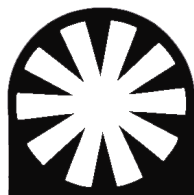


# **2024 FALL SOFTBALL MANAGER'S HANDBOOK**



**BISMARCK PARKS AND  
RECREATION DISTRICT**  
Est. 1927

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# LEAGUE PERSONNEL

Ethan Eberle – 701-415-0464 or [eeberle@bisparks.org](mailto:eeberle@bisparks.org) - Recreation Specialist

# MANDATORY MANAGER'S MEETING

Monday, August 19 at 5:30pm Location: Frances Leach High Prairie Arts & Science Complex 1810 Schafer St. (just off I-94, Exit 157, north of Bismarck State College Campus) in the downstairs Community Room.

# FEES

1. The sponsor fee for the 2024 season is **\$150.00, if this fee is paid by August 9**. This fee includes the beverage permit.
2. The players' fees for the 2024 season are \$45.00/player if paid no later than August 9 at 5:00 p.m. These fees and the complete team roster must be in the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) Office, 400 East Front Avenue by August 9.

# ROSTERS

1. Registration begins July 1 and all rosters and fees are due no later than August 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the Bismarck Parks & Recreation District Office, 400 East Front Avenue.
2. The number of people rostered is unlimited, with a **thirteen-person minimum**.
3. To play on a softball team you **MUST** be on the roster. To be on a softball roster you must pay the proper fees. There is no "subbing" of players on a team.
4. **All players must be 18, out of high school and on the team roster prior to playing.**
5. Any roster changes must be made at the Bismarck Parks & Recreation District Office, 400 East Front Avenue, Monday – Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **ALL PLAYERS MUST BE ON THE ROSTER PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN LEAGUE PLAY.** The date for final roster additions is Friday, September 13, 2024.
6. All players are eligible to play in league play as soon as they are added to their team roster. Players may be rostered on no more than one team on a given league night.
7. **Players' fees cannot be switched from one player to another after the first day of the softball season. If one player drops off a roster and another is added, another player's fee MUST be paid. If a player changes teams, he/she does not have to pay another player's fee but he/she must have a written release from the manager whose team he/she is leaving. (Exception: Medical condition or change of employment – for a player to be replaced on a team roster for either of these exceptions we must have written documentation BEFORE this can be done).**
8. Players may be rostered on more than one team provided that those teams participate on different nights.

## **LEAGUE PLAY/GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. Leagues play on Mondays or Wednesdays at Clem Kelley Softball Complex. With each team playing a double-header each night. There is a 16 team limit to each league night due to diamond availability. First come, first served.
2. First session games start at 6:30pm and second session games start at 8:45pm.
3. Monday league play: Monday, August 26- October 7, 2024
4. Wednesday league play: Wednesday, August 28 – October 2, 2024
5. Teams play in a six-week season. League schedules will be available online by August 21 at 5:00pm. **There will be no make-up dates.**
6. Monday, September 2 (Labor Day) – no games will be scheduled.
7. All leagues will follow the USA Softball Rulebook with the exceptions stated in the Bismarck Parks & Recreation District Manager’s Handbook.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

1. If weather is severe, check online at [www.bisparks.org](http://www.bisparks.org) or the BPRD Facebook page after 5:00 p.m. For information concerning the cancellation of play, **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE.** The Bismarck Parks & Recreation District will post cancellation information online at [www.bisparks.org](http://www.bisparks.org), Facebook page, and the team manager will be emailed about cancellations through the TeamSidelines scheduling software. Decisions regarding canceling league play will not be made prior to 5:00 p.m.

## **EQUIPMENT**

1. Umpires will be scheduled if available. If an umpire is not available, both team managers will take turns each half inning calling balls and strikes, safes and outs, etc. Teams may also agree on a neutral person to umpires. We ask that teams be fair and use their best judgement. We know people will make mistakes at times, but understand that your team will make them as well.
2. Wood bats will be provided by BPRD for each field. Please use the wood bats provided in order that no team may gain an advantage.

## **CONTROL OF CHILDREN**

1. Parents must keep their children outside of the playing area of the softball diamond. This includes the dugout.

## **AWARDS**

1. Awards will be given to the following finishers in each league:
  - ◆ 6 teams or less in a league.....Awards to the top team
  - ◆ 7 – 11 teams in a league.....Awards to the top two teams
  - ◆ 12 or more teams in a league .....Awards to the top three teams

2. If your team is in a league that requires teams to play an unequal number of games, league awards will be decided by winning percentages (i.e. the number of games won by a team divided by the number of games played by a team).

### **TIE BREAKING PROCEDURE**

1. The number of games won by each team will determine team records.

#### **Tie Breaking Method**

- a. Games won
- b. Head-to-head competition
- c. Difference in runs scored between tied teams
- d. Difference in runs scored between all teams
- e. Coin Toss

### **BATS, GAME BALLS & SCORECARDS**

1. **Bat Restrictions: wooden bats only. BPRD provides wooden bats. If a team has its own wood bats, both teams must have access to the same bats.**
2. Game softballs will be provided at each location. Game softballs are not to be used for warm-up or practice. Each team is required to provide its own warm-up softballs.
3. Softballs will be rotated so that women hit a women's softball and men hit a men's softball.
4. If you do not have an umpire assigned to your field, PLEASE pick up the game balls and score card before your game and return them to the Site Supervisor after your game to the shack beside diamond #8.

### **MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

1. Each team must have a minimum of 8 players to start each game. For Coed play, of these 8 players, at least 4 must be female. If a team had 5 males and 4 females this combination would be acceptable. Teams would not be allowed to play with 6 males and 4 females. If a team had 8 females to start the game this would be acceptable. If a team does not have an adequate number of players at game time that game will be considered a forfeit.
2. Player Combinations
  - 5 males/4 females - OK
  - 4 males/5 females - OK
  - 4 males/6 females - OK
  - 10 females - OK
  - 6 males/4 females - NOT OK
3. Coed defensive positioning shall include 2 males and 2 females in the outfield, 2 males and 2 females in the infield and 1 male and 1 female at the pitcher/catcher positions. If your team is playing with less than 10 players you must have a battery that contains a male and female.
4. Forfeit time for first round games is 6:45 pm. Forfeit time for the second round game is 15 minutes after the scheduled game time (8:45 pm).

5. League rules require a team to have at least 8 players to start a game. If you know that your team will not have enough players on a given night please call your opponent's team manager and also Recreation Specialist at before 1:00 p.m. on the night your team participates in league play.
6. Teams forfeiting more than two games throughout the season may face expulsion from further league play.

## 7. HOME RUN RULE

- Due to the number of teams participating there are not separate leagues for "Competitive" or "Recreational" teams. Therefore, a four home run rule will be in effect. Any home runs hit over this number in a game will be an automatic out.

## UNSPORTSLIKE CONDUCT

1. No player shall at any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, abuse physically or verbally, or threaten a coordinator, player, teammate or spectator. The Softball Coordinator is required to suspend the player immediately from further play and report such players to the Parks and Recreation District Representative. Such player shall remain suspended until the Parks and Recreation District Representative has considered the case.
  - Minimum Penalty: Suspension from two league games, and probation for one year.
  - Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for two years and probation for the following year, plus annual reviews by the Parks and Recreation District Representative.
  - UNSPORTSLIKE CONDUCT is NOT part of this GAME!

## PRE-GAME

1. Prior to the start of the first game, the teams will flip a coin to determine which will be the home team the first game and bat last. Each team will be home team one game of the double-header.
2. Each game will consist of 7 innings with the 15 run rule in effect after 3 innings, 12 run rule in effect after 4 innings, and 10 run rule after 5 innings.
3. **There will be a 60-minute time limit for each game. The time limit will be a 60-minute drop dead limit, game is over after 60-minutes of play.**

## GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

1. The league will follow the rules set forth by USA Softball.
2. Players may only play on one team on a given night.
3. **Players must be 18, out of high school** and on the team roster prior to participating.
4. Teams will toss a coin to determine the home team for the first game.
5. Each team will need at least 8 players ready for play to begin the game. Forfeit time for the first round games is 6:45 pm. Forfeit time for the second round games is 15 minutes after that game is scheduled to begin (8:45).

6. Game time is set for 6:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. each evening. Please do your throwing and stretching prior to getting on the diamond.
7. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. **Exception: With two outs, the female has the option to walk or to bat.**
8. **For League and League Tournament Play:** Teams will use a 12" softball when a male batter is at the plate and an 11" softball when a female batter is at the plate.
9. **Batters will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count with NO courtesy foul.**
10. **If playing with LESS than 10 players:** If a team is playing with 9 players they will take an out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot of the batting order. If they are playing with 8 players they will take outs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> spots in the batting order. This rule may be waived only if both teams agree.
11. If a team uses the EP rule, both EP players (one male and one female) must bat, but only a maximum of 10 players may play on defense. These 12 players may move around defensively but the BATTING ORDER MUST REMAIN UNCHANGED. **League Rule:** If a team would like to bat 11 or 12 players, this EP (when batting 11) may be a female or (when batting 12 with two female EP's) they may both be female but these EP's may not both be males.
12. The batter order must alternate (male/female or female/male) whenever possible and MUST REMAIN UNCHANGED THROUGHOUT THE GAME. Exception: See rule #11.
13. There is not a rule as to a male making a play in the place of a female player. (i.e., a male pitcher making a play at home plate in front of a female catcher).
16. NO GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED ON PARK PROPERTY. VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO PARK DISTRICT ORDINANCES. Please help keep our parks clean and safe for all to use and enjoy. **Drinking alcoholic beverages during league play is not allowed.** Please save your drinking until after your games. Any player that is under the influence of alcohol during a game will face expulsion from further league play.
17. **Bat Restrictions: Wooden bats only. Bats will be provided by BPRD.**
18. Any team disregarding or violating the rules and policies set forth by this league may be suspended from further league play.