

Blackford
Softball Inc.

Est. 2006

Last Revision
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Mission Statement

The objective of Blackford Softball Inc. is to introduce, establish, teach, and promote youth softball to Blackford County girls in an environment that encourages self-confidence and self-worth; leading to an active, constructive lifestyle.

Blackford Softball Inc. Divisions:

- A. 11U (8-11 year old)
- B. 14U (12-14 year old)
- C. 8U (5-8 year old)...to be added soon

Board of Directors:

- A. President- Responsible for overall operation of BSI. Conducts all meetings and helps to solve problems, and in charge of training of coaches and players.
- B. Vice President- Serves in the absence of the President. Organizes apparel, trophies, and serves as player agent.
- C. Treasurer- Records minutes at all meetings, assist in scheduling, manage deposits and disbursements, and maintain tax exempt status.
- D. At Large Board Member- Assist in tournament organization, and all other duties needing assistance.
- E. The candidate receiving the most votes from those present at the election meeting will be elected to each office above.
- F. Board members serve a one year term.
- G. Board members may be removed due to gross misconduct supported by a 2/3rds vote of all board members present.
- H. The board will establish the schedule for league and tournament games.
- I. The board will establish all fees charged for participation in BSI teams, events, and manage a responsible budget with long term focus.

By Law Changes:

- A. A 2/3 majority of present board members at a regularly scheduled meeting is required to make or change By-Laws.
- B. E-mail notifications, text messages, or voice mails are acceptable means of receiving votes to the league President.

Rule Changes:

- A. Must be approved by a 2/3rds majority of board members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- B. If a member chooses to abstain from a vote they may do so but they still count in the total of members present.
- C. A change to the league rules must be moved by one member and seconded by a different board member to be eligible for an official board vote. Only then will a vote by present board member be moved upon.

Blackford Softball Inc.

Ground Rules

The Blackford Softball Inc. Ground Rules are intended to enhance or clarify the rules as defined in the Blackford Softball Rule set.

1. All BSI volunteers will not use any tobacco products (smoking and / or chewing) during any BSI event, on and off the field, in the scorer's booth, or in the bleachers. If a spectator wishes to smoke they must go to their car. There will be no use of alcohol or tobacco products during games or practices. Managers, coaches, scorekeepers, or umpires cannot leave the field for a smoke break. Give players your full attention during the game and practice.
2. No profanity or obscene gestures will be tolerated on the field, in the dugout, in the announcer's booth, or in the bleacher during any BSI event. Ejection from BSI duties will result for continued offenses.
3. Only players, managers and coaches of the participating teams, and umpires shall be permitted on the playing field prior to and during the game. If necessary, field maintenance personnel will be allowed on the field prior to the game. A photographer may be if approved by all of the previous mentioned personnel.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, manager, coach, or spectator (including parents) such as foul language, throwing equipment, harassing other players, managers / coaches or umpires, or fighting will not be tolerated. Adult violators will be ejected from the game and must leave the property for the remainder of the game. Players who are in violation may remain in the dugout or may be asked to leave the area. Umpires and managers shall determine if any ejected players without parental supervision will be required to leave the dugout. Players will set out the next scheduled game in uniform. Managers and / or coaches will not be allowed to attend the next scheduled game played by any means! A rainout of a game would not be considered as a scheduled game played. Players, managers, and coaches wishing to appeal may do so to the Board of Directors prior to the next scheduled game. An agent of that division (coach) and at least three board members not involved in that division shall meet and resolve the appeal.
5. If a fan/spectator is ejected from ballpark they must go beyond the railroad ties by the girl's field or the paved drive at Lions club. As requested by the H.C.P.D. and M.P.D. all fans/spectators ejected from ballpark will be reported to H.C.P.D or M.P.D.

6. Each team may have a manager, coach, scorekeeper (scorekeeper must be at least fourteen years of age) and team mother. No more than a total of four adults are permitted in the dugout at any time.
7. Any coaches/managers not approved by BSI's Board of Directors shall not be permitted in the dugout. All managers, coaches, team moms, and any other volunteer involved with working with the children of the league must have a signed Code of Conduct form on file with the league. No exceptions! They must also pass a background check through the Blackford County Sheriffs Department.
8. Number of teams in each division of league will be increased when all teams have twelve players as long as numbers permit.
9. After player draft, every team will hold a minimum of 2 or a maximum of 4 practices per week. When the season starts each game will be considered a practice in accordance with this rule.

Dress Code:

10. No player shall wear any visible jewelry, such as earrings, rings, necklaces, watches, nose rings, etc. on the playing field or in the coach's box. In the event a player has newly pierced earrings covered with a Band-Aid prior to entering the playing field; the player shall be able to play. Managers, coaches and umpires shall enforce this rule. Players with casts may sit on the team bench but are not allowed to play. **Exception is Medical Alert jewelry or devices.**
11. All catchers must wear a catcher's mask that has an extended grill plate for protection. Catchers must wear facemask during practices, and warm-up. Complete gear must be worn during the game. No Exceptions!
12. All teams must wear helmets with facemasks while batting during games and practices including All-Star games. If a player is coaching a base they must also wear a helmet with facemask.
13. All players must be in full uniform and properly dressed (shirts tucked in). Softball players may wear shorts in lieu of uniform pants. The umpire is to enforce this rule.

Required Playing Time:

14. Minimum of **seven** players to start a game. If seven players are not available game will be rescheduled or forfeited at the BSI board's discretion.
15. All team members, unless sick, injured or on disciplinary action, must play a minimum of **three consecutive outs and one at bat**. When a player is benched for

- discipline she cannot enter or return to the game. The manager of the opposing team and official scorekeeper must be notified when a player is being disciplined.
16. All players on the roster must bat (free substitutions). This rule does not apply in tournament play. (see rule 15)
 17. If rule sixteen is violated, the player(s) involved shall start the next game and play no less than the mandatory time limit for both games (twelve outs and two at bats).

Suspended Games:

18. In case of bad weather, if a game is stopped, a maximum of 30 minutes may pass before a decision must be made whether to play or postpone. Exception: If game is stopped due to lightening a minimum of 30 minutes must pass before play can resume. A decision will then be made at the 30 minute time limit. If game is stopped due to lightening, all dugouts must be cleared. Players must go to their cars with their parents. If a player is left alone they must go to the backroom of the scorer's booth. If a game is postponed and less than four innings have been played, the game shall resume from the point where the play was halted. Scorekeeper (home team book) will make note of all game situations at the time of the postponement. If game has completed four innings, or three and a half with home team ahead, game shall be official and count in the standings. If less than one inning has been completed, game shall start over.
19. Games which do not qualify as regulation and are called by the umpire for any reason shall be played to regulation at the next available date starting from where it left off. The Vice President will coordinate the rescheduling of games.

Time limit:

20. The game will officially begin when the home plate umpire announces play ball. The time will be kept by the official scorekeeper, and/or the timer on field. No exceptions.

Curfew

All of H.C.'s ballparks have a curfew of **10:00pm**. This curfew is in effect from the first game to the last game, including local tournaments. If a game is in the middle of an inning it will be stopped at that batter, if batter has been pitched to the count will be recorded, and resumed from that point at said time of rescheduling.

We have also established a pre-game time schedule that will be enforced throughout the season in all leagues. The schedule is as follows for week nights:

5:30 PLAY BALL! 1st GAME

7:30 PLAY BALL! 2ND GAME

Be prepared to start your scheduled game 15 minutes prior to scheduled start any given night.

Again, we want to emphasize this schedule will be enforced. It is your responsibility to have them ready. If your team is not ready, your time will begin anyway. Please be sure that your lineups are exchanged with the opposing team's scorekeeper before you take infield.

1. Games will have a hard 1 ½ hour time limit. Drop dead, revert to last completed inning (see rule 3).
 2. If a game has completed at least four innings, or three and a half with home team ahead, game shall be official and count in the standings.
 3. The 3rd inning and beyond is defined as complete for the purposes of time limit when the visiting team has completed their time at bat and the home team is ahead, or the home team goes ahead during their at bat.
 4. A new inning shall not be started after 1 hour and 25 minutes if a complete game is already established.
 5. If the time limit is reached and it is not an official game, it will be stopped at that point of play. If the batter has been pitched to, the count will be recorded and resumed from that point at said time of rescheduling.
21. GAME ONE: All home teams on both diamonds are responsible for picking up trash in and around the concession area. All visitors' teams are responsible for picking up trash from the visitors dugouts to the bleachers.
 22. GAME TWO: Both teams are responsible for cleaning the dugouts. If you are playing a team from out of town it will be the Blackford County team's responsibility to pick up all trash.

Managers/Coaches:

23. Managers and coaches are to remain in the dugout and maintain full control of their teams' actions and conduct on and off the field. It is the managers and coaches' responsibility to ensure that players are ready to bat and to return to the field promptly. After the pitcher throws a maximum of five pitches, eight if a new pitcher, the umpire is to then start the next inning. There will be no infield balls distributed to the outfield or infield after the 1st inning of play is completed. (NO MORE "BALLS IN" CALL FROM UMPIRE AFTER 1st INNING!)

24. Managers and coaches must ask for, and receive permission from plate umpires before coming onto the field.
25. Managers and coaches will be permitted to coach the bases.
26. You cannot manage or coach on more than one team participating in BSI.
27. All board members may manage or coach during league play.
28. If a manager or coach has a question regarding a play, applied ground rule, etc.; they will not direct their question off the field to anyone but the President, V.P. of that division, Umpire in Chief, or a Board Member.
29. Scorekeepers, Umpires, Managers, Coaches, and Board Members must attend mandatory clinics and workdays.
30. The only drinks allowed in the dugout shall be water or sports drinks in plastic containers. No player shall leave the dugout except to go to the restroom and must have permission from the manager / coach or umpire(s). No player is to go to the snack bar during the game that he / she is participating in. Manager(s) and Coach(s) shall enforce these rules. No food will be allowed in the dugouts except gum or sunflower seeds.
31. All protests must be in writing. The manager protesting must notify the umpire crew chief and the official scorekeeper when protest is made. The official scorekeeper shall enter the protest in the official score book at that time to ensure that all playing records are correct. The manager must submit, in writing his / her protest within twenty-four hours to the league president. A protest board composed of the player agent of the league and at least three other board members not involved in the same division shall meet and resolve the protest, in not less than twenty four hours, but not more than seven days following the protest hearing date...
32. Any manager, coach, player or spectator who violates and / or disregards the rules set forth in the ground rules listed in this document, shall be subject to suspension or dismissal from the league at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
33. Any player throwing a bat during the game will be warned for unsportsmanlike conduct. Plate umpire will notify manager and official scorekeeper of warning. A 2nd incident will result in the player being called out for throwing the bat.

Pitching

31. **Third trip to mound (in the same inning)** or fourth trip overall by manager or coach, that pitcher must come out of the pitching position.

32. IHSAA rules apply to any and all other pitching rules unless specified in this rule sheet.

33. 11U pitching rubber will be set at 35', 14U 40', 18U 43'. Pitching machine for 11U set at 35MPH and at 40'. (agreed by both coaches prior to starting game)

Runs per Innings:

34. All 11U **girls'** games will be **6** runs per inning for all 6 innings. The run rule is therefore 7 runs after 5 innings or 13 runs after 4 innings. No inning shall start after 1 hour 25 minutes.

35. Run rule in all age divisions (excluding 11U) are 12 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, 8 after 5 innings.

36. No longer will coaches have the option of playing on after a run rule. It will be automatic after the run rule has been completed.

11U Softball Rules

1. A player must not turn 12 years of age before January 1 of the current year.
2. Bases are to be 60 feet, pitching machine at 40 feet, set at a speed of 34-36 mph or 45-47 rpm with minimal arc and in agreement between both coaches within this range. The 1st 2 innings will use a pitching machine at the 40ft rubber. Inning 3 will begin live pitching at 35ft pitching rubber.
3. A complete game is six innings and all innings will be limited to 6 runs with no open inning. Run rule is therefore 7 runs after 5 innings or 13 runs after 4 innings. No new inning shall start after 1 hour 25 minutes.
4. Half an inning will consist of 3 outs or 6 runs.
5. A team shall consist of 10 players (4 outfielders). The minimum is seven players, less than seven is a forfeit. Outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until contact with the ball is made.
6. A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher when there are 2 outs. The courtesy runner will be the player who was the last out in the inning.
7. All players on the roster, which are present for the game, shall be placed in the batting order, therefore creating a free defensive substitution between and during innings. Should a player miss her turn in the lineup due to illness, she may return in her spot without taking an out. If a player arrives late, she will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
8. A player being played upon while advancing to a base other than 1st should attempt to slide. If a runner advances to a base without sliding with the intent of knocking the ball loose by colliding with the fielder, the runner will be called out and may be ejected from the game (umpire discretion). A runner attempting to advance to a base other than 1st without sliding should avoid contact. (a runner may not leap over a defensive player)
9. A batter runner will be warned 1 time for intentionally knocking off or removing her helmet while running. Each team occurrence thereafter is an out.
10. A player must have at least one foot inside the pitchers circle and not be in front of the machine until the ball is put into play.
11. Coaches may not touch runners while the ball is live. If this occurs the runner will be called out.
12. No stealing in the first 2 innings. Inning 3 will begin a "live game." Runners may leave the base when the ball is released by the pitcher. Leaving the base early will result in the runner being called out. No warnings will be issued. A ball hit foul is considered a dead ball and will not become live again until the pitchers is in her motion to pitch or the ball leaves the machine.
13. Infield fly rule will be enforced.
14. No dropped third strike.
15. Any player throwing a bat during the game will be warned for unsportsmanlike conduct. Plate umpire will notify manager and official scorekeeper of warning. A 2nd incident will result in the player being called out for throwing the bat. Runners do not advance! This is a dead ball out.
16. During the two innings of machine pitch any player may call time out once the momentum of the lead runner is stopped. During the remaining innings of live

- pitching this will also remain in effect. (umpire discretion as to lead runner being stopped)
17. Each batter will get 5 pitches from the machine to hit fair, foul, or strike out. If the fifth pitch is hit foul the batter will be pitched to until the ball is hit fair or the batter strikes out.
 18. The pitching machine may be adjusted at any time at the umpire discretion in order to throw a strike.
 19. There are no intentional walks allowed.
 20. Bunting is allowed during the innings of live pitch. No slug bunts. (show bunt pull back and hit)
 21. If the coach intentionally interferes with a live ball put into play the batter will be called out at the umpire's discretion and the runners will be called back to the original base(s). If any coach is deemed being hit accidentally the ball will be declared dead and all runners advance one base.
 22. A delivered ball from the pitching machine that hits a batter shall be a strike if the batter swings at the pitch or a ball if the batter does not swing and attempts to avoid being hit by the pitch.
 23. IHSAA rules shall apply to all situations and rules not covered in this rule set.
 24. A game may end in a tie if time limit is reached. If the game is tied and the 6th inning has been completed international tie breaker rules apply until there is a declared winner or time limit is reached.
 25. If the ball hits the machine all runners advance one base even if there is an open base. (dead ball)

14U/18U Softball Rules

1. 14U- A player must not turn 15 years of age before January 1 of the current year.
18U- A player must not turn 19 years of age before January 1 of the current year.
2. Bases are to be 60 feet, pitching distance 40ft for 14U, 43ft for 18U and older.
3. A complete game is 6 innings. Run rule is 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 after 5 innings. No inning shall start after 1 hour 25 minutes.
4. Half of an inning will consist of 3 outs.
5. In 14U/18U a starting team shall consist of 9 players (3 outfielders). The minimum is 7 players to start; less than 7 is a forfeit.
6. Outfielders must start with both feet in the grass until the ball is put into play.
7. All players on the roster, which are present for the game, shall be placed in the batting order, therefore creating a free defensive substitution between and during innings. Should a player miss her turn in the lineup due to illness, she may return in her spot without taking an out. If a player arrives late, she will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
8. A player being played upon while advancing to a base other than 1st should attempt to slide. If a runner advances to a base without sliding with the intent of knocking the ball loose by colliding with the fielder, the runner will be called out and may be ejected from the game (umpire discretion). A runner attempting to advance to a base other than 1st without sliding should avoid contact. (a runner may not leap over a defensive player)
9. A batter runner will be warned 1 time for intentionally knocking off or removing her helmet while running. Each team occurrence thereafter is an out.
10. Coaches may not touch runners while the ball is live. If this occurs the runner will be called out.
11. Stealing: Runners may leave once the ball leaves the pitchers hand. Leaving the base early will result in the runner being called out. No warnings will be issued.
12. Infield fly rule will be enforced.
13. Dropped third strike is in effect.
14. Any player throwing a bat during the game will be warned for unsportsmanlike conduct. Plate umpire will notify manager and official scorekeeper of warning. A 2nd incident will result in the player being called out for throwing the bat. Runners do not advance! This is a dead ball out.
15. Look back rule is in effect.
16. IHSAA rules shall apply to all situations and rules not covered in this rule set.
17. A game may end in a tie if time limit is reached. If the game is tied and the 6th inning has been completed international tie breaker rules apply until there is a declared winner or time limit is reached.
18. A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher regardless of the number of outs. The courtesy runner will be the player who was the last out in the inning, or previous inning. If it is the first inning and there are no outs the player furthest from the batter runner will be used.

COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS

The following Code of Ethics has been developed in compliance with standards as set forth by the National Softball Association (NSA) and the National Alliance of Youth Sports (NAYS). Adopted by Blackford Softball Inc. (BSI).

Our Coaches are the “face” of the program to our parents, players, umpires, our schools, and our community at large. Thus, each coach is expected to maintain a high level of integrity and professionalism both on and off the field. A Coach’s primary responsibility is to develop good citizens and baseball players, and to instill a passion for the game in the players. Thus, our coach’s performance is not measured by wins and losses, rather in what he/she teaches the players in terms of technique, sportsmanship, and fair play.

I hereby Pledge to live up to my responsibilities as a BSI Coach, and by following this Coaches Code of Ethics.

- 1) Show sportsmanship and respect for the opponent at all times.
- 2) Show sportsmanship and respect for the game officials at all times.
- 3) Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the game of softball.
- 4) Exercise and maintain self-control at all times when participating in all BSI softball games.
- 5) Place the emotional and physical well-being of participants ahead of the desire to win.
- 6) Treat all participants as individuals remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for all the age groups.
- 7) Provide a fun and safe playing environment for all participants.
- 8) Exhibits proper ethical behavior while interacting with players, coaches, umpires, league officials, and parents/guardians at practices and games. Understand that the use of foul or abusive language is strictly prohibited.
- 9) Know and practice the basic first-aid principles needed to treat injuries.
- 10) Demonstrate fair play and sportsmanship to all participants, officials and parents.
- 11) Provide a sports environment for all teams that is free of drugs, tobacco or alcohol within the confines of the playing field and refrain from their use at all BSI softball events.
- 12) Treat each player, opposing coach, umpire, league official, and parent/guardian with the utmost respect and dignity.
- 13) Remember that we are a youth softball coach and/or a softball parent and that the game is for the youth players and not the adults.
- 14) Enjoy the BSI softball experience by doing whatever is necessary on being a respectful fan, and especially assisting and supporting all the coaches, umpires and officials involved with BSI Softball.
- 15) Be reasonable in demands on the players and all participants remembering that the player(s) are not miniature professional softball players.
- 16) Importantly, accept victory with humility and defeat with grace. Be neither boastful nor bitter.

With my signature, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and accept the terms of, and will do my best to fulfill the terms of this document. I understand that not upholding the terms of this code and agreement can result in removal from my coaching position for the entire tournament and a suspension from NSA for a period of one year.

PRINT NAME

COACH SIGNATURE

DATE

