



# **Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) Girls Fastpitch Softball League Guidelines**

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## A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) Softball BoD reserves the right to modify these guidelines and rules, as may be required, at any time.

### 1. Purpose

The BRYC Girls Fastpitch Softball League, hereto in referred to as BRYC Softball, intends to provide girls with the opportunity to experience the game of fastpitch softball in an atmosphere that promotes teamwork, friendships, and good sportsmanship.

### 2. Eligibility

- a) Any girl 18 years of age or less as of January 1st of the year in which she participates is eligible to play in the BRYC Softball for that coming year.
- b) A team shall become a competing member of the BRYC Softball upon compliance with each of the below-listed conditions:
  - Approval of the coaches by the BRYC Softball Board of Director (BoD)
  - Registration of each player with BRYC Softball
  - Team personnel agree to be governed by the BRYC Softball BoD established rules
  - Teams and all team personnel must be eligible to compete in conformance with current USA Softball Association (USA) rules and regulations and as amended by the BRYC Softball BoD
- c) If eligible in all aspects according to current USA rules, players will automatically acquire non-voting membership in the BRYC Softball when their names are included on a team roster which has been submitted and accepted in accordance with the rules established by the BRYC Softball BoD.
- d) Any team and/or applicant who provides false or misleading information to the BRYC Softball may be removed from the league by the BRYC Commissioner. The decision of the Softball Commissioner may be appealed to the BRYC BoD. The league may retain any fees that were paid to the BRYC Softball.
- e) The BRYC Softball BoD reserves the right to make any decisions involving safety, general welfare, or overall league operations (protests, forfeitures, etc.) in carrying out its responsibilities for the well-being of the league.
- f) All coaches, assistant coaches, and those having supervisory roles in practices, games, scrimmages or other team functions, on or off the playing field, are required to file the BRYC Risk Management Disclosure Form with the league every 2 years. This form is filed in confidence and kept by the BRYC Softball Commissioner.
- g) BRYC Softball will not recommend or knowingly allow for placement in a position that would involve direct contact with a child any person who has:
  - been convicted of any felony, crime of violence, or crime against a person;
  - an arrest record for any offense involving sexual misconduct;

- a documented/demonstrated history of drug/alcohol abuse within the past 5 years;
- failed to complete the BRYC Risk Management Disclosure Form; or
- demonstrated a pattern of behavior that would have a detrimental effect on children

h) BRYC Softball will follow the BRYC Risk Management Policy as adopted in June 2012.

### 3. Seasons

- BRYC Softball offers house programs in the Spring and Fall, and sponsors teams during the Summer season in the Fairfax County Girls Softball League (FCGSL).
- BRYC Softball offers select programs in the Spring for age groups 10u, 12u, & 14u. During the Summer and Fall seasons, BRYC sponsors select teams in all age groups from 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u, & 18u. (See Select Team Guidelines)

### 4. Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Actions

- BRYC Softball follows the BRYC Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Actions. Please review the document posted on our website for details.

### 5. Emergency Notification

- Should a situation arise where information needs to be disseminated immediately to parents and/or coaches, the Commissioner or another member of the BoD will post the information on the home page of the Softball website ([www.brycsoftball.org](http://www.brycsoftball.org)) and most likely send a league-wide email.
- Game cancellations are not considered emergency situations and those notifications will be sent by coaches to their team. All teams will have a process for disseminating information. The process must be able to disseminate the information as soon as possible, and the process must be known to all parents of players.

## B. HOUSE LEAGUE

### 1. Purpose

- BRYC's House program intends to provide girls with the opportunity to experience softball at an instructional and recreational level against other teams formed within BRYC and the local Northern Virginia softball community.

### 2. Seasons

- The Spring Season typically begins in mid/late March with practices. Games begin the first weekend in April and conclude the 1st weekend of June. There may be one game during the week and 1-2 games on Saturday depending on age-level. 8u and 10u typically play one game per week only, unless weather dictates a need for a make-up game. Make-up games may be during weekdays, as a Saturday double-header, or Sunday afternoon.



- b) The Fall Season begins approximately the last week of August and concludes the first week of November. There may be one game during the week and 1-2 games on Saturday depending on age-level. 8u and 10u typically play one game per week only, unless weather dictates a need for a make-up game. Make-up games may be during weekdays, as a Saturday double-header, or Sunday afternoon.

### **3. Age Divisions**

- a) BRYC offers programs in four age-levels:
  - 8u (ages 5-8)
  - 10u (ages 9 & 10)
  - 12u(ages 11 & 12)
  - 18u (ages 13 – 18)
- b) A player's level will be determined by her age as of January 1st of the year she wishes to participate. Girls are encouraged to stay within their age classification.
- c) Any player that is 8u, 10u or 12u and requests to play in the next age-level up, must have written consent from a parent or guardian and confirmation from the coach that the player moving up will be of similar ability as players on that new team. The Commissioner must approve the request before the change can be made.

### **4. Registration and Team Formation**

- a) The player registration link is posted on the website at [www.brycsoftball.org](http://www.brycsoftball.org)
- b) Players may request to be placed with a particular coach or on a team with a friend. BRYC will make every effort to see that the request is honored. However, there is no guarantee that we can accommodate every request, with the exception of siblings.
- c) Players who are new to the BRYC program and do not request placement, will be placed in a general draft or assigned to teams by the Commissioner.
- d) Players who do not sign up by the last regularly scheduled registration date will be placed in the general draft or assigned to teams by the Commissioner regardless of the specific team or coach that player may have been associated with in the past.
- e) Only players registered with BRYC may participate in the Spring clinics, workouts, Spring/Summer/Fall ball or any tournament. Registration is required for each season.
- f) BRYC will attempt to keep the number of girls on each team as equal as possible. No coach can refuse to accept a registered player if that team has fewer players than the team in the league that has the greatest number of players.
- g) No house team may have more than one Select player from either BRYC or another organization, until each team in that age level has one select player. Once each team has one select player, a second may be added until each team has an equal number of select players. This will ensure that no team has more than one select player in excess of any other team. Exception: Any House player assigned to a team who is invited to

participate on a Select team for that season is not counted as a Select player for purposes of this rule.

- h) If a House team has Select players and there is a conflict between a House game and Select game, the Select game will take precedence.
- i) Requests by players, parents or coaches for girls to play outside of their age classification shall first be directed to the Commissioner who will assess the request and make a decision.

## **5. Uniforms and Equipment**

- a) BRYC Softball provides jerseys, bats, balls, batting helmets, and catching equipment.
- b) Players may provide their own bats, batting helmets, and catching equipment provided it is designed for girls fastpitch softball use and has the appropriate approvals from the manufacturer.
- c) For players in 12u & 18u the equipment must meet USA requirements. As of 2009, this means helmets with masks and chin straps, and bats with the ASA certification on them.
- d) Players are required to provide their own fielding glove and appropriate shoes. The wearing of metal spikes, football cleats, sandals or regular street shoes by a player is not permitted. Bare feet are not permitted.
- e) The catcher must wear a catcher's helmet in accordance with appropriate USA rules that includes a mask with a throat protector or a hockey style helmet, a chest protector, and shin guards during play. Any player who takes a fielding position as a catcher, either on or off the field, to warm up a pitcher, must wear a catcher's helmet, as a minimum.
- f) The batter, on-deck batter, and all base runners must wear protective headgear covering both ears and temples. The umpire will call out any base runner that intentionally removes her batting helmet while the ball is in play (live ball). Headgear must be properly worn with the brim parallel to the ground.
- g) Youth pitchers must wear a face mask. BRYC Softball will provide a face mask for each team as needed, but not mouth pieces. BRYC Softball HIGHLY encourages face masks for all players in the field, but it is only required for pitchers and catchers.

## **6. Games Rules**

- a) All games will be played in accordance with the latest edition of the USA Softball rules, except as modified by BRYC. All rules are located on the website.
- b) See age-level rules and USA Softball rules details.

## **7. Game Postponement Policy**

- a) Due to limited number of fields and availability of umpires, teams are encouraged to take whatever measure necessary to see that games are played as scheduled.
- b) Cancelled games must be called into the league commissioner no later than 3 hours before the scheduled game time so that umpires can be notified. All makeups will be scheduled through the League Commissioner/Field Coordinator.

- c) The Fairfax County Park Authority guidelines will be utilized to determine if a field is playable, and may direct postponement of a game if the field is not considered to be safe or will cause damage to the field. (see Field Use Policy)
- d) It is the responsibility of each coach to call the BRYC Softball information line or check the BRYC Softball website for weather updates and cancellations. DO NOT assume weather conditions are the same for the field as they may be at your home or office. (see Field Use Policy)

## **8. Safety**

- a) Do not attempt to move a player that cannot leave the field under their own power, who appears confused or dazed, was knocked unconscious or has a possible broken bone. Call 911 for emergency services, which is a free service to the County.
- b) Please notify the Commissioner of any injuries sustained during a game. Provide all the relevant details to include: Date, time, location, name of player injured, parents' names and contact information, and the circumstances surrounding the injury. This is important information to document as quickly as possible while it's fresh on your mind.
- c) Every coach is provided a first aid kit in their team bag at the beginning of every season. The kit contains band aids, cleaning solution, etc. to start the season. It is the responsibility of any team using the field kit to notify the age-level commissioner if the kit needs restocking with supplies.
- d) Players are not allowed to wear jewelry, except medical bracelets or identification, onto the playing field. This includes watches, necklaces, bracelets, earrings or any other article that the umpire may deem unsafe.
- e) Coaches must use good judgment when assessing field conditions for practice and do not use fields when conditions are likely to cause injury to participants or result in damage to the playing surface. All practices and games must stop if anyone sees lightening. Players must immediately take cover (cars) and stay there until 15 minutes have gone by without seeing any lightening...no exceptions.

## **9. Forfeit Rules and Penalties**

- a) A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault if a team fails to appear on the field, with at least 7 players ready to play, within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time.
- b) If neither team is able to field the required minimum number of players to start a scheduled game then the game can be rescheduled.
- c) If a team fails to appear for a regularly scheduled game under the impression that the playing field is not playable, and the umpire declares that the field is playable, a forfeit game will be awarded to the team that does appear, provided that the team which is present is able to field at least 7 players.

- d) If a team plays an ineligible player, all games in which that player has participated will be forfeited. If a parent/guardian or player falsifies records, the case will be presented to the BRYC Softball BoD for disciplinary action.
- e) If a coach knows that he/she will not have sufficient players to play a game, he/she must attempt to reschedule the game with the coach of the opposing team and the League Commissioner rather than offering a forfeit. Exception: This rule does not apply to end of season play off or tournament games.
- f) The provisions of section 10 do not apply to the Coach Pitch League.

#### **10. Score Keepers and Score Books**

- a) Each team shall provide a scorekeeper who shall maintain a score book for each game.
- b) The HOME team scorekeeper and score book shall be the official record of the game
- c) The provisions of this section do not apply to the 8u.

#### **11. Ejected Coaches and Players**

- a) Any coach ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in any aspect of the remainder of the game from which he/she has been ejected. The ejected coach must go to the bleacher area and remain a non-vocal, nonparticipating member of the team. If the ejected coach does not adhere to these rules, then the umpire may declare a forfeit in favor of the opposing team.
- b) Any player ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in any aspect of the remainder of the game from which she has been ejected. The ejected player must go to the bleacher area and remain a non-vocal, nonparticipating member of the team. The player must remain within the control area of the coach unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. In no case is an ejected player to leave the playing site unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or supervising adult.
- c) Any coach causing their team to forfeit a game for the above infraction will be subject to a review of their actions by the Softball BRYC BoD and potential disciplinary action.

#### **12. Disputes and Protests**

- a) Coaches may make protests to the umpire for interpretation of rules, failure to apply the correct rule to a given situation, or failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation. Arguing balls and strikes, or other judgement calls is not permitted.
- b) Protests must be made prior to the next pitch. Every effort should be made to resolve the problem prior to filing an official protest. In any event, the game must proceed to completion.
- c) All protests must be submitted in writing to the appropriate League Commissioner. The league commissioner may elect to form an ad-hoc committee to review disputes and provide recommendations to the Commissioner.
- d) Appeal of the League Commissioner's decision can be made to the BRYC Softball BoD, whose decision will be final.

## C. SELECT LEAGUE (*Program suspended indefinitely*)

### 1. Purpose

- a) The Select Program is designed to offer girls the opportunity to experience softball on a more competitive level against teams throughout the metro DC area and mid-Atlantic region for the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons.
- b) It is the intention BRYC to assemble at least one highly competitive team at each age level. It is for this purpose that the "A", "B" and "C" classification of team formations is established in these guidelines. If there is interest, within the league, and the appropriate number of qualified players, additional team(s) should be encouraged to participate under the prescribed guidelines.

### 2. Commitment

- a) Participation in the Select Program requires a commitment on the part of the coaches, players and parents. Coaches should discuss this commitment for practices, games and tournaments with the players and parents prior to signing a player to your team. If you are not willing to make the commitment and sacrifice as a coach, player or parent, the select program is not for you.

### 3. Seasons

- a) The Spring season offers teams of 10u, 12u and 14u the opportunity to play double headers throughout the metro DC area in both Virginia and Maryland on Sunday afternoon. Spring select teams are required to play in a minimum of 1 tournament between April 1 and June 15. The Spring season traditionally begins the 1st or 2nd week of March and concludes at the end of May.
- b) The Summer season offers teams of 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u and 18u to play against other select teams throughout Fairfax County as part of the FCGSL. The Summer program also offers teams the opportunity to travel to tournaments of their own choice throughout the region or country. Summer teams are required to participate in a minimum of 3 tournaments between June 1 and August 1. The Summer season for FCGSL play has traditionally started the week that school lets out and ends the last week of July.
- c) The Fall season is typically used to start to develop teams for the following spring season. The Fall season offers teams of 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u and 18u the opportunity to play against other select teams throughout Fairfax County as part of the FCGSL. There are a limited number of tournaments during the fall season and there is no requirement for a BRYC select team to participate in a minimum number during the fall.

### 4. Age Divisions

- a) BRYC offers select softball programs for girls 10u – 18u. Teams at the 16u and 18 levels do not play games in the Spring, but may practice.

- b) Select Softball is highly competitive and coaches are encouraged to keep players in their appropriate age group and to encourage parents to do the same.
- c) No player may be placed on a roster in a division above her age eligibility without submitting a formal letter of request to the Select Commissioner. This request letter must be from the parent/guardian with acknowledgment from the coach that the player wishing to move up a division will be a starter on that team from the time of approval.
- d) A select team may not play in an age division above their eligibility when more than 50% of the players can stay at the lower level, without written authorization from the Select Commissioner and confirmation that the players are of a caliber to participate at the higher age classification.

## 5. Coach Selection

- a) New coaches wishing to be considered for the Select Program are required to have a letter or email of interest submitted to the Select Commissioner by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year along with the age group you wish to coach.
- b) Existing coaches are required to submit a letter or email stating their intention of returning submitted to the Select Commissioner by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Returning coaches shall also designate the age classification that they will be coaching for the coming year.
- c) The Select Commissioner may appoint a committee to review each applicant's request and provide recommendations based on qualifications and the need for coaches. A decision will be made by August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- d) Coach designation of "A", "B" or "C" for the purpose of drafting players will be determined in August of each year. Existing coaches will have priority status over new coaches coming into the league as far as designation is concerned.
- e) If an existing coach and team move up an age division and there is a current coach in that upper age division, the coach moving up will be placed in a "B" or "C" classification behind any remaining coach(s) in that upper age bracket.

## 6. Formation Guidelines

- a) Tryouts
  - Select Coaches may hold their own tryouts.
  - Fall tryouts shall be held in August, if there are sufficient number of players.
  - Spring tryouts will be held in March, if there are sufficient number of players.
  - Before a coach can participate in a BRYC run tryout, all Select Coaches shall furnish the Select Commissioner with a roster of girls committed to the individual teams, one week prior to the scheduled tryout.
  - Select coaches who do not participate in the general tryout forfeit their right to any player in the draft, based on their seniority or classification.

- Players committing to a particular select team must be registered no later than the scheduled BRYC tryout or that team will forfeit their right to protect that player.
- b) Team Formation
- Team A is designated as the first team in a particular age division or the team with seniority in that particular age division. Team A will be given first right of refusal to any girl, not committed to another team, who wishes to play select ball in a particular age division, until their roster reaches 10.
  - Team A may temporarily protect players they are considering for a period of 10 days from the coach's contact so they can participate in practices with the team. At the end of 10 days, that player must either be listed on Team A's roster or be made available for other BRYC select teams to review.
  - In order to protect a player from other BRYC coaches making contact until the 10 day grace period is over, Team A should keep the Select Commissioner informed, in writing, with the names of individuals being considered.
  - Team A coach must submit a preseason roster of girls committed to returning to his team no later than the date determined by the Select Commissioner.
  - Team A coach must submit a final roster to the Select Commissioner, signed by all players and parents one week prior to the start of the season.
  - Team A coach shall attempt to limit their roster to 15 girls for the Spring and Fall seasons and 18 for the Summer season.
  - A Team A player may not play for another BRYC select team without being release from Team A. A written request from the player or parent/guardian must be submitted to the Select Commissioner for final approval.
  - Team B is designated as the second team in a particular age division. Team B will be given the second right of refusal to any girl, not committed to another team, who wishes to play select ball in a particular age division, until his roster reaches 10.
  - Team B may be formed when:
    - Team A reaches 10 players and it can be demonstrated that there are an adequate number of qualified select players for this additional team.
    - The Select Commissioner, with the majority approval of the Softball BoD, agrees that the addition of a B team will be in the best interest of the program.
    - All other formation guidelines shall be those established above for Team A.
  - Subsequent teams can be formed by the Select Commissioner, with the majority approval of the Softball BoD, if it is perceived that the addition of a team will be in the best interest of the BRYC Select program.
- c) Seniority Policy
- Teams in each age division shall be designated "A", "B" and "C" for seniority purposes. If a team moves up a division and there is an existing team at the higher

level that will remain; the team in the higher level will have seniority over the new team, regardless of the designation of the team at their previous lower level.

d) Team Disbandment

- In the event that a Select team disbands, the other Select coaches of that age-level will be given the opportunity to pick up the players from the disbanded team.
- Should there be more than one Select team, the Team A will have the first choice of players, then Team B, and then Team C. Should there be no Select team at that age-level, the Select team at the next level will be given the opportunity to pick up the disbanded team players if their play is sufficient to play at the next level.
- All BRYC purchased equipment must be returned to the Select Commissioner for distribution to other select teams. In the event that this equipment is not wanted by select teams, the equipment must be returned to the BRYC Softball Equipment Manager for use by House teams.

## 7. Player Recruitment

- a) In recruiting players, coaches recruiting within BRYC should make the girls and parents aware of additional options for their girls, if there is more than one select team within BRYC at that age division.
- b) Select coaches MAY NOT actively recruit players from other BRYC select teams or allow others associated with their team from actively recruiting players from other BRYC select teams.
- c) Any select coach may recruit players within the house program, if their intentions are first made known to the coach of the house team.
- d) Any coach may recruit players from outside BRYC programs at any time.
- e) A player MAY NOT be unilaterally pulled from one team for the benefit of another.
- f) Coaches MAY NOT contact a player that is on a protected list before the 10 day grace period is over.
- g) Each coach will submit a list of protected players under consideration to the Select Commissioner and keep the list updated weekly, prior to the start of each season. The list will include those committed, those protected and those released.
- h) A select player MAY NOT be on the roster of two select teams at one time, and sharing of players between teams is not permitted as part of the regular league schedule.
- i) Any dispute regarding player recruitment shall be brought to the immediate attention of the Select Commissioner for resolution.

## 8. Select Players and House League

- a) BRYC Softball encourages players to expose themselves to as much softball as they and their parents wish.
- b) House teams can have no more than one select player until every other team in their division has one select player. A second and subsequent select player may be allowed

in the house program until each team in turn adds a select player. (See House Guidelines)

- c) Coaches should make it known to their players, that when there is a conflict between house games and select games, the select games will take precedence.
- d) Select teams may not play in the house league, as a unit, without special permission of the BRYC BoD. Select teams may never be allowed in the house program at their designated age level.

## 9. Tournaments

- a) Each select team is responsible for all travel-related costs for its players, parents and coaches in attending any tournament requiring an overnight stay, whether by requiring players, parents and coaches to bear such costs and/or subsidizing such costs by team-generated income.
- b) Select teams should consult the online list of tournaments offered by PONY, NSA, USSSA, USA, or any other youth girl's fastpitch softball association or group as soon as possible each season to select the tournaments to enter.

## 10. Common Names

- a) All select teams within the BRYC program will operate under a common name (BRYC T TBD). To the extent practical, all select teams will use the same uniform color and logo.
- b) Should there be multiple BRYC Select teams at an age level; the teams will be designated either as TBD [Coach Name], or TBD [Colors TBD].

## 11. Expenses

- a) The league will provide an annual template budget to each select team each year. The budget will show the previous year's share of BRYC-operated tournament profits distributed to the team, and the fixed costs of insurance, BRYC league administration, winter gym rental, and tournament registration. The template budget provides suggested amounts for equipment, uniform, FCGSL registration, and tournament fees.
- b) Each select team has the discretion to change the distribution of the equipment, uniform, FCGSL registration, and tournament fees within its budget and may add further expense items such as professional trainers and coaches and training facility rental. Based on anticipated expenses and anticipated income from other sources such as team fundraising, each select team may set its player registration fees and the timing of payment (annual, seasonal, etc.) Select players who concurrently play on House teams will be charged only the Select registration fee (which will be credited to the Select team), and will not be charged an additional House registration fee.
- c) All registration fees will be deposited by BRYC Softball and will be reflected in the annual budget for the Select Team. Any other funds collected by the Select Team from parents may be deposited with BRYC Softball, and if so, will be reflected in the annual budget for that team.

- d) Nothing in this stated rules prohibits any team from augmenting its funds through fundraisers or additional fees for parents. Any additional fees must be explained to the parents of a select team player in writing prior to the player joining the team.
- e) All select coaches are required to account for the money received and provide a report to the BRYC Commissioner no later than the end of the fall season. No select coach may run a net loss for the year. Any net gain must be returned to the Commissioner at the end of the year.

## **12. Cost**

- a) Cost associated with playing in the Select Program is higher than within the normal BRYC House Program. The registration fee for each Select Team will be set by the team, with approval by the Select Commissioner. The registration fee must be made known to the parents of any player prior to the player joining the team.
- b) Refunds will be reviewed on a case by case basis to the BRYC Softball Commissioner.

## **13. Disputes**

- a) Any dispute that may arise from regarding the formation of teams or any other BRYC select policy during the playing season will be forwarded, in writing, within 10 days to the Select Commissioner for resolution.
- b) The Select Commissioner may form an ad-hoc committee to review disputes and provide recommendations to the commissioner.
- c) The Select Commissioner may request disciplinary action including, but not limited to, forfeiture of games or the removal of a coach or player from the league, to the BRYC Softball BoD.
- d) Appeal of the Select Commissioner's decision can be made to the BRYC Softball BoD, whose decision will be final.
- e) Developmental Team – RESERVED

# **D. LEAGUE POLICY SUPPLEMENTS**

## **1. Weather Policy**

- a) The BRYC Softball BoD reserves the right to modify these guidelines and rules, as may be required, at any time.
- b) All fields under BRYC's usage are given to us by the Fairfax County Park and Recreation Department. All county field permits state: "Fields and facilities are NOT to be used when conditions are such that said use is likely to cause injury to participants or result in damage to the playing surface ...."
- c) A copy of the field permit was made for EACH coach and is available at the mandatory coaches meeting at the start of the season.
- d) County fields are controlled by the Department of Community and Recreation Services.

- e) Inclement weather cancellations will be posted to their hotline at 703-324-5264 and on the BRYC Softball website.
- f) A determination is made by 3:30pm on weekdays and 7:00 am on weekends based on the conditions of the field at that time and not based on the "possibility" of rain. This is not an exact science, but is based on factors present at a given point in time.
- g) BRYC's contract with the Northern Virginia Umpire's Association requires that we provide them with a 2-hour notice of any field cancellations.
- h) Coaches should check the BRYC Softball website daily, after 4:30pm on weekdays and after 8:00am on weekends for field closures due to weather conditions or activities by Fairfax County or schools.
- i) Weather conditions at your office or home may not necessarily be those at the field at the time a decision is made on field conditions. Once a determination has been made that a field is playable and teams show up at the field, the umpire is the sole judge as to the safety of the players and the suitability of the playing field for our 10u, 12u & 18u leagues. That is one of the primary functions of a professional umpire not only for weather situations, but to ensure that playing rules are administered to mitigate potential injuries. The decisions should be communicated to the 10u, 12u & 18u Commissioners as applicable. This same determination will be made by the coaches scheduled to play the game(s) for the 8u league. The results of these decisions should be communicated to the 8u Commissioner and parents.
- j) Please reference the BRYC Field Use Policy.

## 2. Umpires

- a) If you are missing an umpire, please find a parent volunteer to umpire. We have an umpire mask and clicker in all 8u & 10u field boxes.
- b) Umpires should arrive at your field at least 15 minutes prior to game time.
- c) If you are missing an umpire, please call/text Judy Cole at 301.832.6581 to see if there has been an unforeseen problem with the official. Identify 1) yourself, 2) the age group, 3) the league, and 4) the field location. Either leave a number for them to call you back with information or arrange to call them at a specified time. In many instances, they can reach the official by car phone and determine their status. Please also contact the League Commissioner about the missing umpire.



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**Brandon Burke**  
**BRYC Softball Commissioner**  
*Signed: February 25, 2020*