls.
3. The pitching arc is **6-10** feet. If a pitched ball has an arc lower than 6 feet, or higher than 10 feet, the batter has the right to call an illegal arc by stepping out of the box before the ball crosses the plate. When this happens, the pitch will not count as a strike or a ball.
4. When the pitcher's arm passes his/her leg during the delivery of a pitch, the pitcher's palm **MUST** be facing the batter. Also, the pitcher's arm must be no more than a ball's width from his/her leg. The batter has the right to call "no pitch" by stepping out of the box before the ball crosses the plate if the pitcher does not adhere to this rule.
5. The pitcher's foot must make contact with the pitching rubber at time of release.
6. A batter is allowed an unlimited number of fouls on the third strike.
7. The batting team must provide a 1st and 3rd base coach who stands in the (imaginary) coach's box next to the respective base. These coaches are responsible for calling plays at 1st, 2nd and 3rd base. **All 1st and 3rd base coaches must know the rules and all calls must be made at the time of the play.**
8. The batter must stay in the batter's box when swinging at a pitch. If the batter leaves the box in order to hit a pitch, he/she is automatically out.
9. Walking a male batter to pitch to a female batter is not permitted. If a team walks a male batter to pitch to a female batter, the female batter automatically walks. The female may bat if she so chooses. In the event the female chooses to bat, the male stays on first base.
10. NO bunting, stealing, or leading off of bases is permitted. Runners may leave the base when the batter makes contact with the ball.
11. Runners may tag up on sacrifice fly balls.
12. Maximum 10 runs per inning except for the last inning. Each team captain is responsible for keep track of runs every inning.
- ★ 13. **SLIDING IS NOT PERMITTED---A RUNNER MAY OVERRUN THE BASES (1st, 2nd, & 3rd, Home)
If a runner does slide, it is an automatic out for the team.**
14. FAKE tags are not allowed.
15. On an overthrow, if the ball makes contact with or passes the player bench, the ball is considered dead. Runners should advance to the next base. However, foul balls may be fielded behind the benches for an out.
16. A base runner's running path is 3 feet to either side of his running path between two bases. Each base determines the running path to the next.
17. Games will last **7** innings.
18. In the event of foul weather or darkness, a game is official after 5 complete innings:
 - a. 4.5 innings if the Home team is in the lead.
 - b. before 5 innings are complete, the game must resume at the point of interruption with the same identical situations as when the game was suspended. If the same players are not available for the resumed game - the game will start from the beginning.
19. ONLY TEAM CAPTAINS ARE PERMITTED TO HANDLE PLAYERS OR DECISIONAL DISPUTES. Captains, you are responsible for the comportment of the members of your team.

MOST IMPORTANT RULE ☺ HAVE FUN!!

PLAYOFFS & CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Playoffs will be scheduled in August, with the top performers in the league making the main playoffs and the bottom half making the consolation playoffs.
2. PLAYOFFS will consist of two games:
 - A. GAME 1 = 1st place team v 4th place team
 - B. GAME 2 = 2nd place team v 3rd place team
3. CHAMPIONSHIP GAME = The winner of Game 1 will play the winner of Game 2 for the Championship title.
4. HOME team (for both playoffs and championship) will be the team with the highest ranking in the final standings.

Updated 8/2017