

East Midlands Softball League
Additions to WBSC Rules

2019 Changes

Rules will be as **WBSC** with the following alterations/clarifications. Should any dispute occur, these rules and any EMSL rules will supersede the **WBSC** rules.

1. Definitions

2. The Playing Field

a. Pitches

All pitches must be marked in accordance with **WBSC** dimensions.

Umpires will also be observing the 150ft outfield line if marked and the game involves a Division 3 team

Line must be marked otherwise 150ft rule cannot be enforced. Infringements will first receive a warning, and if infringed a second time, the batter will be given 1st base. Continued infringements may lead to a warning and ejection from the game

3. Equipment

Teams must be able to provide a catcher's mask/batting helmet if requested to do so by an umpire.

a. Helmets

The wearing of helmets **is** mandatory for all players in the EMSL. Helmets are mandatory ~~on~~ **offense** for batters, on deck batters, batter-runners, runners. Failure to wear the batting helmet when ordered to do so by the umpire shall cause said player to be declared out.

Also a reminder that **WBSC** Rule 3 Sec.6(Equipment/Protective Equipment) – 6>f>ii states helmets are also mandatory for youth age players who coach in the first and third base coach's boxes.

It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that the safety equipment used is suitable for the sport. The umpire has the right to ask for it to be removed if deemed not fit for purpose. The umpire's decision is final.

b. Uniform

All teams will be expected to field players in matching numbered team shirts and matching-coloured bottoms in all games. This is a standard **WBSC** rule and expected standard across all BSF events.

The umpire is responsible for ensuring all players are wearing the correct uniform. Players not complying with the uniform rule will be asked to change.

If unable/unwilling to do so – this will invoke a penalty (awarded to opposition) of 3 runs per player in breach of uniform regulation for the game.

During wet weather – players permitted to wear wet weather clothing over uniform at umpire's discretion.

WBSC Rule 3 – Section 8g states;-

JEWELLERY. No items, other than medical alert bracelets or necklaces, may be worn. Medical alert bracelets and/or necklaces are not considered jewelry, but if worn, they must be taped to the body. EFFECT – Sec 8a-g: If a player refuses to comply with the provisions of Section 8, then that player will be removed from the game.

c. League Balls

In accordance with **WBSC** Rule 3 Section 3 Part g

In Co-ed Slow Pitch play, Male batters will be pitched to with the 12” ball and Female batters with the 11” ball. (If a woman is playing in the batting line-up in the position of a man, all rules will be the same as for the man [e.g. 2 base award for a ‘walk’] but will be pitched an 11” ball.)

4. Coaches, Players and Substitutes

a. BSF Registration:

All players must be registered with B.S.F in order to be eligible to play in the EMSL (in order to be covered by BSF's public liability insurance).

All players must be registered on the BSF website before the game.

Players should only be registered as league players for one team but if a club has 2 teams – they may be registered for both.

Any player fielded during a game who does not feature on that team's player list on BSF as a league player will be considered a ringer.

Teams who are reported to have fielded unregistered (and therefore ineligible) players in any League game will be subject to an enforced 7-0 forfeit for that game if they won. If the offending team lost the game in question and gained no advantage as such, they shall receive an official league warning. Should they be found to have fielded an ineligible player a second time – they will receive a 3 point deduction regardless of the outcome of that game. Opposition captains should register any complaint regarding player eligibility to the committee within 24 hours of the game and use BSF player lists to confirm eligibility of players submitted by opposition on the team sheet.

b. Ringer Rule

Each team may field **one** BSF registered player who is not a "league player" for their team as defined by their player list. The player must be a registered player from the East Midlands League and must comply with the following;

- The ringer must play at either catcher or RF and bat at the bottom of the order.

Unless... BOTH captains AND the umpire agree at the start of the game that more than one ringer can be used or that they can play in an alternative position. If either, one of the captains or the umpire has a problem with the alternative arrangement, then it is not a valid field arrangement and the ringer rule stands.

Exception – New teams will receive be allowed the following ringers;-

Year 1 – 3 players

Year 2 – 2 players

Year 3 onwards – 1 player as rule 4b

c. Composition of teams

Teams must attempt to play 5+5 in all fixtures, making use of the "Ringer Rule" if necessary. The opposition are not required to accept a team who arrive with 6+4 and are within their rights ask for them to forfeit that game.

d. Number of players on a team:-

EMSL local rules state there is NO MINIMUM number of players needed to start a game. However you must abide with the **WBSC** rules stating a Male/Female pitcher/catcher combination, no more than 2 players of the same sex in the infield or outfield.

If a team does not field at least 5+5 players then the batting line up must be composed as follows:

- Ringers will always play at the bottom of the order, so in positions 8, 9, 10 depending on the number you have, in accordance with section b.
- You should never have two batters of the same sex batting one after another without an auto out in between. If this happens during a game then your line up is incorrect.
- Remember that a team with auto outs in the line up may start an inning with one out before a batter comes to the plate

Example: Team turns up with 5 men, 2 women and 1 female ringer, your line up would read like this:

1. Male 1
2. Female 1
3. Male 2
4. Female 2
5. Male 3
6. Auto Out 1
7. Male 4
- 8 .Auto Out 2
9. Male 5
10. Female Ringer

However, alternative team compositions can be subject to the discretion of the opposing captains on match-day and matches can go ahead if mutually acceptable terms are agreed by both captains and the umpire.

If a team's field composition is unacceptable to either the opposing captain or the umpire, the game would then be played as a friendly and a 7-0 loss recorded against the forfeiting team.

e. Courtesy runners

WBSC rules do not allow courtesy runners under any circumstance.

However, in the EMSL, where a player sustains an injury during game play and is unable to be replaced, the opposition captain MAY accept a request for a courtesy runner if they wish. They are not, however, expected/obliged to do so.

If a courtesy runner is permitted by the opposition, the injured player must continue to bat in order and should they reach 1st base safely at the completion of the play, the furthest available player of the same sex in the batting order takes their place to run from 1st.

There is no courtesy runner applied if the batter is out or if they safely reach any bases beyond 1st base by their own accord. Not for example if the ball goes dead.

f. Team Sheets

Both team captains must present a team sheet to the umpire and opposition captain at the beginning of league games. This should include first names, surnames and shirt numbers of all players taking part in the game and should identify ringers (and their positions) when these are used.

Should team sheets not be provided in the correct format the offending team can be requested to complete them correctly. If this is refused the offending team will forfeit the game 7-0.

g. Player transfers during the season

- Players who transfer between teams will still remain ineligible for the next league game to be played. Players who are registered to a team that does not take part in a section of the season, for example their team only plays the first half, will be allowed to transfer to another team in addition to the rules above and without a 1 game penalty. They may also transfer back to their previous team without penalty at the end of the season
- Players are eligible for one transfer without restriction each season (April-September)
- All transfers must be notified to the EMSL Committee. The date and time this notification is received will be recorded as the time and date the transfer took place
- Further transfers will be at the discretion of the EMSL Committee – The spirit of this rule is to allow players to play softball for a team that they want to without having numerous transfers for each player each year
- No player transfers will be allowed 3 weeks prior to the end of each half season – this prevents teams from strengthening their team ready for a playoff game
- If a team violates any part of these rules they will forfeit any points gained, and may face further sanctions as determined by the league committee
- Players will be ineligible for the league game directly following their transfer and may not transfer back to their original team within the same league season.

5. The Game

a. Scheduled Game

Each game will consist of 7 innings. In accordance with **WBSC** regulations - any game called after 4 ½ complete innings and the home team is ahead or 5 complete innings can be considered a complete game and the result at that point stands.

If not a complete game the, fixture must be completed within 7 days and game resumed at exact point of stoppage. If this cannot happen then the game will result in a draw no matter what the score was at point of stoppage.

b. Tied Game

In the event of a tied game after 7 innings, one extra inning will be played starting with the last out on second base. If the game is still tied on completion of the extra inning, the game will stand as a tie.

c. Cancellation of games

Games will be forfeited (and a 7-0 victory awarded to the opponents) if a team cancels a fixture for any reason other than weather.

Where there is a fixture between two club teams and one is unable to field a side or cancels the fixture – the HOME team, not necessarily the forfeiting team, will forfeit the fixture 7-0. This is to prevent clubs from advantaging one of their teams with a win by routinely cancelling fixtures between their two teams.

If a game is cancelled for any reason – the cancelling team are responsible for informing;-

- The League Committee
- The playing field owner – Chilwell/Moderns etc
- The opposition captain
- The umpire

Weather Cancellations

If possible a review of the pitch will take place during the day of the game. Anybody can review the ground conditions during the day. If the umpire has arrived at the ground it is their decision.

Games cancelled due to weather need to be re-arranged and played between the 2 teams prior to the season deadlines. Any disputes regarding the re-arrangement are to be communicated to the league committee.

Any weather cancelled game not played by the deadlines, whatever the reason, will be recorded as a draw.

Where a game is cancelled due to weather the home team are responsible for notifying the opposition, umpire, venue and league committee

d. Home Team

The HOME team is responsible for:

- Providing match balls and bases.

- ~~Accurately recording the score.~~ (partially contradicts Rule 12)
 - ~~Placing results on the BSF website.~~ (contradicts Rule 12)
 - Confirming the attendance of an umpire (if a team fails to provide an umpire then the home team will not be disadvantaged by this in forfeiting the game)
- If balls and bases aren't provided by the home team all reasonable effort should be made to obtain each. If they are not available the home team forfeits the game.

6. Pitching

7. Batting

8. Batter – Runner and Runner

9. Dead Ball – Ball In Play

10. Umpires

Every EMSL team is expected to provide BASU qualified umpires for some games during the season

A qualified umpire must have attended the BASU run 2 day umpire's course in the last two years or every 4 years if an interim assessment has been completed 2 years after the course. They can also become qualified through completing an EMSL one day umpires' course and will be notified by the Umpire in Chief if eligible.

Provision of umpires remains responsibility of team allocated to that game.

Umpires will be paid expenses for the games they umpire. The expenses come directly from the two teams playing that particular game.

For games cancelled due to the weather where the umpire has reached the venue the league will pay the umpire fee. Umpires should apply to the league for payment stating the date, time and reason for cancellation.

11. Protests

As per **WBSC** rules, should there be a significant disagreement regarding the interpretation/application of a playing rule, teams have the option to play under protest.

NOTE – players are NOT permitted to argue judgment calls (balls, strikes, safe/outs) and may receive warning/ejection should they do this.

If a protest is lodged, the umpire should document all details of the play and rule in question, including how many balls/strikes were called, how many outs there were and what the score was at the time. The game then continues “under protest”.

Should the protesting team win the game, the protest is cancelled & result stands.

If they lose/draw the game, the protesting team can lodge their protest in writing with the Umpire-in-Chief (member of the League committee) along with a cheque for £100. The League Committee will then call a meeting to adjudicate. No protests will be heard until payment is received. If the protest is upheld, payment is refunded, and the game replayed from the point of protest (with same score/no. of outs).

12. Scoring

a. Score Keeping

Each team is responsible for recording their score. Scorers will confirm the score with the opposition at the end of each inning.

The winning team must input the scores into the BSF website within 7 days of the game. Failure to do so may result in the result being recorded as a 0-0 draw

Umpires must ensure that a copy of the EMSL Score sheet is sent to the league committee within 7 days of the game. The sheet will be available for download on the website.

b. Points

Scoring is as per BSF website; www.britishsoftball.org

Points:-

Win – 3

Draw – 1

Loss – 0