



CAPTAINS' QUICK-START GUIDE

The following is a quick guide for all team captains of the Bristol Softball Association.

Remember to refer to the Standing Orders if you are unsure of any of the rules, be it game play, team requirements, players, scheduling etc. It's all covered in there.

Game prep

a) Arrive on time

Teams should be ready to start play at **18:30**. If your team is not ready to play with the minimum number of people (9 players) by **18:50** hours, the umpire has the right to forfeit the match on your behalf and the points will go to the opposition. If neither team is ready by this time then the umpire(s) will wait until the first team has the minimum number before forfeiting the match.

b) If you are the home team

- You are responsible for collecting the bases **before the official start time**, and putting them away at the end. Please put them away tidily so we can shut the cupboard door!
- You must provide 2 clean, legal, good condition balls - soft dodecahedrons are not permitted!
- You are **NOT** responsible for collecting the score card - this is collected by the umpire(s) before the match.

c) Fill in the score card

Complete the score card in plenty of time for the umpire(s) to review. **WRITE CLEARLY** the **first and last** names of your players (no nicknames). Remember to include any subs.

- Mark an 'R' next to the names of any ringers
- Mark an 'L' next to the name of any loan players

(see Standing Orders for more details on those)

Pre-match de-brief with the umpire(s):

a) Check the rules

Ask the umpire(s) if you are uncertain on any of the rules.

Be clear that a substitute can only substitute once, a starting player can only re-enter once.

b) Pay the Umpire

You must pay each umpire before the match starts when you are called to the plate. The fees are:

- ⤴ £16 if they are **BASU** qualified
- ⤴ £10 if they are **BLU** qualified
- ⤴ £20 if there are two umpires, regardless of their level of qualification.

c) Confirm team line-up

Confirm your complete line-up before the game starts including team coach if applicable.

d) Remind your team:

- Good conduct is required. Arguing balls, strikes or other judgement calls may result in a *team warning* for the first offence and *ejection* for a subsequent offence. All communications, including protests, with the umpire(s) should be via the team coach or captain.
- ALL jewellery, including wedding rings and visible piercings need to be removed.
NO EXCEPTIONS

At the end of the game

a) Most Valued Players (MVP)

Decide on ONE male and ONE female MVP from the opposing side and write their names on the score card.

b) Check and sign the score card:

- The umpire will fill in the scores each innings but you should check that both they and the final score match your own account.
- Make sure that all home runs are marked up in the appropriate column next to the players' names. If not, these runs will not be included in the home run competition.
- Print your name and sign that you confirm what's written on the score card.

Go to the bar!

Finally, if you have any comments regarding your umpire, be it positive or negative, please let the Umpire in Chief know.