



Northbridge Men's Softball League

Information & Rules

Version_2_Aug2025



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Overview

Governing Body

The Northbridge Playground and Recreation Committee operates and maintains this league.

USA softball rules will be used as a reference with the following/below modifications as listed below. Going forward some rules may need to be clarified and/or new changes adapted.

Requests for rules changes must be presented in writing to the Northbridge Playground & Recreation Committee.

All changes or updates will be noted in the 'Revision Log'.

During gameplay, the umpire(s) have complete control of the game and rules.

Consent for Participation

Participation in athletic and recreational programs involves inherent risks and the potential for injury. As part of the original sign-up process, all participants agreed to the terms outlined in the Consent, Release from Liability, and Indemnity Agreement, which was required for participation in any programs or activities organized by the Northbridge Parks & Recreation Department. By signing up and taking part in the league, participants acknowledged that they released the Town of Northbridge, the Department, and its employees from any liability for injuries or harm resulting from participation. Additionally, participants agreed that the Town would not be held liable for any harm caused to others during their participation.

General Rules

- This league is for men, 18 years of age and older.
- No children are allowed in the playing area or dugouts for their own safety.
- The decision of the umpire is final.
- No alcohol or smoking.
- The league must align with posted policies and/or instruction from the Town of Northbridge and/or the Playground and Recreation Committee.

- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- First violation = player will receive a warning from the umpire.
- Second violation = player will be ejected from game and suspended for one game.
- Any flagrant violations will result in immediate ejection and additional one game suspension.
- All violations, ejections, and/or suspensions must be escalated in detail (names of parties involved, date, location, and a summary of what happened) to the Northbridge Playground & Recreation Committee.

Location

See appendix for season details

Schedule

See appendix for season details

Fees

- \$50 per player, due at sign-up.
- Head coach fees will be discounted or waived completely.

Game Cancellations and Reschedules

- Games can be cancelled by the town, Northbridge Playground & Recreation Committee, the Umpires, and coaches only.
- Cancellations due to inclement weather must be done-so two hours in advance with notifications being sent to Northbridge Playground & Recreation (playandrec@northbridgemass.org) and the Central Massachusetts Softball Umpires local area assigner Mike Goulet (michaelfgoulet@gmail.com).
- Any rescheduling needs must be escalated and coordinated with the Playground & Recreation Committee and the local area umpire assigner as soon as possible.
- Rescheduled games must be played after Game 2 on the same Sundays which the league is already scheduled to play.

Score Reporting

- Coaches must email the final score of each game to Northbridge Playground & Recreation Committee (playandrec@northbridgemass.org) within 24 hours of completion.
- Reporting will occur via an online form, provided and managed by NPRC.

Rosters

- The fall league requires a minimum of four teams to play, and a maximum of six.
- Teams will be restricted to 15 players.
- Sign-ups will be first come, first served.
- The 61st through 90th players signing up will be added to a waiting list, pending the creation of additional teams.
- Sign-ups will be closed after 90th player.
- Each team will have 1 primary 'head' coach, who is responsible for drafting the team, creating game lineups & defensive positions, and ensuring all other league requirements are met.

Maintenance

- The coaches of the first game are required to;
 - Setup the bats, balls, and scoreboard
 - Install the bases
 - Paint the foul lines from home plate through the 250 mark.
 - Install the temporary foul poles at the 250 mark.
 - Screen drag the field before and after Game 1
- The coaches of the second and/or third game are required to;
 - Ensure infield is screen dragged before play.
 - Screen drag the field after the game.
 - Secure the bases, temporary foul poles, and all misc equipment in the shed.
- Note – a tractor, nail drag, screen drag, bases, rakes, foul poles, and paint/liners will be provided and secured within the shed. These can and should be used by the softball league.

Gameplay

Equipment

- Only 12' slow-pitch softballs provided by the league shall be used.
- Only slow-pitch softball bats provided by the league shall be used. All bats will be USSSA certified.
- Protective face gear is recommended for both the pitcher and catcher.

Timing

- Games are 9 innings

- Game 1 starts at 0900
 - No new inning will start after 1015.
- Game 2 starts at 1030
- Game 3, if/when applicable, starts at 1200.

Field Size

- Infield dimensions will support a 50'/65' configuration
 - 50ft distance between the pitchers' mound and home plate.
 - 65ft distance between 1st base and home plate.
- If a home run fence is present, it should be at a distance no shorter than 250' and no longer than 300'. Preference is 275'.

Pitching

- All pitches must be thrown underhand. Side arm pitches and the continuation of arm rotation once ball is released is illegal.
- A pitched ball must be pitched in a way that reaches the plate at a low speed (slow pitch).
- The pitcher will start their pitch on the pitcher's mound.
- The pitched ball must arch 6-12ft after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of home plate.
- If illegal pitches are identified then swung at-all results stand.
- 4 warm up pitches are allowed at the start of each half inning until the 7th inning, where only 1 warm up pitch is allowed.

Batting

- Each batter starts with a 1-1 (one ball, one strike) count.
- Batters are allowed one foul regardless of count, second foul is automatic out.
- A second foul out is a dead ball, runners cannot advance whether ball is caught or not.
- All batters must maintain the batting order, unless injury prevents otherwise.
- If there is no outfield fence, homeruns will be legged out.
- If at any time a fair ball is touched by someone not in the game, the umpires will place the runners.

Base Running

- 1st base will have a double safety (orange) bag. Runners to first will use the safety (orange) bag while defenders will use the white bag.

- No stealing
- Base runners must avoid contact on basepaths, any deliberate attempt to make contact will result in a called out and possible double play call.
- The runner is required to slide if there is a close play at home – any contact between runner and fielder at home plate without a slide will be an automatic out.
- Pinch runners must be the last batter out.

Defense

- First base will use the white bag at first base.
- All players must play 4 innings minimum in the field.
- Intentionally dropped balls are dead ball outs.
- There are ten (10) defensive positions -
 - P (1)
 - C (2)
 - 1B (3)
 - 2B (4)
 - 3B (5)
 - SS (6)
 - LF (7)
 - LC (8)
 - RC (9)
 - RF (10)
- Outfielders must start in the grass.

Appeals

Appeals can be live or dead ball.

Picking up Subs:

- If a team picks up players, they must give up two runs per player (6 runs max).
- Any team picking up three or more players must play with nine players.
- If a team picks up any players in playoff games, they must play with a max of nine players.
- Teams must bat their own players first.
- Any player who gets picked up must be replaced as soon as the team's players arrive.
 - Teams may elect to keep picked up player in as a DH until team has 11 of their own players.

Mercy Rule:

- The mercy rule is 12 or more runs after 8 innings.
- Flip/Flop Rule becomes invoked if home team is losing by 12 or more runs at the end of the 7th inning.
 - At the end of the 7th inning, if the home team is losing by 12 or more runs this constitutes a team flip.
 - The home team will become the visiting team and vice versa. The visiting team will remain on the field.
 - The home team will now bat in the top of the 8th inning. If enough runs are scored to get out of mercy, the game will continue, otherwise, the game is over.
 - If the game continues, the visiting team will now bat bottom of the 8th inning. If the visiting team scores enough runs to cause mercy, the game is over. No 9th inning is played.

Revision Log

Modification	Version	Date Accepted
Finalized 2025 schedule & grammar edits	V2	8/5/25

Appendix

2025 Season Details

Location

For the 2025 fall season, the games will be played at the Northbridge Elementary School from fields, located at 21 Crescent Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

Schedule

Northbridge Men's Softball League

2025 Fall Schedule

Weeks 1 through 8 – Regular Season

Week	Date	Game 1 (0900)	Game 2 (1030)	Game 3 (Noon)
1	8/31	Yellow vs Red	Carolina vs Navy	Carolina vs Navy
2	9/7	Carolina vs Yellow	Navy vs Red	N/A
3	9/14	Navy vs Yellow	Red vs Carolina	N/A
4	9/21	Navy vs Carolina	Yellow vs Red	N/A
5	9/28	Red vs Navy	Yellow vs Carolina	N/A
6	10/5	Carolina vs Navy	Yellow vs Red	Yellow vs Red
7	10/12	Yellow vs Carolina	Red vs Navy	<i>Make-Up Date (if needed)</i>
8	10/19	Red vs Yellow	Navy vs Carolina	<i>Make-Up Date (if needed)</i>

Week 9 – Playoffs Round 1 (Sunday, October 26) – Opening Round

Time	Game	Notes
0900	Game 1: Seed 1 vs Seed 4	Winner to Game 3
1030	Game 2: Seed 2 vs Seed 3	Winner to Game 3

Week 10 – Playoffs Round 2 (Sunday, November 2) – Elimination Games

Time	Game	Notes
0900	Game 3: Winner G1 vs Winner G2	Winner advanced to Championship (Game 6)
1030	Game 4: Loser G1 vs Loser G2	Loser eliminated; winner to Game 5

Week 11 – Playoffs Round 3 (Sunday, November 9) – Final Elimination & Championship

Time	Game	Notes
0900	Game 5: Loser G3 vs Winner G4	Loser eliminated; winner to Championship
1030	Game 6: Winner G3 vs Winner G5	Championship Game
Noon	Game 7: Winner G3 vs Winner G5	<i>If undefeated G3 winner loses</i>

Team/Color	Coach	Phone Number
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Yellow	Craig Montville	508-439-0358
Carolina	Josh L'Etoile	401-529-4132
Red	Adam McMahon	774-696-3581
Navy	Gregg Katz	508-733-0864